“A School For My Village” Summary

By: Wesley Knight, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, author of “A School For My Village” – born and raised in Uganda, East Africa – left for America to attend university in the early ‘90s, and upon his return a few years later, found out about the AIDS epidemic that had already infected and killed many people. Some kids were orphaned by the deadly effects of AIDS and were left to fend for themselves or forced to live with their aged grandparents. After losing two family members to the AIDS epidemic, Kaguri vowed to help out his native Uganda as much as he could and started with building a school for the AIDS orphans. Along with his wife, friends, and the kindhearted people he networks with around the world, Kaguri unites a broken community and gives hope and an education to hundreds of children.

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Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa, and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. She later went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha, and in 1960, she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas, Nevada as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people, who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard.

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska, and later his dealership was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74 nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. Lied Foundation Trust has enhanced the capabilities of many schools and enriched the quality of many lives!
Coaching Corner

By: Kelly Lutzker, Hixson-Lied Scholar

I would like to introduce my academic success coach, Amna Haider. She has been nothing but patient, just letting me get everything off of my chest. I don’t think I would have made it through the semester without her guidance. She is a wonderful coach and I’m glad I have had the opportunity to know her.

What is your background?
I came to UNLV in 2005 as an undergraduate majoring in Psychology. I am currently working on my Masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. I’ve been a coach since 2011 and I’ve really enjoyed working with new freshmen with the transition from high school to college.

What have you learned is most effective when coaching?
Establishing a comfortable environment and having an open dialogue works very well. Let the ones you are coaching come and open up to you first. Build trust and a good rapport. Be there as a friend, not as a superior trying to pick their brains. Also, letting them know I am always available if they need my help.

What have you learned from coaching?
I learned that I wish I had it when I started college. It’s a great tool. It provides students resources that most students don’t know are available to them. I’ve seen that for them to just have someone to talk to about classes and schedules and stuff like that provides stress relief.

What are your goals?
My focus right now is to graduate with my Masters this coming fall and practice being a clinician by this time next year.

What do you do for fun?
Being in graduate school does not leave much room to have fun. It is difficult to find time to just enjoy yourself, but I do believe self-care is important. When I do have the time, I like spending my time with my family and friends, running, and hiking.
“A School For My Village” Summary (Continued)

who wouldn’t otherwise have any chance of making it in life. His goals correlate with what we call at UNLV, the UULOS, or University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes. The UULOs are: Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning, Inquiry and Critical Thinking, Communication, Global/Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness, and Citizenship and Ethics.

Kaguri’s intellectual breadth and lifelong learning began at an early age. He recounts his childhood amazement with the idea of school – a place where he could learn about the world outside of his village and gain the skills necessary to better himself. One day, after he had finished his chores, Kaguri secretly followed his sisters to the schoolyard near their house. He was caught by his father and punished, but he made up his mind about school. He wanted to attend school, get out of Africa, and make something of his life beyond the daily chores and routines. When he grew up, he went to college in the United States. He then took his new skills back to his village and did all he could to give back to his community by building a school, installing water systems, paying for school tuitions, and giving children the tools to succeed.

Kaguri’s use of critical thinking always came in time of hardship. He always honored villager’s requests his help in the community. As problems presented themselves with the school, Kaguri did everything he could for the school to survive, such as spreading the news of the school wherever he went and applying for grants to fund the school.

Communication was imperative to getting anything done for the school. Kaguri recalls that when he was first spreading the news of the school he was to build, he was a very nervous and anxious public speaker. But the more and more he spoke to others, the easier it became. He established such a presence that could be felt during the graduation celebration during which he had the attention of everyone in the room and was met with overwhelming applause at the end of his speech.

Kaguri’s global knowledge stemmed from his journey to America where he attended and graduated from college. From his experiences in America, he was able to tell others of the opportunities that may await them beyond Africa if they obtain a better education. As the school’s reputation grew, people in Africa, the United States, and even in Norway knew of the good things Kaguri was doing in his home village. Kaguri has stuck close to his roots as well. He keeps close contact with his family even when he is at home through phone calls. He has kept his first language alive by passing it down to his son, Nicolas, who was seen conversing with his grandmother.

Picture from bookpod.wordpress.com
Citizenship and ethics are the core of Kaguri’s story. His brother, Frank, was a shining example of humble generosity and kindness. Before Frank succumbed to AIDS, he would be met in Africa by long lines of people who would tell him of their plights and depending on the gravity of their situations, Frank would give them a few dollars (U.S. currency was quite valuable in Uganda) to ease their burdens. From Frank, Kaguri saw firsthand the impact one person can make in many people’s lives. The rest of the story is all about his giving back to his community and in doing so, demonstrating his continued citizenship with his native village. He bettered the lives of everyone he came in contact with. Just as Frank was Kaguri’s inspiration, he has now inspired hundreds of students and residents in Uganda as well as people around the world who have heard his story.

**Tips For Useful Note-taking**

- If you are able to use technology in class, bring a computer or tablet and type your notes. If you can’t, make sure that you write legibly.

- If you are in a class that uses a lot of visual aids, such as graphs, it may be easier to handwrite your notes.

- Always copy your notes by handwriting. This process will help you remember the material. This is also a great way to study for a test as it uses visual and kinetic resources.

- If you are an auditory learner, tape class lectures and listen to them at a later time. You can also have someone read your notes aloud to you.

- If something is repeated, underline it. It’s probably going to be on the test.

- Keep notes organized. If they are messy, it can be hard to study them later. Putting a date at the start of that day’s notes can help you stay organized.

- If you are using a computer or tablet, make sure you have enough battery life to last the entire class. Also, remember to save your notes often.

- Sometimes classmates can explain a concept in a different way. If they help you, be sure to write down the concept for future reference.

- If the professor informs you of any important dates, write them at the top of the page in your notes.

- Review the syllabus so that you are aware of what will be covered in class on that day.
It May Be Fun and Games, But It Is a Hard Day’s Work

By: Natalie Costa, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Many would not know that the Academic Success Center does more than just help Exploring Majors. The ASC also provides Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS). Johnna Strenchock, Assistant Director of SAAS, is one of the many who assist student-athletes to not only succeed during games but in academics. The service SAAS provides is intended to help keep student-athletes on track with their academics. One of the requirements placed on student-athletes to ensure that they perform well academically is a five hour monitored study hall during the day and at night, all week long. Depending on if the student-athlete is considered “at risk,” they could have two mandatory study hours per night. SAAS also hires tutors for the student athletes to assist them with difficult course materials. They provide weekly academic meetings with advisors to go over upcoming assignments, grades, and any issues the student may be having. Ms. Strenchock stated that their job is to, “provide information to students and their parents as it is requested (i.e. financial aid, residential life, dining services, etc.)” To ensure that student-athletes are well-rounded, Life Skills events are held twice a semester. These events can cover various topics from nutrition and athletic performance to resume building and life after sports. The Student-Athlete Academic Services looks to better the student-athletes and make sure that school comes first.

Upcoming Spring Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rebellion in Reno</td>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>Join CSUN in Reno as the Runnin’ Rebels take on UNR!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Week</td>
<td>March 11th–15th</td>
<td>Get involved with a fraternity or sorority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain West Men’s Basketball Championship Game</td>
<td>March 12th</td>
<td>Support the Runnin’ Rebels at the Thomas and Mack Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNLV Career Day</td>
<td>March 20th</td>
<td>Explore career and internship opportunities at the Thomas and Mack Center</td>
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<td>Festival of Communities and GreenFEST</td>
<td>April 20th</td>
<td>Celebrate cultural diversity and Earth Day on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship and Summer Job Fair</td>
<td>April 24th</td>
<td>Need a summer job? Check out the fair at the Student Union</td>
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