



alliances

M | LSA AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2015

No. 7

Member of the University of Michigan International Institute

“Door of the Third Millennium” monument in Dakar, Senegal explored by Rebecca Griffin from the U-M Center for Global and Intercultural Studies and Waly Faye from the Western African Research Center. Seated in the Millennium door—open to the world—is a statue called *Yaye Boye* (“mother” in Wolof) that symbolizes Mother Africa watching over her children. Photo credit: Michael Jordan



From the Director

Photograph by Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed



In the seven years since the African Studies Center (ASC) was launched, many successes have been achieved: our African partnerships strengthened, grants won, research launched, publications released, visitors welcomed, conferences successfully concluded, and new Africa-focused courses taught.

Yet the achievement that crowns all others is the sense of community that flourishes among the University of Michigan (U-M) faculty, students, staff, and alumni who are engaged in some way with the African continent. This collective spirit spills over and animates our networks in Africa, extending this community across thousands of miles. More than the many individual achievements, it is this collective resource that marks the beginning of our eighth year.

With this issue of *Alliances*, we celebrate the growth of U-M engagements in Ethiopia and Senegal and our ever-stronger collaborations in Ghana, South Africa, and Uganda. And while it has been a painful year for our colleagues in Liberia who are still coming out from under the shadow of the Ebola epidemic, our partnerships there continue to flourish.

To our community, we welcome a host of new faculty who bring with them diverse talents, knowledge, and experiences in Africa. They include:

1. **Rivet Amico**, *School of Public Health (South Africa)*
2. **Stephanie Bosch Santana**, *English (South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe)*
3. **Jatin Dua**, *Department of Anthropology (Somalia)*
4. **Mai Hassan**, *Department of Political Science (Kenya)*
5. **Muzammil Hussain**, *Communication Studies (North Africa)*
6. **Nahomi Ichino**, *Department of Political Science (Ghana)*
7. **Elizabeth King**, *School of Public Health (Uganda)*
8. **Zachary Landis-Lewis**, *Medical School, Learning Health Sciences (Malawi)*
9. **Okeoma Mmeje**, *U-M Health System, Obstetrics & Gynecology (Nigeria)*
10. **Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin**, *U-M Health System, Obstetrics & Gynecology (Ethiopia)*
11. **Kentaro Toyama**, *School of Information (Ghana)*

Our Mission

The African Studies Center provides strategic guidance and coordination for Africa-related education, research, and training activities on campus, and promotes opportunities for collaboration with African partners on the continent. The center serves as a conduit for University of Michigan's many Africa initiatives in the sciences, arts, humanities, social sciences, engineering and medicine.

Welcome to one of the most vibrant and interdisciplinary Africanist campuses in the country!

With hellos also come good-byes. As we begin the eighth year of ASC, we bid a fond farewell to Program Manager Devon Keen. For many on campus and in Africa, Devon represents ASC. She has assumed the position of a joint degree program run through the Schools of Information and Public Health. We shall miss her keenly!—her managerial talents, her inspiring innovations, her infectious enthusiasm, and her glowing smile. We wish her well in the new job, and know that she will excel there just as here. We also bid farewell to U-M Obstetrics & Gynecology Professor Senait Fisseha, MD, JD, who is joining the Susan T. Buffet Foundation to direct its Office of International Programs. We thank her for being the bridge that has taken U-M partnerships in Ethiopia to a greatly expanded and inclusive campus-wide level.

I thank ASC Associate Director Oveta Fuller, staff Sandie Schulze, Pierre Muhoza, Gloria Caudill, Kathy Covert, and the ASC Executive Committee for their unceasing labors and dedication, and the whole ASC community for bringing our aspiration for equitable engagement to fruition. May the coming year only add to our collective successes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Askew".

Kelly Askew

Director, African Studies Center

Professor, Anthropology and Afroamerican/African Studies

July 2015

U-M'S CENTER FOR GLOBAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (CGIS) IN SENEGAL

Since 1993 the West African Research Center (WARC) in Senegal's capital city Dakar has been providing a central intellectual and logistical hub for students and scholars from West Africa, the United States, and beyond. WARC, located in the beautiful Fann-Residence neighborhood in downtown Dakar, just blocks from the Atlantic Ocean, is the location of regular lectures, roundtables, book signings, film screenings, and exhibits.

Among WARC's many goals are to encourage collaborative research between US-based and West African researchers and universities, to provide academic and personal resources for visiting scholars and students, to provide current data on West Africa and the African Diaspora, and to promote interdisciplinary approaches and considerations of gender in the study of West Africa and the African Diaspora. In 2014, WARC underwent a comprehensive external evaluation and came out with flying colors.

U-M students now will have greater access to this tremendous resource with CGIS's French language and African studies in Dakar program. Juniors and seniors with at least five semesters of college-level French are eligible to apply for this semester-long program that allows them to take a variety of courses at WARC. And, if their French is strong enough, they can enroll in classes at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, home to over 60,000 students. WARC staff will organize outings in and around Dakar to help students engage additional facets of the local community. Students will stay with a host family in Dakar to help improve more rapidly their spoken French and Wolof, a regional sub-Saharan language.

Senegal is an African nation that transitioned from a long colonial past to independence and on to a stable democracy in relative peace. Most of Senegal's 12 million Muslims are members of confraternities (brotherhoods), a fascinating and unique manifestation of Sufi Islam. This makes CGIS's program also a fascinating opportunity to study world religions.

The current director of WARC is Ousmane Sène, professor of African and African-American literature at Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, where he served as department chair for 10 years. He received his PhD in literature from the École Normale Supérieure de St. Cloud and the Université Paris III-Sorbonne. He has taught and conducted research on francophone and anglophone literature at several North American and European institutions. His research focuses on the portrayal of African social, cultural, and development issues through literature.

CGIS Director Michael Jordan and CGIS Senior Program Advisor Rebecca Griffin traveled in July to Senegal to meet with Professor Sène and his staff. *See the cover page photo.*

Editor's Note



This edition of *Alliances* celebrates community and reflects the breadth and growing synergy among the University of Michigan (U-M) and colleges and universities in African countries. We pilot an early fall release to jump-start the new academic year. Because of the welcomed expansion of the U-M and Africa engagements, it is not possible to cover all ASC-related activities in one newsletter. While we have retained some features of previous editions, we debut new sections and exciting feature stories. One of these is "In the Media," which provides introductions and links to stories about U-M Africa-related successes accessible through online media. We are expanding student news to welcome the increasing numbers of U-M students with scholarship related to Africa. Perhaps, most noticeably, the 2015 edition embraces the familiar phrase, "a picture is worth a thousand words." We are increasing the visuals that tell their own stories and wonderfully capture some of the vastness and joy of U-M African alliances.

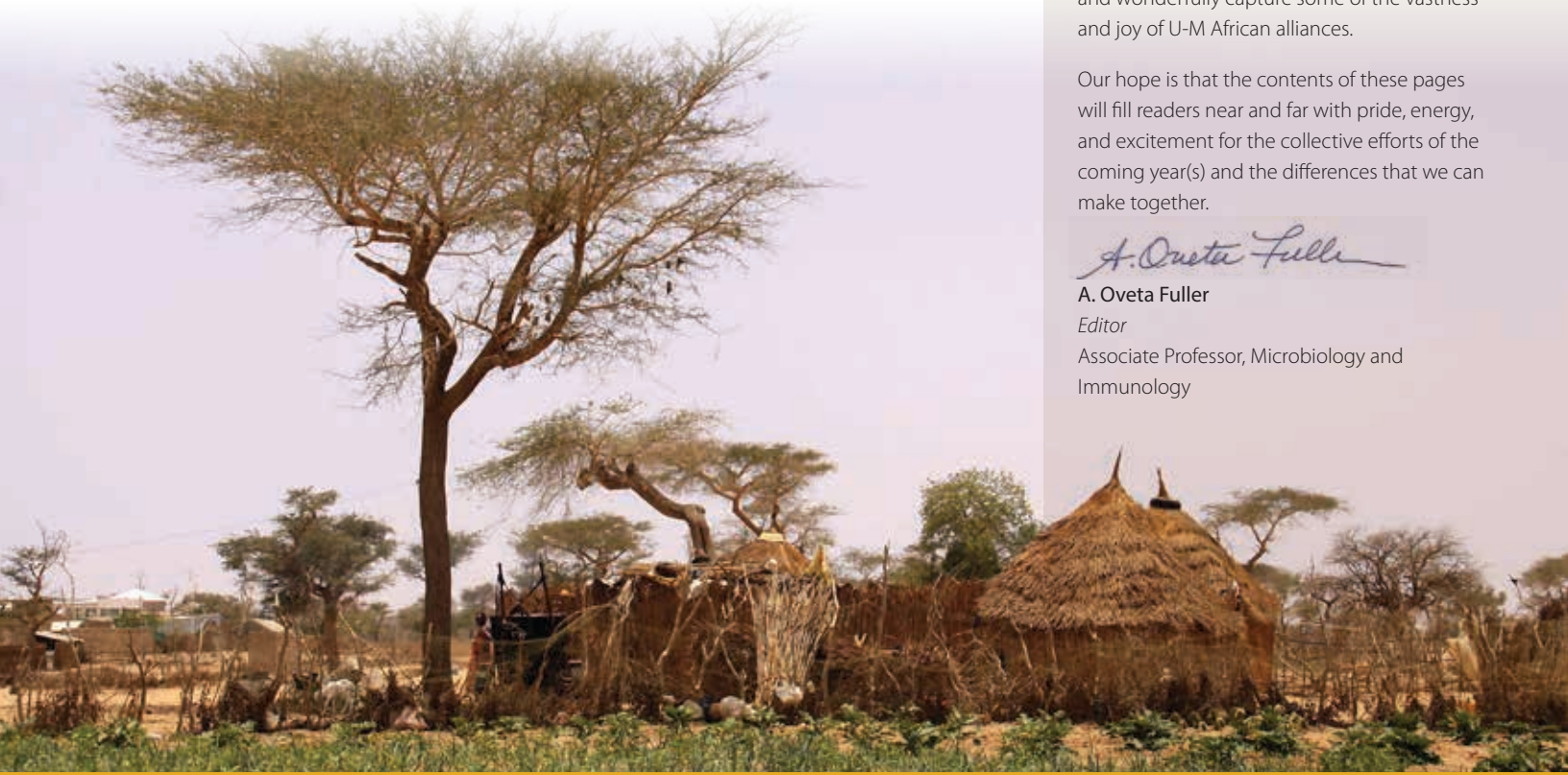
Our hope is that the contents of these pages will fill readers near and far with pride, energy, and excitement for the collective efforts of the coming year(s) and the differences that we can make together.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Oveta Fuller".

A. Oveta Fuller

Editor

Associate Professor, Microbiology and Immunology



IN THE MEDIA: U-M AFRICA ALLIANCES



Dr. Senait Fisseha at St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

With the collaborative activity underway at the start of Fall 2015, many Africa-related stories appeared over the past year that feature ASC faculty and students. We provide excerpts of some of these along with links to the full articles.

\$25M grant backs U-M project to curb maternal deaths in Ethiopia, other developing nations

With a \$25 million grant from an anonymous donor, the University of Michigan will begin training doctors in Africa in reproductive health services not widely available to many women living in remote areas of the continent.

The grant will allow faculty at the UM Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to create a center for reproductive health training that will increase the number of health professionals equipped to provide lifesaving reproductive health care, especially to women whose families are poor. The new center will train health professionals in resource-poor countries in comprehensive family planning services, helping to lower maternal mortality.

“Every day, women across the globe are dying and suffering from poor health outcomes because they don’t have access to high quality, comprehensive reproductive health care,” said Senait Fisseha, the center’s director. Fisseha, who was born in Ethiopia, is a reproductive endocrinology and infertility specialist at the U-M Health System.

Beata Mostafavi, U-M Health System News, October 8, 2014. *Read the full story at: <http://www.uofmhealth.org/news/archive/201410/25-m-grant-backs-u-m-project-curb-maternal-deaths-ethiopia>*



Longtime “Music Time in Africa” host Leo Sarkisian stands with his wife Mary in the library that housed his extensive collection of radio broadcasts and original recordings from Africa. In the background are Loyd Mbabu, U-M Librarian for African Studies, and Kelly Askew, Professor in the U-M Departments of Anthropology and Afroamerican and African Studies.

UMSI faculty helping to bring rare and valuable African music archive to U-M

One of the world’s most valuable and distinctive archives of music recordings will soon call the University of Michigan its home. The Leo Sarkisian Collection of African Music features more than 10,000 audio reels in addition to 45 rpm singles and cassette tapes from sub-Saharan Africa, most of which were created by Leo Sarkisian, the longtime host of Voice of America’s “Music Time in Africa” radio program. The collection is a record of the VoA radio broadcasts and the federal agency’s longstanding engagement with post-colonial Africa. On long-term loan from VoA to the University of Michigan, the collection will be housed in the U-M Library.

The collection’s breadth, historical significance, and one-of-a-kind content make it a remarkably useful resource for students and faculty studying not just the music of Africa, but also archives and preservation, anthropology, history, political science, and communication studies, according to Paul Conway, associate professor of information in the University of Michigan School of Information (UMSI).

U-M School of Information News, October 9, 2014. *Read the full story at: <https://www.si.umich.edu/news/umsi-faculty-helping-bring-rare-and-valuable-african-music-archive-u-m>*

UMMS awarded \$1.44M to address maternal and neonatal mortality in Ghana

The University of Michigan Medical School has been awarded \$1.44 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to examine the social, cultural and behavioral factors influencing maternal and neonatal mortality in northern Ghana in West Africa.

Every year more than a quarter of a million women die from pregnancy-related causes, and nearly 3 million babies die before they reach 1 month of age. While the clinical causes of such deaths are well known, few understand the complex social and cultural antecedents that increase the likelihood of deaths from largely preventable causes. In Ghana, these include community power dynamics that require permission from multiple levels of authority to visit a health facility, regional norms of stoicism and suffering through pain, and delays as a result of seeking local treatment options first.

The 36-month project, “Preventing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Rural Northern Ghana,” will utilize techniques of social autopsy, community audits, and geographic mapping technology to identify social and cultural factors influencing maternal and neonatal mortality, and use those results to inform pilot initiatives at selected innovation sites to translate project findings into locally-tailored solutions.

UMMS Headlines, October 14, 2014. *Read the full story at: <https://www.umhsheadlines.org/2014/10/umms-awarded-1-44m-to-address-maternal-and-neonatal-mortality-in-ghana/>*



Grandmothers from rural northern Ghana participate in a focus group discussion with Dr. Cheryl Moyer (far left) and colleagues from the Navrongo Health Research Centre about the social and cultural factors that impact maternal and neonatal health in their communities. Moyer is the lead researcher of the USAID grant.

Ghana school names library after U-M Ob/Gyn chair for devotion to global maternal health

It was a basic human need that has compelled University of Michigan Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology Timothy R.B. Johnson, M.D., to devote his life to global maternal health — far too many women around the world were dying of preventable deaths.

The maternal mortality ratio in Ghana was dismal, the country steadily losing women in their communities to complications during pregnancy, childbirth and other health issues that could have been avoided simply by the right medical training and care. It's what led Johnson down a path that has become his legacy: a 25-year collaboration between the U-M and Ghana resulting in the training of more than 140 obstetricians in the country today.

Now, a library at the Family Health Medical School, a private medical school, is named the Tim Johnson Library Complex to honor his contributions to the region.

U-M Health System News, June 16, 2015. *Read the full story at: <http://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/about/news/ghana-school-names-library-after-u-m-obgyn-chair-devotion-global-maternal-health>*





Geoff Emberling takes annual trips to northern Sudan so he can dust off the mysteries of an ancient kingdom buried under the desert town of El Kurru.

The Pharaohs of Ancient Sudan

Flying from Ann Arbor to Sudan takes 20 hours. The final plane lands in Khartoum, Sudan's capital of about five million people. From there, Geoff Emberling (PhD '95) rides four hours north on bumpy desert roads to a much smaller, dusty village on the Nile River called El Kurru. Emberling, a research scientist with LSA's Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, heads to El Kurru to excavate the remains of so-called "Black Pharaohs" hidden under its sand.

Emberling hopes to resolve some of the mysteries that still surround the rise of Kush—what he describes as "a dark age in terms of our archaeological knowledge of Sudan." One major mystery is how the kingdom of Kush overturned Egypt's established dominance, despite initially having few of the trappings that we'd expect of a powerful empire, such as written language, political bureaucracy, or a major urban center. "It's out of that very low level of wealth, political control, military control, artistic production—that background of historical silence—that Kush emerges," Emberling says. "That's the question that I'm interested in."

Elizabeth Wason, LSA Today, January 12, 2015. *Read the full story at: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/ci.thepharaohsofancientsudan_ci.detail*



Alain Mukwege and Janis Miller

A campus tour leads to a partnership in Africa

His English was limited. She couldn't speak French. But the Congolese physician and a U-M School of Nursing professor clicked. Dr. Denis Mukwege was visiting U-M to receive the Wallenberg Medal, a humanitarian award that honors Raoul Wallenberg—an alumnus who saved tens of thousands of Jews during World War II—when Janis Miller, an associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, was asked to escort him around campus. Miller said she was impressed with how Mukwege took up the rallying cry of Wallenberg that "one can make a difference."

That chance meeting on the autumn day in 2010 has since grown into a vital partnership with Panzi Hospital, founded by Mukwege. The institution near the eastern city of Bukavu has developed a global reputation for caring for women in what is known as the rape capital of the world. The latest development in the relationship involves Mukwege's son, Alain, who earlier this year became a visiting scholar and research associate at U-M's School of Nursing.

William Foreman, Michigan News, August 6, 2015.

Read the full story at: <http://ns.umich.edu/new/multimedia/videos/23047-a-campus-tour-leads-to-a-partnership-in-africa>

Related story: "DR Congo: Caring for victims of rape - a tool of terror," <http://global.umich.edu/2015/08/dr-congo-caring-for-victims-of-rape-a-tool-of-terror/>

BEYOND EBOLA AND THE MICHIGAN DIFFERENCE

FULFILLING EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE MISSIONS

On October 22, 2014, the International Institute hosted the roundtable discussion “Beyond Ebola” to an overflow audience. The panel discussion provided an understanding of the West African Ebola epidemic.

The timely forum was co-sponsored by ASC, the STEM-Africa Initiative, and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. A panel of faculty scholars included STEM-Africa Initiative Co-coordinator Oveta Fuller, virologist and associate professor of microbiology and immunology; Mike McGovern, associate professor of anthropology; Renee Gerring, University of Michigan African Presidential Scholar (UMAPS) from the University of Liberia; and Joseph Eisenberg, professor of epidemiology. The panel provided insight into aspects of the Ebola epidemic, the related diseases, its spread, and possible controls; what factors fueled the epidemic that raged across three contiguous countries; how daily life had been affected in communities in Liberia; and the short- and longer-term predicted impacts, such as how many people might eventually be infected or affected. The prevailing question was, “What would be required to bring this epidemic under control?”

Moderated by ASC Director Kelly Askew, professor of anthropology and Afroamerican and African studies, the panel of scholars was augmented by expert discussants Dr. Sandro Cinti (infectious diseases), Dr. Frank Anderson (obstetrics and gynecology), Dr. Adam Lauring (infectious diseases/microbiology), and Gesler Murray (geology and Liberia infrastructure), as a UMAPS visiting fellow also from the University of Liberia.

“This provided clearly presented, much needed insights in a way that anyone could understand,” commented the

Rev. Maymette Dolberry, a community participant who drove in from Ypsilanti for the forum. “There is so much occurring. We need to fully understand why there is no need to panic and to know why and how to be aware and remain diligent. There is so much in the media. I need to know what to believe and what to do.”

Gerring told of her family’s experiences just before she left Monrovia in late August 2014 to begin her six months of UMAPS residency in Ann Arbor:

“All schools (universities and others) closed. People did not visit or go out of their house. People who understood the warnings did not hug or touch anyone. We ate only canned foods to avoid venturing into the markets as usual to buy meat and fresh produce. Life was different. People died in the streets from an invisible enemy. It was horrible—horrible even for a country that had seen years of civil war.”

The interactive format efficiently provided information and ample time for responses to questions. Topics ranged from the U-M Medical Center’s current level of preparation for safely handling an Ann Arbor arrival of someone suspected of having Ebola disease to the dangers of Ebola for people here in the U.S., to considering whether the viral RNA genome might mutate to enable spread by aerosols rather than the currently required direct contact.

The audience was able to take away a new appreciation of the many intermingling factors that fueled the epidemic. This includes poor infrastructure (healthcare, water, electricity, transportation) from years of civil war in Liberia; an inadequate, slow international response; the effect of a deadly, highly infectious virus in a new location; the impact of fear, stigma and lack of understanding; and the porous

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ROUND TABLE

Beyond Ebola

Wednesday, 10.22.2014
4-5:30pm, 1636 SSWB
1080 S. University Ave. Ann Arbor

Follow the discussion and post questions during the live webcast

#BeyondEbola
@iimichigan

Live stream will be available at li.umich.edu.

For more info, please contact iimichigan@umich.edu or (734) 763-9200

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borders of the three countries that allow family members to frequently travel back and forth between rural and urban areas.

The “Beyond Ebola” forum successfully communicated why this global health crisis still requires substantial resources and everyone’s sustained attention to move beyond the current epidemic and implement measures to prevent reoccurrence. The forum highlighted the need for plans to deal with the tremendous aftermaths when the virus has been eliminated.

At the end of July 2015, the WHO reported 27,642 cumulative infections with 11,261 deaths from Ebola disease in West Africa. Each week in hot spots still found in Guinea and Sierra Leone around 30 people become infected, while Liberia struggles to get back to an official Ebola-free status.

That the International Institute and the ASC could host in one place such an informative, on-target, comprehensive and relevant conversation, including insights from Liberian scholars, attests to the depth, breadth, and reach of the University of Michigan. It indeed exemplifies the Michigan Difference.

LESTER P. MONTS: A CAREER DEDICATED TO AFRICA AND DIVERSITY

by Oveta Fuller



How does one show appreciation for the contributions to education and for the lives affected by a faculty member and top-level administrator at a place like the University of Michigan? The assessment extends beyond the classes taught and lectures given, papers and books published, films and documentaries produced, the art and new works created, connections facilitated, students, fellows and faculty counseled, community influenced, or the trajectory up the promotion ladder. How does one appreciate the impact of over 21 highly engaged years in a top university administrative office?

The African Studies Center (ASC) addresses these challenges and seeks to show appreciation for the contributions of Professor Lester P. Monts, one of the founding voices of the ASC. In 2014, Professor Monts stepped down as Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and returned to his full-time positions as the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music (Musicology), special advisor on affairs of the Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan, and director of the Michigan Musical Heritage Project. The ASC Executive Committee recently approved the annual competition and awarding of the Lester P. Monts Outstanding Graduate Research Award as a show of appreciation. The first award was given at the 2015 faculty meeting and spring reception.

I recently spent some time with Professor Monts to discuss his roles in developing ASC, his ethnomusicology research, and his views of U-M from a perspective of years of service in high-level administration. Here we share Part I (About the African Studies Center) in a three-part series covering the conversation.

Fuller: Can you tell me about the origins of the African Studies Center?

Monts: It dates back to the early 1990s. At the advent of the International Institute in 1993, with Founding Director David William Cohen, there were a few Africanist scholars on campus, but not a unit in the International Institute that had a focus on Africa. At that time, the major focus of the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), rightfully so, was on African Americans, with important teaching, research, and degree programs on domestic topics. There were many strong, prominent faculty scholars such as Harold Cruse, Earl Lewis, Robin Kelly, and James Jackson working in this much-needed area. CAAS and its faculty focused on Western Hemisphere studies as part of the U-M response to student protests.

As time went on, there were more scholars hired so that a critical mass of people who studied aspects of Africa was here. A few of us talked about creating an African Studies Center. This had to be done

without jeopardizing the effectiveness of CAAS and its efforts to become a degree-granting department, a goal which now has been achieved.

The idea of a center for African scholarship was tipped into reality as part of the Global Initiatives of former President Mary Sue Coleman. Her 2008 visit to Africa was pivotal. The goal of the delegation in the second Initiative that she led when she visited Ghana and South Africa, was similar to that of the first Global Initiative that connected the university closely to China.

A salient moment of the 2008 trip was the U-M Gospel Chorale performance at the National Theatre of Ghana. That was something to behold! The Ghanaian choirs performed wonderfully in the soprano, alto, tenor and bass arrangements singing African songs—a more British style. They were good, really good!

But it was so amazing to me, as an ethnomusicologist, that the Gospel Chorale was much more rhythmic — more African-like with their movement and pantomime associated with the music—and their solo singing contained more “Africanisms,” as I would teach in a class, than the national choirs. It really speaks to the transmission and retransmission of musical traits back to Africa—it’s not a one-way street, but a two-way street as to how various cultural traits are moved around and adopted.

When Mary Sue returned from her visit, she put funds into the U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) program. We then started in earnest, with the help of Mark Tessler, Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of the International Institute (II). We gathered the Africanist faculty together, and with President Coleman's blessings, wrote and submitted a proposal for the African Studies Center to the provost, and it was approved. Mark selected Kelly Askew as the first director. She was ideal as both a faculty member in CAAS and also an Africanist. She has done an excellent job over the years in developing collaborations and shepherding the center. Under her leadership, ASC complements rather than duplicates or competes with programs of CAAS, which is now the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS).

Fuller: *What are some of the seminal moments that you recall in the start-up and growth of ASC?*

Monts: A unique aspect of ASC is that it encompasses anyone who has a connection with Africa, whether it is science, engineering, humanities, social sciences, public health, medicine—there is a home. There is engagement through EHED (Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development), UMAPS, the Mellon Grant with University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) and individual research of the faculty that has solidified in a short amount of time into a very strong African studies presence—really a large community—on this campus.

Before there was a vice provost for international affairs, there was a governing council for the International Institute. I chaired that for a little while, and we were able to move things around a bit. Credit goes to Mark (Tessler) and David (Cohen) for an idea that goes back to the early 1990s.

Fuller: *In a recent conversation, a colleague and I shared thoughts regarding ASC and its potential and international reach. He said that "the University of Michigan is 'punching well under its weight.'" He explained that this not an African phrase, but a boxing term. He was using it to express that we (the university) could or should be a heavyweight in scholarly engagements with Africa, but are "not there yet." Part of the beauty of ASC, as you say, is that it can encompass anything to do with Africa. It aptly serves as an avenue for entities to engage in ways that would be slower and more difficult to occur if the ASC did not exist. The ASC is not about ownership or limiting possibilities in any way. Rather it connects, enables and facilitates what can seem to be unrelated entities to engage more easily, to do more in a shorter time, and in a more effective way.*

Monts: I totally agree with that. One has to remember that ASC, even with its success, has only been on-line for seven years. It's just going to take some time for people to understand. Some disciplines have not been accustomed to engaging in cross-disciplinary studies and interdisciplinary collaborative work. I am simply amazed.

When we were starting out, I never

imagined that the medical school, pharmaceutical sciences or engineering would be involved with the center's focus on Africa. People in these areas have been apart from the social sciences and humanities, and yet have been working in Africa forever through USDA and the World Health Organization and in other ways. These disciplines and their much needed efforts are a natural part of a focus on scholarship and work in Africa. It will just take a bit of time to have it all come together, as is very possible at Michigan.

Fuller: *How did the African Heritage Initiative (AHI), African Social Research Initiative (ASRI), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-Africa Initiative come about?*

Monts: No other place that we know of includes, in addition to humanities and social sciences, a focus on STEM. The three areas came out of the deliberations on the results of a study from the office of Gary Krenz, whom President Coleman put in charge of the new Global Initiatives with China and Africa.

Major ASC institutions out there – Indiana, Wisconsin, Rutgers, the University of Washington, and of course, Michigan State—have been involved forever with African studies and have well-established centers. Many of these are major land-grant institutions and thus aptly involved in Africa. STEM at Michigan is one of, if not the only one, that includes this area in ASC. This is one prime example of the "Michigan Difference."

Fuller: *What are some stand-out moments when you look back over the seven years of ASC and of your twenty-one years here at U-M?*

Monts: There are many. But for stand-outs, I am amazed at the collaborations beyond the norm. I never thought I would see anything that brought China and Africa together. The U-M Center for World Performance Studies (CWPS) and the Confucius Institute put on a joint performance that brought together Professor J.H. Kwabena Nketia, director of the International Center of African Music and Dance at the University of Ghana, and Professor Emeritus of UCLA



Lester Monts and Mark Tessler with former President Mary Sue Coleman

and Pittsburgh. He came and gave a really great talk. We had multiple activities leading up to ASC. For all of these Nketia was here!

Another stand-out moment was the volume *Revitalizing African Music Studies in Higher Education* published by the University of Michigan Press (ed. Frank Gunderson, 2001), and now there is an entire series from ASC through the University Press called African Perspectives.

Also, Kelly's selection as the inaugural director was a key decision. I remember first meeting Kelly when she was an energetic graduate student at Harvard who was conducting dissertation research in Tanzania. She was recruited to Michigan from an assistant professorship at Indiana; James Jackson, who was director of CAAS then, was involved in the recruitment. And Kelly asking you to come on as associate director—with your expertise and experience at the Medical School—has been a great way to bring the campus together. The presence of ASC and range of activities through the center not only importantly expand what happens for Africa, but also greatly enhance the potential for educating a wide array of students and faculty here at Michigan in a substantially different way, one that would happen much less without ASC.

ASC also provides an important resource for African students at U-M. Early on, while I was advisor to the African Student



U-M immersion students engage with the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia

Association (ASA), there were so few U-M students from African countries that we invited students from Eastern Michigan to join in activities to increase this community. They were pleased to have the associations and strengths of the growing community. Now such events are looked forward to, like the one recently sponsored by the U-M African Student Association—that was great fun. All of this is still evolving.

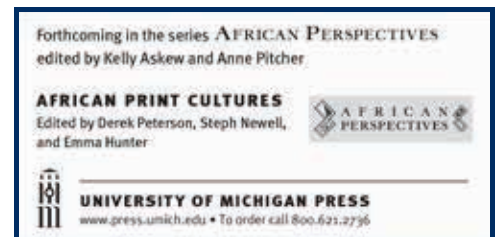
Fuller: Before we move into talking specifically about your research in ethnomusicology in Liberia, what do you see for the ASC going forward?

Monts: ASC will continue to thrive and grow. It will continue to evolve as a unique entity of U-M that meets many needs, challenges, and opportunities. Growth means change and change is not easy. For example, simple changes like having the II administer the student travel awards program with ASC having the final selection and review decision can seem difficult, but they are important.

Fuller: You were one of the first people I knew of in ethnomusicology. I had to purposefully find out what that is. Can you talk about your research, how you got started in this area, and how you began working in Liberia?

Monts: Well it goes way back to my grandfather who was a Baptist minister in Arkansas. In growing up I heard him talk a lot about Liberia. This eventually led me to the professorate and the work I still do with the music and culture of the Vai in regions of Liberia.

To be continued in the next Alliance issues.



The 2015 recipient of the Lester P. Monts Graduate Research Award is **Johannes Norling** in the Department of Economics for his paper “Family Planning and Fertility in South Africa under Apartheid.” The paper is a chapter in his dissertation research conducted in Economics with advisor Prof. David Lam. He used a variety of methodologies to examine the impacts of government family planning services on reproduction rates of African women residing in townships or on white-owned farms from the 1970s through the 1980s.

The ASC Spring Reception on April 27, 2015, featured the presentation of the inaugural Monts Award and a celebratory book launch for the edited volume *The Politics of Heritage in Africa: Economies, Histories, and Infrastructures* (eds. Derek Peterson, Kodzo Gavua and Ciraj Rassool, Cambridge University Press, 2015). The Lester P. Monts Award was created by the ASC Executive Committee to recognize an outstanding research paper by a graduate student in African studies. It includes a \$1,000 cash award.

Dobet Gnahoré in Ann Arbor

In collaboration with the Center for World Performance Studies (CWPA), the African Studies Center co-sponsored visits of Ghanaian royalty and also a concert featuring Dobet Gnahoré and her band. Dobet Gnahoré, a vocalist, dancer, and percussionist from the Ivory Coast, and one of contemporary African music's most exciting new talents, is based in Marseille, France. She has toured extensively and won international awards for her beautiful, powerful and meaningful music. On a particularly cold February 2015 night of this second visit to Ann Arbor, her electric performance brought much appreciated heat to a full house at the Michigan Theater. Fans joyfully danced in the aisles with a few joining the artist on the stage and after the performance. Find examples of her artistry at: dobetgnahore.com

Photo credits: Peter Smith Photography

- 1 An airborne Dobet
- 2 UMAPS scholar Muchaparara Musemwa and Dobet dancing on stage
- 3 A delighted dancer and appreciative artist
- 4 Dobet dances with one of her U-M fans
- 5 Connecting with the music and the audience
- 6 Celebrating a wonderful evening
- 7 Dobet Gnahore and her band



ECO-EXPLORERS TANZANIA: SUBIRA HUVUTA HERI “PATIENCE YIELDS BLESSINGS”

by Kelly Askew

As the adage goes, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” So it was with the University of Michigan STAMPS School of Art & Design course “Eco-Explorers: Tanzania.” It set as its goal the development of a fuel-efficient and smokeless cookstove, called a “rocket” stove because it directs heat via an internal chimney structure to the pot and cooks more quickly than the typical three-stone fires found across Africa. Led by Professor Joe Trumpey and supported by Professor Hannah Smotrich, the course featured 12 students in winter/spring 2013 and 15 students in its second iteration in winter/spring 2014.

The Eco-Explorer Project

Eco-Explorers can be linked to a movement in development circles known as “Clean Cookstoves”. The goals are part conservation (to save forests and associated biodiversity), part public health (to save people’s lungs from unhealthy smoke), and part sociological (to save rural women and girls from the labor of collecting firewood). With less time lost to firewood collection, girls would not be disadvantaged in their studies and experience better educational outcomes. With less smoke lurking in enclosed traditional homes with minimal ventilation, everyone (especially babies on their mother’s backs) would experience better respiratory health. With less demand for firewood and charcoal, forests could be protected and our planet’s well-being improved.

But if there is one lesson that has been repeated over and over again, it is that designs designed from afar to benefit the “underdeveloped” world often fail due to unexpected local variables. Local context and local knowledge matter greatly. People may pay lip service to that, but it takes a different kind of designer who is willing to accept that there are things one cannot anticipate when thousands of miles away. Impact of content can range from knowledge of the local environment, to understanding the characteristics of local materials, to recognizing competing values and alternative uses/functions of the item to be improved or introduced. Hence the unfortunately-too-common spectre of “white elephant” development projects that dot landscapes throughout Asia, Latin America, and Africa: good intentions that failed to hit their mark and lie abandoned, decaying—are stark reminders of the hubris of Western experimentation in non-Western locales.

Armed with this knowledge, Joe approached me in 2011 in search of a community that would welcome a fuel-efficient cookstove. One of the sites where I have worked for a number of years is Lesoit, a Maasai village in Tanzania with a community-managed forest. In 2012, Joe and I visited Lesoit so that he could explain the proposed project. After some animated discussion with me serving as translator, the village acceded to Joe’s request to bring students the following summer.

Development-savvy Lesoit

Lesoit villagers were familiar with foreign, developmentally inclined guests. For over 16 years they had hosted annual visits by a German missionary group that has built a church, health clinic, primary school, and over 75 rain-harvesting water tanks. That group, however, typically never exceeded 8-9 volunteers. Hosting a U-M group of over a dozen students, three faculty, three drivers was a daunting prospect for the village council.

Mwanzo ngumu is an oft-used Swahili saying: “The beginning is difficult.” Preparations were many. They entailed collecting sufficient water for drinking, bathing and toilet facilities, non-perishable food supplies like rice, flour, sugar, and tea; collecting pots, plates, cutlery, teapots, mugs, and serving containers; and identifying a few goats and no small number of chickens for slaughter. A campground large enough to accommodate the group had to be cleared and a five-foot-high wall of branches and thorn brush constructed to protect the eco-explorers while they slept at night. Cooks and laundry assistants were hired as well as night watchmen for added protection.

First Try: Round 1 (2013)

Despite the best of intentions and no small amount of effort, the first attempt to design a locally relevant, fuel-efficient and lasting cookstove was not so successful. Four weeks after the Wolverines left Lesoit, I returned to the village and found that all but two of the nine stoves constructed had been abandoned because they had fallen apart. In one funny case, I found that a stove chimney had been repurposed to serve as a flagpole.

Some problems with the design could only be recognized after the fact. First, the mud plaster that Maasai women use on their homes serves well the purpose of house construction but not a stove subjected to constant high heat. The heat bakes the mud, causing it to crack and fall off.

Secondly, the height of the rocket stoves, at around two or three feet, presented another stumbling block. The nearly-ground-level, three-stone fire seems less efficient for cooking, since heat



A village woman at the “Stove Expo” in Lesoit

goes every which way. Cooking on them typically takes time, just like cooking on a campfire. Maasai women place their cooking stones near low-lying beds or sit on wooden stools only six or so inches high, to be near their pots to monitor and stir as needed. Since standing while cooking is neither familiar nor desirable, the height of the rocket stoves proved to be a major source of complaint.

Thirdly, an advantage of the three-stone fire is that it is adjustable. One can push the stones out to support a large pot, or arrange them closer together to support a smaller pot. The rocket stove was designed originally to fit a single pot. The women balked at having to pick one pot size for all their cooking needs, as would a Western cook placed in that situation. So the design had to be modified to accommodate two different pots: one large to cook the staple maize meal (ugali) and a smaller one for the accompanying meat or vegetable sauce. Hence, the overall size of the stove grew to take up more space in homes that are not large but house full families as well as calves, lambs and young goats brought in at night to protect them from prowling hyenas and leopards.

Finally, the perceived “inefficiency” of three-stone fires with regard to cooking proved, in hindsight, to be greatly

Eco-explorers and the Round 1 stove (2013)



efficient in heating homes and providing light. Encasing the fire in a rocket stove improved cooking efficiency, but plunged these homes into darkness and left their inhabitants shivering at night during the cold season.

Try Again: Round 2 (2014)

To the credit of the Victors Valiant, the imperfect outcomes of Eco-Explorers Tanzania Round 1 served only to spur Joe and his students to build a more context-informed and culturally relevant design in Round 2. In May 2014, we returned to Lesoit, but this time bought bags of cement to mix into the plaster, producing bricks, and found a metalsmith to cut iron plates to support the pots.

At dawn on the day the Michigan team arrived, the women in the household where I stay woke me to come see a new baby being born in the family. This was a blessing on the family, a blessing on the community, and a blessing on the Michigan collaboration, all in one tiny, exquisite infant. The women selected a secret spot in the cattle enclosure to bury the placenta and birthing blood as a way to reseal the bond that unites a family with its cattle.

After some trial and error, and consulting with village women, a new design emerged. It was sleek, efficient, low to the ground, durable and smokeless! This time, before entering people’s homes and building them something they now had cause to doubt, the group built sample stoves to give the villagers a chance to see the new design, try cooking on it, and decide whether they wanted one in their homes or not.

A Meeting of Minds

Joe called it the “Stove Expo,” and we hosted the event near the primary school to ensure everyone in the community had easy access. The students decided to use the opportunity to cook a huge feast for the village—a mix of American barbecue, Asian stir-fry and mashed potatoes.

Doubts turned to enthusiasm as one woman after another sat down to stir ugali and test the new stove for its smokeless



Rita and Miria Mbambire with their new stove (minus chimney)

cooking. Further, the multiple-pot-size problem was solved by designing an inset – a smaller metal plate that fit within the main metal plate—so that the single chimney could accommodate two different-sized pots.

Thus, trial and error, determination, and a sincere investment in cultural and community engagement resulted in a stove that today is a cherished feature of 17 Lesoit households. Each has received a solar-powered lamp to compensate for the elimination of their main light source.

Admittedly, the problem of heating homes has yet to be resolved. The wondrous efficiency of the cookstoves means that only a few small twigs are needed to produce cooking power for an entire meal. However, that efficiency means that the stoves with their small fuel chambers cannot accommodate a large log to slowly burn throughout the night to provide warmth to the home. Therein lies the next challenge to solve if Eco-Explorers returns to Lesoit.

Continued, p.20



Once started, the degassing fountain at Lake Nyos is self-sustaining

CO₂ that killed about eighteen hundred people. Because CO₂ is heavier than air, the CO₂ cloud followed the river valleys, so that people died up to twenty-six kilometers away from the lake. This amount of CO₂ would fill a large football stadium about 125 times over.

A smaller gas burst from Lake Monoun in August of 1984 killed thirty-seven people. Because the clouds of gas released from the lakes are nearly 100% CO₂, they displace oxygen and asphyxiate people exposed to the gas cloud. There are several aspects of these disasters that scientists needed to understand, including the build-up of the gas, the release of the gas, and the steps required for safe remediation of the hazards.

Natural hazards created by lethal release of large amounts of gas from lakes are very rare. Only three lakes in the world are known to contain high concentrations of dissolved gas in their bottom waters: Lakes Nyos and Monoun in Cameroon, West

Africa, and Lake Kivu in East Africa. Only two of these lakes, Nyos and Monoun, are known to have recently released gas that resulted in the loss of human life.

The Build-up of Gas

Two conditions are necessary for CO₂ accumulation in lakes to reach dangerous levels. First, there must be an abundant source of CO₂. Second, a lake must be strongly stratified—a situation where the bottom and surface waters do not mix, thus trapping the CO₂ in the bottom waters. Geological conditions in much of Cameroon are favorable for the generation of CO₂ gas. This gas is discharged harmlessly to the atmosphere by the many soda springs found throughout the country. In most of Cameroon's crater lakes, sheltering from the wind and their great depths have helped to create stable stratification. But the combination of gas-rich springs feeding into stratified lakes led to the buildup and eventual violent release of gas from the bottom waters of Lake

USING SCIENCE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS: DEFUSING THE KILLER LAKES OF AFRICA

by George Kling

George Kling is the Robert Wetzel Professor in the U-M Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Working in regions of Cameroon is part of how his research team examines factors that affect the balance of ecological niches. Content of this article was presented at the 2014 STEM-Africa III Conference.

The Impact

The natural hazards created by some lakes arise when enormous amounts of dissolved CO₂ gas trapped in the bottoms of the lakes are released suddenly. In August of 1986 one “killer lake”—Lake Nyos in Cameroon—“exploded” to release up to 1 km³ of

Nyos in 1986 and Lake Monoun in 1984. Previous investigations have shown that these conditions do not occur in any other Cameroonian lakes, and no other lakes contain dangerous amounts of CO₂.

These were not volcanic eruptions. The gas that was released was stored in the bottom waters before the event. The gas originated from magma (molten rock) about 80-90 km below the lake, and rose through the fractured rock beneath the lake until it reached the surface to dissolve in groundwater that had been naturally injected into the bottom of the lake. This was determined by defining the similar chemistry of the groundwater and lake water. We have proposed that rather than the gas being injected all at once as might occur in a volcanic eruption, the gas buildup occurs relatively slowly over time.

The Release of Gas

Conditions that are required for gas release include weakening of the stratification that separates the surface



Appearance of lake that has dangerously high CO₂ levels

and bottom lake layers. Stratification is weakest when the surface waters lose heat as a result of the decreases in air temperatures and solar-energy input that occur during the monsoon season. That Cameroon's monsoon season occurs in August may explain why both Nyos and Monoun exploded during that month. Although the probability was very small of both events happening so close together in the mid-1980's, the events may have been affected by long-term trends of climate in Cameroon—the lower-than-normal temperatures and higher-than-normal rainfall that occurred in the mid-1980's. In addition, a large, fresh landslide scar was found on the cliffs above Lake Nyos. Such a landslide into the lake may have led to bottom waters being thrust up toward the surface.

The gas contents of these two lakes continues to build, supplied by the input of CO₂ from underground springs that discharge into the bottom of the lakes. The exact trigger for a gas burst is unknown. However, any disturbances that move deep, gas-rich water closer to the surface could result in a gas release. As the deep water rises, the weight of water above it (the hydrostatic pressure) decreases. At some point the dissolved gas pressure will become equal to the hydrostatic pressure. When there is nothing to force the gas to remain in solution, gas bubbles begin to form. (This process is identical to the removal of the cap from a bottle of soda—when the cap is removed there is no more pressure to keep the gas dissolved in the soda, and bubbles are formed.) Once bubbles are formed in the lake, they rise rapidly and drag the deep water toward the surface. Additional deep water is then drawn upward and depressurized, leading to a chain reaction that eventually results in a violent release of enormous amounts of lethal CO₂ gas. Because the gas content of these lakes is currently very high, catastrophes similar to those in 1984 and 1986 could occur at any time.

Both lakes continued to increase in levels of gas in the bottom waters after the disasters. Such buildup provides evidence for the hypothesis that the gas is input slowly over time rather than injected during a volcanic event. Lakes Nyos and Monoun could become saturated with gas (that is, the gas pressures at the bottom will equal the hydrostatic pressure) in ten to thirty years, respectively, if gas input rates remain constant.

What Can Be Done?

The natural hazards presented by these lakes are unique. Fortunately, remediation is possible before another disaster occurs. The degassing plan involves pumping gas-rich bottom waters to the surface of the lakes through pipes. As noted earlier, as the bottom water moves toward the surface, the dissolved gas comes out of solution and forms bubbles. These bubbles lower the density of the gas-water mixture so that the fluid begins to rise rapidly through the pipe.

Energy released during degassing is sufficient to drive the pumping operation without any external power source. Such sustainable degassing has been tested on a small scale with continuous degassing in Lake Nyos that began in 2001 and in Lake Monoun in 2004. In addition to removing the gas currently in the lakes, it is possible to prevent future gas buildups using a pipe that continuously flushes bottom water out of the lake.

Until the lakes are adequately degassed, people living around the lakes are at risk from the killer gas bursts. There are many social, cultural, and political aspects of how degassing will work and how it will affect people who live in the region.

As of 2013, efforts to remove gas contained in the smaller Lake Monoun have rendered it safe for the surrounding populations. Two more degassing pipes were added to Lake Nyos in 2010. As of 2012, about forty percent of the gas had been removed from the lake.

In addition to the gas hazard at Lake Nyos, the spillway, or natural dam that holds back the upper forty meters of the water column, is weak and eroding rapidly. When the dam fails, it will produce a flood that could affect ten thousand people in the floodplain below. Any attempt to lower the lake level could result in releasing the gas contained in the sediments because of the decrease in overlying water pressure. This would likely trigger another gas-burst event. In 2013 an operation to strengthen the dam was started.

Lessons Learned

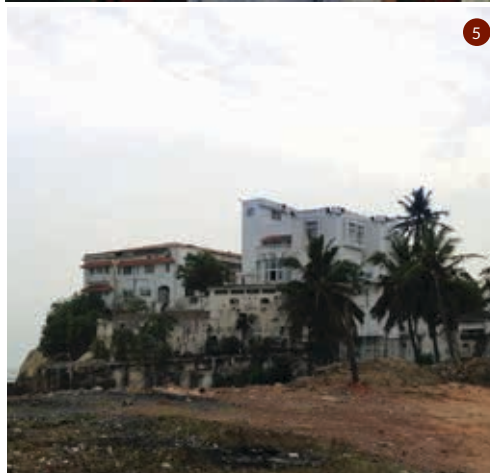
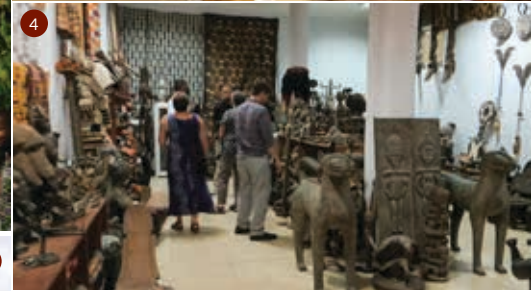
- Functioning of these dangerous lake ecosystems is largely controlled by physical and chemical processes.
- Physical aspects of lake size and depth, lake stratification, and climate control the buildup and release of gas.
- Chemical aspects of groundwaters and dissolved gases control inputs of gas to the lakes, the total amount of gas that can accumulate, and effects of the gas on humans and other organisms.
- “Problem solving” to make decisions effectively depends on a thorough understanding of the science and the evidence for scientific interpretations that underlie the problem. Such decision-making also must include considerations of different points of view, agreement on basic assumptions and desired outcomes, and the purpose for making the decision. Social, cultural, and political factors that can save lives must be studied and understood as part of the whole system that includes the underlying science.

Related References: Kusakabe, M., T. Ohba, I. Issa, Y. Yoshida, H. Satake, T. Ohizumi, W. Evans, G. Tanyileke and G.W. Kling. “Pre- and post-degassing evolution of CO₂ in Lakes Monoun and Nyos, Cameroon.” (2008) *Geochemical Journal* 42:93-118. Kling, G.W., Evans, W.C., Tanyileke, G., Kusakabe M., Ohba, T., Yoshida, Y., and Hell, J.V.. “Degassing Lakes Nyo and Monoun” (2005). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 102:14185-14190.

GHANA ARCHEOLOGY WORKSHOP

The Ghanaian Archeology Workshop of the AHI occurred on December 14-19, 2014. For more photos and insights on the event, please read the participants' blog at: umichasc.wordpress.com/category/asc-ghana-archaeology-workshop/
Photos courtesy of the participants.

- 1 Workshop attendees at a local restaurant.
- 2 Richard Hayford Boateng, former Regional Head of The Upper East Regional Museum, Bolgatanga, undertaking restoration work on Koma terracotta figurines recovered during the 2008 Dept. of Archaeology and Heritage Studies' field school at Yikpabongo in the Northern Region, Ghana.
- 3 Walking down a street of Elmina (the rock structure to the right is part of the Bridge House.)
- 4 Exploring the museum.
- 5 The Osu Castle was used by the British as a trading fort after abolition, and later as a colonial administrative center. After independence, the Ghanaian government also used it as the seat of power, and it continues to be used by governmental services to this day
- 6 Dr. Wellington and Leslie Wulff Cochrane explain the significance of the Wulff house site.
- 7 The Richter house site becomes a space of contested heritage, as Dr. Wellington and residents negotiate differing visions of the space—one as a heritage site of a shared, national history and one as a personal site as a familial home.
- 8 Group photo of workshop participants.
- 9 Drs. Anthony Anan-prah (far right) and Mark Horton (far left) stand in front of a brick compass constructed during the Dutch occupation of the fort.



INITIATIVES UPDATES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR FROM THE AFRICAN HERITAGE INITIATIVE (AHI)

by Derek Petersen



Derek Petersen, AHI Coordinator, greets speakers at the 2014 Mellon Conference

In a year full of activity, the AHI initiative continues to support worthy and important projects joining U-M scholars in the humanities with African colleagues.

The Mellon Conferences

U-M collaborations with the University of the Witwatersrand have organized three conferences: Theory from the Global South at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa (Wits); African Studies in the Digital Age at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and Archaeology and Heritage at the University of Ghana in Accra. Here is a retrospective:

In 2013, ASC and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of the Witwatersrand (WiSER) in South Africa were awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to support a program of academic exchange entitled *Joining Theory and Empiricism in the Remaking of the African Humanities*.

The project was designed to expose scholars to the particular research philosophies—one theoretical, the other empirical—that are dominant in the universities of Southern Africa and North America. In the process, we intended to strengthen and deepen collaboration in the study of the African humanities at the Universities of Michigan and the Witwatersrand. The grant fosters innovative research in the humanities and closely related fields to build a broader, intrinsically transcontinental network of scholars. We have three specific goals for the research, that it should engage ambitious theoretical questions, explore the boundary between the humanities and the social sciences, and engage closely with the African continent in a manner that addresses an international scholarly audience.

The first workshop proved to be an entirely congenial starting point for the collaboration. It gave participants an opportunity to familiarize themselves with each other's work, to ask questions that were both big and small, and to develop a vocabulary and an agenda for the coming years.

The second workshop, held in Ann Arbor over 10 days in November 2014, concerned digital humanities and the study of Africa. The objective was to bring practitioners involved in curating, organizing, and implementing specific digital projects in and about Africa together with scholars working more generally on pedagogy and platforms in

the digital domain. The conference began with a day spent discussing the work of Wits scholar Isabel Hofmeyr, who has long been concerned with the study of texts and their circulation. Thereafter, we spent a week and a half in conversation about specific projects.

The workshop cast a wide net. There was a day spent with the directors of Hathi Trust, the digital repository of scholarly publications housed at Michigan, as well as an afternoon spent with leading book publishers in the field of African Studies. A panel on archives concerned preservation work happening at Wits and at U-M. A panel on intellectual property considered several projects involving the digitization of music. The group toured the archives of the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, went behind the scenes at the Henry Ford Museum, and toured the Detroit Public Library. We sought to shuttle between theory and practice, joining a philosophical



David Cohen shares a moment with Lester Monts

discussion about property rights in the digital domain to a practical conversation about design, organization, and platforms.

The third workshop in this series *Public Spaces, Informality and Infrastructures in the Desegregating City* was held in May 2015, and will be followed by another workshop on social history in November 2015.

Heritage Book Published

Highlighted at the ASC Spring Faculty Reception in April 2015, *The Politics of Heritage in Africa: Economies, Histories, and Infrastructures*, is edited by Derek Peterson, Kodzo Gavua and Ciraj Rassool, and published by Cambridge University Press. The book consists of 14 chapters.

Four chapters are authored by U-M faculty, four come from colleagues at Ghanaian universities, and the remaining ones are authored by South African scholars.

The subject matter ranges widely from Ghana's national dance ensemble to chronicling the history of physical anthropology in South Africa to studying the monuments erected by the post-apartheid South African government. The book demonstrates the wide-ranging salience of heritage work in Africa's political life. Seen as commodities, as traditions, as morality, or as a patrimony, artifacts valued as heritage help to define political and cultural communities.

Ongoing Archive Work in Uganda

AHI is the administrative home for an ongoing program to rescue, organize, catalogue, and digitize government archives in Uganda. In the past year, a team of archivists at Mountains of the Moon University in western Uganda with U-M's support has managed to rehabilitate the archives of the Hoima district. This is a historically important center in Uganda's northwest. Papers formerly kept in a mechanic's shed have been moved to the University's campus, where they have been cleaned, put in new folders and boxes, catalogued, and are now being digitized for preservation.

In May 2015, a team of 10 U-M undergraduate and graduate students traveled to Jinja in eastern Uganda to undertake the cataloguing of the very large archives of the district government. This collection illuminates the commercial and cultural life of Jinja, and of the whole eastern region of Uganda.



An AHI group gathering at a conference break

NEWS FROM THE AFRICAN SOCIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE (ASRI)

American Political Science Association (APSA) Africa Workshop

In July 2014, Anne Pitcher, ASRI coordinator and professor of Afroamerican/African Studies and political science, led an American Political Science Association (APSA) workshop in Maputo, Mozambique. The event was part of a multi-year initiative to support political science research and teaching in Sub-Saharan Africa through a series of residential academic workshops at African universities and research institutions. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Africa Workshops program is a major component of APSA's efforts to support research networks linking US scholars with their colleagues overseas and engage political science communities outside the United States.

Attendees at APSA workshop in Mozambique

2015-16 UMAPS Colloquium Series

This year, each UMAPS fellow will present their scholarly work in a session of an ongoing monthly series rather than in an afternoon annual symposium. Talks prepared and presented by each visiting scholar are designed to increase skills in effective communication, to promote dialogue on topics, and to share the research with the larger U-M community. All are invited to attend to grasp the range and depth of work occurring through the UMAPS partnerships. The presentation titles and presentation titles will be posted on the ASC website on the events page.

October 8, 3:00-5:00 pm, Henderson Room, Michigan League
Adey Desta; Akye Essuman; Endale Hadgu

October 27, 3:00-5:00 pm, 4700 Haven Hall
Africa History & Anthropology Workshop presentations by: Lawrence Ocen; Semeneh Ayalew

November 12, 3:00-5:00 pm, Koessler Room, Michigan League
Natasha Ross; Jacques Tagoudjeu; Joy Gumikiriza

December 10, 3:00-5:00 pm, Henderson Room, Michigan League
Elizabeth Nansubuga; Christian Obirikorang; Sisay Addisu

January 7, 3:00-5:00 pm, Koessler Room, Michigan League
Yonatan Fessha; John Ulumara; Vangile Bingma

February 4, 3:00-5:00 pm, Koessler Room, Michigan League
Emmanuel Miyingo; Elisabeth Mimiafou; Leon Tsambu





ASRI scholars with Anne Pitcher (back row, first on left) and Devon Keen (front row, 2nd from right)

2014 ASRI Summer Scholars Share Their Experiences by Massy Matumba

For the second year in a row, the ASRI initiative has brought African-based faculty to U-M during summer months to receive advanced training in statistical analysis at U-M's famed Institute for Social Research. We highlight the experiences of two of the 2014 ASRI summer scholars below.

Evelyn Sakeah

Dr. Evelyn Sakeah is a senior research fellow and a principal health research officer at the Navrongo Health Research Centre (NHRC), an internationally recognized field research station of the Ghana Health Service. Dr. Sakeah is currently a co-principal investigator for the study, "Improving the Quality of Data on Maternal and Newborn Health Survey at INDEPTH Centres," and a post-doctoral researcher on the World Health Organizations (WHO) project "Strategies to Improve Skilled Attendants at Delivery in Rural Ghana: A Quasi Experimental Design (WHO-TDR Implementation Research Training Program)".

Evelyn's research interests include public health, maternal and child health, women's health, reproductive health, monitoring and evaluation of health, population and nutrition programs, health systems operations research, and policy analysis and communication. She came to the University of Michigan Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in the summer of 2014, with ASRI's support and with mentoring by Cheryl Moyer, to improve her knowledge of statistics and data analysis. Of her learning experience here, she says:

"One useful skill I have acquired is conducting categorical data analysis by using probit, logit and logistic regression methods for binary outcomes and oprobit, ologit for ordered outcomes and mlogit for multinomial logistic regression outcomes... I was used to binary outcomes until I came to Michigan to learn about ordered and multinomial logistic regression. And even with the binary regression analysis, I used to consider only the logistic regression model. Now I have other models such as the probit and logit to choose from depending on the data and the kind of analysis I plan to conduct."

Zenobia Ismael

Zenobia is from South Africa, and is pursuing her PhD studies at the University of Cambridge. She is in the Politics Department with interest in voter-party linkages, particularly with respect to populist parties in South Africa and Zambia. Her research questions assess alternative voter-party linkages: for example performance versus ethnic links with political parties. She also explores voter attitudes towards populist parties.

Of her decision to come to the University of Michigan, Zenobia says: "I wanted to use structural equation modeling to study voter-party linkages and compare different types of linkages using survey data. The training at my university was very introductory and not adequate. I came to ICPSR to gain in-depth knowledge on structural equation modeling, regression, and maximum likelihood estimation so that I can use advanced statistics in my research with confidence that I am doing it well."

In the future, she envisions using this new knowledge in her ICPSR coursework "to do regression with categorical variables such as vote choice and perhaps finite mixture modeling to predict the probability of respondents ascribing to voting patterns which reflect two or three theories of voting behavior."



Summer scholars enjoying conversation



UPDATES FROM THE STEM-AFRICA INITIATIVE

Partnerships, Alliances and Planning

An ASC **STEM-Africa Charter** was composed, circulated and adopted as a joint effort of scientists, educators, and attendees of the STEM-III conference held at U-M on April 1-4, 2014. As one tangible outcome of the conference, the charter will serve as a guide for monitoring outcomes of ASC STEM-Africa, African Diaspora, and African scholarly research and education endeavors. It is accessible at ii.umich.edu/asc and will be revisited periodically, especially near to the biannual conference, to gauge progress.

Several engagements are in progress with **the World Bank**. A delegation of the STEM-Africa committee members met on September 30 in Washington, D.C. at the World Bank Headquarters with representatives from the World Bank, the Constituency for Africa organization, and other stakeholders in a conference to explore needs and ways of promoting STEM research and education in Africa. The delegation presented six examples of research and teaching partnerships (white paper proposals) from U-M faculty as feasible to undertake immediately with African partners. This initial meeting emphasized the importance of cultivating a strong mutually beneficial working relationship among The World Bank, African scholars and U-M faculty.

On December 2, 2014, the initiative hosted **Claire Muhoro**, program officer for the USAID sponsored Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Fellowships. She conducted an informative session to familiarize UMAPS scholars and U-M faculty with funding to support research of U.S. and African partners. The USAID-PEER program invites scientists in developing countries to partner with investigators who have U.S. Government funding (e.g. NIH, NSF,



Rackham Amphitheatre as site of STEM-III Conference that produced the ASC STEM-Africa Charter

USAID) for support of extended research and capacity-building activities that have strong potential development impacts. Muhoro is an associate professor of chemistry at Towson University and a science fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that is assigned to USAID.

To foster engagements and partnerships between U-M and African institutions, the STEM Steering Committee envisions **preparing an accessible database** of researchers with work or interests in African countries. The database would allow easier potential connections of U-M researchers with scholars in universities or organizations in Africa as funding opportunities arise. It especially would help UMAPS alumni in STEM fields and provide a foundation for longer-term education/research capacity building grant applications to NSF, USAID, the World Bank or other relevant agencies.

The Initiative will **co-sponsor visiting speakers** in colloquia of U-M departments. Co-sponsored speakers would present subject matter especially relevant to the goals of ASC and STEM-Africa. Contact the ASC office for details for exploring this



Claire Muhoro explains PEER application process

option for relevant department talks in the 2015-16 or 2016-17 academic year.

Other Initiative Activities and Resources

EHELD grant program activities coordinated by **Herbert Winful**, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of electrical engineering and computer science and a summer project in Liberia of an engineering student team led by **Aline Cotel**, associate professor in civil and environmental engineering, were placed on hold because of the West Africa Ebola outbreak and closing of the University of Liberia. EHELD personnel were safely relocated. The EHELD project supported by an NSF grant has resumed with reopening of the schools in Liberia and will assess its next steps. The U-M engineering students traveled to Monrovia in summer 2015. Their work involves helping to organize a chapter of Women in Engineering at the University of Liberia.

Several STEM resource persons are available to ASC or others in planning relevant grant applications. In January 2015, **Anne Petersen** was reappointed to a new term as member of the NSF Advisory Committee for International Science and Engineering (AS-ISC). In October 2014, **Oveta Fuller** began a three-year appointment, by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, as a member of the alumni review panel for J. William Fulbright Faculty Scholar awards to the African Region.

Nkem Khumbah co-authored a New York Times op/ed published on July 31, 2014, titled "Africa Needs Science, Not Aid." The letter stated a conclusion of the 2014 STEM-III conference hosted at U-M that called for a paradigm shift by the US Government, education and others

to focus on partnerships with African researchers, educators, and scholars rather than on aid and development assistance as in the past. Khumbah will spend 2015-16 on sabbatical, working as executive curator of the Next Einstein Forum (NEF), Africa's new Global Forum for Science.

Brian Arbic and postdoctoral fellow **Joseph Ansong** visited Ghana for a week in August 2014 to initiate discussion on the long-term goal of establishing a summer school on oceanography and fluid dynamics in Ghana as an African coastal country. With support from an NSF Career Award to Arbic, the U-M researchers returned to Accra in August 2015 to initiate the first oceanography summer school.

Efforts continue through well-funded efforts to build medical education capacity for training in Ob/Gyn and reproductive health in Ethiopia in efforts begun by **Dr. Senait Fisseha**. **Dr. Frank Anderson** leads efforts to bring together a consortium of units from universities in the USA for partnerships to build medical infrastructure that will increase in-country trained faculty in Ob/Gyn who will help to reduce maternal child mortalities in Ghana and other countries.

On July 29, 2015, the initiative hosted a lunch with several special guests that include Bishop Emmanuel Bushu (Chairman of the Board) and Fr. Ekwelle Sakang from the Catholic University Institute of Buea (CUIB) in Cameroon. Vice Chancellor Young Gil Lee of Kumi University in Uganda joined the discussions and met with **Roy Clarke** and **Rebecca Hardin** whose team members have worked in Uganda. Both universities are relatively young with complementary missions of producing highly capable graduates who are entrepreneurs and mindful of their role in serving community. This connection will be further developed for research and education partnerships among the two African universities and U-M.

Continued from p.13

Blessed Indeed

An unexpected benefit to Lesoit accompanied Round 2. Earlier in 2014, the local district authorities accepted proposals for village-initiated development projects. Lesoit decided to request 300 beehives to launch honey production. Given the abundance of bees in their forest, it seemed a shame not to take advantage of the increasing market for organic honey and also to provide income opportunities for the most disadvantaged members of their community: widows, the disabled, and senior citizens without family to care for them. However, Maasai, proud people of the cattle, had always distinguished themselves from (and considered themselves better off than) hunter-gatherers who are identified as honey collectors.

When I mentioned the beekeeping venture to Joe, he set about recruiting students from the Michigan student beekeeping group U-M Bees to join the class. Mike Bianco and Alex Pears were excited to share their knowledge of beekeeping with Lesoit. The students of Eco-Explorers Tanzania Round 2 (in 2014) raised a significant amount of money to buy materials for more stoves to be constructed after the group departed. They raised additional funds to help support educational efforts in the village and equipment for the beekeeping enterprise. Fun was also shared on the soccer field where the Maasai warriors and Michigan students battled foot to foot, with Michigan winning 2-0. Go Blue!

Lessons of Trial and Error

To find lasting solutions to global challenges, a fundamental shift is needed away from claiming that: We have the knowledge necessary to solve their problems, whoever and wherever the "we" and "they" may be. The idea of "development" has passed its expiration date. What we need—all of us in this global community—is engaged and collaborative problem-solving.



Lesoit Chairmain Frank Kaipai and beekeepers wearing new gear from U-M Bees

Scientific revolutions, as Thomas Kuhn argues, occur when one thinks outside the box and employs a fundamentally different paradigm. Solutions to problems from climate change to gender discrimination, from infectious diseases to structural poverty, can only emerge from seemingly divergent perspectives colliding then coalescing as elements towards a new outcome. Top-down prescriptions are forever doomed simply because of how they are proffered, whether as faith-based charity, as development projects by NGOs, or as government-sponsored "aid." It is disingenuous to think that unequal dynamics can spawn equality.

A hearty congratulations goes to Joe, Hannah and the students of Eco-Explorers in both Rounds 1 and 2. Had there been no Round 1, there could not have been success in Round 2. The "error" in "trial and error" is a necessary component of success.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE UMAPS INITIATIVE

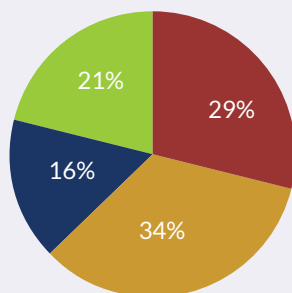
High numbers of UMAPS alumni receive or are seeking doctorate degrees

It is estimated that an average of about 18% of faculty in African universities hold terminal degrees. Cumulative data for faculty who participate in the UMAPS Initiative through the 2014-15 cohort (n=90 fellows) show a higher % who have completed or are actively engaged in a Ph.D.* program.

Estimate of faculty with PhDs overall at African universities = 18%

UMAPS fellows with or actively pursuing a PhD degree = 64% (58)

Status as of May 2015 of UMAPS fellows who have or are pursuing a PhD (n=58)



- PhD obtained before UMAPS residency = 17 (29%)
- PhD conferred after UMAPS residency = 20 (34%)
- PhD in progress before, during and after UMAPS residency = 9 (16%)
- PhD program begun after UMAPS residency = 12 (21%)

*numbers do not include other terminal degrees such as MD, JD

Proposed UMAPS Alumni Organization approved —2014-15 UMAPS Cohort as the Organizing Entity

With the August arrival of the 2015-16 cohort, 107 faculty from African universities will have come to the University of Michigan (U-M) as visiting scholars in the UMAPS Initiative begun in 2008 by former President Mary Sue Coleman. At its February meeting, the ASC Executive Committee approved a proposal submitted as a project of the 2014-15 fellows to organize a formal UMAPS Alumni Network.

The 2014-15 cohort will serve as an initial Steering Committee to communicate with UMAPS fellows in all countries for organizing the Network. The initial steering committee, chaired by Muchaparara Museumwa, 2014-15 fellow of the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, will use a transparent, inclusive, and equitable process to plan, organize, develop bylaws, and determine how the UMAPS Alumni Network will function for the greater good of alumni, new applicants, and continuing partnerships in research and education.

South Africa UMAPS Alumni in Johannesburg in May 2015

On May 28, 2015, ASC in partnership with UMAPS fellows hosted a U-M alumni gathering in Johannesburg, South Africa at the Humanities Graduate Centre on the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand. The 34 attendees included three South Africa-based alumni, 21 alumni from the U.S. and the Caribbean who were visiting South Africa, and 10 UMAPS alumni. Current U-M faculty in attendance were Kelly Askew from ASC, Andries Coetzee from Linguistics and Nesha Haniff from DAAS. Dr. Haniff was in South Africa with a group of former U-M students who came together to honor her “Pedagogy of Action” work over the past 15 years. This is a collaborative effort to provide HIV/AIDS education in underserved communities of both Johannesburg and Durban. Dr. Haniff brought two current U-M undergraduate students to the event.

UMAPS alumni present spanned the seven years of the program. Two scholars represented the inaugural cohort—Annet Oguttu and Sekepe Matjila, both are faculty at University of South Africa. Other UMAPS fellows attending were Mathagka Botha (2011-12), Brenda Mhlambi (2012-13), Sekibakiba Lekgoathi (2013-14), Muchaparara Museumwa and Amy Niang (2014-15), and Vangile Bingma as one of the incoming 2015-16 fellows.



UMAPS and U-M alumni at Humanities Graduate Center, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa



From left to right: Amy Niang, Andries Coetzee, Sekiba Lekgoathi, Kelly Askew and Muchaparara Museumwa



2015-16 University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) and several ASC staff members

ASC Welcomes the 2015-16 UMAPS Scholars

The ASC community is pleased to welcome the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) for 2015-16. The cohort represents a broad range of academic interests and disciplines, including pharmacology, environmental history, mathematics, and nursing. Each scholar will be in residency for a two- to six-month period and will work closely with U-M faculty while pursuing individual writing and research projects.

SISAY ADDISU BEKELE is a lecturer in the Department of Medicine at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He holds a Master of Science degree in biochemistry from Addis Ababa University and doctoral candidate currently working on the characterization of subtypes and gene variations among female breast cancer cases in Ethiopia. His research interests include molecular biology and bioinformatics. He plans to work with Dr. Sofia Merajver, professor of internal medicine and epidemiology.

SEMENEH AYALEW is a faculty member at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at the Addis Ababa University with a research focus on urban social change and revolution. He also is a doctoral candidate at the Makerere Institute of Social Research. His research interests include revolution, revolutionary terminology, cultural history, and popular culture. He will work with Mike McGovern, associate professor of anthropology.

VANGILE BINGMA is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She specializes in the sociology of education. While at U-M, she will explore relationships between parents, learners, and a township secondary school in the Tshwane South District in South Africa. He will work with Barbara Anderson, Ronald A. Freedman Collegiate Professor of Sociology and Population Studies.

ADEY DESTA is an assistant professor at the Institute of Biotechnology at Addis Ababa University. While at U-M, she will work on characterizing pathogenic microorganisms that proliferate during the production of a urine-derived fertilizer, struvite. She will be co-mentored by Nancy Love, professor of civil and environmental engineering, and Krista Wigginton, Borchardt and Glysso

Water Treatment Faculty Scholar at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

AKYE ESSUMAN is a lecturer at the University of Ghana in the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Essuman will explore the mechanisms of collaboration with the U-M Department of Family Medicine to establish a geriatric fellowship program in Ghana. He will work with Dr. Philip Zazove, professor of family medicine, and Dr. Katy Gold, assistant professor of family medicine and obstetrics & gynecology.

YONATAN FESSHA is an associate professor of law at the University of Western Cape in South Africa specializing in constitutional law. While at U-M, he will focus on institutional design of states on the African continent and how it can be used to respond to the challenges of minorities within minorities. His mentor will be Daniel Halberstam, Eric Stein Collegiate Professor of Law and director of the European Legal Studies Program.

JOY GUMIKIRIZA is a lecturer of psychology at Makerere University in Uganda. Joy specializes in the treatment of alcohol and substance-related mental illness. During her time at U-M, she will focus on a Behavior Self Control Intervention to reduce alcohol abuse among HIV positive youths in Uganda. Kristen Barry, research professor emeritus of psychiatry, is her mentor.

ENDALE HADGU is a lecturer in the School of Medicine at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He holds a Master of Science degree in medical biochemistry, and is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biochemistry specializing in reproductive medicine. While visiting U-M, he will work with Dr. Sofia Merajver, professor of internal medicine and epidemiology, on the molecular and genetic characterization of triple negative breast cancer among Ethiopian women.

ELISABETH MIMIAFOU is a lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Buea in Cameroon. She received her PhD in African, Caribbean, and American literature from the University of Yaounde. Her research while at U-M will be centered on ecofeminism and black women's writings. Frieda Ekotto, professor of comparative literature, and Petra Kuppers, professor of English, will be her U-M faculty mentors.

EMMANUEL MIYINGO is a lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Makerere University in Uganda. He holds a Master of Science degree in renewable energy from Makerere University. While at U-M, he will work with Roy Clarke, Marcellus L. Wiedenbeck Collegiate Professor and professor of physics, to design and develop a hybrid microgrid system using biogas and solar photovoltaic electric systems for peri-urban and rural areas.

ELIZABETH NANSUBUGA is a lecturer in the Department of Population Studies at Makerere University in Uganda. She holds a Master of Science degree in population and reproductive health from Makerere University, and is also a doctoral candidate in population studies at North West University in South Africa. While at U-M, she will work with Cheryl Moyer, assistant professor of learning health sciences and obstetrics & gynecology, in research to understand and characterize maternal mortality in Uganda.

JOHN ULUMARA is a lecturer and head of the Department of History at the University of Dodoma in Tanzania. He holds a Master of Science degree in natural resources assessment and management from the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. He will work with Kelly Askew, ASC director and professor of anthropology and Afroamerican and African studies, on research centered on the contribution of wild products to rural livelihoods in pastoral communities.

CHRISTIAN OBIRIKORANG is a lecturer in the Department of Molecular Medicine at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. He holds a PhD in chemical pathology from KNUST. While at U-M, he will work with David Burke, professor of human genetics, to characterize the genetic markers associated with dyslipidemia in HIV-infected individuals who are in Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART).

LAWRENCE OGEN is a lecturer at Lira University College in Uganda. He holds a Master of Arts degree in literature. He also is a PhD graduate fellow at the Makerere University of Social Research in Uganda. His research examines how northern Uganda is re-imagined by the agency of war memorials. He will work with Derek Peterson, professor of history and Afroamerican and African studies, to investigate how forced and selective remembering are countered by ordinary Ugandan people through songs, drama, and mnemonics.

FACULTY NEWS

JACINTA BEEHNER (Anthropology/Psychology) spent the last 10 months as a J. William Fulbright Faculty Scholar living in the remote Simien Mountains National Park of Ethiopia. While there, she studied the behavioral biology of the gelada, a rare monkey that is a close relative of baboons. She observed a population of geladas that she and her husband, Professor Thore Bergman (Psychology/EEB), have been monitoring for the past decade. They individually recognize 250 wild geladas in the population. Beehner and Bergman lived in Ethiopia with their two young children.

OVETA FULLER (Microbiology/Immunology) was featured as virology expert in an international Twitter Chat on October 2, 2014 for “Ebola Virus Disease—from Basic Science to Clinical Issues”. The chat was designed to engage a broad audience and was hosted by the National Society of Black Physicists and #BlackSTEM, a multidisciplinary international organization of scholars of color in STEM disciplines. The chat transcript with content of the questions and answers is archived and accessible at: bit.ly/NSTNSchatEbola.

GABRIELLE HECHT (History) will spend the academic year 2015-16 at the U-M Institute for the Humanities, working on a collection of essays titled *Toxic Tales from the African Anthropocene*. The Anthropocene signals a new epoch in which human activity shapes geophysical and biochemical processes on a planetary scale. The term has become an interdisciplinary rallying point across the humanities, arts, and natural and social sciences. Despite its ecopolitical usefulness, the notion can obscure massive inequalities by attributing the unfolding catastrophes to an undifferentiated “humanity.” The book will ask, What meaning does the Anthropocene have for and in African places? How can we theorize temporal and spatial scales that allow us to hold the planetary and the particular in the same frame? How can we gain purchase on the nexus of waste, toxicity, and violence that defines the Anthropocene in Africa and elsewhere?



Chinedum Okwudire & Elijah Kannatey-Asibu



Anne Pitcher elected as President of ASA



David A. Lam



A light moment at ASC Spring Reception

ELIJAH KANNATEY-ASIBU (Mechanical Engineering) has been selected to receive the 2015 SME (Society of Manufacturing Engineers) Education Award. The award honors the educator most respected for the development of manufacturing-related curricula, fostering sound training methods, or inspiring students to enter the profession of manufacturing.

NKEM KHUMBAH (Comprehensive Studies/Mathematics) was the commencement speaker in December 2014 for the Catholic University Institute of Buea (CUIB) in the Cameroonian city of Buea. In his speech Khumbah talked about adjusting the imbalances facing higher education in Cameroon. This was the first graduating class of CUIB.

DEREK PETERSON (History/DAAS) is the program committee co-chair (with Dismas Masolo) for the 2015 meeting of the African Studies Association. His most recent book, *Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), was the subject of a book debate in *Social Science and Missions* 27 (2014), with essays from anthropologist J.D.Y. Peel and historians Mark Noll and Justin Willis. The book will also be the subject of a book debate in *Politique Africaine* 136 (2015), with essays from political scientists Hervé Maupeu and Etienne Smith and historian Carol Summers.

ANNE PITCHER (DAAS/Political Sciences) has been elected as the incoming Vice President of the African Studies Association (ASA), the world’s most eminent organization focused on Africanist scholarship. This is a three year commitment, for which she will serve one year as Vice President, one year as President, and one year as Past President. She studies the politics of lusophone Africa and southern Africa and is author of several award-winning books including *Party Politics and Economic Reform in Africa’s Democracies* (Cambridge, 2012). She is currently ASC coordinator of ASRI.

DAVID A. LAM (former Chair of the Department of Economics) has been appointed as the new director of the U-M’s Institute for Social Research (ISR). A founding member of ASRI, he takes over from long-serving ISR Director James Jackson, a founding member of the ASC. Established in 1949, the ISR is among the world’s largest and oldest academic survey research organizations, and a leader in the development and application of social science methods and education. Lam’s research focuses on the interaction of economics and demography in Brazil and South Africa, where his studies analyze links between education, labor markets and income inequality.

FOR STUDENTS IN AFRICAN STUDIES

NEW U-M ORGANIZATION

by Pierre Muhoza

AGSA on campus

The African Graduate Student Association (AGSA) at the University of Michigan (U-M) was founded in the fall of 2014. "Before the creation of AGSA, we were concerned that there was no space on campus for African graduate students to connect with each other. There was little opportunity for African students to engage each other," recalls Timnet Gedar, co-chair of AGSA.

The main purpose of the organization is to serve as a social, academic, and professional network for African graduate students from all graduate schools at U-M. Gedar emphasizes that the organization welcomes non-Africans with an interest in networking with the African graduate student community. AGSA seeks to provide a space for cultural exchange both among members and between the association and the wider U-M community.

Beyond the university, AGSA facilitates the connection of members with academic and professional opportunities on the continent of Africa. In the future, AGSA will explore ways of connecting graduate students in Africa with academic and professional opportunities on campus. AGSA strives to create new opportunities for both of these directions of exchange. Another key goal of AGSA is to act as a resource for undergraduate students who are interested in graduate school, particularly undergraduates from Africa or those of African descent.

AGSA holds general body meetings once a month to discuss current affairs in informal settings. To promote active participation by the members, each meeting includes a discussion session which is moderated by a designated member. Past topics included issues such as foreign investment in Africa and higher education in Africa. "Besides the monthly meetings, we organize events to provide more networking opportunities for our members. In the past we have organized happy hours and potlucks," said Gedar.

MichiGhana-Net

Because of U-M's many collaborations in Ghana, a number of undergraduate and graduate students travel to Ghana each year to conduct research and to network. It was this environment of cooperation that prompted a group of U-M students, supported by U-M faculty, to establish MichiGhana-Net in January, 2014.

"Given the great interest in working in Ghana, we felt the need to form an

organization that would facilitate student-led initiatives in Ghana", says Joel-Adu Brimpong, president of MichiGhana-Net. Through collaboration with faculty, skills, and resource sharing, the organization seeks to catalyze and support student-initiated ideas in both Ghana and the university. MichiGhana-Net not only strives to be an avenue of sharing student experiences and feedback related to working in Ghana, but also to act as a resource for Ghanaian students interested in coming to U-M.

The group meets once a month and welcomes students from all levels and backgrounds as well as faculty and staff who have an interest in Ghana. "Having people come from different perspectives during the meetings brings about enriching discussions on issues that Ghana faces," says Adu-Brimpong.

Occasionally, MichiGhana-Net invites faculty speakers with experience working in Ghana to talk about their work. Past speakers at the MichiGhana-Net meetings have included Drs. Tim Johnson and Frank Anderson from Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Africa-focused Student Organizations at the University of Michigan

In 2015-16, the ASC will include a student representative on the Executive Committee and explore activating student affiliate membership. To learn more about the U-M student groups listed below that focus on Africa, visit ii.umich.edu/asc

- U-M African Students Association
- Global Health and Development Coalition
- Ross African Business Club
- AfricAid
- Students Allied for Clean Water and Sanitation (SACWAS)
- M-HEAL (Michigan Health Engineered for All Lives)
- MedLife
- Hope Through Health
- Medical Brigades at the University of Michigan
- United Against Infectious Diseases (UAID)
- Congo Activists of Michigan: Fundraiser
- African History and Anthropology Working Group (AHAW)
- African Graduate Students Association (GradASA)
- Amala Dancers
- Pedagogy of Action Ambassadors (POA Ambassadors)
- More Than Me at the University of Michigan (MTMUM)
- Sustainability Without Borders (SWB)
- MichiGhana-Network



Students at community-run school and U-M senior Adam Green enjoy a moment, Lusaka, Zambia



Taylor Ross cutting parts for a stove. Lesoit, Tanzania.

Continued from p.23

NATASHA ROSS is a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at University of the Western Cape in South Africa. She holds a PhD and a Master of Science degree in electroanalytical chemistry from UWC. While at U-M, she will continue her research on carbon-supported functional nanoparticles for catalysis, electrocatalysis and energy storage applications. Her mentor will be Mark Barteau, professor of chemical engineering, director of Energy Institute, and DTE Energy Professor of Advanced Energy Research.

JACQUES TAGOUDJEU is a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematical and Physical Science at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon. He holds a PhD in mathematics from the University of Yaounde. While at U-M, he will work with Dan Burns, professor of mathematics, and Nkem Khumbah, lecturer in mathematics, on a project to investigate numerically asymptotic limits of kinetic models for cell migration due to chemotaxis.

LEON TSAMBU is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also is a doctoral candidate focusing on music and popular culture. He will work with Nancy Hunt, professor of history and obstetrics & gynecology, to explore power and gender relationships on the stage of Kinshasa popular music.

SALUTING THE 2014-15 UMAPS FELLOWS

The 2014-15 cohort was composed of 13 scholars, six women and seven men from Ghana, Liberia and South Africa. Here are a few moments captured for this close knit group—from tailgating and attending the Appalachian State vs U-M football game (special thanks to Dr. Tim Johnson for tickets for the scholars) to presentations at their formal symposia and many wonderful moments between.



- 1 Practicing makes perfect. Nonyaniso Nkutu preparing for the symposium talk
- 2 Program Manager Devon Keen and Muchaparara Museumwa at the Fall Symposium
- 3 Ignatius Ticha discussing his research on representation of poverty in literature
- 4 Renee Gerring, Mariam Boayke-Gyasi, Nigel Tapela and Dennis Ipke in symposium audience
- 5 Nigel presenting on effects of mining and migration on families in South Africa
- 6 John Boateng (and mentor) receiving plaque and writing certificate
- 7 Massy Matumba with Osei Owusu-Afriyle and Gesler Murray at symposium reception
- 8 ASC Associate Director Oveta Fuller introduces talks at Fall symposium
- 9 Linda Fondjo and Nicole DeWet with John, Renee, Ignatius, Mariam and Nigel
- 10 Mucha answers questions on water use in regions of Zimbabwe



11



12



13



14



16



15



17



18

- 11 John and Sammie enjoying the tailgating party
- 12 Experiencing "The Big House" on the first U-M football game day
- 13 Devon offers a "maize and blue" tailgating dessert
- 14 New Wolverine fans, Ignatius, Gesler, John, Massy Matumba and Osei, ready for the game!
- 15 Amaize-ing blue Wolverine fans- Dennis and Oveta

- 16 The 2014-15 UMAPS fellows hosted a celebration for the launch of *Water, History and Politics in Zimbabwe* authored by Muchaparara Museumwa, UMAPS fellow from the University of Witwatersrand and the elected chairman spokesperson for this group. Associate Director Oveta Fuller and UMAPS assistant Dr. Massy Matumba attended the special event.
- 17 UMAPS fellows John and Osei enjoying time with visiting Ghanaian royalty
- 18 Nonyaniso Nkutu, Renee Gerring, ASC Director Kelly Askew, Mariam (El) Boatygyasi, Nicole DeWet and Linda Fondjo at reception for visiting royalty from Ghana



The championship team celebrates first place at football tournament that was part of an HIV/AIDS Education weekend for rural communities of Southern Province, Zambia

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Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bloomfield Hills
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mark S. Schlissel, *ex officio*

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