



# THE SWAZI SOJOURNAL

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## Swazi Pick-Up Lines, or, I'm a Twenty-Five Cow Woman, Babe!



*By Darryn Crocker*

Daily, hourly when outside of my community, I get hit on by men, as does the rest of the female population. Someone at home acted jealous by this news, but I can assure you "minor sexual harassment" or more accurately put "plain annoying" are better ways to describe the encounters. According to some trusted Swazi friends, there is a traditional saying that goes something like, "Don't ever let a woman pass without being appreciated". Throughout the years that idea has boiled down to men, young and old, feeling compelled to call out to total strangers with a very limited array of pick-up lines. There is little hope that anything will develop out of these propositions, but they try nonetheless. The ones most commonly used, in order of frequency, are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: "I want to marry you." / "Do you have a husband?" (FYI – Having a husband rarely stops the conversation that inevitably follows.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "I love you."

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Give me your number."

Being here for a year, I have tried out MANY different responses to discourage this very

blunt affection. My favorites in the past have been, "I can't cook, so you will have to cook for me," "It will cost too much to send cows to my father in America," "I'm worth too many cows," "Angifuni (I don't want)," or "I don't love someone who doesn't ask my name first." These answers would usually get laughs and/or "HOW" (an exclamation not a question – learned that the hard way) or "EESH."

The cooking answer would be a blow to the most common sex roles in Swaziland, and the cow response utilizes the traditional process called *lobola*. To "buy" a wife, a man must give cows (*lobola*) to the woman's family. Depending on negotiations and the woman's surname the amount of cows (or in value cash) could range from 10-25. Since I am a Dlamini, my *lobola* would be at least 20 cows. Brandon once was advised not to give up "his white women" for less than 25 cows. (PS I'm priceless... not enough cows for me in the entire country of Swaziland!!). And yes, this process of "buying a bride" bothers me to no end. Back on topic, my responses were usually not the end of the conversation. I am amazed by the counter positions so fiercely held by the men. Sometimes

the unwanted banter would continue to a frustrating point where the childish "Why? .... But why? .... Why?" would surface. Grr. This is not the way you want to spend a 3-5 hour bus ride. I am happy to say that I have finally created the most perfect comeback for an HIV/AIDS educator in Swaziland to use! It goes like this: "Well, I can't marry or love a man that does not protect himself and his family. To do this he must do four things. He must get circumcised, get tested for HIV, be faithful to only me, and use a condom every time he has sex."

These four are, of course, the most statistically significant male health behavior change prevention methods against the transmission of HIV. Everyone has been taken aback by this response. Some are too uncomfortable to bother me more with stupid, fruitless proposals, but some guys actually push forward. This gives me the perfect opportunity to educate. The conversation takes a different avenue, in which I'm in control, and beneficial information can be relayed. Yay! That is now my one and only response to obnoxious, unoriginal, Swazi pick-up lines. Being so conditioned to them, though, I might truly swoon at

"Hi. What's your name?" in the future.

Ha!

\* \* \* \* \*

\* **APPLAUSE!** \*

\* Our very own Mfanafuthi was one of 5 \*  
 \* Safety and Security \*  
 \* Coordinators \*  
 \* worldwide recog- \*  
 \* nized by Peace \*  
 \* Corps Headquarters \*  
 \* for the fine work he \*  
 \* has done. \*  
 \* He has a plaque he \*  
 \* shyly reveals when \*  
 \* asked ... so ask! \*

\* \* \* \* \*

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## GOINGS-ON

by APCD Brian

The next few months are going to be filled with a lot of important programming activities! Here are some key activities that we'd like you to keep on your radar:

### Third Year Assignments

We have just sent out guidance to Group 7 Volunteers on third year assignment procedures. As noted in the guidance, we ask that you provide us with written interest in a third year assignment which indicates 1) the type of work you're interested in doing and 2) whether you'd like to extend at site or with an organization in-country. You may also indicate whether you're interested in transferring to another country for a third year. If so, please note the general geographical area you're interested in serving and what you'd like to do. The broader your request, the better your chances will be for finding a match. We must re-

ceive this written request in the month of October. Stella and I will then set up meetings with everyone who has indicated a third year interest in the months of November and possibly December.

### In-Service Training (IST)

This year's IST is scheduled for November 18-26. For Group 8 PCVs, you will arrive at the Thokoza Centre between 2 and 4 pm with dinner being your first meal. Your training will include a variety of language, safety and security, medical, administrative and technical sessions, featuring guest session speakers and a resource fair that will be attended by stakeholders based throughout the country. For Group 6 and 7 PCVs and Response Corps Volunteers, you are invited to attend the optional All Volunteers training from November 23 – 26. If you choose to attend this event, we ask that you contact APCD Stella or Brian to RSVP by October 4. One of the sessions at your All Volunteers

training will be a presentation and update by PEPFAR on the Male Circumcision Rollout Campaign for Swaziland. We will aim to send you an agenda for this conference by early October.

### Community Assessment Reports Due Date Updated!

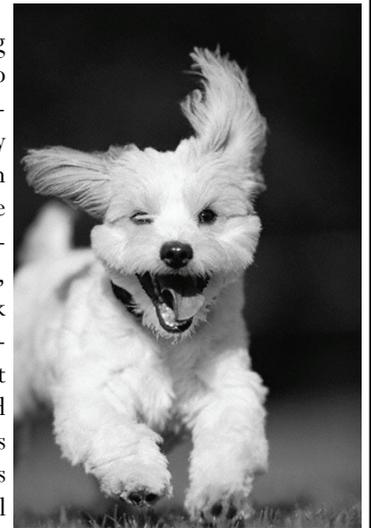
We ask all Group 8 Volunteers to email us their community assessment reports by November 29 rather than submitting them to us at the start of this In-Service Training event.

### Programming Site Visits

Stella and I will be making our programming site visits to Group 8 Volunteers in December 2010 and January 2011. These visits give us an opportunity to learn more about your progress with integration, language acquisition, and potential future work opportunities. They also enable us to meet with your host family and counterpart(s) and to visit important work areas like kaGogo Centres, NCPs and NGOs with you. We will

also give you feedback on your community assessment reports during these visits.

We will inform you of your site visit date in the upcoming months. When you receive this information, we ask that you inform your counterpart(s) and host families about the visit so they can save the date and be available to meet with us. These visits also give you an opportunity to voice any concerns and/or other ideas you may have about your site and to let us know what type of support you feel is needed.



## A FEW BITS OF ADMIN NEWS...

By Nicole Miller

Nicole will be distributing the Volunteer Settling-In Allowance and Living Allowance Surveys at IST/All Vol in November. For those of you who will not be in attendance at the All Volunteer Training, I will put the Living Allowance Survey in your mailboxes at the Peace Corps Office. Please take time to fill out the survey(s). The results help us better understand the costs associ-

ated with moving in, as well as your ongoing monthly expenses. In order to get a full, rounded picture of Volunteer expenses we need at least 80 percent of Volunteers to complete the survey.

A reminder about your house keys...Please remember that all Volunteers need to have a back up plan in the event that you should lose your house keys. Each Volunteer should have a set of house keys made and give them to the closest neighboring Volunteer you

have at your site. This way if you should lose your keys, you can go to your Volunteer neighbor's house to get your spare set. For new Volunteers, this is an integration assignment that you all need to complete as soon as possible (and definitely before IST). If you have not done this and you lose your house keys, all expenses and logistics related to changing your locks falls to you. Please be prepared!

Sunset Backpackers: Due to a few recent events where Vol-

unteer reservations at Sunset Backpackers were either not honored or were altered, we have been in communication with Sunset about these issues. We have requested that Sunset honor PCV and PCO reservations. In an extenuating/rare situation where a reservation has to be cancelled, we asked that they notify us as soon as possible. We hope to see improvement in this area. Please let Nicole or Mfanafuthi know if you have future reservation issues at Sunset so that we can make a follow up.

**FROM THE CD  
DESK...**

As this is the first SOJO for Group 8 at site, a warm welcome to your site and what will become your home for the next two years. We look forward to seeing you next month at IST.

As an introduction to Group 8 and review for other groups, we put MP3 files of various National Public Radio programs on the Volunteer computer closest to the window. The programs cover development issues, pop culture, economics and American culture. On the computer closest to the door, we load relevant TED videos (MP4 format) for your enjoyment. Updates/highlights are covered in the SOJO. This month check-out the Annie Lennox TED video entitled: "Why I'm an AIDS Activist."

A few updates...

**CD out of the office in October** – I will be at the CD conference in Accra, Ghana the first week of October and then in the US for the rest of the month. In my absence, Nicole will be Acting CD.

**In-Service Training, All Volunteer Conference and Thanksgiving** – Group 8 Volunteers plan on a packed week of training starting on November 18<sup>th</sup>. On November 24<sup>th</sup> all Volunteers (Group 6 Extenders, Group 7 and PC Response Volunteers) are invited to join the conference for sessions on the new prevention toolkit, updates on Peace Corps as well as a workshop on the roll-out of the Male Circumcision plan and how Volunteers can be involved. On Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> I will be hosting Thanksgiving dinner at my residence. All Volunteers are welcome! If you would like to help prepare

bread and desserts the weekend before, do let me know.

**New Staff Coming Soon** – With the Education project slated to begin in 2011, we will be hiring a new Program Assistant and Driver/Clerk. Adverts will be placed in October and we hope to have new staff on-board in November. If you know of qualified people, have them check the papers in mid-October or request info from Thandi.

**And finally,** On September 22, 1961, the Peace Corps act was authorized by Congress to: "help the peoples of such countries and areas in meeting their needs for

trained manpower, particularly in meeting the basic needs of those living in the poorest areas of such countries, and to help promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of the peoples served and a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people."



**PROGRAMMING**

*by APCD Stella*

Pre-Service Training has come and gone; the Programming team officially welcomes all of Group 8. Yes, you all are our teammates. Without all the PCVs' hard work out there our job is incomplete. We appreciate all your positive and motivating feedback of the PST Technical/programming sessions. We do not overlook the contribution from the serving Group seven and six PCVs. You now realize how significant PCV work is to the programming sector. The feedback will help us improve our service delivery to Volunteers

and subsequently make every Volunteer's work and presence felt and appreciated by the respective communities served.

Programming is aware that PCVs engage in different activities in their communities. We get very interesting trimester reports and we continue to encourage everyone to include as much detail as possible as this information helps us identify potential partners and even potentially helpful counterparts. In light of the new NGO sector, it is worth mentioning that programming relies a lot on feedback ( positive or negative), which we hope to constantly get from the PCVs

working in this sector. The challenges and lessons learnt will determine the improvements we make for the next group.

We often get communication from RPCVs regarding donating materials such as books for serving Volunteers. Recently we got an offer from a RPCV of library books. Even though such an offer involves issues of shipping/postage costs which the office has no specific budget for, we feel it would be helpful information for the office to know which PCVs would be interested in receiving books for their community. The information should be sent to Samu by October

15. Please note that the logistics of bringing the consignment are in the process. The possibility of actually getting the books into the country is 50/50. Nonetheless, information regarding who may be interested is still useful whether we get these books or not.

We hope that All-Vol for Group 7 is yet another milestone, integration for Group 8 has few surprises and that those on extension have already positioned themselves with the new programming environment. We all look forward to busy and interesting 2010/2011 programming action. Enjoy!

**BE VIGILANT!***By Mfanafuthi Vilakati*

Greetings to ALL VOLUNTEERS in Swaziland! It is good to be back from the U.S. where I learned and shared during the Worldwide SSC Conference 2010 in Washington D.C.

Spring is here in the region, and so is lightning activity. The PCO will be embarking on a lightning rod installation exercise towards the end of this month. Please take precautions to stay away from the lightning rod during lightening activity, please advise your family to do the same and keep livestock away from the rod as well when there is lightning activity in the area, no matter how mild it seems.

Violent crime incidents in township areas and suburban areas in Mbabane continue to be a great cause of concern for

both residents of Mbabane and the Mbabane police. If you happen to be in Mbabane residential areas do not walk on isolated roads alone; always walk with someone or in groups, even in daytime. Also, do not wear headphones while walking in Mbabane, as this lessens your awareness and increased your chances of being victimized. Hire a cab to all destinations after dark not matter how close.

Along with the warm temperatures and greenery coming up due to summer rains will be snakes in some areas. So... please keep your room and pit latrine cleared of vegetation at least for 1 meter all round. It would be helpful to get some snake repellent crystals from chemists know as Cape Aloe crystals (costs E8 /250g) and sprinkle them all around your house. These emit a smell that keeps snakes away.

I wish to remind All Volunteers of the following as well;

—Your gas stoves should have tightly fitted metal clamps on both ends of the rubber pipe which runs between the gas cylinder and the stove.

— Stoves should be located away from curtains.

—Disconnect all electrical appliances from the sockets during lightning activity. This includes TV external antenna cables from the TV set as it may get damaged by strong lightning currents.

—Do not touch water during lightning activity, avoid standing underneath tall trees; indoors in a well ventilated room is the safest place to be.

—Always put your helmets on when cycling. Buy a lock to secure your bike when you reach your destination.

—Watch your drinks when in

public areas; reports of drinks being spiked in public areas are still a concern to the PCO.

—Do not touch suspicious looking parcels at site and also away from site.

—Keep windows closed after dark; never leave your room or sleep with your windows open.

—Use old newspaper or rags to close the gap at the bottom of your door and the floor to prevent frogs, bats and snakes from crawling in unnoticed.

At this point all Volunteers should have copy of the latest EAP, if not check your mail boxes in the PCO. Contact me immediately for any updates necessary. Also, I'd like to urge all PCVs to take time to update their site locator forms and to take precautions that they do a thorough job at ensuring that the SLF has enough information on it to be usable.

'Till next time lets BE SAFE!

**LIGUSHA FOR THE SOUL***compiled by APCD Brian***Flexibility is Key to Project Success***-Kate Faschan, Mhlangatane, Group 7*

The greatest lesson I have learned here is that flexibility is key in happiness and success. I cannot recall one occasion in which a meeting I thought I was attending ending up as advertised. I have also never had a project turn out the way I planned. It was not for lack of effort and pre-planning. I have learned not to take changes as failure but as success. I now accept I will never

be walking into what I expect, so I use every opportunity and twist as a chance to educate and influence others or allow it to happen to myself.

**Recruiting Volunteers: The Rule of Halves***-Erica Briant, Lomahasha, Group 6*

In Swaziland many volunteers become frustrated and demoralized after they have meeting after meeting to which no one or very few people come. I spent many weekends during high school and college, and all of my gap year before Peace Corps, as a community organizer. I had to gather petition signatures, gather and supervise volunteers all over the

East coast, cold call long lists of phone numbers for donations and generally put myself out there for some thing I believed in. I started thinking pretty early and often that I did these things regardless of whatever other people thought or how they responded. I did them because I thought it was my responsibility to try and to give people the opportunity to help if they wanted to. That perspective has served me very well here.

Another lesson from those days is the rule of halves. Here's how it works. If you want to get volunteers to help you do something, anything, you start by making phone calls. You can usually call 20

people an hour, but you will only reach 5-8, on average. Of those 5-8, half will say yes. A few days later, you call to confirm, and half will back out. On the day of, only half the people who confirmed will actually show up. So, if you want 3 volunteers to help you, you have to start with cold calling for 2-3 hours, get 12 people to say yes, and then let that number fall by half and then by half again. And, that's in America, where people are relatively comfortable telling you straight up that they have no interest in helping. Here, you have to expect much worse numbers because of the

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**BUILDING BRIDGES**

*By Amanda de Fiebre*

What do you get when you take an older couple, one half of which never wanted to come to Africa, and a 10-year old boy and you plop them down in the middle of Swaziland?

One might think you would get a screwball comedy, filled with hijinks and hilarity. And yes, parts of my parents' and nephew Matthew's visit to Swaziland was pretty funny. But the best part was to see Swaziland through their eyes—to see what I love about Swaziland, my community and the people in it reflected back.

The adventure started a sunny Wednesday morning. My family had just arrived in Swaziland the night before, after a long drive in from South Africa. After a refreshing night's sleep, breakfast and shower (!) we headed for my community, in hopes of A) meeting my host family, B) getting my gas tank refilled, C) picking up Sophia, my Group 8 mentee, and D)

attending a support group meeting.

We did not accomplish any of the above.

At some point during the drive to my site, I realized that although I know how to get around the country by public transport, I have no idea how to get around by car. But no problem, because we had a GPS. Except that the GPS kept getting us lost.

After several wrong turns, we finally made it to my community, deciding to put off meeting my family and getting my gas until tomorrow. We rolled into town in our white SUV and piled out to say hello to *Make* at the produce stand. *Make* sells produce, speaks excellent English and chases away drunks who try to harass me. "The men love her, but I don't let them near her!" *Make* declares to my mother. "Thank you SO MUCH," my mother says. *Make* apologizes for her English, saying that she is not well-educated. My father, whose language skills probably

include about five words of a second language, shakes his head. "I've met many people who are well educate, who have multiple degrees, and let me tell you, they are not as smart as you," he tells *Make*.

After a short visit, we pile back into the car to pick up Sophia and head to my support group meeting. Before we can roll out, there's a knock on the car window. A man points to one of our back tires, which is completely flat. We don't know what the do, so I call my counterpart. He shows up in a matter of minutes, takes us to an auto shop and takes care of pretty much everything. I'm running late for my support group meeting, so we send a cab for Sophia and I bid goodbye to my family and take off walking.

The next day, my family gets to meet a few Group 7 volunteers and a whole slew of Group 8 volunteers in Manzini. Then we head back, with Sophia, to my homestead. My American and Swazi families finally meet, and it's better

than I could have ever expected. I leave them alone to take Sophia to the *siteshi*. I get her on the right bus and come back to the sounds of giggling children. Matthew is playing with Lenhle, my two-year old *sisi*, and she is clearly quite enthralled with him. My father is holding my other little *sisi*, four-month old Petunia. He's enjoying it so much, that I feel compelled to remind him that more grandchildren are NOT in the near future. He gets along just as well with my *mkhulu*, the two of them chatting it up all afternoon.

Day 3 of the visit I decide to take my family to the church I attend with my family to meet the pastor. There's an NCP at the church, so I tell Matthew to bring along his little football, in case some of the children want to play. The kids look at him warily, and he looks disappointed. "It's all *girls*," he complains. I locate one of the few boys there and gesture to Matthew to toss me his football. I toss it to the boy

...continued on page 6

...*Ligusa* from page 4

different communication styles. So, bad attendance does not mean I am doing something wrong, or that my community members don't like me. It is completely normal, and I do not need to think twice about it. It's really pretty liberating!

**Volunteers as Facilitators and Not Implementers**

*Tim Sandoe, Bulandzeni, Group 7*

One of the main lessons I have learned is to trust community

members and beneficiaries to use their own creativity and knowledge to develop and implement projects and activities. This not only helps to build capacity, but tends to function much better. I see my role as a facilitator and mentor, providing logistical and moral support, while my counterparts are there to do much more of the implementation.

**Being Present as Health Volunteers**

*Hong-Ngoc Nguyen, Ngcina,*

*Group 6*

A few months ago I learned that one of my counterparts is HIV positive. However, this person didn't reveal her status to me until the last minute, when we were on our way to the hospital. After her recovery, I couldn't help but wonder why she didn't disclose her status to me. In many ways I expected her to since we had a very good relationship. Only recently I was brave enough to ask her why she waited until the last minute to tell me. She said she was still in a state of

denial. Her answer appeased my frustrations and highlighted the role of Volunteers in Swaziland. We are here to educate others and to learn. We are also here to be a pillar of support for people who are HIV-positive, especially those who do not have the strength to accept and tell family and friends. We are also here to answer questions and ask the right questions. Therefore, it's important to be here, be present and be mindful of our actions, our words and even our thoughts.

... *Article Page 5*

and indicate that he should throw it to Matthew. He does, and the other children perk up with interest. Before long, my nephew is engaged in a full-fledged game of catch with the children at the NCP. It is one of the coolest things I've experienced in Swaziland. He can't communicate with the kids, but no words are needed.

Later that day, we visit a neighboring homestead, one that is undeniably poor, but not destitute. We have a great time and, as always, everyone hits it off. When we're leaving, my father asks me if this is the poorest family in my community. I'm shocked by the question, of how different our perceptions of poverty are, of

how MY perception has changed so much in this past year.

Day 4 is spent with my host family, who cooks for all of us, even though I've told them that they don't have to. When we are ready to depart, I ask my little *sisi* for a hug. She shakes her head and runs straight to Matthew, with open arms. I've been replaced, but the scene in front of me is too cute for me to care.

We stop again at the produce market to say goodbye to *Make*. Matthew helps *Make* package produce for her customers, and she chats with my mother. They realize they both have big feet. My mother offers to send her old shoes to *Make*.

The whole time, my family can't stop talking about how friendly and welcoming and kind everyone is. I agree with them—the wonderful people in my community are what make me love Swaziland, but it's nice to see that reaffirmed.

The day of our departure from Swaziland we go through customs and cross the border into South Africa. "Goodbye Swaziland," my mother says. "I liked you."

As excited as I am for South Africa, my first real Peace Corps vacation, I'm sad to leave too. There was something so wonderful about seeing my two worlds—my American and my Swazi—blend together so well.

Here, it's easy to get depressed and discouraged. Apathy, harassment and lack of motivation all can make me wonder why I chose to do this. But my family's visit and seeing how much they enjoyed Swaziland; how much they, just like me, fell in love with the wonderful, friendly people, re-energized me and reminded me that the good outweighs the bad.

As Peace Corps Volunteers we can't change Swaziland during our two years here. We can't solve all the problems. But we can build relationships, both between Swazis and ourselves and between cultures. My family's visit made me think that slowly, the bridge is being built.

## WHERE'S MY GOLD STAR?

By RPCVs Hillary & Jay Jackson

Americans like tangible feedback. From the moment we are born we start receiving rewards for doing things well. We get a gold star for making it to the toilet when we are two and three, or six (Matthew); we start receiving grades when we are five, and we are rewarded with raises and promotions for good work as adults. We are trained to produce in order to receive. Looking back, this was one of the most difficult things about serving as a Volunteer in Swaziland. When we arrived in our community and began searching for ways to address HIV/AIDS education, we noticed that many of the events we attended seemed to be scratching the same surface

over and over again to promote healthy living. There was not much novel information being taught at our meetings and not much change occurring due to the information that was being taught. After discussing the situation during IST we decided we wanted to dig deeper in our interactions with community members. This meant stepping away from large meetings and towards individual relationships. As a result we spent most of our time helping on homesteads, farming, talking, learning siSwati and just hanging out with our community members. However, this led to low numbers on our trimester reports and occasionally feeling like we were not completing the task that we were asked to do. At times, we just felt less produc-



tive. Of course, there were occasions when we felt confident in our job, but there were others when we weren't so sure. Our service

was spotted with moments where we saw our work pay off in a good conversation about HIV or someone coming to us for help with a problem. But it was in our last few weeks of service that everything truly came to fruition. Before leaving Ntjanini we visited every homestead in our community to ask the parents/caretakers to talk with their children about HIV and encourage them to test. Through the respect and friendships we gained along with our knowledge of siSwati, none of which came quickly, we were able to do this. Two years of seemingly useless work turned out to be impera-

tive in receiving a positive response to the one thing we were asked to do. The process might have taken much longer, but much like Matthew, we finally received that gold star. This is not to say that this series of meetings made our service worthwhile, it was really only the physical representation of our whole service and provided affirmation to our job. We've said all this knowing that each Volunteer has and will choose to address their community in whatever manner they deem appropriate, but we want to encourage you all to remember that every conversation you have, every meeting on the road and every fence you help fix is an integral part of the job you are doing. For us, siSwati was an excellent avenue with which to begin and maintain that relationship and maximize our influence in Swaziland.

## **VISITING BULEMBU**

*By Rick Wilkin*

Since the first weeks of training last year I had noticed the sign pointing to Bulembu at the stop sign across from the Buy Cash store in Piggs Peak. My curiosity led me to read a paragraph or two in The Lonely Planet and last week, after several postponed attempts to visit, Ashley and I met in Piggs Peak and traveled there via *khumbi*. We were not disappointed. Bulembu is nestled just below Emlembe Peak, the highest mountain in Swaziland, which is over 6100 feet elevation. Standing at the base of the mountain and looking up to the impressive peak, it felt for a few moments like I might have been in Switzerland.

The streets are paved and have curbs, and the world's longest

cableway extends 20 km to Barberton, SA. There is a water system and hundreds of abandoned homes still there on several sides of the mountains. The Havelock Mine, built in 1936, became the fifth largest asbestos mine in the world. At one point it employed 10,000 mineworkers. When asbestos fell out of favor the mine faded rapidly. By 2003 Bulembu was a ghost town with only 100 residents, and they faced difficult times. However, since the infrastructure of the town was left in place, some investors and developers saw potential and began to bring the town back. With the AIDS crisis and the growing populations of AIDS orphans an opportunity surfaced.

Today there are 230 Swazi orphans at Bulembu, with plans to expand the orphanage. They live six to a cottage with

an auntie and attend a primary school financed by the orphan trust fund. The old high school is being refurbished and will be opening next year so it will be possible for the orphans to complete their high school in Bulembu. Students and church group volunteers from Europe and the United States were there repainting the school buildings last week.

There is already a functioning hostel with another wing nearing completion. To stay there costs E80 per night. Besides the hostel and the guest lodge there are several industries which help support the orphanage. There is a honey factory, a bakery, a craft enterprise, a saw mill, a dairy and a water bottling factory. There are churches and an art deco theater with a huge antique movie projector. At one end there were small cottages

where the laborers and mine workers lived and at the other end of town there was a pool, bowling lawn, golf course, rifle range and larger, much more comfortable houses.

The plan is to have Bulembu developed to the point so that by 2020 it will be self-sufficient, able to sustain the orphanage with its industries and be run entirely by Swazi citizens. Because the town is really like a time-warp, with most of the infrastructure in place, the capital outlays are much less and it seems their big plans will be sustainable.

P.S. Ashley and I would recommend that you travel to Bulembu and also that you take in a meal at the Bulembu Guest House and maybe even spend a night. There is much more to see and do than we could do in one afternoon.

## **REFLECTIONS OF THE 2010 JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) EXPO IN MANZINI**

*By Ashley Butterfield*

Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide is the world's largest organization devoted to preparing youth to enter the workforce. The JA approach is straight forward and very practical. JA Swaziland is currently offering 3 programs. In the JA company entrepreneurship program, youth obtain business education in the classroom, and then they apply their gained knowledge by creating a real "mini-company." The mini-company operates as would a corporation: they are incorporated. There is an ex-

ecutive board, shares are sold and income is generated. The organization functions not to produce adequate businessmen and women, but to produce entrepreneurs equipped with the necessary skills to transform a vision into reality. On the other hand, in the JA Job Shadow program, they observe business in practice by shadowing individuals in the workforce, while in the EFS program; students are equipped with financial literacy and self knowledge skills. JA Swaziland's programs are a subset of JA Worldwide and are currently part of the extra curriculum activities in high schools countrywide.

On September 18, JA Swaziland held its annual expo,

which showcased ten mini-companies from ten schools in Swaziland. Each of Swaziland's four regions had at least one school in attendance. However, of the ten schools, only two were from the rural area, a contrast to previous expos where rural representation dominated over urban presentations. Also a contrast, unlike Swaziland's workforce, half of the expo's participants were female, which the Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs noted as a sign of times to come in Swaziland. The objective of the expo was to provide a platform for students to showcase their companies and their products, as well as to select a company to represent Swaziland in the JA Africa Expo, which takes place in

Nairobi during October. The Expo allowed for each company to deliver a ten minute presentation highlighting their corporate strategy, their business model and synopsis on the company's success or failures. In addition to the company presentations, the expo allotted time for past JA participants to impart their wisdom on current participants in an effort to inspire students to allow the JA experience to ignite their desire to desire. The key note speaker for the event was the Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Sibusiso B. Dlamini.

The companies presented a range of products that mainly

*...Continued on page 8*

...*Reflections from page 7* focused on students as the target audiences.

Ideas that were proposed included merchandise for the FIFA World Cup and shoe and floor polish. The entertainment company capitalized on the notion that students are "couch potatoes" and provided media entertainment during recess for a fee, as well as renting out DVDs. The Lusoti High School team was awarded first place, 2,000 rand and an all expense paid trip Nairobi, Kenya. The Lusoti company also recognized an opportunity and convenience in doing business at school. However, they

saw potential in selling directly to the school and to neighboring schools through the production of chalk. The Lusoti company's gross income was over 4,000 rand.

The following schools were recognized at the JA Expo:

—Best CEO: Mayiwane High school

—Highest Sales: Manzini Nazaene

—Highest Profit: St. Thereza

—Most Innovative Product: Shoe polish by Malindza high school

—Best Kept Records: Timphisini

—Best CSR Project: Lusoti High school.

—Overall Winning School: Lusoti High

—1st Runner Up: Mayiwane

—2nd Runner Up: Evelyn Baring

The JA program is a goldmine for PCVs with a passion for business or youth capacity development. The students' capacity to create a business from the ground up was developed, as was their confidence. Students proudly and professionally presented their presentations in front of hundreds, including distinguished guests. Acquiring the skills to speak

confidently in front of a large audience alone can carry a person a long way. Now, imagine adding sound business abilities to public speaking skills. That's a winning combination!

The role a PCV can play is as a JA volunteer, in which (s)he may direct students through the JA lesson plans in the classroom and aid them in creating their company. To get involved with JA, you should first get involved with a local high school, and then contact Jean Mwenda ([jean@jaswaziland.org](mailto:jean@jaswaziland.org)) at 5056504/5058216 for more information.

## **WHERE THERE IS NO SUS**

*By Guest Chefs Ali Gowans and Rachel Manring*

### **Chili al mole**

1/3 cup cooking oil  
1 onion, chopped  
1 small jalapeño, minced  
1 small bell pepper, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, smashed  
1 Tbs chile powder  
½ tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp cumin  
1 can whole, peeled tomatoes in sauce  
1.5 Tbs cocoa powder  
1.5 Tbs molasses (I substitute honey)  
1 can kidney beans, drained and well rinsed (dried beans soaked overnight also works, but you do have to cook them longer)

1 Tbs veggie bouillon powder, or one cube soup stock

Heat oil in pan; add onion, peppers and sauté 2 minutes; add garlic. Cook 8 minutes, until onions are soft. Add chile powder, cinnamon and cumin, stirring constantly for another minute. Add tomatoes, cocoa powder and molasses. Stir and break up tomatoes with back of a spoon, then add beans and bouillon. Cover and bring to gentle boil, then lower heat and simmer for about 30 minutes. Devour.

### **NOMNOMNOMNOM Tacos and Red Sauce**

Mexican food is a very important force in my life. Well, actually food in general is...but seriously. Mexican food is really, REALLY important. So, I figured out how to make some in my hut. This should feed two people...unless you're feeding

Brandon or Kris Pasillas. If you're feeding Brandon or Krispy, you'll need to double or triple this recipe depending upon how ravenous they look.

Ingredients:

Tortillas

1 can red kidney beans

2 tablespoons tomato paste (you can buy those cute packets with exactly that amount)

1 bell pepper, chopped

1.5 Tbs cooking oil

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup water

¼ tsp cayenne pepper

itty bitty tiny baby pinch of chili powder

itty bitty tiny baby pinch of salt freshly ground pepper to taste

1.5 tsp cornstarch

½ tsp cumin

Optional:

Cheese (everything is better with cheese) and guacamole

Fry 1 clove garlic in ½ tablespoon oil until (Reid) golden. Mix in water and tomato paste. Add all spices and cornstarch (I usually mix them together during preparation for ease). Bring to boil, and cook 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Set aside.

Pulverize beans until fully mashed. This is a good job for someone with a lot of rage. Tristan usually utilizes a metal spatula for this purpose. Fry remaining garlic clove and bell pepper with 1 TBS oil until fragrant. Add mashed angry beans and roughly ¼ to ½ cup of previously prepared sauce, depending on how saucy (haha, saucy) you want your filling. If you want cheese, throw in about ¼ cup and fry until melty and gooey and glorious. Throw in tortillas, top with more sauce and cheese, and have a taco party.

**HARD CORPS  
SAFARI**

*By John Shealy*

When I learned that my *Soft Corps Safari* article inspired at least one fellow PCV to explore the wilds of Africa, I felt encouraged to write about our recent backpacking trip in the (Hlululuwe)/iMfolozi wilderness area which is near St. Lucia, just south of Swaziland. Jordan and I feel very blessed to have had this opportunity to sleep out under the stars and to drink and bathe in a river shared by lions, hyena, baboon, elephants and other magnificent animals. This is the wildest of several hiking/backpacking options offered in this game reserve and includes four days and nights exploring a pristine African wilderness with two friendly and knowledgeable guides tot-

ing large-caliber rifles. I would encourage anyone who is the least bit attracted to the notion of "roughing it" to check this place out. Book the "Primitive trail – four nights"

(R2440 pp). Or, if you'd prefer to sleep in a tent, have a hot shower and not carry all your gear on your back, there are softer options that also promise a rewarding experience. For these, you can book a "Wilderness Trail" for two or three nights, stay in a base camp and take day hikes into the wilderness area.

One of the highlights was watching four adult male lions soaking up the cool of the river for an hour or so and then pitching our camp only a few hundred yards downstream. When we heard (and felt!) them roaring that night, we could put faces with the roars. We were with our old friends. We also had up-close and personal encounters with a group



other signs of man's intrusion in this special place. A group member who recommended this trip to us summed it up well when she said, "It was a spiritual experience for me."

This trip gets booked up very early (like a year in advance), so if you're interested, you'll need to move soon for a space next year. You can lock in a slot by booking online at [www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com). We made the trip using an interesting combination of public and private transport (R1250 total with a lot of luck and creativity!). If we were to do it over, we would likely rent a car, include the four night hike in a longer trip, spend a couple of days driving around the park checking out the animals and a couple more at the beaches of St. Lucia and/or scuba diving or taking an ultra-light flight in Sodwana Bay. As you can see, there's lots of fun stuff to do in this little corner of the world!

a rhino, a bull elephant and a pair of spotted hyena. Besides the rush of being on ground level with these amazing creatures and feeling their eyes on you as they check you out, there is the silence of the night broken only by the roar of lions and howling of hyena. There were eight of us on the trip, and we took turns standing watch through the night, keeping the fire going and keeping a lookout for any predators that might confuse us with their dinner. This quiet alone time was some of the richest time of the trip, along with lying on the rocks by the river, gazing up at all those stars! Other than a few footprints, you'll see no tire tracks, access roads, pit latrines or

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The November 2 Midterm Election date is rapidly approaching. Absentee Voting Week is from September 27-October 4, 2010. Some states may have slightly different dates for absentee voting. If you have not received your State absentee ballot, you may go to [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) and send a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The on-line FWAB will list the candidates for federal office running in their jurisdiction.

- We are sorry to say goodbye to Group 7ers David Frechette and CeeCee Croteau-Frechette, who have returned to the States. You'll be greatly missed!



## NEWS UPDATES

What's been going on in the world while you were hiding in your hut? The Swazi Sojournal is here to keep you posted.

**Hawaii**— Scientists discovered the first potentially habitable planet in the “Goldilocks zone” of the Gliese 581 star system, which is a mere 20 light-years away. The race is on to come up with a better name for the planet than Gliese 581g.

**Louisiana**—The oil leak is Officially Sealed.

**Washington D.C.**—John Stewart and Stephen Colbert have announced plans for dueling rallies on the National Mall to contrast the recent march by the Tea Party. Stewart will lead the “Rally to Restore Sanity,” while Colbert will host a “March to Keep Fear Alive.”

**California**—A federal judge ruled the military’s “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy unconstitutional, which will have widespread implications throughout the service and as lawmakers reexamine the policy.

**VMAs**—Lady Gaga’s Meat Dress. Check the Swazi Times for detailed coverage.

*You know you're Soft Corps when...*

The steadfast strands you for a week... in Zanzibar.

You send your hamburger back because the bun is too hard.

Your hut came with a ceiling fan.

You don't know what solifugids are.



## YOU KNOW YOU'RE HARD CORPS WHEN-

**RED ANTS DEVOUR ALIVE THE CHICKS YOUR MAKE HAD IN A BOX, LEAVING ONLY FEATHERS AND BONES BEHIND.**

**THE DENTIST TELLS YOU HE USED TO LIVE AT YOUR SITE AND WILL NEVER, EVER RETURN.**

**YOU WITNESS A PUFF ADDER SLITHER INTO THE ACTUAL SEAT OF YOUR LATRINE.**

**IT'S SO DRY, YOU CONSIDER MOVING TO BIG BEND PRISON**



## Mandatory Talent Search!

Every four weeks, we have to fill these pages with wonderful things for you all to read. Rather than count on the spontaneous urges to help us we know you must be feeling, we've decided to designate certain volunteers each month as writers. Feel free to write about whatever you like – the topics are just suggestions in case you're stuck. You can also switch months with another volunteer if that works for both of you.

Those not on the list can still send us things: articles, pictures, announcements, etc. Send it all to [swaziso-journal@gmail.com](mailto:swaziso-journal@gmail.com).

**Thank you!**

## SUFFER!

### October

Entertainment: Jordan

Organization: Nancy

Travel: Kate

Programming: Reid

### November

Entertainment: Rachel

Organization: Lindsay

Travel: Hannah

Programming: Chris K.

### December

Entertainment: Laura

Organization: Kris P.

Travel: Vanessa

Programming: Cameron

**Then Group 7 is DONE!**

## Khumbi spotting!!!

Ok, every month we're going to have our top five khumbi names under a given theme, and we need your help!

Either email or SMS to Tristan or Ali your favorite khumbi names! Next month's theme is "Cute" Send us your favorites.

**This month: (not all of these are in the font. Deal.)**

**Top five "Scary Halloween Font Khumbis"**

1. Celine Dion
2. Another Taste
3. Blood Stinger

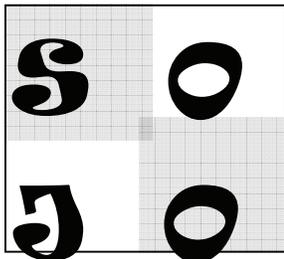


4. Salavation (next to pic of Jesus)
5. Chomp me if you can (pic of dino eating butterfly)

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OCTOBER  
 2010



LCC Themba showing off the weirdness of a bio-hazard suit.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Ozi	5 Eric	6 Amy Jo Johnson	7	8 Michael B.	9
10 Shauna, Emily	11 Deb Columbus Day	12 Mike Freethought Day	13	14 Tristan, Roger Moore	15	16
17 Genitta	18 Sojo deadline	19 Brooke G, Chris K	20	21	22	23
24/31 Jessica (31) Halloween (31)	25	26 Jordan	27	28	29	30