

ANNUAL REPORT

2009-2010

Center for International Studies
Program

MicroCredit



MICROCREDIT PROGRAM



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS
HOUSTON

Center for International Studies

“United, we can overcome poverty with dignity.”

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

According to Camus, every work of art is a human thing. Any work of art, however, is never human enough. This is probably the best analogy I can find to express the very strong feeling I have about the kind of work our students and I are trying to do through the University of St. Thomas Micro Credit Program. Our purpose, I believe, should be to show at the same time the harmonious sense of fatality of our human condition and an innate opportunity that springs solely from the liberty allowed by this fatality. The artistic

aspect of our events, lectures, projects, and fundraisers should be a sort of revenge, a means of overcoming the difficult and often tragic fate of poverty by imposing a form and purpose upon it. If our program accomplishes this, it will be only because it is capable of forming some sort of positive energy out of this terrible fate, the kind of synergy that refuses to depict madness, arrogance, or despair, and instead try to keep our hope alive: *dum spiro, spero* (while I breathe, I hope).

None of our great artists has turned his or her back on human suffering, but we can also say—with Camus—that none has surrendered to it. I guess this is exactly what makes this program an artistic attempt. Apart from what Kundera calls the narcissism and prejudice of art experts, my point is that any attempt to balance the injustice of an unhappy condition against the disorder of the emotions created by this same injustice is exactly what we should call art. The kind of order we are looking for is simply a worthy one. It is not that of a soul or a system of ideas. So, far from wishing to make our emotions the slaves of political correctness, academic theories, or ignorant generalizations, we have tried to use them as a remedy for the disorderly impulses that terrify us about poverty. After all, there is no art where there is nothing to be overcome.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, Director
University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Succeeding this letter is the annual report for the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program covering the months of May 2009 until May 2010. On behalf of the student board of directors, I would like to thank you for reviewing the following documents in this report. Our Microcredit program has loans on every populated continent on the planet. The MicroCredit Program projects and activities are directed towards the allotment of capital for individuals in the developing world as to provide new forms of income and socioeconomic opportunities. The MicroCredit program is run by student volunteers acting, also, as the board of directors. The MicroCredit Program currently has 10 board members with 7 enacted projects.

Our international projects include our collaboration between ourselves and Kimse Yok Mu to distribute loans in Istanbul, our joint effort with the Hashoo Foundation in the northern regions of Pakistan to provide capital for 100 women for the production of honey; we have a similar project—with assistance from an individual donor—in the northeastern regions of the Yucatan for the production of honey, salsas, and towards providing irrigation systems; and lastly, our project in Chile, dedicated to providing resources for the production of artisan chocolates. Our domestic projects are a student loan project providing the amount of 500.00 USD to recent Houston Independent School District graduate and Expectation Graduation participant; a partnership with Governor Bill Richardson to provide microloans to Native American entrepreneurs living on reservations in New Mexico; a developing partnership with a local non-profit organization—St. Basil's Coffee—to provide an added fund to our loan distribution in Latin America; and our soon to be concluded Kiva.org initiative.

New developments in administration include an addition of a Grant Writing Team and a re-formulation of the board to be more goal-oriented. The student Board of Directors has been held to a greater amount of accountability than during previous administrations. Each project head is responsible for a monthly progress report and outline of new methods and procedures (if applicable) for the success of his/her respective project as new developments arise.

The University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program is in the process of expanding our program and outreach beyond the current regions of influence. We wish to increase our domestic impact, specifically in the creation of new businesses and education opportunities in the poorest (yet, accessible) areas of the United States.

Again, I thank you for your review of the following documents and welcome all fruitful discourse as to the benefit of the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Konkell, President
University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program

THE CIS MICROCREDIT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program (UST MCP) was founded by Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, PhD and the Center for International Studies in the Fall semester of 2007. The purposes of UST MCP are to alleviate poverty by means of providing small, repayable loans to individuals for the upstart of new businesses and to provide experience for students at the University of St. Thomas in the operation of a non-profit organization benefitting persons in economic distress. Since its inception UST MCP has distributed 13,275.00 USD—241 loans (with a maximum loan amount of 200.00 USD)—spread throughout 31 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Southwest Asia by means of our third party lender system, KIVA. UST MCP also has four projects abroad that are focused on specific production through a small, selected group of individuals. These projects are as follows: the development of artesian chocolates in Chile; the production of honey and ecological preservation in the Yucatan; the production of Honey in the Northern regions of Pakistan; and the production of wood craft goods in Istanbul.

UST MCP has taken a domestic focus during the year in mention. UST MCP, along with the Hashoo Foundation, has agreed to provide—a part of the initial pilot program—a student loan of approximately \$500.00 USD to a Houston Independent High School Graduate (HISD) and participant of Expectation Graduation. The first loan for this amount will begin no later than the Fall semester of 2010 after the student has been selected by Dr. Garcia-Contreras. UST MCP board members are currently researching the most impoverished (yet accessible) regions in the United States, beginning first with regions along the Gulf Coast—selecting first, areas in New Orleans, LA—in order to distribute capital to selected individuals to reinvigorate withering communities. One new project that is in its initial development stages is a microfinance initiative in Native Reservations in New Mexico through a partnership with Governor Bill Richardson.

During the year in mention, UST MCP President Joseph W. Konkel, began reformulating the program to act more cohesively, efficiently, and to be more goal-oriented. Internal affairs of UST MCP have been reformatted as follows: monthly progress reports from each board member on the actions taken during the month, possible problems that may be encountered, suggested solutions, and future actions; predetermined goals to be reached by each project leader prior to the implementation of any action; adherence to business protocol and communication; reiteration of business ethics in relation to the actions taken by the board; forced accountability for the actions taken by the project heads for each action. UST MCP also added two new internal departments: Grant Writing and a Finance Department. UST MCP has also created a Micro-Credit Club (Credit International Association) to act as a recruitment base for the program.

President Konkel has also increased the national scope of the MicroCredit Program through fostering a close relationship with the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU), the university side of the William J. Clinton Foundation. The Program was contacted by CGIU in late September 2010 and was asked to update CGIU on the progress the program has made since its last showing in April 2009. After the update was received by CGIU, the Program was declared a “Featured Commitment” of this year’s CGIU at the University of Miami based solely on the progress achieved in both the Yucatan and Pakistan projects. Four board members were presented with an award of recognition from CGIU (presented personally by Heather Graham) during the 2010 CGIU conference at the University of Miami.

UST MCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of the Spring Semester 2009, Dr. Garcia-Contreras and Joseph Konkel began working to amend mistakes and shortcomings previously perceived within the program. The Board of Directors was reformulated with new objectives and responsibilities, new board positions were created. The UST MCP directors for 2009-2010 are as follows:

1. Joseph W. Konkel, President
2. Lindsay Phend, Secretary and Director of Public Relations
3. Austin Stanfill, Director of KIVA Project
4. Thomas Paul Barnes, Director of Grant Writing
5. Renee McKeon, Director of the Yucatan Project
6. Hiba Haroon, Director of the Pakistan Project (Plan Bee)
7. Lauren George, Director of the Chile Project
8. Whitney Baggett, Director of Credit International Association UST
9. Michael Black, Director of Fundraising
10. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, PhD, Director and Faculty Advisor

The succeeding documents will cover the actions taken by specific members of the board as parts of their respective projects. In general, UST MCP progress has been positive with a few hurdles yet to be overcome.

OBJECTIVES

UST MCP objectives for the year in mention, 2009-2010, are as follows:

1. To increase the MicroCredit Program fund by \$10,000.00 USD.
 - a. Surpassing the funds raised during previous fundraisers and expanding the program's fundraising activities to seeking grants from private entities and the United States government.
2. To streamline current MicroCredit Program operations to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
 - a. Creation of new positions that are task oriented and goal driven.
 - b. Creation of standard business protocols and methods for communication.
 - c. Reorganization of filing systems
 - d. Creation of a separate MicroCredit Club to handle on campus social affairs.
3. To complete the first series of loans made under the Yucatan Project and expand marketing operations in the United States.
4. To complete the first series of loans made under the Chile Project and prepare an assessment on the future sustainability of the project.
5. To implement new projects both domestically and internationally.
 - a. Creation of projects in the United States involving student loans in Houston, microloans to Native American reservations in New Mexico through a partnership with Governor Bill Richardson, and microloans in New Orleans.
 - b. Successfully return to and increase visibility of the MCP at the Clinton Global Initiative University
 - c. To send 8,000.00 USD to the Program's new partner organization, Kimse Yok Mu, for the distribution of eight microloans.
6. To distribute the first series of loans under the Pakistan Project.
 - a. Transfer 10,000.00 USD to the Hashoo Foundation for the distribution of 20 loans during the Spring 2010 Semester.
7. To remove all remaining funds in the Kiva.org account

THE YUCATAN INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

The Yucatan project, initiated in 2008 by Dr. Garcia-Contreras, focused on creating an inclusive development strategy for low-income Mayan communities. This project's final goal is to allow a means by which the communities in these regions can become active members in the global market economy by allowing them the opportunity to produce a marketable product. The Yucatan Initiative has distributed a total exceeding 15,000.00 USD to 52 communities in the region with an additional 9,000.00 USD to be distributed shortly. These communities, cumulatively, represent approximately 120 individuals. A secondary goal of the project is to provide a means for the communities to generate income while protecting the surrounding ecological systems. Means of production for this project include agriculture and apiculture. UST MCP has provided these loans and the proper correspondence through the local foundation Ayuda Para Ayudar, A.C (APA).

Within the Yucatan Project, our 'Honey Initiative' in Tesoco Nuevo, Yucatán remains to be the central focus of the project. The communities' focus on the production of honey (apiculture) maintains the secondary goal of the project by means of 'natural honey production' and a general benefit to the environment surrounding the communities selected.

The partnership with APA allows the equipment and tools—purchased by UST MCP fund for the communities in mention—to be distributed to the communities with a direct line of accountability in the event of any unethical practice. This partnership also allows for the honey produced by the communities to 'piggy-back' the international trade certifications that APA are privy to in order to introduce the products to the world market. These products should see full commercialization by the end of the Spring 2010 semester.

UST MCP Yucatan Initiative provides—along with the means of production—guidance for the communities involved such as: training and expert consultation to increase efficiency of production. During times of UST MCP tangible absence in the region, close lines of communication are maintained with the communities between APA and UST MCP.

UST MCP has seen a complete repayment in the first cycle of loans, equaling 10,000.00 USD. This 10,000.00 USD was almost instantly redistributed to new loan beneficiaries by APA. Other outside resources are being used by the program to design recognizable product designs for the honey produced by the Honey Initiative.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To acquiesce the finances needed to distribute and install irrigation systems and processing equipment for the communities selected.
 - a. To distribute a 5000.00 USD donation earmarked for installing irrigation systems in Petac, Yucatan.
2. To relend, through APA, 10,000.00 USD during the second cycle of the UST MCP revolving fund.
 - a. To maintain effective communication with APA for the distribution of the loans and to maintain foci of accountably
 - b. To grant APA an additional 4000.00 USD for the funding of 40 apiculture entrepreneurs.
3. To have full commercialization of the products of the Honey Initiative no later than the end of the Spring 2010 semester
 - a. Creation of a product design to be used in the market campaign for the honey produced by the Honey initiative.
 - b. To continue—beyond the boundaries of UST—an informative campaign of the project, its beneficiaries, and their products for introduction into the market.
4. Continue to offer student volunteers of UST MCP the opportunity to visit the selected communities; working with the community in their production and development.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Loans provided by UST MCP continue to be distributed to the communities by APA. The first cycle of loans of the amount of 10,000.00 USD has been fully repaid by the beneficiaries. APA provides UST MCP with bi-monthly reports on the loan distribution. On the ground communication with APA has previously proved difficult. New plans and procedures are being developed to provide a more efficient means of monthly communication.

UST MCP has begun to work with Mama Lycha—a Hispanic food company begun by two UST alumni—to implement a product design and logo for the honey produced by the Honey initiative. This initiative evolved in the second semester of the 2009-2010 year to include the creation of not only individual labels for products produced through the MCP but also to create a “Dum Spiro” branding and label for all items produced by MCP. The MCP has also begun searching for external professional assistance in the creation of a product logo and design. Assistance has come about through the following faculties: Monte Patterson (product design has created one design thus far); Designism, Design 21, and Idealist (all of which are socially aware organizations willing to volunteer their abilities to UST MCP); Lopez-Negrete (a local marketing firm).

THE YUCATAN INITIATIVE

ACTIVITIES REPORT CONTINUED...

Alicia Campos, Carlos Gonzalez, Maria Gonzalez, and Michael Kukuk are UST alumni who have offered their professional services in developing the Dum Spiro label. Students involved in the program have been meeting and communicating with these individuals regularly to coordinate their efforts on creating labels. Sister Mary Roberta, who is employed by Franciscan Graphics, has been invaluable to the process. She has worked with students to create a logo for the Dum Spiro brand that will be used to for the Dum Spiro branding. She has also used input and direction from the students to hand draft the image for the salsa label, formulate the exact label size and format, while offering her general advice and experience in the field of graphic design.

The former director of the Yucatan Initiative, Renee McKeon, has begun to acquiesce new systems that will be of benefit to both initial objectives of the Yucatan project. These new systems are an irrigation system including water perforation, a water pump, electric/gasoline motor, irrigation lines, and supervision and training for individuals involved; installation of a more efficient filtering and processing system for Honey production; processing and selection equipment for salsa production from the chili peppers grown.

The loan beneficiaries in Tesoco Nuevo were provided honey bee hives and equipment in the form of in kind loans. These new apiculturalists have been successful so far and the bee farmers have seen two harvests with general improvement in the quality of the honey by the second harvest. The honey produced, however, is not yet of the right quality to be mass produced.

One hundred women in Tizimin were each provided 100.00 USD by the MCP in order to cultivate habanero chilies and produce hot sauce. These entrepreneurs have been successful in developing a hot sauce recipe and producing a salsa that is ready for manufacture and sale. After the completion of the hot sauce label, these women will be able to sell the hot sauce locally in hotels and restaurants in the resort regions of the Yucatan area as well as in a small portion of stores in Houston for commercial sale.

Mr. Jeff Beale donated 5000.00 USD to the MCP fund with the specification that it must be used in Petac towards the construction of the proposed irrigation system. The money was received in February 2010 and work has begun, spearheaded by Agro-Engineer Jorge Anhelu and his company Mundo Rural. The design of a development program for Petac will include the creation of new micro businesses, the expansion of some that already exist, and the installation of one or two irrigation systems to try to test the feasibility of a backyard farming program. These small and secure steps are directed towards the development of a rather challenging environment.

Several fundraisers have been held both on and off campus in an attempt to raise the 4000.00 USD that has been requested by APA to fund 40 new bee farmers. This 4000.00 USD may be funded by a possible collaboration between the UST MCP, Owl Microfinance, and the University of Houston MFI. To date the MCP is still actively fundraising in order to meet the Program's obligation to this new project.

THE PAKISTAN INITIATIVE: PLAN BEE

OVERVIEW

In the spring of 2009, UST MCP initiated our Pakistan initiative to focus on honey production and commercialization in northern regions of Pakistan—Chitral and Kaghan specifically. This project began through a joint-partnership with the Hashoo Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) focused on economic development in Pakistan. The program aims at the allotment of capital and means of production to women in the northern regions of Pakistan as to allow them the opportunity to produce a marketable good—honey—to the local markets and later to commercialize the product regionally and then internationally.

The program will utilize a revolving fund totaling \$20,000.00 USD and has an expectancy of three years. The program will provide loans to a total of 100 women. These loans will not be in the form of liquid capital, they will instead, be in the form of production materials and training for the production of honey and maintenance of bee hives. Within the first year, \$10,000.00 USD will be taken from the UST MCP account which will provide for the means of production for each loan distribution cycle. This amount will be distributed on January 1, 2010 for 20 loans made to Hashoo. Another \$10,000.00 USD will be distributed on November 11, 2010. Future loan allocation dates are January 1, 2011, November 11, 2011, and January 1, 2012. The money used for the three previously mentioned terms would have been recycled from the initial loans: repayment on the first two loans of \$10,000 USD would have been paid back by the Hashoo Foundation.

The 100 women beneficiaries will be selected and trained through the Hashoo Foundation. Candidates will be chosen on the basis of the fulfillment of the following requirements:

- a. The household represented by the candidate must have at least five members to be eligible
- b. Recommend credit management committee and guarantee of repayment on the loan
- c. Completion of application form given by the Hashoo Foundation.

The present program foresees that by providing these 100 women with the means of both production and commercialization of their products, the 100 women and their 720 dependents will benefit from the present program. According to research performed by the Hashoo Foundation it has been determined that each cycle of loans will provide for five beehives per woman and therefore 100 beehives per group of 20 loans. Each hive is estimated to produce 16kg of honey/year.

The honey produced will be sold at 10 regional hotels in Pakistan through a previous agreement with the Hashoo Foundation. Honey produced from the region by other women in the program is already being test marketed in three supermarket chains across Pakistan. The first group of 20 women has been selected by the Hashoo Foundation prior to the end of 2009, and the UST MCP has allocated the initial \$10,000.00 USD for the first year of production. The women will begin honey production in the near future for future sale.

The loan repayment for each group of women is exactly two years. In the succeeding year from the third year UST MCP is expected to receive full repayment of year two's \$10,000 USD loan and in the fifth year from the initial loan UST MCP will see the final loan repayment. It is assumed by members of the board that UST MCP will continue their support of the Hashoo Foundation Pakistan Initiative past the third year.

The accountability for the repayment of the loans rest on the Hashoo Foundation, as they will be acting as our intermediary: receiving our loans and transferring it to the participants in the form of honey production materials.

OBJECTIVES

1. Select the first 20 participants in the Plan Bee program.
2. To acquire the initial \$10,000.00 USD necessary to make the first loan by January 1, 2010.
 - a. To monitor the loan distributed through the Hashoo Foundation and ensure repayment over the next three years.
3. To acquire International Standard Organization (ISO) certification, fair-trade certification, and internationally recognized organic certification.
4. To maintain an integrated business of model of the program and maintain close communication of progress with the Hashoo Foundation.
5. To sell 20 metric tons after the first harvest is completed.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

UST MCP Plan Bee held its first Saath Saath Fundraiser in May 2009. The fundraiser was executed to procure the first 10,000.00 USD to send to the Hashoo Foundation for the preliminary distribution date of January 1, 2010. The amount of \$2,000.00 USD was raised at the fundraiser. The remaining 8,000.00 USD for the first loan was taken from the money raised by the Dum Spiro Fundraising Event in the month of October 2009.

During February of 2010, The University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program allocated loans of \$500.00 each to twenty women in Pakistan. The women reside in either the Gilgit or Hunza areas. The UST MCP invested 10,000.00 total in the region. The loans were distributed February 1 through February 15, 2010 to the recipients. Each recipient requires five beehives to produce enough honey to both repay their loans and improve their economic condition. The loans distributed will pay for these five beehives and any additional equipment the recipients may require.

The loans will be repaid in three installments of 183.00 USD each. The first repayment is set to take place May 25-28, 2010. The second and third installments will be collected in August and October, respectively. The repayment includes service charges at 5% of principal amount on flat charge basis. The loan amount will be disbursed/ collected in equivalent Pakistani Rupees on the prevailing currency exchange rate. The service charges are used contributing towards facilitating procurement of input, beehives, transportation, support services, monitoring, disbursement and collection of loans.

As previously mentioned, the first 20 women have been already selected by the Hashoo Foundation. Our lines of communication are directed specifically towards Cristal Baylor—the U.S. director of the Hashoo Foundation. All correspondence and agreements have been made through Ms. Baylor.

International certification is still pending the research and completed documentation on part of the project leaders in UST MCP and the Hashoo Foundation. Pertinent obstacles now being addressed are attaining the second loan amount of 10,000.00 USD for the loan date of November 11, 2010 and the development of close 'on-the-ground' communication with field managers set in place by the Hashoo Foundation.

THE CHILE INITIATIVE: DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISAN CHOCOLATES

OVERVIEW

In the beginning of November 2008 the UST MCP began a development project in the rural areas of Santiago, Chile with fellow Internal Colleges and Universities of Saint Thomas Aquinas (ICUSTA) member, Universidad Santo Thomas in Santiago, Chile. Our initial contact was with the Professor of Social Justice, Claudia-Garrido Carrasco. UST MCP decided to implement a microloan program to women selected by Ms. Carrasco to begin the production of artisanal chocolates—a skill that the participants selected already possessed.

Since its inception, Ms. Carrasco has been the field partner leading the initiative. However, several problems have been observed. First, Ms. Carrasco is the only member of the initiative that is actually *in* the field on this project. Due to poor communication there have been instances of defaulted loans. Lastly, Ms. Carrasco will no longer be the field partner as she will be pursuing her doctorate thereby leaving the program in stasis until a new field partner is determined.

Eight loan recipients were selected during March 2009. These women dwell in the district of La Pinitana in Santiago, Chile. The area was selected by Ms. Carrasco for its degree of economic marginalization.

In March of 2009, UST MCP has given loans to the amount of 4,000.00 USD. The actual amount used in the program during that time was 2268.00 USD. The amount of repaid plus the amount return due to excess is equal to 2092.00 USD with a remaining 1911.92 in loans to be repaid. The deadline for repayment is November 2010. No monthly repayment schedule was initially put in place and no interest rate was mandated.

The departure of Ms. Carrasco coupled with the defaulting of some loans requires that an evaluation be performed on the future sustainability of this project. This assessment will be created by the Faculty Advisor Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, the then enacting President, and Director of the Chile Project.

OBJECTIVES

1. To complete repayment of all remaining loans with minimum losses.
2. To monitor the progress and success of the eight women repaying loans.
 - a. To ensure that these eight women have been trained in the production of artisanal chocolates

3. To evaluate the future sustainability of the project after the repayment of all remaining loans in November 2010.
4. To evaluate the possibility of selling the artisanal chocolate in Houston

ACTIVITIES REPORT

In June 2009 a monthly repayment plan was negotiated between UST MCP and the loan recipients. Ms. Carrasco served as the intermediary in these negotiations. The loan recipients agreed to a monthly repayment plan that will complete their loans in November 2010.

The board position of Director of the Chile Project was created in August of 2009. This position was originally occupied by Miguel Salcedo. Due to a demanding school schedule, Mr. Salcedo left the position in November 2009. The current director, Lauren George, took this position after Mr. Salcedo vacated it.

Increased communication between UST MCP and Ms. Carrasco has led to increased collection of information regarding this project. This information coupled with recommendations from Ms. Carrasco regarding the future of the project were used for an evaluation of this project.

Once in the process of purchasing the equipment and producing the chocolate, the loan recipients realized they would not need the full 4000.00 USD and so have returned the remaining portion. The entrepreneurs began producing and selling chocolates and have developed a client list of regular purchasers. Two of the loan recipients who were a part of the original eight have left the program but the remaining six have assumed the full amount of the loan. These six individuals have paid some of the loan back but since there was no payment plan agreed upon until very late in the loan process regular monthly payments have not been tracked.

Unexpectedly, Ms. Claudia Garrido-Carrasco resigned from the Universidad de St. Tomas as professor of social justice; leaving the Program with no contact with the loan recipients. To further complicate matters, an earthquake of magnitude 8.8 occurred on February 27th, 2010 just outside of Santiago, Chile. While we remain in contact with professors at the Universidad de St. Tomas in Santiago, the Program has had no contact with the loan recipients; therefore, the Program does not know the extent to which the earthquake damaged their homes or workplace. Due to the large amount of foreseen and unforeseen problems associated with this project, it is the decision of the student board of directors to terminate this project either upon partial remuneration of the loans or, barring this, immediately.

THE GRANT WRITING TEAM

OVERVIEW

In the spring semester of 2009 Joseph Konkel approached undergraduate sophomore Jon Michael Johnson to assist him in finalizing several business proposals for use by the Microcredit Board of Directors. Mr. Konkel and Mr. Johnson began discussing ways to implement technical and business writing for the benefit of the Microcredit program. It was decided that Mr. Johnson would start a 'grant writing' team to focus primarily on creating grant proposals that were researched with the help of and to be submitted by the Office of Sponsored Research at the University of St. Thomas. This plan benefits the University of St. Thomas Microcredit Program (UST MCP) in several ways: first, it would allow student volunteers to create proposals that could be reviewed by the Office of Sponsored Research and submitted—instead of, as often the case, the Office of Sponsored Research writing the entire grant proposal; second, it would produce a streamlined database of each project and their budget for easy access and submission; third, it would provide a third form of income for UST MCP to utilize. Upon the preliminary sketch of the 'Grant writing Team' proposal, undergraduate International Studies Major, Thomas Paul Barnes, expressed interest and, prior to the start of the Fall 2009 semester, the Grant Writing Team for UST MCP was formed.

The first step for the grant writing team was to access all available information pertaining to each project under the helm of UST MCP. Initially, there were three projects: Artisan Chocolates in Chile, Honeybee Farming in Mayan communities located in the Yucatan, and Honeybee Farming in Pakistan. Midway through the Fall semester, a third project was finalized providing student loans to student(s) entering in Houston Community College (HCC) in the Fall of 2010. The information gathered included the proposal, goals, budget, policies and procedures for each project. Lastly, a budget was compiled and streamlined for the UST MCP expenses incurred by the board for events, sub-projects and overhead that is not a part of any of the aforementioned projects.

The team was given a list of foundations to research for funding for UST MCP programs. Information was also provided on the Kemper Foundation and their funding for Liberal Arts colleges. An initial grant application was submitted to the Kemper Foundation. Information was also provided by a member of the Board of Directors on a charitable grant offered by The Ernest and Young Foundation. The grant proposal was completed; however, the grant opportunity was cancelled. Currently, the grant writing team is working on two grant proposals: one is for USAID funding for the project in Pakistan and the empowerment of women by means of economic development and the second is for General Service Foundation funding for our project in the Yucatan.

The Grant Writing Team has also branched out to assist the President of UST MCP, Joseph Konkel, on any business proposals or reports submitted or distributed by UST MCP. Projects under this function are: a partnership with St. Basil's Coffee and the development of a curriculum for a student taught class offered by the University of St. Thomas during the Spring semester of 2010. Upon the resumption of classes in January of 2010 Jon Michael Johnson resigned as Director of the Grant Writing Team and his responsibilities

were taken on fully by Thomas Paul Barnes.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Grant Writing Team were to first, plan and develop a business model for such a specific faculty by which future UST students could emulate in MCP for the purpose of grant writing; second, to compile working knowledge of MCP and its specific projects for the team volunteers; third, to implement a program under the helm of MCP that would focus primarily on new ways of acquiescing revenue for UST MCP; and fourth, to employ the technical writing skills of other undergraduate students interested in propagating the success of UST MCP.

1. Development of policies and procedures by which the Grant Writing Team would act as a representative of UST MCP.
 - a. This model of our team requires very specific protocol for personnel communication; research and joint cooperation with the Office of Sponsored Research and a specific methodology for the grant writing process.
 - b. This model should be able to be duplicated by future UST students interested in working with UST MCP by means of technical/professional writing and research.
2. All members of the Grant Writing Team are to have a working knowledge of both the general operation of UST MCP and its policies and procedures and a working knowledge of each project. The purpose of this requirement is to have adequate knowledge of the program by which to write specific and detailed grant proposals.
 - a. The first objective under this faculty was to develop a streamlined budget of each project.
 - b. Second, the Grant Writing Team undertook the task of understanding the endeavors of each project and their respective goals.
3. To research and later provide new means by which UST MCP can attain income for its projects and general overhead.
 - a. This objective required that the Grant Writing Team perform independent research on grants available to UST MCP. This objective also required that the team learn the procedures and requirements associated with grant writing.
4. To provide an outlet by which students who were either interested in technical writing or already possessed the skills thereof would be able to volunteer their efforts to UST MCP, using those specific skills.

ACTIONS TAKEN

The first step taken by the UST MCP Grant Writing Team was to meet with Ms. Janice Adamson, Office of Sponsored Research UST, and outline the faculty by which the UST MCP Grant Writing Team would operate. It was decided that the two student volunteers would undergo two three-hour seminars focused on the processes of grant writing. These seminars were completed in the first half of October.

Second, the UST MCP Grant Writing Team began compiling available information on each regional project, starting first with the Yucatan, then Chile, then Pakistan. The purpose of this action was to have the members of the Grant Writing Team possess adequate knowledge of the procedures and actions taken by other projects as to write grant proposals for the projects' individual funding. A general overview of UST MCP and its respective budget was also compiled for usage in grant applications.

Third, the Grant Writing Team was provided a list of non-profit foundations and a list of grants whose deadlines were listed in 2010 by Ms. Adamson at the Office of Sponsored Research. Working with the Office of Sponsored Research, the Grant Writing Team began researching grant opportunities where the following were true: 1) UST MCP program possessed a project that met the eligibility of the grant requirements; 2) The organization or foundation distributing the grant did not oppose the Catholic values tradition of UST.

The first grant proposal completed was for the Kemper Foundation in mid-October. The requirements for the grant application were that the school program wishing to receive funding from the Kemper Foundation must display how its program integrates first-hand experience in running a non-profit organization with a liberal arts education. The proposal was completed and submitted through the Office of Sponsored Research as required by protocol.

Following the submitted proposal to the Kemper Foundation, a board member suggested a charitable grant offered through the Ernest and Young Accounting Firm totaling 10,000 USD for local non-profit crediting programs. We decided to choose our pilot scholarship program as the project to request funding from the Ernest and Young Accounting Firm. The proposal was completed in one week time from the date it was originally mentioned, however, due to miscommunication, the grant was canceled before it could be submitted to the proper addressees.

Mr. Barnes, as the newly appointed Director of Grant writing, refocused the Grant Writing team to the creation of new grant applications. A greater partnership was formed with the offices of the President and Director and the Program received its first funding from grants. During Mr. Barnes' tenure three grant applications were completed, two were granted and one is still being considered.

The first completed was an application for a CGIU Outstanding Commitment Award which, if obtained, will grant UST MCP 10,000 USD for the funding of new projects. The second application was written in conjunction with the Director of MCP, Dr. Garcia-Contreras, requesting a 1,500.00 USD grant from the Center for Faculty Excellence for the creation of an art booklet that will illustrate student's experiences while working in Istanbul. This grant application was accepted and the full amount was granted; the money granted to the program was used for the creation of an art booklet in partnership with Laurels. The final

grant completed was an application to the Undergraduate Research Committee, written in conjunction with President Konkel, for 1,400.00 USD. This grant was also approved and these funds will be used to reimburse some students for travel costs incurred personally financing travel for UST MCP purposes.

KIVA INITIATIVE: RECYCLING LOAN AMOUNTS

OVERVIEW

The KIVA initiative began along with the foundation of UST MCP in 2007. The first director of the KIVA, Cheryl Castillo, succeeded in providing 101 loans throughout Latin America, Southwest Asia, and Africa. From 2008-2009, the KIVA initiative was under the direction of Mr. Konkel. Under such time 91 loans were distributed to the regions previously mentioned. During the year in mention, the enacting director—Austin Stanfill—distributed 40 loans. At the end of the third year of the program, UST MCP has lent out 241 loans totaling 13,275.00 USD to the regions mentioned.

Loan distribution is succeeded by UST MCP KIVA Director allotting a determined amount through Kiva.org to a 'field-partner'. These field-partners are in the form of organizations (both for-profit and non-profit) that share UST MCP's goals of poverty alleviation through micro-finance. The field-partners are selected through a process entitled Risk and Loan Assessment. Field partners required to not be directly involved and/or opposed to Catholic Social Teachings. This requirement, however, does limit the organizations and thereby the individuals UST MCP is able to loan to.

The annual goal of the KIVA Initiative concerning the amount of loans distributed is determined by the amount present in the account. Each loan distributed through Kiva.org by UST MCP is not to exceed 25.00 USD. This limitation in action, the minimum amount loans set as the goal is the amount o of capital in the fund over the maximum loan amount. At the beginning of the year in mention the KIVA initiative had approximately 2,000.00 USD present in its account. The approximate goal for the year in mention was to distribute 80 loans. UST MCP desires to consistently recycle the funds in the KIVA account to new field partners and individuals. This process of continuous recycling keeps the fund low while maintaining a high rate of loan distribution and repayment.

Of the 13,275.00 USD in loans distributed 11,989.00 USD has been repaid. Currently there is a 7.95% delinquency rate and a 2.91% default rate among the loans given. Despite the determined maximum amount to be loaned, due to discrepancies in communication and administration, several loans have been made that well exceed the mandated 25.00 USD loan limit.

OBJECTIVES

1. To distribute a minimum of 80 loans to certified KIVA loan recipients by the end of 2009.
 - a. Repayment period for the loans is one year with a maximum loan amount of 25.00 USD
2. Maintain up to date information through in-depth research on the statuses of current loan recipients.
 - a. This objective is achieved by current and factual profile reports that will be provided by KIVA.

3. Minimize delinquency rate by developing relationships with possible field partners.
4. Eventual withdrawal and reallocation of all funds previously deposited in the KIVA.org account upon their repayment.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

The total amount of loans distributed through the KIVA initiative is 241. During the year in mention, 40 loans were made under the supervision of the KIVA initiative director. Of the total amount of loans 63.4% of the loans distributed are given to women—a primary focus of UST MCP.

Loan recipients for the KIVA initiative are from the following countries: Gabon, Kenya, Benin, Mozambique, Senegal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Togo, Azerbaijan, Samoa, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, and Lebanon.

Recent investigation into the non-profit organization KIVA by various national media institutions have unveiled unscrupulous business practices by the afore mentioned organization; therefore, the University of St. Thomas MicroCredit Program is removing all funds from KIVA as soon as the current loans have been repaid.

It was the desire of UST MCP to have the KIVA fund remain as low as possible—to allow for both loan distribution and repayment, but upon discovery of new information the fund will soon be eliminated so no new loans are being made—the fund currently holds 3,746.42 USD.

All loaning from the KIVA project for the second semester of the 2009-2010 year have been suspended due to aforementioned facts and the funds are to be re-allocated towards UST MCP's new initiatives.

CREDIT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW

The goal of the Credit International Association is to create three student-run businesses, plan and host two events, and facilitate a lecture series for the student body. The purpose of the businesses is to raise funds for the MicroCredit Program. The ultimate goal is that these businesses will run on a weekly or bi-weekly basis off of completely on donated resources. These businesses aim to raise funds for our project in Mexico.

The purpose of the lecture series is to educate the University of St. Thomas student body about global poverty, microfinance, and non-profit work by inviting various professionals and scholars to give accounts of their personal efforts towards poverty alleviation. It is the ultimate goal that this lecture series will help fulfill one of the program's main objectives, which is to educate students. This series is also meant to provide the St. Thomas community with a deeper understanding of the MCP's partnerships and projects. Lastly, this series aims to encourage the active involvement of the St. Thomas faculty in the MicroCredit Program.

Last semester, the Association was formed, officers were appointed, and goals were set. This Spring 2010 semester aimed to put those goals in to action. The mid-year break was spent finding donated resources, recruiting volunteers, and fine-tuning the officers' ideas for their businesses. When the semester resumed in January, the officers began their first steps towards creating the three businesses. Last semester was also spent creating a blueprint for the lecture series. Several candidates were chosen regarding speakers. During the mid-year break, the potential speakers were contacted via email and invited to participate in the series. Lastly, the event themes were decided upon: a Frenchy's Fried Chicken KIVA event and a joint event with the University of St. Thomas English Department to be organized by Travis Wooten and Mariame Aana.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

1. Creating and running three business on donated resources.
 - a. "MicroCredit for the Seasons" business.
 - i. The business aimed to offer products monthly: flowers during February, burritos during March, and ice cream during May. The goods would be given out for donations.
 - b. Performing arts business that will run on campus every month. Performers donate their time to perform music at these monthly concerts.
 - i. Donations accepted from concert guests.
 - c. 5-10 volunteers spray-painting home addresses onto neighborhood curbs for a small donation.
2. The facilitation of the "Dum Spiro Lecture Series".
 - a. Holding one lecture per month.
3. Hosting two events.
 - a. Promotion of KIVA while giving away food
 - b. Joint-effort between the English Department and the MicroCredit Program

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED AND OUTCOMES

Officers attempted to find donated resources in order to run three businesses. Nazy Salehi contacted several restaurants and flower shops in order to complete this task. Unfortunately, it was very difficult to find resources, and the only resources that were initially donated were flowers for the month of February. This project ran on February 11th during activity period. The other two monthly projects were replaced by a project involving donations from Panera Bread. Every week, beginning in early April, Panera Bread donated baked goods which we gave out to the St. Thomas community for small donations. The performing arts business became an off-campus event that took place on March 23, 2010. Five performers were found, rehearsals were scheduled, and the Broken Spoke Cafe was chosen as the venue to hold the concert. The venue and performers donated their time and resources. Lastly, Alexandria Ward, the officer responsible for implementing the spray-painting business, resigned from her position. Although an attempt was made to replace her with two individuals, my attempts were unsuccessful and this business never began.

The Center for Faculty Excellence provided a \$500 grant for this lecture series. Doherty 009 was chosen as a venue for the lecture series. Although Ahern was the initially selected location, its availability was very limited. Speakers were contacted via email. Media Services provided audio and visual services for a \$20 fee per lecture. The following speakers lectured for the series: John and Mary Boyles of Saint Basils Coffee, Shirley Brooks of Accion Texas, Carlos Gonzales of Mama Lycha, Elizabeth Maynard, Daryll Koehn, Shabnam Lutafali, Cristal Montanez-Baylor, and Dr Khumawala of the University of Houston Microfinance Program.

The Frenchy's Chicken KIVA event was replaced with the concert and a joint event hosted by UST MCP and The Young Social Justice Institute. The second event with the English Department developed into a collective effort towards the creation of an art booklet about student experiences in Istanbul that will be published in May 2010. The booklet contains poetry, thoughts, short stories, and reflections of the Spring Break visit to Turkey. This booklet will be formally presented at a reading, which will take place on May 6th, 2010.

The success rate of the Credit International Association is high. Although three businesses were not created, one was created that helped to raise 800 USD for the program. Panera Bread has pledged to donate baked goods during the next semester. Future plans include having the Panera Bread project being held by one MicroCredit Board member and several dedicated volunteers as this project is extremely time-consuming and warrants its own team. The music event was a huge success and not only raised awareness about the program, but also raised 300 USD. The lecture series was very successful. Ahern will be reserved more than six months in advance in the future in order to ensure its availability for the program. Lastly, the collaboration with the English Department not only helped begin a unique inter-departmental partnership, but helped give an artistic expression of microfinance

BUDGET SUMMARY

2009-2010 Budget

	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
Donations									
Net Assets	3,696.55								
Fundraising	\$100.00				\$7,174.99	\$1,990.59			
Private Donations		\$2,000.00	\$30.00	\$852.00			\$1,200.00	\$5,676.00	\$2,215.00
month total	\$100.00	\$2,000.00	\$30.00	\$852.00	\$7,174.99	\$1,990.59	\$1,200.00	\$5,676.00	\$2,215.00
YTD	\$100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,130.00	\$2,982.00	\$10,156.99	\$12,147.58	\$13,347.58	\$19,023.58	\$21,238.58
Funds Available	\$3,796.55	\$5,796.55	\$5,826.55	\$6,678.55	\$13,853.54	\$15,844.13	\$17,044.13	\$22,720.13	\$24,935.13
Projects									
Yucatan Project									-\$401.40
Chile						\$2,599.00			
Pakistan							-\$10,000.00		
Month Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,599.00	-\$10,000.00	\$0.00	-\$401.40
YTD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,599.00	-\$7,401.00	-\$10,000.00	-\$401.40
Expenses									
Materials					\$115.00	\$3.56		\$370.00	
Fundraising Events			\$70.00	\$400.00	\$496.99				
Travel						\$444.31	\$4,000.00		\$800.00
Credit			-\$200.00					-\$522.09	
Month Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$130.00	\$400.00	\$611.99	\$447.87	\$4,000.00	-\$152.09	\$1,201.40
ytd	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$130.00	\$270.00	\$881.99	\$1,329.86	\$5,329.86	\$5,828.09	\$1,602.80
Balance Available	\$3,796.55	\$5,796.55	\$5,956.55	\$6,408.55	\$12,971.55	\$17,113.27	\$4,313.27	\$10,141.36	\$11,744.16

2007-2008 Financial Summary

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	TOTAL
Donations				
Net assets		7,592.80	3,771.55	\$48,310.83
Fundraising	\$9,964.00	\$10,232.00	\$9,265.58	
Private Donations	\$4,691.25	\$1,285.00	\$12,873.00	
Total Contributions	\$14,655.25	\$11,517.00	\$22,138.58	
Project				
Kiva	-\$5,000.00			-\$5,000.00
Yucatan Project		-\$12,187.09	-\$401.40	-\$12,588.49
Chile		-\$4,097.81	\$2,599.00	-\$1,498.81
Pakistan			\$10,000.00	-\$10,000.00
Total Projects	-\$5,000.00	-\$16,284.90	-\$7,802.40	-\$29,087.30
Expenses				
Materials	46.49	0.00	488.56	535.05
Fundraising	83.50	0.00	966.99	1,050.49
Travel	932.46	1,103.35	5,930.58	7,966.39
Credit	1,000.00	-2,050.00	-200.00	-1,250.00
Total Expenses	2,062.45	-946.65	7,186.13	8,301.93
END OF YEAR BALANCE	7,592.80	-3,821.25	7,150.05	10,921.60

EVENTS AND LECTURES

DUM SPIRO LECTURE SERIES

Alleviate MicroCredit with a Cup of Coffee

Feb. 4, 2010

- John and Mary Boyles provided an overview of the mission of Saint Basil's coffee and its relationship with the MicroCredit Program as well as revealed their own efforts towards poverty alleviation, specifically an initiative in Haiti.

CIA MicroCredit Lecture with Shirley Brooks

Feb. 24, 2010

- Shirley Brooks, Regional Director of Accion Texas, described the basic procedures used to provide a microfinance loan in the United States.

Carlos Gonzales , Mama Lycha

Mar. 4, 2010

- Carlos Gonzales of Mama Lycha revealed that companies such as Mama Lycha not only provide employment and opportunity, but allow individuals to experience aspects of their native cultures through imported goods.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Microfinance

April 8, 2010

- The roundtable discussion included St. Thomas professors Dr. Elizabeth Maynard, Dr. Shabnam Lutafali, and Dr. Daryl Koehn as well as microfinance professionals Cristal Montanez-Baylor and Shirley Brooks of Accion Texas. The discussion revealed the advantages and disadvantages with microfinance.

Governance, Nonprofit Accounting and Microfinance

May 4, 2010

- Dr. Saleha Khumawala revealed several aspects of microfinance by describing her own experience as a microfinance professor at the University of Houston as well as her work in poverty alleviation.

PRESS COVERAGE

- Fox- Channel 26 – Hola Houston – October 2009
- KPFT – Thresholds – October 2009
- Summa - November and April issues
- NBC- Channel 2 – Morning News – September 2009
- UST Publication: Star Views
- UST Online Newsroom

- UST Publication: Thoroughfare, Spring 2010.
- Dinastia Latina
- Diario de Yucatan – January 2010

CONCLUSION

The UST MCP has been quite successful during the year in mention. Great strides have been made in regards to the reorganization of the program to increase effectiveness and efficiency. Shifting from vaguely defined positions to a role based and goal oriented structure has led to faster completion of objectives with increased levels of communication. Forms and procedures have been standardized with business protocol training sessions having occurred in February and installing of filing cabinets being the last phase in the reorganization project. Fundraising has been more effective with the division of efforts into two separate teams: Fundraising and Grant Writing. The dedicated fundraising team has led to a consistent performance at the 2009 Dum Spiro. The newly established Grant Writing team has submitted one grant application and is extremely proficient in providing professional writing services to the entire UST MCP program.

The long term goal for the KIVA initiative was to distribute 1000 loans, but due to recent developments this goal has been suspended along with the KIVA initiative. The current count of loans made to date is 241. Since the beginning of the semester in mention, 41 loans have been distributed. Based on these recent developments, Austin Stanfill must carefully monitor the KIVA account in order to best inform the Program of the best time to completely withdraw all funds from KIVA to be considered successful.

The Yucatan project has two long term goals: seeking new loan recipients and the complete repayment of loans. To date both of these goals have been met thanks to the UST MCP's partnership with APA. The total repayment of the 14,000.00 USD lent to various entrepreneurs in the Yucatan came in mid-November 2009. The UST MCP will continue to maintain its very successful partnership with APA and recycled all repaid capital to new entrepreneurs in the Yucatan during the Spring 2010 semester. The UST MCP will begin the processing of funds and installation of irrigation systems in Petac as soon as the promised 5,000.00 USD donation is put into the MCP account. The UST MCP will also be further promoting the newly developed salsa and honey labels along with actively promoting the new funding partnership between UST, Rice University, and the University of Houston.

After a short stall in operations due to instability in Pakistan, the joint initiative with the Hashoo foundation distributed its first 20 loans to women in northern Pakistan. The first 20 loan recipients have been selected and repayment schedules have been created with the approval of the UST MCP. 10,000.00 USD were transferred to Hashoo Foundation for the distribution of loans due to the successful negotiations with Hashoo Foundation USA chairperson Cristal Montanez Baylor.

The Chile initiative has had mixed levels of success during the time mentioned in this report. The project has seen the establishment of definite monthly repayment schedules; the sale of artisanal chocolate in Santiago, Chile; and the repayment of loans from entrepreneurs still participating in the project. This project is struggling and may continue to struggle due to some entrepreneurs defaulting and the departure of Ms. Carrasco. Due to these developments the Faculty Advisor, President, and Director of the Chile Project will have assessed the future viability of the project and have decided to terminate this project.

The UST MCP has experienced some problems during the time in mention mainly stemming from lack of knowledge of proper business protocol and the demanding academic responsibilities of all actively participating students. The lack of knowledge of proper business protocol was solved in a series of training sessions between January and February 2010 that were organized and led by President Joseph Konkell. The demanding school

curriculum of the students will be managed partially by instructing student volunteers proper time management strategies during the January training sessions.

The projects to be initiated in the spring 2010 semester will focus on domestic and international poverty and domestic partnerships. Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras will lead a research group on the possibility of using microfinance to reinvigorate withering communities in New Orleans, Louisiana. Initial research indicated that two key targeted areas could possibly be the lower 9th Ward and lower 7th Ward. The project group is now focusing on creating a demographic study of the targeted communities for the creation of a research paper on the viability of microfinance in New Orleans, Louisiana. The UST MCP is also in the very early stages of creating a partnership with Governor Bill Richardson to begin a microfinance initiative in the Native American Reservations in New Mexico.

The UST MCP is in the process of starting a partnership with St. Basil's Coffee that aims to raise money for the MicroCredit fund, increase distribution of St. Basil's Coffee on campus, and ultimately see the opening of a student run coffee shop on the University of St. Thomas campus. The UST MCP has recently completed an agreement with St. Basil's coffee that sees a small percentage of profit made on each pound of coffee sold going to the UST MCP fund. The next stage in this project will be a drive to encourage departments on the UST campus to buy St. Basil's coffee in order to support the UST MCP. Finally, after a large enough brand familiarity has been established on campus, the UST MCP will draft a business proposal

The UST MCP is beginning a second partnership with Hashoo Foundation to provide higher education to former dropouts from HISD high schools. The program is currently processing applications received from students who completed the Expectation Graduation project. The Faculty Advisor, Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, will then select one student to grant a loan of 500 USD to during the Fall 2010 semester. This 500.00 USD loan will be matched by a 500.00 USD loan granted by HCC thanks to the constant efforts of the UST MCP Grant Writing team.

The director of finance, Nina Nourian, became aware of massive irregularities in the UST MCP's financial records. After reevaluating the financial records Ms. Nourian discovered that every time the program filed an in-kind donation form with the University of St. Thomas the estimated amount of the in-kind donation was removed from the UST MCP account. To date it has been estimated that approximately 20,000.00 USD has been removed from the UST MCP account in this manner. The UST MCP is currently attempting to resolve this issue so that funding can be made available for new projects.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read over these documents on the activities of the UST MCP from May 2009 – April, 2010 and look forward to your input.

APPENDIX I

Lindsay Phend was appointed as the new Director of Public Relations. The MCP program has been advertising through the school with Sandra Soliz, who is in charge of publicity for the university. Fliers have been made for each of our events (see following). They are approved by the school and then distributed around campus and amongst students and faculty. All fliers are additionally posted on the front door of Tiller Hall. The program has become more active in the use of our Facebook account (UST MicroCredit Program). An event page is created for each of our lectures and events and posted on our profile page for people to access. Every time an event is made invitations are sent out through Facebook to all of our "friends". A Twitter account for the MicroCredit Program has been created. On this site, messages are sent via phone or computer, giving users of these sites updates on the MicroCredit Program. We have several international followers on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We are also in the process of updating the MicroCredit website. This will include updates on all of the projects along with an attachment of all the minutes from this year's meetings.