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PORTFORLIO

By Kirubel Tadesse



AUGUST 11, 2014

The Washington Center
1333 16th Street N.W Washington D.C.
NotInMyCountry

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Capstone Reflection

I heard about The Washington Center at W.E.B. Du Bois Honors College in Jackson State University. I decided to apply despite my financial circumstance. The reason being, my interest in advance my leadership and programing skills. After my application, Kinsey Holloway from TWC continuously helped me through the remaining process. From there, Tiffani gave me an orientation. All of the staff personals that I came in contact with were really nice people. They all together made my transition very smooth and make sure that I was well suited.

The easiest part of my Individual Development Plan was about my future goal; where I see myself after 3-4 years. The SWOT was very challenging for me. I wished for someone to tell me my strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats rather me trying to express myself. However, it really helped me to deeply think about my personality. I always try to do the right thing and putting God first in my life. With that in mind, this was the time for me to evaluate myself according to my standards. Before putting the words in the table, I tried to think about the means of the words for a while. Certain words sounded similar and there were few I clearly do not understand. For instance, “outgoing” closely relate to “communicative,” but there were not one and the same. Therefore, I google the world to see their clear difference between them. After marking my own bounder, I pursued on evaluating myself.

My area of strength turned out to be being action-oriented, caring, clever, compassionate, charming, communicative, confident, courageous, creative, curious, determined, disciplined, educated, emotional intelligent, helping, inspiring, leadership, learning, motivated, open-minded, organized, outgoing, patient, responsible, self-controlled, social/people skills, strategic thinking, team-oriented, thoughtful, trustworthy, visionary, wisdom. Of Course, I was not 100 percent equipped with all those character. Moreover, human beings in general are unpredictable. Therefore, I simply chose those I lean toward majority of the time. I remarked on making an effort to exhale in those area more effectively. One of strength are that stood out for me was Confidence. I felt there was a weakness in that side; my confidence was insufficient. I decided to challenge myself to reach the level I wanted myself to be. That was the one of the main skill I truly want to improve.

The best place for me to start was my academic internship program. The lecture in my class was discussion oriented. I took that as an advantage to boldly express my views on different issues that was raise during class. The more I thought about giving my personal opinion, I was forced to think about the right ways of expressing my ideas so that it would not

offend people around me. Through that process I was not only learning how to polish my word to speak ironically, but also actively engaging within my classroom discussions. I was also paying close attention to fellow classmate words in the process. I started to look deep into their motive than simply listening to their words.

Knowing my SWOTs have helped me to understand and face the reality of my situation. Based on my skills, I was challenged to ask myself if the plan I sat was achievable. And if not, what can I do in order to advance my skill and achieve my goals. As I tried to answer those basic questions based on a concrete evidences, I was forced to think about and how to achieve each and every steps on my future plans. Doing so, tremendously helped me make my plans more strategized and effective. Finally, I evaluated my plans based on the knowledge I acquired from my internship.

As I lay out my plans, it was important to know the connection among my previous academic knowledge, this semester academic course, internship, civic engagement programs, and individual programming. The connection is communication. Simple but important knowledge we often tend to miss. People in generally cannot survive alone. That is why we live in communities. The fundamental asset of living in a communities is communication. Therefore, it is the way we communicate to others that will empower us to reach our goals. In broader views, we can be determined human development by the advancement of communication among one another. Moreover, we can classify the nature of communication based on the tools we use to communicate and the nature of our communication. Manner, growth of language, and norm etc. can be considered as the sign of both civilization and advancement of communication. As computer and electrical engineering major, I become interested in online communication such as: social media, email marketing etc. The result I stumbled upon amazed me. At my work site, I was able to work with different social Medias such as: Tumblr, Facebook, Twitter, and the organization web site. My professional and civic experience made me equal value both face to face and internet communication. While launching the website for International Anti - Corruption Court which is <https://www.anticorruptioncourt.org> or <https://iaccnow.org>, I learned that it was important for us to make in known through the internet and my supervise persuasive communication skill was equally important in thoroughly explain our progress to this board members and Judge Wolf.

Communication is one of the main leadership skills. I learned that developing leadership does not happen overnight. It is a lifelong process and train that continuously needs to be build up. Character, the way you handily yourself are one of many qualities of leadership. Therefore, throughout the program I was wearing professional attire. Widening your circle and discussing on opposite views are leadership style I personally like. The weather conversation that was hold between republican and democrat hold all those leadership qualities I mentioned above and was truly fascinating. That was my first time to personal attained a panel debate between professional opponent politicians. This kind of leadership style should be applied in all them. Not only will it give a chance to see the issue of discussion from different viewpoints but also prevents wrong decision from taking place.

One of the main programming event I enjoyed was “who governs the internet.” I enjoyed this programming even because it highly focus on my area of expertise. I was able to understand about how the internet work and the different lave or classification that exist in the internet connection process. The three professional where presenting their presentation in manner that can be understood by not only people who are related to the IT profession but also to the general public. I was able to have a one to one conversation with Joe Catapano, coordinator of global stakeholder engagement, and learn more but ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. This was my first time hearing about ICANN.

Overall, I found both political and technological experience I was looking for when I decided to come to The Washington Center. I would simply classify my experiences based on the environments - my internship site, classroom, and housing - and try to generalize my experience at TWC. At the internship site, I worked on integrating NationBuilder web site, designing brochures, flyers, Logos, reaching different political figures in relation to our area of work, enhanced our social media network, constantly followed current political issues etc. Considering the limited time we had, hardcoding was not applicable for launching the web site. In addition, my supervisor wanted me to work on NationBuilder platform. While integrating the web site, my supervisor was constantly asking me to make different improvement on the web pages. Working on the existing platform made it a bit challenging for me to quickly find the block of code that was sat to perform a specific task and make some improvement. Therefore, I was forced to work of custom template. Doing so, I learned new concept of CSS, which was SASS - a hierarchical organization of CSS with additional feature of storing a value. However, I was able to accomplish all of my task on time; according to the requirement. Usually, I feel proud of myself because I was able to understand what other programmer coded and make utilize the code as I wanted. As the day went I understood the way they coded the platform and my work become very easily. After finalizing the web site, I was proud of myself when my supervise told me Nicco Mele - who have worked on president Obama campaign web site - said it was a perfect web site. Many people like the web site.

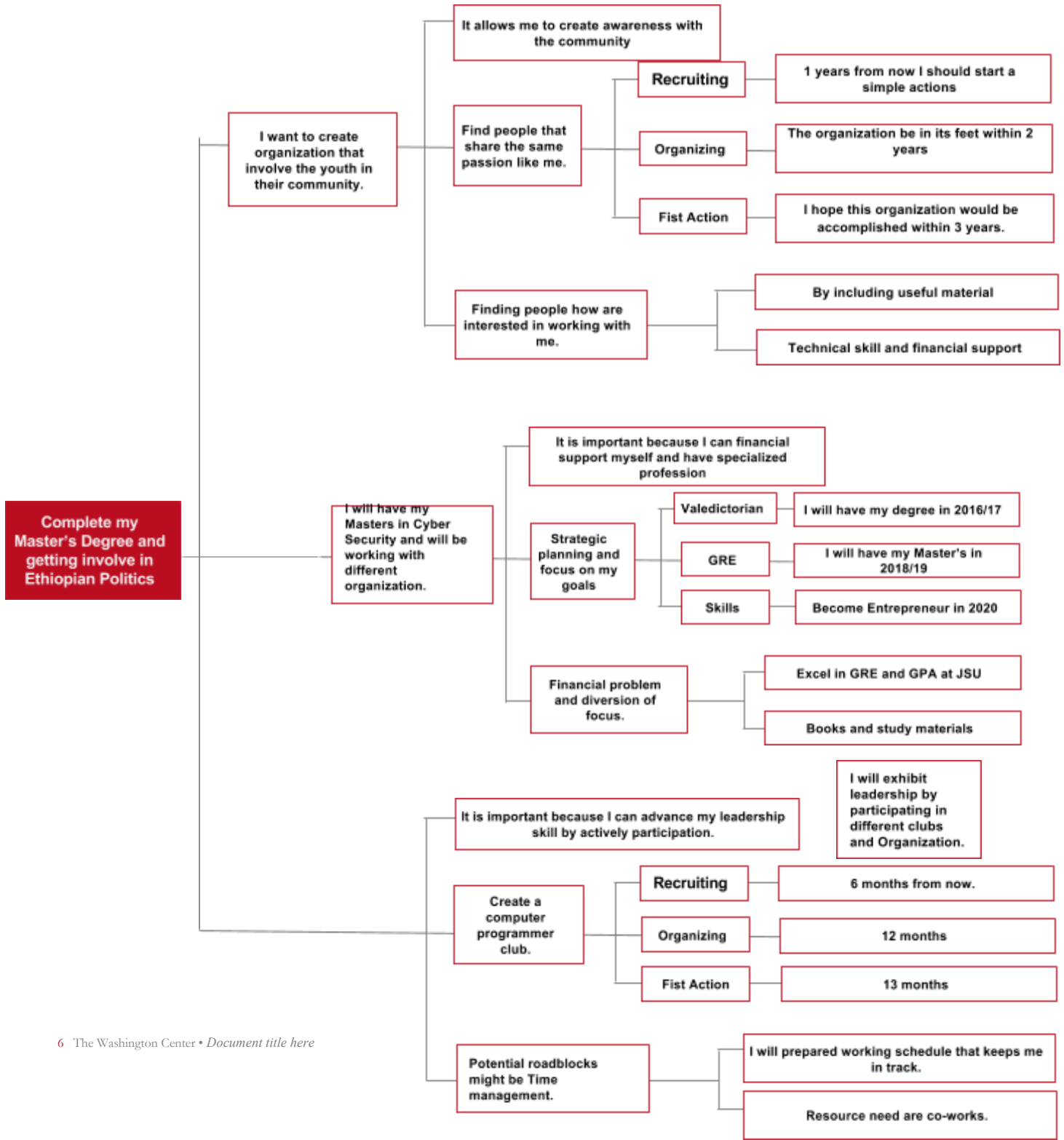
My classroom was really educational and enjoyable. Professor Evan Berry was on time, on topic, and also friendly. The classroom itself was a comfortable environment to learn. The round table not only allowed us to see face to face but also created discussion oriented teaching environment. The weekly reading assignment along with its Op-ed helped me to come prepared on the topic of discussion. Our classroom was energetic and active. My class hour felt relative short due to the interesting discussion we use to make. I meet interesting people and friends I would like to keep in touch even after leaving TWC.

I stayed in flats 130, I effectively utilized all the facilities that the building has to offer. Starting from the coffee area, beautiful rooftop view; the gym, the pool area, and club room were all enjoyable facilities. The conference room is a good environment to focus on a given task. I also enjoyed the conversation had with my roommates. We all come from different cultural background; we exchanged few words of our native language. Summing it all up, the

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programming, events, the class, and working environment gave me a busy schedule; without feeling it reached the end of my internship.



Capstone Part II Assignment

Vision: My vision is to serve my people with all modesty by contributing to the creation a democratic system that is free of corruption and chronic mal-leadership.

How do you want to spend the rest of your life? I want to spend my life for the people that made me who I am today.

How do you see your life in the next 3-5 years? After 5 years, I will be well equipped with knowledge and finance to transform.

Focusing In:**Professional/Academic**

What do you see yourself doing in the academic and/or professional realm? I will complete my Master's degree in cyber security.

Why is this important to you? It is important because it help me to keep up with dynamically change world.

What will you need to do to make this a reality? How will you accomplish this goal? I need to focus in my studies and work according to my program. And engage in group works that will enhance my abilities.

Steps To Accomplish This Goal	Date By Which You Will Accomplish It
Graduating Valedictorian of my class Preparing for GRE	2016/17
Becoming Entrepreneur by utilizing all the skill that I acquired during my 4 years of college	2018/19
Pursue my education to Masters and PhD level And Participating in my country political and economic affairs	2019/20

What are potential barriers to this goal? What could get in your way? What is in your way? Time management and finance could be a potential barriers. My ways is to acquire all the knowledge that can be useful to help myself and my people. I intend to tackle anything that might astray me through proper planning and strategy.

What are possible ways to overcome these barriers? I can overcome time management problem my using tools like google calendar to help me align all useful events I want to be a part of

according to my schedule. I plan to overcome finance problem by excelling in various qualification in order to get merit financial aid.

What resources or tools do you have or have access to that can assist you? I am a member of IEEE as a result I have access to technological book and apps either for free or in less price. And there are useful tools we often take for granted such as: the free internet access at my university, library, and working spaces.

Civic Engagement

I want to be seen as someone Kirubel Tadesse in my community.

Why is this important to you? It is important because that is the best I can be, myself. That is very important. As a model, I take useful side from many people starting from my father to most historical figures in the world and learn and incorporate their useful side in order to benefit from their failure.

What will you need to do to make this a reality? How will you accomplish this goal?

I need to organize a club or organization that benefit me and those who will involve in the club and organization. I will accomplish this goal by getting people involved in the program and the community in general.

Steps To Accomplish This Goal	Date By Which You Will Accomplish It
Recruiting students that share same enthusiasm to come together and work to widen their knowledge	2015
Organizing the students according to their skill in order to create structure of an organization.	2016
Starting to engage in the community crucial issues around their environment in an organized manner.	2017

What are potential barriers to this goal? What could get in your way? What is in your way?

Time management and mobilizing students to get involve might be a potential barriers. Office bureaucracy to legitimize the club or organization. My ways is to create a tech club or organization within my university.

What are possible ways to overcome these barriers?

The possible ways to overcome those problems are through email marketing to recruit student; outline work schedule to effectively use time, and seek advice from professional individuals in order to smoothen the problem office bureaucracy.

What resources or tools do you have or have access to that can assist you?

Fully equipped computer lab. Programming learning materials.

Leadership

How will you exhibit leadership?

Not only will I exhibit leadership through participating in numerous clubs and organizations but also standing for what is right through and being emotionally intelligent my daily activities.

Why is this important to you?

As I dream to transform my country, leadership is the main and important skill I need to experience.

What will you need to do to make this a reality? How will you accomplish this goal?

Steps To Accomplish This Goal	Date By Which You Will Accomplish It
Getting connected with people around my surroundings By participating on different events.	Ongoing process
Running for presidency position of IEEE	09/30/2014
Working with different NGO in order to widen my knowledge	Not specified

What are potential barriers to this goal? What could get in your way? What is in your way?

What are possible ways to overcome these barriers?

The possible ways to overcome those problems are through email marketing to recruit student; outline work schedule to effectively use time, and seek advice from professional individuals in order to smoothen the problem office bureaucracy

What resources or tools do you have or have access to that can assist you?

Leadership books etc.

Individual Development Plan Template

Summer 2014

Kirubel Tadesse | Science, Technology & Society
Not In My Country

After 3 years, I envision myself working in the field of Computer or Electrical Engineering and pursuing my education for Masters. Beside my educational and career, I would like to get involved in charity work. On the fifth year, I would hopefully finish my masters and prepare myself to get involved in my country politics.

I would gain useful experience and connection through this academic internship. Specially, I am able working on my field of interest and also get one-o-one conversation with people on real working environment. This not only allow me to have a hand-on experience, but also enhance my overall profile. Which is useful to easily be employed in the future.

SWOT helped me to close look at myself. I am planning to focus on my weaknesses especially on wasteful and indifferent. And also carry on the Strengths I have. I also notice it was hard for me to point out my Weakness. I believe I was not highly aware of my weaknesses.

Strengths	Weaknesses
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Action-Oriented, Caring, Clever, Compassionate, Charming, Communicative, Confident, Courageous, Creative, Curious, Determined, Disciplined, Educated, Emotional Intelligent, Helping, Inspiring, Leadership, Learning, Motivated, Open-Minded, Organized, Outgoing, Patient, Responsible, Self-Controlled, Social/People skills, Strategic Thinking, Team-Oriented, Thoughtful, Trustworthy, Visionary, wisdom	Indifferent, Mistrustful, Moody, Passive, Wasteful.
Opportunities	Threats
Connection: This internship has opened up the door for me to connect with people in my profession. Experience: I am being experienced by participating in a real working environment. Demand on Computer Engineers: My degree is applicable in various industries.	Work Permitted Within the U.S might be my treat after my graduation with Computer Engineering BA degree

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June 23, 2014

Ms. Jones Robert
Software Engineer
1000 Seems Road
St. Marry, NY 55555

Dear Ms. Jones,

I have a very strong interest in the field of programming and working within your new company. With my programming experience ranging from server-side programming to object-oriented programming language, I am a perfect match for you this position.

Not only I have a very diverse programming skill but also worked on various project within a diverse teams. Participating within teams like IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) has enhance my programming and leadership skill. My leadership skills have developed starting from becoming SGA president at my high school throughout college by taking on different leading position on various organization.

My strong foundation in programming languages such as C++, Java, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript has enabled me to make my first web site for AJA Campus Ministry at Jackson State University. I am currently working on website development of our IEEE chapter at Jackson State University.

My outstanding academic performance and working experience I have acquired through the year in addition with my good all rounded knowledge helps me to stand out from other fellow applicant for the same position. I would be a strong assent for the company by technical ability and creating pleasant team working sprite within working environment.

Sharing ideas and working in team environment is one of my quality. I strongly believe in team sprite and learning from each other.

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Sincerely,

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EDUCATION

Jackson State University Expected Graduation
May 2017
Major | Computer Engineering
The Washington Center Summer Quarter 2014
Internship | Science, Technology & Society

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Volunteer for Muriel Bowser for DC Mayor *Washington, DC* June
2014

- Assisted in distributing information
- Engaged in phone calling activities for Muriel Bower

Community Service *Jackson, MS*
October 2013

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers *Jackson, MS*

- Worked on Web cited development for Jackson Chapter
- Lead team meetings
- Attended different chapter meetings

National Society of Black Engineers *Jackson, MS*

- Attended different chapter meetings

Robotic Team *Jackson, MS*

- Attended meeting

PROFESSIONAL

EXPERIENCE

NotInMyCountry-Web and Mobile application Assistance June 2014 – August
2014

- Developed anticorruptioncourt.org
- Tech Support on the web site
- Designed flyers, brochure, and Logo for IACC

AJA Campus Ministry-Web Developer *Jackson, MS* October 2013

- Developed the web site ajacampusministry.com
- Tech Support on the web site
- Work on hosting an event on the web site
- Maintain simple use of the web site

LEADERSHIP

EXPERIENCE

Students Government Association, *President* October 2012 – May
2013

- Working with Soles4Souls in collecting shoes
- Coordinated international event
- Represented students in official meetings

Mississippi Envirothon Team, *President* October 2012 – May
2013

- Compete in Environmental science with team in regional and national level
- Manage team meeting
- Present issue of discussion
- Evaluate team member in different area of the subject

SKILLS

Computer | Microsoft (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) HTML, CSS, C++, JavaScript, Adobe Illustrate,

Language | Amharic (Native Fluency), English (Working Proficiency), Spanish (Novice), Oromiffa (Novice)

Civic Engagement Project: First Generation Americans

Since I was working in an independent civic engagement project, I was in charge of schedule event and programs that were relative to my civic engagement program. Hence, I made a great use of Independent Civic Engagement Grid which was found on the Independent Civic Engagement Track form. As international student, I wanted a civic engagement project that concerns me in some ways. Clearly, I wanted to work on immigrant or international related issue within the United States; especially around the Washington D.C. metro area. Since immigrant or international relation is too broad, I decided to specify and narrow my topic by focusing on first generation Americans.

In many ways, people immigrant to the U.S.A. looking for a better life. Therefore, they have already made up their mind to start a new life despite the cost by the time of their arrival to states. In most case, they are committed in preserving through the challenges that life might bring in a foreign land. Therefore, I wanted to focus on their children, the first generation American. Having that topic in mind, I planned to engage myself in different communities around the Washington area and book important events I need to attend on my grid. I started by interviewing students and people around me who qualify as first generation Americans. By doing so, I obtained a general view of my civic engagement project and strategic way of approaching to the topic.

Even though the definition for first generation Americans might slightly varied according to the person defining it. I set a simple criteria for first generation Americans as children that come from either one or both parents speak English as their second language. Based on this, I tried to closely see the children social interaction both in and outside their home. Moreover, I tried to touch on the advantage and disadvantage they face and their economic and political involvement in the society.

Despite the difference on where their parents come from, most first generation Americans share numerous similar challenges, benefit, and life experiences. Their parents want their children to be knowledgeable about their culture, tradition, and norms. This is due to the parents' deep desire to see their children being well disciplined. Even though the parent have assimilated to a new culture, the definition of "discipline" is highly influenced by their native culture. The degree of expectancy might vary, but most of first generation Americans are expected to know about their parents' culture. Grow up, the children hear about their people background history. Therefore, they do not hard time learning the culture down the road. In fact, many of them become interested learn different languages and venture out different places. This behavioral expression is mostly the produce of from different cultural background.

However, If the cultural influence is not on time in a smooth manner it might cause discomfort on children. This can be resulted in strange feeling towards the new culture. Therefore, either teaching the culture on time or not trying to impose afterward it is commonly preferred. Once a child reach puberty, they have already built their own identity. They might show a desire to find out about their parent historical heritage. If so it is the parent obligation to teach their children about their culture. If they do not have a desire to learn about their parent culture, it is not advisable to force them to learn a new culture. Therefore, their parent cultural and historical background must be incorporated to their identity before reaching adolescence.

Parent often do not get a chance to educate their children in the school system they desire. In place, where there is a strong presence of same community it is possible for parent organize daily care center that teach children their countries culture. But this is applicable in all cases. Here is lack of resource to teach children in different language in the United States. Every individual parent can do that alone. However, they can create communities school that educate their specific language to create learning environment to their children.

Noah Webster said, "A common language is common tie." Therefore, I support that public school should teach in English. However, second teaching language at public schools should be decide based on the number of population around the area. For instance, if there is a high number of Chinese American living in a given environment the public school in their district should function according to their desire. This is important in two way. First it will make it easy for Chinese American, in this case, to learn their language in an organized manner. Second it will not be limited only at the school since there are Chinese speaking population around the area.

Language being the main part of culture, It opens up a whole new world. Numerous cultural values, social norms, and traditional treasures of one's society is found within their language. Along with learning their parents native language American first generations will be exposed to a new social norms. Hence, medium of communications within the house and around close relative might be highly matters in the psychological makeup of children. Parents might teach their kids purposefully or without awareness. In most cases, it is slightly difficult to speak English fluently for immigrant parents. English as a second language hinder them from experiencing their thought clearly. Therefore, they will communicate with their children using their native language start at an early age.

Parents' effort to teach their children about culture and tradition after adolescence is not effective. It might even contradict with the existing identity of the child by creating a slightly difference in normal environment. This is not most common but it is seen in few cases. The difference in desire and wish between the parent and children might be the case for further problem within the family.

American culture dominates the behavior of first generation American while their parents retain their native culture merge with their community. The gap in culture between the parent and children are not noticed. However, can be seen in certain cases such as: choice of profession, marriage preference - starting from who to marriage all the way to the marriage process. The conservative mindset of the parents and the American mindset of pursuit of happiness clash against each other. At this time, it is important to find a common ground and work the problem smoothly together.

If there is a lack knowledge from the parent side, this kind of problem will be noticed at an early age. The strong control without close guidance from the parent side might create strong desire to do the wrong things - what they are told not to do - in the children's mind. As result, the gap between the children and the parents will widen. When they became old enough to lead their own life, they might chose to be distant from their relative because they feel their relative were not there when they most needed them.

Do to the change in environment, immigrant sometimes end up getting divorced. Coming from a single parent have its own impact on children. There are few first generation American that succeed in their life despite all the obstacle that they face. Moreover, if they come from stable parents they have the potential to succeed in life like any other Americans. First generation Americans benefit the country by giving their unique harmonies blend.

I attending different churches, and community event, I was able to learn and engage with different society. I was able to measure success from the community perspective and also check myself according to those values. The concept of emotional intelligence, I.Q., and success can be closely tied together. My civic engagement project has helped me to value those skill highly.

If you have knowledge but cannot to explain it to the community, your level of effectiveness is questionable. The same applies if you have many things but nobody to share it with, it might not be as much important and satisfying. That is any I value the emotional intelligence people's daily activities. In order to be a leader within the community one must have emotional intelligence - skill to properly and effectively express his or her emotion to the community- , I.Q. to be knowledgeable about his or hers surrounding, and manliness to serve the community with truth and modestly.

By attending different social events, I learned that it is the social interaction that keeps people going in life. Parent trying to provide for their kids, kids trying to impress their parents and the cycle keeps on revolving. Just like any American, first generation Americans are also

contributing their share to the growth of the country. And that is why America stands for different people living together to build strong nation.



Kirubel Tadesse
Informational Interview Reflection Paper
The Washington Center
Science, Technology & Society
July 14, 2014

Informational Interview Reflection

This being my first time to do an informational interview, I tried to understand what type of question I should come up with for the interview. After clearly understanding my assignment, I sent out e-mails requesting to make an informational interview to Sean Perkins and Michael Davis. They both are software developers at MOBILITYLABS, which is a company located at 718 7th St NW Washington, DC 20001. I chose them because I am interested in knowing about the software development business. The reason I chose to interview this to persons out of their

group was because of their experience on the field. Sean is highly experienced while Michael was new to the job. Unfortunately, I could not interview Sean during the past because he was in Colombia. Michael replied to my e-mail with his convenient time and data to do interview. After doing tremendous research on the field of Michael's expertise, I prepared question that were worth to ask in my eyes.

Even though I knew most of the required experiences for the work – which were programming language like JavaScript, Linux, UNIX, Ruby and Rails, HTML, CSS and a knowhow about using repositories such as GitHub – I asked him expecting additional information. The only unfamiliar thing that he mentioned was sprint. They use it in list their schedule and go according to plan on the sprint sheet. Most of my question were focused on the behavior of the working environment. Michael use to work on the financial sector before starting this work. He has worked for two years in this field now. He told me about his current work by comparing it to his previous one. Which made me clearly see the difference between the two works.

He works 40 hours per week. The first thing he does when he start his work is check the status of the work on spring, which is the list of agenda, Github (which is a remote repository) status. He told me that he have to learn something new every day. Which made the work very interesting. He mentioned that he constantly update himself in the programming language he use to program and also work on other independent project.

Moreover, the flexibility of his current work has made it enjoyable to him. like to his previous work where he was taking order from different persons, facing different bureaucracy, and word according to the chain of command, this gave him a sense of relieve to reflect on his own work without no interruption. He just have to work according to the sprint, and summit his code on github, follow up on the commit made on his work and make change on his work accordingly if necessary.

The concept or remote repository allows him to even work for home. Even though some of their co-workers are not always person in the office, they are online submitting there code and making comment on their co-workers codes. That means Sean is engaged on his work while stay in Colombia. Michael prefer to always work for office because he was new for the work. He always teach himself something new. I asked him what the advancement potential in the field? Michael told me that it takes 1 to 2 years to become middle level program. And more to get into the sailing.

My final question was “If you could start all over again would you change your career path in anyway? If yes Why?” He said he had a business degree. He was not highly appreciative of school I found that surprising. He said school was waste of time. I did not agree to his points. I guess he did not find this business degree challenging as he expected it to be. And know he is basically teaching himself how to program. That way the four years that he has spent learning business did not benefit him as much. I mentioned I was a computer engineer and explained useful my education has been.

Moreover, I was able to understand that college education would be meaningless for students if there is not personal interest is added into it. I was also glad that I was majoring in something I am very interested in doing. More than all there were few things I learned in regards to technology and how creative I can began in utilizing what I have already learned.

The interview helped me to understand the working environment of software developers. The interview boosted my interest on the field and made me realize the various opportunities that computer programmer or any technology related works have. The ability to create independent working environment by itself was very satisfying for me. It also makes it easy to be self employed

Public Policy Dialogues

International Pre-Meeting Worksheet

Name: Kirubel Tadesse

1. Meeting Date: July 31, 2014

2. What organization are you meeting with for Public Policy Dialogues?

Freedom House, an NGO that focuses on monitoring freedom across the world.

3. What does this organization do?

They support human rights and democracy advocates in order to promote open government.

4. Policy issues important to me:

Immigration laws: - as an international students I would like to be able to work outside my school during my years in the United States of America.

Foreign policy: - since 63 percent of my country's economy is based on foreign aid the foreign policy that U.S. follows towards my country is very important to me.

5. What is my perception of U.S. foreign policy towards my region?

U.S. foreign policy towards Ethiopian government is lenient. I personally believe that U.S.A have not used their donor lavage in order to create an open government which can respond to the democratic question of the people.

6. What do I expect to learn from this meeting?

I expect have a global knowledge on human right and democracy advocates around the world.

Academic Sample: Case Study Paper

In my work sample, I wrote about contemporary social or/ and political human right violation case study paper. According to my academic course syllabus, I was expected to bring human right violation case forward and write case study paper which is 4 to 5 page long that clearly explain why and how the problem is human right has been violated. Why and how knowing about this specific case might be globally useful by attempt social scientific objectivity. I follow case study paper writing process in order to writing my paper. I was expected to provide introductory paragraph, method - focuses on the global use of the case brought forward - , data analyze, and conclusion. I also made and good use of the philosophical and ethical knowledge that I learned in my human right class.

In doing so, I was able to gain knowledge about the key texts upon which international human right instruments are grounded, advance my researching skill by conducting specific case, improve communication, and writing persuasive arguments skill. This work sample demonstrated my progress on of my Individual Development Plans goal which was advancing my confidence. I learned that I can improve my rhetorical skill if spend my time and worked on it. Which indirectly will build increase my confidence.

Moreover, since it account about 25 percent of my grade and was the last assignment of my class, I decided to include it in my portfolio. The time and the energy that I spent writing this case paper was worth it. It had made me reach and collect data, analyze the data, my data carefully and evaluate their reliability. After seeing both side of the story, I finally took a stand and while writing the case. I evaluate the human right violation according to what I learned in class. Which made me directly apply what I learned real life scenario.

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Oromo Students Protest against Integrated Master Plan

Kirubel Tadesse

Case Study

August 5, 2014

Prof. Evan Berry
International Human Rights

In Ethiopia the current ethnic federalism include more than 85 nation and nationalities represented under nine states. Among the different nation and nationalities, the Oromo constitutes the largest number in population and hold largest geographical area. The Oromo's natural resources, geostrategic position, and being majority within the east Africa contribute for minority ruling group inferiority complex against Oromo's.

Even before the incorporation of the different ethnicities under the umbrella of Ethiopia, the Oromo along with other ethnicities in the region had rash interrelation. Despite insurmountable inhuman act carried over the Oromo activist for years, the identity of being "Orommuna" strongly flourish above any suppression. The concept of "Orommuna" is complex for me either to understand or to explain it in short terms. However, it is not just to be born Oromo. It is about the socially, economically, ideological, and political understanding of an individual about the Oromo. The Gadaa System - which organizes people according to their age level and train them in various walks of life - is truly an interesting evidence that produce effective Orommunas for years.

According to gadaa philosophy, Oromo people considered all human being as a creation “Waaq” which means God. When they see injustice, it their moral duty to say stop they are God creation like us. Oromo people did not have any hesitation to intermarriage with the surrounding ethics. Moreover, the tradition of “Gudifecha”, “Megasha”, and “Medacha” - which are different forms of adaptation according to the gadaa system - show how they kindly treated and assimilated other into their kinds.

However, thousand supporters are not enough among one enemy. That is because “the thousand supporters” are not active as “the one enemy”. Historically, the majority are peaceful while few left radicals committing massive atrocity. For instance, we can take the holocaust-committed by few German radicals that could not represent the peaceful majority – the 9/11 attack – which was committed by 19 Islamic extremist that cannot represent the remaining 80 percent Muslim that are peaceful Islam. Therefore we should worry about extremist minorities that are causing problem on the pretext the peaceful majority.

The inability of the Oromo people to self-rule for the past 100 years can be linked to many of the problem in the East Africa. Cushitic linguistic relation and native Oromo Kenyans shows strong socio-political ties. For the last 23, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) which was the previous Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ruling were ethnic based. The ruling class could not even represent the 6 percent Tigray people of the total population of the country. As the crucial economic and political position of the country become monopolized, it fosters malcontentment among ethnicities. Listening to the people complain and addressing the problem right away will avoid the development problems at early stage.

Addis Ababa is not only African city of diplomat but also hold huge political influence on the remnant of Africa. The global ties that the government is currently make also influence other African country in many ways. The lack of policy to support the people living in the city of Addis to benefit from the development is huge problem in the long run. Meanwhile, countries like China, Saudi Arabia etc. are harvesting the benefit from the land and infrastructure program of the country.

When Ethiopia was organized in modern world context, there was no legal circumstance that considered the rights of ethnicities. The previous government tried to create a monochromic identity under the pretext of Ethiopianism. However, monochromic rule in Ethiopian context meant the domination of one's language, tradition, and cultural values over the other. As result, there were underground moral devaluation on other ethnicities and culturally morally dehumanized them. Individuals who cannot speak Amharic had no part in the countries affair. Few elites who understood the systematic exclusion or the barrier that the majority of the people of Ethiopia were facing due to cultural difference were forced to struggle for their rights. After years of persecution, bloodshed and continuous struggle the collective struggle of the Ethiopian nation and nationalities succeed in the creation of ethnic based federalism in Ethiopia.

In 1995, the Ethiopian government formulated the current constitution. Which organized Ethiopia previous region in more collective ways to form states that created ethnic identity and awareness among the people in a more vivid way. However, in reality ethnic federalism have not been directly implemented according to the constitution of the country. The Oligarchy rulers do not want to give away their privilege by creating truly democratic system. Minority complex force them to bend the rules in order to benefit their own kind and ensure the continuity.

The TPLF/ EPRDF have carried out an underground plan not only to strengthen their power but also directly weaken their opponents. TPLF/EPRDF straggle was to create a socialist Tigria country as their name indicate Tigrayan People Liberation Front. Even though Tigria people in general are not beneficial of the TPLF/EPRDF ruling, TPLF/EPRDF has selectively managed to poison few elite its tribes by recruiting them from universities for party membership despite the rule that banned political movement within universities.

According to the TPLF/ EPRDF hidden agenda, the Oromo as a majority population and occupying the huge geographical area bares trait for their existence. Their agenda is to narrow the gap in population and geographical area between ethnicities. They have already carried out several steps in minimizing the population number of the Amhara and Oromo population. By imprisoning many Oromo's in relationship with terrorism and sterilizing Amhara women using the pretext of vaccination for transmitting diseases.

The second step is to narrow the land of the Oromo. "Integrated development master plan" is designed to achieve that goal. Oromo's are the aboriginal inhabitant of Addis Ababa. The Ethiopia's constitution clearly grant special interest to Oromia for Addis Ababa serving as a capital. Article 49 (5) of the constitution states, "the special interest of the state of Oromia with respect to supply of services, the utilization of resources and joint administration matters." However, this remained on paper. There have not be any special benefited implemented to benefit neither the state of Oromia nor the people of Oromo. Rather designed a plan that will weakening the political influence that the state of Oromia have according to the ethnic based federalism system and eventually break the state to two side east and west Oromia.

The TPLF/EPRDF claims that Addis Ababa is growing so fast and it is necessary to develop an integrated development master plan. According to the government, this master plan

is organized with united collaboration between the state of Oromia and the federal city of Addis Ababa. However, there has not be any notice or discussion among the people. The mass media did not mention about the plan before the protest.

Is the master plan truly designed to create a more convenient way of life for Addis Ababa and surrounding Oromia regions? Is it designed on the bilateral between the two body representatives? The answer is clearly stated by the Oromo students across different University of the Oromia region and also Addis Ababa. The implantation of the master plan opens the door for foreign looters instead helping develop and support the aborigines. There have be a similar action taken on Anuak – ethnic living around the Gambella region which is located on the west part of Ethiopia. The government military simply wiped them out of their land to clean the area for Saudi Arabian plantation. Dr. Greg Stanton, president of genocide watch, has clearly mentioned that as genocide on his letter to the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights. The land that is included under this plan not only take away the only means of life sustainability from the peasant but also gradually eradicate their culture and language of Oromo.

This is not the first conspiracy from federal authorities. The relocation of Oromia regional government seat 100 km away from Addis Ababa in 2001 which lead for at least dozen people dead and hundreds of people were also arrested. Reverting there reason, which was Addis Ababa was “inconvenient” to develop the language, culture, and history, and they restored the seat to its previous place.

The government forces have been a killing, torturing, and imprisoning on peaceful demonstrator of Oromo students against the “Integrated development master plan” of Addis Ababa. According to the students this master plan includes areas that is being administered

under the Oromia state and also force poor peasants to move from their only belonging, the land.

The Oromo students question just like its Oromo activist predecessors get the slander “ethnocentric”, “Narrow minded” etc. from the government. However, to the majority their questions were precise and direct. The questions were about the hidden agenda that the plan was design to carry out. Just like unity on the expense of freedom did not work during Emperor Haile Selassie’s regime; nationality on the expense of liberty did not work during the Derg (military junta that hold power after Emperor Haile Selassie) regime; Development on the expense identity will definitely not work. The Oromo students are protesting against development that do not incorporate the aboriginal identity and benefits.

The integrated master plan will force farms around the surrounding Addis Ababa regions to move out of their inhabitants. Their land is the only means of support for this pool farms. According to the Rome statute, war crime of pillaging is state on article 8 (2) (e) (v) 2. “The perpetrator intended to deprive the owner of the property and to appropriate it for private or personal use.” The replacement that the government offers to this farms is inefficient to sustain life in the city renting house, providing food, and pay school fees for their children. For a farm that is use to eat from his barn, the thought of buying food is hard to bare. Since they do not have secular education they will not be employed. Certainly, there is no financial means of supporting their life. As a result, many of them will go out on the street begging and become homeless. Their daughters will be prostitutes.

The outskirts that the integrated master plan tend to include are Dukem, Gelan, Legetafo, Sendafa, Sululta, Burayu, Holeta and Sebeta. According to Think Africa Press latest news which based on leaked documents, the proposed plan will expand Addis Ababa's

boundaries to 1.1 million hectares, covering an area more than 20 times its current size. Under this plan, 36 surrounding Oromia towns and cities will come under Addis Ababa's jurisdiction.

The federal city public schools do not teach Oromiffa language. There is a clear limitation on a person who learned in Oromiffa to work in the federal city. Through the means of urbanization, the city's rulers slowly erase the historical and cultural values of its indigenous people through the changing of original Oromo names. Oromos strongly refuse to embrace a city that did not value their existence.

Many human rights were violated. The lack of free press within the country is a problem for many journalists to cover the story on the ground. Oromo communities in the diaspora were also trying to create awareness as to what was happening in their homeland. Oromo communities especially in Minnesota and Australia have succeeded in creating strong awareness within their diaspora communities. According to the World Bank report, "Foreign aid accounts 63 percent of the country's economic". Considering this massive economic influence that the developed countries have over Ethiopia, creating global awareness about the issue might really influence the government of Ethiopia.

Based on the government sources, nine people have been killed, but the numbers are estimated to be more than 47 people just within the Ambo region alone. Foreign aid should not be used to strengthen terror on state. The global community should understand the problem and stand by the side of the people. The ultimate solution to the problem is true representation of the majority within a democratic system in which majority rule and minority rights are respected.

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[201472981456841809.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/07/oromo-nationalism-rise-ethiopia-201472981456841809.html)

Internship Work Sample: Not In My Country

In the near future, I want to contribute my share in Ethiopian politics. That has been both my hobby and interest as long as I can remember. Due to that I was planning to major in a field that is somewhat related to politics, however, I did not find it to be as sure relevant to my goal, beside it is a knowledge I can gain from reading historical books. As result, I decided to make my first degree bachelor of science. Meanwhile, inherently tuned to my country political affair and its political arena, I started studying computer engineering; I plan to make sure my country's tomorrow will not be like yesterday when I get the chance to make a difference.

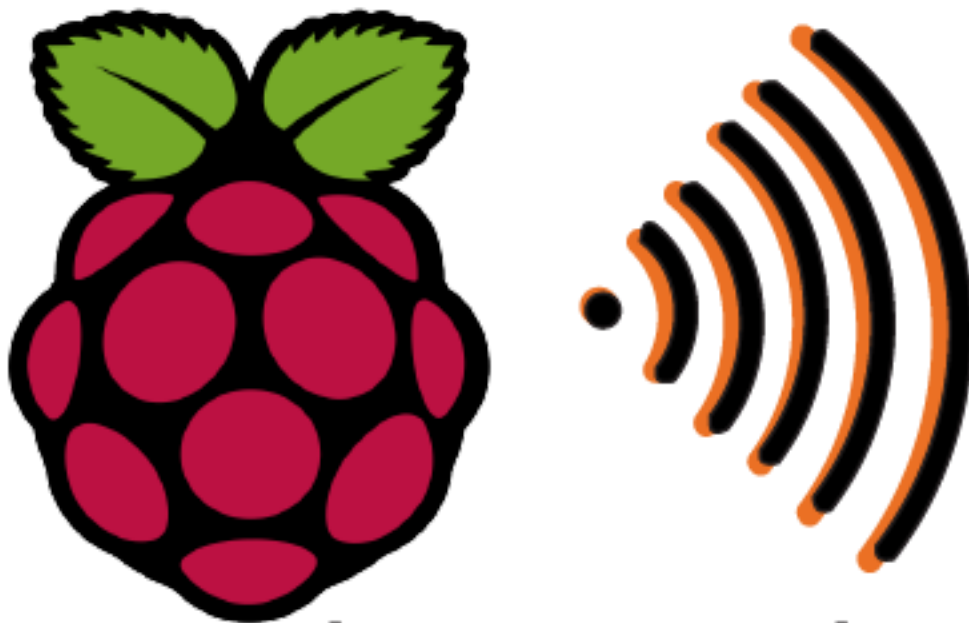
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The first field I wished to work on was related to my major, computer engineering. Since I have strong foundation in programming with programming languages ranging from object-oriented to serve-side programming language such as C++, Java, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, I worked on computer programming. Which helped me to enhance my knowledge and make connection with organization, and fellow interns'. I networked with different people to further advance my programming knowledge and work on team projects.

Even though the nature of my work was specifically technology related, I was able to work on research related to corruption cases in different parts of the world. Reaching not only widen the global knowledge I had but also make me realize the problem that corruption is creating around the world. I was web and mobile application technology assistant. I worked make flyers, logos, producing social media cover page pictures, made movie footage, designed a diagram for NIMC's theory of change, worked on NIMC social media networking, evaluated the global web designing argument form of NIMC, suggested on the mobile and web useful functionalities, and IACC web site based on NationBuilder platform. Therefore, I was working on the two main thing I want to work on politics and technology

While working on NationBuilder website I made custom template. I learned new concept of CSS, which was SASS - a hierarchical organization of CSS with additional feature of storing a value. However, I was able to accomplish all of my task on time; according to the requirement. Usually, I feel proud of myself because I was able to understand what other programmer coded and make utilize the code as I wanted. As the day went I understood the way they coded the platform and my work become easily. After finalizing the web site, the feedback from Nicco Mele - who have worked on president Obama campaign website - said to my supervisor that it was a perfect web site. Many people like the web site. I was able to widen both my political and technological skills at NIMC.



Raspberry Pi Radio

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NOT IN MY COUNTRY

join us at lima lounge
1401 k st. nw
thursday july 31st 5:30pm
learn more about the
fight against corruption via: **web and mobile apps**

proposal for an international anti-corruption court (iacc)
and a coalition to make it happen: www.iaccnow.org

notinmycountry.org
facebook.com/notinmycountry.org

@NMCountry
come and enjoy
happy hour drink specials

IACC
International
Anti-Corruption Court

jcc
events
let's join to make a difference

LIMA
LOUNGE | 1401 K STREET NW

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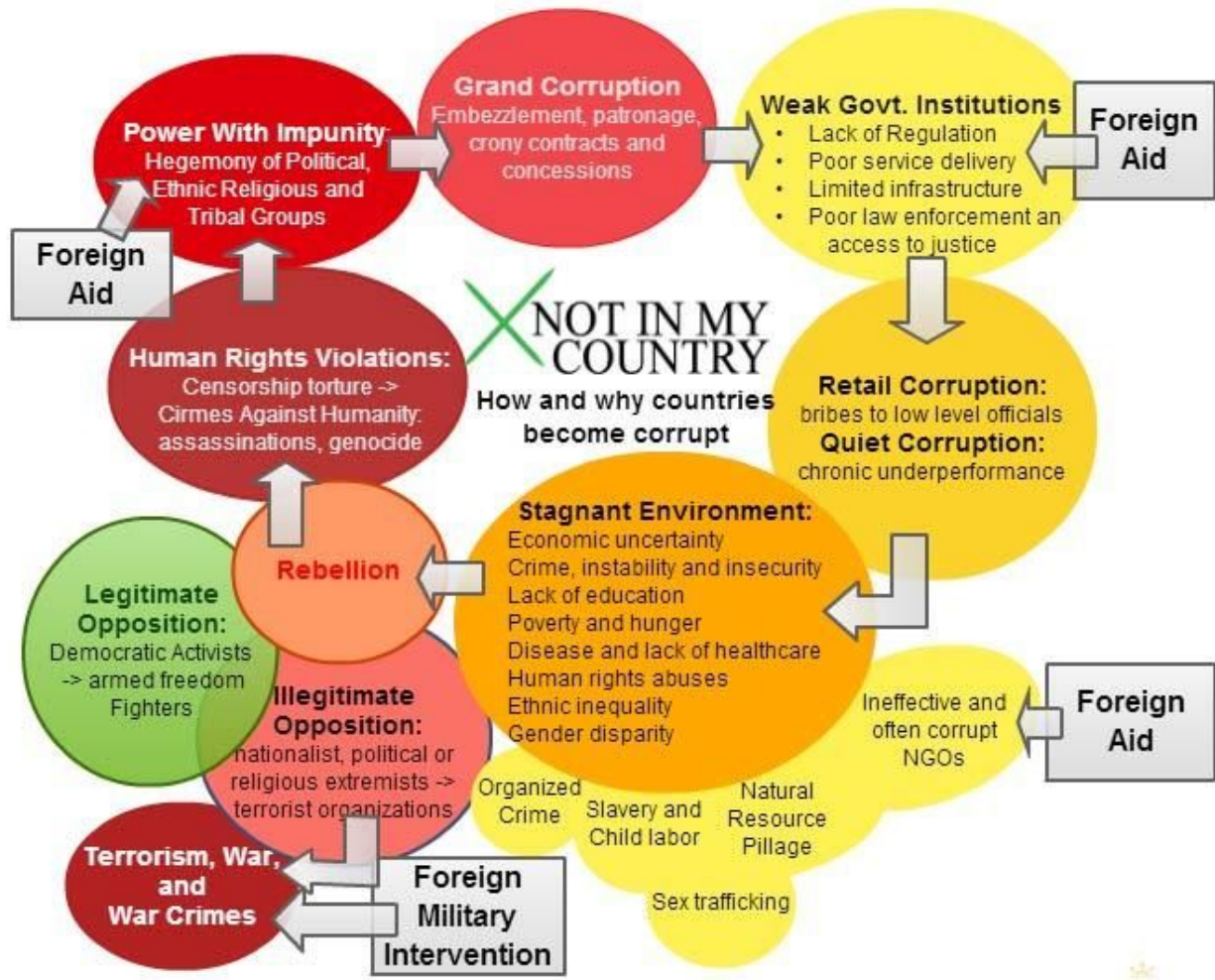
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NOT IN MY COUNTRY



globalgiving

#StopCorruptionatKenyanUniv. Whistleblower Fund
Donate on Global Giving: <http://goto.gg/17417>

THE ROAD TO HELL



THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION





Why is individual accountability needed?

To date, many local and international institutions have tried to tackle this problem through investigative research and writing – highlighting the issue and drafting reports detailing where problems exist. Their work, however, has generally focused on systemic change, based on the premise that repairing institutions will lead to fewer individual acts of corruption. We would call this a “top-down” approach, and we believe that it has not produced the results we would expect after so many years. At NotInMyCountry.org, we employ the opposite strategy, a “bottom-up” approach. We believe that only once individual corrupt acts diminish will institutional change occur. Holding corrupt individuals accountable, however, has not been easy over the years, and the main reason has been fear. Fear of those in power. Fear of repercussions for complaining. Fear that seeking justice is a waste of time.

Our Strategy Is Innovative

Instead of trying to reform faceless institutions, we focus on holding individuals accountable for their corrupt actions through a bottom-up approach. To do this, we have built an online platform that enables students to rate their professors and administrators and submit reports of corruption that include hard evidence. In the case where whistleblowers are willing to come forth, following a thorough investigation, we may decide to pursue strategic litigation against perpetrators of corruption.

Recognitions



Vision

We fight for a world free of corruption where individuals can bring about societies of great integrity.

Mission

We work to empower citizens to fight corruption by creating tools that bring about individual accountability.

Our Pilot

Imagine that the cost for going to a University was compromising your most integral values. That’s what 1 out of 4 students in Uganda have to face in order to even get through college. What if these same students could access simple web and mobile applications to hold their professors and administrators accountable? We propose to achieve such impact not only in higher education in East Africa but in all sectors in the 7 out of 10 countries where corruption cripples societies.

Impact

Students are seeing a drop in corrupt behavior amongst their professors and administrators, both in the form of quiet and hard corruption. We have also received two significant corruption reports that we are now in the midst of investigating and we anticipate one of these will result in prosecuting public officials for verifiable acts of corruption

NotInMyCountry Raspberry Radio Network



We realize that one issue with our goal is that many people in the countries we focus on are not aware of our organization or the possibility of ending corruption in their society. To this end, we have come up with a way to spread our message, NotInMyCountry Raspberry Radio Network (NRRN). We can use this device to transmit our message regarding anti-corruption and actions individuals can take to fight corruption, one of which being using our website to report corruption and move towards legal action against a corrupt individual.



We have developed and launched www.anticorruptioncourt.org, which explains the need for an International Anti-Corruption Court and is a clearinghouse for information related to the IACC as a concept, and a platform to build a coalition of NGOs to foster a movement that will lead to the creation of the IACC. We will use this website as a platform for gaining support through petitions and endorsements, as well as donations. This website will provide information regarding the IACC and regarding our campaign for the IACC.

The Case for an International Anti-Corruption Court, by Judge Mark Wolf, was recently published by the Brookings Institute <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/07/international-anti-corruption-court-wolf>

Why is what we're doing unique and necessary?

Our projects are unique for two reasons. First, we are being technologically innovative and finding the most effective way to reach communities that face the issue of corruption. and second, we are not afraid to go after individuals who have committed crimes of grand corruption.

What is the near term strategy?

Our near term strategy is to focus on creating a coalition for the creation of the IACC and launching our new web and mobile applications in order to receive more reports of corruption. We are also focusing on the corruption reports we receive and how to take legal action with them.

What is the long-term strategy?

Our long-term strategy is to create partnerships with other legitimate anti-corruption organizations who can create instances of our website in varying sectors and regions. This will allow us to target corrupt individuals all over the world. We also plan on continuing to campaign for the creation of the IACC, hopefully with the support of a coalition of organizations.

Website Development



Our goal is to make a global impact. To do this, we intend to create a global platform that will function as a hosted solution allowing any qualified anti-corruption organization to launch an instance of our website in their respective sector, language and country.

Mobile Application



Another medium by which we are planning on collecting evidence is through creating a mobile application that will allow users to collect evidence and upload it on the spot. The idea behind this project is that people will be able to use their phone to record instances of corruption via audio or video on their phones, and then upload it through our application directly to our secure server. This is intended to increase convenience for those reporting corruption to our organization.

Contact Us

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United States Registered 501 (c) (3)

IACC International Anti-Corruption Court

Petition About ▾ Blog Endorse ▾ Donate ▾ Case for IACC ▾

Youth around the world are fighting corruption, help us spread the word!

Fight Grand Corruption, Create the International Anti-Corruption Court!

Sign the Petition now

Sign in with Facebook

Sign in with Twitter

Sign in with Email

International Anti-Corruption Court

Petition About Blog Endorse Donate Case for IACC

Endorse the IACC

Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda and Transparency International Uganda held a joint press conference on August 7, 2014. During this press conference they endorsed the International Anti-Corruption Court and encouraged other citizens to sign the petition for the IACC.

Civil Societies call for International Anti-Cor...

NotInMyCountry.org
6,791 people like NotInMyCountry.org.
Facebook social plugin
Follow @NIMCountry

// buttons

@mixin button(){

```
cursor: pointer;
display: inline-block;
background-color: $theme-color-3;
@include border-radius(2px);
padding: 10px 15px;
border: 0;
font: 14px $font;
color: #fff;
min-height: 39px;
a {
  color: #fff;
}
&:hover {
  background-color: lighten($theme-color-3, 5);
}
}
```

```
.button,
.small_button {
  @include button;
}
```

```
#cmade { //custom made change
  float: right;
}
```

```
.tiny-button {
  font-size: 12px;
  padding: 2px 5px;
  min-height: 100%;
}
```

```
.submit-button, .success-button {
  @include button;
  border: 0;
}
```

```
// red button, commonly used to cancel actions
```

```
.destroy-link {
  background-color: $red;
  &:hover {
    background-color: lighten($red, 5);
  }
}

.submit-link {
  cursor: pointer;
  border: 0;
  background-color: $theme-color-3;
  @include border-radius(2px);
  display: inline-block;
  color: white;
  font: 14px $font;
  padding: 10px 15px;
  &:hover {
    text-decoration: none;
    color: white;
    background-color: lighten($theme-color-3, 5);
  }
}

.neutral-link {
  background-color: $theme-color-1;
  &:hover {
    background-color: lighten($theme-color-1, 5);
  }
}

// button to close share box

.share-close {
  float: right;
  margin: -15px -15px 10px 10px;
  padding: 5px;
  min-height: auto;
  font-size: 11px;
  @include border-radius(0px);
}
```

```
// read more link
```

```
.read-more, .read_more {  
  display: block;  
  margin-bottom: 15px;  
  font-weight: bold;  
}
```

```
.share-container {  
  .small-button {  
    min-height: 24px;  
    padding: 5px 10px;  
    font-size: 12px;  
  }  
}
```

```
$headline-font: "chaparral-pro", Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;
```

```
// main font
```

```
$font: "proxima-nova", Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;
```



```
$theme-color-1: #b85812; // orange  
$theme-color-2: #e0d6c8; // off white orange  
$theme-color-3: #5358a7; // light green  
$theme-color-4: #2b348f; // dark green
```

```
// form input area focus color  
$theme-color-5: rgba(123,163,41,.6);
```

```
// general success and error colors  
$red: #b94a48;  
$green: #619114;
```

```
// background images  
$background-texture: "body-green.jpg";  
$header-texture: "header-green.jpg";  
$header-color: #628221;
```

```
/* main responsive components */
```

```
@import "custom-mixins";
```

```
// border-radius mixin  
@import "border_radius";
```

```
// compass css3 mixins  
@import "compass/css3";
```

```
// countdown widget for moneybomb page  
@import "framework_countdown2";
```

```
// fluid grid  
@import "grid";
```

```
// activity and page icons  
@import "icons";
```

```
// form elements  
@import "forms";
```

```
// buttons  
@import "buttons";
```

```
// tooltips  
@import "tooltips";
```


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```
// tables
@import "tables";

// pagination
@import "pagination";

// progress bar
@import "progress-bar";

// mobile nav
@import "mobile-nav";

// styles for new features
@import "updates";

// applies border-box to all elements

* {
  @include box-sizing(border-box);
}

.clearfix {
  @include nb-clearfix;
}

html,
button,
input,
select,
textarea {
  color: #200;
}

// headlines

h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 {
  font-family: $headline-font;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 0;
}

h1, h2 {
  line-height: 35px;
}
```

```
h3 {  
  line-height: 25px;  
}
```

```
h1 {  
  font-size: 38.5px;  
}
```

```
h2 {  
  font-size: 31.5px;  
}
```

```
h3 {  
  font-size: 24.5px;  
}
```

```
h4 {  
  font-size: 17.5px;  
}
```

```
h5 {  
  font-size: 14px;  
}
```

```
h6 {  
  font-size: 11.9px;  
}
```

```
.hide {  
  display: none;  
}
```

```
// general link styles
```

```
a {  
  color: $theme-color-1;  
  text-decoration: none;  
  outline: none;  
}
```

```
hr {  
  display: block;  
  height: 1px;  
  border: 0;
```

```
border-top: 1px solid #ccc;
margin: 1em 0;
padding: 0;
}

// allows embedded images to expand/contract with viewport

img {
max-width: 100%;
height: auto;
vertical-align: middle;
border: none;
}

.chromeframe {
margin: 0.2em 0;
background: #ccc;
color: #000;
padding: 0.2em 0;
}

body {
background: url($background-texture) repeat $theme-color-2;
margin: 0;
font: 15px/21px $font;
color: #505054;
}

.width-container {
width: 90%;
margin: 0 5%;
}

.no-background {
background: none !important;
}

.center {
text-align: center;
}

// basic padding

.padtoplest {
padding-top: 5px;
```

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```
}
```

```
.padtop {  
  padding-top: 10px;  
}
```

```
.padtopmore {  
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.padbottomless {  
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.padbottom {  
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.padbottommore {  
  padding-bottom: 15px;  
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.fb-like-box iframe {  
  display: block;  
}
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Academic Course Syllabus

International Human Rights

Mondays 6:30-9:30 (DC-RAF Room 2)

Evan Berry

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Course Description

This course explores the idea of human rights and its contemporary social and political applications. The term “human rights” is at once a philosophical concept, a set of legal frameworks, and a vocabulary through which people’s concerns can be voiced in the public arena. With an eye to the conditions of globalization, this course examines each of these dimensions of human rights. Beginning with an investigation of the philosophical underpinnings of human rights, this course identifies their foundation in modern political philosophy. This section of the course explores the conceptual basis of human rights, scrutinizing relevant ideas about universality, human dignity, cultural difference, social contracts, etc. The second section of the course looks to the foundational documents of contemporary human rights movements, tracing the evolution of rights concepts from the Revolutionary era to contemporary human rights instruments, including specific conventions on the rights of children, persons with disabilities, and migrants. The third section of the course explores a number of contemporary human rights issues. Focusing on salient international issues—torture, extreme poverty, disability, environmental degradation, religious persecution, ethnic strife, gender, and sexuality—the course concludes with a series of case-based analyses.

This course will be formatted as a seminar, which means that the primary mechanism we will use to learn about human rights will be guided, but student-driven class discussions. There will be occasional lectures, presentations, and guest speakers, but most of the time, students will be responsible for helping move the course forward. Most basically, this means that each student will need to prepare a discussion question or resolution for debate each week. Weekly attendance is required. Beyond these elements, the remainder of grades will be based on three writing assignments, each designed to help you explore a human rights issue, problem, or instrument in greater detail. Each of the writing assignments takes a different format, all of which are professionally practical (an editorial, a case-based research paper, and a position paper). All course readings, as well as updates and announcements, will be distributed via Google Groups. Our class group’s name is “International Human Rights (TWC 3363).” Please let me know if you have any problems receiving or using the group.

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge
 1. Students will gain knowledge about the philosophical and ethical underpinnings of human rights
 2. Students will gain knowledge about the key texts upon which international human rights instruments are grounded

3. Students will gain basic knowledge of a diversity of contemporary human rights issues and will learn in depth about one or more such issue
- Skills
 1. Students will advance their research skills by conducting focused research on a specific human rights issue
 2. Students will improve their written communication skills and learn specific forms of applied writing (editorial commentary, policy briefing)
 3. Student will grow in their ability to develop well-reasoned and persuasive arguments about issues of social and political significance

Required Texts

- Readings will be posted online, one week in advance of each class session, the master syllabus (available as a Google Doc) will be updated weekly

Recommended Readings

- Andrew Clapham, *Human Rights*. Oxford: OUP (2007).
- Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights: In Theory and Practice* (3rd ed.). Ithaca: Cornell University Press (2013).

Course Requirements

- *Attendance (20%)*
 - All students are required to attend class both physically and mentally each week. Each session is worth 2% of your grade.
- *Participation: (20%)*
 - Regular contributions to class discussion (10%)
 - Posting weekly discussion questions or resolutions for debate to the Google Group (10%)
- *Writing Assignments (60%)*
 - Op-Ed (15%) – This is a 1 page editorial in which you will attempt to sway public opinion about a human rights issue. There are established conventions for writing op-eds and guidelines will be posted online.
 - Position Paper (20%) – This will be a 2-3 page document in which you identify a particular human rights issue, describe its basic features, articulate and defend a specific policy position for policy makers. Assume that the policy maker whom you are advising is a member of the United States Government, for instance the chief of staff of a member of Congress or an Assistant Secretary at the State Department.
 - Case Study (25%) – This will be a 4-5 page paper in which you will focus on a specific human rights issue or a particular human rights agent. You could, for example, research an activist, an organization, a legal case, or a geographic region. The focus should be contemporary and the writing style should attempt social scientific objectivity. I strongly encourage you to develop your research topic in conversation with me.

Course Policies

- Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and all violations will be formally reported
- Standards about student professionalism are outlined in the Washington Center Student's handbook
- Email correspondence is strongly preferred and all emails should be formally written (greeting, salutation, complete sentences, etc.)
- You are free to use a laptop in class to take notes (and search for course relevant information during discussions); however, you are not permitted to use your computer for recreational purposes. It is distracting to other students and negatively effects our shared learning environment. If computers or phones become a distraction, I will notify the class and any continued electronic distraction will result in a prohibition against computers in the classroom.
- In order to assure that you turn in work in a timely manner, late papers are penalized. Ten percent of the paper grade will be deducted for each 24 hours the paper is late; there are no exceptions to this rule.

Schedule

- June 2: conceptual foundations
 - Key concepts: rights, obligations, social contracts, natural law, dignity
 - Universalism versus relativism
 - National vs. International structures
- June 9: conceptual foundations
 - Beitz's *The Idea of Human Rights* (chapters 3 & 4)
 - Donnelly's *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (chapter 1)
- June 16: instruments, frameworks, and documents
 - *Declaration on the Rights of Man and the Citizen*
 - *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
 - Selections from Smith and van den Anker
 - DaLaet's *The Global Struggle For Human Rights* (Chapter 2)
- June 23: genocide and mass atrocities (**Op-Ed due**)
 - *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*
 - Donnelly's *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice* (chapter 14)
 - "Humanitarian Intervention" in Smith and van den Anker
- June 30: conflict and law of war (Guest Speaker Maj. Matthew Feehan)
 - Hoffman's *Duties Beyond Borders* (Chapter 2)
 - Frowe's *The Ethics of War and Peace* (Chapters 7, 8, and 9)
- July 7: religion, culture, and community rights
- July 14: poverty, inequality, and hunger (**Position Paper due**)
 - Selections from Thomas Pogge
 - Selections from Henry Shue
- July 21: gender and sexuality
- July 28: environmental rights (Guest Speaker Lt. Tony Gregg)

- August 4: disability (**Case Study due**)
 - Selections from Martha Nussbaum