



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Dr. Kusala Rajendran
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Dear Kusala:

Hi! Yup, I am finally writing a letter. I left for Tanzania on Dec. 27 and returned in time for classes, so things have been even more hectic than usual. It sounds like you have been busy preaching tomography lately. Congratulations on your award from the IGU, you should not be shy about taking credit for the Oroville work ... everyone helped, but it was up to you to start and finish it!

Tanzania was a good trip. The project will be hard, but workable, I think. The first week was spent building a station in the Tarangire National Park. We could hear lions roaring loud enough to wake us up in our tents at night! The people at the lodge said they were closer than usual. I would estimate about 1 to 2 meters, but others say the sound carries fairly far at night. The second week was spent in Dar es Salaam, the capital city, doing bureaucratic stuff. I am now a Class C resident of Tanzania and I became one without bribing anyone! We did, however, have to have a friend contact a friend (who happened to be Director of Immigration). Dar es Salaam is characterized by what I call "Third World Urban Chaos". It is fun to watch, but miserable if you want to get anything done. Plus hot and humid. But ... I saw the Indian Ocean! I looked for India, but there was an island in the way. Overall, a pretty good trip.

Not much is going on here. Pradeep came back. Ronnie did not get the Taber award and has not defended and his grumpier than usual. An old story -- Rick told us that Ron was all excited that there were two new students, both good old fashion American Males, coming in as new students. I am always skeptical of new students, but I decided these guys were OK when I heard that within a few days of their arrival, Ronnie was no longer speaking to either one of them! I think they are speaking again, but I guess they really disappointed Ron. Mario did not send me a Christmas card this year ... how about you?

A funny thing happened this semester. Geophysics is popular! My 819 seminar on East Africa has 8 -- count 'em, 8 -- students! I'm told Pradeep's seminar has quite a few too. Pretty wierd. Oh, I also spilled about half of one of our seminar speaker's slides out of the tray last week. A slide got stuck and in the process of freeing it, I flipped the tray without the protector ring! This was one of the candidates for our faculty position. It was funny and sad all at once. The guy held up pretty well, I thought. He had not numbered his slides! Someone dumped mine once, but they were numbered and fell "piecewise" in order. This guy's were random and unnumbered.

Well, that just about fills my page. I return to Tanzania in May and I am going to LA for the SSA meeting in April. Oh -- Sally and I are actually going on a vacation over Spring Break. We are going to Calgary in search of snow. That is about it.

base, TJO
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Greetings to CP + APPU.

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In case news travels slow.... The Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl again!