

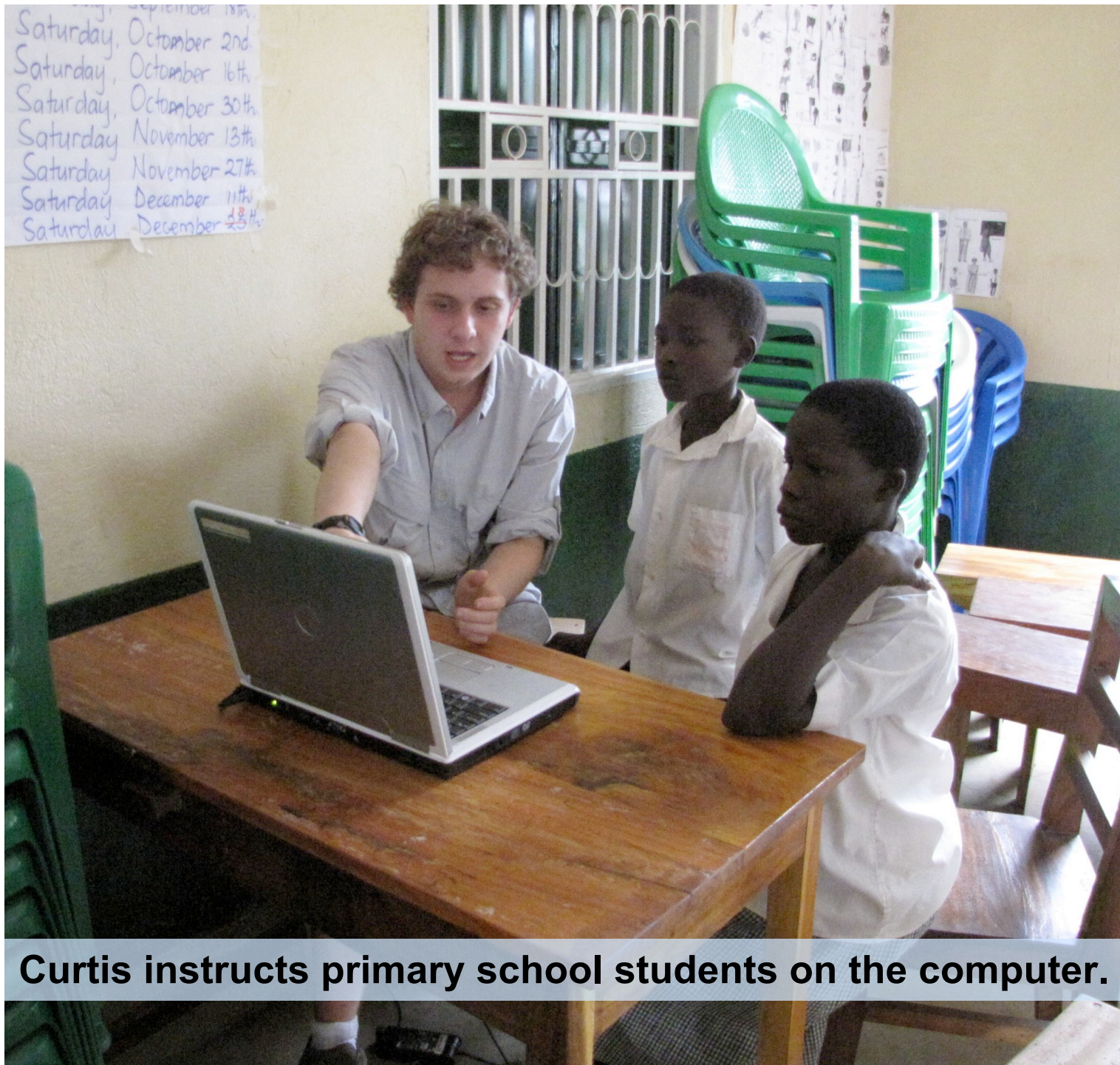


Walt Whitman High School
Student Internship in Uganda
July 27 - August 13, 2010

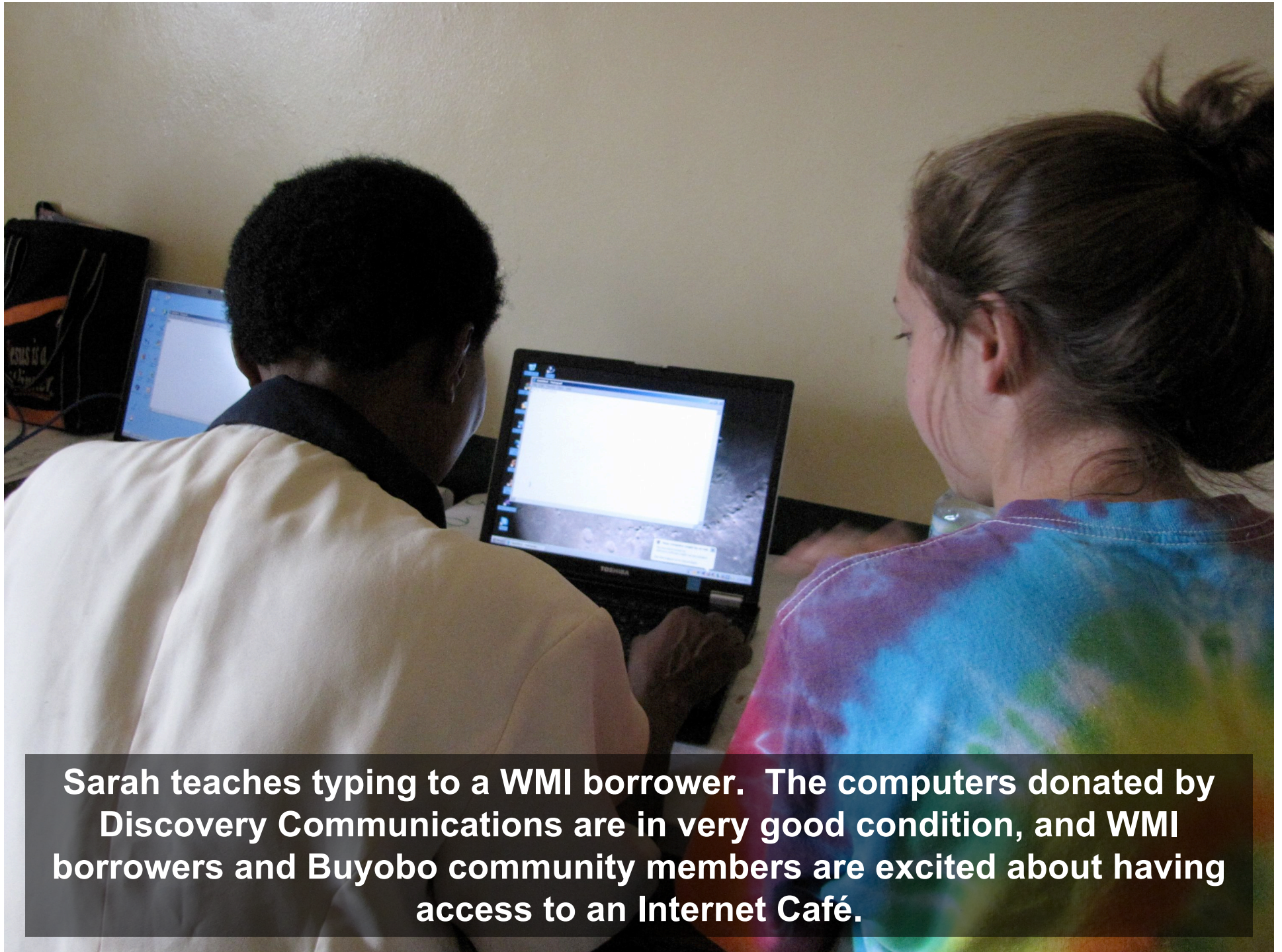
- **Walt Whitman High School students spent almost 3 weeks in Uganda volunteering with various organizations as part of an internship program for the Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI).**
- **They spent a week in Buyobo at the WMI headquarters, where they set-up an Internet Café in the WMI building using laptops donated by Discovery Communications in Silver Spring, Maryland. They trained borrowers and primary school children in computer skills and how to use the Internet. They also assisted in the construction of the foundation for 3 new classrooms, read with school children, and helped teach in primary students' classrooms.**
- **They visited the Foundation for the Development of Needy Communities (FDNC), a local non-profit in the Mbale area, specializing in education, health, and social justice issues.**
- **They worked with the Mpambara-Cox Foundation in Kabale, Uganda, administering surveys to Primary 7 students and planting trees at the Primary Schools they visited.**
- **They spent an afternoon with In Movement learning about how a group of artists in Kampala created an organization that teaches art, music, dance, and theater in an effort to promote positive self-images amongst orphaned and disadvantaged kids in Kampala.**



Ted, our resident computer expert, explains the Internet to Jackline, WMI's Local Assistant Director. Jackline was the first trainee to get an email address, and she emailed Robyn in the states.



Curtis instructs primary school students on the computer.



Sarah teaches typing to a WMI borrower. The computers donated by Discovery Communications are in very good condition, and WMI borrowers and Buyobo community members are excited about having access to an Internet Café.



Caroline teaches a song to students in the WMI After School Program. Students in Nursery thru P2 attend the program every school day to learn English in order to prepare for the Primary Leaving Exam (PLE), which they must complete in English at the end of P7. Most students do not begin learning English until P4, which makes it very difficult for them to pass the PLE exam.



Students in the WMI After School Program repeat after their teacher.



Allen Namarome, a WMI borrower and Director of the WMI After School Program, conducts business with one of her pupils. She mainly deals in coffee and beans, but she also makes sesame balls, a snack popular among students.



Students had a chance to visit borrowers' homes. Bridgett, a spunky six year old, decided she wanted to wear Madison's backpack, even if it didn't quite fit.





The interns also visited borrowers at their places of business. Betty Magombe, assisted by one of her employees (she joked that she has four if you include her husband), shows off the bogoyas that she is preparing to sell. Betty was one of WMI's first borrowers, and she has used her loans to expand her bogoya trade, as well as start a hair salon. The hair salon, operated by her husband, is located by the side of the road in front of her house.



Whitman students, including Sarah, Joey and Alex, help landscape the WMI grounds by planting some bushes and trees.



Olivia demonstrates her digging skills in preparation for planting.



Interns had to wash their own clothes by hand (Montana and Ben pictured here). Ben is now considering petitioning Whitman to add a new unit on hand washing to the Home Ec curriculum. He is also suggesting that he teach this particular unit should the school accept his petition.



Whitman students paid a visit to the FDNC school for children with physical and mental disabilities, one of the only ones of its kind in the Mbale area. The school offers students, who might otherwise receive little or no education, the chance to learn in a supportive environment.



Maggie plants a tree at one of the primary schools partnered with the Mpambara-Cox Foundation in the Kabale District of Western Uganda.



Students spent two days on safari in Queen Elizabeth National Park. On the last day they managed to spot this leopard next to an elephant on their way out of the park.



On one of their last days in Uganda, students took a boat ride out to Ngamba Island in Lake Victoria to visit a chimpanzee sanctuary that cares for orphaned and trafficked chimps. These animals live on the island in a large family of about 45 chimps. Someday the sanctuary hopes to reintroduce some of them to the wild.



Chimp Sanctuary, Ngamba Island

A big thanks from WMI to all of the interns who participated:

Alex Meyer
Sarah Tyson
Olivia Gellerson
Joey Strella
Neill Robertson
Ted Knox
Nikki Heimberg
Madison Dipman
Maggie Schmidt
Curtis Behre
Ben Geithner
Sarah Cutler
Caroline Guiot
Jess Littman

And to the fearless chaperones:

Laurie Safran
Jim Cannon
Montana Stevenson