

The great international adventure

by Allison Annesley

In 1972 Karl Swinimer went mountain climbing with a group of friends, and ended up lost and alone in the glacial wilderness of Mount Kilimanjaro. He survived for 13 days with only an orange to eat. It was the highlight of his two-year stint as a math teacher in Tanzania.

Karl's experience may not be typical, but adventure is certainly one of the attractions of Canadian University Services Overseas, the organization that sent Karl on his travels.

Any U. of A. student with a humanitarian instinct and a yearn to travel should be interested to find out more about CUSO. Graduates of Canadian universities are eligible for the CUSO program in which volunteers are sent overseas to developing Third World countries. They spend two years passing on their particular skills to the native peoples.

By the time they leave, they are expected to be replaced by the people who have learned their skills. After the Canadians have completed their assignments in one community, they have the

option of either returning to Canada or moving to a new Third World community. If they choose a second assignment, CUSO will pay their fare home to Canada for a visit.

The highest number of volunteers in the past have been high school teachers, but the tendency is moving toward trade skills. Practical knowledge in areas such as agriculture, health, and technology are now in high demand.

Consideration is also given to persons who have no formal degree but whose practical experience in a given field is often invaluable. There is no age limit for qualified volunteers.

"Graduates are offered the opportunity to experience a different culture," says Lily Mah-Sen, regional coordinator for Alberta region. They can become involved in a cause they believe in and often tackle more job responsibility than they would in a similar position in Canada.

"There are no guarantees of faster job advancement," warns Mah-Sen, "but a broader variety of job experiences can often be

found."

CUSO has sent more than 6,000 people overseas to 66 different countries since its inception in 1961. Although inspired by the Peace Corps, CUSO pioneered the concept of sending university students overseas to impart their knowledge to Third World peoples.

The original group of 15 concerned volunteers, all but one of whom were university graduates, financed all their own expenses.

In 1963, CUSO kicked off its first national fundraising campaign and raised \$137,000.00.

Since 1965, the Canadian government has been providing CUSO with 90 percent of its necessary funds via the Canadian International Development Agency, but the organization retains its independence by paying the remaining 10 percent of costs itself.

This money comes from business and individual donations as well as various fundraising projects that CUSO is involved in, such as Metres for Millions.

The salary of a CUSO volunteer is equivalent to what

any other professional occupying the same position in his host country would be paid. Accommodations are paid for by the government of the host country.

CUSO also supports various overseas developments, through financial aid. These are small self-help programs to which CUSO contributes between \$1,000

and \$25,000. One such cause presently supported by CUSO is a school for the deaf in Nigeria. The Eugene Brody Fund of the U of A also donates funds to this project.

For more information on CUSO, students should contact Lily Mah-Sen in room 239 in Athabasca Hall on campus, or phone 432-3381.

Faculties unite

The Alberta Association of College Faculties (AACF), which represents faculty associations of every publicly funded college in Alberta, has organized a political action strategy designed to gain support for changes in the proposed legislation that will redefine the relationship of college faculties and college boards of governors.

Dr. Moh Rattan, president of AACF, said today that the provincial association has received unanimous support from member faculty associations of the various

colleges to mount a political action campaign to make the general public aware of pitfalls in Bill 50 that may make the proposed legislation contravene the Alberta Bill of Rights.

Dr. Rattan said Bill 50 violates the principle of free association. It also allegedly violates accepted labour codes governing membership in unions and professional associations.

"The AACF has long supported the notion that membership in faculty associations should be determined by negotiations rather than by unilateral declaration by lay boards of governors," Dr. Rattan said.

"Such membership is important for protection of individual rights of instructors and others employed by the colleges."

The proposed legislation enables the board to designate any member of the faculty in or out of the faculty association arbitrarily, after token consultation with the association, Dr. Rattan said.

How sweet it is

Jim Horsman, minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, has announced the allocation of \$1,000,000 in planning funds to Lakeland College. He made the announcement to the Board of Governors, students and local businessmen in Vermilion, Thursday, October 8.

He outlined the specific purposes of the funding.

"Firstly, a master plan of the site is to be prepared to locate two new buildings. Secondly, plans are to be developed for the replacement of the mechanics building; for a new residence to accommodate about 500 students; and for renovations to the old residence. It is intended that provision will be made for a new learning resources/library centre, classrooms and laboratories. As well, we expect that the renovated residence will provide space for administration, faculty offices, food services, and perhaps, additional instructional areas," Horsman says.

"Finally, funds are included for an engineering study to evaluate the existing utilities system. We recognize that a new and upgraded system will have to be in place before any additional facilities can be constructed," he says.

Mr. Horsman concluded by saying that the funds "have been provided in recognition of need... as part of a larger effort by government to upgrade facilities at our agriculturally-based institutions."

Lakeland College is a regional college which extends from Vegreville to Maidstone, Saskatchewan, and Grande Centre to Provost. The head office of this inter-provincial college is located in Lloydminster, and the bulk of its full-time programs are offered at its residential campus in Vermilion.

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