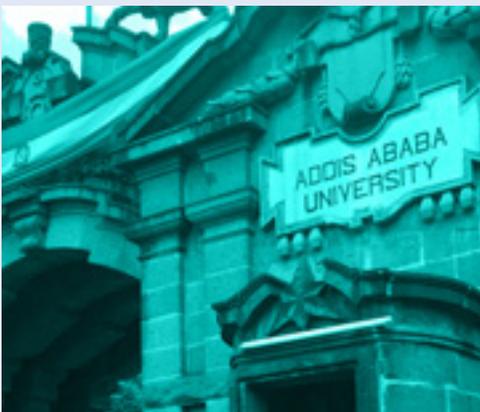


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AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER | NEWSLETTER 2017 | NO. 9



message FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to the ASC Community and to all with an interest in Africa,

It is with great excitement that I write to launch the 10th Anniversary Year of the U-M African Studies Center. On July 1, 2008, former president Mary Sue Coleman and former provost Teresa Sullivan inaugurated ASC.

Owing to the talents and efforts of our affiliated staff, faculty, students, African partners, and Michigan community friends, we have much of which to be proud and as much or more to look forward to. For the roles each of you have played in making ASC one of the most vibrant, diverse, and inclusive African studies centers globally in terms of academic engagements and disciplinary breadth, I thank you.

I also wish to thank on behalf of the entire ASC community outgoing Director **OVETA FULLER** (Microbiology and Immunology) and Associate Director **JUDITH IRVINE** (Anthropology) for their leadership, hard work and dedication in making the 2016-17 academic year another resounding success. Many of the year's highlights are featured in subsequent pages of this issue of *Alliances*. I encourage you to read further and learn about our flourishing institutional partnerships in Africa and the innovative research and educational opportunities being pursued by U-M faculty and students alike.

The past year has seen some changes in the ASC staff. For the past two years, outgoing ASC Academic Program Specialist **TRACI LOMBRÉ** managed our programs and strengthened ASC's presence on campus and beyond—launching, for instance, our participation in the Detroit African World Festival. She will not be far, however. Traci has begun her PhD in American Studies here at U-M, and will be investigating the unsung story of Kansas' role in the Harlem Renaissance. Many hearty congratulations!

We warmly welcome **HENRIKE FLORUSBOSCH** (jflorusb@umich.edu) and **CINDY NGUYEN** (ctnguy@umich.edu), who recently joined the ASC staff.

Henrike, a specialist on Mali and Francophone Africa, is responsible for coordinating the African Heritage (AHI), African Social Research (ASRI), STEM-Africa, and EMC2 initiatives. She also serves as ASC grant writer and grant manager, and coordinates the ever-expanding UMAPS alumni network. Prior to joining ASC in September 2016, she taught anthropology at Leiden University. Since she is both Dutch and a Wolverine (PhD 2011, Anthropology, U-M), do tell her “Ga Blauw!” when you see her.



Prior to joining ASC in July 2017, Cindy was project coordinator for Innovate Blue, the U-M hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. There she faced the challenge of coordinating and aligning the activities of the 15 different centers for entrepreneurship existing at U-M, working with 30+ student organizations, and coordinating the Innovate Blue academic minor. She is employing her talents for program management and engaging diverse constituencies as the new ASC Academic Program Specialist. Welcome, Cindy!



KELLY ASKEW

Director, African Studies Center

Professor, Departments of Afroamerican and African Studies; and Anthropology

Let me also welcome our new Associate Director **ANDRIES COETZEE** (coetzee@umich.edu), professor in linguistics, who pursues innovative research on phonetics and phonology, with a specific focus on linguistic variation and on how such variation is embedded in the social structure of speech communities. Hailing from South Africa, his current research focuses on the complex linguistic landscape of post-apartheid South African society. He maintains close ties with South Africa, and holds an appointment as Extraordinary Professor at the NorthWest University, his South African alma mater. He regularly collaborates with South African scholars, and spends several months out of every year conducting fieldwork in South Africa. Andries has been involved in ASC since its formation, in particular as a member of the UMAPS Evaluation Committee and Executive Committee. His goals as associate director are to learn as much as possible about the many and the varied Africa-related initiatives and research projects at U-M, to work with the ASC staff and community to advocate for Africa-related programs across the University, and to help secure the long term financial stability of ASC to ensure continued support for the exciting work done in and about Africa by the U-M community.



I wish to pay special tribute to the contributions of our longest-running ASC staff member, **SANDIE SCHULZE** (UMAPS and events coordinator), who helped found the ASC in the first days of its existence. Since she is the first person all our UMAPS scholars come into contact with, and their point person throughout their residencies, her praises have been sung throughout the continent in all the ten countries that have produced UMAPS scholars. Thank you, Sandie, for a decade of dedicated and wholehearted service to the ASC and especially to UMAPS!!



Please know that ASC has moved! The African Studies Center is now located in Suite 500 of the Weiser Hall (formerly Dennison Building), 500 Church Street. Please visit us there.



I am very happy to announce that ASC recently received a generous donation from the Koinonia Foundation established by Dr. Dale Williams, a retired family physician, and one of the original founders—and a continued benefactor—of the U-M Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Williams invented the high quality solar Heli Lantern, distributed by Harding Energy (Norton Shores, MI). He has donated 100 Heli Lantern kits—complete with lantern, solar panel, AC wall adapter charger, DC car charger, USB phone/tablet charger cable, and carrying case (valued at \$125/kit). If you are interested in distributing some Heli lanterns in rural African sites where you work, please email Henrike (jflorusb@umich.edu). We have already distributed some in Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zambia, with more heading soon to Gabon.

Finally and importantly, please join us in all the ASC 10th Anniversary Events planned to celebrate this milestone and all that has been accomplished over the past decade. These include:

- » another rich 10th UMAPS Colloquium series featuring our 17 newly arrived UMAPS scholars representing seven African countries (including our first UMAPS scholar from Zambia);
- » 10th Anniversary Reception at the African Studies Association meeting;
- » two more Mellon-funded seminars partnering U-M and University of the Witwatersrand faculty and students, the first on Decolonizing Sites of Culture in Africa and Beyond;
- » 10th UMAPS Scholars Farewell Dinner and African Dance Night;
- » continued quantitative and statistical training collaborations involving U-M, the University of Cape Town and the University of Ghana;
- » new and continuing collaborations from of the Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2);
- » new collaborations born of the STEM-Africa IV conference in Cameroon;
- » a UMAPS reunion on the continent;
- » and a three-day symposium on “ASC: The First Decade” at which our signature U-M model for forging enduring and sustainable partnerships in the co-creation of knowledge and solutions to global problems will be highlighted. In addition to partnerships featuring U-M faculty, students and staff, a select group of U-M alumni in Africa will attend to share with us the important and groundbreaking work they are doing.

The ASC staff—Andries, Henrike, Cindy, Sandie and I—together with the Global South Cluster staff that support our work—Gloria Caudill (Global South Cluster Manager), Raquel Ramos Buckley (Communications), Kathy Covert (Global South Office Coordinator)—all wish you a wonderful 2017-18 academic year and look forward to seeing you at our 10th Anniversary events.

Best wishes,

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T: (734) 615-3027

E: asc-contact@umich.edu

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SUPPORTING ASC

Your gift helps support the presidential initiatives, student participation in overseas educational and internship opportunities, faculty research, public programming related to Africa, and the UMAPS residential scholars program. For more information on the various ways you can contribute to the efforts of the African Studies Center, please visit: ii.umich.edu/asc/donate.

feature STORY

Small-Scale Gold Mining and Alternative Livelihoods IN TALENSI AND NABDAM DISTRICTS, GHANA

BY ELISHA P. RENNE

Photography by E. Renne

The term, “galamsey” (literally, “gather and sell”), refers to small-scale gold miners who search for gold outside of mining concession areas and without government permits. Aside from environmental damage done by these miners who dig pits, fell trees, and pollute waterways, they also endanger their own health through deadly mining accidents and by using mercury to separate minute quantities of gold from a liquid slurry of ground stone powder.

On Monday, July 10, 2017, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo elevated the spirit of the fight against galamsey to another level. It was on that day that the President proclaimed: “I will put my presidency on the line to stop galamsey.”

—M. K. Abissath,
Daily Graphic, 17 July 2017



Undergraduate students from initial U-M 2009 trip, watching miners refine the stone-gold powder mixture before adding mercury, at the small-scale gold mining site called Kejetia, in the Talensi District

RELATED EVENT

DEPARTMENT OF AFROAMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES (DAAS) SYMPOSIUM AND RECEPTION

in honor of Elisha Renne's Retirement

“Uncommon Connections: Aesthetics, Anthro/History, Health”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 | 9:00 AM-5:30 PM | MICHIGAN LEAGUE

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT LSA.UMICH.EDU/DAAS



Undergraduate students (from the DAAS study abroad program as well as Department of Anthropology and SPH graduate students from the 2010 trip) taking and recording information concerning hair samples to be tested for mercury levels at the small-scale gold mining site, Kejetia

When mercury is added to this liquid gold-stone powder mixture, a gold-mercury amalgam is formed. By heating this amalgam, the mercury evaporates leaving gold which is then washed, refined, and sold. It is the mercury vapor which causes health problems for miners and those living in mining communities. As the vapor cools, it condenses as liquid and can pollute streams, ponds, and small lakes, where it eventually contaminates fish. In order to assess the effects of mercury on men and women in the Kejetia mining site in the Talensi District, Upper East Region, Ghana, U-M student researchers collected hair and urine samples to assess levels of mercury in workers' bodies in 2010. After taking these samples back to U-M for testing, results were returned to miners. While results for most individuals were within acceptable limits, the very few men who had high levels of mercury were advised to wear masks, limit amalgamation work, and reduce fish consumption.



Women small-scale gold miners in Nangodi who later formed the core group for the Nangodi Neem Company



Nangodi, Nabdram District, was the site of first industrial gold mine established in northern Ghana. This mine has had an erratic history of production; it is currently closed although it was briefly reopened in 2012

Trial spraying of neem oil-based pesticide to address the fall army infestation of corn in Nangodi



Student and faculty researchers in Kejetia subsequently examined the socioeconomic and health conditions, with a focus on women and water use.

This examination of miners' health was expanded with integrated assessment research that considered the health, environmental, sociocultural, economic consequences of small-scale gold mining in different parts of Ghana. During this period, my research on small-scale gold mining shifted from the Kejetia site in Talensi District to the town of Nangodi in Nabdram District, where the first deep shaft gold mine in northern Ghana was built in 1935 and where small-scale gold mining has been widely practiced since the mid-1980s. Seventeen women involved in galamsey work were interviewed, and indicated that they would leave mining work if alternative work was available. The abundance of neem trees (*Azadirachta indica*) suggested that the production and sale of neem oil products could eventually provide them, as well as other women in the community, with needed income. Subsequently, the Nangodi Neem Company was established in September 2014, with the seventeen women small-scale gold miners as the core group and a neem oil press provided by the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS). This alternative livelihood project has continued in 2017 with production and sale of neem oil, shea butter-neem oil cream, neem seed cake chips, and most recently, neem oil-based pesticide spray.

Some research projects seem to have a life of their own, growing in

entirely unexpected ways. When I went to Ghana in May 2009 with a group of University of Michigan undergraduates to examine the health and environmental consequences of gold mining, I hardly anticipated the long-term interdisciplinary research that would develop. The initial student research and its subsequent publication began an eight-year collaboration between with DAAS and School of Public Health (SPH) faculty, U-M graduate and undergraduate students, who conducted research on various aspects of women's work, health, and environmental aspects of small-scale gold mining. The African Studies Center and DAAS contributed funds for this project, while it later received an Integrated Assessment Award (2012-2014) from the University of Michigan Graham Institute, which included funds for Ghanaian and U-M faculty research collaboration, workshops, and publications (both in edited volumes and in several major research journals). The evolution of a small-scale gold mining student study to a country-wide integrated assessment of small-scale gold mining in Ghana and a neem-based livelihood project underscores the importance of faculty-student interdisciplinary collaborations and assessments and of the application of research findings to address challenging problems.

Africa-China CONFERENCE 2017

Infrastructure, Resource Extraction, and Environmental Sustainability

BY NEAL MCKENNA



The Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), in collaboration with the African Studies Center (ASC) and the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies (LRCCS), organized an international conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor as part of the Bicentennial celebration of the university. The *Africa-China Conference 2017: Infrastructure, Resource Extraction and Sustainability* brought together scholars, practitioners, and artists to interrogate varying ideas about the Africa-China engagement. Using multidisciplinary approaches to examine complex issues, participants at the conference questioned varying assumptions about Chinese engagement with Africa by critically analyzing issues of infrastructure, natural resource extraction and their relatedness to environmental sustainability in Africa.

Omolade Adunbi (DAAS) developed the conference idea out of a class he teaches about China's engagement with the Global South and the environmental consequences of such engagement on people's daily-lived experiences. His current and former students Neal McKenna, Amanda Kaminsky, and Maddie Bianchi helped organize the conference, along with the invaluable assistance of

Elizabeth James, DAAS program associate. The conference was generously supported by ASC, along with several other U-M centers, institutes and schools.

Participants from outside of Michigan, included: Buddy Buruku, a private sector expert, discussed China's extraction of Africa's natural resources; Adem advocated for greater attention and scholarship on agriculture as a nexus of Africa-China relations; Anita Plummer discussed labor relations between Kenya and China; Helen Siu presented her findings about the finances behind China's engagement with Africa, and suggestions for continued research; Jamie Monson ably blended examinations of technology, politics, and history in the 1960s and 70s in Africa, focusing on Chinese technology exports and their use in Africa; Huamei Han discussed her research into the lives of Africans living in China and the varying types of racism they encounter; Marie-Helene Koffi-Tessio presented her examinations of Asian characters in African films and what they signify; Harry Broadman dispelled myths and misconceptions about Chinese investment in Africa; Melissa Lefkowitz discussed her ethnographic inquiry into the offices of CCTV Africa and also presented her film about the lives of African musicians living in China; Nina Silvanus discussed

the logistics, processes and relationships involved in shipping Chinese goods to and through Africa; Ashley Fox presented findings from opinion surveys about African public perceptions of China's role in Africa; and May Tan-Mullins presented findings from case studies of hydropower dams in Africa and China.

U-M was also well represented by our own excellent faculty and students that participated as both panelists and attendees: Omolade Adunbi presented findings from his extensive research about infrastructure, oil and special economic zones in Nigeria; Bilal Butt (SEAS) presented an engaging examination of 'secret' Chinese military infrastructure being installed in Africa and the resulting geopolitical considerations; Yuen Yuen Ang (Political Science) informed and intrigued the audience about the multiple paths to development a country can take, comparing China with Nigeria and showing how Nigeria can thrive without traditionally 'strong' institutions; Elisha Renne (DAAS) presented an examination of Chinese-Nigerian collaboration in textile manufacturing. MS/MBA student Dannan Hodge and PhD student Katie Browne co-presented their research into Chinese logging practices in Gabon and perspectives from both countries. MS student Amanda Kaminsky presented a

study of Chinese ecotourism in Kenya and the meaning-making being applied to animal migrations.

U-M faculty members Damani Partridge, Adam Ashforth, Joyojeet Pal, Michael McGovern, and Howard Stein served as chairs of many of the panels during the conference. Judith Irvine and Sandra Gunning gave the opening and closing remarks, respectively. Students from Professor Adunbi's *When China Comes To Town: Environment and the Politics of Development* class as well as the class on *Violent Environments: Oil, Development and the Discourse of Power* were all present during the conference.

We were also treated by the participation and performance of musicians from the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. We were very honored that such incredible musicians took the time to prepare a special performance for the conference, especially a 1960s era China-Tanzania friendship song, which seemed fitting for the conference.

The conference was a great success in many regards. Despite a busy weekend with many other University events, the conference maintained a high audience turnout, with many faculty, students and staff coming to listen to the presentations and asking questions as audience members. At the end of the conference, many participants agreed that proceedings of the conference should form a special

issue of a journal as well as an edited volume because many of the areas explored by presenters are new. Organizers of the conference are already working towards making this a reality.

The Africa-China Conference 2017 was not only engaging, useful, and enjoyable but was an intellectually stimulating experience for many participants. More importantly, many students from Prof. Adunbi's class attested to the fact that the conference gave them an opportunity to not only meet with some of the scholars whose work they have read, but also to engage in a conversation with the scholars in an academic setting. It is our expectation that such an intellectually stimulating experience will be replicated again and the optimism about organizing the Africa-China Conference 2018 is already growing!

AFRICA Workshop Series

BY OMOLADE ADUNBI



department at Cornell University, who kept his audience spell bound when he embarked on the complicated and complex notions of the universalism of human rights, the way it is talked about and how rights are imagined. Professor Yolanda Covington-Ward, Anthropology and Africana studies at the University of Pittsburgh presented excerpts from her new book, *Gesture and Power: Religion, Nationalism, and Everyday Performance in Congo* (Duke University Press). Speaking about embodiment, Kongo prophetism, and the right to self-determination in the Belgian Congo in the late 1920s, Covington-Ward interrogated prophetic practices by Congolese in the era of colonialism. Professor Moses Ochonu of the History Department at Vanderbilt University presented on the relationship between tourism and cultural production during the colonial period in Nigeria. Ochonu, speaking about the series of visits organized for traditional rulers from Northern Nigeria to London, argued that many such visits were not

just cultural but also political and shaped the ways in which many of the emirs who participated in the trips saw the colonial administration in Nigeria. Professor Kristin Daughy, Anthropology at the University of Rochester, engaged her audience in an interesting interrogation of the notion of justice and its connection to energy and other natural resources in post-genocide Rwanda. The workshop series ended with a conference on *Africa-China: Infrastructure, Resource Extraction and Environmental Sustainability*.

The Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, as part of its intellectual offering for the 2016/2017 academic year, organized its flagship Africa workshop series. With support from the African Studies Center and coordinated by Professor Omolade Adunbi, the workshop series had as its theme, *Environment, Sustainability and Cultural Practices in Africa*. Presenters at the workshop included Professor Jessica Winegar of the Anthropology Department at Northwestern University, who presented on the relationship between art and youth culture in Egypt, and Professor Siba N'Zatioula Grovogui of the Africana Studies



An Educational Resource

DEVELOPED BY, FOR, AND WITH

YOUTH IN KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP, KENYA

Thank you to the National Academy of Education/ Spencer Foundation, University of Michigan Office of Research, and U-M School of Education for supporting this research.

BY MICHELLE J. BELLINO & KAKUMA YOUTH RESEARCH GROUP

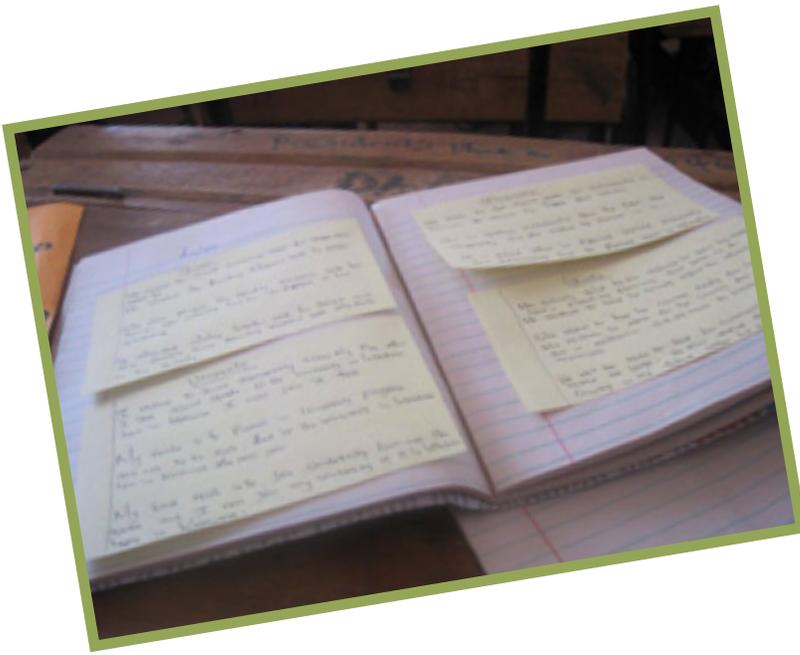
In Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp, the educational trajectories of 65,000 school-age children and youth depend on their enrollment in one of only five secondary schools. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) manages the provision of education within the camp, and dedicated staff work to expand post-primary educational opportunities for youth. Given the size of the camp population, secondary schools in particular are forced to make difficult decisions about access, capping enrollment and managing waitlists in order to maintain a level of quality and protection. Yet even as UNHCR works to increase the availability of secondary schools, the social demand for post-primary education remains low relative to the camp population: more than half of school-age youth in Kakuma do not attend secondary school.

Enrollment disparities such as this one are not solely a matter of inequitable access to schools, but also reflect the ways that young people conceive of their educational opportunities, both in the present and as a pathway toward future prospects.

Consider Innocent and Iwa, two refugee youth in their early twenties who recently completed secondary school. Educational services absent in Innocent's home country of South Sudan attracted him to Kakuma, and he conceives of school as an investment in his future, even if it requires prolonged displacement. He reflects, "With this education, I will become someone... Because [of my education], if I go elsewhere, at least I will start somewhere." By contrast, Iwa struggles to see the value of education in shaping a future that is within his reach. He asks, "What can education mean for a refugee when nothing comes of it?" Iwa is not alone in his worry that school can only open so many doors for refugees, when the doors schools promised to



Images taken by the Kakuma Youth Research Group. Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya.



In a context where youth agency is profoundly constrained by local, national, and global power structures, this study aimed to educate and empower young people with the skills and supports to author their own research agenda and employ research tools to document and address local challenges.

open simply do not exist. Many refugee children and youth drop out of school with the same frustrations, rationalizing that education cannot change their status as refugees with no legal ties to Kenya, few chances to access higher education, and no opportunity to work in the formal economy.

The perspectives of Innocent and Iwa illustrate competing discourses about the value of formal schooling in Kakuma Refugee Camp, which young people navigate, reproduce, and challenge. In a context of structural and spatial uncertainty, we set out to better understand the educational experiences and aspirations of displaced youth in Kakuma. The research design encompassed youth participatory action research, and the youth featured in this work are participants, as well as co-researchers. Throughout our interactions, students learned research skills and collaboratively designed an inquiry into the role of motivation and non-material support in Kakuma youths' educational experiences. In a context where youth agency is profoundly constrained by local, national, and global power structures, this study aimed to educate and empower young people with the skills and supports to author their own research agenda and employ research tools to document and address local challenges.

As a research team we interviewed students, teachers, graduates, and those who discontinued their schooling from a range of national backgrounds. We found that most youth seek advice and information from friends and teachers about educational opportunities, but the value of these supports and one's capacity to access them were inequitably distributed. We also identified significant "information gaps," so that youth aspirations and efforts to motivate youth were often forged without a clear understanding of structural opportunities and limitations. The personal significance of these findings, as well as our collective potential to respond to them, shifted as most student researchers completed their schooling and began their struggle to access post-secondary opportunities they had hoped would be available to them.

We soon realized that our knowledge and skills were strengthened by coming together and sharing information and experiences, an insight we leveraged in our plan to move from research findings into action. In consultation with UNHCR and partner organizations, we worked to document available opportunities in the camp and develop a Facebook community called "Kakuma Youth Opportunities for Lifelong Learning." This site is a youth-driven effort to create and

share a set of resources with young people in Kakuma who aspire to continue their education after completing secondary schooling, but are uncertain how to access opportunities for further learning. Undoubtedly, the social media presence of refugee youth will not—on its own—shift the structures that limit postsecondary opportunities. Nevertheless, developing a resource for, by, and with Kakuma youth has become a form of non-material support within the camp community. We believe that young people should leave school with the knowledge and skills to shape meaningful and sustainable futures, and that empowering youth like Innocent and Iwa demands that educational pursuits align with broader opportunity structures. Our hope is that youth-led dialogue will lead to greater awareness of the significance refugees place on their education in exile, more concerted advocacy efforts driven by refugee stakeholders to expand educational opportunities, and stronger alignment between educational opportunities and the structures that enable and constrain refugees' futures.

Visit our page and join us at:



[/Kakuma-Youth-Opportunities-for-Lifelong-Learning-233327623738937/](https://www.facebook.com/Kakuma-Youth-Opportunities-for-Lifelong-Learning-233327623738937/)



ASANTEMAN AND GHANA BIDS FAREWELL TO

13th Asantehemaa

BY KWASI AMPENE AND LESTER P. MONTS

A team of University of Michigan researchers and videographers traveled to Kumase, Ghana in January 2017 to cover the funerary events surrounding the passing of Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II, the 111-year-old Asantehemaa. Led by Professors Kwasi Ampene (DAAS/SMTD) and Lester Monts (SMTD)—both ethnomusicologists—and with support from the African Studies Center (ASC), the Michigan Musical Heritage Project (MMHP), University of Michigan Office of Research (UMOR), the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), and the LSA Scholarship/Research Fund, the six-member team collected more than forty hours of film footage covering the rare funerary and burial rites held at Dwabrem grounds, Manhyia Palace in Kumase. The events were attended by Ghana’s new president Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, members of the cabinet and legislators, former United Nations General Secretary Kofi Annan, paramount chiefs and lesser chiefs from Ghana and surrounding countries, monarchs and representatives from other African and European nations, and more than 30,000 mourners.

We wish first to clarify some Akan terms. Asanteman refers to the Asante people, while Akan is the larger cultural group to which Asante belong. Asantehemaa loosely translates as “Asante Queen” or “Queen Mother” but neither conveys the full meaning of the word. Due to a complex system of a socio-political organization embedded in a matrilineal kinship system, the Asantehemaa is one of the highest-ranking leaders in Akan polity. In order to ensure equilibrium and social balance, the Akan have dual male-female leadership roles. The male chief or king is referred to as *ɔhene* while his female counterpart is *ɔhemaa*. Since they are from the same matrilineage, the *ɔhemaa* cannot be the wife of a chief or a king. She can be a mother, sister, or aunt. Crucially, it is the *ɔhemaa* who nominates a king when the stool becomes vacant or if he is destooled for any reason. Since English translations fall short, we retain the Akan designations.

Through the efforts of Professor Ampene, an authority on Akan musical and other performance arts, the research team received special authorization from Asantehene Otumfoɔ Ɔsɛɛ Tutu II (the Asante King) to document the funerary celebrations. The king’s authorization facilitated the film crew’s movements within the huge gathering of mourners that attended the four day event. They covered all the major ceremonies and interviewed traditional and government leaders, townspeople



Elders, Umbrellas Procession-Wearing black cloths (Kuntunkuni) that are sometimes combined with red cloths to highlight the solemn occasion are court attendants, elders, and court musicians in a slow-paced procession leading territorial chiefs who are canopied under large multi-colored appliqued and embroidered umbrellas to the funeral grounds (Dwabrem).

and visitors. The film team also gathered footage of the rare artifacts and regalia going back centuries in Akan and Asante history. Copies of the film footage, photos, and audio recordings will be deposited with the Manhyia Palace archives and the J.H. Kwabena Nketia Audio-Visual Archives at the University of Ghana.

A Brief Biography of Asantehemaa, Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II (1905-2016)

In 1905 Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II was born in Kumase to ɔheneba Kwadwo Afodoɔ and Nana Yaa Birago. She grew up under challenging circumstances since the kingdom was in disarray and members of the royal family were dispersed throughout the kingdom. With her mother and siblings, she spent her formative years in Mmada, a little village, with no opportunity for formal education. She was nineteen years old in 1924 when King Agyeman Prɛmpɛ was allowed to return to Kumase enabling dispersed family members to reunite and live in Kumase with the king. In order for Nana Afia Kobi to learn Asante traditions and customs, she was sent out of the palace to live with one of the king's stool wives, ɔheneyere Nana Afia Fookuo.

Nana Afia Kobi married twice. With her first husband, Opanin Kofi Fofie, she had three children. While the second and third children are deceased, the first born, Nana Ama Konadu, will succeed her as

the reigning Asantehemaa. Divorced from her first husband, she married ɔhenenana Kwame Boakyɛ Dankwa, the chief of the king's gun carriers (or bodyguards). She had two sons by him, Barima Akwasi Prɛmpɛ and Barima Kwaku Dua. The former is deceased but the latter is the current king, Otumfoɔ ɔsɛɛ Tutu II. Consequently, her new praise name is ɔwoahene ("One who gave birth to kings").

In 1977, King Opoku Ware II nominated Nana Afia Kobi, then 72 years old, to succeed Nana Ama Sɛɛwaa Nyarko, who had passed on after serving for thirty-two years. Two issues were upmost on the mind of the king when he settled on his final choice. Nana Afia Kobi was unquestionably a member of the Royal ɔyoko matriline of Kumase. Her mother, Nana Yaa Birago, was the daughter of Nana Akua Afriyie (Akua Dehyɛɛ), whose mother was Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi (1857 to 1880). Secondly, there was no doubt that she could handle the numerous responsibilities that come with the office of Asantehemaa. Additionally, he was aware of her extensive training in the lore, traditions and customs of Asante (Asantesɛm). Thus in 1977, she became the 13th Asantehemaa, with the stool name, Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II. She was named after her maternal Great Grandmother, the 9th Asantehemaa. Twenty-two years later king Opoku Ware II passed on and the enormous burden of nominating the rightful successor from the Royal ɔyoko matriline in Kumase fell on the Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II. Just as the king had the upper

hand in nominating a female member from the matrilineage to occupy a vacant stool, it is the Asantehemaa who nominates a male member from the same to occupy the Gold Stool. To the satisfaction of all, Nana Afia Kobi selected her son, Barima Kwaku Dua, to succeed Otumfoɔ Opoku Ware II as the 16th occupant of the Gold Stool with the stool name, ɔsɛɛ Tutu II.

Blessed with good health and longevity, Nana Afia Kobi was 111 years old when she passed away on November 14, 2016. She served Asanteman and Ghana for 39 years. The temporal reach of her life is stunning for she lived through some of the most challenging times in Asante and Ghana's history. She was born when the British were consolidating colonial rule in the then Gold Coast. By the 1920's, nationalist sentiments were already high and resistance to colonial rule was well underway; by the 1940's the people of Asante were agitating for an independent state. Nevertheless, Asante leadership made a bold decision to join neighboring chiefdoms to form a single unified state. British Gold Coast gained its independence in 1957 under the leadership of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and a constitution that recognized pre-colonial political systems. Ghanaians agreed on a delicate arrangement where age-old political systems were run side by side with a parliamentary system.

As with other newly independent states, the optimism that accompanied Ghana's political independence soon gave way to political and economic instability. By the time Afia Kobi was enstooled as the Asantehemaa in 1977, military coups had toppled Nkrumah's and the subsequent government. The instability led to a second wave of agitation for the Asante secession. However, with counseling from the Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II and King Opoku Ware II, the kingdom remained within a unified Ghana. The following decades saw more unrest and military coups but from 2000 to the present, Ghana has recorded political stability.

Even in her advanced age, the Asantehemaa was known for her sharp mind and capacity to remember individuals and events in vivid detail. Newly enstooled chiefs benefited

from her impeccable knowledge of Asante stool and cultural histories, traditions, and customs. Her obituary brochure features glowing tributes from national and international dignitaries speaking to her humility, simplicity and modesty that enabled rich and poor, young and the old, to go to her without intimidation. For these reasons and more, the celebration of Nana Afia Kobi's life transcended the Asante Kingdom; it moved beyond their Akan cousins in Ghana and La Côte d'Ivoire to the national and international stages.

General Overview of Funerary Rites and Burial

The official mourning and funerary rites for Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II occurred on January 16-19, 2017 at Dwabrem, a large enclosed park south of the palace grounds while the Asantehemaa's body lay in repose for viewing in her nearby palace. The king sat on a raised dais on one end of the park while the VIP stand was situated to the far end across from the raised dais. A red carpet connected the VIP stand to the royal dais. Territorial chiefs and their entourages sat around the king in a horseshoe arrangement partly based on ancient Akan war formations. The space between the two domains, Dwabrem park and the ɔhemaa's palace, was filled with all kinds of activities. Behind the VIP stand was the press stand where media houses had set up temporary structures with the names and logos of their stations boldly displayed. Ensembles from all over the kingdom—kete, fɔntɔmfɔm, and popular vocal ensembles including adowa and nnwonkorɔ—were performing simultaneously. About three vocal ensembles were strategically placed on the route to the ɔhemaa's residence so the multitudes in long and winding lines on their way to pay their last respects could dance while waiting. Unlike the instrumental ensembles, the vocal ensembles had amplification with the volume at its highest decibel.

While creating the program, the Planning Committee considered the relevance

Ntahera Ivory Trumpets-Sounded poetry by Ntahera (ivory trumpeters) were central to the funeral processions and formal sittings. In the complex practice of speech surrogacy and using the *hocket* technique, the various types of ivory trumpets were performed as substitutes for the human voice to convey messages of condolences as well as historical incidents.



of the Asante Kingdom at the levels of the nation, the West African region, Continental Africa, and the global community of nations. Each of the four days offered space for particular geo-cultural regions, institutions, and corporate bodies in Ghana to honor the deceased. The general public, however, was not restricted to a particular day as they were allowed to file past the body throughout the event. Kumase chiefs, Paramount chiefs, and lesser chiefs in the Asante Kingdom and their Akan cousins in Ghana and la Côte d'Ivoire were scheduled to perform rituals on the first day, Monday, January 16. On the second day, Tuesday January 17, the Ghana National House of Chiefs and representatives from all of Ghana's ten regions were accorded their turn. Clergy from the Christian Council of Ghana, the Islamic faith, and other denominations had their turn on the third day, Wednesday, January 18. The newly installed President of the Republic of Ghana, three former presidents, visiting monarchs, members of the Diplomatic Corps in Ghana, and Members of Parliament took the lead on the climatic last day, Thursday, January 19.

Processions of royalty are arguably one of the richest and most diverse performances of political and social status in the world. Paramount Chiefs and their entourages of lesser chiefs, court officials and attendants began processions as early as 6 am. The color profile of thousands of people wearing dark cloth (*kuntunkuni*) denoted grief and its attributes. Some chiefs appeared in ancient battle dresses holding muskets and Dane guns that they fired sporadically to announce the event far and near and to signify their war with death. The Paramount Chiefs were canopied under huge colorful applique

and embroidered umbrellas to provide shade from the early morning sun. There were sword bearers, royal spokespersons with carved staffs, stool carriers, court elders sometimes accompanied with *kete* or *fɔntɔmfɔm* drum ensembles, ivory trumpets, and groups of men and women, young and old, performing war cries. Constant streams of Paramount chiefs entered the main gate to Manhyia Palace, made their way to the ɔhemaa's palace to file past the body, and exited to Dwabrem. The symbolic complexity was astounding and there was no doubting the intense nature of communal grief.

Finally the Asante King, Otumfɔɔ ɔsɛ Tutu II, emerged from his palace taking us to a higher level of multi-sensory performance of grief. He was carried in *Etwie Apakan* ("leopard palanquin"), which is used only for funerary rites. Booming *fɔntɔmfɔm* drums sounded behind the king's palanquin while the Ananta and Dadeesoaba chiefs and their men fired volleys of gunpowder into the air. The atmosphere attained higher levels of intensity as the Asantehene, canopied under seven huge umbrellas and a large retinue of courtiers who carried ivory trumpets in groups of seven, conveyed the king's grief to the general public. Other musical ensembles engaged in plural performance for a collective expression of grief. On the sidelines and guiding the king's procession were men and women carrying bunches of burning palm branches. In the pre-electricity past, these were the means of lighting the footpaths leading to the burial grounds. Like the territorial chiefs, the king's procession made its way to the Asantehemaa's palace and after he performed his ritual, headed back to Dwabrem.



Fɔntɔmfɔm-Carried on the head in a procession and immediately behind the Asante King are two large bɔma drums and a single atumpan drum that forms part of the Fɔntɔmfɔm Ensemble. The loud and booming sound is meant to signify heroism and power in Asante past and present.

Asantehemaa's Coffin and Asantehene Behind Coffin-Asantehemaa's remains being conveyed to the funeral grounds (Dwabrem). Closely behind and holding a gun is the Asante King, Otumfoɔ Osei Tutu II, to symbolically assure his deceased mother that he will protect the institutions, the state, and all the regalia our forebears established until his last breath. With the index and third fingers pointed towards the king, the citizens are validating the solemn promise by the king as well as reassuring him that he has their support.

By the time the Asantehene took his seat on the dais, several chiefs and queens were already lined up to greet him and offer condolences, encouragement and support. The greetings went on for over three hours with some bearing burial items arranged in brass basins and carried on the head by female family members. Periodically the king offered palm wine drinks to the chiefs. Around 5 pm, the king began his recession but before returning to the palace, he went around, carried in the palanquin, and beginning on his right side thanked all the chiefs and queens for participating in the day's event. Once the king was out of sight, the assembled chiefs began making their way back in a scene reminiscent of their arrival. There were the shouts, drumming and dancing until all the public dispersed. With the day's program over, traditional priests and a variety of performers took over and kept vigil with non-stop musical performances until daybreak. A highlight of each subsequent day of the celebration was the grand entry to and recession from Dwabrem of the assigned paramount chiefs with their iconic colorful umbrellas and entourages of lesser chiefs, drummers, chronicle singers, performers of heroic and praise poetry, and warriors.

Although the final day's program specified a timetable, managing all the VIPs and presidential details became daunting and the program was jammed right from the beginning. After the customary exchanges of greetings, a member of the Royal Spokespersons (Okyeame) announced that the king would personally convey the Asantehemaa's coffin to the

Dwabrem for the Burial Service. Slowly but gradually, the Asantehemaa's coffin, partially covered with six large multi-colored shields, made its way from the palace to Dwabrem with the king, Otumfoɔ Ɔsee Tutu II, following closely behind in a palanquin and holding a long-barreled gun horizontally in both hands raised in the direction of the coffin. It was an emotional but magnificent sight to behold as the fɔntɔmfɔm ensemble sounded the heroic war piece, Atopretia, behind the king. Riding in a palanquin and holding a gun behind the coffin was Otumfoɔ Ɔsee Tutu's solemn pledge to Asantehemaa (and the kingdom) that although she is no more in the physical world and on her way to join her forebears in the spirit world, he, the Asante king, will protect the Gold Stool and all the tangible and intangible property that comes with it.

After the Burial Service, led by the Anglican Bishop of Kumase, the President of Ghana laid a wreath on behalf of all Ghanaians. He was followed by the Asanteman Council, Lady Julia Ɔsee Tutu (the wife of the king), the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, and finally the Anglican Church. After the service, pallbearers from the Military Police lifted the casket in military style and to the tune of three trumpets placed it on a Military Gun Carriage decorated with the Asanteman flag of gold, black, and green. In military convoy, they began the slow journey from Manhyia Palace to the Bantama Royal Mausoleum, about thirty minutes outside of Kumase. The Bantamahene, who is the second in command in Kumase and

occupies the Krontire Stool, and his elders received the coffin on behalf of Kumase Abrempon (chiefs). Since royals are not buried in broad daylight, the Bantamahene would wait until the king and the burying party arrived around 11 pm before taking Nana Asantehemaa to the Brɛman Royal Mausoleum for interment rituals. A general curfew from 7 pm to the next morning was put in place to enable a quiet and a solemn procession.

The funerary celebration of the life and service of Asantehemaa, Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II was highly successful. The Planning Committee, Asanteman, Ghanaians, and the Security Agencies hosted a home going ceremony suitable to the services of an illustrious and remarkable woman. The intensity of the event projected Asante political status, history and culture, and identity within the larger Ghanaian nationhood. The Akan are deeply aware that the ɔhemaa is symbolically the cultural mother of a chief or a king so in the case of Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II, her motherly role was doubled as both cultural and biological mother of Otumfoɔ Ɔsee Tutu II. As cultural mother, she provided him with exceptional counseling until he joined his forebears in the spirit world. Afterwards, she made the rightful decision not only to nominate her own son, but a son who would survive her and carry the kingdom forward. The Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Sɛɛwaa Ampem II was thus a bridge to the future, leaving a thirty-nine year legacy for generations of Asante and Ghanaians characterized by humility and her signature calmness.



 AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES 

Book Series Releases First Titles

BY HENRIKE FLORUSBOSCH

The third volume, *Seven Plays of Koffi Kwahulé: In and Out of Africa*, edited by Judith G. Miller and translated by Chantal Bilodeau, was released in May 2017. This book is notable for presenting the first English translation of Côte d'Ivoire's Kwahulé, one of Francophone Africa's most accomplished living authors and playwrights. His plays explore the diasporic experience of many of African origin and examine an ever-expanding network of global migrants. Judith G. Miller's introductory essays to the plays situate Kwahulé among his postcolonial contemporaries.

Additional volumes in African Perspectives include books by Mukoma Wa Ngugi, on the rise of the African novel (available Spring 2018), and by Frieda Ekotto, editing selected works of Chadian author Nimrod (Fall 2018). These and other titles will help enlarge the disciplinary range of the series to include philosophy, literature, and the social sciences, while maintaining its diversity of focus on Francophone, Anglophone, and Lusophone Africa.

Inquiries about the series may be made to the series editors, Kelly Askew (kaskew@umich.edu) and Anne Pitcher (pitchera@umich.edu), or to the series' editor at the Press, Ellen Bauerle (bauerle@umich.edu).

The African Perspectives book series was launched in 2013 to mark ASC's five-year anniversary by building upon U-M's distinctive position in the field of African Studies. Published by the University of Michigan Press under the editorship of Kelly Askew and Anne Pitcher, the series publishes exemplary work grounded in field research that unsettles conventional understandings of the continent, involving any country in sub-Saharan Africa. The past year saw the publication of the first three titles in the series, with well-attended public launches of two of the books in Washington, DC and Johannesburg, respectively. The series has attracted interest from both emergent and established scholars, many based in Africa as well as those working at institutions outside the continent.

The inaugural volume was *African Print Cultures: Newspapers and Their Publics in the Twentieth Century*, edited by Derek R. Peterson, Emma Hunter, and Stephanie Newell, which publicly launched at the ASC reception held during the African Studies Association's annual meeting in November 2016 in Washington, DC. Unsettling the narrative of Africa as a continent limited to oral tradition, *African Print Cultures* focuses on African newspapers as subjects of historical and literary study. Beyond vehicles for anticolonial nationalism, newspapers also served as incubators of literary experimentation and as networks for public interaction and the creation of new kinds of communities.

The second volume, *Unsettled History: Making South African Public Pasts*, by Leslie Witz, Gary Minkley, and Ciraj Rassool, was published in February 2017 and publicly launched in July 2017 at the South African Historical Society conference at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, appropriately marking the 40th anniversary of the Wits History Workshop. According to Leslie Witz, speakers at the conference pointed out that *Unsettled History* represents "an active and critical engagement with the History Workshop, problematizing the narratives of social history, the claims to alternative histories 'from below', the assertions of the recovery of voice through oral history, and the contentions of the outreach of popular histories." In addition, as the guest speaker Crain Soudien, the CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) noted, there was a deep engagement with the politics of the production of history, which unsettled many of the mythologies and icons that had become the hallmark of settler pasts. All speakers concurred, finally, in noting the volume's productive tension between claiming a new historiographical approach and a reluctance to assume a coherence that may be seen as asserting a new authority.



Editors and contributors to the first volume in the African Perspectives book series. L-R: Derek Peterson, Anne Pitcher, Kelly Askew, Leslie James, Stephanie Newell, Rebecca Jones, Not pictured: Wale Adebaniwi.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

at the

awf 35

African World Festival

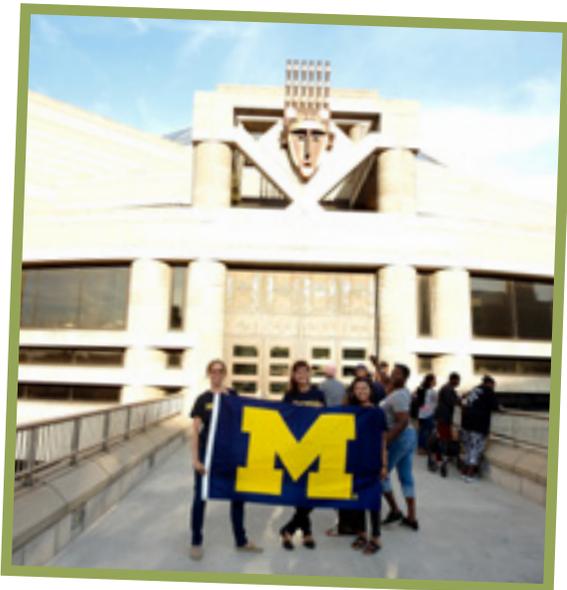
BY ANDRIES COETZEE



ASC's Henrike Florusbosch greeting AWF attendees



ASC Director Kelly Askew, Henrike Florusbosch, and U-M Faculty Nyeema Harris at AWF



ASC's Henrike Florusbosch, Kelly Askew, Cindy Nguyen at the African World Festival

The African Studies Center (ASC) and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) represented U-M at the 35th African World Festival (AWF) in Detroit, August 18-20, 2017.

This annual celebration of African culture is hosted by the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and brings together more than 150 vendors of various African visual arts, handcrafted items, apparel, accessories and foods. It is attended by over 150,000 visitors, and represents one of the largest celebrations of African culture in the US. The U-M booth was staffed by volunteers from the ASC and DAAS, who distributed information about the various Africa related activities at the University, and answered many questions about admissions and financial aid from prospective students and their families. The U-M booth also provided an opportunity for the many U-M alumni from the Detroit area to reminisce about the happy times they spent at the University. It was a festive event, bringing together varied African cultures, and celebrating the richness of our diversity and our unity.

Remaking the Humanities in Africa

AN UPDATE

BY DEREK PETERSON AND JUDITH IRVINE

The University of Michigan's African Studies Center and the Wits Institute for Social Research are in the middle stages of a five-year program of activity entitled 'Joining Theory and Empiricism in the Remaking of the African Humanities: A Transcontinental Collaboration'. The program—which is generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—has the goal of exposing 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 intend to strengthen and deepen collaboration in the study of the humanities at the universities of Michigan and the Witwatersrand. We have in mind three specific goals for the research: that it should, first, engage ambitious theoretical questions; second, explore the boundary between the humanities and the social sciences; and third, engage closely with the African continent in a manner that addresses an international scholarly audience.

In the past academic year we have organized two major workshops under the umbrella of this collaboration.

November 2016: 'Political Subjectivities and Popular Protest' in Ann Arbor

This workshop—the sixth installment in the series—was led by an interdisciplinary group, including (from UM) Matthew Countryman (History), Amanda Alexander (Afroamerican & African Studies), Victoria Langland (History), Tara Weinberg (History graduate student), and Derek Peterson (History), and (from Wits) Srila

Roy (Sociology), Alf Nilsen (Society Work and Development Institute), Shireen Hassim (Politics), Moshibudi Motimele (Politics graduate student), and Keith Breckenridge (History).

Our shared objective was to place student-led movements in South Africa into conversation with forms of activism at other times and places, and particularly with the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States. A defining feature of student activism—both in the recent past and in our turbulent present—has been the presence of transnational flows of idioms, affects, practices, ideas, and aspirations between and across sites of popular protest. For example, black popular movements in the U.S.—from the civil rights and black power movements to Black Lives Matter—have both drawn on and contributed to transnational traditions of resistance to racism and colonialism. Protests centered on the decolonization and decommodification of institutions of higher learning in South Africa fall within the orbit of a long trajectory of student activism on the African continent and elsewhere. However, these transnational flows do not render eruptions of protest everywhere all the same. Rather, the idioms, affects, ideas, and aspirations that constitute the stuff of these flows are shaped and molded in very specific ways as they come to be embedded in particular sites of resistance and mobilization. It is precisely this dialectic—the dialectic between transnational flows and vernacular knowledges

across different sites of protest, both past and present—and the challenges that they pose for scholarly practice in the humanities and the social sciences that we wanted to interrogate at this workshop.

The organizers assembled a rich program, aiming to place a large cohort of scholars and activists involved in the American political theater into dialogue with students and activists from Wits and other South African universities. At the last minute, however, the program had to be radically curtailed, as South African universities entered a state of crisis. With most of the delegation from Witwatersrand unable to come to Ann Arbor, we pared back the workshop to a few key events. There was a lively and vigorous discussion occasioned by the panel 'Scholar Activists and Contemporary Social Movements' featuring Keeanga Taylor (Princeton), Barbara Ransby (UIUC), Kidada Williams (Wayne State) and Julian Brown (Wits). That occasion—convened a few days after the election that brought Donald Trump to power—was attended by a large and very engaged audience. There was a similarly large audience for a lecture given by the law scholar Nandini Sundar, of the University of Delhi, which concerned her efforts to secure rights for the victims of mass violence in India. The workshop concluded with a well-attended and provocative lecture from Achille Mbembe (Wits), who spoke on 'Knowledge Futures and the Humanities Today'.



Attendees of the June 2017 Maropeng conference

June 2017: 'Performance and Political Action' in Johannesburg

This seventh workshop in the series was held at Maropeng (Magaliesburg), South Africa, over the course of a week in June. The occasion was organized by Naomi Andre, Judy Irvine, and Kelly Askew, from UM; Innocentia Mhlambi and Donato Somma from Wits; and Liz Gunner from the University of Johannesburg.

The workshop was conceived as interdisciplinary, bringing together scholars working on the arts of performance, large and small, as they relate to Africa and its diasporas. Performance and performativity go far beyond the theatrical and spectacular to interactions on many other scales. A dismissive shrug, a new political slogan, the presence or absence of applause can index vast registers and repertoires of political engagement. Verbal performances, from story-telling and speech-making to comedy and satire, can produce and sustain ideologies, manage and challenge social positions, and accomplish all manner of social acts. And the performance of religious rites and rhetoric extends communicative interactions to otherworldly domains as well as engaging social life in the here and now. These modes of performance appear in diverse genres and wide-ranging media, from live venues and face-to-face interactions to radio, film, television, and social media. Performance is a semiotically rich field.

Included in our workshops were music, gesture, dance, theater, and spectacle as well as discourse, text (oral or written), and acts of speaking. Rather than focusing on a specific geographical location or time period, the workshop sought to explore how the arts of performance, broadly defined, mediate among identity, culture, society, and politics. The workshop activities began



Matthew Countryman, Kidada Williams, Julian Brown, Keeanga Taylor, and Barbara Ransby at the 'Scholar Activists' panel, November 2016

in Johannesburg with a visit to the area around the Market Theatre, an important site in the anti-apartheid struggle. The area includes several museums and galleries, as well as the Market Theatre itself. The conference program at Maropeng included panels on South African Opera, 'Performing in Speaking', performance and migrants' experience, performance and diaspora, and activism. In the afternoon of June 26 Marthe Djilo Kanga performed *Angalia Ni Mimi*, her multimedia memoir on the migrant experience. On the final evening we held an informal wrap-up session to pull themes together and discuss possibilities for the future.

The workshop was counted a great success. Its interdisciplinary composition, along with a relatively relaxed schedule that permitted intensive discussion—and a superb venue, the Maropeng Hotel—contributed to the very positive atmosphere and effect. Everyone found the format congenial and the discussions engaging, and many participants planned new collaborations, or continued existing ones. As some of the participants commented afterwards (others wrote in the same vein): "This was a fantastic experience for me," "Really loved this

workshop," "It was a superb workshop... The interdisciplinary approach was productive and the participants were a good mix," "Please do it again and I am in," "I really cannot overstate how grateful I am to have been able to participate in this workshop. I learned a great deal and was reenergized in my own work. ...I greatly value the relationships I was able to forge with scholars from Michigan and several African universities."

Looking Ahead

In November 2017 the eighth workshop in the series will be convened in Ann Arbor on the theme 'Decolonizing Sites of Culture in Africa and Beyond'. The occasion will draw together a group of curators, historians, archaeologists, artists and cultural producers to together discuss the enduring role of 'tribal' classification systems in contemporary African museums. What does decolonizing such museums entail? The workshop is being organized by Ray Silverman, Geoff Emberling, and Laura De Becker (of UM); Sarah Duff (of Wits); and Cynthia Kros (of Pretoria).

We are all grateful to the Mellon Foundation, the University of Michigan and the University of the Witwatersrand, as well as to the very capable administrative support from Henrike Florusbosch and Najibha Deshmukh, for making these workshops possible.

"I really cannot overstate how grateful I am to have been able to participate in this workshop. I learned a great deal and was reenergized in my own work. ...I greatly value the relationships I was able to forge with scholars from Michigan and several African universities."

AFRICAN ART EXHIBITS at UMMA

BY HENRIKE FLORUSBOSCH

In academic year 2016-17, ASC co-sponsored the exhibition “Traces: Reconstructing the History of a Chokwe Mask,”

which was on display at U-M’s Museum of Art (UMMA) from October 22, 2016 and January 22, 2017. The exhibition was curated by Laura de Becker, Helmut & Candis Stern Associate Curator of African art and member of ASC’s African Heritage Initiative (AHI) steering committee. At the core of the temporary exhibition was one artwork from UMMA’s African holdings: a Chokwe mask that was collected in 1905 near the Angolan city of Dundo by German explorer Leo Frobenius. Through photographs, historical sources and objects, the exhibition told the story of not only this mask, but also some of the individuals whose lives are connected to the artifact that passed through their hands.

In a curator’s talk, De Becker expanded on the exhibition’s premise by presenting her findings from trying to track the mask’s 7,500 miles’ journey spanning a hundred years and three continents. A main conclusion to be drawn from this research is that painstaking research can reveal much additional information about objects that too often are attributed only in vague terms to “artist unknown,” or more recently “artist unrecorded.” However, gaps in our knowledge will surely remain, such as the long period that UMMA’s Chokwe mask spent in the hands of one or more European art collectors. In addition

Chokwe mask,
University of
Michigan Museum
of Art, Gift of
Candis and Helmut
Stern, 2005/1.201



to this public talk for a general audience, De Becker also led a gallery tour for ASC’s UMAPS scholars, who appreciated the opportunity to see the art up close and engage the curator in conversation.

In the coming academic year, ASC is again co-sponsor for two temporary exhibitions drawn from UMMA’s African collections. The first exhibition, “*Power Contained: The Art of Authority in Central and West Africa*,” focuses on the famous *minkisi* (or “power figure”) sculptures of Central Africa and other objects used to express authority in several historical societies in present-day Nigeria, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon. The exhibition, curated by Laura de Becker, is on display in UMMA’s Brandon Bridge Gallery from August 19 through December 31, 2017, with a curator’s “*In Conversation*” presentation being scheduled for October 1. The second exhibition, “*Unrecorded*,” explores themes such as how artists from Africa became ‘anonymous’ to current challenges surrounding museum representations of named African artists. The exhibition is curated by Allison Martino, UMMA’s 2016-2017 Mellon Curatorial Fellow, and will be

on view in the Museum’s Brandon Bridge Gallery from May 12 through September 2, 2018. For more information on the exhibitions and associated events, see umma.umich.edu.

ASC’s own art might be on display at UMMA in the future as well. With the move to Weiser Hall and the resulting reduction of wall space, ASC needed to find a new home for its painting “The Founding of the African Union” that most recently hung in room 3622 in the “old” ASC. ASC commissioned this painting from renowned Ethiopian painter Qes Adama Tesfaw in 2009. It is now on long-term loan at UMMA, where it is currently in storage, but might well be on display as part of a the new permanent installation of UMMA’s African holdings. As part of the preparatory process of reimagining the permanent exhibit, ASC-affiliated faculty Raymond Silverman (History of Art and DAAS) and Laura De Becker (UMMA) are organizing a lecture series in fall 2017 featuring some of the leading curators of African art in the US. This lecture series is being co-sponsored by ASC’s African Heritage Initiative.

2017 STEM-IV

CONVENES IN YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON

A Transformative International Conference



Cover of STEM-IV conference program

BY A. OVETA FULLER



One of the "International Frontiers in Science" sessions with UMAPS presenters from Ethiopia and Ghana



Cameroonian graduate students with Professor Frank Anderson and Interim ASC Director A. Oveta Fuller

The STEM-Africa Initiative of the African Studies Center (ASC) has convened a conference of African education and research partners almost every other year since 2010. On May 29 - June 2, 2017 over 420 attendees (the largest number yet of attendees for one of our STEM conferences) gathered at the Conference Center and Mont Febe Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon for STEM-Africa IV.

Faculty, college and university students, researchers and government officials engaged with an international cadre of 42 presenters and discussants on the theme "Africa-US Frontiers in Science." The conference goal was to initiate sustainable partnerships in STEM education and research to enable discovery of new knowledge, increase educational capacity and quality, and facilitate knowledge transfer for addressing global, regional and community issues.

STEM-IV was chaired in Yaoundé by Professor Charles Owono of CETIC and Dr. Uphie Chinje Milo, Director of MIPROMALO with assistance from UMAPS alumnus (2015-16) Dr. Jacques Tagoudjeu

from the University of Yaoundé. The U-M Conference Organizing Committee was composed of Professors Dan Burns and Nkem Khumbah who hold annual mathematics workshops in Cameroon, STEM-Africa Initiative co-coordinators Professors Rebecca Hardin and Aline Cotel, and Interim ASC Director Oveta Fuller in conjunction with faculty active with the STEM-Africa steering committee.

STEM-Africa IV officially opened with a video greeting from U-M President Dr. Mark Schlissel and a special ceremonial greeting involving four top officials from the office of Cameroonian Prime Minister Philemon Yang, an official representing the US Ambassador to Cameroon, and the Interim ASC Director.

Professor S. Jack Hu, U-M Vice President for Research and J. Reid and Polly Anderson Professor of Manufacturing, was the Keynote Speaker for the plenary session "Partnering for Research, Innovation and Economic Development."

Twelve ninety-minute sessions addressed topics from Environment, Climate and Sustainability to Biomedical and Clinical

Systems for Wellness, Women in Science and Engineering, STEM for Industrial Transformation, Learning from STEM Partnerships, Peer to Peer Networks, Funding STEM Initiatives and Preparing the Next Generation. All presentations will soon be accessible from our website.

Four stimulating and informative "International Frontiers of Science" sessions were interwoven throughout the conference to showcase some of our U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) alumni from Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa. These sessions also explored how to best translate educational and research advances from one country to another.

Opening and closing evening dinner celebrations were hosted by the Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation Dr. Madeleine Tchuinte and the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Jacques Fame Ndong. They featured the National Dancers of Cameroon, musicians performing on an array of African instruments, and the national jazz band while providing ample opportunity for discussions, interactions and planning



Growing Collaborations in Ethiopia

BY MANDIRA BANNERJEE

“As the University of Michigan begins our third century, we are eager to work with our Ethiopian partners to solve problems, to make new discoveries and to create meaningful change,” exclaimed the University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel in an opening video message to more than 150 faculty and students who had gathered in Addis Ababa from 11-14 July, 2017, for the Third Annual Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2) Conference.



Professor Uphie Chinje Milo, Co-organizer, Cameroon and presenter Vice Chancellor Gil Lee Young of Kumi University, Uganda



U-M STEM-Africa Professor Nyeema Harris presents

among all the conference attendees.

Beyond engaging exchange and learning, making new connections, and initiating collaborations, U-M Vice President for Research Professor Hu and Cameroonian Minister Dr. Tchuinte confirmed a plan to actively enhance research alliances designed to transform the educational infrastructure of this central African country. Such a partnership fits the Cameroonian “Agenda 2035” strategic plan and Minister Tchuinte’s goal of 100 new doctorate level Cameroonian faculty in the next 5 years.

Conference attendees from across Africa and in the US will continue to build upon specific topics, including:

- » Science policy and programming for economic and sustainable development;
- » Strategic planning for increasing broad access to quality higher education;
- » Partnering, new alliances and use of African Centers of Excellences and other government or community resources;
- » Knowledge transfer to move science and technology into wider applications;
- » Discovery and transfer of discoveries from within the academy to industry;
- » STEM education models to lead to industrial, education and economic transformation.

This message emulate the theme of the conference, titled, “ETHIOPIAN FUTURES: MOVING FORWARD.” This year’s theme continues to draw back on the driving force that initiated the EMC2: the commitment to create a transformative platform that would allow faculty and student partners in Ethiopia and U-M to develop models for effective global partnerships that are truly collaborative, sustainable, and based on mutual benefit.

Participants from Addis Ababa University, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, St. Paul’s Millennium Medical College, the University of Gondar, the University of Axum, U-M, and other organizations across Ethiopia immersed themselves in a four-day conference full of lively dialogues and cultural exchanges. The first day was a kick-off celebration, done in a traditional “American-style BBQ” with remarks from U-M African Studies Center (ASC) interim director, Oveta Fuller, professor Wuletaw Chane from Addis Ababa University, and U-M vice provost

“We are constantly seeking ways to bring new opportunities and perspectives to U-M’s educational and research activities in Africa”

- A. Oveta Fuller

for global engagement and interdisciplinary academic affairs, James Holloway. The next three days were divided into three central focuses: “Defining the Future of Ethiopia through Ethiopian Lenses,” “Developing/ Growing Collaborations,” and “Bringing it All Together, Plans for the Future.” The conference provided an open and welcoming environment that showcased the varied and interdisciplinary topics and interests, providing time for participants to learn about Ethiopian cultures and about effective approaches for long lasting collaborations. Whether it was over a meal or during an engaging panel, participants were able to share their research and ideas. Topics ranged from soil restoration and conservation, to conducting the first cervical cancer survey in Ethiopia, to the public visual cultures, and many more.

“Bringing partners and researchers together sparks new connections and

relationships. It infuses energy and also showcases the deep connections the University of Michigan has built in Ethiopia,” said Holloway. Second-year medical student from U-M, Rodger Michael Moore, attended the conference for those exact reasons—to build partnerships for his low cost device for automated pap smears. Because Ethiopia is transitioning from communicable diseases to chronic diseases like cancer and diabetes, new challenges arise. Ethiopia has one pathologist for every 1 million women, which reflects the few opportunities available for patients to receive an early diagnosis. Michael is hopeful and energized to make changes in the device after meeting with and receiving feedback from doctors and pathologists from St. Paul Millenium Medical College and Black Lion, two of the biggest public



Attendees of the EMC2 conference at the opening ceremony

hospitals in Addis Ababa. His experience was just one example of how the EMC2 Conference had opened new avenues for relationships and innovations.

“We have to form partnerships to solve society’s problems,” said Senait Fisseha, U-M adjunct professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who was the top strategic advisor for Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the first African director at the World Health Organization. Fisseha first invited Dr. Tedros to U-M in 2011 when he was the health minister of Ethiopia to discuss partnerships that has grown to include more than 10 schools and colleges. U-M is committed to mutually beneficial relationships as the university explores ways to deepen and expand the exchange.

Raymond Silverman, professor of History of Art at the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and Laura De Becker, associate curator of African Art at U-M Museum of Art, developed an idea for an Ethiopian art exhibition in Ann Arbor and Addis Ababa. Silverman has been working in



U-M medical student Roger Michael Moore who attended the EMC2 conference to to build partnerships for his low cost device for automated pap smears

Ethiopia since 1991, studying the visual traditions of the country, in particular those associated with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He was able to share their idea on a panel with four other Ethiopian partners who were able to give feedback for their art exhibit.

“We are constantly seeking ways to bring new opportunities and perspectives to U-M’s educational and research activities in Africa,” said Fuller. The EMC2 Conference succeeded in continuing to build a strong foundation for open collaborations between U-M and Ethiopian partners.



Admasu Tsegaye, President, Addis Ababa University with James Holloway, Vice Provost for Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs at U-M, A. Oveta Fuller, Interim Director of U-M’s African Studies Center, and Valeria Bertacco Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at U-M College of Engineering

initiative UPDATES

African Heritage Initiative

AHI UPDATE

BY HENRIKE FLORUSBOSCH

The African Heritage Initiative (AHI) concluded another full year of activities, including two workshops as part of the Mellon-sponsored partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand, which are described elsewhere (p. 15) in this newsletter. AHI also participated in a symposium on “*Endangered Heritage*,” which was jointly organized by a number of International Institute centers, and sponsored a talk on multilingualism in the Casamance by SOAS-based Friederike Lüpke. Also organized under the auspices of AHI was a week-long campus residency by Karin Barber (University of Birmingham), which featured three discussion sessions based on close readings of two of her best known works (*The Generation of Plays* and *Print Culture and the First Yoruba Novel*) and her latest manuscript on *A History of African Popular Culture*.

The February 2017 symposium on *Endangered Heritage* brought together international and U-M experts on

Keynote speakers at the U-M Endangered Heritage Conference from L-R: Giancarlo Marcone, Rasmi Shoocongdej, Gurmeet Rai, Salam Al Kuntar, George Abungu.



heritage and the U-M to explore threats to heritage worldwide—ranging from war to climate change to globalization and economic development—as well as strategies that have been developed locally and globally to mitigate these threats. The invited speaker on behalf of the ASC’s AHI was George Abungu, past director of the National Museums of Kenya. Dr. Abungu’s presentation drew on his long experience working within the UNESCO framework, where he has served on numerous committees. One of the contributions that he and other Africa-based heritage experts have over the years been able to make to UNESCO over the years, is the insight that natural and cultural heritage are inextricably entwined. Still, Dr. Abungu highlighted that despite this recognition and resulting changes in official UNESCO policy, other problems associated with Eurocentric values around heritage remain. Other issues that he listed as particular challenges for heritage preservation in Africa included lack of appreciation by governments, lack of community involvement, and lack of adequate resources. Dr. Abungu argued

that ultimately, heritage that does not benefit the communities with which it is associated, is of little value.

Other speakers at the *Endangered Heritage* symposium highlighted the challenges of heritage preservation in the particular contexts in which they worked, including the “Inca Road” in Peru or the material heritage of war-torn Syria and Iraq.

The AHI steering committee was also involved in selecting the incoming cohort of UMAPS scholars and managing the seed grants program for faculty research furthering collaborative research in the humanities and qualitative social sciences in Africa. The three UMAPS scholars working on projects in the Humanities are introduced elsewhere (see p. 24). The following seed grant projects were funded:

- » Adam Ashforth (DAAS) and collaborators in Cape Town, South Africa, “*Madumo Revisited’ and the Accidental Archive.*”
- » Raymond Silverman (DAAS and History of Art) and William Gblerkpor (University of Ghana), “*Crucible of Innovation: Contemporary Brasswork in Ghana.*”
- » Brian Stewart (Anthropology), William Challis (University of the Witwatersrand), and Rethabile Mokhachane, “*Kickstarting an Ecomuseum in Highland Lesotho.*”

Finally, the AHI steering committee was able to allot funding to a number of other faculty-initiated projects, including the digitization of the sound and video archives of the Ugandan Broadcasting Corporation (Derek Peterson, History), a heritage project at the site of El Kurru in northern Sudan (Geoff Emberling, Suzanne Davis, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology), and a documentary film on LGBTQ African women (Frieda Ekotto, DAAS). Plans are under way for an AHI-sponsored workshop on linguistic anthropology to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, in early 2018.



February 16-17, 2017 · University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

War, climate change, globalization, and economic development pose significant threats to the world's natural and cultural heritage. Societies around the world share many of the same concerns, even as specific regions, countries, and communities face unique challenges.

STEM-AFRICA UPDATE

BY ALINE COTEL

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics–Africa

This past academic year has been incredibly productive for the STEM Africa initiative. A lot of effort focused on the STEM IV conference, which took place in Yaounde Cameroon, May 29 to June 2, 2017. Our local partners were CETIC (Centre d'Excellence Africain en Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication), University of Yaounde I and MIPROMALO (Mission pour la Promotion des Matériaux Locaux) in conjunction with the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation. There were more than 300 participants from Cameroon, other parts of the continent, North America, and Europe representing the various areas of STEM in 12 sessions that provided platforms to make connections and build bridges across countries and disciplines.

Details on the sessions and invited speakers can be found at: ii.umich.edu/asc/initiatives/stem/biennial-conferences/stem4-frontiers-in-science.

Invited speakers came from academia, industry, government, and NGOs providing an amazing breadth of knowledge and expertise for conference participants. UMAPS scholars (past and upcoming) were involved in a large number of sessions either as invited speakers, moderators and/or organizers. It was wonderful to see these familiar faces and catch up on all the amazing work our UMAPS scholars are up to. A record number of ministers from the Cameroonian government attended the conference, including Dr. Madeleine Tchuinte, Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation, and Mr. Jacques Fame Ndongo, Minister of Higher Education.

During the conference, preliminary talks between Dr. Madeleine Tchuinte and Dr. Jack Hu, U-M Associate VP for Research, led to proposals to increase partnerships between the University of Michigan and Cameroonian institutions in terms of both students and faculty collaborations.

The STEM-Africa initiative was also involved in managing the seed grants program for collaborative faculty research in STEM disciplines. The following six projects were funded:

- » Tierra Bills (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Joseph Sevilla (Strathmore University, Kenya), “An Electronic Travel Survey System using Mixed Sources.”
- » Cheong-Hee Chang (Medicine) and Ogwang Patrick Engeu (Mbarara University of Science and Technology,

Uganda), “Characterization of active compounds of *Artemisia annua* L. that mediate malaria prophylactic effects.”

- » Aline Cotel (Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Derek Stretch (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), “Biological/physical interactions in South Africa’s estuaries.”
- » Lori Isom (Medicine) and Priscilla Mante (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), “Pharmacological Characterization of Potential Antiepileptic Agents from Plant Sources.”
- » Janis Miller (School of Nursing) and Alain Mukwege (School of Nursing) for research related to “Relationship of genital body image and the practice of labia minora elongation: A case-control study of Congolese Women.”
- » Laura Rozek (School of Public Health) and Bereket Berhane (Saint Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia), “Pilot Study to Implement Cervical Cancer Self-Screening in Addis Ababa.”

The committee members also reviewed a record number of UMAPS STEM applicants. We look forward to the 2017-18 UMAPS cohort featuring scholars in biochemistry, biology, space physics, human ecology, physiology and pharmacology.

Other activities include continued efforts related to the creation of a Science Corps first proposed by Brian Arbic (U-M Geology, STEM Africa Committee). The entire committee is fully supportive of the concept and this could become an umbrella for other activities involving a number of U-M faculty. Partnership possibilities with other agencies such as CRDF Global are currently being explored.

Katrin Tirok from UKZN, showing Lake St Lucia, South Basin, off the management jetty (part of Seed Grant project awarded to Aline Cotel)



African Presidential Scholars

UMAPS UPDATE

ASC welcomes the 2017-2018 U-M African Presidential Scholars

ASC is pleased to welcome the 10th cohort of University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS). These 17 faculty representing universities in Ghana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Liberia, Nigeria and Zambia will be resident in Ann Arbor from late August 2017 through February 2018.

The UMAPS program, launched in the winter of 2009 with support from the U-M President's office, to date has welcomed 135 early career faculty from ten different African countries. Scholars are paired with a U-M faculty member for mentorship or collaboration on projects that will help advance their careers through a four to six months residency.

“UMAPS was conceived as an intervention to provide respite and academic resources to talented early-career faculty and to enhance research environments in African universities, as well as to internationalize U-M through new collaborations and partnerships with African scholars.”

explains Kelly Askew, director of the African Studies Center and professor of anthropology, and Afroamerican and African studies.

The UMAPS program is supported with funding from the President's and Provost's Offices, the South African Initiatives Office in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS), and the Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT). For the third consecutive year, a portion of the funding from the president and provost is allocated to supporting Ethiopian faculty with the hope of strengthening ties with institutions in Ethiopia.

The UMAPS program encourages each scholar to immerse her/himself in university life as they are provided with full access to campus research materials and facilities, attend seminars and classes, and present papers in conferences and workshops to fully engage with U-M faculty and students. These activities promote lasting scholarly relationships to support ongoing faculty development in Africa and capacity building for their home institutions. The 2017-2018 University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars are:



SENYO ADZEI has been teaching African Music since 2005 and has been at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, since 2011 where he is also pursuing a PhD in Ethnomusicology. He has a BMus and an MPhil in Music from the University of Ghana. He also has a Certificate in Western Music from the Sibelius Academy in Finland. Senyo's research project is "An Ethnomusicological Inquiry in the Creative Processes in Shrine Music of the Awudome People of Ghana." He has also researched "The Status of Music Therapy in Ghana" and "The Praxes of Music Dance and Drama in Healing Rituals in Ghana." Senyo's mentor is Professor Naomi André from the Departments of Afroamerican and African Studies, Women's Studies, and at the Residential College.

DEBELA GEMEDA BEDANE is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia. He holds an M.Sc. in Pharmacology and a B.Pharm. from Addis Ababa University and is a doctoral candidate working on "Pharmacogenetic Predictors of Antidepressant Drug Response." His research interests include pharmacogenetics and neuropharmacology. His mentor is Professor Srijan Sen, Psychiatry, Medical School.



ODUR BENARD is an assistant lecturer in the Department of Statistical Methods and Actuarial Science at Makerere University, Uganda. He holds an M.Sc. in Statistics (Bio-statistics) and a B.Sc. in Statistics and Mathematics from Makerere University. He also served as a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant with the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda. While at U-M, Odur will conduct "A Retrospective Analysis of Progression in Neonatal and Infant Mortality Drivers in Uganda from 1995-2016." His mentor is Professor Brisa Sanchez, Biostatistics, School of Public Health.

KALILU S. DONZO is a lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Liberia. Kalilu has a BSc in Biology from the University of Liberia and a MSc in Plant Biotechnology from Kerala Agricultural University in Kerala, India. While at U-M, Kalilu plans to pursue advanced training in molecular biology techniques to introduce research-based techniques at the University of Liberia. Kalilu's mentor is Professor W. Clay Brown, Life Sciences Institute.



VERONICA MILLICENT DZOMEKU is a senior lecturer in the Department of Nursing at KNUST, in Kumasi, Ghana. She has a Ph.D. from the School of Nursing at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, as well as an M.Phil. in Nursing and B.A. (Hons.) in Nursing and Psychology from the University of Ghana. While at U-M, Veronica will be working on an “Exploration of Expectations and Experiences of Mothers toward Childbirth Care.” Her mentor is Professor Jodi Lori, School of Nursing.



THELMA FENNIE is an associate lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She has an M.Phil. in HIV/AIDS Management from Stellenbosch University and a B.A. (Hons.) in Psychology from University of the Western Cape. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Educational Psychology at the University of the Western Cape. While at U-M, Thelma will be “Exploring Psychological Effects of Adolescent Girls Experiences from Menarche and Menstruation in a School Setting.” Her research areas are adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and women’s education. She has published in peer-reviewed journals. Her mentor is Professor Rona Carter in the Department of Psychology.



AUDREY KALINDI is a lecturer at the University of Zambia in the Department of Population Studies. Audrey has a B.A. in Demography and a M.A. in Population Studies from the University of Zambia, with a post graduate diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Audrey will be researching “Factors that Affect Use of Maternal Health Services, HIV Testing and Linkage to Medical Care in Zambia”. Her mentor is Professor A. Oveta Fuller, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School.



PAMELA KHANAKWA is a lecturer in the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Pamela has a Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Northwestern University as well as B.A. and M.A. degrees in History from Makerere University. Her research project is entitled, “Bagisu Men Don’t Cry: Imbalu and the Construction of Masculinities in Uganda,” and her mentor is Professor Derek Peterson, Departments of Afroamerican and African Studies and History, LSA.



2008-2018 UMAPS PROGRAM STATISTICS

135 scholars TO-DATE

5 PUBLISHED BOOKS

29 COMPLETED PHD

200+ PUBLISHED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

15 RECEIVED PROMOTIONS & DISTINGUISHED POSITIONS

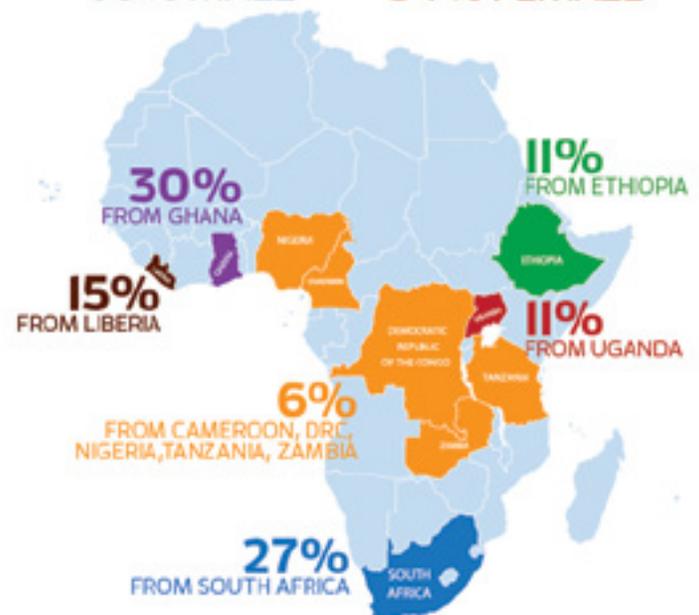
ALUMNI SUCCESS SINCE UMAPS PARTICIPATION



66% MALE



34% FEMALE



MESTEWAT DEBASU MOGNHODIE is a lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, St. Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia. She holds an M.Sc. degree in Medical Biochemistry and B.Sc. in Applied Biology from Addis Ababa University and is a doctoral candidate working on “The Exploration and Utilization of Glycan-Based Biomarkers for Breast Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy in Ethiopia.” Her research interest includes Genetics and Molecular Biology. Her mentor is Professor David Lubman, Surgery Department, Medical School.





MOSES MUHUMUZA is associate professor of Human Ecology and Director of Postgraduate Studies and Research, School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda. He has a Ph.D. in Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg South Africa, as well as a B.Sc. of Education in Biology and Chemistry and an M.Sc. in Biology from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda. While

at U-M, he will be researching “Holistic Community-based Biodiversity Conservation in National Parks in Rural Africa.” His mentor is Professor Nyeema Harris, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, LSA.

PRECIOUS NDLOVU is a lecturer of Law at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. She holds an LL.D. and LL.M. from the University of the Western Cape and an LL.B. from the University of Fort Hare, South Africa. While at U-M, Precious will be researching “The Economics of Mergers and Acquisitions in Africa’s Regional Competition Law Frameworks: An Examination of the COMESA Competition Commission.” Her mentor is Professor Laura Beny, Law School.



MELESSEW NIGUSSIE is an assistant professor and researcher in the Physics Department at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. He has a B.Sc. in Physics and an M.Sc. in Space Physics from Bahir Dar University. In 2014 he was awarded a Ph.D. in Space Physics from Bahir Dar University in collaboration with the International Center for Theoretical Physics, Italy. At U-M, Melessew will be “Investigating Triggering Mechanisms of Ionospheric Irregularities in the Equatorial Ionosphere.” His

mentor is Professor Mark Moldwin, Climate and Space Sciences, College of Engineering.

OLUWAKEMI A. ROTIMI is a lecturer and researcher of Biological Sciences at Covenant University, Nigeria. Oluwakemi has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Toxicology option, as well as a B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.Sc. in Biochemistry from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria. While at U-M, Oluwakemi will be researching “The Role of Epigenetics in the Toxicity of Environmental Exposures.” Her mentor is Professor Jaclyn Goodrich, Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health.



MTHOKOZISI SIMELANE is a lecturer of Biological Sciences at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. Mthokozisi received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, M.Sc. in Biochemistry and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Medical Science and Biochemistry from the University of Zululand. At U-M, he will be researching “Ursolic Acid Acetate as a Promising Agent for Malarial Chemotherapy.” His mentor is Professor Vernon Carruthers, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical School.

ZEWDU JIMA TAKLE is a lecturer in the Department of Physiology, St. Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College in Ethiopia. He holds an M.Sc. degree in Physiology from Addis Ababa University and a B.Sc. in Physiotherapy from University of Gondar. Zewdu is a doctoral candidate researching “The Molecular Signaling Mechanisms in the Vessel Wall after Stroke and Pathways Mediated by Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF).” His research interests include vascular biology and neuroscience. His mentor is Professor Daniel Lawrence, Cardiovascular Medicine, Medical School.



SOLOMON ASSEFA WORETA is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Informatics at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. He has a M.Ph. in Health Informatics as well as a B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology from the University of Gondar. His research at U-M will focus on “Evidence-Based Public Health Practice for Screening Hypertension in Ethiopian Public Hospitals.” Solomon’s mentor is Professor Minal Patel, Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.

YIKUNNOAMLAK MEZGEBU ZERABIRUK is a lecturer in the College of Humanities, Language Studies, Journalism and Communications at Addis Ababa University. He has a B.A. in Ethiopian Languages and Literature (Amharic), an M.A. in Journalism and Communication, and an M.A. in Philosophy from Addis Ababa University. He will be researching “From Competition to Composition: Languages, Regions and Religions in an Ethiopian Literature.” Yikunnoamlak’s mentors are Professors Judith Irvine, Department of Anthropology, LSA, and Daniel Herwitz, Departments of History of Art and Comparative Literature, LSA.



2017-2018 UMAPS Colloquium Series

THURSDAYS
3-5:30 PM

Each UMAPS fellow will have the chance to present their scholarly work in a session of an ongoing monthly series. Talks prepared and presented by each visiting scholar are designed to increase skills in effective communications, 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.

10/5, UMAPS Colloquium (#1) – Social Sciences I

KALAMAZOO ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE,

Exploration of Expectations and Experiences of Mothers toward Childbirth Care

VERONICA DZOMEKU, Nursing, KNUST, Ghana

Exploring Psychological Effects of Adolescent Girls' Experiences of Menarche & Menstruation in School Settings

THELMA FENNIE, Psychology, University of the Western Cape, South Africa,

Factors that Affect Use of Maternal Health Services, HIV Testing and Linkage to Medical Care in Zambia

AUDREY KALINDI, Population Studies, University of Zambia

10/12, UMAPS Colloquium (#2) – STEM I

KOESSLER ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

Pharmacogenetic Predictors of Antidepressant Drug Response

DEBELA GEMEDA BEDANE, Pharmacology, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia

Ursolic Acid Acetate as a Promising Agent for Malarial Chemotherapy

MTHOKOZISI SIMELANE, Biochemistry, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa,

The Exploration and Utilization of Glycan-Based Biomarkers for Breast Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy in Ethiopia

MESTEWAT DEBASU MOGNHODIE, Biochemistry, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia

11/ 9, UMAPS Colloquium (#3) – Humanities

KOESSLER ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

Bagisu Men Don't Cry: Imbalu and the Construction of Masculinities in Uganda

PAMELA KHANAKWA, History, Makerere University, Uganda

From Competition to Composition: Languages, Regions and Religions in an Ethiopian Literature

YIKUNNOAMLAK MEZGEBU, Literature, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Radio, Cyberspace, and the Repatriation of African Musical Heritage

PAUL CONWAY & KELLY ASKEW, University of Michigan

12/7, UMAPS Colloquium (#4) – STEM II

KOESSLER ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

The Role of Epigenetics in the Toxicity of Environmental Exposures

OLUWAKEMI ROTIMI, Biochemistry, Covenant University, Nigeria

The Molecular Signaling Mechanisms in the Vessel Wall after Stroke and Pathways Mediated by Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF)

ZEWDU JIMA TAKLE, Physiology, St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia

Creative Processes in Shrine Music of the Awudome People of Ghana-An Ethnomusicological Inquiry

SENYO ADZEI, Music, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

1/ 11, UMAPS Colloquium (#5) – Social Sciences II

WOLVERINE ROOM, MICHIGAN UNION

A Retrospective Analysis of Progression in Neonatal and Infant Mortality Drivers in Uganda (1995-2016)

ODUR BENARD, Statistics, Makerere University, Uganda

The Economics of Mergers and Acquisitions in Africa's Regional Competition Law Frameworks: An Examination of the COMESA Competition Commission

PRECIOUS NDLOVU, LAW, University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Evidence-Based Public Health Practice for Screening Hypertension in Ethiopian Public Hospitals

SOLOMON ASSEFA, Health Informatics, University of Gondar, Ethiopia

2/8, UMAPS Colloquium (#6) – STEM III

KOESSLER ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE

Advanced Training in Molecular Biology Techniques: Introducing Research-based Techniques at the University of Liberia

KALILU DONZO, Biology, University of Liberia

Holistic Community-based Biodiversity Conservation in National Parks in Rural Africa

MOSES MUHUMUZA, Human Ecology, Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda,

Investigation of Triggering Mechanisms of Ionospheric Irregularities in the Equatorial Ionosphere

MELESSEW NIGUSSIE GEREME, Physics, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

African Social Research Initiative

ASRI UPDATE

BY CHERYL MOYER AND ANNE PITCHER

Having hosted the fourth biennial African Social Research Initiative conference in July 2016 in Accra, Ghana, academic year 2016–2017 focused on a return to the core activities of ASRI. We added several new members to the ASRI Steering Committee, both at the University of Michigan and amongst our African partners. Sarah Rominski (Medicine), Omolade Adunbi (DAAS), and Nahomi Ichino (Political Science) were added from the University of Michigan. Dennis Chirawurah, a UMAPS alumnus from the University for Development Studies (Tamale, Ghana), Phyllis Dako-Gyeke from the University of Ghana (Accra, Ghana), and Alecia Ndlovu from the University of Cape Town (South Africa) were added from our partner institutions. We also continued the planning for our ongoing STATA and R courses held in Ghana—courses that are now driven by our partners with minimal input and support from ASRI.

ASRI launched its sixth faculty Seed Grant competition, which allowed us to fund the following projects:

- » Sarah Rominski (Medicine) and Eugene Darteh (University of Cape Coast, Ghana), “*Measuring sexual violence at the University of Cape Coast: Developing and deploying a campus climate survey.*”
- » David Lam (Economics) and Nkechi Owoo (University of Ghana, Ghana), “*Sibship size and health outcomes: An assessment of the resource-dilution and hygiene hypotheses among children in Ghana.*”
- » Brian Min (Political Science) and Carlos Shenga (Centro de Pesquisas sobre Governação e Desenvolvimento, Mozambique), “*Evaluating the Quality of Democracy in Mozambique through the Lens of all National and Local Elections.*”
- » Gary Harper (Public Health) and Daniel Onyango (Nyanza Rift Valley and Western Kenya Network, Kenya), “*Kujenga Uwezo: Promoting Health among Kenyan Gay/Bi Men.*”

Finally, ASRI has spent much of 2016–2017 working to update our website: asri.umich.edu.

ASRI STATA course 2017, held from July 24 to August 4 at the University of Ghana



Members of the ASRI Steering Committee



Stata/R courses participants



in the media

ASC, its initiatives, and events are frequently covered in the local campus and national news. Faculty research has been profiled in major journals and news outlets, and ASC social media announcements reach a broad audience. To read more stories, visit ASC's news page: ii.umich.edu/asc/news-events/news



Michelle Munro-Kramer (right), assistant professor of nursing, collaborates with Ghanaian students to develop curriculum for a spin-off of U-M's Relationship Remix, Relationship Tidbits. Photo courtesy of Michelle Munro-Kramer

U-M shapes sexual violence prevention program in Ghana

University of Michigan researchers are working closely with faculty and students in Ghana to create a sexual violence prevention and education program at the University of Cape Coast. Together they discuss gender-based violence and what it means to give consent to help create a culturally appropriate spin-off of U-M's Relationship Remix. "We are trying to understand the phenomenon of sexual violence within Ghana and how students talk about consent, and what sexual violence and sexual harassment even mean to them," says Michelle Munro-Kramer, assistant professor in the School of Nursing and one of the researchers on the project. "For many of the students, it is the first time the topics are being addressed so openly among men and women in a conservative culture that experiences a high rate of gender inequality," she adds.

Read the full story at: bit.ly/asc-news-kramer



Nesha Haniff, lecturer IV in Afroamerican and African studies and women's studies, developed an HIV education module that has been used around the world. Photo by D. Marshke.

HIV education focus of LSA professor's career

Nesha Haniff is first and foremost a teacher. She has educated women in the Caribbean about their bodies, low-literate populations in South Africa, the United States and the Caribbean about HIV, and conducted discussions with schoolgirls in Belleville and Muslim girls at Central Academy in Ann Arbor about gender consciousness. Haniff has devoted her life to teaching not just about health, but also about how her students can be the owners of knowledge.

Read the full story at: bit.ly/asc-news-haniff



President Barack Obama at the International Conference Centre in Accra, Ghana (Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy) Image from: obamawhitehouse.archives.gov

Omolade Adunbi on President Obama's legacy in Africa

A recent article in the New Republic evaluates President Barack Obama's legacy in Africa, focussing on his "Young African Leadership Initiative" (YALI). In 2016, YALI brought 1,000 young African professionals to the US for a six week professional development program. Omolade Adunbi, associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, was quoted in the article, comparing the YALI fellows to African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah and Nnamdi Azikiwe, who studied in the US in the 1930s before going back to lead the independence movements in Ghana and Nigeria. Adunbi pointed out that the YALI fellows can return to Africa filled with revolutionary fervor, as well as skills and knowledge that can be used to address the 21st-century problems facing the African continent. "They could learn mechanized farming from somewhere like Iowa for instance," Adunbi says, and "reshape the discussions about the future of the continent." Read the full story at: bit.ly/asc-news-adunbi



Rod Alence: "Southern Africa's rich mineral endowment should become a major asset in the quest for inclusive and sustainable development"

'Barometer' provides assessment of mineral resources industry transparency

Rod Alence, a member of ASRI's international steering committee and associate professor in International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, was quoted in an article in the Mining Weekly about the importance of transparency in the mining industry. Speaking at the launch of the 'Southern Africa Mineral Governance Barometer' report, which took place in Cape Town, February 2017, Alence noted that governments are challenged in their efforts to create new approaches to governance that enable them to better exploit the developmental potential provided by mineral resources. He explained that the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) – a natural resource governance project of Johannesburg-based foundation the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa – developed the barometer as a tool to assess the capacity of governments in the region to "rise to these challenges."

Read the full story at: bit.ly/asc-news-alence

Anne Pitcher serves as 2016-17 ASA president

The 59th annual meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA) in Washington DC in December 2016 marked the beginning of Anne Pitcher's presidency of ASA, a role she carried out in addition to her activities as co-editor of the African Perspectives book series, co-coordinator of ASC's ASRI and DAAS faculty member. ASC marked Anne's presidency by hosting a well-attended reception for U-M faculty, students, and alumni (including UMAPS alumni) at ASA's annual meeting in Washington DC. In the course of her presidency, which will continue until ASA's 60th annual meeting in November 2017, Anne Pitcher shared a number of statements on behalf of the ASA Board of Directors, addressing issues such as proposed federal budget cuts and travel restrictions on citizens of select Muslim-majority countries. In a message to the ASA membership, Anne Pitcher shared her vision on the current role of ASA in the following terms: "The African Studies Association remains committed, in this our Sixtieth Year, to expanding our numbers, to fostering networks of scholars, activists, and policy makers across the globe, and to promoting the dissemination of knowledge about the continent."



Humanities Collaboratory Grant for Documenting Afrikaans in Patagonia

The U-M Humanities Collaboratory has awarded a grant to an inter-generational research team, including ASC Associate Director Andries Coetzee, to document the cultural and linguistic practices of a unique community of Afrikaans speakers in rural Patagonia, Argentina. The research team (consisting of six faculty, two GSRAs, a postdoctoral researcher, and as many as ten undergraduate researchers) will explore topics about identity and displacement, and how these themes are realized in the linguistic practices of the community. One outcome of the project will be an interactive online archive, chronicling the history and daily lives of the community members.



Professors Andries Coetzee and Nicholas Henriksen interviewing one of the Patagonian Afrikaans speakers



Professors Andries Coetzee, Lorenzo García-Amaya and Nicholas Henriksen interviewing two of the Patagonian Afrikaans speakers



Jeffrey Heath (right) with a Tuareg speaker (left) in Timbuktu. Photo courtesy of J. Heath

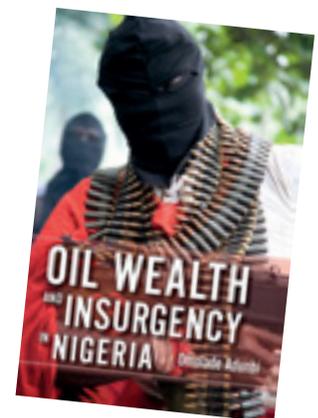
Jeff Heath receives funding from National Endowment for the Humanities to document West-African languages

Jeff Heath, professor of linguistics and Near Eastern studies, received \$220,707 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, under their Documenting Endangered Languages program, for his project "Documentation of Mbre and Tiefs-D Languages of West Africa". This funding will enable Professor

Heath to continue his long-standing, successful documentation work of West-African minority and endangered languages.

Omolade Adunbi awarded Amaury Talbot Prize

Omolade Adunbi, associate professor in Afroamerican and African studies (DAAS), was awarded the prestigious Amaury Talbot Prize by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (RAI) for his 2015 monograph, *Oil Wealth and Insurgency in Nigeria*, published by Indiana University Press. This prize is awarded by the RAI to the book which presents "the most valuable work of African anthropology" published in the particular year.



MPH Students Conducted “A Pilot Study on Cervical Cancer and the use of a Self-Swab Test for HPV in Ethiopia”

Over the summer, Olivia Bouchard and Claudia Djimindjaja, MPH students, worked for 11 weeks at the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) for the Department of Pathology for Bereket Berhane, MD. Their project, part of a larger project of Laura Rozek (School of Public Health) and Bereket Berhane (Saint Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia) funded through an ASC seed grant, is titled *Human papillomavirus (HPV) screening for cervical cancer in Ethiopia: A mixed-methods approach on the acceptability and feasibility of a self-swab HPV test*. The objective of this cross-sectional study was to test the acceptability of a low-cost self-swab test for HPV screening in Ethiopia.



Olivia Bouchard's research team walk to work



Olivia Bouchard's research team and one of the health extension workers Murida

Through this internship, Bouchard learned how much effort, patience and resilience it takes to successfully implement a public health intervention. She hopes that by acquiring new knowledge, skills and perspective, it will help her better design successful interventions in her future career. This experience allowed her to understand the challenges and approaches in implementing a program for low-income communities that lack resources. “Understanding how the community perceives a health issue is essential to creating a successful program; cultural beliefs and constructs can impact health outcomes and health seeking behavior. It is undeniably necessary to collaborate with local, trusted stakeholders; without the help of the health extension workers and local nurses, our study would not have been successful,” expressed Bouchard.

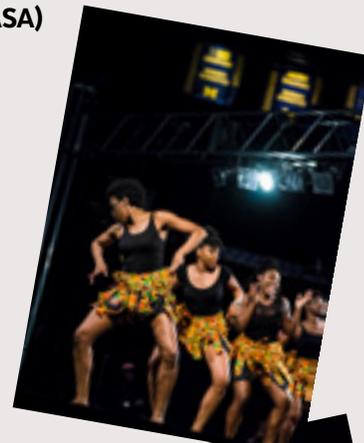
Bouchard is currently applying for medical school to enroll in the fall of 2018, as she plans to pursue a career in primary care focused on global health. She is looking forward to future collaboration with her preceptor, Dr. Bereket Berhane and would enjoy an opportunity during her third or fourth year of medical school to return to EPHI and work with her colleagues again.



Olivia Bouchard and Claudia Djimindjaja with their preceptor Dr. Bereket Berhane

African Student Association (ASA) Hosted Annual Culture Show: SHAKA

On April 1st, 2017 the African Students Association (ASA) hosted its 19th annual culture show, SHAKA. Held in the Crisler Center, ASA showcased the roots, radiance, and rhythm of the continent and its diaspora through fashion, music, spoken word, and dance. With around 600 in attendance, the entire venue celebrated the African community on campus and its surrounding areas. Entirely student run, the show brought together, for the 19th year in a row, its community to embrace and learn more about African culture. Learn more: bit.ly/asc-news-asashowcase



ASA photos by Adam Brodnax

U-M Students at Pan-African Film Festival

The African Studies Center funded a group of U-M students to attend the FESPACO in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, a major pan-African cultural event that hosts filmmakers, producers, actors, scholars, and audiences from many different countries, both inside and outside the African continent. Various films from countries, such as Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Mali, Togo, Tunisia, Morocco, Ethiopia, and Tanzania are released in several different venues in Ouagadougou.



The headquarters of FESPACO

“The themes of the films touched on many important social aspects of countries in Africa, including traditional culture, politics, social conditions, women’s lives, public health, border-crossing and migration, and music, among others. “My favorite film is *Félicité*, by the Senegalese filmmaker Alain Formose Gomis. It gives a glimpse of an episode of the life of *Félicité*, a singer in a bar in Kinshasa,” expressed Xiaoxi Zhang, U-M student.

Weiser Hall, Suite 500
500 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042



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KELLY ASKEW, ASC Director

ANDRIES COETZEE, ASC Associate Director

STAFF

J. HENRIKE FLORUSBOSCH, ASC Grant Manager and Project Coordinator

CINDY NGUYEN, ASC Academic Program Specialist

SANDIE SCHULZE, ASC Outreach and Program Coordinator

GLORIA CAUDILL, II Global South Cluster Manager

KATHY COVERT, II Global South Assistant

RAQUEL RAMOS BUCKLEY, *Alliances* Designer and II Communications Editor



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