

Timothy Machasio

**Graduation Year:** Sophomore

**College:** Arts & Letters, Science

**Major(s):** Economics, ACMS

**Minors(s):** Actuarial Science

**Scholar Group Membership:** Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars' Program, Kellogg Institute International Scholars

**Did you received other funding for this project?:** No

**Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding?** No

**More details on CUSE funding assistance?**

**Project Title:** The Maramoja Effect: Understanding the Evolution of, Concentration of and Impediments to Mobile Technology Entrepreneurship in Kenya and Tanzania

**Project Location:** Kenya and Tanzania

**ND Faculty Mentor:** Professor Catherine Bolten

**Project Type:** Research

**Why did you undertake this project/experience?** Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Research/experience necessary for senior thesis or capstone project

**Did your funded experience help you:**

**[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]:** Very Much

**[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]:** Very Much

**[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]:** Very Much

**[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]:** Very Much

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:**Very Much

**Tell us about your experience.**

I conducted interviews with mobile technology entrepreneurs in both Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania - and shadowed some of them over ~6 hour periods to better understand their organizations.

I learnt a lot about the factors that both encourage and inhibit entrepreneurial activity within the East African region. I was particularly amazed at the impact 'innovation hubs' have had in supporting the growth of promising mobile technology entrepreneurship ventures, but was skeptical about their primary intention (seemingly, they have an intention of monetizing their beneficiaries).

**Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.**

I now have a better understanding of the mobile technology entrepreneurship landscape in Kenya, my home country. Visiting different innovation hubs within Kenya and Tanzania, and shadowing a few of the mobile technology entrepreneurs I interviewed, opened me up to a network I have no doubt will be instrumental in my future research endeavors.

