

LAUREN SERVIN

Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
Master of Public Administration, May 2010



Lauren Servin believes in alternative methods of development based on social business models that are culturally appropriate for the location in which they are initiated. She is currently co-creating two programs that are based in Southern Sudan. Both are in partnership with members of the Sudanese Diaspora who are working to ensure a sustainable peace in their local communities and country. Malek Girls is focused on building schools for girls that will also act as centers for community development. The other organization, Sudan Development Foundation, will focus on a community-based approach to economic development, livelihood, revitalization, and security. She believes that these initiatives represent viable and innovative alternatives to traditional forms of development.

Lauren was a Co-Founder of the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI) and Co-Director of its start-up school project. In 2008, she lived in Southern Sudan, where she and a small team of Sudanese and Americans constructed and opened a secondary school geared at improving the standard of education in Southern Sudan. The foundation of this school is based on the principals of social business, and Lauren engineered income-generating projects such as the school farm. She was also responsible for hiring teachers and recruiting students, along with overseeing a variety of logistical issues needed to accomplish work in a challenging post-conflict environment.

During her work in the US for NESEI, Lauren was able to secure 501(c)3 status along with the sanctions license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control, which enabled the organization to legally send money overseas. She was also one of the drafters of NESEI's bylaws, which she later redrafted in order to register NESEI with the government of Southern Sudan. In August 2006, she organized a conference held at George Washington University that was attended by Sudanese Diaspora members currently living in the United States in an effort to engage them as effective agents of change.

As Co-Director of NESEI's secondary school, Lauren helped to develop a transition-year curriculum designed to prepare students with poor academic standing for grade-level studies. She also facilitated a partnership with Winrock, an NGO which provides scholarships for girls enrolling in secondary school. These scholarships enabled the historic movement of thirty girls from desperate and conflict-affected areas of Southern Sudan to be educated at the NESEI school.

Through this work, Lauren produced two short films, *Home is Sudan* and *NESEI FILM*, as fundraising tools for the organization. The films have been shown at film festivals and have been a part of NESEI's marketing tours across the country.

Lauren graduated from the University of Vermont in 2005, where she studied political science with a focus on East Africa and the Middle East. As part of the International Honors Program, she participated in an extensive comparative study of conventional and alternative development practices in the countries of England, Tanzania, India, New Zealand and Mexico.

LAUREN SERVIN

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sudan Development Foundation (SUDEF)

Co-Founder, Jan. 2009 – Present

- Launching organization that will focus on a community-based approach to economic development, livelihood, revitalization, and security

Malek Girls International, Inc.

Co-Founder, Dec. 2008 – Present

- Launching organization that will build schools that will act as centers of community development

New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI), Southern Sudan and Burlington, VT

Co-Founder, Program Manager and Assistant Director, Jan. 2006 – Sep. 2008

- Hired teachers, recruited students, developed curriculum, made budgets, supervised and managed school site
- Developed and implemented agricultural income generating projects, designed initial school farm
- Secured NESEI's NonProfit 501(c)3, Foreign Assets Control, and a Sanctions License to transfer funds to Sudan
- Field work in Sudan as NESEI liaison with the South Sudanese government and conducted field research for NESEI's first school site
- Drafted NESEI's bylaws and registered NESEI with Southern Sudan Government
- Created NESEI Public Relations materials including shooting and editing a series of short films in Sudan
- Produced two short films, *Home is Sudan* and *NESEI FILM*, that have shown at film festivals and have served as fundraising tools for NESEI
- Co-created the NESEI web page
- Worked with team to develop grant proposals
- Coordinated NESEI conferences and fundraisers by developing content, booking space, and creating conference materials

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT

Freelance Reporting, 2007

Water for Sudan, Inc, Sudan

Film & Registration, Mar. – Apr. 2007

Citizens Paper, Juba, Sudan

Columnist & Editor

Laughter Films, *Laughter*, New York, NY

Documentary Film Intern, Fall 2005

- Edited film segments on Final Cut Pro and logged footage

National Defence University, *National Strategic Gaming Centre*, Washington, D.C.

Research Intern, Fall 2002

- Conducted background research for political-military game scenarios and produced injects for exercises
- Assisted during the implementation of the War Game

Congressman Joe Hoeffel, Washington, D.C.

Congressional Intern, Fall 2002

- Attended congressional panels on foreign affairs
- Wrote letters and answered constituent calls

EDUCATION

New York University, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York, NY

Candidate for Masters of Public Administration, May 2010

Concentration: International Policy

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

Bachelor of Arts, May 2005

Major: Political Science

Minor: Anthropology

Boston University, Boston, MA

International Honors Program, 2004

Locations: England, Tanzania, India, New Zealand, and Mexico

Specialization: Rethinking Globalization: Nature, Culture, and Justice

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Fall 2002

DISTINCTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- NYU Reynolds Graduate Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008
- Cum Laude, Pi Sigma Alpha, University of Vermont, 2005
- Presidential Scholarship, and UVM Scholarship, 2005
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2004
- John Dewey Honors Society, 2002 – 2004
- Semester in Washington Program (SIW): Received the SIW Scholarship, Fall 2002

LANGUAGES

Intermediate Juba Arabic, Dinka, and Spanish; Written Hebrew and Arabic

SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

Final Cut Pro, website design (iweb), and research databases

Cello