Image created for the African Studies Center’s 10th anniversary. The icons are visual expressions and interpretations of the center’s breadth of activities and research initiatives.
Dear ASC Community,

Together, over the past decade, we’ve built a vibrant, inclusive and truly interdisciplinary African Studies Center (ASC) that is recognized and respected, both nationally and internationally. The following pages present but a taste of the projects and passions that have animated the efforts of our faculty, students, staff, and African partners. But first, let me give credit where credit is due: sincere thanks on behalf of us all to President Emerita Mary Sue Coleman and former Provost Theresa Sullivan for establishing the ASC in 2008 in the wake of Coleman’s historic visit to Ghana and South Africa, and sincere thanks to President Mark Schlissel, Provost Martin Philbert, Vice Provost for Global Engagement James Holloway, and former Senior Vice Provost Lester Monts for their constant support of U-M’s collaborative engagements with institutions of higher learning in Africa.

The International Institute has been an enabling environment for the ASC, and its directors over the past decade have been valued partners in advancing the ASC and its activities. And little could have been achieved without the fabulous ASC staff and leadership team, including interim directors, associate directors, executive committee members and initiative committee members past and present.

By way of retrospection, I highlight here three questions that most challenged us in launching the ASC and our attempts to answer them.

The question most commonly raised when starting the ASC was: Why do we need another U-M unit devoted to African Studies, given the existence of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS)? History provides a partial answer. DAAS was established in 1970 and is pan-Africanist in scope, linking the study and representation of the cultures, experiences and societies of Africans and peoples of African descent across the African continent and diaspora. While courses with African content are taught across campus, DAAS is the curricular home for African Studies, where students can pursue an undergraduate major or minor, or obtain a graduate certificate. The Coleman trip, however, heightened U-M’s interest in Africa, a region of ever-increasing global significance, and thus it was deemed necessary to create a unit to oversee and ensure the success of U-M’s engagements with African partners. Central to this is the U-M African Presidential Scholars program (UMAPS), a six-month research residency program for early career African faculty. The ASC was also created to be a campus-wide resource, not only for the College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA), but for leveraging efforts of faculty, students and staff from all 19 U-M schools and colleges. While we continue to work closely together, these two foci distinguish ASC from DAAS.

Aiming to serve the entire campus community is one...
thing, but operationalizing and normalizing it is another. Herein lay our second challenge: How do we remake African Studies to be truly inclusive of all the Africa-focused work occurring on our campus? How do we engage colleagues outside LSA—such as from the College of Engineering, School of Public Health or School for Environment and Sustainability—who are actively working in Africa, and integrate their efforts with those of faculty and students in more typical African Studies disciplines like history, anthropology, literature and art history? Moreover, how do we bridge divides within LSA to connect mathematicians, physicists, oceanographers and psychologists with scholars in the humanities? An unrealized potential to expand U-M’s approach to African Studies was evident in the list of U-M faculty working in Africa produced for Coleman’s trip: of 140 faculty then identified, nearly half represented STEM fields. This led to the 2009 establishment of the STEM-Africa initiative, a year after the launch of the African Heritage and Humanities Initiative (AHHI) and African Social Research Initiative (ASRI), creating room in the ASC for people from all disciplines engaged in Africa-focused work. Today, STEM-Africa has uniquely positioned the ASC among African Studies centers elsewhere and other area studies centers at U-M. Our model of AHHI, ASRI, and STEM-Africa research clusters successfully institutionalized ASC’s interdisciplinarity, while providing scholars in the sciences, social sciences and the humanities a context within which to have their own disciplinary conversations.

Our mandate to foster greater collaboration internally at U-M and externally with institutions in Africa posed the last set of challenges: How do we develop a logic and logistics to support sustainable Africa-U-M collaborations? How can we mitigate unequal power and financial dynamics of North-South engagements? What helped us navigate this sensitive terrain was the development of guiding principles and considerable trial and error. We settled on the following principles: (1) reciprocity, an example being the UMAPS program, which, in bringing African faculty to U-M, disrupts the more typical unidirectional flow of Western students and faculty to Africa; (2) co-creation of knowledge, through respectful and equitable pursuit of joint projects; (3) sustainability, by ensuring a critical mass of participants in collaborations; (4) triangulation of partnerships, to extend successes in one site to other African countries, (5) and the pursuit of real-world applications, for greater impact and because current needs both in Africa and in Michigan drive innovation.

Behind the scenes, much generosity paved our way to success: of faculty who willingly served on initiative committees or as UMAPS mentors; of students that volunteered to support our 30 international conferences and workshops in the past decade and who trusted our assurances that the Swahili language program would indeed endure; of staff who worked overtime and without complaint to ensure guests’ needs were addressed and events went off flawlessly; of administration, development, foundation and gift officers who tirelessly sought sources of support to make the ASC itself sustainable. To all of you and those whose labors I did not flag, thank you. It has been a great honor to serve as the founding director of the ASC. I look forward to seeing the ASC continue to flourish in decades to come.

[Signature]
ASC is a member of the International Institute. It was established in July 2008 and funded by the Office of the Provost.

The **University of Michigan African Studies Center (ASC)** provides strategic guidance and coordination for Africa-related education, research, and training activities on campus, and promotes opportunities for collaboration with African partners on the continent.

The center is organized around five primary research initiatives and programs that have been funded separately by the Office of the President and different stakeholders on campus.

- African Heritage and Humanities Initiative (AHHI)
- African Social Research Initiative (ASRI)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative (STEM-Africa)
- Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2)
- U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Program
Deepen and expand scholarly and educational partnerships between U-M and African institutions

Support exchanges of students, faculty, and staff between U-M and African institutions

Enhance the study of Africa, past and present, within the U-M curriculum

Connect faculty and students working in/on Africa from all colleges and units on campus

Foster interdisciplinary research to find imaginative solutions to contemporary social, cultural, medical, technological, and environmental problems

Serve as a public resource on Africa and Michigan’s involvement with it for the state and local community
African Heritage and Humanities Initiative (AHHI)

AHHI supports research related to the arts, humanities, and interpretive social sciences, which highlights the dynamic, contested process by which African cultures and histories are made.

$160,000+

Seed Grants awarded to faculty representing departments in LSA, School of Information, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, the Medical School, and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

16 international conferences and workshops
26 different projects

$1.5 Million

Grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a collaboration between U-M (ASC) and the University of the Witwatersrand (WiSER)

9 workshops
56 universities
300 scholars

The grant has allowed ASC and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) in Johannesburg, South Africa to organize workshops that bring scholars from different universities together for in-depth discussion and collaboration in the fields of the humanities and qualitative social sciences.
African Social Research Initiative (ASRI)

ASRI promotes excellence in social science research, facilitates new collaborative networks, offers statistical training, and fosters professional development among faculty and students at the University of Michigan and academic and non-governmental organization (NGO) research partners in Africa. Building on longstanding U-M research partnerships in South Africa and Ghana (since the 1990s), ASRI focuses on sustaining scholarly partnerships that use and teach multi-method approaches to data collection and analysis. Thematic foci are on politics (democratic governance); economics (income dynamics and poverty); and the intersections of gender, health and development.

- organized 4 international conferences; over 1,500 participants in statistical analysis training running for 20+ years in South Africa
- $150,000+
  Seed Grants awarded to 22 different project teams from eight different schools and colleges at U-M

Since 2011, ASRI has sponsored 13 quantitative methods courses on STATA and R, with 7 different University and government partners from Ghana and South Africa, and over 350 participants
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative (STEM-Africa)

STEM-Africa nurtures the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Africa, which extends scientific knowledge and yields solutions to global problems.

Among other collaborations, U-M Mathematics professors have taught high-level applied and theoretical mathematics courses in Cameroon since 2009 on a biennial basis; a team from the department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and College of Engineering (CoE) has been teaching mini-courses on oceanography and environmental sciences in Ghana regularly for three years (coessing.org); CoE faculty are additionally organizing professional development workshops and networking events for African women engineers; and a team from the School of Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) and CoE has been teaching courses on energy, food and water provisioning in Gabon.

30-year collaborations with universities in Ghana and recently Ethiopia in the field of OB/GYN have produced 270 trained OB/GYNs, all but one of whom are practicing on the continent; an enormous success when compared to the high loss of medical talent to the diaspora.

Seed Grants awarded to 25 different project teams from 10 different Schools and Colleges at U-M representing 17 different departments
U-M Vice President for Research Jack Hu was the keynote speaker of the plenary session, “Partnering for Research, Innovation and Economic Development,” at the STEM IV conference.

STEM-Africa organized 4 international conferences


Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2)

EMC2 illustrates the deep and multifaceted relationship between the U-M and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. U-M faculty and students from many disciplines engage with diverse stakeholders across the country to extend their impact beyond academia through community-based research, patient care, educational capacity building in many fields, service learning, scholarship, and research.

Funded nine U-M African Presidential Scholars; Adey Desta, one of the scholars, went on to receive a prestigious PEER Cycle 6 award.

The event will provide opportunities to develop interactions in an open and welcoming environment. Attendees will be able to renew with their collaborators to strengthen relationships, or to meet new partners to build new connections. We will discuss the achievements and challenges of ongoing collaborative work between Ethiopian and University of Michigan (U-M) colleagues, and develop new insights into Ethiopia and its future.

Open to faculty and student partners in Ethiopia, and to U-M faculty and students who are engaged or seek to engage in Ethiopia.

Registration is required. For program details and to register online:
[II.umich.edu/asc/initiatives/emc2](II.umich.edu/asc/initiatives/emc2)

Coordinated by the African Studies Center at the University of Michigan and Addis Ababa University; with event and travel grant funding provided by the Office of the Provost, Global Engagement and Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs.

ETHIOPIAN FUTURES MOVING FORWARD

This conference will explore the Ethiopia-Michigan collaboration in ways that include areas in the humanities, science, engineering, mathematics and social sciences.

**THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
Ethiopia-Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2)

**ETHIOPIAN FUTURES**
MOVING FORWARD

**JULY 11-14, 2017**
The Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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The UMAPS Program brings early career faculty from African universities to Ann Arbor, Michigan to accelerate their research capabilities and empower them to make an impact when they return to their home institutions—building mutually beneficial ties between U-M and institutions across the continent.

Over the past ten years, from 2008 to 2018, the U-M African Studies Center has hosted 135 UMAPS scholars from universities in Ghana, South Africa, Liberia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia. Some have gone on to complete their PhDs. Others have published their research findings. Others have obtained large grants to pursue collaborative research (some with a U-M colleague). And still others have been promoted to tenured or full professor positions.

African higher education continues to face enormous challenges, but the UMAPS program has helped retain and strengthen faculty in African institutions of higher education while simultaneously enriching U-M through the inclusion of African perspectives.

UMAPS scholars are paired with a U-M faculty mentor during their stay and have full access to the University of Michigan's resources, including a dedicated writing workshop, discipline-specific librarians, and outlets for publicly presenting their research projects in the UMAPS colloquium series.
135 scholars to date

30% from Ghana
15% from Liberia
6% from Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia
27% from South Africa

11% from Ethiopia

31% came to UMAPS with a PhD or other terminal degree
31% were awarded a PhD post-UMAPS
18% don’t have a PhD and are not in a PhD program either
9% have started a PhD program post-UMAPS
9% had started a PhD program prior to UMAPS, and are not yet finished

65% male
35% female

37 completed PhDs
9 books published
25 received promotions & distinguished positions
200+ articles & book chapters published

Alumni success since UMAPS participation (data as of March 2018)
In order to support engagement with Africa, ASC awards substantial research funding that is open to all U-M students and faculty.

**Faculty Support**

Faculty awards include conference travel grants, funding for research conducted in Africa, and collaborative seed grants to support innovative projects in African heritage and humanities, African social research, and STEM-Africa.

**Curriculum Enhancement**

U-M’s Africa-focused curriculum is unique and noteworthy for its breadth across schools and colleges. ASC provides financial and administrative support for innovative courses, such as:

- Omolade Adunbi’s (DAAS) course “Environment, Sustainability and Cultural Practices in Africa.”
- Kathleen Sienko’s (CoE) “Design for Maternal Health in Ghana.”
- SAPAC and Sexperteam Student Project (Nursing/Public Health/LSA) adapting the U-M sexual assault prevention program “Relationship Remix” for students at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

**Over 150 ASC-affiliated faculty members across 17 schools and colleges**

**$600,000+**

Distributed to faculty members for travel, research, and collaborative seed grants

U-M faculty research projects focus on more than 35 African countries

**$150,000+**

Disbursed from 2008-18 in funding for new or existing Africa-focused courses

The number of Africa-focused courses at U-M has more than doubled over the past decade; almost 300 courses with Africa content were offered in 2017-18.
Experiencing Africa through Study Abroad

To ensure student access to study abroad opportunities in Africa, ASC has partnered with other university units, e.g. Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS), Ford School of Public Policy, College of Engineering, Law School, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and School of Music, Theater, and Dance.


Swahili Language Spotlight

In 2009, ASC and DAAS launched African language training with on-site instruction in elementary and intermediate Swahili, and distance learning in Akan, Bambara, Wolof, and Zulu. In 2016, a second Swahili language instructor was hired and advanced Swahili was added to the program.

Nearly 500 students have enrolled in a Swahili course since 2009.

“When I first enrolled in Swahili, it was a spur-of-the-moment decision of genuine and mild interest; however, the study of the Swahili language, and East African studies in general, have become the cornerstone of my college career. Enrolling in Swahili exposed me to a unique area of study and career path that is commonly (and unfortunately) overlooked by aspiring professionals. Understanding Swahili and its accompanying customs has allowed me to form relationships and develop interest in one of the most culturally rich, historically curious, and impressively inventive places on the planet. I’m looking forward to spending the next year after graduating conducting research in Tanzania, and inspiring others to engage with the language and culture.” — Meagan Malm, BBA’18
Student Engagement

Competitive fellowships are awarded to students for summer research and internships on the continent, as well as for conference participation (year-round).

Over 20 Africa-focus Student Organizations

$500,000+
Awarded to students for research, internships, and conference participation; funded over 200 research and internship grants

Lester P. Monts Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Africa

In 2014, the African Studies Center established the Lester P. Monts Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research on Africa in honor of the distinguished Professor of Ethnomusicology and former Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Lester P. Monts, for all he has done to promote scholarship on Africa and institutional engagement with African universities.

$1,000 is awarded yearly to recognize an outstanding research paper by a graduate student in African studies.

2015: Johannes Norling
Doctoral Candidate, Economics,
"Family Planning and Fertility in South Africa under Apartheid"

2016: Nana Osei Quarshie
Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology & History, “‘But He is Not a Madman to Do Any Harm’: Petitioning for the Release of Suspected Lunatics in the Gold Coast, 1936-1946”

2017: Ashley Rockenbach

“Looking Out Into The Falls”
Winner, Category “Go Blue”
2017 II Photo Contest

Tochukwu Ndukwe’s photo was taken during ASC-funded research in Zambia

My experience abroad has made me even more passionate about global health and disparities especially in sub-Saharan African countries. As a first year medical student at the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS), I want to figure out how I can set up connections abroad through the medical school to fulfill this passion. Also it has impacted my educational goals by inspiring me to join the Global Health & Disparities curriculum that UMMS has.

— TOCHUKWU NDUKWE, MD ’21, Microbiology & Immunology.

Fulbright Scholars

U-M has regularly led the nation in the number of U.S Department of State Fulbright Awards received, with 22 awardees placed in Africa from 2008-2017.

Students from 8 different schools and colleges conducted research internships in over 20 African countries.
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 original research in any country in sub-Saharan Africa that unsettles conventional understandings of the continent. 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 series’s inaugural volume, African Print Cultures: Newspapers and Their Publics in the Twentieth Century, edited by Derek R. Peterson, Emma Hunter, and Stephanie Newell, was publicly launched at the ASC reception held during the African Studies Association’s annual meeting in November 2016 in Washington, DC. Two further titles were released in 2017: Unsettled History: Making South African Public Pasts, by Leslie Witz, Gary Minkley, and Ciraj Rassool and Seven Plays of Kofi Kwahulé: In and Out of Africa, edited by Judith G. Miller and translated by Chantal Bilodeau.

Forthcoming titles in 2018 include Mûkoma wa Njûgî’s The Rise of the African Novel (Spring); Lily Saint’s Black Cultural Life in South Africa (Fall); and Nimrod: Selected Writings, edited by Frieda Ekotto (Fall). 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.

ASC publishes a newsletter once a year featuring highlights of ASC’s events and activities, and stories about faculty research, university initiatives, student and faculty grants, and collaborative partnerships related to Africa.

The current and past issues (Alliances) can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF, or read online. Please visit: ii.umich.edu/asc/about-us/newsletters

If you would like to be on our mailing list or receive future editions of our newsletter, please send us an email: asc-contact@umich.edu
The Boers at the End of the World
Screening followed by Q&A with Film Director Richard F. Gregory and Andrea Cocke
December 5, 4:00 PM - Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, Room 100

In the remote Karoo region of Argentina, the last remaining members of the 100-year-old community of South Africa's Boers struggle to keep their language and culture from South Africa alive. Ty Dickerson, an 80-year-old cowboy, yearns to visit the country of his ancestors. This is the final journey of the last days of his way of life, and the story across the ocean is reconnected with distant family.

For more info: bit.ly/2ll-2020

2013 DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM by MINFLUX Inc. Live-action: Michiel de Heer, Director: Richard F. Gregory

RICHARD F. GREGORY is an award winning South African director, producer and cinematographer. He is widely known for his work in South Africa, where he started creating music videos. Upon returning to South Africa he set out to redefine his documentary way forward.

African Diasporic Film Festival Fall 2020

Public Events

In the effort to increase knowledge of Africa, ASC has sponsored over 150 events on campus and more than 30 events in Africa in collaboration with partner institutions.

To learn more about our events, visit ii.umich.edu/asc/news-events/events
ASC 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/aboutus/news

University Record, 10/13/2017. ASC Faculty Member Derek Peterson awarded prestigious MacArthur Fellowship

UMMA & ASC News, 08/18/2017. ASC-sponsored exhibit at UMMA. Power Contained: The Art of Authority in Central and West Africa on exhibit August 19 - December 31


LSA Today, 10/13/2017. Scholarship that Comes Across: ASC Welcomes its Tenth Cohort of African Scholars, by Susan Hutton

Global Michigan, 03/10/2016. Maternal Deaths in Africa: Cutting Down the Distance that Kills, by William Foreman

University Record, 12/08/2015. University Designates $90,000 to Program for Ethiopian Scholars, by Rachel Reed
ASC has been engaged in fundraising for interdisciplinary research and capacity-building, leveraging nearly $5 million in external funding for center-driven initiatives. An additional $1.5 million in funds has been secured as follow-up grants for research initially seeded by ASC grants to faculty, graduate students, and UMAPS scholar-mentor teams.
Gifts to ASC

ASC is dedicated to promoting a broader and deeper understanding of the region—its histories, cultures, languages, and peoples—through research, education, and outreach programs. The center is committed to creating a supportive environment where scholars, educators, students, and the community have the opportunity to engage in dialogue and to study current and historical events related to African studies.

Gifts to ASC will help support residencies for U-M African Presidential Scholars; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research; faculty research focused on Africa; strengthening African social research data; advancement of African studies in U-M’s curriculum; and multilateral partnerships between U-M and African partners.

If you wish to support the African Studies Center, visit ii.umich.edu/asc/donate.