

Spring/Summer 2013

DAAS GRADUATION 2013



The DAAS 2013 graduation was another heart-felt and joyous event. Held on Friday, May 3rd in the U-M Art Museum, the ceremony included a rousing performance by the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Elementary Choir. The DAAS graduates were 24 majors, 21 minors and seven graduate certificate recipients. Led by DAAS Chair Tiya Miles, the proceedings also included awards for this year's winners of the annual Walter Rodney Essay Competition, as well as recognition of the Department's Honor students. The graduation exercise was followed by a festive dinner. Artfully organized by DAAS Student Services Coordinator Katherine Weathers, both the ceremony and the dinner were enjoyed by dozens of faculty, staff, students, parents, family and friends. Congratulations, once again, to our graduates and their families.



DAAS Study Abroad in Jamaica, Kenya, Ghana and Detroit

Healthy Communities,
Healthy Women,
Healthy Babies:
Infant Mortality and
Maternal Child Health
in Detroit



GIEU Detroit students explored the structural and social issues impacting infant mortality and maternal child health in Detroit. In collaboration with the Institute for Population Health, Henry Ford Health System Women's Health/Midwifery, Nurse Family Partnership and Doulas Care, GIEU Detroit students were trained as doulas, also known as labor coaches, to work at Henry Ford Hospital and contributed to a variety of public health programs focusing on the care, service and support needs of Detroit women, infants, children and families. In addition to their field site experiences, students were exposed to the culture and history of Detroit through guest speaker discussions and cultural excursions. GIEU Detroit is one of several U-M 2013 GIEU sites around the world. In fact, *GIEU Detroit is the only local/US site*; most GIEU sites are abroad.

Teaching Fellows/Site Directors: Leseliey Welch, Community Innovations Manager, Institute for Population Health, and Lecturer, Women's Studies; and Lisa Kane Low, Midwifery Program Director, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Department of Women's Studies.

Cultural Programming Director: Elizabeth James, Program Manager, DAAS.

PEDAGOGY OF ACTION IN JAMAICA

Designed and led by Professor Nesha Haniff, the Pedagogy of Action Study Abroad Program is a year-long process of student education and transformation. Students begin by taking a class that is designed to challenge them about the role of the American student abroad. Who is the biggest beneficiary: the student or the communities where he/she works? The second course is focused on the study of the particular country where they will work and their own expectations and role when they travel to Jamaica. Once in Jamaica, students teach an HIV module in communities throughout the country designed to educate people about HIV and AIDS. Students taught the staff and clients of JFLAG, Jamaica



Aids Support for Life, the communities of the Social Development Commission in Bogue, Santa Cruz and Black River and members of the Catholic church in Revival and Orange Hill. During the study abroad, students wrote dispatches documenting their experiences and attended lectures given by prominent Jamaicans. They also visited cultural sites such as the Jamaican National Gallery, Heroes Park, Liberty Hall the Marcus Garvey Museum, and the home of world renowned Jamaican artist, Barrington Watson.

Conservation and Development in Cultural Landscapes: Field Study in Kenya

Led by DAAS Assistant Professor Omolade Adunbi, this course involved both classroom and field study components designed to help students better understand the processes associated with conservation and development initiatives. The class, which took place in winter 2013, helped orient students to pertinent issues in preparation for the field component. The field study was based in and around two conservation landscapes in Kenya (Maasai Mara and Laikipia) and relied on a multi-disciplinary approach which culminated in a group paper. Some of the topics students investigated included Conservation Governance, Conservation and Health, Gender and Ecotourism and Media and the Spectacle of Tourism. In the first two to three days of the field study, which included 12 University of Michigan students and six University of Nairobi students in Kenya, students had homestays with different Massai families where they participated in the daily life of the family including helping to milk cows, herd cattle and goats and other household activities. The rest of the field study was devoted to independent research, lectures and other types of experiential learning.



STUDY ABROAD IN GHANA



The Ghana Study Abroad 2013, led by Associate Professor Kwasi Ampene, took place from June 21 through July 21. Designed to provide hands-on and experiential learning, the thirteen U-M students spent four-weeks teaching English, math and reading at a primary and junior school in the town of Jachie located near the city of Kumasi. The experience also included guest lectures in music, ritual, social customs, African traditional religion, royal oratory, and micro-finance.



SUPPORT DAAS

Gifts to the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies help us support a full range of activities, such as conferences, study abroad, brown bags, exhibitions and many other special events. Your gift can also help support research, teaching, the Lemuel Johnson Center and the DAAS Gallery. Finally, the Department helps student organizations, provides graduate and postgraduate fellowships, and sponsors visiting scholars. If you are interested in helping to support the mission of DAAS, please contact the U-M Office of Development at 734 647-6179. Use the address and form below if you'd like to mail a contribution directly to DAAS.

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