

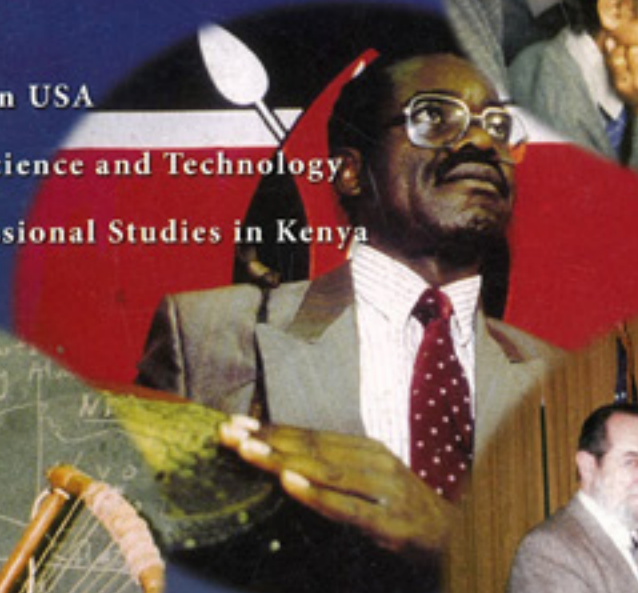
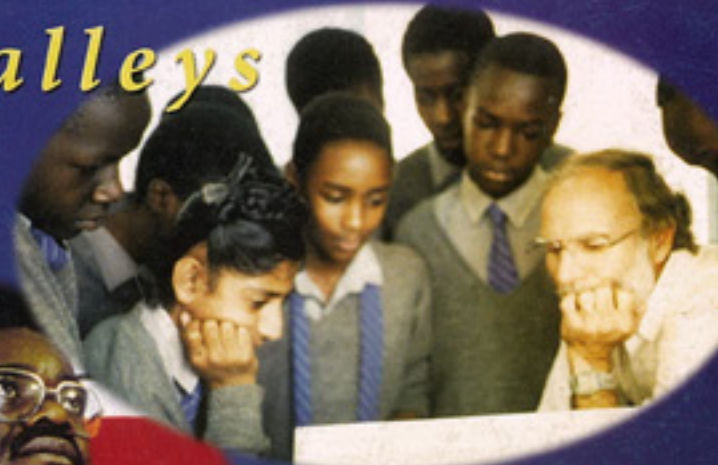
# *A Tale of Two Valleys*

Growing International Partnerships  
for Learning

Delta College in Michigan USA

Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology

Tracom College of Professional Studies in Kenya



# Global Awareness Activities at Delta College



World View Awards



Call around the world with MCI  
1989



The World Games 1991



World View Awards 1994



World View Awards



International quilt 1990



World View Award 1995



The World Game 1991



Dr. Ruth Hamilton 1988



# **A Tale of Two Valleys**

**Growing International Partnerships for Learning**

**The Remarkable Story of**

**Delta College in Michigan USA,**

**Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology**

**and**

**Tracom College of Professional Studies in Kenya, East Africa**

**Dr. Betty B. Jones**

**Vice President Emeritus, Delta College**

**with Professor Jack Crowell of Delta College  
and Principal Daniel Njiriri of Tracom College**

**Foreword by Dr. Peter D. Boyse  
President Delta College**

**Delta College  
June 2005**





It can truly be said that today we live in a global village. This is probably even more certain for those of us who live in a developed country. With the tremendous advances in travel and telecommunications, we can talk to almost anyone in the world instantaneously and travel almost anywhere in a day or less. Our businesses and industries, even the small and medium sized ones, buy and sell merchandise and information all over the globe. In addition, the development of the internet has made it easier and faster to exchange information with people everywhere.

Given the above, it is the responsibility of our institutions of higher education to better prepare students for this global environment in which they live and work. Much more emphasis has been placed on including international studies in college curricula and encouraging overseas travel for our students during their college years. Delta College is committed to preparing students to participate in a global workforce and to better understand people from a multitude of cultures and ethnicities.

One of Delta College's most outstanding success stories is its relationship with the people of Kenya, East Africa, especially from the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology and Tracom College. Initiated by a grant from the U.S. Information Agency in 1988, Dr. Betty Jones, then Dean of General Education, and a team of Delta College faculty and staff developed a sister college linkage with the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology. This first venture has grown and developed over the years to include Tracom College and other educational agencies in Kenya.

A number of Delta students, faculty and staff have had the opportunity to visit and study in Kenya and Kenyan students, faculty and staff have studied and spent time here as well. Thanks to the hard work of Jack Crowell, Bob Keicher and other Delta employees as well as community members, hundreds of computers and textbooks have been sent from the Tri county region to Kenya and can be found in local schools as well as the Rift Valley Institute and Tracom College. Some humanitarian projects to assist the Kenyan people have also resulted from this original project initiated at Delta College.

It has been my pleasure to provide continued support for this project during my tenure as president and to watch the project thrive and develop new directions to meet the needs of our faculty and students and the Kenyan faculty and students. There continues to be great potential for further developments and other beneficial relationships between the faculty, staff, students and communities of Delta College and of the Rift Valley region of Kenya, Africa. I have faith that those who follow will continue to nurture this mutually beneficial relationship.

Peter D. Boyse, President  
Delta College  
March 31, 2005

# Growing International Partnerships for Learning A Tale of Two Valleys

## The Remarkable Story of Delta College, Rift Valley Institute and Tracom College

Two communities, in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya and the Saginaw Valley Region in Michigan USA, have become neighbors, friends and partners in a way, which neither area could have envisioned. In 1989 two educational institutions were united in a unique and historic International partnership through the joint vision of Delta College in Michigan and the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology (RVIST) in Kenya.



Designed as a Sister College collaborative for educational exchange and mutual benefits for both institutions and their communities, this international linkage was initiated with a \$50,000 grant to Delta College by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) in 1989. Dr. Betty B. Jones of Delta and Mr. Samson K. Nyole at RVIST served as the first Co-Directors and administrative leaders of the International partnership.

The guiding vision for developing the Delta/RVIST relationship was to bridge two cultures for institutional learning. The intent articulated in the first proposal to USIA was to help RVIST update its curriculum in technology and enhance technical training for students; to help Delta College to internationalize its academic curriculum; and to assist both institutions to enhance global perspectives in their respective communities. At the wrap-up of the initial project in 1992 there was strong evidence that the goals of this initial vision were met and exceeded. Further, many unanticipated "spin-off" outcomes were evident as well. As a result of the Delta/ RVIST partnership many aspects of community learning were initiated and sustained.

Many different groups in the Saginaw Valley communities embraced Delta's Kenya connection. Public schools, churches, community groups, Art advocates, People to People and even Business/Industry became involved in various aspects of the exchange. Some of the groups were inspired to become involved in various initiatives for global learning, International friendship and assistance.

become involved in various initiatives for global learning, International friendship and assistance.

Direct benefits of the linkage for Delta College were realized in new courses, instructional materials and resources to integrate International content and global perspectives into curricula and programs for students and community. The college leadership documented an effective model for Cross Cultural/International team building which proved to have broad application to learning and innovation in community college education. A new climate of values and attitudes was nurtured on campus; and Delta became known in higher education circles as a Learning Centered Institution and a National leader in International/Intercultural education and learning communities.

Through knowledge exchange and technology transfer to Kenya, RVIST benefited from faculty mentoring; computer equipment and software; networked computer labs for instruction; trained faculty to design and teach in the campus labs; and books to enhance the Institute Library. This development transformed the College's academic degree programs and opened an avenue for RVIST to initiate new programs and offer technical skills training for employees of business and industry in the Rift Valley Province

As a result of the partnership with Delta, RVIST grew in enrollments and became a strong force for technology innovation among their constituencies in the Rift Valley Province and beyond.

Even as these initial changes were being celebrated, a second vision was being shaped which would expand the Partnership and reach out to children in the schools of both communities. *The Rural Schools Computer and Book Project* emerged in Kenya, led by Professors Jack Crowell and Robert Keicher of Delta College; and Dan Njiriri, Technical Coordinator for RVIST. Through the transfer of used computers from sources in Michigan, more than 300 computer labs are currently installed in rural primary and secondary schools; and teacher's training is offered to help Kenyan children learn computer skills. At Delta this model was applied by Jack Crowell and John Pugh to install small computer labs in Saginaw churches to reduce the "technology divide" among children in the African American community. Delta Math students volunteered as tutors.

Students at both schools were actively involved in the learning exchange. Delta students collected books for shipment to Kenya; and RVIST students collected traditional cultural artifacts from their villages, which they sent as a gift to Delta. In a unique program of community sharing, the Delta Humanities Division documented the artifacts and developed a Traveling Exhibit, which continues to be used by request in schools throughout the area for student learning.

In spring 1995, Dan Njiriri resigned from RVIST to open Danret Computer Training Center, incorporated in 1998 as Tracom College of Professional Studies, a private institution in Nakuru. Tracom and its Principal were embraced by the Delta College team as an added partner in Delta's mission for learning and outreach in Kenya. In October 2002, Dan Njiriri visited Delta to initiate a joint vision for articulation as part of Delta's partner-

ship. The articulation agreement was signed by President Peter Boyse in December 2002 and Tracom officially became the third partner in a Shared Vision with Delta and RVIST.

The new initiative in strategic articulation between Delta College, RVIST and Tracom College will shape yet a third chapter in this International story. This chapter will be realized in the vision for access at *Tracom College* to articulated programs leading to Associate and Baccalaureate degrees via Delta College in the U.S. and a Regional Learning Resource Lab at Tracom with Internet access to academic programs from various U.S. colleges. A unique Media Learning Center at RVIST and a potential partnership of the *Rural School Computer Project* with the newly formed Kenya Information Communication Trust (ICT) and Microsoft to place a Computer Maintenance/Repair program at RVIST is also envisioned. A primary outcome for Delta will be the collaborative development of opportunities in Kenya, which will accept Delta students for supervised International internships as part of their academic programs in Nursing and Information Technology.

The innovative International partnership initiated in 1989 continues to grow and help its member institutions to increase opportunities for learning at home and abroad. In October 2004 President Boyse officially renewed the partnership for the third time with a new shared-vision and goals now extending to 2010.

Our *Tale of Two Valleys* projects a central and continuing theme of shared learning, collaboration, and International team building. It also documents a growing network, which took root at Delta College and continues to grow and provide seeds, ideas and nurture to other projects, many of which will be described in our story. It is a remarkable and inspirational story, and one, which we are proud to share.

*Dr. Betty B. Jones, April 30, 2005*





## Dedication

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Donald J. Carlyon, President Emeritus  
Delta College

This history of the Delta College experience in Kenya is dedicated to Donald J. Carlyon, President Emeritus of Delta College. Mr. Carlyon was appointed President in 1964 and led the college over 28 years to become a major institution in the TriCounty communities and the Saginaw Valley Region. He is honored as a man of strong vision who valued continued innovation as an important part of the Delta College identity; and nurtured innovation within the college to shape Delta as a unique institution among community colleges in Michigan.

In the early 1980s Mr. Carlyon formed a Global Awareness Study group of faculty and staff at Delta to explore ways in which the college could promote Global awareness across the institution. While this group implemented many different activities of interest, they tended to be designed around individual faculty interests and were largely unconnected. The President called for a central theme and driving force to build a comprehensive program. Toward this end, Mr. Carlyon appointed the Global Awareness Committee as a Presidential initiative, chaired by Ms. Leslie Prast of the English faculty; and later supported the startup of a Campus resource office for Global/International Awareness. In 1986 he called this group together and charged them to develop a plan and program which would make Delta a leader to encourage global education in the college and among the schools and communities of the Saginaw Valley. Given the strength of this charge from the President, Vice President Dr. Terry Cline assigned administrative leadership and support to move toward the President's vision.

In response to a proposal from the Academic office, Delta was selected in 1988 by the U.S. Information Agency as the first community college recipient of a \$50,000 grant to initiate and develop a Sister College Linkage with the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in Nakuru, Kenya. President Carlyon approved the acceptance of this grant by Delta and Dr. Betty Jones, Dean of General Education, was assigned to direct and supervise this International initiative on behalf of the college with direct reporting to the President's office.

This early venture into an International arena as an active participant in U.S. foreign policy by a community college required courage, vision and faith in the Delta faculty and staff. Mr. Carlyon will always be remembered for his leadership and support to this bold step which gave Delta the opportunity to implement a vision for International and Intercultural learning in the institution, work as collaborators with an International team, and develop the skills and knowledge necessary as a community college to contribute to an evolving world community at home and abroad. As a result, Delta College was transformed to become a "World Class College."

Donald J. Carlyon retired from Delta in 1992. He and his wife Betty Carlyon continue as strong supporters of Delta College and the college linkages in Kenya. In this published history we honor the Carlyon legacy in International and Intercultural Education; and we salute Mr. Carlyon's vision and leadership which defined continuous innovation as the Delta College signature.

## IN MEMORY

*During the years as our Sister College partnerships developed in Kenya, some of our colleagues who were pioneers, team members, mentors, advocates and passionate supporters in this venture have passed on. As our story continues to advance, it would be incomplete without the memory of these cherished colleagues who helped to advance the Delta experience in Kenya, and the importance of their legacy to this unique international partnership. We believe they would be proud of what the partnership has accomplished both locally and in Kenya. Our colleagues are remembered here with love and appreciation.*



Darrell R. Berry  
Dean of Occupational and Technical Programs

Darrell Berry was a member of the first Administrative Planning and Fact Finding team who went to Kenya in July 1989 to learn about RVIST and collaborate in developing a joint vision to guide the initial project. As Dean of Occupational and Technical Programs at Delta, his leadership to motivate and support learning exchange among Delta faculty teams and students with the Rift Valley Institute was invaluable. In addition, Darrell promoted the collection of books and journals from business and technical faculty to contribute to the first Student directed Book Project for RVIST. Through his active role in MODAC (Michigan Occupational Deans and Counselors), he also promoted this project at the state level and made presentations on its behalf at the Michigan TRENDS Conference and at AACJC/IIC. Returning to Kenya in June 1992 he participated with the Joint Team in a Project Wrap-up and evaluation for next steps. Darrell Berry passed suddenly in December 1994 during his 25<sup>th</sup> year at the college. He is fondly remembered as one of the pioneer contributors to our vision for teamwork and paired learning across International and cultural boundaries.



Gene Duckworth  
Chair of Humanities Division

Gene Duckworth was "Mr. International" at Delta College. Gene helped to organize Delta's global education program and his active promotion and support for global programs at Delta became part of the college legend. Active at a local and national level, Gene was a key spokesman for the United Nations Association/USA, the educational arm of the United Nations, and served several years as a member of the UNA/USA Board. At the beginning of the Kenya Project and to spotlight the first Global Awareness Week in March 1989, he initiated the successful "Adopt a Flag" program, which resulted in the large collection of flags from different countries, which is displayed throughout the college during GAW and other special occasions. Gene was a loyal supporter of the Delta/RVIST Sister College Linkage; and as Professor and Chair of the Humanities division he encouraged the faculty to be involved as hosts and mentors for exchange faculty in music, languages and communication. Gene Duckworth was killed in an automobile accident in 1990 in his 25<sup>th</sup> year at Delta College. In 1992 the Duckworth family established the *Gene R. Duckworth Scholarship for Nontraditional Students*; and the *Marydeanna Duckworth Trust* contributes support to an International speaker on campus during Global Awareness Week to honor Gene's legacy. *The World View*

*Award* was established in Gene's memory and presented to his wife, Marydeanna in 1995. Two awards are given annually to keep this legacy alive. Gene Duckworth will be long remembered as a model citizen of Delta College and of the world.



Robert F. Keicher  
Professor Mathematics and Computer Science

"Professor Bob" was endeared by his colleagues at Delta and in Kenya. In 1991 he was one of the General Education faculty team to Kenya where he mentored and teamed with Dan Njiri at RVIST to startup a program in Computer Studies. This experience changed his life. Bob carried 13 used Apple computers in 9 boxes, which were checked on the airplane as luggage. As a result of this initiative, Bob was able to set up one of the first educational computer labs in Kenya and initiate a curriculum for computer studies. At RVIST and in the surrounding community, Robert Keicher became known affectionately by his students and others as "Professor Bob." Through his work, RVIST became known as the Computer College of Kenya. During the following 12 years Bob was one of the pioneer team with Jack Crowell and Dan Njiri to expand computers to Kenyan children through the Rural School Computer Project; and assisted Dan Njiri to design the program, which opened as Tracom College of Professional Studies. Diagnosed in January 2001 with Lou Gehrigs Disease, a terminal illness, Bob retired from Delta. He lived his final days in a wheelchair and on duty to his mission with the team of the Kenya Rural School Computer Project. "Professor Bob" let go in January 2002. RVIST dedicated the *Robert Keicher Memorial Computer Lab*; and Tracom College established the *Robert Keicher Memorial Centre for Information Technology* to commemorate "Professor Bob." The Keicher family established the *Robert Keicher Scholarship* at Delta College. Bob was a leader among the Delta faculty and a cherished colleague. He is remembered here with warmth and affection.



Fred L. Dunn  
Midland Rotary Club

Following his retirement in 1998 from Dow Chemical Company as a Chemical Engineer, Fred Dunn refocused his efforts on community service. As a member of the Midland Rotary Club, Fred learned of the Delta College Rural School Computer Program in Kenya. As a result, he led his Rotary Club to fund several computer shipments to establish computer-learning labs in Kenyan rural primary

schools. As Fred became more aware of the impact of this project in Kenya, he added "sweat equity" and became active as a colleague and member of the Delta team for collecting, refurbishing, loading and packing computers for shipment to Kenya and other areas of the world where computers were non-existent. In addition, Fred also secured a local warehouse in Midland to store the many computers and other learning materials donated by the community. His passion to help bridge the digital divide in the world led him to ship computers also to several Indian schools in his home state of Montana. Fred died in 2001. He is remembered for his commitment and contribution both personally and on behalf of the Midland Rotary Club to Delta's *Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project*. Fred was one of our team and a committed colleague from our community.



Mona White  
Associate Professor Nursing

Mona White is remembered for her passion and commitment to the dream that Delta and her Kenya partners would establish a rural health clinic, which would permit Delta nursing students to experience International outreach and service learning in health care as part of their academic program. During her teaching career at Delta, Mona worked diligently toward this dream with support from her husband, Ken. While her untimely death in a boating accident (2003) has silenced her involvement, she has left us the dream. The development of a Rural Health Clinic in Kenya with an opportunity for fieldwork and service learning by student nursing interns was adopted as a Delta priority in the partnership and articulation renewal by RVIST and Tracom 2004. Ken White established the *Ken and "Miss Mona" Nursing Scholarship* at Delta in memory of Mona White and her commitment to Delta students.



Hurllette Coleman Dickens  
Founding Director  
Delta College Gospel Choir

Hurllette Dickens was a familiar face at Delta and in our community. As a teacher, School Principal and active churchwoman in Saginaw, she was well known in the Tri-Cities. However, she is most fondly remembered here as the Founder and Director of the Delta Gospel Choir which she initiated with John Pugh in 1979. Under Hurllette's direction the college offered a Humanities class in gospel music and the DGC performed at special occasions of the college and community. During the 1992 Delta/RVIST General Education exchange Hurllette was a member of the faculty team with RVIST Choir Director Henry Alumasa and Delta Music Professor Paul Hill to introduce traditional Kenya music and instrumentation in a series of workshops throughout the community. In Spring 1992 Hurllette teamed with Henry and Paul to co-produce an International Music Concert at Delta which involved three Delta musical groups including the Delta Gospel Choir, The Delta College Choir and the Oratorio Chorus. Hurllette Coleman Dickens will be long remembered for the special gift of music and spirit which she brought to Delta; and for the exciting musical experi-

ence she created with Henry Alumasa where the traditional music of Kenya found common ground and harmonies with the gospel music of America. Hurllette died of a terminal illness in 2002.



Henry Alumasa  
Director of Rift Valley Institute Choir

*"My little music knowledge is a gift from God, because I have never been taught by anybody...Even before I could read music I knew something about it... I think I was born a Musician."* (Bay City Times March 1, 1992) Henry Alumasa came to Delta in winter 1992 as part of the General Education faculty team exchange from RVIST. While Mr. Alumasa did not have a formal degree in music, he was a brilliant talent as a Director and star in his knowledge of African traditional music, instrumentation and rhythms. Under his leadership, the Rift Valley Institute Choir received national recognition for quality through first place awards in the Kenya National Music Festivals. In the Delta/RVIST learning exchange, Henry was a member of the faculty team with Music Professor Paul Hill and Gospel Choir Director Hurllette Coleman Dickens. Henry taught African folk music and harmonies in Delta Music classes and conducted workshops at Delta; and numerous other schools and churches in our community and around the state. Henry was a dynamic personality and when he performed as Guest Conductor of local choirs and choruses, he became known for the unique little dancing steps he performed on stage as part of his conducting style. His love of music was shared generously in the Delta College community. News reached Delta that Henry Alumasa died in Kenya in 1998. He is remembered here with gratitude for his vibrant spirit and the gift of music he brought to all of us.



Dr. Joyce Cain  
MSU Professor Teacher Education

Dr. Joyce Cain was one of Delta's early advocates and supporters in developing International and Intercultural education. A native of Bay City, Joyce developed and documented an MSU linkage in teacher education with University of Zimbabwe and frequently brought visiting teachers from this country to Delta. She advised and gave valuable support to Delta's administrative planning team and was an important training resource, driving frequently from E. Lansing to present preparatory training for Delta faculty exchange teams, and hosting visiting teams at MSU. Dr. Cain recognized the unique value of the Delta/RVIST Collaborative Model, and invited the Director to present this model at the *International Conference on Comparative Education* in Annapolis, MD (1992). When Joyce Cain died from terminal illness in 1995, she had shared the joy and collegiality of the Delta/RVIST adventure and expressed pride in its success. Our International/Intercultural Steering Committee, the Kenya Exchange Learning teams and our Human Relations Committee keenly felt her loss at Delta. She was a friend and mentor to the college as we ventured into an unknown arena. We cherish her memory and commitment to International understanding, cultural diversity and educational equity among all groups.

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## In the beginning . . .

### Our Introduction to Kenya 1987

It was July 8, 1987 when a Travel Study group of 18 Delta College faculty, staff and community members left Saginaw to join Professional Seminars International on a travel study journey to Kenya in East Africa. Jack Crowell and Duff Zube were Delta's group leaders for this trip, our first to the Continent of Africa.

Members of the Delta group included: Jack and Anita Crowell with Shoana and Tenell Crowell; Janet and Bob Crane; Ila Dean; Barbara Tedrow and Bill Boley; Audrea Ferguson; Betty and Preston Jones; Anne Martin; Margrethe May, Marlene Mehlhose; Lawrence D. Oughton; Jean Treadway; Lynn M. Nigl, Lochie Overby and Duff Zube. The travel group included Delta faculty, administrators, support staff and community members.

Prior to travel our group was enrolled in a seminar to learn about Kenya – its history, culture and people. We were assisted in this endeavor by Delta anthropologist Sharon Lehrer and by guest lecturers from Michigan State University, including Professor David Wiley and Professor David Campbell from the MSU African Studies Center.

It was Delta's first trip to Africa and the group was eager to learn about the people and culture of Kenya and East Africa. In addition, we wanted to identify a Kenyan College to form a Sister College linkage for educational exchange. A prior contact with Educational Attache, Magdalene Musee Wambua at the Kenya Embassy in Washington, had led to our correspondence with Dr. K. Richard Koech, Principal at the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in Nakuru, who invited our group to visit that school as part of our travel itinerary. It was an exciting and adventuresome time for Delta.

Entering Kenya at Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi (July 9, 1987), our group crossed the equator at Nanyuki and had our first formal visit at the Kiirua Girls School in Meru. Kiirua was a boarding school with whom Delta was a Peace Corps Partner with Bangor School in Bay County via former corpsman Jack Crowell. The school had expected our group the day before and planned a big celebration, which we missed. However, they received us warmly and proudly showed us their new school community center to which Delta had contributed in a special Peace Corps project with Bangor School. The children performed traditional songs and dances for us. Our group also led several songs in a sing-along and later we danced with the students and teachers in a large circle. It was a very warm introduction to the Kenyan people.

In Samburu we visited a National Park to see game in their natural habitat. There we stayed in traditional styled thatched roof houses (however with flooring and bathroom facilities); and attended a performance of traditional dances by the Samburu Dancers. For the first time we saw the African Jumping dance done by young men. This dance was very competitive with each youth taking his place in the circle to jump higher than the others. The young performers were very friendly and after their performance we had a chance to meet them. Delta PE Professor and Dance teacher Jean Treadway was guided in a few techniques of the jumping dance by the lead dancer and did a few "jumps" herself. This exchange was received with high enthusiasm by all.



Delta travel study team at Kirrhua School 1987

### The Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology (RVIST)

We found RVIST just outside Nakuru Town and visited the campus on July 16 following a short stay at Lake Nakuru National Park well known for its large population of flamingoes. The college was located on a plateau overlooking Lake Nakuru a few kms north of the town. Well endowed with 7700 acres of land acquired through the sponsorship of Vice President Daniel Arap Moi, college resources included 2700 acres of prime farm land which made the Institute self sufficient in most products to sustain the campus community.<sup>1</sup> In the absence of the Principal Dr. Koech, our group was warmly received with an enthusiastic welcome from Samson K. Nyole, Deputy Principal.

<sup>1</sup>Kintzer, Frederick C. "The Harambe Institutes of Science and technology in the Republic of Kenya: Report of a study 1986-1987." ERIC Reports. Council for International Exchange of Scholars, USIA Washington, D.C. Planning for the RVIST was initiated in 1972 by Daniel arap Moi, then Vice President of the Republic, and later elected president. RVIST opened in 1978. pp. 103-113.

Mr. Nyole shared with us the mission of RVIST as a Harambee Institution. "Harambee" was explained to us as a Kenyan concept for *working together toward a common goal*. Later we would see Harambee in action. However, this day we toured the campus facilities and met members of the faculty, administration and students. A natural compatibility became evident as common problems and challenges were shared from the perspective of this Harambee School in Kenya and our own community colleges at home. RVIST is one of the largest and most diverse of fifteen Harambee polytechnic institutes in Kenya. Administrators and faculty from both our schools envisioned there would be much we could learn from each other. At the end of our visit, we agreed to seek funding for an educational linkage between Delta and RVIST. This was an exciting exchange and it marks the beginning of a remarkable journey for both institutions.

### **Affiliations Grant Approved by USIA**

Upon return of the Delta group from Kenya, the shared vision of a Sister College partnership was mutually developed in a joint proposal for funding and submitted to the USIA University Affiliations Program. The Delta proposal entered a tough and competitive arena, and emerged as one of the first four projects to receive agency approval among sixteen total projects accepted for partnering with African institutions in 1988. It was also the first grant approved by the agency to be awarded to a community college. According to Dr. Winnie Emoungu, Director of USIA University Affiliations for Africa, the Delta proposal was rated superior and was cited by the Academic Review panel for its quality, vision and innovative spirit.

It was June 17, 1988 when Delta College received official notice from USIA that our proposal was approved for funding of \$50,000 over three years. The news was received with celebration on campus and in the community. It also drew enthusiastic support from the Kenya Embassy in Washington and from the Kenya Ministry of Education in Nairobi.



**Jean Treadway talks to girls in Kirrhua classroom**

In his comments to the Board of Trustees, President D.J. Carlyon remarked on the breakthrough represented by Delta's success in securing the grant. *"It is very rare, if ever, that a community college is awarded a government grant of this type. We can pave the way for other community colleges if we do it right."* Dr. Betty Jones, Dean of General Education, was assigned by the President as Director of the project for Delta with the collaboration and assistance of Mr. Samson K. Nyole, Principal of RVIST.

Planning for the first exchange began immediately, involving faculty from the Kenya experience along with interested professionals from the community. USIA staff made a site visit to Delta to review our "capacity to carry out the project." It was not evident if this visit was a matter of USIA policy or if it reflected the unusual inclusion of a community college new to the International arena. At any rate, the college made front-page news as we started to implement this momentous step toward International innovation in fall 1988.

### **Notes of Early Exchange and Outreach**

Early cooperation was noted in the Delta/RVIST Project Guide when Delta Art professor Lawrence Oughton was granted sabbatical leave to teach at RVIST and develop a new curriculum in Ceramics Craft Production at the invitation of the Principal. Mr. Oughton went to RVIST in August 1988. His mission was to design and implement an instructional program to teach students the knowledge and skills needed to operate and perform in ceramics production units. The first class under Professor Oughton enrolled 17 students plus two apprentices. Reports from this early development document the special efforts by Mr. Oughton to include handicapped students in this first class. He also initiated research, mining and testing of local clay resources; designed the startup, and documented a procedural guide for the RVIST Ceramics Lab and Workshop.

In February 1989, also prior to the first administrative exchange, Delta College Trustee Annette Deibel traveled to Kenya with her husband Attorney Gilbert Deibel. The Deibels visited RVIST at the invitation of the Principal, toured the facilities and met some of the RVIST Trustees.<sup>2</sup> They were favorably impressed and upon return shared their observations with the Delta Board and the project planning team.

<sup>2</sup>These activities of early exchange and cooperation were documented in the Director's first Report which defined goals and strategies. See Unpublished plan in Delta College Archives, B. Jones, "Sister School Partnership Plan." January 25, 1989

## International Team Building

### Administrative Exchange for Fact Finding and Shared Vision

*The exchange plan approved by USIA funded air travel, small individual stipends and needed supplies and services. The initial budget included 16 individuals in 3 exchange teams over three years. Housing and meals were provided by faculty, staff and local community volunteers; Field trips and other learning experiences were hosted by local business/industry or supported by various departments at the College.<sup>3</sup> Individual families also hosted field experiences.*

The first phase of the exchange was implemented in the spring and summer of 1989 when each school hosted four administrators for one month of fact finding. The administrative team visits provided an opportunity to gather information and learn about each college and its community. In addition, the teams jointly identified a focus to guide the developing relationship and anticipated benefits of exchange programs for each institution. Also articulated were core values, which would be applied by each institution to guide the partnership process.

#### Rift Valley Institute Administrators at Delta.

The RVIST administrative team visited Delta College April 1– May 5, 1989. Team members on that first visit were:

Samson K. Nyole, Principal  
Alexander Songkok, Director of Extra Mural Centre  
Agnes Muchira, Head Secretarial Section in Business Education  
Martha Keter, Head of Clothing and Textiles Department  
\* William Morogo, Head of Buildings and Facilities (Alternate)

The mission of the administrative team was to initiate fact finding and information exchange between the two institutions; and establish initial relations as a base for cooperative efforts intended to enhance the growth and development of both institutions. The administrative teams worked together during the visits, held regular meetings and established a pattern of communication and operations.

Specific goals and activities were developed to facilitate team learning about the college, its mission, programs, students, services, and its community. RVIST team members visited and presented informational lectures to Delta classes; and to campus and community groups. They were housed with local families to experience family and community life. A special highlight for the team was their introduction to computer literacy with individual instruction and practice in the Delta labs; and participation in the Delta College Graduation Commencement Activities. The RVIST team received a special welcome from the African American

communities in Saginaw and Midland who pledged support to the emerging partnership. Written observations from the Kenya administrative team were reported and included in documentation of project outcomes for the first year.<sup>4</sup>

#### Delta College Administrators at Rift Valley Institute

Four Delta administrators visited the RVIST Campus June 19 to July 20, 1989. The Delta administrative team members were:

Dr. Betty Jones, Dean of General Education and Project Director  
Darrell Berry, Dean of Occupational Programs  
Barbara Tedrow, Coordinator of Global/International Programs  
Willie Thompson, Dean of Student Support Services<sup>5</sup>  
\*Jack Crowell, Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science, Alternate<sup>6</sup>

The guiding mission of the Delta Administrators was to complete the fact-finding exchange at RVIST and articulate a shared vision with mutual outcomes, which would guide the two institutions during the implementation of the new partnership.

In Kenya, the Delta team was warmly received on campus and by many village communities in the RVIST Province. Our team were housed in faculty homes and worked closely with the RVIST faculty and staff to experience Kenya culture; we also learned about the national educational system and the mission of the Harambee Technical Institutes within the system. Team experiences included visits to Kenya Institutes of Technology (KITA); meetings with local municipal leaders, business and industrial managers, women's groups, and many others throughout the country. A highlight of the exchange occurred when the Delta College team leader represented the college along with RVIST Department Heads at the National Agricultural Expo to receive Kenya's President His Excellency Daniel Arap

<sup>3</sup>During the course of the project, other groups and organizations provided support to enhance the exchange and permit additional participation. Travel assistance was provided by local churches, civic groups and two local school districts approved leave permitting a teacher to participate with her spouse on exchange. Each college continued salary payment to participants while on exchange.

<sup>4</sup>Outcomes of the first year (1989) included many unanticipated benefits and "spilloff" activities. Documented by B. Jones, "Delta College Sister Partnership - Report of year 01", Sept. 1989. Kenya Papers and Unpublished reports in Delta Archives. The Delta experience in Kenya provided an avenue for international exploration for other agencies in Midland and Saginaw.

<sup>5</sup>Mrs. Mattie Thompson accompanied her husband and traveled with the Delta team in Kenya.

<sup>6</sup>Jack Crowell was an active member of the Delta administrative team during the visit of the RVIST administrators. He also provided backup, support and input to the Delta Visiting team before, during and following their visit to RVIST.



Moi, who personally visited the RVIST exhibit designed by Professor Oughton.

**In a special tribute to RVIST students**, the Delta team presented a Photographic Art Exhibit from Delta students for display at RVIST and travel to other Harambee Technical Institutes. The photographic exhibit gave visual images of the cultural diversity at Delta College and in Michigan Community Colleges.

As a result of the administrative team exchange, Delta College and Rift Valley Institute developed a Joint Vision Statement with institutional goals for a 3-year exchange, which was signed in fall 1989 by President Donald J. Carlyon and Dr. Betty B. Jones for Delta, and Principal Samson K. Nyole for RVIST.

### **Exchange of Faculty and Students 1990 – 1992**

A guiding goal of the Delta/RVIST learning exchange was to enable faculty, staff and students from both schools to share information about various career fields, technical and occupational programs, and general education needs to advance their ability to respond to rapid emergence of the global environment.<sup>7</sup> The project plan identified three areas of focus for instructional development over the course of the exchange. Business, technical and general education would be the focus areas for team building, cross-cultural learning and curriculum change led by the academic deans. In addition, opportunities would be created for involvement of student services in the learning exchange.

The desire for learning equity guided the exchange toward a concept for paired learning teams. Each exchange faculty member worked with a partner at the exchange school and a faculty resource team at their home school. The learning process involved the exchange partners in a visit to work on site with the exchange partner and the faculty resource team at that school. Both partners and their resource teams would collaborate in team teaching, instructional planning and curriculum development for a minimum of six months divided between the two schools. Specific guidelines and expectations for the work of the paired learning teams were developed by a Delta Resource Advisory Committee in consultation with the Global/International Committee and Coordinator.

#### Delta Faculty Team to RVIST 1990

The first faculty exchange team went to RVIST in January 1990 for a full semester. Prior to departure the team was enrolled in a structured experience for goal orientation and preparation. Dr. Joyce Cain from MSU Teacher Education and Ms. Geraldine Peeples from MSU Cooperative International Extension provided training and consultation to Delta groups in this first effort. Exchange members from Delta were:

David Bledsoe, Instructor Construction Technology  
Sherry Bledsoe, Primary teacher Saginaw Public Schools<sup>8</sup>  
Jeanne Mallak, Instructor Office Systems Education  
\*Beverly Westbrook, Office Systems Instructor - Alternate

Dave Bledsoe teamed with Kenneth Majanga at RVIST to learn the theory, resources and techniques for Kenya building technology. He found the Kenyans had much to share about the structure of housing and shelter under conditions of scarce resources and few tools. In addition, Dave laid the wiring and installed the first two computers at RVIST. The Apple IIe was a hardy little machine, which was used by Jeanne Mallak to teach computer literacy. The Delta team carried them to RVIST as baggage on their air flight.

Jeanne Mallak was paired with Chebet Rob to teach in Secretarial Studies. Jeanne found the RVIST curriculum was oriented to skill building on standard typewriters for secretarial training. Updating to a global perspective with focus on the emerging technology environment, Jeanne introduced Computer Literacy using the two Apple IIe computers installed by her Delta colleague. She taught and coached small groups of faculty and students to get through their initial fears and take a small step in trying computers as a skill in the future of professional office practice.

#### RVIST Faculty Team to Delta College 1990

The teamwork which was initiated at RVIST, was continued at Delta when Kenneth Majanga and Chebet Rob came for further teambuilding and collaboration with Delta faculty in September 1990.

Chebet Rob, Chair, Secretarial Studies  
Kenneth Majanga, Instructor Building Construction

Working with Jeanne Mallak and Beverly Westbrook, Chebet Rob co-taught classes in Office Systems, adding Kenyan contrasts as a learning enhancement. She utilized this opportunity in the Delta Business division to build her own computer skills; and at the end of the exchange period, was helped to acquire a working computer to take back home. Chebet also visited many of the local schools and contributed to enhancement of global education outreach.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>Plan for Phase II 1989/90. B. Jones. "Delta College Sister School Partnership." Sept. 1989.

<sup>8</sup>The participation of Sherry Bledsoe was made possible by cooperation of the Saginaw Public Schools in providing a special leave for Mrs. Bledsoe to be part of the team with her spouse. Mrs. Bledsoe worked with teachers and children at Uhuru Primary School near RVIST campus. Her students in Saginaw made a friendship quilt as a gift to the Uhuru children. In addition, the Saginaw students learned about Kenya culture and "walked the distance" to Kenya in a symbolic tribute during their teacher's absence on exchange.

<sup>9</sup>Chebet Rob was videotaped in an introduction to Swahili conversational expressions and vocabulary. The videotape was reproduced by the Delta Media department and distributed to several local schools in Saginaw as part of the college outreach in Global Education.

Kenneth Majanga continued his work with David Bledsoe and the Construction Technology faculty in Delta's Technical Division. His exchange experience introduced him to the local Home Builders Associations and the active role they took in attracting students to the Construction industry; and providing resources, training opportunities and jobs to Delta graduates. These new friends helped him to acquire a full set of construction tools to take back to Kenya.

#### Outcomes of Exchange in Business and Technology Programs 1990

The articulated goals of the first year were well met. The entire college community benefited from having the exchange teams on campus, and the team members had many opportunities to share information with students and faculty. In addition unanticipated impacts were evident which advanced the visibility and support to the Sister College program.<sup>10</sup>

At Delta, the Office systems faculty developed skills for international collaboration and infused more global content in classroom teaching. At RVIST Secretarial Studies was enhanced by the introduction to computers and new possibilities for the potential future and status of this field. In addition the secretarial faculty (largely women) gained status in the Business/Commerce department (largely men) by their participation in international exchange and the new knowledge learned and shared by the section chair. Also the two computers installed and demonstrated by the exchange team afforded a stimulant for faculty interest in computer literacy. The seed for faculty development was firmly planted.

Members of the Technical Division faculty at Delta grew in their exposure to international values and collegial skills. The collaborative relationship nurtured by the Construction Technology faculty with the local Home Builders Associations was enhanced by the exchange activities. The Associations would later provide financial support for a CT student to travel to Kenya as part of the Student exchange.

In a surprise outcome of the exchange, Kenneth Majanga acquired a new vision for his capabilities as a builder enhanced with tools. One year after the exchange experience Ken resigned from RVIST to form his own construction business as part of Kenya's Jua Kali. As a new and successful business leader Ken continued his relationship with RVIST and strengthened the college program in Building Construction as a provider of field practicums and employment to RVIST students and graduates in construction.

#### Student Services Exchange – January 1991

The desire to involve the Delta Student Services Division in the exchange experience, and the interest to enhance institutional knowledge in this department at RVIST led to support for this integrated team design.

Daniel Njiriri, RVIST.

Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions

Nancy Nickerson, Delta.

Director of Career Planning Center

Teresa Stitt, Delta

Admissions and Outreach Specialist

Dr. Burton Fettig, Dean of Student Services

RVIST Admissions Director Dan Njiriri visited Delta College where he worked with colleagues in Student Services to learn about the concept and role of student services in community college education. During this time, Dan also worked with Jack Crowell and Bob Keicher in the Math/Computer Science division where he learned more about computers and assisted in planning for the upcoming General Education exchange focused on computer technology for instruction. In addition, Dan promoted a vision of long-term project values and helped to make these ideas visible at Delta and beyond.<sup>11</sup>

#### Gift of Cultural Artifacts from Kenya Students

A collection of Kenya cultural artifacts was brought by Dan Njiriri as a gift to Delta College from students at RVIST. The artifacts had been collected from their village communities and represented many aspects of traditional art and culture. The collection was presented at a meeting of the Delta College Board of Trustees and accepted by the Senate President. It was placed in the Humanities Division for development.

#### Proposal to Recycle Computers to Kenya for Development

In March 1990 Dan Njiriri approached Senate President John Kostoff with a proposal to send used computers from Delta to Kenya for learning development. John arranged for Dan to address the Delta College Senate with a request for their support. The Senate was favorable to the idea and the recycle concept for international technology transfer was initiated. When Dan returned to Kenya at the end of his exchange, he carried 5 used Apple IIe computers with his baggage. These computers, added to the first two installed by David Bledsoe, would mark the beginning of an instructional computer lab at RVIST.

<sup>10</sup>See Institutional Benefits of Sister College partnership for documentation of first year outcomes as planned; as unanticipated, and as spinoff opportunities. "Delta College Sister College Partnership." B. Jones 1990. Unpublished document in Delta archives.

<sup>11</sup>B. Jones and D. Njiriri presented a joint paper at the Third World Conference (Feb 1991) in Detroit. This paper was published in the *Third World Conference Proceedings 1992*. See References.

### Delta College Student Team at RVIST - March 1991

The support for student participation in the Sister College exchange grew at both schools. With leadership by Dean Willie Thompson in collaboration with the Global/International Office, five students and one adviser were selected to visit Kenya for five weeks.

Teresa Stitt, Team leader and adviser  
Angela Edwards  
Yvette Pugh  
Phiedra Patton  
Timothy Van Octen  
Jacqueline Holmes

The student team enrolled in an International team building course for academic credit and received intensive preparation for a cross cultural experience. Overnight team retreats were implemented both before and after the exchange experience. Each student developed and completed an individual learning project with faculty mentors at Delta and RVIST. In addition, each student transported an Apple IIe computer and monitor to Kenya, which was checked with their baggage. In this way they facilitated the delivery of 6 computers, which would be used later to set up the first RVIST Computer Lab.

### Student Book Project

Upon their return to Delta the student team initiated a Student Book drive and collected 500 textbooks and technical journals, which were sent to RVIST. These books were contributed by Delta students and faculty, and made a significant contribution to the RVIST Library as an important resource to student learning at the college.<sup>12</sup> In addition, student team members were encouraged to share their Kenya experience through presentations in Delta classes and with community groups.



**Delta Students sort books**

### RVIST Student Team at Delta – September 1991

Four students and one adviser from RVIST continued the exchange experience at Delta in September 1991. The exchange was co-hosted by Student Services and Academic Services. Housing accommodations were made in the Delta dorm on campus.

Margaret Kibosia, Team Leader and Student Adviser  
Nancy Cheron  
Rose Cheptoo  
Samuel Mutai  
Joseph Ole Passiany

The RVIST students enrolled in classes at Delta including business, computer literacy, swimming, interior design and mechanical technology. Each student was advised by a Delta faculty. The joint student team shared cross-cultural perspectives in regular team meetings and in a weekend retreat at the Delta Cottage on Higgins Lake. Key supporters of the student campus experience were Dean Willie Thompson, Admissions Counselor Teresa Stitt, Technical Division Chair Don Holzhei and Health/Wellness Professor Paul Radlinski. Upon their return to Kenya the RVIST students shared the experience with their fellow students and became campus leaders.

### General Education Faculty Exchange - September 1991

The General Education faculty exchange linked all previous exchanges. Team pairing was less discipline specific and formed a bridge to the future. The GenEd faculty team:<sup>13</sup>

Robert Keicher,  
Professor Math/Computer Science, Delta College  
Beverly Keicher, Primary teacher, Midland Public Schools  
Paul Hill, Instructor Choral Music, Delta College  
Henry Alumasa, Choir Director RVIST  
Smarts Ogwenoh, Modern Language Studies, RVIST  
Hurette Coleman Dickens, Director Delta Gospel Choir

The General Education exchange began with a visit by the Delta team to RVIST in September 1991. During this first visit, Bob Keicher taught Mathematics classes and worked with Dan Njiri to design and set up the first RVIST Computer Lab with 16 networked stations.<sup>14</sup> He initiated computer literacy and applications training for RVIST faculty. Paul Hill teamed with Henry Alumasa and Smarts Ogwenoh to teach Humanities and Music. Paul also researched and collected traditional music and instruments of Kenya to enrich Delta's Humanities program. Beverly Keicher worked as a Resource teacher at Moi Primary School in Nakuru.

When the GenEd team came to Delta, the RVIST faculty had an opportunity to work with faculty in different divisions. Smarts Ogwenoh co-taught French with Delta's

<sup>12</sup>Noting the absence of books and journals for instruction at RVIST, Darrell Berry spearheaded the contribution of technical books and journals by the faculty in Occupational and technical programs.

<sup>13</sup>A panel on the Delta/RVIST GenEd exchange "General Education – An Equal Opportunity" was presented by Bob Keicher, Smarts Ogwenoh, Paul Hill and Henry Alumasa at the Annual Conference of LAND (Liberal Arts Network for Development) Feb. 1992 in Lansing, MI.

<sup>14</sup>Computers were transported to RVIST by exchange participants including the student team and the General Ed team. Machines were packed and checked as baggage for pickup at the airport in Nairobi.

Dr. Pamela Renna and observed Spanish instruction with Professor Robert Mee in the Foreign Language department. In addition, Mr. Ogwenoh developed and taught a course in Kiswahili at Delta. As a teaching aid he also developed an Instructional Guide and Workbook for Kiswahili.<sup>15</sup>

#### Music is a Universal Language

Henry Alumasa brought a unique energy to the exchange. His presence on campus was a unique opportunity for local musicians and students to learn traditional African chants and rhythms; at the same time Henry confronted new forms of music, specifically gospel music and American jazz. At one rehearsal of the large ecumenical chorus for the Annual Gospel Fest in Saginaw Henry was invited by Delta Gospel Choir director Hurllette Dickens to take the stage as guest director. As the musicians started to play it was obvious that the music did not at first connect for Henry. The struggle back and forth to understand and respond to each other musically was obvious. Finally, there was an audible

“AH right!” at which Henry and the group came together in a totally new sound and took the audience to a new musical place. It really was “Ah right” and the audience was breathless and excited to experience this creative meeting of two musical traditions. As a guest director with Hurllette Dickens and the well-known Edwin Hawkins at the Delta College Annual Gospel Fest, Henry earned local acclaim and was featured on a full page of the Saginaw News.

In a later community performance at the Delta College Lecture Theatre, Delta Choral Director Paul Hill collaborated with Henry Alumasa and Gospel Choir Director Hurllette Coleman Dickens to produce a Concert of International Music including African chants and traditional songs with instruments, European ballads and American gospel. Energy and joy came alive in the Lecture Theatre and the audience was entranced. Music is indeed a universal language.

## Formal Wrap-up of the USIA Funded Exchange 1992

At the close of the first phase of exchange, spirits were high at both institutions. Delta administrators Darrell Berry and Barbara Tedrow returned with Dr. Betty Jones to RVIST in June 1992 where they conducted a formal project wrap-up and initiated a study to document project impacts at Delta and RVIST. A further mission of the Delta team was to provide public recognition to the exchange teams and work with the staff to identify priorities and strategies for sustainability in the absence of grant dollars. In a special ceremony, Ms. Barbara Tedrow presented a water pump to the RVIST community as a gift from individuals and agencies in the Delta community, and formally initiated the **RVIST Water Project**.<sup>16</sup>



USIA Staff visit to academic office in 1988

The achievement of the USIA funded linkage was marked with celebration at RVIST in a large public program attended by the college community, local and national officials. Mr. Francis Z.K. Menjo, newly appointed as Principal (March 1991), pledged his commitment to continue the Sister College partnership and to work closely with Delta on joint projects. Former Principal Mr. Samson K. Nyole, transferred to become Deputy Director of the Ministry of Technology and Technical Training (MTATT) returned for the public celebration. Dr. Betty Jones keyed on the theme “*Our Story of Two Valleys and a Vision for the Future.*” Members of the RVIST Exchange teams were recognized and honored with engraved plaques.

Members of the Delta College teams for exchange and home support were formally recognized by the college at the Delta Fall Conference and presented with engraved plaques by President D. J. Carlyon (August 1992).

<sup>15</sup>Smarts Ogwenoh. *Kiswahili Language Instruction Guide and Work Book*. 1992 Internal Delta publication for independent study programming.

<sup>16</sup>Barbara Tedrow led and facilitated donations to the RVIST Water Initiative as part of a Community College Leaders Project. The focus on International Outreach for clean water grew from her observations as part of the Delta Administrative team in 1989.

## Impacts of Exchange - What REALLY happened?

Each institution documented its gains and strategies for sustainability and further articulated its vision for the future.<sup>17</sup> In addition, a survey was implemented at both schools to document the sentiment and perceptions from faculty and staff regarding the many activities and changes as a result of the Sister College partnership. Publication of the survey data was completed at Delta, shared at each institution and distributed to funding agencies and AACCC/IIC.<sup>18</sup>

*"Looking back in contemplation – Moving on with care"* was the title of an information article to the Delta campus following the impact study at RVIST in 1992. Observed impacts of the exchange as shared from the RVIST faculty, staff and students were:

- Brought a more professional approach to teaching at RVIST
- Greater emphasis on student learning – more hands on and practicals in teaching where it was prior all lecture.
- Increased tendency to use illustrative materials in teaching.
- Increased self-esteem and self-confidence among students – even those who did not go on the travel exchange. Those students who did go were different people when they returned.
- More advantageous position for the college in its community. Greater visibility and pride.
- RVIST is considered a leader and resource among the Kenya Institutes of Technology. We are consulted by other HITs.
- Improved and expanded library
- New computer skills for faculty and students
- Our computer lab is the only one in this area and alone among the HITs.

Indeed, all of these changes were evident and more. The Delta Administrative team was both impressed and sobered by the range and depth of the transformation, which had occurred at our Sister College. It was not the same school we met in 1987 or visited in 1989. Not only was change evident internally in teaching quality, equipment and

attitudes; but also community perceptions and expectations of RVIST were changed. This rural Institute had gained national visibility and prestige; and was seen as a leader among the Harambee Institutes of Technology.

If RVIST was not the same school in 1992, neither was Delta College. New courses in International education were added to the curricula and Travel Study led by faculty from various divisions was expanded to more countries. Commentary by Delta respondents to the Impact Survey noted a significant qualitative change regarding the value of International learning and exchange in education; and the General Education committee recommended that global awareness outcomes be included as a general education requirement for graduation. Global Awareness Week programs, begun in 1988 were enhanced and demonstrated growth as a shared resource for student and faculty learning. There was a raised consciousness among faculty and students as we learned more about the human challenges of development in other countries; and support emerged to do what we could to help. Real friendship and collegial relations were developed and cherished; shared memories were rich and good. A warm bond with shared commitment was evident among participants in the experience.

At Delta, President Carlyon commented, *"Nothing was fixed. It was so new for us and for the federal agency. I felt we had "open sesame" to explore and do what we thought best."* First Lady Betty Carlyon commented *"You could really find your dreams in this. That accounted for much of the enthusiasm and commitment."*

One of the most potent outcomes with long term impact at Delta was found in the International Team Building Model for cross cultural learning developed and documented in the Kenya exchange.<sup>19</sup> This model was constructed around a set of core values, which permeated the Kenya exchange and encouraged collaboration and shared learning. While Delta was collegial in some ways, the value of collaboration was not widely practiced in the academic culture. Delta's Kenya Team Model with its emphasis on cross cultural learning, nurtured seeds and ideas which moved Global/



Delta team recognition at Fall Conference 1992

<sup>17</sup>Impacts for both schools were documented and published as a final report to USIA and to both college communities. See Jones, Menjo and Carlyon, "Sister College Partnership – Educational Exchange and Shared Learning," June 1992. Delta College Archives.

<sup>18</sup>B. Jones, "Sister College Partnership. Survey of Institutional Impacts 1988 - 1992." October 1993. Kenya papers in Delta College Archives

<sup>19</sup>The Delta Design for Team Building emerged from the joint vision statement and operational plans of the Sister College partnership. It was first pictured in a process design presented at the 36th Annual Meeting of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) March 1992. The model was refined and later presented at the Annual Workshop of CASID at Michigan State University (April 1993).

International education to a new vision and level; and promoted a culture of collaborative learning and learning communities at Delta.

### **Institutional Priorities and Strategies for Sustainability 1992**

As a result of evaluation and joint planning, seven priorities were identified for continuation with cooperative strategies for sustainability by Delta and RVIST.

1. Continued maintenance and development of the Computer Lab at RVIST. Dr. Betty Jones dedicated the Lab as the Keicher Lab in fall 1992 as a gift of the Delta College community.<sup>20</sup> It will be sustained via a proposed plan from Bob Keicher and Jack Crowell in Math/Computer Science to ship Apple computers phased out at Delta to RVIST to grow computer labs for instruction. Instructional computing was a new concept at RVIST and marked a significant transformation in the culture of teaching and learning at the Institute.<sup>21</sup>

Two important partners joined the partnership to sustain continued development of computer technology at RVIST. The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi pledged to support the transfer of computers from the U.S. through their APO; and Comp Rite Apple Distributors in Nairobi pledged to provide maintenance, repair and parts to the computers in the RVIST Lab.

2. The RVIST Library. *The Delta College Book Collection* was established at RVIST by Deans Darrell Berry and Betty Jones as a gift from Delta students, faculty and community. The collection will receive annual contributions of books in business, technology, general education and global studies, and African American literature.<sup>22</sup> Development of the library was identified as a high priority and Jane Achoula was appointed RVIST librarian. The U.S. Embassy accepted her for a six-week internship at the Embassy Library in Nairobi for training in library organization and cataloging.

3. RVIST Water Project. Installation of the water pump was planned to insure a stable water supply to the campus. The pump was funded by local donors and purchased in Michigan. It was transported to Kenya by Barbara Tedrow and dedicated as a gift from the Delta community to RVIST. A Water Board was appointed at RVIST and met to establish a mission and policy goals to govern and assure a continued supply of clean water to the campus.<sup>23</sup>

4. RVIST Women's group. Continue as an associational member of AAWCJC in collaboration with Delta women mentors.<sup>24</sup> The RVIST women met to work out a mission statement with program goals to develop leadership skills among women faculty, staff and students. The group was led by Finance officer Betsy Chelangat at RVIST, and

mentored by a small group of Delta women led by Teresa Stitt.<sup>25</sup> The hope of the RVIST women was to submit a funding proposal to UNDP for a Women's Center on campus.<sup>26</sup>

5. RVIST Collection of East African Art and Artifacts at Delta College will be continued with annual additions from RVIST students. The collection will be catalogued by Delta Fine Arts Specialist Judy Gatzka and housed in the Humanities Division.

6. Delta Collection of East African Music and Musical Instruments was acquired by Music Professor Paul Hill during the General Ed exchange in Kenya. The collection will be continued under supervision of Professor Hill in the Humanities Division. RVIST will secure and add instruments to the current collection as opportunity arises.

7. Funding opportunities and resources for continued exchange of faculty, staff and students; and continued international collaboration was identified as a priority at both schools. Delta College will provide leadership in funding exploration.

These priorities would guide the vision and next steps of the partnership, and shape the continuing search for resources and sustainability of partnership projects.

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<sup>20</sup>This computer lab was networked and expanded by Bob Keicher. It was the first of three large computer labs later developed on campus. Following Bob's death in 2002, the lab was rededicated by RVIST as the *Robert Keicher Memorial Computer Lab*.

<sup>21</sup>Computers to develop instructional labs were shipped to RVIST under a loan agreement signed by Dr. Boyse and Mr. Nyole in 1991, and renewed by Dr. Boyse and Mr. Menjo in 1992. By Oct. 1993 twenty-five recycled Apple IIe computers had been transported to Kenya with 9 of these contributed by local donors. 3 IBM XT computers were also approved for relocation under signed terms of the agreement (Letter from Dr. Peter Boyse Oct. 25, 1993)

<sup>22</sup>See *Delta College Book Collection: A living gift from the students, faculty and community of Delta College*. (June 19, 1992). A special collection of books in African American literature was established by Dr. Betty Jones in collaboration with Dr. Patricia Scott (Buena Vista Public Schools).

<sup>23</sup>Installation of the water pump was delayed due to unforeseen complications with the borehole on campus. The pump was finally installed 10 years later in 2002. (Letter from J.H.K. Kosgei to Betty Jones Sept. 22, 2003). This letter thanks the donors, summarizes early problems and outlines the final agreement with the Ministry of Water resources to rehabilitate and convert one of their boreholes for the benefit of RVIST campus and surrounding farmers. The water pump currently serves a total population of 3,105 including 1400 staff and students on RVIST campus.

<sup>24</sup>The RVIST Womens group was a spinoff from the exchange. Development of women was compatible with one of the core values of gender equity in the project. RVIST women became associate members of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCJC) sponsored by their Delta mentors as part of the partnership.

<sup>25</sup>Delta mentors included Learning Support Specialist Linda Lyon, English Instructor Margot Haynes, Educational TV Coordinator Ruby Iwamasa and Business Instructor Beverly Westbrook among others.

<sup>26</sup>While the RVIST Women's group was active on campus for several years, their goal to establish a Women's Center on campus was not realized. The group became inactive in 1996.

## Impacts One Year Later in 1993

Dr. Betty Jones completed a study of institutional impacts from the Sister College exchange in fall 1993 with an evaluative analysis. The Impact Report includes insights and perceptions of exchange activities, attitudes, values and climate surrounding the exchange; and identifies the perceived benefits experienced at each institution. Copies of the report were distributed to each divisional office at Delta College, and were made accessible in the Global/International Office and the Delta Library. Copies were also received by the Principal's Office for distribution at RVIST.<sup>27</sup> In addition an Update report was prepared by the Partnership Director to document progress on the priorities identified at each institution for continuation. ("The Instructional Grapevine" Nov. 1993 p. 6)<sup>28</sup>

The one-year follow-up report from both institutions demonstrated the strength and continuity of outcomes noted in the 1992 report, and identified sustainability as an emergent outcome of the partnership.

### One year later at RVIST:

- The Computer Lab was fully operational and managed by Dan Njiriri with classes taught by two Peace Corps volunteers. Comp Rite Apple Distributors in Nairobi were providing voluntary service, maintenance and repair by agreement with RVIST. A new course of studies in Computer Literacy and software was developed. The first class of 9 students graduated in 1993 and were quickly employed. Student demand for computer classes had escalated.

- The RVIST Library was relocated to a larger facility on campus and renovated to facilitate student study. The Delta College Book Collection included more than 600 books, plus journals and other materials. The RVIST librarian Jane Achoula completed a training internship at the U.S. Embassy Library in Nairobi and initiated a system at RVIST for cataloging the library book collection. Academic Dean David Sasala chaired an active library committee.

- The RVIST Water Board was established with HOD Rachel Bett as Chair. Due to unanticipated problems in the location and quality of the original bore hole, the pump was not yet installed. After extensive consideration involving the Department of Water Administration, it was determined that the project would require drilling a new borehole. More than Ksh 100,000 (\$3500) had been expended by the Water Board. The college remained committed to this priority.

- The RVIST Women's Group was active on campus with regular meetings. The group was registered with the Ministry of Culture and established a bank account with the local branch of Kenya Commercial Bank. Members of

the Women's group had also met with RVIST female students and sponsored the showing of an educational film in which the students had expressed an interest. While this was a good start, concern was expressed regarding financing for projects and loss of leadership through transfer to other institutions. Group membership was continued in the AAWCJC.

- Faculty and students who participated in the exchange had demonstrated significant upward career mobility, accelerated by the International exchange experience, increased skills, self-confidence and community visibility.

- The Ceramics Technology Lab was established and running with a HOD of Ceramics Technology, equipment from Delta donors and a sustained level of student interest in the craft.<sup>29</sup> The Ceramics Lab was designed and started by Delta Art Professor Lawrence Oughton who accepted this mission at RVIST on sabbatical leave prior to implementation of the USIA funded exchange linkage.



**Justus Kosgei and Daniel Njiriri in Computer Warehouse at RVIST**

<sup>27</sup>B. Jones. "Delta/RVIST Sister College Partnership. Survey of Institutional Impacts 1988-1992" Published by Delta College Academic Office, November 1993.

<sup>28</sup>B. Jones and D. Berry, "The Delta Kenya Exchange: A Study of Institutional Impacts - One Year Later" The Instructional Grapevine. November 1993, p. 6-8.

<sup>29</sup>Establishing the Ceramics program and lab was a goal of RVIST in 1987 (See Notes of early exchange and outreach). Its progress was overshadowed by the heightened interest in the Computer Lab. Designed and started by professor Oughton, the program grew in student enrollment and was part of the growth in RVIST curriculum which Delta noted as an outcome in the Final Exchange report to USIA. It is notable that this program was not displaced by the advance of instructional technology on campus. It continues to attract students and is funded through the college budget.

- As a result of ideas generated by the Delta/RVIST exchange, RVIST proposed an Entrepreneurial Centre, which was funded by the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). The centre startup was 1991 and offered training in business management to small businesses in the Jua Kali.

Primary goals for Delta were to strengthen the college programs for faculty development, internationalize the curriculum, expand opportunities for students and educate the community.

#### One year later at Delta College:

- Interest and collaboration among the faculty to explore and participate in Sister College linkages in other countries increased. Two faculty teams were actively exploring opportunities for exchange linkages in China and Mexico with support from the Academic Office.

- Delta curriculum demonstrated growth in international character through the addition of new courses and international course modules for existing classes. Delta was an invited participant in the Beacon Grant project, a national AACC initiative to advance International education in community colleges.

- Bob Keicher and Jack Crowell implemented a plan with help from local donors to recycle Apple computers to RVIST in collaboration with the U.S. Information Agency in Nairobi. They were actively seeking strategies to introduce DOS based machines in the recycle efforts.

- Bob Keller continued as faculty coordinator for the annual student/faculty collection of Books for Kenya. The 1993 campus collection was led by Jarvella Motley, Student Senator; and Angela Edwards, Chair of the International

Student Club and a member of Delta's student exchange team.

- The Delta Foundation funded the design and construction of a display case to house a Traveling Museum of East African Art and Artifacts. A Descriptive Catalog of the Kenya Collection of Art and Artifacts was developed by Fine Arts Specialist Judy Gatza, who developed the concept of a Traveling Museum to share the collection with local schools and community groups.

- Growing interest in international opportunities for students led to involvement in a German student exchange in cooperation with Northwestern Michigan College. Four German students visited Delta and worked in local companies in summer 1993; and four Delta students were preparing to visit and work with German companies in summer 1994. Paul Radlinski and Duff Zube were key contacts for the German student exchange at Delta.

- Delta College was invited by USAID to submit a funding proposal for a Consortium of Community Colleges in Michigan paired with Kenya Technical Institutes for teaching/learning exchange, technology transfer and institutional management practices. Delta submitted the proposal in partnership with Lansing Community College in Michigan; and with Rift Valley Institute and Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology in Kenya.

- Active and growing faculty leadership in Global/International projects continues to promote the visibility and reputation of Delta College in Michigan and the Midwest region. College membership and involvement in international consortia has grown in response to invitations from other institutions.

## A New Academic Culture Emerges at Delta

### **The Delta Model for International and Cross Cultural Team Building**

One of the most valuable outcomes of the Delta/RVIST exchange, with long term impact for Delta, was found in the development and application of a conceptual and operational design for building collaboration and teamwork across highly different cultures.<sup>30</sup> Within the community college system, there was an urgent call to develop and learn new cultures and strategies of operation to meet the fast emerging needs for work and learning in the global environments of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Critical needs included new programs for workforce development education, information technology, telecommunications and distance learning, enrollment management, customized marketing,

integration of general education in occupational programs and assessment of student learning outcomes — all new to the community college culture. The agenda for change was broad and formidable, and many colleges oriented to hierarchical leadership and stability of the status quo, were placed at risk through internal resistance to change.<sup>31</sup>

The Delta design is driven by a core of values which guide goals, interactions and outcomes; and which involve diverse groups in team building processes for collaborative learning. Developed and tested in the Delta/RVIST exchange, this

<sup>30</sup> The complete model design is shown in detail. See Kenya papers in Delta Archives.

<sup>31</sup> Dale Parnell. *Dateline 2000 – The New Higher Education Agenda*. AACJC. The Community College Press. 1990



team building design became a model for leadership development and change in the academic culture at Delta. Strategies were implemented to promote the core values among all divisions; and to grow an academic culture of open communication, collaborative learning and learning communities which became a new signature for innovation and leadership at Delta College.

Given the diversity of groups and academic programs at Delta, the articulation of core values by the Academic office provided a strong connector and helped all groups pull together toward mutual outcomes even as they might choose varying avenues to achieve them. This quality in the team building design offered a conducive climate for innovation and change within a rich environment of support for group knowledge discovery and collaborative learning. The design proved to be effective in advancing needed change in the academic culture at Delta, and demonstrated applicability to other educational environments.<sup>32</sup>

The team building process was led and monitored by the Vice President of Instruction and the Academic leadership team. With leadership and support from President Peter Boyse this model evolved to become a major design for change in the organizational culture as the college developed a strategic vision and plan to become a learning college for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>33</sup>

The design model is structured as a series of six conceptual circles which represent the process of cross cultural team building for shared knowledge and learning in the Delta/RVIST partnership. The first two circles represent the core values and desired outcomes which shape the process. The next four circles represent an expanding network of leadership groups and opportunities to contribute to the values and outcomes; to build a spirit of enthusiasm and celebration in the climate; and to share knowledge discovery within more broadly based networks.

While a complete picture of the Delta/RVIST concept model is not possible in this document, it is important to describe here the core values and desired outcomes which were articulated in the joint vision. Institutional commitment to these values and outcomes promoted the success of the design in guiding continuous innovation, change and development at both institutions; and in sustaining the partnership over 15 years.<sup>34</sup>

#### **Circle 1: Core Values**

- Shared vision for goals and desired outcomes
- Collaboration to achieve desired outcomes
- Collegiality and mutual respect
- Teaching and learning – shared knowledge
- Open communication for problem resolution
- Gender equity –  
equal opportunities for women and men

#### **Circle 2: Goals and Desired Outcomes**

- Faculty development
- Curriculum Enhancement
- Global/International perspectives and referents
- Student learning
- Community education
- Financial support

#### **Circle 3: Key Groups for Team Building**

- Administrative
- Resource/Advisory team
- Exchange teams
- Faculty support group
- Mentors
- Department hosts
- Host families

#### **Circle 4: Team Building – Spirit and Climate**

- Orientation
- Shared Learning
- College support
- Celebrations
- Rituals
- Recognition

Exchange teams in circle 3 of the model are important in operation. Exchange occurred with paired learning teams in a selected area of the curriculum at each school. These teams worked together as partners for a full year (i.e. one semester at each institution). The exchange team also worked with a support team in the discipline at the home school. A guiding light for selecting key groups is the concept of inclusiveness. The idea is to build knowledge of the project and support for its activities among diverse groups in the college and community. Equally important is circle 4 which represents the diverse ways in which team spirit may be developed and nurtured to establish the climate, energy and commitment to sustain the process. Team celebrations and recognition became a ritual at both of the partner institutions. These included the Presidents Send-off and Welcome Home parties at the Delta Farmhouse; and the Principal's Karibuni (welcome) and Kwaheri (farewell) parties at RVIST.

<sup>32</sup> Betty B. Jones. "Sustainable Change in Education through Collaboration: Team Building with Harambee Technical Institutes in Kenya – The Delta College Experience." Paper presented with team building model at the Annual Conference of Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). March 12-15, 1992. Annapolis, Md. Published in CIES Abstracts: Crisis in Education, 1992.

<sup>33</sup> Peter D. Boyse and Academic Leadership Team. "Team Building for Academic Leadership." Academic Leadership Journal of the National Community College Chair Academy. Vol 3, No. 2. Feb. 1996. pp. 3-9.

<sup>34</sup> See Betty Jones footnote 19. Ibid. The presentation of the Process design at the CIES Annual Conference attracted attention and interest, resulting in an invited presentation at Michigan State University Annual Summer Workshop of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). June 1992.

Circle 5 and 6 guide the process for Sharing knowledge and cultural experiences in the college and community. Exchange participants share with colleagues, local schools and community groups at home, other colleges and regional/national associations. Our story is also told at a national and International level through reports and presentations at various conferences.

This design for International team building was subsequently adapted and successfully applied to guide leadership and innovation throughout Academic Services at Delta.<sup>35</sup> Applications of the model were also successful in team building with other divisions of the college, including Student Services, Learning support and Corporate Services. As a result, cultural transformation at Delta was achieved with far less stress and disruption than was evidenced in many other institutions.

Significant transformations in teaching and learning at Delta were evidenced as a result of applying the team model and core values to reach desired outcomes. Team building and shared learning were nurtured through curriculum task forces and Advisory Boards which were empowered to discover new knowledge, and design new or revised programs to implement the core values and desired outcomes. As a result Delta teams redesigned general education across the curriculum, updated the mission and design of the college program for transfer, and initiated procedures for articulation agreements with baccalaureate institutions. These curricula represent central academic curricula systems for implementing the college mission. Consequently, cultural change in these systems was spread to neighboring systems, both internal and external.

The Delta/RVIST design for team building has proved to be highly adaptive and is now institutionalized as a description of "the Delta way."

### Global Awareness Week

#### International and Intercultural Learning in the College and Community

The first Global Awareness Week (GAW) was initiated at Delta College March 14-18, 1988. The theme - "*The World*



Global Awareness Week team 1988

*is Coming to Delta College*" projected the enthusiasm at Delta into the community with an invitation for community participation.<sup>36</sup> Implemented by the Global/ International Steering Committee this new program articulated well with the new college commitment to global education and the beginning of the Sister College linkage with RVIST in Kenya. At its inception, it joined a repertoire of several other programs led by individual faculty initiative i.e. International Study tours, Peace Corps partnership, foreign film library, and Fulbright teacher exchange,<sup>37</sup> among others. However, GAW was distinguished as a premier program and part of a Presidential initiative which established a Global/International Office at Delta with a Faculty Coordinator. The event evolved as a unique interfacing of curriculum and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff as well as student activities and community outreach. GAW was closely aligned with the Sister College exchange in its timing and use of exchange faculty from Kenya as featured participants in program events. The program also enjoyed strong group support from a faculty/staff Steering Committee and from the Academic Office.

There was widespread enthusiasm in the college and community for the new program. Many of the early speakers came from Michigan State University; or neighboring universities i.e. Saginaw Valley State and Central Michigan universities. The GAW team leaders were Leslie Prast, Jack Crowell, Duff Zube, Gene Duckworth and Betty Jones. Keynote speakers during that first week (1988) were Dr. Ruth Hamilton, Director of the MSU Center for Study of the Black Diaspora; and Dr. David Wiley, Director of the MSU African Studies Center. The halls at Delta were alive with tables for crafts, food and exhibits from different countries or organizations. Many of the local schools brought student groups to enjoy, and learn from the experience. Global Awareness Week at Delta was noted in the community media as an important innovation by the college.

<sup>35</sup> Vice President of Instruction Dr. Betty Jones presented "*Team Building for Academic Leadership - A Group Design for Change and Innovation at Delta College*" at the premier conference INNOVATIONS in Community Colleges. League of Innovation in Community Colleges. Dallas, TX. June 1998. The effectiveness of the Delta model was demonstrated at the conference in presentations of successful innovations by seven (7) different Delta teams.

<sup>36</sup> The first GAW flyer was widely distributed and requested the names of ethnic groups, international groups, churches, individuals with international affiliations, artists, writers, performers, educators, craftspeople - all those willing to serve their food, sell their crafts, entertain, instruct and edify - for invitation to participate in "bringing the world to Delta College." This theme guided the planning for GAW in 1988 - 1990.

<sup>37</sup> Sister College linkages and affiliations were listed in the information brochure from the Global/ International Steering Committee as one of the college activities. The brochure "*What in the World is Happening at Delta College?*" (1988) describes: "Delta College's first sister college linkage is with the Rift Valley Institute in Kenya" along with other activities.

In 1990 Leslie Prast returned to the faculty and Barbara Tedrow was appointed Director for the Global/International Office and Programs. The Steering Committee was expanded to be more broadly inclusive of different divisions in the college and to involve members from the community. Supported by members of the Steering Committee, Global/International programs sought to bridge the concerns of the local area with a responsible concern for the world through an interdisciplinary approach. All programs served to promote an understanding of cultures, world wide economic trends, and the motivation to understand the reality of living in a new world order in which "the forces that unite us are deeper than those that divide." Nationally known speakers were invited to be Keynoters and Scholars in Residence during GAW where they were also available to visit classes and interact with students and faculty.

#### Themes of Annual GAW programs included:

- Bringing the world to Delta College March 1988
- Waging Peace in the World - 1989
- Global Decade: We are the World - 1990
- Living in a World without Walls - 1991 World Game finale March 15
- Winds of Change in the Americas - 1992
- Literacy and Housing - a Global View - 1993
- Overcoming Prejudice and Hate in our World - 1994
- Violence, Silence and Conflict Resolution - March 1995
- United Nations: Created in Crisis, Committed to Cooperation, Confronted by Controversy - October 1995<sup>38</sup>
- Health Care Around the World - Oct. 1996
- The Global Economy: Who Benefits, Who Loses? Oct. 1997
- Culture, Community and Communication: The Three C's of Globalism 1998
- The End of the Century - A Look to the Future Oct. 1999
- Technology - Salvation, Apocolypse or in-between? Nov. 2000

In Fall 1991 the **Delta Benefactor** identified two hallmarks of Delta's commitment to global education and outreach: The Sister College Partnership with RVIST and Global Awareness Week.<sup>39</sup> Both programs gained stature and identity in the college and community. In 1993, the Global/International Steering Committee changed its name to International/Intercultural Steering Committee (IICSC) with a clear focus on education for international responsibility in the global village. "Think globally, act locally" was promoted as a motto at Delta and in the community.

#### IICSC World View Award

In expanding its view of the new world order, the International/Intercultural Steering Committee brought forward emergent issues of cultural diversity and social responsibility at home and abroad to share the group agenda. In 1994 the IICSC introduced the **World View Award** to honor individuals and groups at Delta and in the community

for their contribution to International and Intercultural Understanding and Cross Cultural Collaboration for action. The first World View Awards were presented at the GAW International Luncheon in March 1994. Delta honorees were David Bledsoe, professor of Construction Technology and a member of the first faculty exchange team to Kenya; and the English Division for their collaborative work on Learning Communities. Ms. Geraldine Peeples was honored from the community for her training support to Delta exchange teams and her leadership of International education outreach to youth in the local community as a Professional with MSU Extension Service. In a special ceremony during the GAW Fall 1995, the **IICSC World View Award** was presented posthumously to Gene R. Duckworth, an early supporter of Global education at Delta and of the Sister College Linkage with RVIST. Gene was also one of the founders of GAW and initiated the "Adopt a Flag" program which developed the college display of flags from many countries. The award was presented on Gene's behalf to his wife, Marydeanna Duckworth October 27, 1995.<sup>40</sup>



Global Awareness Program and General Education

To provide a classroom resource for teaching and learning global perspectives and abilities across the curriculum, the General Education Advisory Board requested that the International/ Intercultural Steering Committee redesign Global Awareness Week to take place in both Fall and Winter semesters. As a result, GAW shifted in 2002 to the Global Awareness Program (GAP). The new design offers three days each semester with keynote speakers on a global theme or issue; and special sessions presented by Delta faculty or local resource people. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual GAP (March 2005) was themed: "Sustainable Earth . . . It's a Thirsty World." Two keynoters presented an International perspective of the world's drinking water supply, water justice and water as a valuable commodity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition, school and community groups were invited for guided tours of the Earth Balloon set up in the Delta College gymnasium. This large walk-in model allowed visitors to view planet earth and its resources from

<sup>38</sup> GAW was held annually in March until 1995 when the date for this annual event was shifted to October.

<sup>39</sup> The Delta College Benefactor (Delta Foundation Newsletter) Fall 1993

<sup>40</sup> Gene Duckworth was killed in an automobile accident in February 1990. See "In Memory."

allowed visitors to view planet earth and its resources from inside. The GAP continues to attract broad based participation from faculty, students and community members; and is used as a resource for teaching and learning global issues in many Delta classes.

#### International Quilts - A Unique Delta Heirloom

One of the most exciting traditions which was part of GAW for 12 years was the creation and raffle of an International Quilt. These beautiful quilts were designed and made by Anita Crowell, a local Quilt Artist and member of Delta's first travel study team to Kenya in 1987. The fabrics came from countries which had been visited by Delta groups. The International quilts became a colorful addition to the GAW culture; and each year when a Delta travel study group visited another country, a primary mission of the group leaders was to select and bring back two or more fabric designs typical of the country to be used in Delta's International Quilt (DIQ). The unique quilt for the year was displayed in the Delta Commons and raffled during GAW; and happy was the lucky winner of a DIQ.

The International quilts were celebrated as a colorful tradition of the GAW between 1989 and 1999. The last quilt was raffled at GAW 1999 at the end of the century. However, when Dr. Betty Jones retired as Vice President of Instruction and Director of the Sister College Partnership in 2001, a unique variation of the International quilt was created by Anita Crowell and presented to her as a retirement gift. This unusual quilt used pieces of fabrics from all the countries visited in travel study by the college and is inset with images from Betty's life. The quilt was created as a special surprise, and hangs now as a cherished work of art and heirloom from twelve years of Global Awareness Week at Delta College. Other quilts auctioned

at GAW live with various winners of these heirlooms over the years.

- |        |                         |                                 |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 1989 | Trip Around the World   | Judy Johnson                    |
| • 1990 | Kenya                   | Robert Mee                      |
| • 1991 | Japan                   | A Bangor Fireman – name unknown |
| • 1992 | Iron Curtain countries  | Mark Marciniak                  |
| • 1993 | Japan                   | Jean Treadway                   |
| • 1994 | India                   | Carrie Wallen                   |
| • 1995 | Scandinavia             | Dave MacNeil                    |
| • 1996 | Italy                   | Pixie Sharp                     |
| • 1997 | England                 | Betty Lopez                     |
| • 1998 | Ireland                 | Gloria Kriewall                 |
| • 1999 | International potpourri | Ralph Worthing                  |

#### Growth in International Travel Study and Learning Options

The travel of Delta College groups to other countries was evident prior to 1987. These trips were led by faculty or staff and included many individuals from the community. They were administered by the Community Affairs division and offered no programming for academic credit. In 1991 the Academic Council developed a policy permitting students to earn academic credit for travel study through Individualized learning projects supervised by faculty. This policy change encouraged the growth of academic options in travel study. Such options have grown in number and diversity, and opportunities for travel study in several countries feature both credit and non credit options.<sup>41</sup> It is estimated that more than 1200 students have participated in travel study to 21 countries since 1991.

<sup>41</sup> Opportunities in travel study for academic credit have become regularized to some countries i.e. France, Italy, Germany and Scandinavia. For seven years the Delta Social Science division has offered an annual seminar, which is partially taught on site at Swinburne College in England.

## Renewing the Vision and Building New Networks of Support – Transitions 1993 - 1995

### **New Leadership at Delta**

**Dr. Peter D. Boyse** was inaugurated as President of Delta College August 27, 1993 succeeding Mr. D.J. Carlyon in the office. As Executive Vice President Dr. Boyse had worked in close support of the college partnership and its activities in Kenya. His appointment as President promised continued leadership and support from that office to International/Intercultural Education and to the Sister College Partnership. Both GAW and the Kenya Partnership Program continued to attract support from individuals and groups in the community.

In January 1995 **Willie Thompson** was named Vice President for Student Services. Mr. Thompson was a

member of the Delta Administrative team who visited RVIST for fact-finding and joint visioning in July 1989; and implemented the Kenya student exchange in 1991. His appointment as Student Services executive strengthened support to the student services division as an internal partner to the continued development of the Delta/RVIST partnership.

President Boyse announced the appointment of **Dr. Betty B. Jones** as Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services in April 1995. Dr. Jones had served one year as Interim Vice President (1994). She continued as Director of the Delta/RVIST Partnership and a key leader in

# In the Beginning . . . Introduction to Kenya 1987



1. Delta Seminar on Kenya
2. Prof. David Campbell and Jack Crowell at Seminar
3. Maureen Eke shares perspectives on women in Kenya
4. Delta Travel Group leaves from Tri-City Airport
5. Duff Zube and Jack Crowell greet Headmaster of Kiirua School in Meru
6. Delta Travel Group meets staff at Rift Valley Institute
7. Delta Travel Group takes part in group dancing
8. Preston Jones meets Masai Morani
9. Dance Instructor Jean Treadway learns Samburan dance moves

Kenya's Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology Team Comes to Delta College 1989



1. President Carlyon, RVIST Principal Samson Nyole and State Representative James Barcia at welcome reception
2. Gene Duckworth
3. Kenya Team in Delta parking lot
4. Kenya Team and deans with hosts from General Motors
5. Men at Ricker Center
6. Women at Ricker Center
7. Kenya Team in computer lab
8. Delta Trustees welcome Nyole to graduate commencement
9. Kenya Team with Betty Jones after commencement

# Celebration Party at the Delta Farmhouse - Kenya Team Presents Appreciation Gifts



1. President Don and Betty Carlyon
2. Principal Samson Nyole presents gifts
3. Nancy Drummond, Business Chair
4. First Lady, Betty Carlyon
5. Alex Songok, Dave Bledsoe and Samson Nyole
6. Betty Jones, Dean
7. Darrell Berry, dean

# Delta Administrative Team at RVIST in Kenya 1989



1. Dr. Betty Jones signs visitors book in office of His Worship, the Mayor in Nakuru
2. Meeting with principals of Kenya Institutes of Technology Assn. (KITA)
3. Dean Darrell Berry signs visitors book at a rural school
4. Samson Nyole introduces Kenya President, His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi
5. Delta Team at Kenya National Agricultural Expo in Nakuru
6. Delta Team greets villagers at a Harambee
7. Principal Nyole with Dr. Jones at RVIST
8. Visit to small manufacturing company in Thika
9. Dr. Jones receives gift of young goat from village leader
10. Dean Willie Thompson with His Worship, the Mayor of Thika and district MP

Photoshop by Nancy Nickerson



# Faculty Team Exchange Activities

KARIBU KENYA FACULTY



Karibu Welcome to Smarts Ogwenoh and Henry Alumasa



Henry Alumasa directs Delta Chorus



Graduation Commencement 1991



Ken Majanga with Tech Division



Bob Keicher loads computers



Team party at Delta Farmhouse



Bob Keicher and Dan Njiriri install computers at RVIST



Henry Alumasa with Edwin Hawkins at Delta Gospel Fest



Principal Menjo with Paul Hill and RVIST staff



Delta Mentors to Womens Project with Chebet Robb



Bon Voyage from the Delta Farmhouse



Bob Keicher posts e-journal to Delta from Kenya

# Student Exchange and Team Activities



Delta students at Masai village with a fellow student.



Student Senator Jarretta Motley



Womens group at RVIST



Higgins Lake Retreat



Field trip with V.P. Willie Thompson



Delta team with faculty mentors at RVIST



Students mixed chorus in concert of International music



Delta "Karibu" to Kenya student team

Karibu/Welome to Delta College III



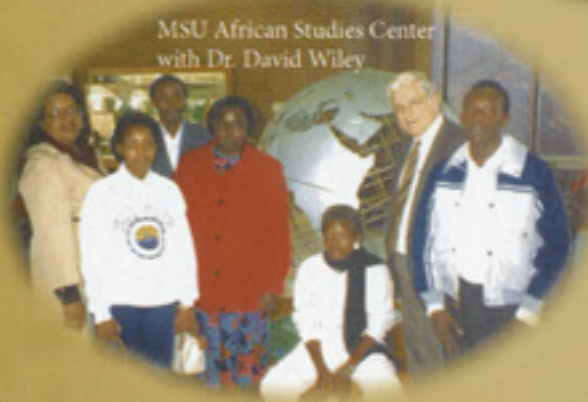
Technical field trip



Delta students demonstration at mall changer



Student book collection for Kenya

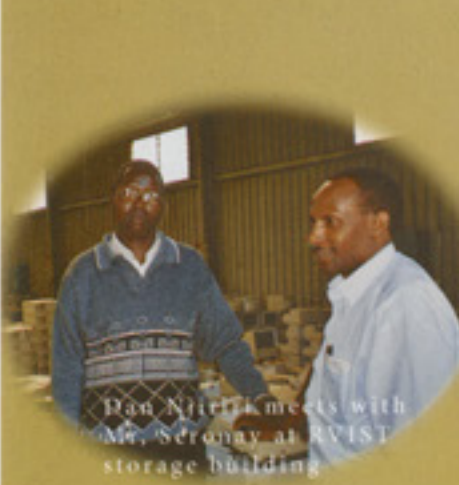


MSU African Studies Center with Dr. David Wiley



Student team with President Boyse and Emeritus Carlyon

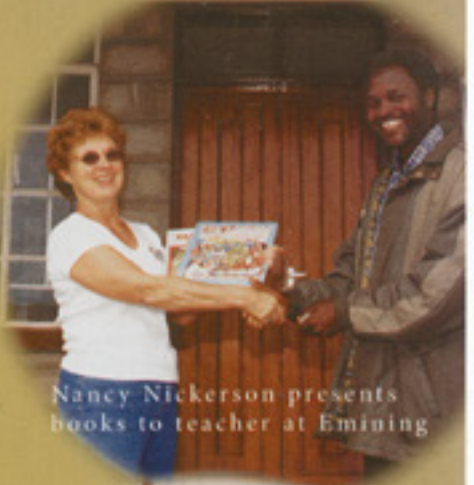
# Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project



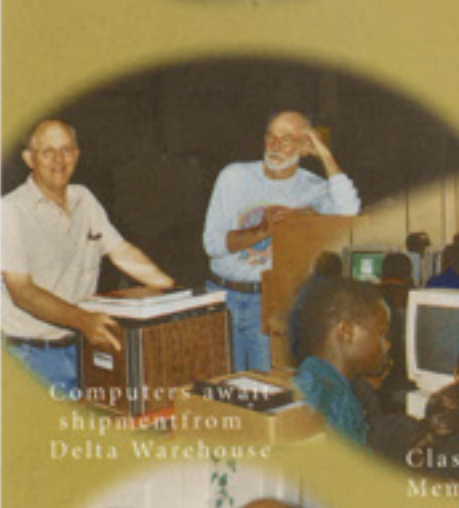
Dan Njiriri meets with Mr. Serony at RVIST storage building



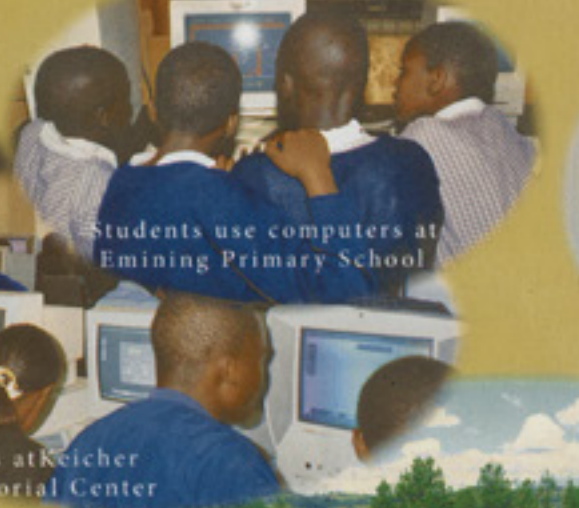
Computer packing team at Delta



Nancy Nickerson presents books to teacher at Emuing



Computers awaiting shipment from Delta Warehouse



Students use computers at Emuing Primary School



NARC Director Dr. Shum Ochieng with Pat Scott and Betty Jones RVIST 1995



Bob Keicher with Jack Crowell



Dan Njiriri with Principal of Emuing



Dan Njiriri with Principal of Emuing



Jack Crowell Rainbow Technology Lab at RVIST 2003

# Telling Our Story



TRENDS Conference 1992



Third World Conference



MSU Award



Midland Rotary Club



LAND Conference



C.I.E.S. International Conference  
in Annapolis, Md 1992



USAID Community College Task  
force in Washington D.C.



Third World  
Conference



AACC Convention with  
Dr. Winnie Emoungu U9IA



MSU Award recipient with Delta  
team support in Lansing



President Peter Boyse and family August 27, 1993

promotion of the partnership at both institutions. Her appointment to the President's Executive staff opened new vistas to promote the benefits of the partnership to Delta and its community.

#### **Recognition from USAID National Task Force and Michigan State University**

Delta College was one of twenty U.S. community colleges invited by USAID to serve on a National Community College Task Force to develop recommendations for ways and models, which would encourage greater involvement of community colleges in implementing USAID strategies for sustainable development in developing countries. Dr. Betty Jones participated as a member of the task force initiated in May 1994. The Delta/RVIST partnership was documented as a sustainable model for development in the final Task force Report.<sup>42</sup>

Dr. Jones received the Glen Taggart Award for Community Contribution to International Understanding at Michigan State University April 13, 1994. She was honored before 400 students and faculty at MSU for her pioneering work in development of international education at a community college. The award presenter focused on several Delta programs for which Dr. Jones provided leadership. These included formalizing the International/Intercultural office, Global Awareness Week with academic options and community outreach, and the successful USIA grant, which initiated the Delta/RVIST Sister College partnership.

#### **Proposal for International Consortium to USAID 1993**

Delta College was invited by USAID to submit a full proposal of the college intent to develop an International Consortium of two Michigan community colleges in partnership with two Kenya Harambee Institutes of Technology for knowledge exchange, technology transfer and dissemination of computer literacy skills in Kenya; and knowledge and skills for International Development in

Michigan. The proposal by the four colleges (Delta College and Lansing Community College in Michigan with Rift Valley Institute and Kiambu Institute in Kenya) was rated highly by the USAID readers. However, it did not make the cut for funding in two cycles of requests (1993 and 1994). USAID funding was subsequently cut and the college declined to make a third proposal in 1995.

#### **Going into 1995**

By 1995, as a result of the transfer and shipment of used computers from donors in Michigan, RVIST evidenced significant transformation as a provincial center for technology and technical education. The Institute documented successful graduates from its diploma program in computer studies; and computer enhanced instruction in other curricula including electronics, business and office systems, and the college library. Student enrollments were increased and faculty morale at the college was high. At Delta College, however, there was concern that while the technology transfer to RVIST was successful, the shared exchange to Delta College was not as evident. The faculty exchange, which was most highly valued at Delta, was stalled for lack of funding.

Several events are notable in 1995 for their impact in shaping the collaborative future of Delta College and its partner institutions in Kenya.

#### **Danret Computer Centre Opens in Nakuru**

In spring 1995, Daniel Njiriri resigned as Director of Computer Studies and Lab Manager at RVIST and opened Danret Computer Centre in Nakuru Town. Danret began as a small business service to offer lessons in computer literacy to individuals in the local community. Mentored by Professor Robert Keicher, Danret grew with equipment from the Used Computer project; and expanded available programs including individualized and group classes for computer literacy, software and varied applications. The opening of Danret proved to be the seed from which the vision for a new college was established in 1998, which would become a second partner to Delta College and RVIST in Kenya.

#### **Delta Sponsors Group Visit of Educators to Kenya 1995**

When a diverse group of ten educators from Michigan and Virginia visited Kenya on a Delta sponsored travel study in

<sup>42</sup> Betty Jones. "Choosing Models: Transferable, Sustainable, Accessible." In Dr. Maxwell King, Chr. Seeking a New Partnership: Task Force Report on U.S. Community Colleges. (Prepared for United States Agency on International Development). May 1995 pp. 32-33

July 1995, they went with a vision. In addition to learning about Kenya and enjoying its national parks and wildlife, an important mission for this group was to meet with Kenyan educators to share their vision of the potential future as collaborators. Members of the group wanted particularly to explore opportunities to initiate exchange involving primary school children and using current technologies (i.e. computers and videos). The group leader was Admissions Specialist Ms. Teresa Stitt, team leader for Delta's student exchange in 1991 and coordinator of mentoring for the Delta/RVIST Women's Group. Local educators included Beverly Westbrook from Delta; Buena Vista Principal Dr. Patricia Scott and Reading teacher Ms. Vernie Williams among other public school educators from Richmond and Norfolk in Virginia. Delta Vice President and Partnership Director Dr. Betty Jones accompanied the group.

In Nairobi the group met with Professor Karega Mutahi, Permanent Minister of Applied Technology and Technical Training. Professor Mutahi praised the Delta/RVIST partnership and its transformative outcomes at RVIST and pledged support from his office to help advance the technology transfer to Harambee Institutes to strengthen technical education in Kenya. He was also positive to the idea of exchange where possible between Kenya students and teachers in primary schools with schools in the U.S., seeing this as a movement toward quality in primary education.

#### RVIST Conference for Educators July 7, 1995

A notable event during the group visit took place at Rift Valley Institute (RVIST), hosted by Principal Francis Z.K. Menjo. A Conference for Educators convened on campus attracted Principals and teachers from RVIST and many of the Kenya Harambee Institutes of Technology (KITA schools); several Principals from local primary schools; the Provincial Education Officer of the Rift Valley Province; faculty from the Women's Study Center at Egerton University and the Director of the African Regional Center for Computing (ARCC). Keynote speakers to the conference were Dr. Betty Jones on "*Shared Vision for a*



Educators group with Prof. Karega Mutahi

*Collaborative Future*" and ARCC Director Dr. Shem Ochuodho on "*ARCC and Computers in Modern Communication*." Other speakers were Kiambu Principal W.W. Muchemi on "*Role of KITA in Strategic Networking*"; Virginia Scientist Dr. Arlington Finley on "*Shared Resources*"; and Egerton University's Dr. Esther Keino on "*Women in Development*." Dr. Pat Scott and Ms. Vernie Williams of Buena Vista Schools in Michigan gave a demonstration of sharing cultural information on a laptop computer.

The RVIST Conference was successful in bringing educational leaders in Kenya together with diverse professionals from the U.S. to dialogue about future possibilities, aspirations and collaborative avenues for resources. The conference was notable for the incredulity expressed by some (i.e. is it really possible?); hopes from others and enthusiasm by all. The values of International collaboration were nurtured; existing resources were identified; and ideas and energy to engage new networks of support were noted as conference outcomes. Also notable was an evening get together and open group conversation in which RVIST women "had their say" in expressing the aspirations of women and girls for leadership opportunities and support.



Global/International Steering Committee 1990

#### Global/International Endowment Established at Delta 1995

Funding of international/intercultural programs to achieve the college vision for faculty and student development continued as a special challenge. Dollars were needed for GAW speakers and scholarships for student study abroad. In 1995 Barbara Tedrow, Director of International/Intercultural Programs worked with Karen MacArthur, Director of the Delta College Foundation to finalize the establishment of a Global Program Endowment as a resource within the Foundation to provide support and continuity in Global Awareness programs. The endowment, envisioned in 1989 attracted contributions from many donors and was realized in 1995.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup> The Delta College Foundation requires \$10,000 to establish an endowment. The Foundation documented more than \$35,000 currently in the Global Endowment.

## Student Study Abroad

Also worthy of note during 1995 is the intentional development by the IIC Steering Committee of membership in International Consortia to encourage student study abroad. Community College International Study (CCIS) and the Association for International Collegiate Education (AICE) became important affiliates to provide information and programs for study at colleges and universities in other countries. The IIC office developed procedures for student

application and selection; and more than \$30,000 in scholarship assistance was provided by the Delta Foundation over three years. As a result an estimated 15 students have been helped to take advantage of study abroad.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>44</sup> The traditional focus of the community college has not encouraged student study abroad. However, the opportunity for learning experience in other countries is of increased importance in liberal arts and workforce development education in a global economy.

## Faces of Kenya – A Parallel Story in the Valleys

### Egerton University Exhibit July 1995

"*Faces of Kenya*" is a related story of the Delta/RVIST partnership story. The vision for this collection of color photographs was born in 1987 when S. Preston Jones visited Kenya with his wife, Betty and was touched by the culture and spirit of the people in this beautiful land. Preston returned with Betty to Kenya in 1989 and with the help of RVIST Principal Samson K. Nyole and the RVIST community, he visited many small villages and towns in the Rift Valley Province, northern and Western Kenya to photograph the people in their everyday life. "*Faces of Kenya*" is the collection of fine art color photographs, which resulted from this contact. The photographs are aesthetically beautiful and intimately revealing as they capture the diverse culture and the vibrant spirit and hopes in the faces and activities of the Kenyan people.

*Faces of Kenya* originated as a spin-off of the Delta Sister College linkage with RVIST, and created an exciting story of its own in the Tale of Two Valleys. The photographic exhibit was initially developed through a grant from the Midland Art Council and the Midland Foundation in Midland, Michigan. Its first public showing was at the Midland Center for the Arts (MCA) in February 1990 and included 85 color photographs. The show opened during Michigan's celebration of African American History Month and its attendance was among the largest then recorded in the history of the Midland Art Council. It attracted special interest from the schools, and many school groups visited the show from Midland and neighboring communities in the Saginaw Valley. *Faces of Kenya* was listed by the Saginaw News as one of the top ten art events in the Saginaw Valley for 1990. The photographs were later shown at Delta College Galleria and the Saginaw Art Museum.

Following this enthusiastic reception in the Tri-Cities, the photographs were sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Arts, and for two years they were shown at art museums



Photo adapted from "Faces of Kenya"

and other locations throughout the state as part of the Michigan Touring Arts program. They were also shown by special arrangement at the University of Kentucky in Lexington (March 1991) and at Hampton University in Virginia (February 1992). At Hampton University, the exhibit was honored by a special visit from Ms. Isabella Koinange, granddaughter of Peter Koinange, a 1932 graduate of HU who later served as Minister of Education in Kenya; and who initiated a collection of African Art at the Hampton University Museum.

At its close in April 1992, forty (40) of the Kenya photographs became part of the permanent collection of the Midland Center for the Arts. These photographs were transferred to the Midland Public Schools and hung for display at the Administration Building and in elementary schools throughout the district. The remaining photographs, part of the artist's personal collection, continue to be shown throughout Michigan by group request and with accompanying lectures.

A dream of S. Preston Jones, the artist and Dr. Betty Jones, Vice President at Delta College, to return *Faces of Kenya* to its homeland for reflection and celebration, was realized in 1995. Through the intervention of Dr. David Wiley, Director of the African Studies Center at Michigan State

University in East Lansing, the Joneses were invited by Vice Chancellor Dr. Japhet Kiptoon to bring photographs from the artist's collection to Kenya for exhibition and lecture at Egerton University. A campus reception at the university was attended by the Principal and Staff of RVIST, and Dr. Betty B. Jones along with the group of Michigan educators on a travel study mission sponsored by Delta College (July 17, 1995). Egerton hosted forty-three of the Kenya photographs for exhibition at the USAID Building on campus throughout July 1995. Also attending were Principals from KITA (i.e. Kenya Institutes of Technology). Following the Egerton exhibition the photographs were also displayed in February 1996 by FUGI Kenya Ltd at the new House of Vanguard in Nairobi by invitation of Marketing Director Peter James.<sup>45</sup>

After an enthusiastic reception in their homeland, the photographs were returned to Michigan in January 1996.<sup>46</sup> The audience of viewers had been both large and diverse; and spread over four states in the U.S. and in Kenya. "Faces of Kenya" captured the warmth, beauty and aspirations of the people of Kenya at a unique time in their history when cultural traditions would be impacted by social development and change. It was a time when art and education could make a difference in the National future.

<sup>45</sup> Art professor Lawrence Oughton designed and installed the exhibit at Egerton U. and in Nairobi.

<sup>46</sup> The 1995 exhibit of "Faces of Kenya" was facilitated with assistance of the Delta College Foundation and of Ms. Mariane Scott, Information Officer at the US Embassy in Nairobi.

## A New Technology Initiative is Launched in Kenya The Rural School Books and Computer Project

### An Innovation takes Root

As is often true with grass roots projects, situations have a certain amount of fluidity and when need meets opportunity one thing can easily lead to another. When Professor Jack Crowell went to Kenya on sabbatical leave in January 1995 his primary mission was to teach Math classes at RVIST. However, a second mission was to be on hand to receive the first large shipment of 86 computers from donors in the Saginaw Valley along with 5,000 books destined for the RVIST library.<sup>47</sup> The computers were installed at RVIST and resulted in two additional instructional labs on campus.<sup>48</sup> In addition to books collected for RVIST, the shipment also included children's books donated by Buena Vista Schools and school children in Bangor Township for children in Kenya. In delivering books to the rural schools, Professor Crowell had an opportunity to explore the potential for primary schools to use computers in student learning.

The **Rural School Books and Computer Project** took root with the arrival in Kenya of the second sea container of books and computers from Delta College in January 1997. This shipment provided a surplus of computers beyond those needed by RVIST and offered the opportunity to introduce a program for computer literacy in Kenya's rural schools. In an innovative move while awaiting delivery of the shipment, Jack Crowell<sup>49</sup> arranged to transfer several Apple IIe systems from RVIST to Moi Primary School in Eldoret for experimental use by the children. RVIST Principal Francis Menjo cooperated in this move with the promise that these computers would be replaced when the second shipment arrived. The presentation of the Moi Primary Lab received national radio and TV coverage in Kenya.

The second shipment from Delta reached Kenya in late April 1997 in a 40-foot container with 246 computers and several thousand books. A Kenya team was formed in Summer 1997 by Daniel Njiriri, Principal of Tracom College in cooperation with RVIST and Delta to devise a fair and equitable process for selecting 10 schools throughout the country as pilot schools in the new **Rural School Books**



F. Dunn, B. Keicher and J. Crowell at Midland Rotary

<sup>47</sup> Jack Crowell facilitated this first large shipment of a 40-foot sea container of books and computers, which left Saginaw by truck in fall 1994. The shipment was transported by ship to Kenya and scheduled for arrival in the port at Mombasa in January 1995. It would go through customs in Mombasa and be transported by truck to RVIST.

<sup>48</sup> These computers included both IBM compatible and Apple II systems, which enhanced the lab development initiated by Prof. Robert Keicher in 1991.

<sup>49</sup> Jack Crowell: "Nobody Took my Mushroom." Report to Academic Office on Activities in Kenya. June 4, 1997. Jack reported arrival of the shipment container April 16, 1997. It took Jack and Menjo 3 days in Mombasa over three weeks to gain government clearance and transport of the container to RVIST.



**and Computer Project (RSBCP).** The pilot schools would each receive 10 computers for a small lab and several hundred books to start a library. Bob Keicher came to Nakuru in summer 1997 and worked with Dan Njiriri for five weeks to set up the rural school computer labs and provide training for teachers on the use of computers in the classroom.

In shared responsibility for the RSBCP, **RVIST** became the key agency for storage and distribution of books and computers to the schools; while **Danret Computer Centre** provided training for the teachers. **The African Regional Center for Computing (ARCC)** agreed to plan and organize an Annual Regional Conference “Computers in Education” to be held at RVIST.

Ten pilot schools were selected to participate in the Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project in 1997. A plan was established which set out the responsibilities of each of the partners to the project (including the pilot schools) and established procedures for operation. The pilot schools were:

- Moi Primary School Nakuru
- Moi Primary School Eldoret
- Emining Primary School Eldama Ravine
- Kisanana Secondary School Nakuru
- Kimunyu Secondary School Thika
- Sosiot Girls Secondary School Kericho
- Nunguni AIC Girls School Nunguni
- Mbooni Girls Secondary School Mbooni
- Aruntani Girls Secondary School Soltau via Nakuru
- Ngetmoi Secondary School Baringo

Even with this modest beginning, word spread fast about the **Rural School Books and Computer Project** and many schools applied to participate. Seven more containers have been shipped to Kenya since this startup of the RSBCP in 1997. As of October 2004 more than 4000 computers have been shipped through the RSBCP along with thousands of books and other learning materials – all donated by the Saginaw Valley communities in Michigan. These computers and learning materials have been given a new and productive life in the hands of rural school children in Kenya. More than 300 rural schools throughout the country now participate in this unique program – from Lodwar in the north, to Loitokitok in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and Mombasa on the coast.

As exciting as the RSBCP story is, there was a time when the program was in peril. In 1999, four containers with 1800 computers sat on the dock at Mombasa for almost two years awaiting release by the Kenyan government. Near the end of the second year Professor Bob Keicher made a personal trip to Kenya determined to get the release approved during the two weeks he had available. His efforts were frustrated

and he returned home disappointed; the success of his mission was finally realized two months later with the government’s release of the computers. The four containers represented a significant commitment of time, effort and money on the part of many individuals and groups to get critically needed resources to children in Kenya. Had the mission failed to get the four containers released, the RSBCP would have come abruptly to an end. However, these crucial shipments in 1999 allowed the program to expand from 20 schools to 200, providing books and technology to rural school children who would have had little hope of ever experiencing the learning value of such equipment and materials without this initiative.

### **Local Support of the Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project**

Local support for the donation of used computers for Kenya was growing in the Saginaw Valley and many donations were received from schools and agencies - some as far away as Detroit. A team of Delta volunteers worked with Jack Crowell and Bob Keicher to repair and pack the computers for shipment. Volunteers included Jim Verhanowitz, Jim Roznowski, Jim Ham, Ron Sharpe, Habib Kheil and others. General Motors Corporation guided the shipping arrangements and sponsored the first two shipments through their shipping agent.

### **Delta Partners in the Saginaw Valley**

As word spread throughout the Saginaw Valley about Delta’s “Computers to Kenya” project, donations of books, computers and other learning materials grew. The Delta team needed a place to store the donated computers during repair and dollars to fund the large shipments via 40-foot sea containers.<sup>50</sup> While General Motors Inc. had funded the first two shipments to Kenya; more sponsors were needed to underwrite succeeding shipments. **Crowell and Keicher approached The Midland Rotary Club** with a request for support of the computer shipments to Kenya. As Chair of the Club Foundation, Fred Dunn led his club to award a grant of \$12,000 to the Delta project. As Fred became more aware of the impact of this project in Kenya, he contributed to the project in other ways and became a full member of Delta’s Kenya team (See In Memory).

**The Delta Foundation** has been a continued support to the Rural School Books and Computer Program and other projects as well. Ms. Karen MacArthur has served as an adviser to the Sister College partnership and was a member of the support team from the beginning.

<sup>50</sup> Delta team leader Jack Crowell estimated \$4,600 for shipping each 40-foot container from Saginaw. In 2005 this cost has risen sharply to \$6700.

# A New Vision for Year 2000 and Beyond

## **RVIST Principal F. Z. K. Menjo Visits Delta 1996**

As the partnership looked anxiously at Year 2000 (Y2K), Both institutions were eager to do a joint review of goals and outcomes in preparation for the new century. At the invitation of Dr. Peter Boyse, RVIST Principal Francis Z.K. Menjo visited Delta College in October 1996 and met extensively with the Delta team. As a result, the Delta/RVIST Partnership was renewed with a new vision and desired outcomes for both schools. The Renewal Agreement of October 1996 was signed by Dr. Peter Boyse and Dr. Betty Jones for Delta; and Mr. Francis Z.K. Menjo for Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology.

The 1996 agreement affirmed the guiding purpose of the International Partnership and the commitment of both institutions to collaboration and educational exchange. Further, the vision statements by each college reflect their expanded aspirations to meet the challenges of Y2K.

## **Rift Valley Institute Advances New Vision 1996**

*"RVIST will be a real college providing education for employment, university transfer, and computer skills training for business and industry."*

*Francis Z.K. Menjo Oct. 1996*

In considering the partnership outcomes over time, this new vision statement is significant and worthy of note. It expresses the desire of RVIST for transformation from the limitations of the Harambee Technical Institute to enter the mainstream of post secondary education in Kenya; and to be connected and articulated with the Kenya University system for transfer. In addition, the Institute envisions a technical capacity to serve the training needs for business and industry. These new roles emerged as a result of the exchange experience in the Sister College International Partnership, and the vision is modeled after the comprehensive community college in the U.S. There is no doubt that this is a bold vision for RVIST. However, it is one, which the Institute believed it could achieve within the Delta/RVIST partnership.

## **Delta College Aspires to be a Learning College**

*"Delta College is a learning-centered institution that focuses on the post secondary learning needs of the community. The college provides quality-learning opportunities and recognizes that learning can take place twenty-four hours a day, every day, in and out of the classroom, on and off campus. Learning is our primary measure of success."*

*Dr. Peter D. Boyse, 1995*

This too is the language of transformation. The new vision of Delta College is responsive to new developments in the local and global environment which require faster learning curves; new and diverse ways of learning, and the need to offer learning opportunities at the times and places most convenient for students to access them. It reflects Delta's commitment to develop the technology capacity and instructional strategies for distance learning; and Delta's engagement as a founding member of the **Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Network**, for which Delta President Peter Boyse served on the Board of Directors. It is not surprising that the desired outcomes for Delta in the RVIST agreement (1996) included the development of a transfer Associate degree for enrollment of Kenya students through electronic delivery of academic courses to RVIST.<sup>51</sup> Such a degree could link RVIST to the Delta transfer system and facilitate International student transfer to U.S. University programs for which the Kenya educational system provided no entry.

Continued development of the RVIST Library, faculty and staff development, and opportunities for student exchange remained high priority desired outcomes for both institutions as their leaders looked toward Y2K.

## **Tracom College of Professional Studies Opens in Nakuru 1998**

Daniel Njiriri was recruited from his successful business at Danret Computer Center in 1996 to serve as Academic Principal of Tracom College, a small technical College in Nakuru. Tracom had contracted with Danret for instruction in computer applications, a growing need in education. The college sought competent leadership to develop the internal focus and resources at Tracom to meet the growing need. Dan Njiriri had demonstrated his competence as a skilled leader in the Delta/RVIST partnership and maintained international contacts. As Academic Principal at Tracom, he applied a strong vision and commitment to service in his community. Again . . . vision and need met at the crossroad of opportunity. When Tracom was offered for sale in 1997 Dan Njiriri was well qualified and positioned to take over the college.

Tracom College was acquired with the extensive assistance of Hon. William Morogo, MP and in partnership with Hon. Mutula wa Kilonzo, EBS. SC. Mr. Kilonzo is a well-known

<sup>51</sup> As a founding member of MCCVLN Delta was a primary deliverer of Internet based classes on line to students all over Michigan and beyond. An electronic campus at RVIST was a practical concept, which was discussed by both schools as a collaborative effort; however limited resources were a barrier to its implementation. This concept remains on the table for future reference.

attorney and Minister of Parliament; and a national advocate for postsecondary education in Kenya. Dan Njiriri entered into partnership with Mr. Kilonzo to purchase Tracom College in 1998. Mr. Kilonzo currently chairs the Tracom Board of Governors.

Tracom College Ltd. was incorporated and opened in 1998 with a new vision aligned with the Delta/RVIST Partnership. As a private college, Tracom envisioned improved access to education for Kenya and its neighbors through partnerships with universities at home and abroad. Such partnerships were an important innovation nationally in Kenya as there had been no prior connection with the university system. In this way, the success of the Delta/RVIST partnership became a catalyst for other educational developments initiated by Tracom in Kenya.

With mentoring and support from Delta professors Bob Keicher and Jack Crowell, Principal Dan Njiriri moved boldly to serve the Rift Valley Province and beyond. In response to growing demand for other courses, the college quickly expanded its programs. Tracom currently offers Certificate and Diploma programs in three major areas: (a) Information and Communication Technology; (b) Business Studies; and (c) Health Sciences. Enrollments continue to grow and Tracom has three facilities.

### **The Tracom College Vision**

*Tracom College will provide education for employment, university transfer and technology skills training for business and industry in Kenya and neighboring countries. Tracom will be a central gateway for Kenyan students to achieve Associate and Baccalaureate degrees in fields of high community need through development of International Articulation Agreements and collaborative programming with Delta College and its associated transfer institutions in Michigan.*

### **Tracom Principal Dan Njiriri Visits Delta: Articulation Agreement 2002**

The visit of Tracom Principal Dan Njiriri and his wife, Margaret was much like a reunion or homecoming. Dan had been part of the RVIST exchange in Student Services at Delta in 1991 when he had teamed with Nancy Nickerson, Dr. Burton Fettig and Teresa Stitt. He made many friends at Delta and the exchange experience led him to develop knowledge and skill in computer technology and software applications. At Delta Dan became a protege and colleague of Professor Bob Keicher and later worked with Bob to design and set up the first computer lab at RVIST. As the RVIST computer expert, Dan Njiriri was then promoted from his position as Admissions Director to be the Head of Department (HOD) for Computer Studies at RVIST. In this position, he developed a diploma program in computer studies, which articulated with a British University; and which trained many successful graduates.

In 2002 Dan's mission was to initiate an articulation agreement between Tracom and Delta College. At Delta he worked with Gail Hoffman Johnson, Articulation Director; and identified areas with high potential for articulation. It was decided that the first two areas would be Nursing and Accounting. The Nursing team leader is Professor Betty Rickey; and team leader in Accounting is Professor Richard Howden.

President Peter Boyse signed Delta's first articulation agreement with Tracom College under the Partnership Agreement with Delta College and Rift Valley Institute on December 11, 2002.



**Partnership Renewal 1996**

## Partnership Innovations Enter the Mainstream in Kenya 2003 - 2004

### The Robert Keicher Memorial Center for Information Technology at Tracom College

"When Professor Bob" died in February 2003, a memorial service was held for him at Tracom College. Shortly after, Tracom opened the Robert Keicher Memorial Center for Information Technology in June 2003. The Keicher Memorial Center occupied a separate facility and was dedicated in a public ceremony June 13, 2003 by Professor Jack Crowell of Delta; and Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, EBS, MP and Chairman of the Tracom Board of Governors.

### Tracom College Agreement with Kenyatta University 2003

It is worthy of note that establishment of the Keicher Memorial Center was the key factor in a unique Agreement forged by Tracom College and Kenyatta University. This Agreement stipulated that Tracom College would provide one and one half years of training to Kenyatta students in Information Technology. As a result, students enrolled at the University of Kenyatta attend the Robert Keicher Memorial Center for Information Technology to earn course credits, which will be applied to their degree program. This agreement between Tracom and Kenyatta U. was unique in Kenya, and signaled the breakdown of prior barriers between technical schools and universities in the Kenya system. It also demonstrates one more long-term impact of the successful Delta/RVIST International partnership as a catalyst to other developments in the future of Kenya education.

### NICE: A New Consortium for Computerization in Kenya Schools 2003

The Rural Schools Computer Project was invited to join in a consortium of other organizations dealing with computerization in Kenya schools. Known as the Network of Initiatives for Computer Education (NICE), the new consortium was formed in Spring 2003; and brought together key players to the vision of providing computer technology in Kenyan schools i.e. Computers for Schools, Canada and Digital Links, and UK among others. The NICE objectives are to provide at least ten computers in each of the 4000 government schools over 3 years. It was revealed at the first meeting that the Rural Schools Books and Computer Project had already covered 240 of these schools, the next highest being 50 schools covered by Computers for Schools. The high record of computerization and the national geographic coverage demonstrated by the RSBCP brought this group national attention. As Kenya Chair of

the RSBCP, Dan Njiriri was invited to serve as Vice Chair on the Board of NICE; and RVIST Principal Justus H.K. Kosgei was appointed to the NICE Board. NICE is fully recognized by the Kenya Ministry of Education for Implementation of Computers in Public Primary and Secondary Schools.

### Delta Group Visits Kenya in September 2003

A Delta travel study group to Kenya which was planned for June 2003 was cancelled due to U.S. State Department warnings, and cancellation by British Airways of their carriers to Nairobi. However, four of the original participants traveled to Kenya in September 2003 to attend the opening of "*Faces of Kenya*;" and to review the Delta/RVIST Partnership with the new Principal at RVIST and update the language for inclusion of Tracom College as a new partner.

The Delta group included Vice President Emeritus Dr. Betty B. Jones, S. Preston Jones, Anthony Jones and Nancy Nickerson. A letter of introduction from President Peter Boyse to RVIST and Tracom described their mission as one for fact finding and data gathering on the long-term impacts of the Delta partnership. During their visit at RVIST the team met at length with Principal J.F.K. Kosgei and the Heads of Departments for update information and documentation of progress on outcomes of the partnership there. Meetings were also held with Tracom Principal Daniel Njiriri and his staff, which included a review of the Rural School Computer Project.

### Delta Water Project Completed at RVIST 2003

One of the most exciting events for this Delta group was a visit to the Delta Water Project. After ten years, the water pump, which was presented to RVIST from the Delta community in 1993, was fully installed with an electric engine and pipelines to the RVIST campus. Installation of the pump was delayed many years due to serious complications with placement and quality of the borehole. Finally in 1997, RVIST negotiated with the Ministry of Water Resources to allow rehabilitation of one of their boreholes to convert from diesel to electric propelled. As a result, the Institute was able to successfully install the pump in 2003. The Water pump now serves a total population of 3,105, including 1400 staff and students on the campus as well as other families in the neighboring farm community. As a result of the new pump, the water problem at RVIST has been significantly reduced.

### Dr. Betty B. Jones Library and Learning Center Inaugurated at RVIST 2003

When Dr. Betty Jones visited Kenya in September 2003 with her husband, Preston; their son Anthony, and Delta colleague Nancy Nickerson; it never occurred to her that an honor was in store for her. In a surprise and festive ceremony on the RVIST campus September 17, 2003 the RVIST Principal, faculty and staff inaugurated the newly renovated Campus Library as the **Dr. Betty B. Jones Library and Learning Center** to honor the work of Dr. Jones as Founding Director of the Delta/RVIST Partnership; and to recognize her continuing vision, interest and donor support to development of the RVIST Library as a learning center for students. From a small space with little light and few books observed during the first team visit in 1989, the library has been transformed to a more updated facility to better meet student needs for study and learning. The new library occupies a single building of three large well-lighted rooms. The book collection is diverse including books, which support the curricula; books for general reading of fiction and non-fiction; magazines and technical journals. Spaces are furnished for student study. The library is computerized for cataloging and checkout procedures; and various learning media are available to students i.e. videos and CDs for reference and textbooks. Through a gift of the Jones family the library purchased a multimedia computer, scanner and printer, which was installed to enhance the library resources for information access (January 2004).<sup>52</sup>

### Dedication of the Jack Crowell Rainbow Technology Lab at RVIST

The groundbreaking work of Delta Math Professor Jack Crowell is known throughout the Rift Valley Province. Stories of Jack's innovations in Kenya are legend, and even small children in villages across the country know "Professor Jack" on sight. Jack first entered Kenya as the initiator of Peace Corps projects at Kirrhua School in Meru and Solar energy projects in the mountain villages of Kenya. He has traveled widely in Kenya and is viewed by children and their parents as the Delta College computer man.

From the beginning of Delta's Sister College Linkage with RVIST, the vision and innovations of Professor Jack have shaped activities on both sides of the ocean. When Dave Bledsoe installed the first Apple IIe computer, which was used by Jeanne Mallak to teach Computer Literacy, it was Jack Crowell who guided the installation by telephone from Delta College. When Bob Keicher established the first computer lab at RVIST with Dan Njiriri, Professor Jack was a member of that team before, during and after the installation. While Jack Crowell did not actually GO on exchange to RVIST until 1995, he was there in spirit and as a guide to others from the beginning in 1989. It is not

possible to speak of technology transfer to Kenya without speaking of Professor Jack Crowell.

To commemorate and honor the many contributions of Professor Jack at RVIST and in the transfer of technology to Kenya schools, RVIST dedicated the Jack Crowell Rainbow Technology Lab on September 17, 2003. Dr. Betty Jones dedicated the lab; and Jack was lauded as a model colleague and International innovator for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>53</sup>

### "Faces of Kenya" Dedicated as First Permanent Exhibit at Lord Egerton Castle Museum

In a large public ceremony on the grounds of Lord Egerton Castle in Njoro, "Faces of Kenya" was opened to the public and dedicated September 18, 2003 as the first Permanent Art exhibit at the newly opened Lord Egerton Castle Museum sponsored by Egerton University, a close neighbor to RVIST. The program was attended by many dignitaries including Ministers of the Kenya Parliament (i.e. MPs for Culture and Gender and for Community Development); the Provincial Minister of Technology and Technical Training; and Peter Claussen, Information Officer from the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Faculty, staff and students from Egerton University and RVIST were in attendance as were many primary school groups who performed traditional songs and dances as part of the program. Many of the schools sang songs, which thanked the Delta visitors by name for coming and for the gift of computers.

S. Preston Jones spoke to the group of how "Faces" came to be created and of its prior history in Michigan;<sup>54</sup> and expressed his joy that the exhibit had returned home to live among the beautiful people to whom it is dedicated. Dr. Betty Jones delivered a keynote, which presented the story of the Delta/RVIST Partnership and identified "Faces of Kenya" as one of the spin-off projects, which resulted. She used an expression, which was picked up by other speakers at the celebration i.e. "God is not through with us yet. There is an opportunity for other actors to enter as partners to a growing vision in Kenya." Dr. Jones also made a formal presentation of computers to the Egerton Primary School on behalf of the Rural School Books and Computer Program.

<sup>52</sup> Dr. Jones retired from Delta College as Vice President of Instruction and Director of the Sister College Partnership in June 2001. However, she has maintained high interest and support to Delta/RVIST activities through active membership on Delta's Kenya Planning team and as a fact finder and consultant to the President's office regarding vision and directions in the project.

<sup>53</sup> Other facilities, which celebrate Professor Jack, are The Jack Crowell Math Library at Moi University, and the Jack Crowell Library at the Robert Keicher Memorial Center for Information Technology at Tracom.

<sup>54</sup> "Faces of Kenya: A Tribute to the People of Kenya." Photographs by S. Preston Jones. Commemorative Catalog of the Collection edited by B. Jones. September 2003.

#### New Internet Wireless Network Installed at Tracom College 2004

Tracom College was invited to participate with an International Consortia of schools sponsored by universities in Canada to develop distance-learning strategies; and to provide a test site for demonstration. As one of the test sites, Tracom received installation of a new Internet Wireless network in April 2004. This new capacity at Tracom College opens the door for development of one of Delta's desired outcomes earlier envisioned as "the Electronic Campus."

#### Kenya Establishes the ICT Trust in Partnership with Microsoft 2004

Kenyan companies under the leadership of Dr. Shem Ochuoda formed the ICT Trust to raise money to help NICE and the government to implement computerization in all schools by 2009; and implement technology at all levels in the school curriculum. In launching the multi-million Ksh Information Communication Technology Trust Fund,

Education Minister George Saitoti said ICT was indispensable for rapid socioeconomic development in the country. The Trust Fund is an initiative by more than fifteen private and public companies who are listed as sponsors and began with Ksh 10 million as seed capital.<sup>55</sup>

Mr. Saitoti announced that Microsoft, Inc had established a state-of-the-art computer refurbishment centre in Nairobi to serve the East and Central African region. The centre has the capacity to re-install programs on 4000 computers per month, which would then subsequently be distributed to the schools.

It is exciting to note that the **Microsoft Refurbishment Centre** is a concept, which was pioneered and demonstrated by the **Rural School Computer Project!** What started as an innovative idea and concept with Delta/RVIST/Tracom; with commitment, donors and volunteers from the three colleges making small steps, has been transformed into the **National ICT Plan**. Our idea has hit the mainstream!

<sup>55</sup> "Saitoti Launches Schools' ICT Fund." East African Standard, July 20, 2004.

## **Building on the Past . . . Transitions into the Learning Future**

### **New Players and Recognition in an Expanding Network of Learners**

The exciting developments in 2003 and 2004 introduced new players and opened up new vistas in the Delta/RVIST/Tracom (DRT) International partnership. As the vision and possibilities for computer technology in Kenyan schools moved into national view as a strategic goal with broad support from the ICT, other innovations were "in the making" at a local level in the Saginaw Valley of Michigan as well as the Rift Valley in Kenya.

#### Ms. Nancy Nickerson Advises Tracom and RVIST in Kenya ...and Educates Community Groups in the Saginaw Valley

Following her introduction at Tracom College and RVIST in September 2003,<sup>45</sup> Ms. Nancy Nickerson remained as a guest of her colleague from the RVIST exchange in 1991, Tracom Principal Dan Njiriri to learn more about the programs for student support at Tracom and RVIST, and to provide help and advice where needed. Ms. Nickerson retired from Delta College in 2002 as Director of Career Planning and Placement Services. At Tracom and RVIST she found many opportunities to share her expertise with faculty and staff; and also to learn about the country.

A value which developed upon Mrs. Nickerson's return home was a fresh vision of Kenya as a developing country.

Her opportunity for work on site at Tracom and RVIST, and for travel in different regions of the country was accompanied by her keen observations of Kenya culture among the people and its institutions; and her ability to capture this in color photographs. A protege of S. Preston Jones, Ms. Nickerson returned with many, many photographs which she organized into varied computerized power point programs for presentation to primary schools and community groups. Her narrated pictorial presentation to "People to People" was videotaped and broadcast for multiple viewings in the Midland community on MCTV. The effect was renewed interest in Kenya among schools and community groups in Midland and neighboring districts.

#### Vice Chancellor of Kenya's Egerton University Visits Delta in USAID Sponsored Tour

In a USAID sponsored tour of U.S. Colleges, Universities and Other Institutions Professor Ezra K. Maritim, Vice

<sup>45</sup>Nancy Nickerson traveled to Kenya with Betty and Preston Jones in September 2003 where she assisted Betty in gathering data for a study of partnership impacts. At the invitation of Dan Njiriri, she remained for one month of special assistance to Tracom and RVIST; and lived with the Njiriri family in Nakuru. Ms. Nickerson was a member of the 1991 Student Services team at Delta which mentored Dan Njiriri.

Chancellor of Egerton University visited Michigan in May 2004. As Chair of the Board of Governors at Rift Valley Institute, Dr. Maritim requested that Delta College be scheduled in his itinerary for Michigan.

In Midland, Michigan May 1-4, Dr. Maritim was hosted by Betty and Preston Jones with Jack and Anita Crowell; and visited the Delta Warehouse for the Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project (RSBCP). Their discussions focused, among other issues, on continued support for the Delta/RVIST partnership, and continued supply of computers for RVIST and for the RSBCP. In his report to USAID Dr. Maritim defined two major challenges for sustainability of the RSBCP: (1) Rising costs of shipping and need for a stable funding source, and (2) funding for an outreach training program for teachers in Kenya on the productive use of computers in teaching and learning.<sup>46</sup> One of his proposed solutions was a semester course at Egerton University for primary school teachers on the use of technology in the classroom; with a required attachment to train other teachers in rural schools.

Delta President Peter Boyse sponsored a day on campus for Dr. Maritim including a tour of the College instructional and lab facilities; and meetings with Delta campus leaders and executives, including Ms. Karen MacArthur, Executive Director of the Delta Foundation and Mr. Barry Baker, Director of Delta's Public Broadcasting Station (Delta QTV). Both these areas are of special interest at Egerton U. Ms. Edith Wacksman and Dr. Tom Lane, Chair and Vice Chair of the Delta College Board of Trustees, also met with Dr. Maritim.

An added value of the Delta visit for Dr. Maritim involved visiting and meeting with some of Delta's partners for education in Midland. These included President David E. Fry and Vice President Robert Serum at Northwood University; and Mr. Michael Tiknis, CEO of the Midland Center for the Arts.<sup>47</sup> Also included in the visits were Dr. Lawrence Reed, President of the Makinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute. At Michigan State University in Lansing, Dr. Maritim met with Dr. Jack Schulle, Dean for International Studies in Education; Ms. Anne Schneller, Director of Graduate Teacher Education; and Dr. David Wiley, Director of the African Studies Center.<sup>48</sup> In Michigan, ideas were set in motion which could link Delta, MSU and Egerton in a Student Study Abroad program; and Delta with Egerton in technology training for teachers.

#### Principal of Rift Valley Institute Visits Delta for Partnership Renewal October 2004

At the invitation of Dr. Peter Boyse, Mr. J.F.K. Kosgei, Principal of RVIST visited Delta September 26 – October 20, 2004 with his wife Mrs. Pauline Jerop Kosgei. This



Mr. and Mrs. Kosgei at Delta reception

visit by the Kosgeis was an opportunity to share a month of the Delta College experience, meet the campus community and share cultural information in the college and community. In addition, Mr. Kosgei visited the Delta Warehouse with Jack Crowell and John Dunn;<sup>49</sup> and was an onsite observer to preparing the 7<sup>th</sup> shipment of books, computers, software and other learning materials from Delta to Kenya. The packed 40 foot container left Saginaw by truck on September 27 headed to the port in New York where it would leave by sea for Kenya.<sup>50</sup> Mr. Kosgei was a presenter at the 2004 TRENDS Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Mrs. Kosgei was a frequent speaker to classes at Delta and to children in local community schools. The Kosgeis were also interviewed on Delta QTV as guests of Linda Holoman, host of "Soul Issues."

On September 29, 2004 in a ceremony attended by members of the Delta campus community and officers of the Delta Board of Trustees, the Delta/RVIST Partnership Renewal was signed for Delta by Dr. Peter Boyse, President with Donald Halog, Vice President of Instruction; and Principal Mr. J.F.K. Kosgei for RVIST. The partnership renewal was written to include Tracom College as a third partner to the agreement in a shared vision for collaboration and mutual goals into 2010.

<sup>46</sup> Ezra K. Maritim. Vice Chancellor's Report to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on Visit to Colleges, Universities and Other Institutions in USA and UK April 25-May 22, 2004. June 2004. See section 7.0 on Delta College, pp. 15-17.

<sup>47</sup> Midland Center for the Arts sponsored the first showing of "Faces of Kenya" in the Saginaw Valley in 1990, and provided contact and coordination for the photographs to travel for two years throughout the state with the Michigan Council for the Arts.

<sup>48</sup> The visit to MSU was added to the itinerary at Dr. Maritim's request to Dr. B. Jones and arranged enroute by car to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

<sup>49</sup> John Dunn, retired from the faculty of Delta College, donated space to store and pack computers and learning materials for the Kenya RSBCP in a warehouse he owns in Saginaw, MI.

<sup>50</sup> All the computers and learning materials for the RSBCP are received from individual, group and organizational donors in the Saginaw Valley and other communities in Michigan. The RSBCP offers an opportunity of mutual advantage for both donor and recipient. The cost of shipping a computer to Kenya has been calculated to be \$10 per machine; cost of local disposal is approximately twice as much.

## Innovator for All Seasons – Jack Crowell in Kenya Fall 2004

Continuous innovation is the signature of Delta College and Professor Jack Crowell is an innovator for all seasons. “Professor Jack” left Delta for Kenya only days after the Kosgeis departed for home on October 20. His primary mission was to receive the seventh 40 foot container of books, computers, software and learning materials at RVIST, assist with installation of equipment for lab updating at Tracom and RVIST, and install new projects at RVIST and other sites in Kenya. The shipment from Saginaw Valley donors contained varied equipment and media software which envisioned new innovations leading to the use of multimedia in teaching and learning to improve the quality of education in Kenya; and increased access to information technology at a community level. Two donor grants would be used to purchase new equipment for special projects in Kenya.

In addition to recycled equipment from the shipment, “Professor Jack” purchased equipment in Kenya to introduce the concept of the “*Internet Book Shop*” in which students will be able to download books in public domain from the Internet and print them for individual or classroom use.<sup>51</sup> Downloaded books on CD were given to the RVIST library to demonstrate this learning strategy.

- At RVIST the **Dr. Betty Jones Library and Learning Center**, inaugurated in two classrooms of a three classroom block in 2003, was expanded to the third classroom and now occupies the entire building. The addition was installed with software, video and a CD book collection to provide a media room for use by students and staff. Six computers with video input cards will make it possible for students to read textbooks on CD and play educational videos. The media center also has a new laser printer; a 3 in 1 printer/scanner/color copier; and a Pentium 4 computer to implement the “*Internet Book Shop*” for students and staff at RVIST. In addition, a PC computer for library staff will be used to computerize the library system for cataloguing and distribution of all materials i.e. books, videos, CDs, audiotapes and software. This new capacity for a Media Center at RVIST was donated by a Delta sponsor and the center is the first of its kind in Kenya.

- In addition to the innovations at RVIST, “Professor Jack” installed equipment to support the development of *Internet Book Shops* at TRACOM College and in the Jack Crowell Math Library at MOI University. Both Tracom and Moi have networked access to the Internet and to a web site from which they can actually download books in public domain. Because of the low availability and high cost of textbooks in Kenya, this new capacity to access books via the *Internet Book Shop*, a strategic innovation in Kenya, will make a significant difference in teaching and learning in the classroom and community.

- Other innovations initiated by “Professor Jack” include a Learning Resource Classroom for the Preschool at Moi University with childrens books, software and videos, computers and video equipment. This innovation will demonstrate an opportunity for preschool children to gain a head start in education, following a similar path by children in the U.S.

- Kenya Technical Training College (KTTC) in Nairobi was instrumental in development of the electronics laboratory at RVIST. At the request of KTTC Principal Mr. Umbale, a similar electronics lab was created at KTTC containing 12 computers with electronic circuit simulation.<sup>52</sup> The college also received equipment to initiate an electronics library. In cooperation with Tracom College in Nakuru, KTTC has agreed to host a three-week workshop for 20 secondary physics teachers in August 2005. The August workshop will focus on the use of computers for a portable science lab in teaching and learning physics.

- **A Proposal to Kenya ICT** was developed and submitted by Jack Crowell from the Rural School Books and Computer Program. The proposal requested support for RSBCP to establish a Center for Computer Refurbishing, Maintenance and Repair at RVIST as a partner with ICT Trust and Microsoft. The concept received favorable comment; however to date no action has been taken.

The 2004 visit by Jack Crowell marks a visionary step toward the future in Kenyan education. In the distribution of new equipment and technical capacity, “Professor Jack” has empowered strategic demonstrations for learning at different levels of education i.e. pre-school, technical college and university. In addition, this move has linked the partnership with other institutions in an expanding network.<sup>53</sup> Building on current knowledge and technical capacity, the new multimedia equipment will carry these institutions one step further and open new vistas and concepts for expanded access to information and to quality learning. This window on the world can pave the way for Kenyans to participate in the global market of information, ideas and trade. This is a national goal of the Kenya government and one which brings diverse partners to the table in collaborative effort.

<sup>51</sup> It was recommended that schools develop a small fee for copying text based materials in The Internet Book Shop. The fee system is meant to provide a resource for maintenance and upkeep of the system.

<sup>52</sup> Mr. Umbale was formerly Principal of RVIST following Francis Menjo. Hee was transferred to become Principal of KTTC in Nairobi in 2003.

<sup>53</sup> Moi University, Egerton University and KTTC are not formal members of the Kenya partnership; however these institutions have been linked to the Delta/RVIST/Tracom partnership by the computer distribution from RVIST and have shown cooperation in sharing knowledge resources and providing opportunities for teacher training in technology.



### LAND 2005 Award for Leadership Excellence presented to Delta International Partnership Team

The unique achievement and institutional leadership in the Delta/RVIST International Partnership is well known and positively viewed in Michigan and elsewhere.<sup>54</sup> In competition among the 29 Michigan community colleges, Delta College and its International Partnership team was selected to receive the 2005 award for Leadership Excellence by the Michigan Liberal Arts Network for Development (LAND). The LAND award was initiated in 2000 to recognize institutional leadership in community colleges for sustained programs which advance liberal arts education in the college teaching learning mission and curriculum; promote educational access and outreach to new populations of learners; and use collaborative models of work including cross disciplinary partnering.

The Delta College/RVIST team received the award for a sustained collaborative partnership over 15 years. During this time teachers at both institutions were helped to re-envision and transform their classrooms to include global concepts and learning technology for students. A valuable outcome for Delta faculty and students was engagement in international team building, cross cultural learning, and enhanced appreciation for the challenges of development in another country. The opportunity experienced by Delta students to be active participants in development projects at home and abroad which improve the life chances for children is a frequent requirement in service learning. Other rationale for the award included the International outreach which involves Tracom College as a third partner in a collaborative model of work, integrating the liberal arts and sciences into career preparation programs and educational outreach in the communities of the two valleys.

### Vision and Agenda for a Collaborative Future

The Partnership Vision with desired outcomes for each of the three college partners has been signed by the CEOs of each institution.<sup>55</sup> As the three colleges look together with shared vision into 2010, the vision outcomes and priorities for their collaborative future are clearly defined by each institution. These outcomes and priorities are shared as commitments in common.<sup>56</sup>

- Revitalization of opportunities for faculty/staff exchange and knowledge sharing between the partner institutions. Development of strategies for continuous learning and development of faculty and staff.
- International team building among the partners to enhance teaching and learning, curriculum development and shared learning support.
- Library and learning resource centers at Tracom and RVIST for enhanced teaching and learning on campus and outreach to the community. Continued support to

technology labs for teaching and learning at RVIST and Tracom.

- Collaboration for technology outreach to students in Kenya schools through the Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project in cooperation with N.I.C.E. and ICT Trust.
- Establish and implement opportunities for Delta students to learn and practice international development strategies in Kenya through supervised Coop, Internships, service learning and/or field work assignments. Potential areas include information technology, construction technology, science, health education and teaching.
- Strategic articulation agreements with Tracom to provide a path for Kenyan students to enter baccalaureate programs in Michigan via the transfer system at Delta.
- Establish a gateway of opportunity for Kenya students to earn academic credits at Delta College through on-line classes delivered via the Internet to Tracom College.

Recent developments in the national interest offer opportunities to align our vision with Kenya national goals for education as well as U.S. foreign policy goals in Kenya. As these opportunities emerge, the Delta/RVIST/Tracom partnership will review alignment of our desired outcomes with the current interests and imperatives of national and international initiatives in Basic education, Workforce education and Information technology. Where alignment of interests is evident, we will move to propose engagement as a partner in implementing these initiatives.

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<sup>54</sup> International education in community colleges is affirmed in the mission statement of the AACC and promoted through the AACC International/Intercultural Consortium of which Delta College is a member. The Sister College partnership which Delta has formed with Rift Valley Institute is unique among community colleges in AACC and the League of Innovation.

<sup>55</sup> A Vision and Partnership 2004-2010. International Partnership Renewal for Collaboration and Educational Exchange: Delta College in University Center, MI.; Rift Valley Institute for Science and Technology in Nakuru, Kenya; and Tracom College of Professional Studies in Nakuru, Kenya. See partnership vision with desired outcomes for each college in Appendix.

<sup>56</sup> While each institution has stated desired outcomes, the guiding assumptions of collaboration and collegiality in the partnership agreement call for mutual assistance. The priority outcomes desired and shared by all parties to the agreement are defined here in common.

## Changing of the Guard – New Leaders on the Move in 2005

### Dr. Peter Boyse Retires

Dr. Peter D. Boyse will retire as President of Delta College in July 2005. During his tenure Dr. Boyse has been a bold and visionary leader for Delta College. His vision for Delta as a Learning College for the 21<sup>st</sup> century was a guide to institutional transition in readiness for the year 2000.<sup>57</sup> His support for International/Intercultural education and of the Sister College partnership with RVIST and Tracom was an important factor in the success story of this Tale in the Saginaw Valley. A new President is anticipated for appointment by the Delta Board of Trustees in June 2005.

### New Teams develop leadership in an Expanding Network

The year 2005 will be remembered as a changing of the guard. New faces and skills in the partner schools have moved into leadership and are moving with a vital energy toward aspirations for 2010.

At Delta College, Teresa Stitt, Director of Student Development and International programs is team leader, with Connie Colvin, professional support. The Delta partnership team members are: Karen Wilson, Academic Dean; Gail Hoffman-Johnson, Articulation director; Betty Rickey, Nursing articulation; Dan Segura, Admissions Specialist; Linda Holoman, Student Counselor; Professors Scanlon Romer, Economics; Ron Sharp, Science; David Bledsoe, Construction Technology; Jeanne Mallak, Business; Dick Howden, Accounting; and Laura Dull, Social Science. Jack Crowell is Delta team leader for Rural School Computer Project; Nancy Nickerson, Community liason and Betty Jones, Partnership adviser and historian.

The Tracom College team is led by Daniel Njiriri, Principal and Director of the RSBCP. Dan is also Chair of the Board for NICE (New Initiatives in Computer Education), and a Board member of the Kenya ICT Trust. Team members are: Paul Gesimba, Frank Juma, Jack Keith, Peter Kahi, Naftall Kayuko, Dr. Kilhagi, Jackline Mabwai, Michael Musembi, John Mwangi, Lilian Otieno, Dedan Oimbo, Steve Waweru and Virginia Waweru.

At Rift Valley Institute of Technology (RVIST) John Onsante is Principal with K.A.T. Kibowen as Deputy Principal. Evans Bosire is RVIST team leader. Team members are: S.K. Bor, Paul Cheptum, Pauline Cheryiyot, Bonice Chelangat, Ruth Gichengi, S.M. Gichuru, Margaret Kibosia, M. Kibuge, Zipporah Makokha, Aabel Monyenya, Lincoln Mwangi and G. Opile.

### Delta College Team Visit to Kenya June 2005 – Planning the Partnership Agenda

Members of the Delta partnership team and others will visit RVIST and Tracom College in Kenya in June 2005. The



Rift Valley Institute team



Delta College team and supporters



Tracom College team

<sup>57</sup> Dr. Boyse was inaugurated as President August 27, 1993. He has been a strong supporter of Global/International and diversity programs on campus and the Sister College partnership in Kenya. His continuing presence, patient advisement and support will be missed by the Delta/RVIST/Tracom partnership teams.

Delta group will be led by Ms. Teresa Stitt, Director of Student Development and International Programs and partnership team leader. The group will include Ms. Karen Wilson, Academic Dean; Ms. Edith Wacksman, Past-Chair and member of the Delta Board of Trustees and her husband; Ms. Scanlon Romer, Economics professor and faculty resource in distance learning; Ms. Scottie Walls, Criminal Justice professor and Coordinator of Learning Communities; and Mr. Robert Mee, Foreign Language professor and faculty resource in multimedia strategies for learning. The group of eleven also includes community members.

The mission of the Delta partnership team members as defined by President Peter Boyse is to meet with the Principals and partnership teams of RVIST and Tracom College for joint planning of initiatives to implement our priority outcomes for 2005-2007; to have an opportunity

## Looking Back in Contemplation Reflections by the Author

The challenge of doing justice to the story of this unique partnership over fifteen years has required rigorous research and thoughtful reflection on the patterns and meanings of many decisions, developments and outcomes over time. I feel fortunate to have been on the inside of this unique International teambuilding process and to have participated in one of the most challenging, exciting and satisfying experiences of my career in higher education.

The unique linkage and joint vision which was seeded by the USIA grant was the first step for both Delta and RVIST into an international arena. We were nervous; but we were highly motivated to succeed in a field of university affiliations as a national statement about the talent of community colleges which we represented. Further, Delta had a tradition of innovation and confidence in our ability to succeed. The USIA grant was subject to periodic documentation and reporting procedures which required attention to administrative structure and shared accountability both at Delta and in Kenya. Happily, our administration of the project did meet these requirements and documented the success of both partners in reaching and exceeding our stated goals. *We had not only hit the International road, but we were really running good.*

From the beginning, the Delta/RVIST partnership demonstrated a rare energy that was difficult to contain. The needs at RVIST were so many and the motivation of staff, students and community groups to be included in the partnership exchange was so strong. Projects or events which were implemented at Delta were frequently spun off into related endeavors by churches or community groups

for campus recognition of the Kenya partnership team and presentation of the LAND 2005 Excellence team award; and to respond to an invitation from Professor Ezra K. Maritim, Vice Chancellor of Egerton University and Chair of the RVIST Board of Governors, to visit Egerton University campus and interact with faculty and administrators

Emeritus Vice President Dr. Betty Jones will accompany the Delta group as an adviser and partnership consultant on behalf of the President's office. Her mission is to develop feasibility information to advance Delta's vision outcomes for student learning opportunities in Kenya; and to meet with key officials and groups in Kenya who can help to advance the shared vision of the Delta/RVIST/Tracom partnership. Dr. Jones will document contacts and feasibility findings for the President's information and for further use by Delta's partnership team.

who discovered a vision and motive for international projects of their own. For many in the community Delta's Kenya project was a gateway to initiatives which created their own story.

While close friendships developed across cultural boundaries, some at Delta questioned at first if the Kenya partnership might not be a one way street. However, this question proved to be short sighted. It is true that the transfer of technology and new ideas can be measured in real terms of new resources at RVIST; however the benefits of the exchange to Delta may have been of even greater value. Our vision to become a *Learning College for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* was met and exceeded in ways we never realized. Even as we invested in a transformed future for RVIST we were ourselves transformed, and across the college we discovered new ways for "learning to learn." We did indeed become a *Learning College*. As members of a privileged society our understanding for the challenges of international development, deprivation and resource deficits among the poor were deepened; our appreciation for diversity in other cultures and in our own community were expanded and enhanced throughout the institution; and our desire to reach out in a global village came home in a personal way. First Lady Betty Carlyon may have expressed it best in 1992 when she responded in our impact study: *"You could really find your dream in this. That accounted for much of the enthusiasm and commitment."*

Indeed dreams which may have seemed impossible were discovered and successfully pursued by many participants. The opportunities to participate were many and diverse,

and the enthusiasm and energy was contagious. In reflection, almost everyone who participated in the Delta/RVIST exchange at home and abroad have shown career advancement. However, while Delta was able to advance most individuals within the college system thereby building leadership within the institution, RVIST lost many of the exchange participants who advanced to other positions outside the institute. Even so, the interest and skills they developed through the exchange were not always lost as many of these individuals carried with them their knowledge and commitment to the partnership and continued to promote its activities from another vantage point. The energy created by the educational exchange was not lost or displaced. Rather, it seemed to be transformed to a new purpose. And the core values of the exchange have remained stable over 15 years, now to be renewed with new vigorous leadership and three partnership teams. *And that is really rewarding!*

Writing a history in which one has been closely involved can bring on personal nostalgia (i.e. the "good old days syndrome"). However writing this history and looking toward 2010 has been personally energizing. We have all experienced tremendous personal and professional growth from this International partnership in educational empowerment on two continents; and we were fortunate for the quality of leadership in both institutions. However we discovered that while leadership within the Delta system was characterized by stability, the governing policy in the Kenya Technical schools resulted in frequent transfer of RVIST Principals to other locations. While we did not

understand it at Delta, we learned to deal with the frequent change and to handle transitions with patience, grace and persistence.

Contributions to this international partnership by individuals, groups and agencies in the Tri-City communities of the Saginaw Valley have indeed made us neighbors, friends and colleagues of individuals, schools and villages in Kenya in a way we could not ever have envisioned. *Delta College* is a name that almost every child in the Rift Valley Province knows as a friend. And in the rural villages children and their parents know "*Professor Jack*" even on the road and call him by name. In Nakuru people I had never seen came up to me in the marketplace and said hello to "*Dr. Betty*" and expressed their appreciation for the computers. Some individuals wanted me to know that their school did not yet have "the computers," and would I please see about it. I felt very much part of the neighborhood. And I also felt pride in Delta College and the college community which made this kind of difference in the life chances of children and families.

A closing thought. While the Rift Valley in Kenya may be "far, far away" in geographical distance, it is very close to the Saginaw Valley, in spirit and in other ways that count in the long run.

We have really discovered the global village . . . and we live there.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

## About the Authors

### Dr. Betty B. Jones

Dr. Betty Jones is the principal author for the **A Tale of Two Valleys** and historian for the Delta/RVIST Partnership. She traveled with the first Delta team to Kenya in 1987 where she met Samson K. Nyole at RVIST and agreed to work with him toward funding for a linkage between their two colleges. Dr. Jones was the principal designer and author of the USIA grant proposal, and as academic dean she was appointed by President D.J. Carlyon as its first director. She is remembered at Delta for her vision; her ability to gain confidence among different groups at the college and in the community; and her ability to build and sustain productive interdisciplinary teams to enhance teaching and learning. Her own leadership and charisma earned her recognition at Delta, including the Don Laughner Award for Creative Change, the Martin Luther King Spirit Award and the Outstanding AP Leadership award. Michigan State University presented Dr. Jones with the Glen L. Taggart Award in 1994 for community contributions to International Understanding. Her legacy at RVIST is honored in the *Dr. Betty B. Jones Library and Media Center*.



Dr. Betty Jones has a gift for framing social history and for writing; and she has written and presented many papers concerning the Delta/RVIST partnership, some of which have been published and are accessible on ERIC. She has traveled to Kenya on seven occasions and has many friends there. Dr. Jones retired from Delta in June 2001 as Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. However, she is still viewed as an adviser and supporter to the partnership; and she maintains active interest and commitment to its outcomes.

*"The Delta/RVIST partnership was always about so much more than just two schools doing some things together. While we had never done anything so big before, somehow I knew from the beginning that this effort was destined to succeed and to make a difference in our life at Delta, and for others both in Kenya and in the Saginaw Valley. I felt called to lead this as a mission. It certainly changed my life; and it touched so many other people I lost count. The energy generated by our partnership in Kenya was just too much to contain in one place. In some ways we were just the catalyst for a larger vision and movement. The spirit of the Delta/RVIST vision spread all over the valley. And it is still alive and growing!" . . . B. Jones*

Dr. Jones is a graduate of Hampton University in Virginia (B.S.); and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (Ph.D. 1981). At her retirement from Delta she and her husband established the **S. Preston and Dr. Betty B. Jones International Scholarship Endowment** to honor her legacy in International Education.

### Mr. Jack Crowell

Jack Crowell led the first Delta travel study group to Kenya in 1987. He is the originator of an idea in 1990 that used computers from Delta could be recycled to Kenya to advance development of technology at RVIST. This idea has grown from an opportunistic carryon model via the airlines; to a mode in which 40 foot containers are shipped by sea to supply all kinds of equipment useful to teaching and learning in schools. These shipments supply equipment to sustain and update the technology labs at Rift Valley Institute and Tracom College; and supply many computers and books for primary schools. The project is widely known as the "Kenya Rural School Books and Computer Project" which attracts many donors in the Delta community, and has distributed more than 4000 computers and untold thousands of books to children in Kenya's rural schools. In Kenya "Professor Jack" is recognized by children and parents in small villages as well as by powerful men and women in the halls of Nairobi. They know him as the man with books and computers, and with a contagious grin. He greets them as friends and says Kenya is like being home. His working uniform is jeans, a comfortable shirt and sneakers. At Delta, Jack is teased that we just cant keep up with him when he has his sneakers on . . . which is most of the time.



Jack is a mover and an innovator. He has the unique ability to work as a colleague with individuals and groups of different backgrounds and beliefs than his own; to walk into their world and contribute something useful; help them improve their situation or see its opportunities differently. As a supporting author Jack provided much information and advice to this publication "in the making," and was a patient and supportive colleague. His legacy is honored in Kenya by the Jack Crowell Library at Tracom's Keicher Memorial Center for IT, and in the Jack Crowell Math Library at Moi University. Says Jack: "Life, like a journey to some far off land, is an adventure. Daring to go beyond the boundaries of your community, learning to know people different from yourself, pursuing your education, following your dreams, serving your community and searching for purpose in your life are what makes us who we are and what we become." Jack Crowell does dare and just keeps on daring; what a journey!

### Mr. Daniel Njiriri

Dan Njiriri is Principal of the fast growing Tracom College and the Keicher Memorial Center for Information Technology in Nakuru. He first came to Delta in 1991 as part of the exchange in Student Services. An energetic visionary go-getter, Dan has a strong commitment to serve his community. He proved to be a keen observer and a fast



learner. Working with Bob Keicher and Jack Crowell, Dan quickly learned computer skills during his stay at Delta and took five computers back to RVIST after which he helped Bob Keicher set up the first small lab. Later, Dan was made Lab Director and developed a certificate program in Computer Studies. Nothing seems ever to fluster Dan, and “Hakuna matata” (“no problem”) is his frequent response. Indeed, Dan Njiriri has a way of just walking boldly through problems. This is evident in his resignation from RVIST to start Danret; his ability to see the possibilities at Tracom College; and his larger vision for change and transformation in the Rift Valley, in all of Kenya and beyond. Dan is a bold and visionary leader for development in his community and his country.

Dan Njiriri is included here as a supporting author to this publication for his knowledge of the partnership history; his constant supply of documented information and his enthusiastic support. At one point we shared the writing of a funding proposal, communicating from Delta to Kenya and back by fax. Dan’s driving force comes from his belief that God has called him to serve a vision for improving his community. It is notable that while Tracom is a private institution, it’s mission is that of a community college, placing a high value on open access, affordable tuition and community outreach. In addition to duties as Principal of Tracom, Dan is the Kenya Director for the Rural School Books and Computer Project working with Jack Crowell. His career at Tracom and with the RSBCP has positioned him such that he is now a national player in the ICT – Chair of the Board of NICE and a member of the Board of ICT Trust. Dan Njiriri has been a visionary team leader and promoter of the International partnership since the beginning. He is a colleague and friend; and his story is an important outcome of our **A Tale of Two Valleys**.

Dan’s story is also shaping future tales . . . yet to be told by others in the valleys.

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The history of *A Tale of Two Valleys* is constructed from written records. Documents and national reports are preserved in the *Kenya Papers* currently contained in the Delta Archives. Many of these documents are also preserved in the files of the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology and Tracom College of Professional Studies in Kenya. Unpublished papers and presentations may be found in a special folder among the *Kenya Papers* in the Delta Archives. Published papers may be accessed in the Delta College Library. References were also drawn from records and programs in the files of the College Office of International/Intercultural Programs.

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*\*\*This document was printed in two editions. The Delta edition was distributed as the Final Report to the USIA (our funding agency); the Delta Board of Trustees and Academic Chairs; Deans at Michigan Community Colleges; Mentors from Michigan State University and key contributors from the local community. The Kenya Edition contains the public program at Rift Valley Institute which documents the official opening and dedication of the Robert Keicher Computer Lab at RVIST and the presentation and inauguration of the Water Pump for the campus community.*

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*\*\*This document includes the Sister College Joint Administrative team and a profile of the survey respondents. A full text of all respondent comments is recorded, including the questionnaires and interviews at both institutions. Interviews were conducted at RVIST by B. Jones, B. Tedrow, D. Berry and W. Boley. Interviews at Delta were conducted by B. Jones and B. Tedrow. In several cases, questionnaires were completed by respondents and mailed in.*

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## **A Vision and Partnership 2004 - 2010**

Delta College at University Center, Michigan  
Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in Nakuru, Kenya and  
Tracom College of Professional Studies in Nakuru, Kenya

This letter will document the mutual intent and commitment on the part of Delta College and the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology to renew their International Partnership for Educational Collaboration and Exchange, to pursue a new shared vision for the coming decade, and to achieve mutual benefits for students, faculty, staff and community at both institutions and in collaboration with Tracom College.

- Whereas each institution has articulated a unique vision for its institutional future in the year 2003 and beyond.
- Whereas Delta College and Rift Valley Institute have documented a shared vision of the future which continues to link the two institutions as Sister Colleges.
- Whereas Delta College has documented a shared vision and commitment to exchange and articulation with Tracom College in collaboration with Rift Valley Institute.
- Whereas Delta College, Rift Valley Institute and Tracom College are pledged to collaborate and assist each other to reach common development goals and outcomes through knowledge sharing; faculty, staff and student learning, exchange of educational materials, art and technology; and community education.
- Whereas each institution is pledged to nurture and maintain a climate of professional respect and open communication with each other and associated partners to this shared intent.

Delta College, Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology and Tracom College of Professional Studies hereby initiate this letter of intent duly signed by the Chief Executives and Instructional Officers of each institution.

Peter D. Boyse, Ph.D., President  
Delta College

Justus H. K. Kosgei, Principal\*  
Rift Valley Institute of Science and  
Technology

\*This letter of agreement was co-signed at Delta College by Dr. Boyse with Principal Daniel Njiri for Tracom College December 11, 2002; and Dr. Boyse with Principal Justus H.K. Kosgei for Rift Valley Institute September 29, 2004.

## **Vision and Desired Outcomes**

### **Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology**

#### **RVIST Vision:**

RVIST will be an all round Post Secondary education and technical institution providing quality education and training for employment, further education and information technology for business and industrialization in the Rift Valley Province.

#### **Desired Outcomes.**

##### **In partnership with Delta College, RVIST will:**

1. Continue to expand and diversify computer programs in all departments at RVIST, and encourage enrollment growth.
2. Expand learning resources in the library with an expanded book collection in business, science, medical, engineering and technology fields; and expanded computer technology.
3. Revitalize opportunities for mutual exchange with Delta College of faculty and staff.
4. Develop and implement ongoing strategies for faculty and staff development.
5. Continue to be a centre for the distribution of computers and training materials for the Kenya Rural Schools Computer Project; and facilitate computer training for trainers.
6. Develop distance learning strategies at RVIST through access to the Internet, and other distance learning technology.
7. Collaborate with Tracom College to assist Delta College to identify and implement opportunities for Delta students to learn through International exchange as Coops, Interns and/or field work students in business, technology, health and human services or teaching.
8. Document Art Collection and continue shipments to be added to the Kenya Traveling Art Collection at Delta College.
9. Strengthen the RVIST Guidance and Counseling department to enable it to meet the current challenges in society with specific reference to substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.
10. Expand the water resources in the Rift Valley community to meet the documented needs of the Institute and its neighboring community.
11. Establish RVIST Academy to offer Nursery/Preprimary, Primary and Secondary education to RVIST staff children and the neighboring community.
12. Expand and equip the RVIST medical services and dispensary to meet the increasing needs for health care in the RVIST community; and also to provide practical attachment for medical trainees.

## **Vision and Desired Outcomes Tracom College of Professional Studies**

### **Tracom College Vision:**

Tracom College will provide education for employment, university transfer and technology skills training for business and industry in Kenya and neighboring countries. Tracom will be a central gateway for Kenyan students to achieve Associate and Baccalaureate degrees in selected fields of high community need through development of International Articulation Agreements and collaborative programming with Delta College and its associated transfer institutions in Michigan. Tracom will be a catalyst for resource sharing i.e. program expertise and staff training among post-secondary educational institutions through establishment of a consortia for cooperation and collaboration, articulated curricula in key areas of national need, shared library, technology and learning facilities, faculty/staff development programs and community outreach.

### **Vision Outcomes in partnership with Delta College. Tracom will:**

1. Continue to expand its computer programs for education and training.
2. Develop an International Articulation agreement and program with Delta College beginning with Accounting and Nursing; and leading Kenya students to an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Delta College.
3. Establish a gateway of opportunity for Kenya students to learn at Delta College through on-line classes delivered via the Internet to the Technology Learning Lab at Tracom.
4. Continue International exchange of faculty, staff and students. Develop strategies for continuous learning by faculty and staff.
5. Assist Delta College to establish and implement opportunities for Delta students to learn through International education exchange as Coops, Interns and/or Field work student assignments in business, technology and teaching.
6. Continue collaboration with Rift Valley Institute and Delta College to provide technology outreach to students in rural primary and secondary schools through the Delta Computer Project and training workshops for teachers.
7. Develop a consortia of post secondary institutions i.e. colleges and universities to share information, technology skills, equipment and facilities, innovative teaching strategies and community outreach.
8. Develop community outreach programs for "learning by radio" in Kenya.
9. Develop a Learning Resource Center at Tracom College, which will be open to the community; including a library, computer lab with Internet access and study areas.

## **Vision and Desired Outcomes Delta College**

### **Delta Vision:**

Delta College is a learning-centered institution that focuses on the postsecondary learning needs of the community. The college provides quality learning opportunities and recognizes that learning can take place twenty-four hours a day, every day, in and out of the classroom, on and off campus. **Learning is our primary measure of success.**

### **Desired Outcomes.**

**To achieve desired outcomes in International/Intercultural learning, diversity and International collegiality, Delta College will:**

1. Renew its Sister College partnership with Rift Valley Institute, and extend the partnership to Tracom College through collaboration and shared learning on significant outcomes of mutual benefit to each institution.
2. Develop an articulated transfer Associate Degree Program for enrollment of Kenya students through delivery of academic courses to RVIST and Tracom College using appropriate strategies for distance learning.
3. Develop curricular opportunities, resources and procedures for International learning by Delta students on educational exchange in Kenya. Include opportunities for International co-op, internships, fieldwork or practicum attachments in selected programs of study, i.e., teaching, business, technology, health care, and/or human services.
4. Establish an electronic Center for Educational Development using a Delta Web Site to be a clearing-house for ideas, programs and resources. The center will provide an opportunity for volunteers at RVIST, Tracom and Delta to share ideas and innovations, exchange learning resources and apply appropriate technology to advance Kenyan education through joint projects.
5. Seek external funding with RVIST and Tracom to provide opportunities for International teambuilding, learning and development of faculty, staff and students.
6. Assist RVIST to expand learning resources in the College Library including computers, learning technology, software and books in business, science, medical, engineering and technology subjects.
7. Continue leadership to promote local participation in the Rural School Computer and Book Project in collaboration with RVIST and Tracom College.
8. Continue Delta's outreach to schools to assist local schools in global education through loan of the Kenya Traveling Exhibit of Cultural Artifacts to be placed in local schools for observation and study. Develop Teaching/Learning guides to accompany the exhibits.
9. Continue Intercultural education to community residents through travel study programs.

## DIRECTORY OF APPRECIATION - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

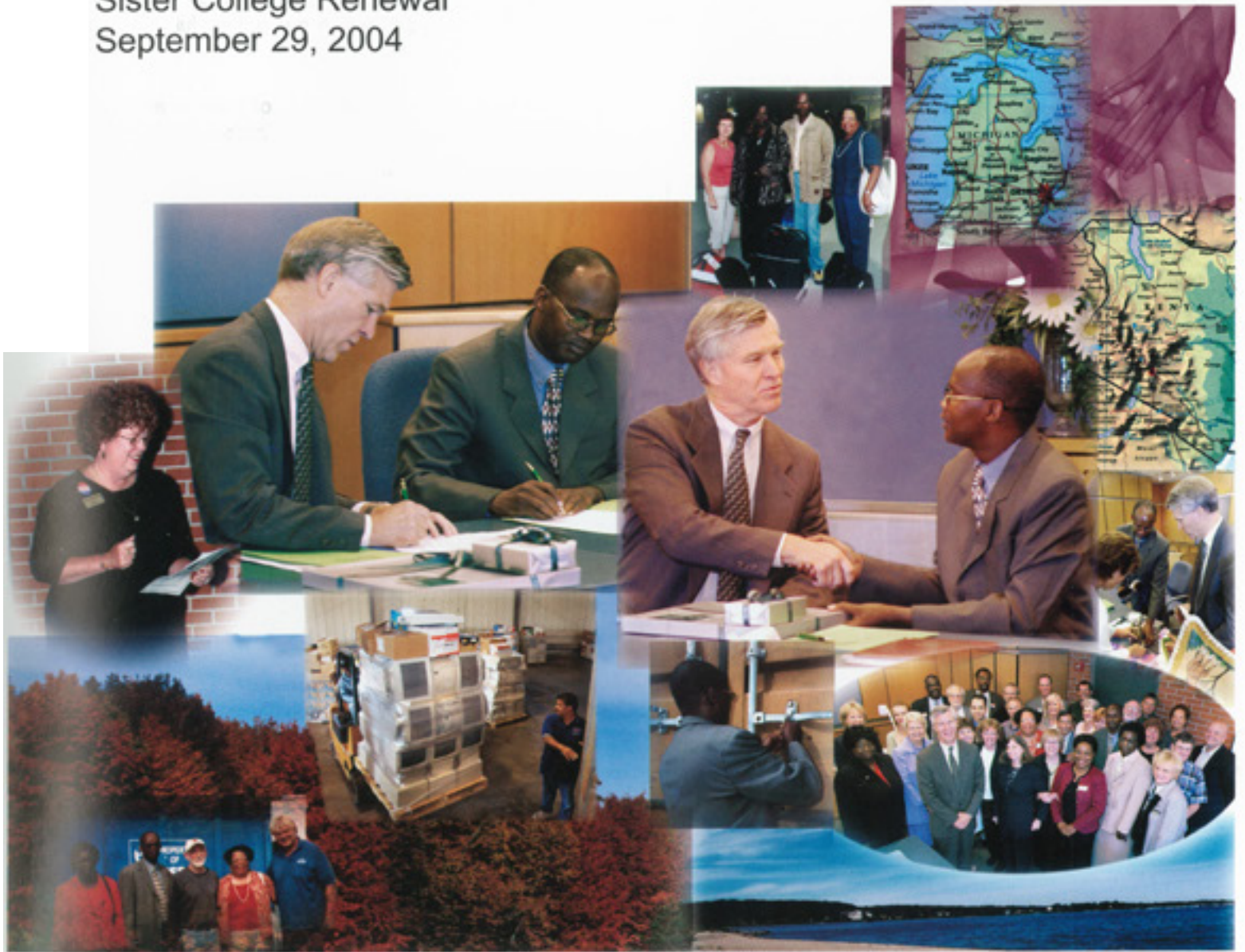
Many individuals, agencies, schools and organizations throughout Michigan have supported our joint initiatives in Kenya over the last 15 years. We want to recognize and convey our appreciation to the following groups who contributed significant resources to carry out our projects. These resources include financial assistance, used computers and software, printers, books and other learning materials, which contributed to our successful outcomes.

Sincere thanks from the Delta College team and our colleagues in Kenya at Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology and Tracom College of Professional Studies. Sincere thanks too on behalf of our students and the students in Kenya who were happy beneficiaries of the learning exchange.

Allen Foundation of Midland, Michigan	Delta College Technical Division faculty	Midland Public Schools
Bay Arenac Intermediate School District	Dow Corning Corporation	Midland Rotary Club
Bay Arenac Skill Center	Essexville-Hampton Public Schools	Park School in Brookline, MA.
Bay City Public Schools	First Presbyterian Church of Bay City, Michigan	Pigeon/Bay Port Public Schools
Bay City Rotary Club	Frankenmuth Public Schools	Pinconning Public Schools
Bay County Home Builders Association	Freeland Public Schools	Presbytery of Lake Huron
Bangor Township Public Schools	General Motors Corporation – Kenya Ltd.	Reese Public Schools
Bangor Junior High School	General Motors Corporation – Saginaw Division	Rochester Hills Public Schools
Birch Run Public Schools	Great Lakes Books	Saginaw Intermediate School District
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church of Midland, Michigan	Hemlock Public Schools	Saginaw Mac Users Club
Blessed Sacrament School	Kalamazoo Mac Users Group	Saginaw Public Schools
Buena Vista Township Public Schools	Lakers Public Schools	Saginaw Township Schools
Bullock Creek Public Schools	Livonia Public Schools	Saginaw Rotary Club
Carrollton Public Schools	Meridian Township Public Schools	Saginaw Valley State University
Carrollton Community Senior Citizens	Michigan State University, African Studies Center	Standish Public Schools
Chesaning Public Schools	Michigan State University – Departments of Education and Biology	St. Helen School
CompRite Computers, Ltd in Nairobi, Kenya	Michigan State University Kenyan Student Organization	Swan Valley Public Schools
Del Monte Corporation – Kenya Ltd.	Midland Center for the Arts	Traverse City Government
Delta College Senate	Midland County Government	United States Information Agency, University Affiliations
Delta College Foundation	Midland Home Builders Association	Unitarian Fellowship of Midland, Michigan
Delta College Mathematics and Computer Science faculty	Midland Hospital	Zonta Club of Midland, Michigan
	Midland Macintosh Users Club	

Our project initiatives also received support through contributions of money, equipment and even "sweat equity" of many individuals at Delta College and in the Tri-counties of Michigan. While these individuals are far too numerous to name here, we are very appreciative for their interest and commitment. And we extend our grateful thanks for their confidence and support.

Delta College and Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology  
Sister College Renewal  
September 29, 2004



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