

african studies center alliances

March 2009

University of Michigan African Studies Center Newsletter

Coleman Praises New African Studies Center at October Reception

ASC NEW "CONDUIT" FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH ON CAMPUS



The Mady Kouyate trio provided entertainment

On October 13, 2008, the U-M's new African Studies Center celebrated its official opening with a reception at the Michigan League. President Mary Sue Coleman and Senior Vice Provost Lester Monts both made remarks at the event.

"The University of Michigan aspires to engage globally. . . through the contributions of our students, faculty and staff," Coleman said

at the reception. "I firmly believe that the African Studies Center will help us accelerate those connections."

International Institute Director Mark Tessler co-chaired a committee that called for the creation of the ASC in 2007. The Center joins the other 16 centers under the International Institute umbrella, and will serve as a resource for research and curriculum enrichment and provide a platform for cross-cultural exchange.

The ASC, which actually began work

in July, plans to sponsor on-campus events and activities to serve faculty and students, and will support the Africa-oriented instruction in the center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS) and help with course development in other units.

Although the ASC is currently partnering with universities in Ghana and South Africa, Director Kelly Askew, an associate professor in CAAS and Anthropology, said she

The University of Michigan aspires to engage globally . . . through the contributions of our students, faculty and staff

hopes the center will eventually work with universities across sub-Saharan Africa.

The Center's work is organized around three broad initiatives:

- Heritage Studies (story on p. 10)
- Social Research (story on p. 12)
- African Presidential Scholars Program (story on p. 11)



Lester Monts, Mark Tessler, and Mary Sue Coleman

Photos by Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Photo by Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed



It is a mere eight months since the African Studies Center (ASC) came into existence, yet let this not be mistaken for the birth of African

studies at the University of Michigan. Not with the flourishing Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), which will celebrate its fortieth anniversary this coming year and remain the curricular home for African studies within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. And not with the more than 160 U-M faculty who work in Africa and whose accomplishments prove that vibrant African studies exists in more than one site in Michigan.

Rather, the launch of the ASC signifies an increased institutional commitment to Africa and an effort to, in the words of President Mary Sue Coleman, “explore ways to deepen and expand our mutual exchange, bringing new opportunities and perspectives to our educational and research activities. Our new African Studies Center will help create energy and synergy between our faculty and colleagues in Africa.” It serves as a conduit through which the many Africa initiatives across the university, from law and medicine to the sciences and humanities, may be furthered to the mutual benefit of the university and its African partners.

In this initial issue of *Alliances*, we look back on the activity of the last eight months and begin to assess our successes, our challenges, and our mission for the years ahead.

There is no scarcity of stories and accomplishments to report. Beyond the breadth of faculty engagements with Africa, there are dozens of ways for students to engage in its study, including coursework in Michigan’s rich curriculum across our 19 schools and colleges and expanding study abroad opportunities. Our partnerships with institutions in Ghana and South Africa are strong and date back to the 1980s, encompassing a wide range of areas from health care to quantitative data analysis to digital archiving. And we look forward to deepening our ties with other African

nations, building upon already existing collaborations in Uganda, Cameroon, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Namibia, to name a few.

You will find articles here about students and researchers working in the areas of medicine, the arts, business, and more. There’s also an overview of the Health Open Education Resources (OER) initiative, a project that will help make comprehensive health curricula available globally via the internet.

And, as we introduce the Center, we also take this opportunity to introduce to campus our first cohort of Presidential Scholars from the UMAPS program (see story on p. 11).

Our inaugural ASC Symposium, entitled “Engaging Africa / Advancing African Studies,” will take place March 12–14, 2009. Our aims in organizing this event are to: (1) honor the first anniversary of President Coleman’s trip to Africa and subsequent launch of our Center; (2) clarify and advance the intellectual agenda for our Africa initiatives; and (3) host a discussion on the state of “African Studies.”

“Engaging Africa” is an international, interdisciplinary symposium that will open with a keynote address by João Honwana, director of the Africa 1 Division at the United Nations, followed by panels on topics ranging from health and environment to science, technology, and heritage.

We have—as much by necessity as by choice—hit the ground running with administrative responsibility for three major initiatives (UMAPS, Heritage, and Social Research) generously funded by the Office of the President. We moved into our office, hired a wonderful staff, developed a mission statement and website, and welcomed to campus two internationally renowned South African visitors (see p. 3). When we were putting together this newsletter, we quickly realized that there were more remarkable stories than we could possibly make room for. That’s a good problem to have and reason to look out for future issues of *Alliances*.

Kelly M. Askew
March 2, 2009

Ghana-Michigan CHARTER LAUNCHED IN GHANA

Building on more than 20 years of collaboration, the University of Michigan, Ghanaian Ministry of Health, University of Ghana (UG), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, launched the Ghana–Michigan CHARTER program in Ghana. The February 2009 conference inaugurated projects to strengthen the Ghanaian Ministry’s information systems on human resources, enhance professional and research training for health workers, and improve local capacity to evaluate the impact of policies on health worker retention and satisfaction. Meeting at the Elmina Resort on the Ghanaian coast, more than 60 individuals from U–M and Ghanaian institutions were present. Thirty-one U–M faculty and staff represented the schools of medicine, public health, dentistry, nursing, kinesiology, business, social work, and engineering, as well as the Center for Global Health. More than 30 Ghanaian faculty, researchers, students, clinicians, nurses, and government officers were present, representing the UG, KNUST, Ghana Health Service, and the Ministry of Health.



Ghanaian health specialists hosted more than 30 U–M faculty members at Elmina

SUPPORT ASC

The African Studies Center is a critical component in the University of Michigan’s ongoing work in and on Africa. You can help by making a gift to the Center that will help support our programs, including the Presidential Scholars initiative. For more information, please contact us at asc-contact@umich.edu. Or, to make a gift online, visit www.giving.umich.edu and donate through the U–M’s secure giving website. Please remember to specify the ASC when making your gift.

Photo by Kelly M. Askew



2008 HIGHLIGHTS



“MAD MEN AND SPECIALISTS” PERFORMED AT WALGREEN DRAMA CENTER

Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka’s play *Madmen and Specialists* was performed in October 2008 at the Arthur Miller Theatre, in North Campus’ Walgreen Drama Center. The play was directed by U–M associate professor Mbala D. Nkanga.

Written in 1971, *Madmen and Specialists* is a tragic satire of humankind immersed in war. The work combines Yoruba rituals of song and chant with sharp parody, creating deft plays–on–words that distort their meaning while accentuating the potency of language. The New York Times described Soyinka’s drama as having “an almost Shakespearean soar. . . .” A strong criticism of abuse of any type of power, *Madmen* chillingly explores the sequels of the spiritual, psychic, physical, and symbolic devastation of humanity during war times.

Winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature, Wole Soyinka is considered Africa’s greatest living playwright. His work includes *Death and the King’s Horseman*, *The Trials of Brother Jero* and *The Lion and the Jewel*. *Madmen and Specialists* stems from his 22–month detention during the Biafra civil war in Nigeria, much of which was spent in solitary confinement.



FAMED AFRICAN AUTHOR RECEIVES U–M HONORARY DEGREE

Njabulo Ndebele, former vice–chancellor and principal of the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa, received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University

of Michigan during spring commencement in April 2008.

The U–M Board of Regents approved Ndebele’s honorary degree a month before other recipients were

considered so the announcement could be made during President Mary Sue Coleman’s visit to Africa in late February.

As the vice–chancellor since 2000, Ndebele is credited with transforming UCT into a diverse multiracial institution.

He also expanded the institution’s research mission by encouraging new partnerships within the country and internationally, and by increasing the number of research doctoral students at UCT.

Ndebele received his B.A. from the University of Botswana Lesotho Swaziland, in 1973. He also earned an M.A. from Cambridge University in 1975 and a Ph.D. at the University of Denver in 1983.

Regarded as one of his country’s most accomplished writers, Ndebele’s *Fools and Other Stories* won the Noma Award in 1983 for best book published in Africa. He is author of *The Cry of Winnie Mandela*, *Bonolo and the Peach Tree*, and *South African Literature and Culture: Rediscovery of the Ordinary*. His poetry has also been published widely.

TUTU AWARDED WALLENBERG MEDAL

Nobel Peace Prize winner and South African cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu was awarded the 18th U–M Wallenberg Medal on Oct. 29, 2008, by President Mary Sue Coleman. The medal presentation was followed by Tutu’s delivery of the Wallenberg Lecture.

The first black South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Tutu rose to international fame during the 1980s as a deeply committed advocate of nonviolent resistance to apartheid. He was outspoken in both South Africa and abroad, often comparing apartheid to Nazism and communism.

Tutu’s 1984 Nobel Peace Prize was a gesture of support for him and the South African Council of Churches that he led at the time in their efforts to end apartheid.

Today Tutu is widely regarded as South Africa’s moral conscience. He continues to speak out passionately and courageously around the world on behalf of human rights.

“When we look around us at some of the conflict areas of the world,” Tutu says,



Kevin Gaines, Director of CAAS, with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

“it becomes increasingly clear that there is not much of a future for them without forgiveness, without reconciliation.”

The Wallenberg Medal is named after Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, a 1935 graduate of U–M’s College of Architecture who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews near the end of World War II.

CANCER IN AFRICA SYMPOSIUM

The U–M School of Public Health hosted a symposium November 9–10, 2008 to discuss the epidemiology and management of cancer in Africa in a multidisciplinary fashion.

Another goal was to discuss approaches for early detection and prevention of significant cancers in Africa and among African Americans with experts from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, and national and international experts in the field of epidemiology, oncology, health economics, public health policy and cancer control and prevention. In November 2008, participants came from South Africa, Tanzania, Mali, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Nigeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco to join in the symposium.



Photo by Eshafai Dafalla, Mohamed





Presidential Delegation to Ghana and South Africa

FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 6, 2008

by Gary Krenz, Office of the President and Maureen Martin, Office of Foundation and Corporate Relations



Mary Sue Coleman and University of Ghana Vice Chancellor Clifford N.B. Tagoe

In late February 2008, President Mary Sue Coleman led a delegation of University of Michigan faculty and administrators to Ghana and South Africa. This presidential trip signaled increased institutional focus on the study of and collaboration with Africa, building on a long history of U-M accomplishments and partnerships.

The U-M delegation met with leadership and faculty at nine leading African universities. The delegation reaffirmed ties between institutions and faculty members and worked to expand already strong partnerships. Conversations covered a range of opportunities for increased collaboration and engagement in



Maureen Martin and Mary Sue Coleman at the market in Accra, Ghana.

quantitative social sciences, humanities and heritage studies, health sciences, and other areas. These content-driven conversations complemented discussion of two cross-cutting areas of opportunity:

- an expanded young-faculty exchange program designed to bring African scholars to Ann Arbor for varying lengths of time, which builds on a 16-year relationship with South African universities; and
- open educational resources (OER) that will invest in virtual collaborations, course planning, and course content modules beginning with teaching hospitals and medical schools in Ghana, but with significant potential for other fields.

The trip helped U-M introduce its new African Studies Center, which will serve as an institutional focal point and catalyst for research and collaboration on and in Africa. We expect that the conversations with three universities in Ghana and eight universities in South Africa will be just the beginning of triangulated initiatives and partnerships between scholars in Ghana, the United States, and South Africa. In addition, we see this trip and the resulting collaborations as just the beginning of expanded collaboration and interaction throughout the continent.

ITINERARY

The universities visited include:

in Ghana: University of Ghana (Legon) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

U-M has also engaged in discussions with the University of Cape Coast, signed a memorandum of understanding, and

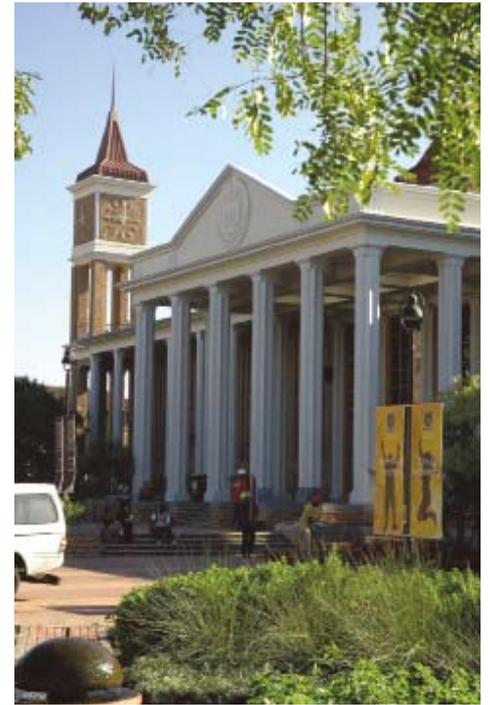


will be planning a visit in the future.

in South Africa: University of Pretoria, University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Cape Town, and University of the Western Cape.

Members of the delegation also visited the University of Fort Hare and the University of KwaZulu Natal. A separate delegation visited Rhodes University in December 2008.

In Ghana, President Coleman's group also visited the W.E.B. Du Bois Centre in Accra and the Komfe Anoyke Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, and met with government officials—including representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Chieftancy and Culture—and with



University of the Western Cape

Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, King of the Asante, who is also chancellor of KNUST.

In South Africa, Coleman met with the Honorable Kate O'Regan, Justice of the Constitutional



Court (with which Michigan has had a longstanding exchange). Delegates Lester Monts and Kevin Gaines took part

in a panel discussion on comparative US-South African affirmative action, organized by the US Consulate in Johannesburg. President Coleman and the delegation also participated in a reception hosted by the Consul General, and had discussions with representatives of major foundations operating in South Africa.

Coleman also delivered three public lectures during the trip, all of which were well attended and well received. Texts of the speeches can be found at www.umich.edu/pres/speeches/index.html. Kevin Gaines also spoke at the DuBois Centre in Accra, and Mark Tessler at the University of Cape Town.

A highly successful adjunct to the delegation's activities was the simultaneous visit to Ghana by the University of Michigan Gospel Chorale, a student organization. The Gospel Chorale visited universities and performed at local high schools. (See the sidebar for more about Gospel Chorale.)

FOLLOW-UP

The visit by Mary Sue Coleman and her delegation was an unqualified success. Thanks to the trip, we opened new relationships with university leadership and faculty throughout both Ghana and



Local artist at the market in Accra

South Africa; engaged in serious dialogue about key initiatives where our African partners could enhance and leverage Michigan's unique strengths and interests; identified processes and stakeholders for proceeding with inter-

disciplinary and international research initiatives; launched significant and ongoing dialogues with African partners in each of the arenas where we believe sustainable partnerships can evolve; and opened our new African Studies Center and initiated its first call for scholarly exchange nominations.

Photos by Ted Hanss

U-M delegation and University of Ghana hosts



"A JOYFUL NOISE": MICHIGAN'S GOSPEL CHORALE IN GHANA

by John Matlock, Associate Vice provost and Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

When Mary Sue Coleman visited Ghana during her Africa trip in February 2008, a very special group of students accompanied her. Forty singers, dancers, and musicians from the 120-member Michigan Gospel Chorale joined the delegation in Accra for ten days of performing and cultural connections.

The Chorale performed for a variety of community, educational, and religious functions, including at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center, and the W.E.B. DuBois Centre—where they were greeted by the director of the center, a U-M graduate. The highlight of the trip was the Chorale's concert at Accra's prestigious 3,000-seat National Theatre. They performed for a capacity crowd with several Ghanaian gospel choirs.

Between rehearsing and performing (and studying for their upcoming exams) the students also found time to attend lectures (including one by President Coleman), see marketplaces and museums, and visit community centers in rural areas of Ghana, where they learned about Ghanaian culture, including its famed Kente cloth weaving process. They also met U.S. citizens who live in Ghana—including students from other U.S. colleges—and had a chance to speak with faculty, students, and staff from Ghanaian universities.

One of the most memorable occasions was the Chorale song tribute at the 14th-century Elmina Castle, where slaves were held before being loaded onto ships and transported to the Americas and the Caribbean Islands. It was a source of tremendous sadness for members to consider the millions of slaves who had passed that way, preparing for a voyage that would take them forever from the land of their birth.

U-M Senior Vice Provost and Professor of Ethnomusicology Lester Monts said that the students played a tremendous role in helping to strengthen ties in Ghana. "They were a big hit in Ghana, and everyone wanted to hear them. Gospel music is tremendously popular in Africa, and while there are similarities in the music, there also are vast differences."

Monts also spoke about the increased opportunities for faculty exchanges between U-M faculty in various academic areas such as history, music, art, dance, architecture, and medicine. "Michigan has some 120 faculty who are engaged in Ghana and South Africa," Monts said. "We also are extremely interested in our students taking advantage of their relationships and that they be able to participate in study-abroad programs in Ghana, South Africa, China, and other areas throughout the world. The Gospel Chorale's efforts there certainly got us off to a wonderful start."

The students were also praised in a Congressional Record article by U.S. Senator Carl Levin who said: "I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the University of Michigan and the Michigan Gospel Chorale for their outstanding efforts in fostering goodwill between the United States and the nation of Ghana."



Health Open Educational Resources PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

by Ted Hanss
 Director, Enabling Technologies, University of Michigan Medical School

In 2008, the University of Michigan launched the Health Open Education Resources (OER) initiative, an ambitious project to make comprehensive health curricula available globally via the internet. A focus of U-M's Health OER effort is to address the education of health care providers in developing countries in Africa and anywhere there is a workforce crisis that negatively affects human health.

Open Educational Resources consist of teaching and learning materials made freely and openly available for students, faculty, and self learners around the world. While Health OER has a global reach, it is not an online distance-learning program.



The focus is on scaling up teaching and learning capacity in partner institutions by co-creating new learning materials and converting existing materials into OER. U-M and participating faculty members retain their copyright to the materials while using

a Creative Commons or equivalent license that permits free use and re-purposing of materials, including full courses, learning modules, textbooks, videos, assessments, and software.

The Medical School is leading this project at Michigan and working with all U-M health science schools,

the School of Information, and five partners in Africa: the University of Cape Town (South Africa), the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) (Ghana), and OER Africa, a Hewlett Foundation-funded outreach program.

Support for Health OER in 2008 came from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Soros Open Society Institute, the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research, and the University of Michigan. Activities included a Health OER workshop in Accra, Ghana in May with participants from several African countries, and hosting in Ann Arbor of the Health Sciences provosts from the University of Ghana and KNUST for an OER planning visit in November.

The collaboration received a second grant from the Hewlett Foundation for 2009, with the goal of defining a long-term sustainable model for Health OER. Major components of the 2009 effort are:

- Engage university leadership in implementing institutional policy frameworks that facilitate the success of OER. We held policy workshops at each of the Ghanaian universities in February 2009. South African workshops are being scheduled.
- Enhance an innovative, low-cost, and scalable process for converting educational materials into OER. This process, which we call dScribe, uses students to facilitate OER publishing.
- Collaboratively develop educational materials as OER and deploy them in our respective curricula. These are materials that draw upon our respective expertise at each institution and will be shared globally via a project website.
- Promote the collaboration and its outputs through a community of practice website. Establish a framework for a longitudinal study of faculty productivity and the effect

of OER on learning outcomes and provide feedback on socio-technical aspects of collaborative OER practices.

- Produce an evidence-based long-term logic model for Health OER that multiple stakeholders will own, in which funders will invest, and which institutions are committed to sustaining. This consensus-driven model will be the basis of a Global Health OER follow-on proposal.

In addition, the University's Center for Global Health was recently awarded a two-year learning grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a collaborative program of work with the University of Ghana, KNUST, the Ghana Ministry of Health, and Ghana Health Service. The project's goal is to design an evidence-based roadmap for academic-government collaborative interventions that will strengthen the training and deployment of human resources for health in Ghana. Learning materials created within this grant will be published as OER.



Provost Aaron Lawson, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana (one of our OER collaborators, giving a talk on the U-M campus last November)

"This is an exciting opportunity for our University," says James O. Woolliscroft, MD, dean of the U-M Medical School. "The Health OER program provides the opportunity for Michigan's health science schools and the School of Information to collaborate in an innovative, comprehensive approach to improve education opportunities for healthcare providers globally. As we participate in this effort to help improve medical education in developing countries, we are transforming our health curriculum to provide our students with richer learning experiences and strengthening their ability to practice in a global health context."

You can find more information on Health OER on the Open Michigan website at <https://open.umich.edu>, or by emailing open.michigan@umich.edu. The website is a portal to U-M open publishing efforts in learning materials, research, library resources, software, and standards.

Photos, University of Michigan



Photos by Agnes Uzarenwa

Developing Female Entrepreneurs in Rwanda

The 30 program participants together with Professor Kopparthi Murty and Rector Krishna Govender of the School of Finance & Banking and Amy Gillett of U-M's William Davidson Institute

In September 2008, the U-M's William Davidson Institute (WDI) rolled out its new entrepreneurship program for women in Rwanda. The program, organized by WDI's executive education department, is sponsored by Goldman Sachs under its new 10,000 Women initiative, which seeks to give 10,000 women around the world a business and management education over the next five years. The sponsorship means that all the participants are attending the program tuition-free.

The program gives 30 women from all around Rwanda the knowledge and skills needed to launch or expand business enterprises. The participants are learning business planning, marketing, finance, accounting, and HR management.

Participants include many women in the handicraft sector, several women involved in selling food products, a restaurant owner, a furniture maker, a woman who makes banana wine, and a woman in the process of setting up a computer training company. They range in age from 27 to 61.

For the program launch, women from across Rwanda gathered for the first session, "Introduction to Entrepreneurship & Business Strategy," held September 25.

"The program is off to a great start, with 30 dedicated, enthusiastic small business owners," said Amy Gillett, director of executive education at WDI. "The participants found the material very interesting and from the start were

participating and asking the faculty lots of questions. They were also networking and sharing ideas and insights with each other during the breaks and over lunch."

There are nine multiple-day sessions throughout the six-month program. The



Program participant Delphine Habakwitonda shows Amy Gillett one of the peace baskets made in her handicraft studio, which earns revenues of \$130 a month

"Despite their hardships, they are very optimistic and driven to make their businesses successful. They told me during the program that they have only themselves to rely on and that many people are relying on their success."

sessions last from two to four days. The women return to their homes between sessions and return anywhere from two to four weeks later for the next module.

"I was really happy to be able to travel to Kigali to meet all the women," Gillett said. "Most of them have faced many challenges in their personal and professional lives. Many lost husbands during the genocide in 1994. Some are supporting several kids on incomes as low as \$40 a month. Others are battling disease or taking care of sick children."

"Despite their hardships, they are very optimistic and driven to make their businesses successful. They told me during the program that they have only themselves to rely on and that many people are relying on their success."

Gillett said nearly all the women have been able to build businesses despite capital constraints. "They were excited about the prospect of getting loans following the training program," she said. "By making sure they all leave the program with a solid business plan and an understanding of the loan process, we look forward to making that happen."

The first cohort concluded very successfully with three days of business plan presentations. The professionalism of the business plans and the confidence with which they presented them impressed the panel of three judges, who awarded two top awards in the amount of \$2,500 each and five runner-up awards in the amount of \$1,000 each. A second six-month program with 30 new participants began in February 2009.





Our work in South Africa has addressed a broad range of issues related to population and health and has included collaboration with Statistics South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa). Our association with these organizations dates from 1995 when we were in South Africa on an exploratory trip, the stimulus for which had been a conference at the University of Michigan on “Population and Politics in South Africa” in February 1995, which Professor Anderson organized. Since 1998 we have made at least annual visits to South Africa, in addition to spending the year there in 2001–02.

One of our first studies looked at the differences in infant and child survival between Coloured and African populations. The major difference was less access to safe drinking water for the African households, which was strongly related to a greater chance that African children would die. For Coloured households, almost all of which had clean drinking water, type of sanitation was important for children’s survival.

During the past three years we have focused on perceptions and behaviors related to environmental pollution. The South African Constitution includes social right to a clean, healthful, and safe environment. We thought that the presence of such a statement might mean a high level of consciousness of environmental issues. We first looked at this question in relation to water pollution. We wanted to know whether there were differences in perceptions of whether water pollution was a problem and in actions to treat drinking water between African and non-African households.

Africans and those with lower socioeconomic status were more likely to see water pollution as a serious problem;

Environmental Pollution in South Africa: PERCEPTIONS AND BEHAVIORS

by Barbara A. Anderson, Professor of Sociology and Research Professor in the Population Studies Center; and John H. Romani, Professor Emeritus of Public Health Administration and faculty member in the Program in the Environment.

educational attainment was unrelated to this perception. However, education was positively related when the household treated drinking water. More educated households may be better at marshalling their resources to do something about unclean drinking water.

Currently, we are analyzing data about perceptions of littering and recycling by urban households. Recycling behavior by urban Africans for normative reasons does not correspond with the conventional wisdom in the field, in which recycling is closely associated with socioeconomic status. However, the presence of a school-age child in African households leads to greater recycling efforts by these households, perhaps through a desire to set a good example for children and to cooperate in school recycling campaigns.

Anderson has also been involved in projects with colleagues at Statistics South Africa, having published with co-authors a study of the percent of children who are orphans and an analysis of adult mortality by cause. She and a researcher just completed an examination of changes in living standards between

1998 and 2006, focusing on the availability of electricity, type of water supply, quality of housing, and nature of the sanitary system. While there are still significant shortfalls, considerable progress has been made in living standards. There has been an increase from 14 to 22 percent in urban African households with a middle-class standard of living, while the percent of rural African households with the worst living conditions declined from 10 to 6 percent.

Since 2002, we have taught an undergraduate course based on our work in South Africa. In winter term 2008 the course was offered as an LSA Honors Seminar through the Sociology department; it is also being offered in winter term 2009. In May 2008, with support from the Internationalizing Studies Across the Curriculum program at the Office of International Programs, we took students from the course on a two-week field trip to South Africa, something we plan to do again in May 2009. We will also be in South Africa for the first half of the summer of 2009.

Our work in South Africa has lasted for more than a decade, and we look forward to continuing these efforts.



Photos, University of Michigan



Michigan Medicine in Ghana: IMPROVING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

by Kofi Gyan, Program Manager, International Family Planning Fellowship Program, OB/GYN

Since the 1980s, the University of Michigan's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (UM-OBGYN) has been actively and increasingly involved in medical education in Ghana. At that time, most Ghanaian medical students took their postgraduate training either in the U.S. or in Great Britain, with low rates of repatriation. U-M professor Dr. Thomas Elkins and Timothy R. B. Johnson, (then at Johns Hopkins, now at U-M) partnered



with Ghanaian educational institutions to create culturally appropriate and sustainable models of capacity building to improve obstetrical care in Ghana. Since then, more than 60 obstetrician/gynecologists have been trained in Ghana with a 99 percent in-country retention rate.

Graduates of the program are now faculty members, clinical providers, and leaders, whose numbers include the chairman of the obstetrics and gynecology departments of both the University of Ghana Medical School (UGMS) in Accra and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) School of Medical Sciences in Kumasi. The partnership continues with yearly exchanges of medical students and senior residents, and research trips by undergraduate and graduate students.

CLINICAL EXCHANGES

Currently, UM-OBGYN is involved with a number of programs that allow for a rich exchange of education, service, and research activities among the three universities. Ghanaian residents visit UM-OBGYN to observe cutting-edge obstetrics, gynecology, gynecologic cancer, infertility, and family planning care during their three-month rotation. Ghanaian medical students generally divide their one-



month clinical rotation with two weeks on obstetrics and two weeks on gynecology, where exposure to technologies such as robotic surgery, advanced ultrasonography, and electronic fetal monitoring give them an understanding of the breadth of the field. The most important thing they learn, however, is that the basics of health care are the same all over the world.

The Michigan medical students who travel to the University of Ghana Medical School/Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (UGMS/KBTH) see a very different type of patient than do doctors in Ann Arbor. Here, most pregnancy complications are addressed and solved before they become major or life-threatening problems. In Ghana, however, lack of access to basic health care, basic health education, and issues with pregnancy complication recognition and transportation lead women to present for care in ways that are rarely experienced in the United States. One U-M med student reported that, on the very first day of her visit, she saw a woman die from septic incomplete abortion—and had seen, in all, ten maternal mortalities in the month she was there. Tragedies like these are rare in the developed world, and this has encouraged many U-M students to strive to work to erase such disparities. U-M students also see the outstanding clinical skills, patience, diligence, and sheer dedication demonstrated by the Ghanaian physicians, who are working in very challenging conditions.

Dr. Arnold Advincula (UM-OBGYN) and Dr. Jonathan Fink (U-M Surgery) traveled with two fellows to Accra, Ghana this past summer to train Ghanaian physicians on a laparoscopy surgery course at UGMS/KBTH. They also performed live laparoscopy surgeries at the KBTH. A return trip took place in January 2009.

The clinical exchange between Michigan and Ghana have provided U-M students with a number of opportunities to assist in research projects in Ghana. For two summers, students in the Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program studied barriers and stigma associated with HIV testing during pregnancy, and were able to provide our Ghanaian colleagues key information to aid in strategies to maximize testing rates. More recently, MHIRT students have

assisted in the development of a database of pregnancy complications that has been useful in devising further research and strategies to prevent complications that in rural communities often become severe and life threatening.

Other U-M students have been working in the laboratories of the Center for Scientific Study of Plant Medicine to determine the phytochemical properties of traditional herbs that are used to stimulate uterine contractions. This summer, students participating in the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program learned about maternal mortality by observing obstetric care at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, and also learned about the issues faced by rural women at the Sene District Hospital.

AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP

The novel approaches and lessons learned in UM-OBGYN's program are informing new initiatives that will lead to improved health care for Ghanaians, and increased retention of their health care professionals and faculty. A recent competitive award given by the William Davidson Institute of the University of Michigan to the Department of Pediatrics is initiating a replication of the faculty development and capacity building OBGYN program to enhance human resource capacity in Pediatrics. Currently, the departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation, emergency medicine, family medicine, and orthopedics, among others, are planning exchanges of residents and medical students.

UM-OBGYN was recently awarded funding to establish the International Family Planning Fellowship Program (IFPPP) in Ghana. The Program will support the development of family planning training programs in Ghana. The first group of four fellows have been selected and will train at UGMS/KBTH and KNUST-SMS/KATH. UM-OBGYN serves as the coordinating center for the training programs.

FUTURE DIRECTION: CONTINUED COLLABORATION

The longstanding and productive relationship between the departments of obstetrics and gynecology at Michigan and in Ghana are part of a large network of collaborative work between the universities. The future holds great promise for continued and expanded activities in many areas of study. It is our hope that the traditions of the Michigan OBGYN style of partnership, which emphasizes equity, sustainable capacity development, and long-term relationships, will inform future projects for years to come.



The Heritage Initiative

As African societies enter the 21st century, many aspects of “heritage” need to be reexamined. The institutional authority of the museum—and the concepts of art and culture that support it—is being challenged. Artifacts of indigenous culture have been pulled from the “anthropology section,” recontextualized, and given new meaning within contemporary heritage discourses. Performance—always deep in African village and town—becomes a central venue for identity to be remade and for creativity to take place. At the same time, the continuities of heritage become critical to identity and group belonging, placing a conservative angle on heritage.

International Library of African Music (ILAM) at Rhodes University, South Africa, which hosted the event on December 9–11, 2008.

The three-day workshop involved 24 participants representing two Ghanaian universities, three South African universities, and professional organizations including Digital Innovation South Africa, the National Research Foundation (which is completing a Carnegie Foundation-funded audit of digitization projects in South Africa), the Alan Lomax Archive, and the Children’s Radio Foundation. Discussions explored: (1) sources of digitization success and failure, (2) technology and mechanics of distribution, (3) funding and sustainability, (4) access (open access versus fee-based models), (5) intellectual property rights, and (6) how to repatriate cultural heritage to communities of origin.

Outcomes of the workshop included guidelines on the sales and reproduction of digital heritage and on the repatriation of digital heritage, now being edited for widespread distribution.

REVOLVING CONFERENCES

Over the next three years, we will sponsor a revolving conference, with a distinctive theme each year, hosted in one of the three participating countries, and each year engaging partners from U–M, South Africa, and Ghana.

The first of these conferences will be held in Accra in late 2009, hosted by our

colleagues at the University of Ghana, and will be organized around the central theme of heritage awareness. Participants will include scholars, as well as heritage professionals: individuals working in museums, tourism, historical preservation, and government.

The conference steering committee comprises: from Ghana, Willie Anku, professor and director, School of Performing Arts, University of Ghana (UG); Kodzo Gavua, professor and chair, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, UG; Takyiwa Manuh, professor and director, Institute of African Studies, UG. From South Africa, Gary Minkley, associate professor and senior research associate, Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Fort Hare; Ciraj Rassool, professor and director, African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies, University of the Western Cape; and a third member to be determined. From the University of Michigan: Kelly Askew, associate professor and director, African Studies Center; Raymond Silverman, professor and director, Museum Studies Program; and David Wallace, lecturer, School of Information.

Our broadening of the concept of “heritage” to include and address all manner of cultural inheritances that have shifting places in contemporary African realities/conundrums is intentional. We aim for ongoing reflection on what happens to the concept of heritage (its meanings, domain, and range) in the light of our projects and their engagements with these African realities. The concept of heritage itself has a heritage, which our project aims to remake for contemporary times, just as heritages are being remade in Africa.



Group photo of participants at the Digital Heritage workshop, ILAM, Rhodes University, December 12–14, 2008

The U–M African Heritage Initiative (AHI) is a broadly distributed set of projects across the humanities and arts, undertaken in partnership with African colleagues and institutions, which reflects the importance of heritage and its remaking across the continent of Africa.

DIGITAL HERITAGE WORKSHOP: GHANA

In May 2008, the AHI welcomed a faculty delegation from the University of Ghana–Legon to Ann Arbor to discuss future collaborations. One outcome was the decision to organize a workshop on the challenges, benefits, ethics, and results of digitizing collections of cultural heritage materials.

A workshop on “Producing, Preserving, and Repatriating Digital Cultural Heritage” was organized in partnership with the



Digital Heritage workshop participants viewing a 3–D video clip during a presentation by Tom Bray, managing producer of the U–M Digital Media Commons.

Photos by Jeri Hollister

ASCinitiatives

UMAPS Launched

One of the most significant efforts of the African Studies Center is the U-M African Presidential Scholars program, or UMAPS. This initiative addresses the crisis faced by institutions of higher learning in Africa that, with very few exceptions, have lost faculty to the 'brain drain,' seen their infrastructure decay, experienced low government allocations due to economic crisis and the prioritization of primary and secondary education, and watched their student enrollments double every five years, placing ever more pressure on staff and facilities. The initiative has three basic goals:

- to contribute to capacity-building in the African academy by providing early career faculty opportunities for research and scholarship in U-M's rich academic environment
- to bring to Michigan promising scholars who can collaborate in research, scholarship, and teaching on and about Africa
- to facilitate other opportunities for partnerships with African universities, including the Heritage, Social Research, OER, and Health Care initiatives

The UMAPS program builds on the Charles Moody Exchange Scholars program model, created in 1996, which brings one or two young South African scholars to campus each year. UMAPS complements that program by bringing an additional ten African scholars to campus each year from Ghana, South Africa and, in the future, other African nations.

INTRODUCING THE 2009 UMAPS SCHOLARS

Our first UMAPS scholars are among the best and brightest from Ghana and South Africa. They are:

ALEXIUS AMTAIKA
(MENTOR—ADAM ASHFORTH, CAAS)
Lecturer, School of Politics, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Current research project: the transformation of former liberation movements namely ANC, ZANU-PF, and FRELIMO into the ruling parties of South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique respectively.



Photo by Kelly M. Askew

From left to right: Mahunele Thotse, Annet Oguttu, Sekepe Matjila, Leah Ndanga, Alex Amtaika, Efua Vandyck, Moses Nii-Dortey, and Alex Frempong. Not pictured: Carol Mitchell and Judith Stephens.

ALEXANDER KAAKYIRE DUKU FREMPONG
(MENTOR—KEN KOLLMAN, POLITICAL SCIENCE)

Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Ghana

Current research: electoral politics in Ghana's Fourth Republic.

SEKEPE DANIEL MATJILA
(MENTOR—KEITH TAYLOR, ENGLISH)

Senior Lecturer, Department of African Languages; Director, Centre of Pan South African Languages and Cultural Development, University of South Africa
Current research: translation and analysis of the oeuvre of Setswana poet L. D. Raditladi.

CAROL JEAN MITCHELL
(MENTOR—PAT KING, EDUCATION)

Lecturer, School of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Current research: investigation into service-learning and ways of knowing in higher education.

LEAH Z. B. NDANGA
(MENTOR—RAVI ANUPINDI, BUSINESS)

Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Pretoria

Current research: supply and value chains in the marketing of "Black Brands" wine in South Africa.

MOSES NARTEH NII-DORTEY
(MENTOR—LESTER MONTS, MUSIC)

Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

Current research: sound/text relationships in the music, drama, and ritual of the "Nungua Kplejoo" festival.

ANNET OGUTTU
(MENTOR—REUVEN AVI-YONAH, LAW)

Associate Professor, School of Law, University of South Africa

Current research: the challenges of taxing business profits attributed to permanent establishments: a South African perspective.

JUDITH KORYO STEPHENS
(MENTOR—MARK WILSON, PUBLIC HEALTH)

Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Ghana

Current research: malaria in pregnancy.

MAHUNELE LAWRENCE THOTSE
(MENTOR—RAY SILVERMAN, HISTORY OF ART)

Lecturer, Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria
Current research: constructing collective memory through monuments and names in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

EFUA VANDYCK
(MENTOR—SIOBAN HARLOW, PUBLIC HEALTH)

Lecturer, School of Family and Consumer Science, University of Ghana
Current research: health and safety conditions in garment production.



ASC initiatives

African Social Research Initiative (ASRI)

The African Social Research initiative (ASRI) builds on and is informed by a decade of partnership in the social sciences between U-M and university and government research agencies in South Africa, as well as in other countries, and seeks both to enrich ongoing collaborations and to propagate new intellectual engagements among U-M, South Africa, and Ghana.

The ASRI will promote excellence in social science research on poverty reduction, the promotion of public health, gender equity, pluralism, and good governance in all three countries. The initiative has two complementary goals: 1) to expand and strengthen social research at U-M and in South Africa and Ghana; and 2) to promote the career development of young social science researchers focused on Africa. Through data-sharing networks, collaborative research and training, and dedicated mentoring of young scholars, it should have lasting, enriching effects both at U-M and at participating universities in South Africa and Ghana, preparing a new generation of scholars for science in the service of society.

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE COLLABORATION

This collaborative program will be open to social researchers in university, college, government, and parastatal research institutions throughout South Africa and Ghana, as well as to social scientists in all relevant fields of specialization.

- It will address social science theory and methods in general, rather than for selected research domains—highlighting skills that are adaptable to local information needs, different research opportunities, and sources of data;
- It will give significant attention to developing the research careers of young researchers in all three countries, especially women, blacks, and other previously disadvantaged groups;
- Seed funding will support multidisciplinary and comparative team approaches;
- Short courses and eventual web-based teaching will be explored, with an emphasis on co-teaching by faculty members from different universities.

REVOLVING CONFERENCES: SOUTH AFRICA 2009

President Mary Sue Coleman has committed funding for an initial three years of annual revolving research conferences, as well as seed funding for pilot projects. Collaborations will be launched and developed through these conferences, which will rotate between Ghana, South Africa, and Ann Arbor from 2009 to 2011.

The first of the annual conferences is now being planned for July 2009 at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa.

This conference is being planned by a steering committee composed of five constituents from U-M, three from Ghana, and five from South Africa. From U-M: Mark Tessler (director, International Institute), Rachel Snow (associate director, International Institute), James Jackson (director, Institute for Social Research), David Lam (research professor, Population Studies Center) and Rod Alence (visiting associate professor from University of Witwatersrand, Political Science). From Ghana: Ernest Aryeetey (University of Ghana-Legon), Margaret Gyapong (InDepth Network), and Leonard Wantchekon (NYU, Afrobarometer). From South Africa: Nicola Christofides (University of Witwatersrand), Dori Posel (University of KwaZulu-Natal), and Zanele Mfono (University of Fort Hare).

The themes identified for the inaugural conference, and the individuals organizing each are:

- Ernest Aryeetey and Leonard Wantchekon: mixed methods, including experimental approaches, use of qualitative work combined with surveys
- David Lam, Margaret Gyapong, Robert Mattes, and Leonard Wantchekon: challenges of longitudinal surveys, including DSS efforts like InDepth, panel surveys, repeat cross-sectional surveys like Afrobarometer
- Murray Leibbrandt, Dori Posel, David Lam, and Ernest Aryeetey: income dynamics, and poverty
- Rachel Snow and Nicola Christofides, Margaret Gyapong, and Dori Posel: measuring gender change
- Mark Tessler, Rod Alence, and Robert Mattes: democratic governance



Photo by Kelly M. Askew



African Studies Center
1080 South University Avenue,
Suite 2622
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106
ph: 734.615.9565 fax: 734.763.9154
asc-contact@umich.edu

©2009 REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bingham Farms
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.