

## **Rotary Grants for University Teachers Final Report**

Elizabeth Walker, Associate Professor of Anatomy,  
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Three month exchange at the Catholic University of Mozambique  
Faculty of Medicine, Beira, Mozambique

### **Host Institution - Catholic University of Mozambique**

The Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) is a public/private educational institution, created at the time of the Peace Accords of 1992 after thirty year of colonial and civil war in Mozambique. It has grown rapidly and is now the second largest University in the country with four campuses in Central and Northern Mozambique. The University began in August 1996 with two Faculties: Faculty of Law in Nampula and the Faculty of Economics and Management in Beira. In 1998, UCM opened the Faculty of Education in Nampula and in January 1999, the Faculty of Agriculture (Niassa). In August 2000, UCM initiated the Faculty of Medicine in Beira, Sofala Province (See map in Appendix).

### **UCM Medical School Curriculum**

The premedical year for the first class of 60 students began in August, 2000. Students had come from all regions of Mozambique and more than 50% of the students are women. The first semester (August-December, 2000) was devoted to Intensive English study to improve the medical students' language skills. Although English is studied as a second language in school, Portuguese is the language of Mozambique. Texts and CDROM materials are in English, and invited lecturers will lecture in English so that Intensive English is a continuing subject in the medical school curriculum. The second semester (January-May, 2001) is used for review of Biology, Chemistry, Math, and Computer Literacy. Basic clinical skills are taught during this year to be used working at the Rural Health Centres. During the premedical year the students look forward to one week of work in the Rural Health Centres after an eight week block of classes. Father Couto, the Rector of the University, has made it clear that this medical school trains doctors to serve in the rural areas of Central Mozambique, and service in the rural clinics begins in the premedical year.

### **Courses taught and subjects covered**

Elizabeth Walker and her husband Dave arrived at UCM in early January, 2001 at the beginning of the second semester for the premedical students. A container of medical books shipped from Brothers Brother Foundation in Pittsburgh had just arrived on January 1,2001 thanks to the generosity of Rotary International, the Waynesburg Rotary Club, Rotary Clubs of southwestern Pennsylvania and the American Embassy in Mozambique. Elizabeth taught anatomy to the premedical students, with dissection of heart and lungs in the laboratory and assisted in the teaching of cell biology. This was similar to her teaching assignment at home as she teaches anatomy to undergraduate students at WVU. The challenging aspect of this teaching assignment was that the students were trying out their newly acquired English language skills. They had just completed one semester of Intensive English, and Elizabeth had just completed a very brief Portuguese tutoring session in the fall semester. It was a shock for all of them! However it was also beneficial because the students now know they must be serious about their study of English, and Elizabeth knows that she must be serious about the study of Portuguese before the next trip to Mozambique.

### **Web site development**

Dave spent three months helping the UCM staff set up the web site for all campuses of the university. Information and pictures had to be gathered from Faculties of Medicine and Economics located in Beira, and also from the other campuses located in Nampula (Law and Education) and Cuamba (Agriculture).

### **Grant writing**

There was not enough time to completely set up the web site and so Dave Walker, UCM faculty and the American Embassy in Mozambique have obtained a grant for him to return to UCM for a month to finish this project. Elizabeth, working with the Faculty of Medicine has submitted a USAID Partnership Grant between UCM and West Virginia University to strengthen their public Health Department at UCM. Another grant is in the early stages of writing for HIV/AIDS research in Mozambique.

### **Reception by people of the host country**

The University community at UCM was a wonderful group of people working very hard in a young but successful University. The faculty and staff were composed of people from all over the world; well-qualified academics either from secular institutions or affiliated with the Catholic Church. These people spoke many languages including English, and the Walkers had a very good relationship with the University community and were effective as teachers and ambassadors of goodwill. Outside the University community, the lack of Portuguese language skills was a hindrance to effectiveness as ambassadors of good will. The Walkers attended two Rotary meetings but were not invited to be involved in other Rotary activities. They were actually very busy at the University and did not have time for extracurricular activities.

### **Long Term Impact**

The Rotary Fellowship has provided the opportunity to travel to Mozambique and develop an understanding of life in southern Africa - the need for better government, education, and quality of life. Elizabeth plans to work to make education more accessible. Dave plans to include this area of the world as a place where he can share his technical expertise in his consulting work. This experience will be a catalyst for continued activities between the participants for many years.

### **Experiences and Opinions**

A complete record of all grant activities (with pictures) is included as an appendix to this report in the form of emails sent home to interested friends and colleagues. A CDROM with the emails and a Powerpoint presentation is also included. The mailing list included the Waynesburg, PA Rotary Club, the Morgantown North Rotary Club, WV, Brothers Brother Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA and faculty at West Virginia University and Marshall University, Huntington, WV. Advertisement of this program through Rotary publications would be a good thing as most academic people are unfamiliar with it. It is a wonderful program!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Walker

The Catholic University of Mozambique (UCM) was established after thirty years of colonial and civil war in the central region of the country where people had never had access to education. Under colonial rule Mozambicans were only permitted to have a third grade education. The University founded after colonial rule (1975) is located in the capital city of Maputo in the far South of the country. UCM has grown rapidly and is a bright spot for education in Southern Africa. There is a great demand for education, as there are presently only 50 Mozambicans who have attained a PH.D. and 100 people with Masters degrees in the entire country. The government has to depend on foreign educated people to run the country and foreign doctors to provide health care. There are approximately 600 doctors in Mozambique with 300 in the capital city of Maputo. This leaves most of the 17 million people without the care of a doctor.

It is important to publicize and support this bright spot for education in Southern Africa because the University has the potential to educate teachers, businessmen, farmers, lawyers and doctors who will make their country prosperous. The University still depends on foreign faculty and foreign aid during this period of rapid growth. It would be an excellent place for charitable organizations to have an impact in one of the poorest countries of the world.