

April 25, 2007

To: Annie Ingram
SDE Alliance Director

CC: SDE Alliance Committee

From: Jenna Feindel
Millsaps College, Undergraduate

Subject: 2007 ACS Student Development and Engagement Grant Proposal

I would like to submit my proposal to receive the full Model Internship grant amount of \$1500 for an exciting project taking place in the Yucatan Peninsula. I will be working closely with professors both in Jackson, Mississippi and in Oxkutzcab, Mexico to develop a permaculture facility on the Helen Moyers Reserve, which is owned by Millsaps College. The college currently uses the reserve primarily for the study of archeology. The program I will be conducting a feasibility study for would emphasize environmental issues in the context of a delicate ecosystem, and will eventually involve students from Millsaps and elsewhere, and will also involve community members in the Yucatan.

I feel that the goals of this project are very similar to the goals of the ACS Alliance. I hope the committee will consider funding this important project, which has the potential to benefit students and others from all over the world.

Thank you,

Jenna Feindel

April 25, 2007

**2007 ACS Model Internship Grant Proposal:
Permaculture at the Helen Moyers Reserve, Yucatan, Mexico.**

Introduction:

The goal of my internship is to conduct a feasibility study on a proposal to bring sustainable agricultural practices, or permaculture, to the Helen Moyers Biocultural Reserve in Yucatán, Mexico. I find it interesting that I must travel to one of the original areas of global agricultural development to study whether sustainable agriculture will work at Colleges research facility situated in an ecologically sensitive area. Although local descendants of the Maya practice traditions passed down through the ages, we cannot assume that all traditions are sustainable, and have no idea as to what is being done in the area of agriculture. One of the goals of the project is to help develop economically viable sustainable alternatives among traditional farmers in Yucatan. To accomplish this goal, Dr. Stan Galicki and Dr. George Bey have been developing the Center for Research and Sustainable Living on the reserve since 2002. The project will help to minimize the environmental impact that Millsaps students make when they study on the reserve, and will help to increase environmental awareness in both students and traditional farmers.

Project Description:

I will be based in Oxkutzcab, Mexico, approximately 20 km from the Reserve. Field and library research will involve trips to the Reserve and also to Merida, capitol of Yucatán. I will have direct contact with Tomás Gallereta Negrón, Archaeologist with the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and co-director of the excavation of the ruins of Kiuic at the Reserve. Tomás is extremely interested in reviving agriculture on a sustainable basis at the Reserve and will be a valuable resource for making local contacts.

I will be working as an intern to produce a feasibility study which will detail what crops would work best, when to plant and harvest, whether we could sustain livestock or chickens, what size farm would work best, etc. A major focus of this study will be the use of water at the facility. There is no available surface water so the development of sustainable water practices utilizing precipitation are crucial to the continued success of Millsaps' facility in the Puuc Region of the Yucatán. The study will also entail thinking about opportunities, community partnerships, and possible consequences for the people who live in Yucatán. I anticipate working with progressive farmers in on their farms to gain an understanding of agricultural practices in the Yucatán. I also anticipate library research at the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatán (UADY) in Merida on agricultural practices and trends in Mexico.

Timetable and Budget:

Internship Experience – September 1, 2007 to December 7, 2007
Classroom Teaching Experience – Spring 2008

<u>Item</u>	<u>Expense (\$)</u>
Air Travel (Round Trip)	500.00
Local Travel (bus and taxi)	300.00
Room and Board	
Oxkutzcab, Merida, or Moyers Reserve (98 days @ \$20.00/day)	1960.00
 <u>Matching Funds</u>	
Millsaps College Ford Fellowship (\$425.00 + \$300.00)	725.00
Room and Board Reduction (50%)	<u>980.00</u>
Out of pocket expenses	1055.00

I have been selected to participate in the Millsaps College Ford Teaching Fellowship Program. This program is for students who are interested in pursuing a career in college teaching. We will utilize a portion of the funds for travel to Mexico. Dr. Galicki will travel with me in early September for a short orientation period. The program allocates up to \$850 each to myself and to Dr. Stan Galicki for travel; I am also entitled to a \$100.00 monthly stipend in Sept, Oct., and Nov. I will use half of the travel funds to cover airfare to Mexico and reserve the balance for conference travel. The Ford grant, in addition to the room and Board reduction allocated by the College at its facilities will be used to offset expenses while abroad. This grant would cover the remaining expenditures plus incidental expenses.

Evaluation and Dissemination:

There are several ways in which this information will be disseminated and used by the students here at Millsaps and elsewhere. As a teaching Fellow, I will be presenting my research to students enrolled in Dr. Stan Galicki's "Environmental Issues in the 21st Century" course in the Spring semester of 2008. We will also be preparing a presentation to share at a yet to be determined conference in 2008. It is anticipated that information produced during this feasibility study will facilitate the development of agriculture at the Moyers Reserve. Dr. Galicki is currently developing a permaculture course which will build upon the existing Millsaps-ACS inter-institutional course, Living in Yucatan. Future Millsaps interns will build upon the research that I begin, hopefully on the College's own farm. Because the facility is not occupied, a large component of the farms success will involve the establishment of internships for regional students interested in learning permaculture while managing the Reserve's farm. The vision is that as managers rotate out of the program, they will move on to reproduce what they learned at the Moyers Reserve Farm.

Institutional Approval:

We have contacted Dr. Richard Smith, Dean of Students, for a letter of endorsement.

Personal Statement:

I am a sociology/anthropology and Spanish major and I hope to pursue a career in academia. I have become interested in ecotourism and sustainable development since my study in Ecuador in the summer of 2006. There, my class stayed with the Sarayacu tribe, who are developing economic alternatives in order to preserve their land and stave of oil exploration.

I am very attracted to the multidisciplinary nature of this project. Although I will be researching a variety of topics in Mexico, my main personal interest in the project are the people in the surrounding communities. I hope to concentrate especially on possible opportunities and on possibly negative consequences that bringing permaculture to the area will have on the indigenous people there. This project will give me experience in fieldwork, which I hope to do in Central and South American countries in the future.

My involvement in campus and community activities has been centered on people. I have worked for AIDS Project Hartford in Connecticut, Habitat for Humanity, and Food Not Bombs. My resume is attached.

JENNA FEINDEL

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EDUCATION

- May 2008 MILLSAPS COLLEGE — Jackson, MS
Bachelor of Arts: Undeclared Major, GPA: 3.26
- Summer 2006 WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE — Worcester, MA
Study Abroad Program in Ecuador
Focus: Sociology and indigenous communications

EXPERIENCE

Student Employee for MILLSAPS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, Jackson, MS Fall 2006 - Present

Provide clerical assistance to the professors. Skills in filing, proofreading and copying. Also gain experience working with Excel spreadsheets.

Student Employee for the OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, Jackson, MS Fall 2005 - Present

Register campus and local community for enrichment courses. Answer phones and refer callers to the appropriate personnel. Also perform general office duties.

Camp Counselor for CAMP POCONO, Town, PA Summers 2004 and 2005

Worked with campers, ages 14 and 15. Assisted with nutrition, health and exercise classes. On duty 24 hours a day while camp was in session. The camp ran for 2 months.

SKILLS

- Language:** Proficient in Spanish
- Computer:** MS Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Internet Research and Data Entry
- Other:** Clerical Skills, Editing, Research and Writing