PPP Presents work to School of Communication Namesake Brian Lamb

On March 7th 2013 members of the PPP team had a chance to meet with Brian Lamb to discuss our work in Berekum as well as upcoming projects in other parts of Africa. Lamb, a Purdue communication alumnus, co-founder and Former CEO of C-SPAN, one of two Purdue alumni to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom and renowned journalist, spent time getting to know each of the members and their research interests. He also spent much of the meeting doing something he is known for, asking the tough and important questions.

With his background in the political realm and decades of interviewing experience he prompted the team to further consider aspects of our work in Africa. This time with Lamb was encouraging and thought provoking.
New Areas:
Monrovia, Liberia

Pen-Pen Riders in Liberia

This spring, PPP began collaborations with the Women’s Movement for Sustainable Development (WOMSUD-Liberia). WOMSUD is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that works on a variety of social issues. The project that PPP is collaborating with them on involves pen-pen riders. Pen-pen riders are a group of young men many of whom fought in Liberia’s 14-year civil war. Since the end of the war, many of these young men created jobs for themselves by providing transport for people or goods on motorbikes. The project we are working with WOMSUD on seeks to reintegrate pen-pen riders into civic life in productive ways.

Natural Resource Management in Liberia

PPP is also beginning work with International Alert-Liberia and OSIWA on a project related to natural resources management. The initiative will initially bring together actors from the public sector, private sector, civil society and local communities to find ways to effectively work together on natural resources related issues. PPP looks forward to being a part of this important initiative and to working with all actors involved.
New Areas:
Port Harcourt, Nigeria

At the beginning of this year PPP entered into conversations with Health Matters Inc., a nonprofit organization in Nigeria that addresses a variety of health and social issues, over a recent incident involving University of Port Harcourt students and the local Aluu community. The PPP will be working with Health Matters and local citizens on developing strategies and activities to prevent future violence and enhance relationships among members of the Aluu community.

New Members

As PPP has continued to take on new collaborations and projects it has become important to bring additional talent into our fold. We are pleased to announce that Cassie McCormick has joined our team and will be helping with various administrative, social media, and logistical aspects of the Purdue Peace Project.

Cassie is graduating from Purdue in May with a bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Communication. She has worked for the Brian Lamb School of Communication for the past two semesters and for the Education Department for three years. She has also assisted with research on science education for the past three years. Cassie said, “I am very excited to join the Purdue Peace Project and to meet many new interesting people.”
The Colloquium on Peacebuilding Effectiveness took place in Washington, D.C. September 11-12, 2012. COPE had four major objectives:

- To reflect on the effectiveness of activities intended to reduce the likelihood of violence and identify those approaches that appear to be among the most effective.
- To consider the costs of different activities in order to assess their relative cost and effectiveness.
- To identify ways to increase the resources devoted to peacebuilding activities that are most likely to reduce violence.
- To brainstorm actions that COPE participants can take to contribute to the cost-effectiveness of peacebuilding approaches.

In March we released the report summarizing discussions from the Colloquium on Peacebuilding Effectiveness (COPE) held in September 2012 in Washington D.C. This document, which is available on our website, summarizes key recommendations and takeaways from the summit, an event co-sponsored by PPP and the Peace and Security Funders Group (PSFG). The COPE Summit brought together a variety of practitioners and thought leaders working in the peacebuilding and violence prevention fields to brainstorm and discuss various techniques and practices in the field. The COPE report details the group’s collective recommendations for effectiveness in peacebuilding as well as five principles that could be taken into account for effective peacebuilding. In addition the report includes a list of good design strategies for enacting peacebuilding techniques in the field. The report was distributed to various scholars and practitioners in the field of peacebuilding and will remain available on the PPP website.
Staying Connected with PPP

We are now on Facebook. Like our Facebook Page to stay up to date on our projects and related violence prevention and peace building efforts.

www.facebook.com/PurduePeaceProject

Comments, Questions, or Suggestions about the Newsletter?

Please contact the Editor, Kelly Vibber, at kvibber@purdue.edu

In the Next Issue

- More on our new project areas.
- News and photos from our visit to the Nigeria project site
- Updates on our work in Berekum