

## 2005 AEP Scholars Honored at Annual Awards Banquet January 2005

The Africa Education Project's Annual Awards Banquet was held in Nairobi on Sunday, January 31, 2005. AEP-Kenya and US staff, AEP scholars and their family and friends attended the banquet.

The atmosphere at the banquet was personal which allowed staff, scholars and family members to speak openly about themselves and AEP. Eric Opiyo, an aspiring doctor, shared that he is deeply grateful to AEP for allowing him to attend school. Aurilian Gabriel agreed saying that AEP has "really helped in terms of keeping me in school and giving me the chance to get an education even as a young woman." Tim Otieno added that, "With all the help I am getting, I feel like I can really make it." Tim aspires to study mechanical engineering in university.

After the ceremony and lunch, each scholar was presented with a certificate of achievement. They proudly smiled as the gratefully accepted their certificates.

AEP staff members were inspired and motivated by the words the scholars shared. "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give," Benjamin Odiyo, AEP-Kenya Program Administrator, shared referring to the Winston Churchill quote. "This truly describes the attitude and the determination of AEP staff towards improving the life of our scholars."

William Siwa, AEP-Kenya Program Facilitator, adds, "Great things come in small packages! AEP will continue to have a great impact on the lives of many young people. For the scholars this was the beginning of their long pilgrimage to achieving their life long dreams."

"I travel to Kenya every year just to meet these extraordinary young people," shares Kat Simon-Agolory, Executive Director of the Africa Education Project. "And it is worth every mile that I have traveled."



The group partaking in a Kenyan meal.



Five of the seven 2005 scholars.



Siwa William presents Tim Otieno with a certificate of achievement.