

Hello!

I hope you and your families are enjoying snow, rain and sunshine in this spring. For me I am enjoying college so far, and I can't believe that I am near the end of my academic year of freshmen! I have a lot of excitement and pleasure about what I've accomplished and the help you've provided me in this whole year. I am happy to share good news of my whole year at George Fox University, Newberg OR.

My first semester in Fall last year was different than this Spring semester, but things are getting more fun and it makes me happier and gets me curious of what classes will be in the next Fall 2012. Since I started school in Fall 2011 my classes were mostly based on helping me to improve my English skills in writing, speaking, listening and reading. I was mostly with other international students. I really like those classes because they helped me to learn more about the cultures and the varieties of people at school that don't have the same background and culture. I learned also intercultural communication in order to help me understand the differentiations of cultures and avoiding biases and stereotype. Through that semester, I've done other things outside of school to represent the culture for example; the culture week was an exhibit of students' culture and gave us the chance to answer questions of students and staff members that visited booths. It was fun to have a booth and see people coming with curiosity to know about Rwandan culture. George Fox has a study abroad program in Rwanda, thus it makes me more of an asset to students who want to study in Rwanda.

They come along with questions and use my experience to understand some African issues for examples *Invisible children* and *Joseph Kony*. They also use my knowledge and experiences in culture differentiations in their essays, projects, and research papers.

The second semester (Spring) was much different than the first one, and it was fun and full of new experiences. My classes were all *general education classes*, they help students to graduate, and I was along with American students more than international students in this semester. This changed my perspective so much because I started to involve completely in real American culture and acclimated to different situations in life.

I also have some plans for this coming summer as well as next year once it begins. I've been planning to find a job on campus (my immigration status doesn't allow me to work off campus) in order to get work experiences during summer. I've also enrolled in classes for my whole sophomore year. I am planning to graduate in Global Business, so most of my classes are prerequisite for other Business classes and some other classes are for Business itself. I also have a minor! I decided to add a minor because as you know it takes much effort but it is important to have a minor because it would worth getting two degrees in the same length of time as it takes to pursue one degree. My minor is Computer Sciences, and I added this minor after observing many problems that people in Business field encounter in using technology. So I decided to have a minor in Computer because it is a new thing that has been introduced in Rwanda few years ago, so I wished to have knowledge in computer as part to strengthen my ability to having an impact on the change of development of my country when I move back home.

It is my pleasure to tell you a summary of my life since I got here last July, and I've had many experiences through school and outside of class. I also hope to get many experiences year by year and I hope to have a great impact for my country, my family and myself as well. I want to give chances to other kids in Rwanda by helping them whatever way I can. I want to appreciate your generosity and kindness of supporting me and other kids in Rwanda. We really appreciate what you've helped us to accomplish. We hope you will keep helping us to help ourselves and achieve great things in our lives.

I am ending this letter by wishing you great time with your families in this spring, and keep having fun the rest of the year.



**Culture week: right to left: Ivan Mutabazi(Me), Eli, Chris, Jacob, Josh, Andrew. They stopped by my booth to visit and ask questions.**

*Ivan Mutabazi*