

### **SEED Internship at Fundación ICO Madrid**

This summer I received Tonya funding to participate in a Social Entrepreneurship Education internship with Fundación ICO's microcredit program in Madrid along with another Sewanee student, Elizabeth Boddiford. My primary task was to aid Mr. Nazrul Chowdhury in preparing his paper and speech for the upcoming Global Microcredit Summit in November 2011 in Spain. Our tasks included attending meetings, analyzing statistics, creating graphs, correcting mistakes with the English translation and helping assemble a social trip to Montserrat.

In 2008 Mr. Chowdhury designed and began ICO's microcredit program based on the Grameen Bank principles which aim to provide those previously excluded from formal banking institutions with the opportunity to take small loans for income generating activities. Mr. Chowdhury has partnered with NGOs all across Spain to help implement the program on the ground and visits them on a weekly basis. Due to this hectic travel schedule Mr. Chowdhury, Elizabeth and I decided that it would be best for us to spend our first two weeks in Madrid working directly with him on his paper titled "*When does well designed group methodology and when does well-designed individual methodology work best to strengthen social and financial inclusion and what are those designs?*" and then the next two weeks in Barcelona working with one of Fundación ICO's partner NGOs. While working on the paper I analyzed the data that Mr. Chowdhury has collected from NGOs in 5 countries, involving over 600 people. By looking at the data I was able to develop graphs which will be included in the paper. While in Barcelona Elizabeth and I spent the first couple of days in three different meetings with Mr. Chowdhury. During the meetings, the borrowers of the NGO's microcredit programs would talk about their projects and progress. Once the meetings were over Mr. Chowdhury had to continue his travels around Spain and Elizabeth and I stayed in Barcelona to help coordinate the upcoming study tour and to work with the NGO *Foundation Raval Solidario*. Throughout the course of this internship I learned a lot about the inner workings of non-governmental organizations, the people they reach and how to tailor certain objectives to fit specific situations. It was a fantastic opportunity to be able to work on a key component of a paper that will go on to be published for a global summit. Being immersed in another culture made me well attuned to the differences of business and organization operations there.