

APRIL THOMPSON

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SUMMARY

MBA/MA in International Development with concentration in fair trade/socially responsible business. Extensive experience in research, writing, and editing, with additional background in marketing, training, community outreach, fundraising, and graphic design. Traveled in 27 countries, working in four of them. Fluent in French, conversational in Spanish and Portuguese.

EDUCATION

American University, Washington, DC.

December 2007, Dual MBA and MA in International Development, with a concentration in socially responsible business. Graduated in two and a half years with a 3.9 GPA. Recipient of scholarships from the American Association of University Women, Datatel and AU's School of International Service.

- Term papers chosen as class exemplars in six different courses.
- Selected to substitute-teach for Ghiyath Nakshbendi, Professor at Kogod School of Business.
- Project manager for class research project on Dorothy Stang & the Brazilian Amazon, presented to President Lula and published by the RFK Memorial Foundation.
- Active member of the Fair Trade Student Association.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

May 1993, BA in Psychology. Graduated in three years with 3.8 GPA. Inducted into Golden Key and Psi Chi national honor societies.

INTERNATIONAL/FAIR TRADE BUSINESS: HIGHLIGHTS

- Started own line of fair trade shea butter and dried fruit products imported from Guinea, handling everything from packaging to marketing, sales and distribution. (Washington, DC)
- Organized special events at a fair trade retail outlet, developed community partnership activities, represented the store at festivals, and designed and conducted a telephone survey of store patrons to help craft the store's sales and marketing strategy. (Washington, DC)
- Conducted pilot research on the impact of fair trade on Tanzania's tea-producing communities for master's thesis, while consulting with TechnoServe on the feasibility of future fair trade certification for tea farmer cooperatives. Presented research on American University panel on "Fair Trade: Is It Working?" (Southern Highlands, Tanzania.)
 - Developed a bi-lingual website and newsletter, co-produced a documentary, evaluated eight field offices, identified and designed new projects, and secured five grants for a 2003 recipient of the UN Human Rights prize. (Conakry, Guinea.)
- Researched, wrote, designed, and photographed a bilingual 60-page magazine, translated documents, and trained local staff in communications for a USAID-funded natural resources project. (Labe, Guinea)
- Wrote, edited and designed publications, managed interns and local employees, organized diplomatic missions and special events, and collaborated with journalists for a UN agency. (Conakry, Guinea.)
- Mentored low-income entrepreneurs and helped them develop business strategies. (Conakry, Guinea)
- Wrote and designed a 40-page profile for a grassroots organization's work in education, natural resources, agriculture, health, economic development and good governance. (Andhra Pradesh, India.)

WRITING, EDITING & PUBLIC RELATIONS: HIGHLIGHTS

1996-2002 Freelance writer, editor and consultant

- Authored more than 100 articles on travel, environment, and community issues that have appeared in dozens of books and magazines, including *Via*, *Alaska Airlines*, *Traveler's Tales*, *Natural Home*, *The Sun*, *the San Francisco Bay Guardian* and *The Christian Science Monitor*. Consulted for such organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

As an AmeriCorps volunteer during this period, facilitated a teen writers group, managed a youth-designed website, developed an environmental action club, and mentored at-risk youth.

EXPERIENCE: CHRONOLOGY

Culture Shop, Washington, DC, marketing intern. Summer '07

Modern Architects for Rural India, Andhra Pradesh, India, media volunteer. Winter '06

TechnoServe, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, fair trade consultant. Summer '06

Mano River Women's Peace Network, Conakry, Guinea, Communications, development and capacity building consultant. 2004-5

Winrock International, Labé, Guinea, media consultant. Spring '04

UN World Food Programme, Conakry, Guinea, national communications officer. 2003

Freelance writer and editor, San Francisco, Calif. 1996-2002

American Society on Aging, San Francisco, associate editor. 1995-6

Affordable Housing Finance, San Francisco, assistant editor. 1994-5

Saybrook Institute, San Francisco, research assistant to Stanley Krippner, PhD. 1993

INTERESTS & ACTIVITIES

- Sports: *Marathon runner (qualified for and finished the 111th Boston Marathon); amateur boxer (compete at local/regional level) and avid cyclist.*
- Volunteering with youth: *Mentor a homeless teenager via Community of Hope; read to pre-schooler via DC Reads; and train kids basic boxing skills at two recreation centers in Southeast DC.*
- *Other interests include photography, dance and meditation.*