

## MEET AND GREET SESSIONS!

### ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO MEET YOU!

There will be a variety of Meet and Greet sessions over lunch time in the International Center. Representatives from the organizations will be coming to campus to have lunch with students during the designated time slot.

***Be sure to follow up with your mentor!!***

### UPCOMING MEET AND GREET SESSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES

12:30- 1:15 PM IN IC 101

- April 13th Student Cultural Exchange
- April 18th Focusing El Salvador
- April 20th Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

## RP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT JUSTIN BIBEE



**Degree:** Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation

**Practicum Organization:** United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

**Practicum Location:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

I lead focus group discussions with Burundian and Congolese refugees in the Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli refugee camps in Tanzania and with surrounding indigenous communities to explore opportunities of developing a joint UNHCR/UNCDF program increasing access to finance for refugees and rural host community populations through a savings group led approach which emphasizes financial education and promotes savings and internal lending among members.

**What do you like about your practicum?** I like the fact that my practicum is adventurous. I'm now doing what I've only read about in books - speeding down a narrow dirt road in a UN envoy with armed escorts deep in Tanzania. It's quite an adventure. But what I like even more is *why* we are traveling in that direction. We are reaching the refugee camps and the "last mile" (as the UN puts it) - the most remote villages. I am able to speak with indigenous tribes and refugees face-to-face. I am able to look them in the eyes and listen - this is even more of an experience, and one I will never forget.

**What are some of the challenges you are facing during your practicum?** Although I frequent the camps and villages with a notebook and pen, I spend the majority of my time at UN headquarters sitting behind a desk. One challenge I face is technology. This is my first time working in an office setting. My work environment is fast-paced, dynamic and a challenging one. Beyond the classroom I seldom use technology - any more than I have to, that is. However, I am acutely aware of its importance. Technology is paramount in today's world because it serves in a variety of functions and in many of the most important aspects of modern society - this includes social media. I have drastically

improved my knowledge and skill in both.

**How are you using the knowledge/skills/attitudes that you gained from SIT during your practicum?** SIT has well prepared me for my practicum. SIT has not only provided me with knowledge and skills to follow my passion but also with opportunities. However, my practicum is not my first time working with refugees and indigenous peoples. We have professors and students from indigenous communities and students who were once refugees themselves at SIT. The peacebuilding & conflict transformation program has especially given me the knowledge and skills to work with refugees fleeing conflict. But it's not just in the workplace where I apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes I gained from SIT, it's in my everyday life and they serve me well.

**How did you find your practicum? How did you utilize the career center when searching for a practicum?** Actually, my practicum found me! That's what's so great about SIT's Career Center. They knew of an opportunity that would be great for me, knew my availability (I am a Jan-start), and reached out to me. It was exactly the kind of opportunity I was looking for. I scheduled an appointment with Squeak to review my cover letter and resume. She sat with me for hours and hours tearing apart and reconstructing both. I applied for the position and was granted an interview. I utilized the interview room in SIT's Career Center. There it was quiet and I was undisturbed enabling me to fully concentrate on my interview. Because of the dedicated people and services offered at SIT's Career Center I am working my dream practicum.

**What advice do you have for incoming students as far as careers and practicums are concerned?** Choose a practicum that will challenge you. This will help you learn more about yourself and help you reach your full potential. Choose one that will enable you to enhance your skills and increase your knowledge. **If your practicum's not challenging, it's not worthwhile.** I believe the same is true for careers.



Read the complete interview in our Spotlight binder!