

young africa works summit 2015



CASID Director Robert Glew,
MasterCard Foundation
Scholar Hepsiba Chepngeno,
The MasterCard Foundation
Scholars Program alumna
Thelma Namonje, and
University Foundation
Professor Thomas Jayne at the
Young Africa Works Summit
2015 in Cape Town, South
Africa.

#YAW2015

CASID UPDATE

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2016

MSU Scholars and Faculty Attend Young Africa Works Summit 2015

In October, The MasterCard Foundation sponsored a two-day conference in Cape Town, South Africa for business leaders, financial service providers, and educational and research institutions to discuss how the agriculture sector could provide fulfilling opportunities for young Africans who are unemployed or underemployed. Several faculty and students from Michigan State University (MSU) and The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU were invited to attend the Young Africa Works Summit 2015. The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU alumna Thelma Namonje, who currently works as a research associate at the Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute in Zambia, was one of two youth co-facilitators for the event.

With cooperation between government, non-governmental organizations, and the financial sector, African farmers have the ability to feed the continent and become major agribusiness exporters. African youth—the largest youth population in the world—are essential to accomplishing these goals. Conference sessions highlighted the exciting opportunities agriculture can provide—and not just for farmers. Young workers can conduct research, analyze data, produce marketing campaigns, work in accounting, and create innovative technologies—all of which support a vibrant agribusiness sector and create sustainable employment.

Featured in this Issue:

MSU's Tanzania Partnership Program

Humphrey Fellowship Program

Peace Corps Master's
International Programs

CASID Announces New
Undergraduate Minor

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

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From the Director's Desk



I am pleased to present the 2016 issue of the *CASID Update*, a newsletter of our programmatic achievements for 2015. In this issue we highlight the international development-related activities that we have supported during the past year. These activities reflect the strength and depth of Michigan State University (MSU) faculty and students working on issues of international development.

The Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) is a multidisciplinary unit, organized within the College of Social Science in cooperation

with the Office of the Dean of International Studies and Programs and strengthened by the participation of scholars from a variety of other colleges. CASID works to facilitate and catalyze MSU faculty research and scholarship in fields related to international development. The center supports MSU faculty and students in the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge about international development.

CASID also promotes undergraduate and graduate programs focusing on issues of international development, works with academic units to ensure continued availability and quality of relevant course offerings, coordinates issue-oriented interest groups, and supports scholarly presentations and outreach programming. A graduate specialization in international development and an undergraduate minor in global studies in social science are available to interested students.

CASID seeks to advance knowledge and transform lives through collaborative learning and responsive engagement with peoples and communities around the globe. We look forward to continuing our support of faculty and student research and scholarship in the coming year and the exciting opportunities that lay ahead.

Robert S. Glew, PhD
Director

Center for Advanced Study of International Development

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Mastercard Foundation/African Youth

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The TED-style panel discussions and breakout sessions at the Young Africa Works Summit focused on three sub-themes: mixed livelihoods, youth financial services, and demand-driven skills. On the second day of the conference, University Foundation Professor Thomas Jayne from the MSU Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics spoke as part of the plenary panel titled “Policy and Partnership: Systemic Factors Affecting Youth in Agriculture.”

Professor Jayne, an expert on poverty reduction policies in Africa, supervised Thelma Namonje’s research when she was graduate student at MSU in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics until her graduation in 2014. In addition to co-facilitating the conference, Ms. Namonje attended the conference as a MasterCard Foundation Scholar Program youth delegate representing Zambia. Current MasterCard Foundation Scholar and a sophomore studying agribusiness at MSU Hepsiba Chepnego attended the conference as youth delegate representing Kenya. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Director and Assistant Dean for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU Robert Glew also participated in the Cape Town Conference.



Thelma Namonje speaks at the Young Africa Works Summit in Cape Town, South Africa.

Photo by Alexia Webster for The MasterCard Foundation.

“Agriculture is the backbone of Africa’s economy. Its improvement means a better economy, better education, better health care, better infrastructure, and a better Africa”.

— Hepsiba Chepnego, MSU MasterCard Foundation Scholar

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program is part of a \$500 million initiative to provide talented, yet financially disadvantaged youth—especially those from Africa—with access to high-quality education. Michigan State University has partnered with The MasterCard Foundation on this initiative since it was first introduced in 2012. Throughout the nine-year program, MSU will receive \$45 million and host 185 African scholars.

The MasterCard Foundation is an independent, private foundation based in Toronto, Canada that advances microfinance and youth learning to promote financial inclusion and prosperity. Through collaboration with committed partners in 46 countries, the foundation is helping provide opportunities for educational and professional success to people living in poverty.

MasterCard Foundation Scholars are young people with a commitment to develop their leadership skills and pursue a path that contributes to the growth and development of Africa. The scholars receive comprehensive support for travel, tuition, housing, and living expenses. Additionally, scholars participate in signature cohort programs, including overseas internships, leadership training, and service learning. In 2015, MSU welcomed its fourth cohort of scholars, which included 20 undergraduates and 12 master’s degree graduate students.

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU is being guided and supported by a team of experienced principle investigators: Associate Provost and Dean of International Studies and Programs Steve Hanson, Director of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and Assistant Dean for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU Robert Glew, Associate Director of Admissions Patricia Croom, and Professor of Anthropology James Pritchett.

MSU’s Commitment to Africa and African Scholars

MSU is committed to sharing knowledge and seeking institutional partners to find practical solutions to the major problems facing Africa today, including hunger, malnutrition, and youth unemployment. The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program has further strengthened MSU’s engagement with Africa; scholars are returning to Africa with the knowledge and skills to make real change in their communities and across the continent.



MasterCard Foundation Scholars at MSU discuss professional regional cooperation as part of the Leadership Academy for African Development series.

2014-15 MasterCard Foundation Scholars

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ebenezer Ansah

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program:
Community Sustainability

Jorem Awadu

Home Country: Uganda
Degree Program:
Rehabilitation Counseling

Makafui Borbi

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program: Food Science

Walamatien Coulibaly

Home Country: Cote d'Ivoire
Degree Program:
Business Administration

Ange Kakpo

Home Country: Benin
Degree Program: Agricultural, Food,
and Resource Economics

Caroline Latona

Home Country: Nigeria
Degree Program: Advertising

Rose Mnzava

Home Country: Tanzania
Degree Program:
Rehabilitation Counseling

Bienvenu Muneza

Home Country: Rwanda
Degree Program: Fisheries and Wildlife

Jean Nisengwe

Home Country: Rwanda
Degree Program:
Community Sustainability

Eva Tetteh

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program: Public Policy

Jimmy Varetta

Home Country: Malawi
Degree Program:
Clinical Laboratory Science

Pauline Wambua

Home Country: Kenya
Degree Program: Public Policy

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Nana Abena Anti

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program: Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology

Arhin Acheampong

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program: Criminal Justice

Momodou Bah

Home Country: Gambia
Degree Program: Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology/Biotechnology

Hepsiba Chepngeno

Home Country: Kenya
Degree Program:
Agribusiness Management

Oswald Chisala

Home Country: Zambia
Degree Program:
Mechanical Engineering

The 2015-16
MSU MasterCard
Foundation Scholars

Roberta Dankyi

Home Country: Ghana
Degree Program: Nursing

Claire Gapare

Home Country: Zimbabwe
Degree Program: Neuroscience

Joyce Goodluck

Home Country: Rwanda
Degree Program: Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology/Biotechnology

Amanuel Goshu

Home Country: Ethiopia
Degree Program: Computer Engineering

Rellika Kisiyula

Home Country: Kenya
Degree Program: Media and Information

Orwell Madovi

Home Country: Zimbabwe
Degree Program: Electrical Engineering

Lucas Manhice

Home Country: Mozambique
Degree Program: Civil Engineering

Amal Matovu

Home Country: Botswana
Degree Program: Environmental
Economics and Policy

Millicent Mlauzi

Home Country: Zimbabwe
Degree Program: Civil Engineering

Rachel Nanteza

Home Country: Uganda
Degree Program: Civil and Environmental
Engineering

Yusuf Njoroge

Home Country: Kenya
Degree Program: Chemical Engineering

Wambali Nkhwazi

Home Country: Malawi
Degree Program: Nutrition Science

Lerato Rametse

Home Country: South Africa
Degree Program: Psychology

Hannatu Sadiq

Home Country: Nigeria
Degree Program: Chemical Engineering

Espoir Tuyisenge

Home Country: Rwanda
Degree Program:
Agribusiness Management



MasterCard Foundation Scholars Council Coordinator

SPOTLIGHT: Jennifer Brewer

Jennifer Brewer, the international program coordinator for the Center for Advanced Study of International Development, has been selected by The MasterCard Foundation and Michigan State University to support The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Council. Jennifer works directly with The MasterCard Foundation Manager of the Scholars Community Ashley Collier to provide direction and guidance to council members from partner institutions around the world.

The MasterCard Foundation Council is made up of one elected student representative from each partner institution. The council's mission is to build, connect, and strengthen the scholars' community—and its vision for transformative leadership—by creating opportunities for engagement, information sharing, and social responsibility. The council convenes twice yearly and is made up of four committees: social exchange, mentorship, communications, and strategic planning. Members join a committee based on their personal interests and individual skill set. Throughout their term, council representatives work collaboratively with one another, the foundation, and scholars within the network on scholar-led program enhancement and outreach projects.



Jennifer Brewer and MSU's 2015-2016 Scholars Council Representative Arhin Acheampong at the February meeting of The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Council at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Joseph Ajao, Nigeria

(MBA 2015, Eli Broad College of Business)



Before coming to Michigan State University, Joseph worked at Rocket Internet, a technology incubator in Nigeria. Rocket Internet's drive to create

opportunities for Nigerian entrepreneurs inspired him to pursue a master's degree in business administration and develop the financial skills needed to work in the venture capital industry. Joseph is working to develop his own investment fund to support new and early-stage technology companies in Nigeria.

Chiwimbo Gwenambira, Zimbabwe

(MS 2015, College of Natural Resources)



Chiwimbo, who majored in crop and soil sciences, works with Africa RISING, a program designed to provide pathways out of hunger and poverty for

small holder families through intensified farming systems. After completing her master's degree, she decided to continue her studies and is enrolled in the doctoral program in crop and soil sciences at Michigan State University.

Meet the Newest MSU MasterCard Foundation Scholars

ALUMNI

Timothy Ikime, Kenya

(MS 2015, College of Natural Science)



Timothy majored in zoology and currently works for the Kenya Wildlife Service. His passion is to protect the diverse wildlife resources in Kenya currently

under threat from poaching, biodiversity loss, and habitat destruction. Timothy's goals include pursuing a doctorate in natural resource management and encouraging young scholars to pursue a career in wildlife conservation.

Rosette Nakalema, Uganda

(MS 2015, College of Natural Resources)



Rosette studied food science and technology and plans to address malnutrition and hunger in Uganda by enhancing the nutritional value of the foods

consumed. She is currently undergoing optional practical training, working as a dietician in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Rosette would like to pursue a doctoral degree and eventually teach at Makerere University in Uganda.

Roland Ofori, Ghana

(MS 2015, College of Natural Resources)



Before coming to MSU, Roland worked in the Energy, Oil, and Gas Unit at the Ministry of Finance in Accra, Ghana. At Michigan State University, he studied

agricultural, food, and resource economics. Roland is currently working in his department on research projects but plans to return to Ghana and use his skills to help the ministry develop meaningful and effective approaches to managing Ghana's petroleum revenues.

David Makacha, Zimbabwe

(MA 2015, College of Communications Arts and Sciences)



David studied public relations and is currently pursuing opportunities to earn a doctoral degree. He has taught at the National University of Science and Technology

in Zimbabwe. David hopes to establish a public relations consulting firm in Zimbabwe and create local employment opportunities.

Timothy Nakedde, Uganda

(MS 2015, Interdepartmental)



Inspired by the Ugandan National Agricultural Research Organization's work to address problems such as disease and drought, Timothy

majored in plant breeding, genetics, and biotechnology. He is currently working with his academic adviser on research projects but plans to return to Uganda to conduct agricultural research on pests, diseases, and low crop yields.

Veronica Uzalili, Malawi

(MS 2015, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources)



Veronica majored in entomology. After receiving her master's degree, she returned to Malawi to work in vector-borne disease research and participate in

advocacy work to lower the national high school dropout rate. Veronica plans to earn a doctorate in entomology, become a professor of entomology in Malawi, and help inspire and train future African scientists.

MasterCard Foundation Scholars Present on Summer Internships in Africa

In the fall of 2015, Michigan State University (MSU) MasterCard Foundation Scholars presented information and reflections on their summer internships in Africa through a series of public forums for their peers and campus partners.

An integral component of The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program is the commitment from the scholars to give back to their communities to create positive social and economic change. During their studies at MSU, undergraduate and graduate scholars participate in innovative leadership workshops and internships in Africa. The internships allow MasterCard Foundation Scholars the opportunity to demonstrate their dedication to the continent and gain the workforce skills needed to secure a job upon graduation.

Seventeen undergraduate and 12 graduate scholars completed internships in 15 different countries—making this group of scholars the largest cohort placed in African internships through The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU thus far. Scholars expanded their expertise by working with corporations, organizations, and programs that are making an impact in key areas, such as global health, the environment, energy, education, and food security. The scholars also participated in service engagement events and developed social or business entrepreneurship ideas during the course of their internships. For more information about The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU, see mcfscholars.isp.msu.edu.



Undergraduate student Hailu Abreha from Ethiopia is studying biomedical laboratory science. This past summer, he interned as a research scientist at Bethel Teaching Hospital in Ethiopia. Of the experience he said, "I have identified some of the areas I can contribute in the future once I start to work back in my country. This helped me to focus my attention towards some of the lab techniques that are needed in Ethiopia. In a country where HIV/AIDS is prevalent, fungal infections can be a prime health concern, shortening the life expectancy of AIDS patients. Proper mycology laboratories will greatly contribute to improve their life expectancy."



Makafui Borbi, a graduate student from Ghana studying food science, made time outside of her internship to engage in her community for an important reason: "There has been a dramatic increase in the school dropout rate over the years, particularly among female students. In light of this, the chief executive of my home district launched a program dubbed Save Our Girls. To support this initiative, I gave a comprehensive and interactive presentation entitled 'Dream Big, Get Determined and Persist: My Educational Experience from Dekpoe L/A to Michigan State University.' It was an exciting experience and a great joy to see students, accompanied by their parents and teachers, showing great interest in pursuing higher education. They were eager to hear what I had to say before and during the presentation, and they all were so motivated and empowered thereafter."

Panel Examines Land Investment Policy in Africa

Land investment policy is a growing area of interest for researchers and policy makers in Africa. In November, the Center for Advanced Study of International Development supported a panel discussion on the topic for faculty and students. The presentation, titled "Responsible Investments in Land in Africa," was organized by The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at Michigan State University Career Development Manager Laura Wise.

Panelists included Tizai Mauto, Gretchen Niesler, Kwame Kwame Yeboah, and John Kerr.

Tizai Mauto is a land tenure specialist at Landesa, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing land rights reforms through policy and legal change. Dr. Mauto is currently working on responsible land investment projects in Ghana and Tanzania. His expertise is rural development, land use planning, mixed-methods research, and international development. Gretchen Niesler, the director of the Center for Global Connections in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources and an assistant professor in the School of Planning, Design and Construction, has created partnerships with academic institutions in the Middle East, West and East Africa, and Southeast Asia. Felix Kwame Yeboah, an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, researches agricultural policy in relation to agricultural productivity and poverty reduction strategies in Africa. John Kerr, a professor in the Department of Community Sustainability, studies international agricultural development, natural resource management, collective action, and property rights in developing countries. The program was also co-sponsored by the Center for Global Connections in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources; the Center for Gender in Global Context; and Landesa.



The MasterCard Scholars Program at MSU Career Development Manager Laura Wise introducing Tizai Mauto, Gretchen Niesler, Felix Kwame Yeboah, and John Kerr.

Expanding Internship and Career Placement Opportunities in Africa for African Scholars

Undergraduate and graduate MasterCard Foundation Scholars participate in innovative internships in Africa and receive career education and placement support designed to meet the scholars' goal to return and give back to their home country. To identify additional internship and career placement opportunities, as well as to gain industry-specific insights into what employers in Africa seek in candidates, Michigan State University (MSU) faculty and staff traveled to Ghana in 2014 and Rwanda in 2015. The trip to Ghana included Laura Wise, the career development manager for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU, and Dr. Robert Glew, the director of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development. The trip to Rwanda included Laura Wise and Dr. Sheba Onchiri, The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU academic advisor and student support services specialist.

In Ghana and Rwanda, teams met with a variety of Africa-based organizations and businesses. These engagements yielded a wealth of recommendations and new career placement opportunities for the scholars. In-country site visits included institutions of higher education, research

facilities, hospitals, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations such as the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. MSU faculty and staff also held meetings with entrepreneurs and start-ups. The visits allowed the teams from MSU to reconnect with network partners, including Ashesi University College in Ghana, Forum for African Women Educationalists Rwanda, Camfed Ghana, as well as MSU alumni and families of MasterCard Foundation Scholars.

MSU faculty and staff found that organizations and businesses in both Ghana and Rwanda valued scholars who were self-sufficient and civic-minded. Employers repeatedly cited the need for scholars to demonstrate intentional goal setting, have practical hands-on

learning experiences, and be innovative problem solvers—emphasizing their interest in entrepreneurial development as opposed to government employment. They also learned that internship sites and employers encourage scholars to help co-design their internships and positions, when appropriate.

With lessons learned from these trips, MSU has been able to expand and improve programmatic support for Africa-based internships and career placements for its scholars. Career education programming for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU continues to be aligned with the needs and demands of Africa-based employers and targeted to the professional futures of the scholars who are dedicated to going back and giving back to Africa.

Laura Wise, the career development manager for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU, reconnects with MasterCard Foundation Scholar Mavis Dome (left) who returned to her home country of Ghana in 2014 and now works as a research officer with the Center for Democratic Development, a policy research and advocacy organization dedicated to the promotion of democracy, good governance, and economic opportunity in Ghana and Africa.





Left to right: The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU Program Manager Isaac Kalumbu, Balindile Motsa, Hafsa Abass, The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at MSU Academic Advisor and Student Support Specialist Sheba Onchiri, Perpetual Koech (seated), Agnes Ntapara, and Hepsiba Chepngeno working at the Hunter Park Garden House in Lansing.

MSU MasterCard Foundation Scholars Give Back to the Community with a Day of Service

On November 7, 2015, The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program at Michigan State University (MSU) took part in The MasterCard Foundation Day of Service, which coincided with MSU's Spartan Day of Service. The MasterCard Foundation Scholars demonstrated their commitment to serving their community by branching out across the region to donate their time and energy to those in need.

The scholars spent the day assisting nonprofit and community service organizations around mid-Michigan, including Haven House, Hospice of Lansing, Hunter Park Garden House,

the Red Cross, Cristo Rey and Foster Community Centers, Nyaka AIDS Orphan Project, and the Allen Neighborhood Center. Each service experience was unique: Some scholars watched children at Haven House, a family shelter in East Lansing, so the parents had time to attend to tasks for their families; others painted rooms for the Red Cross offices in Lansing. Across town, another group of scholars raked leaves for Hospice of Lansing as well as at a local homeless shelter, while scholars also helped groom horses at the Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center.

A month after The MasterCard Foundation Day of Service, the scholars presented

their reflections to MSU faculty, staff, and their fellow scholars. Although the scholars participated in different service activities, each presentation had unifying themes—collaboration, teamwork, organization, compassion, service, social responsibility, and community engagement. In particular, the scholars noted that even small acts of service to the community can make a difference. Likewise, many of the scholars discussed how a person can demonstrate leadership in many different ways. The scholars also expressed their wish to continue serving their communities while at MSU and after they return to Africa.

Arthur Muneza:

Sticking my neck out

For any project to be successful, the local people need to be involved. I experienced this first-hand when I was hosted by the Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP) in south central Tanzania. The Ruaha Carnivore Project runs a program that involves taking local residents into the [Ruaha] National Park for a safari and exposure to the types of research that RCP conducts. I was in Ruaha as a member of the Research on the Ecology of Carnivores and their Prey (RECaP) Laboratory at MSU. What RECaP and RCP have in common is that they both focus on innovative community-based conservation projects and finding ways to mitigate the decline of carnivores. Through RCP's park trip initiative, I had the privilege of exposing six teachers from the local schools to my research in Ruaha National Park....

I am studying a mysterious giraffe skin disease that affects the limbs of giraffes. The affected areas become wrinkly and develop lesions. Tanzania National Parks officials have done some groundwork on the disease but the causative agent of the disease is yet to be identified. I spent the summer [2015] in Ruaha taking high-resolution photos of the right side of giraffes in order to assess the proportion of animals affected by the disease, the severity and manifestation of the disease. I am also looking for any indications of lion attacks because we suspect that the disease is making affected giraffes more vulnerable to lion attacks. Such signs include claw marks, bite marks and missing tails, all of which indicate a failed predator attack.

And so, Ayubu Msago, RCP's community liaison officer, and I set out with the teachers to show them the beauty of the park and explain the research. As you would expect, these trips really resonate with the locals. Shortly after our arrival in the park, we were welcomed by baboons making a spectacle crossing the Greater Ruaha River, with crocodiles basking on the banks of



Giraffe at Ruaha National Park in Tanzania. Photo by Arthur Muneza.

the river. It was really amazing to see female baboons jumping several meters in the air with babies clutching tightly onto them. We also had several sightings of lions. Ruaha is home to 10 percent of the world's remaining global lion population.... Other animals we spotted on the day included zebras, impalas, greater kudus, elephants, banded mongooses, hornbills, African fish eagles, vultures and many others.

After seeing some giraffes, the local residents began to understand our concern about the disease affecting the giraffe population. ... Msago and I shared some useful information with them, including the fact that there are fewer than 80,000 giraffes left in the wild and that June 21 was chosen by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation to mark World Giraffe Day. It's the longest day of the year, so it has become a day to raise awareness about the plight of giraffes across the world. By inviting local teachers to the park and spending time with them, we are surely doing our bit to stick our necks out for giraffes.

This is an abridged version of an article that appeared on MSU Today June 14, 2015.

Local teachers explore Ruaha National Park in Tanzania with MasterCard Foundation Scholar Arthur Muneza (far right). Photo by Ayubu Msago.



MSU's Tanzania Partnership Program

The MSU Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP) is a long-term collaborative alliance of local and international organizations dedicated to improving local livelihoods and promoting community resiliency in Tanzania. TPP addresses community-identified needs through a participatory and integrated approach that draws on local and international expertise. This approach provides fertile ground for development-related research, forms the foundation for development activities, and opens a space for a community engagement-focused study aboard program. TPP began its work in two pilot villages in 2009—Milola, in the southern region of Lindi, and Naitolia, in the northern region of Arusha. In 2015, TPP began to expand its efforts to adjacent villages. With support from TPP funders, including the program's primary funders Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky, and overseas partners, TPP is making a difference in these communities by promoting increased access to quality education; improving health, sanitation, and hygiene; supporting greater access to and better quality of water; increasing agricultural production and food security; and improving animal health and productivity.



Mothers and children in the Milola B subvillage of Ngwenya. Photo by Diane Ruonavaara.

Educational Access and Quality

In 2015, TPP supported research on girls' education, early childhood education, and teacher professional development. This research coupled with the communities' requests for TPP assistance resulted in several educational projects.

TPP continues to support school farms that provide food for school feeding programs at pre-primary and primary schools in the two villages. In Milola, parents, teachers, and students grow maize and beans for food and sesame for sale. Proceeds from the sales go to purchase additional food. The northern village of Naitolia is in a drought-prone

region of the country. In 2015, parents and students started a 3-acre school farm to grow drought-tolerant crops such as green gram, a high-protein legume, and ngwara, a drought-resistant cow pea. Parents also contributed to the school feeding program with donations of maize and beans. If crops fail due to lack of rains, TPP is ready to provide help by purchasing food to ensure that pupils get a least one meal a day.

In Ngwenya, a subvillage of Milola, TPP supported the construction of a duplex for teachers at the pre-primary school, which was built by TPP in 2013. Prior to completion of the housing units, the

teacher was walking over 5 miles to the new school. Each housing unit includes a kitchen, living area, latrine, rainwater harvesting system, and solar electricity. At the same time, the villagers constructed a two-room temporary classroom from local materials to house the additional grades. In addition, TPP provided funds to construct a school kitchen with a fuel-efficient stove; mothers volunteer to cook the school lunches and collect firewood. The school is serving a remote area of Milola where few, if any, children had gone to school. When the school opened, 92 children enrolled. Now there are three grades with 103 pupils and three teachers.

Continued on Page 14



The Monduli District planning officer works with community members on a participatory mapping projects. *Photo by Diane Ruonavaara.*

Tanzania Partnership Program

Continued from Page 13

To ensure a high quality education, teachers and students need support from effective school managers. In 2015, TPP provided the secondary school board, primary school leaders, and primary school committees with training on effective school management, communications, and decision-making.

Health, Sanitation, and Hygiene

TPP implemented a new pilot project in 2015 to improve maternal and infant mortality rates: Access to Safer Childbirth in Rural Tanzania. The project aims to educate women on reproductive health and safe delivery methods, encourage them to give birth at the local clinic, and provide delivery kits with the supplies needed during delivery. The kits, containing antibacterial soap, hand sanitizer, menstrual pads, string, razor blades, plastic gloves, and baby blankets,

are being handed out during prenatal visits, with the hope that the women will return to the clinic for additional prenatal and perinatal care, as well as for delivery.

In Tanzania, only 38 percent of schools have latrines, and only 10 percent have hand washing facilities; Milola is no exception. In 2015, TPP constructed three ventilated improved pit latrines, one at each school. The latrines are painted with colorful educational murals explaining the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene. Next to the latrine doors are handwashing stations to improve hygiene and help reduce the spread of communicable diseases.

Animal Health

Naitolia is an agropastoralist community. Zoonotic diseases—diseases that pass from animals to humans—are a constant threat. In 2014, TPP, along with the Naitolia community and Monduli District government, built a cattle dip to reduce

the incidence of tick-borne diseases. The dip is managed by trained community animal health workers and the newly created animal health committee. By 2016, more than 34,300 cattle, goats, and sheep had been treated at the dip.

Evidence-Based Research

TPP employs a model of integrated evidenced-based research and development that leverages collaboration between Tanzanian and MSU researchers to expand knowledge while informing the practice of development. In 2015, research awards were given to graduate students and faculty from MSU and the University of Dar es Salaam College of Education for projects focusing on community health, education, natural resource conservation, and land use. The projects implemented in 2015 included:

- Emiliana Mwita, a faculty member at the University of Dar es Salaam College of Education, conducted research entitled

"Girls' Educational Achievement and Challenges: A Case Study of Milola Ward, Lindi Rural District—Tanzania" to understand girls' educational goals and discover the challenges they face when seeking an education. She identified several areas for culturally appropriate interventions, including girls clubs and explaining the importance of education to parents.

- Bethany Wilinski, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Teacher Education, carried out preliminary research on the day-to-day experiences of Tanzanian pre-primary teachers, looking at opportunities and challenges in their professional lives. The findings of this research will provide insight into the type of training and ongoing support needed to build capacity among pre-primary teachers.
- Tula Ngasala, a doctoral student in the MSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, along with study abroad students, conducted research to identify the sources of drinking water contamination, including poor wastewater management, livestock management, and agricultural activities. The research recommended educational projects and changes in water management and hygiene practices to improve water quality.
- Maria Lopez, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Community Sustainability, and Amber Pearson, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Geography, researched



A student in Ngwenya using the hand washing station. *Photo by Mary Malekela.*

the different actors (organizations, committees, associations, etc.) and institutions (property rights, policies, informal rules, etc.) that play a role in the natural resources and agriculture management in Mswakini Ward and how these relations interact at different levels. This analysis included an investigation into the institutional decision-making process in regards to natural resource conservation and development programs.

- Amber Pearson, an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Geography, conducted research on water access during the wet and dry seasons in the village of Naitolia. Using GPS coordinates, Dr. Pearson identified sources of water used by villagers, the accessibility of various water sources depending on the season, and calculated the distance to water during both seasons.
- Patty Peek, an associate emeritus professor from the MSU College of Nursing, and MSU College of Nursing Associate Dean for Research Barbara Smith conducted a needs assessment on reproductive health in Naitolia and Milola. They interviewed women, girls, school health teachers and committees, district medical and health officers, and health clinic staff in both the communities. Based on findings, the team developed the Access to Safer Childbirth in Rural Tanzania Project.
- Cloé Garanche; an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; Maria

Lopez; an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Community Sustainability; and Amber Pearson; an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Geography, conducted research to explore the roles and actions of institutions and organizations in the area as they relate to community resource management. They also studied community features and natural resources through participatory mapping and developed an organizational diagram of institutions working in or interacting with Naitolia.

- Three students from the University of Dar es Salaam conducted research on their dissertations: Felix Aidan Rwegashora ("Assessment of Land Use Changes and Tenure in the Area Around Naitolia: The Case of Naitolia Village Monduli, Arusha"), Beatus Mbago ("Management of Natural Forests and Impact of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation [REDD] Pilot Project Initiatives in Addressing Rural Community Livelihoods: The Case of Milola Magharibi and Milola B Villages in Lindi"), and Hyasinta Paul ("Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change Impact of Small Scale Farmers and Adaptation Strategies in Monduli").

TPP's innovative approach to sustainable development has brought about remarkable changes in Milola and Naitolia. The facilitated engagement and collaboration among MSU and international researchers, students, and community members continues to shape a positive future for these Tanzanian villages.



One of the ventilated improved pit latrines with murals explaining proper sanitation and hygiene constructed by TPP in 2015. *Photo by Diane Ruonavaara.*



The 2015 MSU Kolschowsky Scholars with Dr. Choti. *Photo by Kristen Gmerek.*

MSU-Tanzania Partnership Program Supports Study Abroad in Tanzania

The Michigan State University (MSU)-Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP) supports a successful study abroad program in Tanzania. The program, Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania (SCDT), gives students the opportunity to learn a hands-on community engagement approach to development in a Tanzanian context. SCDT offers students two interrelated opportunities: (1) undergraduate student scholars work with faculty and graduate student leaders in community development and collaborative research

projects using a community engagement approach; and (2) graduate student leaders receive support for programs in areas related to the sustainable community development initiatives of TPP. The SCDT program is generously funded by Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky. In 2015, six undergraduate students received Kolschowsky Scholarships to participate in the SCDT study abroad program.

SCDT is at the forefront of MSU and TPP's efforts to embed community engagement principles into the university's study abroad

experience. The program is designed to increase community capacity and improve community well-being, while providing a transformational experience for MSU and Tanzanian students. SCDT is run in partnership with members of the northern village of Naitolia, the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

Students and faculty from MSU, UDSM, and SUA work together with the community to organize, manage, and complete development and research projects. The



MSU Kolschowsky Scholars Jane Ahlborn and Clare O'Kane take water samples.
Photo by Kristen Gmerek.

“My experience in Tanzania gave me first-hand insight into putting community development theory into practice. It allowed me the opportunity to connect with cultures across the world and build relationships with them.”

Elise Caruso, 2015 Michigan State University Kolschowsky Scholar

projects vary depending on the immediate needs of the community and the interests of the students. Students learn about the history of development in Tanzania, different approaches to development, and receive linguistic training in Kiswahili. To culturally orient and deepen students' connection to the community, the SCDT program includes a homestay with local families. Students gain friendships and form academic partnerships that are likely to continue long after the program has ended.

In 2015, SCDT focused on several community development projects in Naitolia. The students researched water scarcity and quality, agriculture, and animal health in the village, and conducted interviews with girls and women about reproductive health. In addition, they took part in the renovation of a classroom and created study aids, such as large painted diagrams of human anatomy, for the primary school in Naitolia.

The 2015 faculty lead for SCDT was Jonathan Choti, an instructor in the MSU Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages. Graduate student leaders Tula Ngasala, a doctoral student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Jessica Ott, a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology, assisted Dr. Choti. University of Dar es Salaam faculty leads were Emily Mwita from the UDSM College of Education, Faustin Maganga from the Institute of Resources Assessment at UDSM, and Sharadhuli Idd Kimera from SUA. They worked with graduate student leaders Linda Munisi and Neovitus Singa, who are both master's students studying natural resource assessment at UDSM. For more information on the study abroad program and how to become a Kolschowsky Scholar, contact Dr. Choti by email at chotijon@msu.edu.

2015 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY KOLSCHOWSKY SCHOLARS

Jane Ahlborn

International Relations

Hannah Boyke

Social Relations and Policy

Elise Caruso

Psychology

Kristin Gmerek

Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities

Clare O'Kane

Comparative Culture and Politics

Rheanne Pecsénye

International Relations

2015 UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SCHOLARS

Happiness Joshua

Dismas George

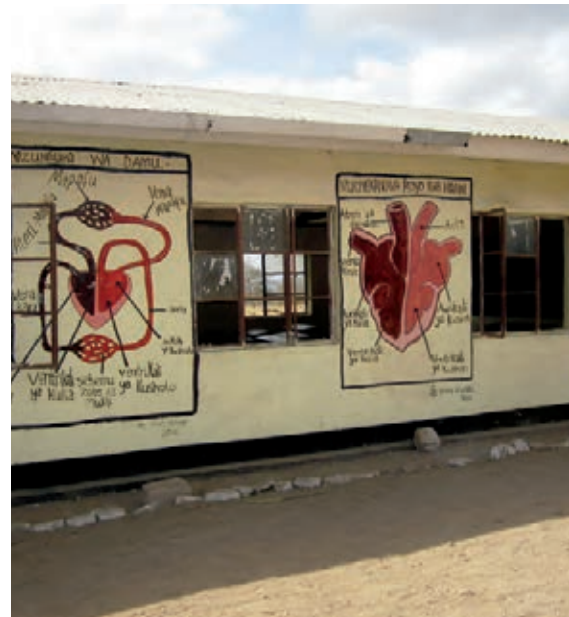
Stanley Stafford

2015 SOKOINE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE SCHOLARS

Faraja Ngendelo

Michale Lingofu

Isaya Kibaya



Wall diagrams on the Naitolia primary school. Photo by Kristen Gmerek.

SPOTLIGHT: Jonathan Choti,

Department of Linguistics and Germanic,
Slavic, Asian, and African Languages

Jonathan Choti is an instructor in Michigan State University's (MSU) Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages. He is also the lead faculty of an MSU Tanzania study abroad program, Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania. Dr. Choti obtained a bachelor of arts degree in sociology, English, and Swahili and a master of arts in English language and linguistics from Egerton University, Kenya. He went on to receive his doctorate in linguistics from MSU.

Dr. Choti has been a high school Swahili and English teacher in Kenya, a management communication lecturer

at Kenya's School of Government, Lower Kabete, and a linguistics lecturer at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya. Some of his duties at Kenya's School of Government included guiding trainees in research proposal writing and supervising student projects, most of which focused on rural community development. Dr. Choti's research centers on the phonology of Bantu languages and sociolinguistics (the relationship between language and society). He teaches Swahili language and an integrative course that focuses on African cultures, languages, and literature under the Integrative Arts and Humanities Program.



Study Abroad Students Raise Money to Feed Students in Tanzania

Over the summer of 2015, six Michigan State University (MSU) students selected as Kolschowsky Scholars traveled to Tanzania to learn participatory and integrated approaches to development as part of the Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania Study Abroad Program. The scholars were profoundly impacted by their experience living and working in the Maasai village of Naitolia, which was suffering from a severe dry season. While the village is capable of feeding itself during the wet season, the recent dry period had drastically limited harvest yields and the villagers' ability to maintain the school feeding program. Many school children in Naitolia were not eating during the school day, affecting their ability to concentrate and learn.

The MSU Kolschowsky Scholars were deeply troubled by the children's hunger and made a commitment to help the village raise enough money to support the school feeding program through two dry seasons. After returning to MSU, the scholars worked with MSU Crowdpower and successfully raised the needed \$5,000. The MSU Kolschowsky Scholars' ability to identify a local need and their dedication to their host community will ensure school children in Naitolia receive a proper school lunch for the next two years. For more information on the scholars' fundraising effort, see givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/naitolia-feeding-program.cfm.

The MSU Tanzanian Partnership Project Brings Learning Playgrounds to Milola

The Tanzanian Partnership Project (TPP) recently partnered with an outside nongovernmental organization, Play360, to create and implement an innovative project—A Place to Play, A Place to Learn: The Tanzania School Playground and Sports Project. The playgrounds are part of Michigan State University's Tanzania Partnership Project (TPP), a long-term collaborative alliance of local and international organizations dedicated to improving local livelihoods and promoting community resiliency in Tanzania. A Place to Play, A Place to Learn: The Tanzania School Playground and Sports Project was generously funded by Ray Ginther.

As part of A Place to Play, A Place to Learn, TPP Project Manager Diane Ruonavaara and Jon Racek, the executive director of Play 320, collaborated with TPP's in-country partners to design and construct three playgrounds, a soccer field, and a netball pitch in the village of Milola in southern Tanzania. Physical education is not part of the national

curriculum in Tanzania, which focuses on memorization-based learning, and when children are at home, their time is usually spent helping their families with essential chores. The playgrounds establish safe environments to encourage children to practice both structured and unstructured play, as well as spaces for teachers to promote interactive learning.



Beginning in early August of 2015, Mary Malekela, the TPP in-country program officer, and Ashura Salum, the TPP site program officer in Tanzania, worked with community partners to clear the land and gather project materials. A group of ten villagers was hired as the core construction team. Brightly colored logs and tires, brought in from nearby Dar es Salaam and Lindi, were painted with animals, lowercase and uppercase letters, numbers, math operation signs, and celestial images. Metal pipes, also from local sources, became slides and a large xylophone. Volunteers of every age helped prepare the materials and assemble the playgrounds and pitches.

In an auspicious development, Maregesi Machumu from the University of Dar es Salaam's College of Education, who trained Milola school teachers how to use the playgrounds in their lessons, later met with members of the Tanzania Ministry of Education to explain how the learning playground could be used in other Tanzanian communities.





2015-16 MSU Humphrey Fellows on the MSU Campus. From left to right: Ventura Mufume, Roman Opimakh, Ximena Mora, Serge Ekani, Zohrab Ismayil, Adama Ouedraogo, Ramziya Muborakshoeva, Coulibaly Ba Aliou, Kouakou Bruno Tano, Inna Remizova, and Hanan Hasan

Leaders for a Global Society

MSU Humphrey Fellowship Program 2015-2016

The Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 by President Carter to honor the accomplishments of the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated countries to the United States for a year of study and related professional experiences. The goal of the program is to foster knowledge, mutual understanding, and provide a basis for long-lasting relationships between citizens of the United States and their professional counterparts in other countries. Based on their professional interests, fellows are placed at select universities. Michigan State University (MSU) has been hosting Humphrey Fellows since 2002.

MSU Humphrey Fellows focus their studies on issues related to economic development, finance, and banking, while also participating in professional skill-building activities. MSU is one of two hosts in the area of economic development. Other universities host fellows in the areas of urban planning and resource management, education, communications and journalism, public administration, agriculture, law and human rights, and public health. Since its inception, 5,063 fellows from 158 countries have participated at 46 host campuses. This year, there are 167 fellows from 90 countries at the 15 current host campuses.

Significant contributions to MSU's Humphrey Fellowship Program are made by the College of Social Science; the Eli Broad College of Business; the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; the Department of Economics; the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; the Institute of International Agriculture; the Office of International Studies and Programs; and the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). The MSU program is administered by CASID and led by the center's director, Dr. Robert Glew, with Beth Mugavero acting as program manager. For more information about the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at MSU, visit the CASID website at casid.isp.msu.edu/Humphrey.htm.

Hanan Hasan, Bahrain

Hanan Hasan is a planning and business development analyst at the Labor Fund (Tamkeen). She evaluates business proposals to ensure optimal economic impact, including foreign direct investments and joint ventures between foreign and local investors. Ms. Hasan is interested in developing medium, small, and microenterprise support strategies and policies with the aim of fostering private sector growth.

Zohrab Ismayil, Azerbaijan

Zohrab Ismayil is the chairman of the board for the Public Association for Assistance to Free Economy. He is interested in oil revenue uses, public investments, diversification of the economy, and exports in Azerbaijan. His ultimate goal is to research and introduce new policies regarding oil revenue use, economic development, and export diversification.

Adama Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso

Adama Ouedraogo is the director of policy formulation at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handicraft in Burkina Faso. He formulates policies and strategies to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Mr. Ouedraogo is interested in economic development, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, agribusiness, and public-private partnerships.

Ventura Mufume, Mozambique

Ventura Mufume is a freelance development consultant. He previously worked as a planning, monitoring, and evaluation manager with the U.S. government-funded Millennium Challenge Account and as a monitoring, evaluation, and learning manager at the Financial Sector Deepening Mozambique. Mr. Mufume is interested in economic development in relation to development program evaluation that fosters a culture of transparency, accountability, and promotes country ownership of development initiatives.

Kouakou Bruno Tano, Cote d'Ivoire

Kouakou Bruno Tano is a senior macroeconomist for the Cabinet to the Minister of Economy and Finances. His responsibilities include management of the International Monetary Fund-approved economic and financial program for Cote d'Ivoire. He also manages reforms to the retirement system and coordinates all macroeconomic issues for the Cabinet to the Minister. Mr. Tano is interested in designing and implementing economic and financial policies, especially the key reforms necessary to boost and sustain economic growth in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ximena Mora, Ecuador

Ximena Mora is a corporate social responsibility advisor at Nilotex. She provides leadership and advocacy to build the reputation, influence, and profits of the company. In addition, she works as a consultant for nonprofit organizations and governments to create investment projects. Ms. Mora is interested in sustainable development, with an emphasis on value chains and inclusive business models. Her ultimate goal is to develop, foster, and promote management systems that create business opportunities resulting in poverty reduction in low-income communities.

Roman Opimakh, Ukraine

Roman Opimakh is a coordinator at the oil and gas sector of the Presidential Economic Reforms Center as well as an advisor to the Minister of Energy in Ukraine. In these roles, he provides guidance, coordinates reforms, and manages interactions with the oil and gas industry. He aims to ensure long-term competitive advantages and to make the energy business more valuable by focusing on the hydrocarbon industry. Mr. Opimakh is interested in energy security through international best practices and improved public administration systems.

Ramziya Muborakshoeva, Tajikistan

Ramziya Muborakshoeva is a human resource manager at the University of Central Asia (Tajikistan). She leads the human resources division, managing over 300 employees. Ms. Muborakshoeva is interested in human resource management, recruitment, retention, and employee relations.

Coulibaly Ba Aliou, Mauritania

Coulibaly Ba Aliou is a national coordinator for the Mauritania Publish What You Pay Coalition. He supervises the implementation of projects related to the impact of natural resource exploitation. Mr. Ba Aliou is interested in promoting transparent and accountable management of natural resources.

Inna Remizova, Ukraine

Inna Remizova is a deputy division head in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. She analyzes and forecasts macroeconomic indicators and advises on economic situations and risks. Ms. Remizova is interested in the structural imbalances in the economy, macroeconomic analysis and forecasts, evaluation of risks, and global challenges.

Serge Englebert Ekani, Cameroon

Serge Englebert Ekani served as a senior state auditor at the Supreme State Audit Office for the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon. He worked toward accountability and responsibility in government service, state-owned corporations, and local government authorities. Mr. Ekani's major areas of interest were ethics, finance, and audit techniques.

**In Memoriam of****Serge Ekani**

It is with great sadness that we announce Humphrey Fellow Serge Ekani passed away on February 22, 2016 at the age of 46. Mr. Ekani spent his career fighting for increased transparency and accountability in the governance of his country, both as a senior state auditor and as a Humphrey Fellow. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant, a committed Humphrey Fellow, and a dear friend, and his presence will be dearly missed.

MSU Humphrey Fellowship Program Expands Partnership with Lansing Community College



MSU Humphrey Fellows join Lansing Community College's Student Leadership Academy and faculty, CASID staff, as well as local government and business leaders, for a panel discussion and reception. *Photo by Courtney Baker/Lansing Community College Marketing.*

Michigan State University's Humphrey Fellowship Program and Lansing Community College (LCC) have expanded their cooperative agreement. The Associate Campus Partnership was formed in 2011 with three main goals: to broaden Humphrey Fellows' exposure to American students and faculty, to increase intercultural interactions amongst the students and faculty of LCC, and to demonstrate educational and economic development models that are minority-serving and incorporate workforce development.

An important feature of the Associate Campus Partnership is the tour of the LCC technical campus, led by LCC's technical training directors, and followed by a reception with technical and academic faculty. The October 2015 event introduced the fellows to LCC's role in merging regional economic development initiatives and workforce development to promote sustainable growth. Additionally, fellows learned about formalized vocational education, labor relations policies, funding sources, environmental initiatives, and public-private partnerships. As part of the day's activities, LCC hosted a panel that included Bill Motz, a professor of business and economics at Lansing Community College, Sam Singh, a member in the State of Michigan House of Representatives, Steve Willobee, the chief operating officer for the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Sagar Sheth, the president of Moebius Technology, and David Schwinn, a professor of business and economics at Lansing Community College.

In 2015, the partnership expanded to more fully integrate the greater Humphrey themes of leadership development,

community service, professional development, and the promotion of intercultural exchange. Working with LCC's Center for Engaged Inclusion, MSU Humphrey Fellows now participate in the Courageous Conversations and Difficult Dialogues lecture series. The lecture series examines how race, religion, and culture affect attitudes and various aspects of American life—giving a fuller picture of what being an American might mean to subcultures.

Fellows also took part in a networking reception with the Center for Teaching Excellence where they brainstormed and planned how they might assist LCC faculty by sharing information about their country and field. In addition, center workshops on grant writing and engaged pedagogy are now open to the fellows.

A third component of the expanded relationship between the MSU Humphrey Fellowship Program and LCC is the fellows' involvement with LCC's Student Leadership Academy. The group is comprised of first- and second-year students who, like the Humphrey Fellows, have demonstrated community leadership as well as academic achievement. While the fellows and the students are in very different places in their careers, they have common objectives, such as leadership development and community service, which transcend age, national origin, and social status. Student Leadership Academy students and Humphrey Fellows work together on community service projects, mentor one another, and exchange key ideas.





The MSU Japan Club shows attendees of World Language Day how to make sushi.

Michigan High School Students Travel the World in a Day

Hundreds of Michigan high school and community college students came to Michigan State University (MSU) on March 28, 2015 to learn about world languages and cultures at the eighth annual World Language Day. The event, which is free for all participants, encourages high school sophomores and juniors, as well as their parents and teachers, to explore the global community through a variety of sessions that focus on the language or culture of a country, globalization, the importance of learning foreign languages, and international career paths. MSU faculty, graduate students, and members of the community led more than 77 sessions. Topics ranged from how to make sushi to learning Swahili. Participants also had a chance to eat in campus dining halls and meet with current MSU students and World Language Day volunteers. World Language Day is organized by the MSU Center for Language Education and Research. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development, along with other MSU units, is pleased to continue to support this exciting event.

2015 WORLD LANGUAGE DAY SESSIONS INCLUDED:

- **What's it Really Like in the Peace Corps?**
- **From Sushi to Crazy Kats: A Taste of Japan!**
- **Explore Brazilian Culture**
- **Learn German with Music**
- **You Know More Swahili Than You Think!**
- **Beszélsz Magyarul? Hungarian: A Unique Language and Culture in the Heart of Europe**
- **Can You Speak Italian While Sitting on Your Hands**
- **Nikokh: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Uzbekistan but Were Afraid to Ask**
- **Saigon: Pearl of the Far East**
- **Discover Indonesia: The World's Largest Archipelago**



CASID Announces New Undergraduate Minor

In the fall of 2015, the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the College of Social Science began offering a new undergraduate minor, global studies in social science, for students who want to add a global interdisciplinary element to their coursework and learn how global systems and cultures influence international relations and national trends.

Students take a minimum of 15 credits in courses that are 200 level or above from across the College of Social Science and other units at the university. Advisors with the College of Social Science help students select courses. These courses must include at least two global conceptual courses that are usually thematic and cover more than one world region. In addition, students will complete a minimum of one course focusing on a single geographic area: Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Europe, or Latin America and the Caribbean.

An important element of the global studies in social science minor is the requirement that all students demonstrate proficiency in a modern foreign language equivalent to four semesters of a single language. Students also take their knowledge out of the traditional classroom setting and apply it in a field experience, internship, independent study, or by writing a thesis. The minor culminates with a global studies capstone seminar students select with their advisor. For more information, see casid.isp.msu.edu/academic/undergrad_specialization.htm.



2015 newly accepted MSU Peace Corps volunteers: (left to right) Brandon Cannon, Madeline Valentine, Nick Russon, Nikole Vannest, Les Thomas Jr., and Colton Radenbaugh.

MSU Celebrates Students Selected for Peace Corps Service

During the 2015-16 academic year, a new cohort of Michigan State University (MSU) students were selected to serve as Peace Corps volunteers—continuing MSU's tradition as the sixth all-time producer of volunteers. Newly selected students were recognized at an MSU Cowles House reception in April 2015. The reception gave students and their families the opportunity to celebrate, meet one another, and learn about the Peace Corps experience from returned Peace Corps volunteers.

Currently, 33 MSU alumni are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 40 countries. "Peace Corps' work—helping to reduce poverty, fostering economic growth, and building relationships in some of the most vulnerable communities across the globe—has never before been more important," said Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. MSU alumni serve in all six volunteer sectors: agriculture, education, environment, health, community economic development, and youth in development. Since 1961, 2,357 MSU alumni have served as Peace Corps volunteers.

The MSU Peace Corps Recruiting Office is administered by the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and located in room 202 of the MSU International Center. To learn more about Peace Corps, contact a campus recruiter by calling 517-432-7474 or send an email to msupeace@msu.edu. Recruiters' office hours and upcoming events are listed on the MSU Peace Corps Facebook page at facebook.com/MSUPeaceCorps.

MSU Offers Two Peace Corps Master's International Programs

Since 2006, Michigan State University (MSU) and Peace Corps have partnered to make two Peace Corps Master's International programs available to students. These programs incorporate Peace Corps service as credit toward a master's degree. Students begin their studies on campus, serve overseas with the Peace Corps for two years, then return to MSU to finish their graduate work. As part of their Peace Corps service, student volunteers work on projects related to their studies.



Dr. Eric Crawford coordinates the Peace Corps Master's International program for the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; Dr. Robert Richardson organizes the program for the Department of Community Sustainability. These graduate programs attract global-minded students to the university, while helping Peace Corps meet host countries' need for skilled professionals to serve and assist communities in key areas, such as agriculture and food security. There are currently eight students participating in MSU's Peace Corps Master's International programs. The programs just welcomed back volunteers who completed their service in Benin, Uganda, Peru, and Senegal.

The MSU Peace Corps Recruiting Office is administered by the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and located in room 202 of the MSU International Center. To learn more about Peace Corps, please call 517-432-7474 or email msupeace@msu.edu. Recruiters' office hours and upcoming events are listed on the MSU Peace Corps Facebook page at facebook.com/MSUPeaceCorps.

Peace Corps Ambassador Program Helps Students Consider International Service

Brian Whaley served as the 2015-16 campus ambassador for the Michigan State University (MSU) Peace Corps Office, providing information about the Peace Corps to the thousands of Spartans on campus. Since his first trip abroad, Brian has been interested in gaining a deeper cultural understanding of the world by living outside the United States. Combined with his passion for community service and development, Brian was drawn to the opportunities Peace Corps offers recent college graduates; he also wanted to spread the word to his friends and peers at Michigan State. On campus, many students are contemplating their future beyond graduation. As a campus ambassador, Brian's job was to encourage students to consider the Peace Corps as an exciting and tangible option. Whether their passion is health, education, or the environment, students can conveniently learn more about serving abroad with the Peace Corps on their own campus by speaking with an MSU Peace Corps ambassador or a recruiter. After graduating with a degree in human physiology and a minor in global public health, Brian will begin working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin. To learn more about the MSU Peace Corps Ambassador Program, contact the MSU Peace Corps Office at 517-432-7474 or email msupeace@msu.edu.



Returned Peace Corps volunteer Elena Dulys (left), Peace Corps recruiter Erika Kraus (center) and Peace Corps ambassador Brian Whaley (right).

Peace Corps Recruiters SPOTLIGHT:

Elena Dulys

Elena Dulys earned her bachelor's degree in environmental policy and planning at Virginia Tech and worked in food systems sustainability until she joined a Peace Corps Master's International program at Michigan State University in 2012. After finishing a year of coursework in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics' MS program, Elena departed to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama. For two years, she focused primarily on food security and farm productivity.

She also worked as a coffee extension agent, mathematics tutor, community organizer, and agribusiness lecturer. During her time in Panama, Elena managed a successful rural aqueduct project to rebuild and extend a water channel for the community. Elena returned to Michigan to finish her studies at MSU in the summer of 2015.



Elena Dulys (center) served as a sustainable agriculture extension volunteer in Panama from 2013-15. She served as an on-campus Peace Corps recruiter at MSU in the fall of 2015.

Erika Kraus

Erika Kraus joined Michigan State University's (MSU) Peace Corps Office in the fall of 2015. As a campus recruiter, she provides information to students who want to learn more about the Peace Corps. After graduating with a bachelor's degrees in biology and French from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas in 2005, Erika traveled to Benin, in West Africa, as a Peace Corps environmental action volunteer. In Benin, she worked in a garden and a tree nursery, creating gardening and composting projects for the local community, as well as coordinating with local NGOs to develop waste management projects. Erika also took part in a project to reforest groves that the community valued for their religious significance. She explains, "I really enjoyed the project, and the topic of sacred groves impressed me so much that I have pursued it academically and am currently researching sacred groves in Benin... It's an important topic in Benin and throughout the continent." While volunteering with the Peace Corps, Erika found time to play basketball at the high school and organize cultural trips through the local library. After returning to the U.S., she earned a master's degree in African and African American studies at the University of Kansas and is now working toward a PhD in forestry at MSU. To speak with Erika about opportunities with Peace Corps, contact her at msupeace@msu.edu.



Erika Kraus (center) served in the Peace Corps as an environmental action volunteer from 2005-08. Now she works as the on-campus recruiter at MSU.



Professor Frances Vavrus from the University of Minnesota presents "The Cultural Politics of Policy: The 2014 Tanzania Education and Training Policy as Cultural Text."



Professor Joel Samoff from Stanford University presents "Innovation and Constraint: Counter-Currents in Tanzanian Education."



Associate Professor Jennifer Olson from MSU presents "Information and Communications Technology and the 2014 Education and Training Policy."

MSU Faculty and Students Take a Closer Look at Tanzanian Education

In September of 2015, the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) co-sponsored a day of panels and presentations on Tanzania's recent education reforms, known as the Education and Training Policy of 2014. Introduced by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete in February 2014, the policy updated the last large-scale education reform package, which was completed in 1995. The new policy reforms include mandated pre-primary education, regulation on arbitrary fees charged by private schools, changes to the entrance age for pre-primary and primary school, elimination of a leaving exam for primary students, promotion of Kiswahili as the language of instruction for the entire educational

system, and adoption of a single book for each subject across the nation.

The forum, *Tanzanian Education Beyond 2014: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead*, began with an introduction by MSU Assistant Professor Bethany Wilinski who described Tanzanian education and Michigan State University's (MSU) educational activities through the Tanzania Partnership Program. Next, faculty and graduate students led a panel discussion on the implications of the recent reforms. The panel included MSU Associate Professor Deogratias Ngonyani from the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages, as well as the Center for Gender in Global Context

Assistant Director Amy Jamison. Educational policy graduate students Alyssa Morley and Douglas McFalls completed the panel. The forum also featured presentations by Professor Frances Vavrus from the University of Minnesota, Associate Professor Jennifer Olson from MSU, and Professor Joel Samoff from Stanford University.

In addition to CASID, the program was sponsored by the Tanzania Partnership Program, the Office of International Studies in Education, the Center for Gender in Global Context, the African Studies Center, and the Department of Teacher Education.

Students Participate in the Second Annual Model African Union Conference at MSU



On April 10, 2015, students gathered at the Michigan State University (MSU) International Center for the Second Annual Model African Union Conference. This year's conference, organized by the MSU African Student Leadership Association, was titled Rethinking the Developmental Agenda of Africa. The conference focused on gender relations, the impact of security issues, development, agriculture, food security, and land grabbing. Students participated in a model African Union simulation and interacted with faculty in a panel discussion. MSU faculty members who took part in the conference included Professor Rita Kiki Edozie from James Madison College; Professor John Staatz from the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Dean Steve Esquith. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development continues to support this program along with the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities; the Department of African American and African Studies; the Associated Students of MSU; the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; the MSU African Studies Center; and James Madison College.

CASID Supports Conference on Sustainable Light Technologies

At the end of October, the Global Business Club of Mid-Michigan hosted a two-day conference focusing on the creation of sustainable sources of light. The Global Business Club of Mid-Michigan partnered with the Greater Lansing United Nations Association to bring about this special event. Sustainably Lighting the World: A Conference on Light and Light-Based Technologies began with a dinner and keynote address at the Abrams Planetarium by Daniel Nocera, the Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy at Harvard University. The Executive Director of United Nations Foundation Advocacy and Global Health Director of the Better

World Campaign Michael Beard also spoke during the evening program.

Dr. Nocera, who taught in the Michigan State University (MSU) Department of Chemistry from 1984-1997, is recognized as a leader in renewable energy research. His research team developed a process known as proton-coupled electron transfer, which applies elements of photosynthesis to create a solar leaf that generates energy. Development practitioners see great potential for the leaf to be used to generate energy in emergent nations because the leaf is lightweight, and easy to manufacture and distribute. In fact, the United Nations recognized Dr. Nocera's research for its contribution to the field of renewable energy and awarded him the United Nations Science and Technology Award in 2009.

The second day of the conference featured talks by academics, policy makers, and business professionals working in the area of light technology and sustainable business. The Dean of

International Studies and Programs Steve Hanson opened the day's program. Richard Chylla, the executive director of MSU Technologies, discussed MSU's role in bringing research technology applications to the public. From the Department of Chemistry, Assistant Professor Richard Lunt, Professor James McCusker, Associate Professor Thomas Hamann, Associate Professor Warren Beck, and Assistant Professor Remi Beaulac spoke. In addition, Professor Chong-Yu Ruan from the Department of Physics and Astronomy as well as Hannah Distinguished Professor David Kramer's group from the Plant Research Laboratory also took part in the event.

The Center for Advanced Study of International Development is proud to support the MSU International Business Center and the Global Business Club of Mid-Michigan's programming. Other campus co-sponsors of Sustainably Lighting the World: A Conference on Light and Light-Based Technologies included the Center of Research Excellence in Complex Materials and International Studies and Programs.

The Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy at Harvard University Daniel Nocera was the keynote speaker at Sustainably Lighting the World: A Conference on Light and Light-Based Technologies. *Photo courtesy of Harvard University.*



CASID Co-Sponsors the 11th Biennial International Business Institute for Community College Faculty

The International Business Institute for Community College Faculty (IBI) is a unique professional development program designed specifically for community and technical college faculty. The 11th biennial convening of the institute, which was held in June 2015, was organized by the International Business Center (CIBER) at Michigan State University (MSU). Thirty business faculty from community colleges across the country participated in the event.

The program provided participants with the knowledge, experience, and resources they need to internationalize general business courses and develop specialized international business courses at the two-year college level. Presentations at the institute were conducted by business, government, and academic experts on topics such as international business trends, trade and regulation, economics, finance, marketing, and business in key global regions. Area studies faculty and international trade practitioners presented information on important countries and world regions: The Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America were all highlighted. Faculty members provided the context for business people to discuss their experiences in these regions and gave advice to businesses exploring these markets for the first time. Participants within the same discipline broke into small groups and worked together to identify the competencies needed to internationalize course syllabi and to develop supporting instructional materials and activities.

Presenters from MSU included Tomas Hult, the director of the MSU International Business Center, Sarah Singer, a specialist at the MSU International Business Center, Carl Liedholm, a professor in the Department of Economics, Ahmet Kirca, an associate professor in the Department of Marketing, Siddharth Chandra, the director of the Asian Studies Center, Lisa Cook, an associate professor at James Madison College, Manual Chavez, a professor from the Department of Journalism, Kirt Butler, an associate professor from the Department of Finance, and Brenda Sternquist, a professor from the Department of Marketing. The Center for the Advanced Study of International Development is proud to co-sponsor this event with CIBER and other MSU units, including the Center for Gender in Global Context as well as University Outreach and Engagement.



Participants from the 11th Biennial International Business Institute for Community College Faculty.



CASID Supports International Programming at Community Colleges

The Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) is a self-funded consortium of two-year colleges based at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Its primary objective is to support curriculum and professional development for community college faculty. As part of this effort, MIIE offers faculty from post-secondary institutions intensive week-long learning programs to discuss ways to internationalize the curriculum at their home institutions. In the summer of 2015, the consortium held two workshops: Global Stewardship, Norms, and Values from August 3-7, followed by Global Migrations and Transnational Networks from August 10-14.

The MIIE 2015 workshops included presentations by Michigan State University faculty: Andrea Allen, the associate director for the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Scot Yoder, an associate professor in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, and Marisa Rinkus from the Center for Gender in Global Context. MIIE is offering two week-long curriculum workshops in the summer of 2016—Global Energy, Natural Resources, and Sustainability, along with Global Competition, Cooperation, and Conflict.

CASID is proud to co-sponsor the MIIE summer workshops along with the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context, the African Studies Center, and the Asian Studies Center.

CASID Supports International Workshop on Global Sustainability

For three days at the end of February, Michigan State University (MSU) hosted an innovative international workshop. Participants from Asia, Europe, and North and South America attended the International Workshop on Future Earth—Science and Technology for Society. Jiaguo Qi, a professor in the Department of Geography and the director for the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations, developed the interdisciplinary workshop as part of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability's Future Earth initiative. The alliance is a partnership between the International Council for Science; the International Social Science Council; the Belmont Forum; the Sustainable Development Solutions Network; the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; the Science and Technology in Society Forum; the United Nations Environmental Programme; the United Nations University; and the World Meteorological Organization.

The Future Earth initiative encourages researchers to evaluate the risks created by global environmental change and

develop opportunities to work towards global sustainability. The challenges put forth in the initiative include:

- Water, energy, and food systems interactions
- Decarbonize socio-economic systems
- Safeguard the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine natural assets
- Build healthy, resilient, and productive cities
- Promote sustainable rural futures
- Improve human health by understanding complex environmental interactions
- Encourage sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Increase social resilience to future natural threats

With support from the Belmont Forum, along with partners from Brazil, China, and the United Kingdom, the International Workshop on Future Earth—Science and Technology for Society addressed these key areas of global sustainable development. At the workshop, academics, government officials, and individuals working for nongovernmental organizations discussed funding options and project ideas, in addition to collaborating on

current research. Participants divided into two groups: One group began developing a proposal to research dryland regions, including comparing the Pan-Asian dryland to similar regions in Australia, the U.S., Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, and Ukraine. A second group explored coordinating their research on the socioecological systems of dryland regions.



The Director of the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations Jiaguo Qi addresses attendees at the International Workshop on Future Earth—Science and Technology for Society. *Photo by Jackie Hawthorn, Michigan State University.*



Participants at the International Workshop on Future Earth—Science and Technology for Society. *Photo by Jackie Hawthorn, Michigan State University.*

Five MSU units sponsored the workshop: the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations, the Environmental Science and Policy Program, International Studies and Programs, and the College of Social Science. Professor Qi, Jinhua Zhao, a professor in the Department of Economics, Jiquan Chen, a professor in the Department of Geography, and CASID Director Robert Glew organized the workshop. Former Dean of the College of Social Science Marietta Baba, International Studies and Programs Associate Dean DeAndra Beck, and Assistant Vice President for the Office of Interdisciplinary Research and Internal Grants Doug Gage introduced the event, which included participating faculty from several MSU departments.

International Centers Celebrate Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Awardees

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide funding from the U.S. Department of Education to undergraduate and graduate students to study languages that meet the critical need for language specialists in American education, government, and other policy-focused organizations. The Center for the Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) and the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) awarded 26 FLAS Fellowships for the summer of 2015 and the 2015-16 academic year; this is the largest group of awardees CASID and GenCen have ever supported. The CASID and GenCen FLAS Fellowships specifically support students who combine advanced study of a foreign language with training in international development studies or in aspects of international development within other fields of study.

On September 16, faculty and staff from CASID, GenCen, the Asian Studies Center, and the African Studies Center gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of current

FLAS awardees and FLAS alumni. The reception provided students the chance to get to know fellow FLAS awardees who share common experiences as advanced foreign language students. Many of the awardees study a similar language or have lived in the same region of the world.

Robert Glew, the director of CASID, Siddharth Chandra, the director of the Asian Studies Center, and Jamie Monson, the director of the African Studies Center, all delivered remarks. Three current and former FLAS Fellows described their experiences learning a foreign language and living abroad: Caleb Owen, a doctoral candidate in history who studied Swahili; Elena Herfi, a graduate of Michigan State University in comparative cultures and politics, and Arabic; and Jessica Ott, a doctoral student in anthropology who studied Swahili. For information on the 2017-18 CASID and GenCen FLAS Fellowship competition, see casid.isp.msu.edu.



Director of the MSU African Studies Center Jamie Monson addresses attendees of the 2015 FLAS Reception.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Awardees

2015-16 Graduate Academic Year FLAS Fellowship Awards

- **Kyle Craig**—Anthropology, Arabic
- **Jessica Ott**—Anthropology, Swahili
- **Eddie Glayzer**—Anthropology, Korean
- **Douglas McFalls**—Education, Swahili
- **Sabrina Perlman**—Anthropology, Twi

2015-16 Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS Fellowship Awards

- **Andrea Ayala**—Comparative Culture and Politics, Portuguese
- **Zachary Bezemek**—Computer Engineering, Japanese
- **Megan Burnham**—James Madison College, Russian

- **Cori Matsui**—Jazz Studies, Arabic
- **Kristen Gmerek**—Global and Area Studies, Swahili
- **Sarah Hartlieb**—Psychology, Russian
- **Paige Henderson**—Computer Science and Engineering, Arabic
- **Harrison Jones**—James Madison College, Arabic
- **Evan Karlson**—History, Russian
- **Austin Martin**—Human Biology, French
- **James Millar**—James Madison College, Russian
- **Christian Okeefe**—Global and Area Studies, Japanese
- **Rochelle Rivera**—School of Social Work, Portuguese
- **Karl Schneider**—James Madison College, Portuguese
- **Patrick Sedlmayr**—Business School/Management, Portuguese



Director of the MSU Asian Studies Center Siddharth Chandra speaks with FLAS Awardees at the 2015 FLAS Reception.

2015 Graduate Summer FLAS Fellowship Awards

- **Jessica Ott**—Anthropology, Swahili
- **Judith Marshall**—History, Arabic
- **Kyle Craig**—Anthropology, Arabic
- **Janelle Edwards**—African American and African Studies, Portuguese

2015 Undergraduate Summer FLAS Fellowship Awards

- **Stephanie Saba**—Arabic, Arabic
- **Taylor Koonce**—Biosystems Engineering, Chinese



LATTICE participants in 2015.

LATTICE: Linking All Types of Teachers to International and Cross-Cultural Education

LATTICE (Linking All Types of Teachers to International and Cross-Cultural Education) is an award-winning study group that brings together local K-12 teachers, international graduate students, and MSU faculty and staff to learn about global issues and to bring a global perspective to local primary and secondary classrooms. The goal of LATTICE is to promote global learning by facilitating discussions and presentations on global issues with creative, but practical, connections to K-12 education.

LATTICE works to facilitate detailed, contextual exploration of global issues and current events, linking a wide range of social, cultural, economic and political topics from international perspectives. Participants meet monthly for an interactive program that focuses on a global topic. Meetings often involve small group discussions, panels, presentations, and personal stories. In 2015, LATTICE participants engaged with topics such as girls' education around the world, instructional technology, the Syrian crisis, and global censorship and free speech. LATTICE is supported by the Center for Advanced Study of International Development, the African Studies Center, the Asian Studies Center, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center for Gender in Global Context,



the College of Education, the Graduate School, International Studies and Programs, Ingham County Intermediate School District, and participating school districts. To learn more about LATTICE, visit their website at latticeworld.org. If you would like to get involved with LATTICE, contact lattice@msu.edu or look for MSU LATTICE on Facebook.

MSU Faculty Member Co-Organizes International Labor Relations Conference in Vietnam

With support from the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Julie Brockman, an associate professor in the School of Human Resources and Labor Relations, assisted in planning the International Conference on Labor Relations and Dispute Resolution at Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Dr. Brockman also presented her research at the March conference along with other labor relations faculty and practitioners from around the world. The conference brought together Vietnamese and international academic, government, and NGO leaders to present 22 research papers, which will be published in the university journal, as well as to share ideas about improving labor relations in Vietnam. Vietnamese attendees included members of the Ministry of Labor, the national trade union, the nation employer association, Betterwork Vietnam, the Fair Labor Association, legal aid programs, and law firms. Along with CASID, co-sponsors of the conference included the Michigan State University School of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Cornell University, Penn State University, New York University College of Law, California State University-Monterey Bay, and the International Labor Organization.



Associate Professor Julie Brockman with Ha Dang, a technical advisor for the Fair Labor Association, at the International Conference on Labor Relations and Dispute Resolution in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Congratulations to MSU's Student Fulbright–Hays Award Recipients

The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Awards fund graduate students conducting international research in a less-commonly taught language. The awards provide between six and twelve months of dissertation research support. In 2015, two Michigan State University (MSU) graduate students received Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Awards to conduct their research.

Alyssa Morley—Education Policy
Dissertation Title: “How Primary School Teachers in Malawi Negotiate and Enact Messages About Their Work”
Country: Malawi
Languages: Chichewa and Chitembuka

Elizabeth Timbs—History
Dissertation Title: “Manipulations of Masculinity: Gendering Zulu Identity from Shaka Zulu to the Age of HIV/AIDS”
Country: South Africa
Language: isiZulu

Several other MSU graduate students also received funding under the U.S. Student Fulbright Program, a competition funded by the State Department and run by the Institute for International Education. The four doctoral candidates, Brian Van Wyck, John Milstead, Julie Fleishman, and Sabrina Pearlman, will use the fellowships for dissertation data collection. Other Fulbright Fellowship awardees include Evan Milton, a fourth-year medical student at the MSU College of Human Medicine, Ethan Shirley, a student working towards a law degree and a master's degree, and a recent graduate, Sarah Garman, who received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship.

Brian Van Wyck—History
Country: Germany
Research Topic: Turkish minority in Germany

John Milstead—History
Country: Mexico
Research Topic: Nineteenth century Afro-Mexican political culture

Julie Fleishman—Anthropology
Country: Cambodia
Research Topic: Khmer Rouge atrocities examined through cranial remains

Sabrina Pearlman—Anthropology
Country: Ghana
Research Topic: Diabetes care in Ghana

Evan Milton—College of Human Medicine
Country: Honduras
Research Topic: Public health and improvements to medical care in Honduras

Ethan Shirley—Fisheries and Wildlife and the MSU College of Law
Country: Brazil
Research Topic: Environmental studies in the Pantanal region

Sarah Garman—Recent graduate with degrees in German and English as a Second Language
Country: Germany
Position: English teacher

Congratulations to the MSU students who received awards. A new Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad competition for awards ranging from six to twelve months began in February 2016. Interested students should contact Roger Bresnahan, the MSU Fulbright advisor, at bresnaha@msu.edu.



Gary Burniske, the managing director for the Center for Global Food Security, speaks to MSU graduate students and CASID International Program Coordinator Jennifer Brewer about the U.S. Borlaug Global Food Security Research Program.

MSU Students Learn About Food Security Research Grant Opportunities

In September, CASID organized an information session for graduate students to learn about the U.S. Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security Research Program. Gary Burniske, the managing director for the Center for Global Food Security, described the program and explained the application process to the students. The grant program provides \$15,000 to \$46,000 for graduate research on global hunger and food security.

Students receiving the grant focus part of their research in a developing country where they work collaboratively with a mentor from an international agriculture center, national-level research institution, or at a university. The U.S. Borlaug Global Food Security program is open to students from a wide range of fields, including agriculture, business, economics, technology, the humanities, engineering, and health. Matt Berry—a doctoral candidate in plant breeding, genetics, and biotechnology—received a Borlaug Fellowship in Global Food Security in the spring of 2015 for his research in Tanzania.

Mr. Burniske also provided information on the Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security. At no cost to the students, this two-week program provides an opportunity for students attending U.S. institutions to learn about the conceptual challenges involved in global food security. For more information on the U.S. Borlaug Global Food Security Research Grant Program or the Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security, see purdue.edu/discoverypark/food/borlaugfellows/index.php.

FACULTY Spotlight



Bethany Wilinski

Department of Teacher Education

Bethany Wilinski joined Michigan State University (MSU) in January 2015 as an assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education, where she teaches courses on diversity and inequality in schooling, comparative education, and qualitative research methods. She has a doctorate in educational policy studies as well as curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in international educational development from Columbia University's Teachers College. Dr. Wilinski's research focus is early childhood education policy in Tanzania and the U.S.

For the past ten years, Dr. Wilinski has been working on education projects in Tanzania. Working as a primary school teacher in Bukoba for two years sparked her interest in Tanzanian education. While pursuing her master's degree, Dr. Wilinski worked as part of a team that developed and implemented the award-winning teacher training workshop Teaching in Action, which focuses on supporting Tanzanian teachers in the use of participatory teaching methods.

Dr. Wilinski brings her experience as a teacher, teacher trainer, and curriculum developer in Tanzania to her current role as education sector lead for the Tanzania Partnership Program. In collaboration with colleagues at MSU and in Tanzania, she is developing education interventions for children in rural Tanzania that focus on improving girls' access to education, developing teacher capacity, and increasing access to preschool.

Currently, Dr. Wilinski's research project in Tanzania is a longitudinal study of pre-primary teacher training. Like many nations around the globe, Tanzania is currently working to expand access to pre-primary school and improve the quality of its pre-primary teaching force. This study follows a cohort of students training to be pre-primary teachers

through their three-year diploma course and out into the field in order to understand the relationship between students' experiences as teachers-in-training and what happens after they join the teaching force. In addition to this international work, Dr. Wilinski is conducting a study of parent engagement policy in Michigan's public pre-kindergarten program and writing a book based on her dissertation research, tentatively titled "When PreK Comes to School: Teachers Negotiate the Politics of PreK."



Amber L. Pearson

Department of Geography

Amber Pearson is a health geographer with a focus on social justice and understanding the unexpected tenacity, adaptability, and resilience of the underprivileged. She has diverse regional interests, from poor to wealthy countries.

In 2014, Dr. Pearson joined MSU's Department of Geography and the Environmental Science and Public Policy Program as part of MSU's Global Water Initiative. She moved to Michigan after working for five years as a researcher in New Zealand. There, she was a postdoctoral researcher in the GeoHealth Laboratory in Christchurch, where she researched aspects of the built, physical, and social environments of communities that bolster health in the face of adversity—or community resilience. Ironically, during this time, she also experienced the major Christchurch earthquakes of 2011—in fact, there were over 10,000 quakes with a magnitude of 3.0 or higher during that time—and she was able to explore the realities of community resilience firsthand. Following her postdoctoral fellowship, she took a research scientist position at the Otago Medical School in Wellington, evaluating the cost effectiveness

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FACULTY Spotlight

Amber L. Pearson

Continued from Page 33

of health policy interventions, with the goal of reducing health inequalities, notably between Māori (indigenous New Zealanders) and non-Māori.

Much of her New Zealand research focuses on health inequalities, yet Dr. Pearson has also had an explicit focus on water-health-resilience issues for the past 15 years, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. In the hopes of detecting common environmental exposures, she researched activity spaces of Buruli ulcer patients in Ghana while working on her master of science degree. During her master of public health and doctoral studies, she evaluated the water quality of newly emerging water sources in Uganda. These water sources emerged as a result of land privatization and forced settlement of nomadic pastoralists. In her research, she used a novel method for assessing fecal contamination to test whether it might be practical for determining relative quality. Equally important to the poor quality of the drinking water, Dr. Pearson found that the communities also suffered from inadequate water supply. She therefore turned her attention to the complex coping strategies and the dynamic

social systems through which access to water was allocated over time. Likewise, she explored the resilience of these Ugandan communities in negotiating access to adequate water during times of scarcity. The results of this work indicate that even in communities with very poor environmental conditions, social networks and community relationships are essential for coping with scarcity and maintaining health.

Since joining MSU, she has started two new projects. In the summer of 2015, she conducted participatory mapping to help in water resource planning efforts in a Maasai community in the Arusha region of Tanzania. She will also be working in Ticul, the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, where the karstic underground makes sanitation difficult and makes drinking water highly vulnerable to contamination. As a result, Ticul has very high diarrheal disease incidence. Dr. Pearson will be working to assess exposure, in the hopes of preventing future disease. These water quality and quantity projects will also explicitly consider potential exacerbations related to increasing land temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, major storm events, and the adaptability and resilience of those affected.



Peilei Fan School of Planning, Design and Construction

Dr. Peilei Fan is an associate professor of urban and regional planning. She joined the School of Planning, Design and Construction at Michigan State University (MSU) in 2007. She also holds a joint research appointment at the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations and is an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Geography. She has a doctorate in economic development and a master of science in electrical engineering and computer science, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before she joined MSU, Dr. Fan worked as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellow at the United Nations University in Tokyo. She has also served as a consultant/economist for the United Nations University–World Institute for Development Economics Research and the Asia Development Bank on innovation and economic development in emerging countries (China and India in particular) and urbanization in Asia.

Dr. Fan's research focuses on international development and planning, specifically urbanization, economic development, and environmental changes in Asian countries and cities; she has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles in these areas. She is particularly interested in the urbanization process, the socioeconomic driving forces, and the evolutions of coupled human and natural systems. In addition, she serves as an associate editor for three international academic journals. Dr. Fan's research projects: "Urbanization and Sustainability Under Global Change and Transitional Economies: Synthesis from Southeast, East, and North Asia (SENA)," "China's Urbanization and Its Sustainability Under Future Climate Change," and "Chinese Way of Innovation" have been funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Fan's current research project, funded by NASA's Land Cover and Land Use Change Program, examines 17 major cities in seven transitional economies in SENA, including Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos), Myanmar, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, and the Asian part of Russia (Siberia). These countries have experienced liberalization, macroeconomic stabilization, restructuring and privatization, and legal and institutional reforms over the past three decades. The project will synthesize the data and knowledge on urban sustainability with the socioeconomic transformations and changing climates of transitional economies in SENA. To find out more about Dr. Fan's research, see msu.edu/~fanpeile.

Deo Ngonyani

Department of Linguistics and Germanic,
Slavic, Asian, and African Languages

Deo Ngonyani is an associate professor in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages at Michigan State University and a member of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development's Faculty Advisory Committee. He obtained his bachelor of arts in education from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and a doctorate in linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Ngonyani teaches Swahili, undergraduate courses in linguistic morphology, and graduate seminars on the structure of Bantu languages, including Swahili.

Dr. Ngonyani's primary research interests are in language documentation, word structure in world languages, and Swahili studies in general. He has also published on the use of metaphors in discourse, including political discourse. Currently, he is researching aspects of

Swahili verbal derivations, as well as on the metaphors and rhetorical devices in the first president of Tanzania's speeches and writings. Dr. Ngonyani has conducted research in his native Tanzania and Kenya.

The pervasive use of metaphors in everyday language has become a subject of intense discussion in studies of discourse. In Tanzania, former President Julius Nyerere, the first president of the country, achieved legendary success in molding a national identity by creating a new nationalist narrative. Dr. Ngonyani is studying the symbolism that President Nyerere used with issues such as immigration, socialism, segregation, and ethnicity. Often Julius Nyerere's position was diametrically opposed to popular public sentiments. Nyerere consciously sought to groom the Tanzanian identity and minimize the detrimental effects of competing ethnic or regional identities by framing the debates in a language that his people could easily relate to. He harnessed powerful indigenous symbolism and metaphors while appealing to the collective experience of an oppressed people to make his point.

Dr. Ngonyani is involved in efforts to document the languages of Tanzania and preserve them for posterity. With globalization and the spread of the major languages of the world, languages of small communities are under tremendous pressure. More and more languages are not acquired by children and are on the way to extinction. Dr. Ngonyani argues that languages are depositories of local knowledge, providing a unique outlook on speech communities. They are the expressions of how communities thrive or survive in different environments. The death of any language, therefore, is a loss of immense knowledge.

In the past seven years, Dr. Ngonyani has directed the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program for intensive advanced Swahili summer study in Tanzania. This national program draws students from all over the nation and provides a unique immersion opportunity for students to learn the Swahili language and experience East African culture.



Graduate Student Alumni News

Allison Loconto Sociology

Allison Loconto graduated from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2010 with a doctorate in sociology (focusing on food, environment, agriculture, science, and technology) and a graduate specialization in gender, justice, and environmental change. While at MSU, Dr. Loconto was a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow studying Kiswahili through the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the Center for Gender in Global Context. Dr. Loconto used Kiswahili to conduct interviews for her dissertation research on how the values of sustainability, responsibility, and gender equity were enacted in certified Tanzanian tea value chains. She has published the results of this research in *Science, Technology & Human Values*, *The Journal of Cleaner Production*, and *Feminist Economics*.

After graduation, Dr. Loconto joined the French National Institute for Agronomic Research in Paris, France, first as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a permanent researcher. Dr. Loconto's research remains focused on questions of standards, as well as the institutionalization of the values of sustainability and responsibility within different transitions to sustainable agriculture, primarily in Africa. She has been exploring these questions both within international-level dialogues on standard setting as well as local-level implementation.

Beginning in 2013, Dr. Loconto began a joint research project with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy to study institutional innovations that link sustainable practices with markets through a participatory research approach to working with innovators in 14 different countries around the world¹. The case studies explain how the innovators strategically mobilized people and organizations through network relationships in order to repair or replace institutions—thus creating new guidelines for sustainable production and consumption and new partnership opportunities for applying them. In June 2015, Dr. Loconto led the organization of a researcher-practitioner workshop in Bogotá, Colombia that brought together all of the project participants to discuss the results and propose policy recommendations that can support the emergence and development of these types of initiatives.

¹Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iran, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda.



Elizabeth Ransom Sociology

Elizabeth Ransom received her doctorate in sociology from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2003. Dr. Ransom, an associate professor of sociology, has taught at the University of Richmond since 2003, with a year spent as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2005-06. She also serves as a research associate at the Institute for Theory and Practice of International Relations at the College of William and Mary.

Dr. Ransom's research and teaching interests include globalization and development, with an emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa; agriculture and food systems; social studies of science and technology; and gender, with an emphasis on social change and development. She has published her research in a wide range of academic journals, including the *Journal of Rural Studies* and *Gender & Society*, and she recently co-edited *Rural America in a Globalizing World: Problems and Prospects for the 2010s* (West Virginia University Press, 2014).

While at MSU, support provided by a Center for Advanced Study of International Development and Center for Gender in

Global Context Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship allowed Dr. Ransom to study isiZulu in preparation for her year-long fieldwork in South Africa, which focused on the impact of global trade standards on the red meat industry. Since that time, Dr. Ransom has continued to expand her research on global trade and the livestock industries in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia. She also has ongoing research in Uganda with another former MSU Department of Sociology alumna, Carmen Bain, focused on gender empowerment programs within the dairy subsector.

At the University of Richmond, a primarily undergraduate, private, liberal arts institution, Dr. Ransom has the opportunity to bridge her research interests to the courses she teaches, including introduction to sociology, research methods, science and technology studies, and several food classes, including one co-taught with a biologist that takes students to Belize to learn about tropical agricultural systems and conservation. Undergraduates also work with Dr. Ransom on her research, with several students having traveled to Uganda in recent years.





David Baylis

Geography

David Baylis received his doctorate in geography from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2015. He began teaching as an assistant professor of geography and sustainable development at Delta State University (DSU), in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, this fall. At DSU, Dr. Baylis teaches courses in world regional geography, critical geopolitics, environmental justice and ethics, as well as popular culture and geography. In addition, he serves as a member of the university's diversity committee, is a representative of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance, and will soon be serving as a faculty representative of the student LGBTQIAP organization.

While at MSU, Dr. Baylis received a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the Center for Gender in Global Context in 2011 to study Turkish in Ankara, Turkey, as well as a U. S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Fellowship in 2014. In addition to teaching for the Department of Geography at MSU, he was also managing editor for the "Gendered Perspectives on International Development" working paper series.

Dr. Baylis used his language skills in his dissertation, "Healing Vatan: Narrative Geographies of Environment, Health, and Gender in the Early Turkish Republic," which explores the narrative construction of population policy in the transitional period of the late Ottoman Empire and early Turkish Republic. His research specifically examines the regulation of gendered bodies and space via the production and maintenance of "sanitary citizens" and "scientific motherhood."

Dr. Baylis has published two articles: "Mapping Energy: Cartographies of Energy into the 21st Century" in *Geographical Review* and "Environmental (Degradation and Uncertain) Security: Reifying the Conditions for Social and Environmental Degradation in Uzbekistan," which was published in *Arab World Geographer*. He currently has an article on government narratives in the novels of Yakup Kadri Karaosmanoğlu under review at *Cultural Geographies*. Dr. Baylis plans to expand his research to consider animation, cartoons, comics, and graphic novels as sites for promoting shifting and hybrid identity construction and radical and subversive politics.



Ellen Foley

Anthropology

Ellen Foley graduated from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2002 with a doctorate in anthropology. Dr. Foley is an associate professor of international development and social change at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she has worked since 2006. She teaches courses on development theory, medical anthropology, global health, and gender and health.

While at MSU, Dr. Foley studied medical anthropology, the anthropology of development, and African studies. She received three years of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship funding through the African Studies Center to study Wolof, which assisted her in her doctoral research and writing her dissertation, "In Sickness and in Health: Responding to Disease and Promoting Health in Senegal."

Dr. Foley published her first book in 2010, *Your Pocket Is What Cures You: The Politics of Health in Senegal* (Rutgers University Press). The book examines how neoliberal economic policies and market-based health reforms have taken shape in sub-Saharan Africa over the past decades, focusing on the tensions and conflicts these global trends have produced in Senegal. Against this backdrop of changing government health systems, she analyzes how rapid urbanization and rural agricultural decline affect men's and women's health practices and the household management of health and sickness.

In 2009, Dr. Foley launched a new project, "Sex in the City," with the support of an African Regional Research Program Fulbright Fellowship. This multi-site project explores how three Senegalese NGOs endeavor to empower adolescent girls and adult women to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs. Dr. Foley examines how these development actors have deployed knowledge of sex work, gender, and transactional sex in their programs and interventions. Her research assesses the implications of these institutionalized understandings of gender inequality on strategies to decrease girls and women's vulnerability to unwanted pregnancy, forced marriage, gender-based violence, and HIV infection. She has published some of the findings from this project in *Culture, Health, and Sexuality* and *Social Science and Medicine*. Over the past three years, Dr. Foley has also been the qualitative research director of "The SANTINELLES Project," which is a comparative study of urban health inequalities in Saint Louis, Senegal, and Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. The project aims to understand emerging patterns of hypertension and type 2 diabetes in mid-sized African cities.

Student Profiles



Sabrina Perlman

Anthropology

Sabrina Perlman is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology, specializing in medical anthropology. For the last three years, the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the Center for Gender in Global Context have supported Sabrina's study of Twi with Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. Sabrina uses Twi to conduct her research on the rising rates of type 2 diabetes in Ghana.

In the summer of 2014, Sabrina traveled to Ghana to conduct preliminary dissertation research at a diabetes clinic in a regional hospital in Cape Coast. She conducted semi-structured interviews with patients to investigate their challenges in self-managing diabetes, the impacts these responsibilities have had on gender roles and expressions, as well as how poverty complicates these responsibilities for many of the patients. In addition, she interviewed nurses about the strategies they employ to train patients to control their diabetes. To gain insight into the broader, national context that affects those suffering with diabetes in the country, Sabrina met with the president of the Diabetes Association of Ghana and a support group for diabetics.

Sabrina recently received a Fulbright Institute of International Education Student Grant to return to Ghana in 2016 for nine months to conduct her dissertation research on type 2 diabetes, changing lifestyles and diets, and the increased biomedical presence. She will be working at a diabetes clinic in a large hospital in Kumasi where they see around 100 patients a day. Sabrina will further investigate the potential impacts this growing disease may have on gender relations, development, health care models and delivery, social assistance, and culture.



Kyle Craig

Anthropology

Kyle Craig is a second-year graduate student in the Department of Anthropology. His research explores graffiti in Amman, Jordan, and analyzes how artists in Jordan are using public space and aesthetic discourses to constitute new forms of citizenship, class consciousness, and ethno-national sentiment. His research also examines what graffiti reveals about state-society relations in Jordan by looking at the various ways the Jordanian government responds to graffiti and graffiti artists.

Since 2011, graffiti has become an increasingly prominent fixture of Jordan's urban topography. This increase is partly a result of the Arab Spring uprisings, in which graffiti became an important way for protestors to discretely organize against repressive authoritarian governments. Kyle's research emphasizes the neoliberalization of the Jordanian economy starting in 1988, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and competing nationalisms between Jordanians and over 2 million Palestinian refugees as contributing factors to this new form of expression.

From a development perspective, studying graffiti offers new insights into how people respond to issues of economic neglect and urban decay. Graffiti in Amman is more prevalent in the city's economically disadvantaged areas. Artists often target these areas for projects of beautification, commonly invoking the working class as the audience of their art. Kyle's research examines the impact of using public art as a tool for community development.

With the support of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) and the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen), Kyle travelled to Amman in the summer of 2015, where he studied Arabic at Qasid Arabic Institute. While in Amman, he interviewed graffiti artists and conducted participant observations in art studios and events that promoted graffiti. Kyle also received FLAS Fellowships from CASID and GenCen for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years. This support has helped him acquire the advanced proficiency in Arabic necessary to complete his dissertation research.



Jessica Ott

Anthropology

Jessica Ott is a third-year doctoral student in anthropology, with a specialization in medical anthropology and a strong interest in ethnohistory. Her dissertation research will focus on contemporary global health and historical representations of gendered violence, as well as the politics of humanitarian intervention related to the status of women in Tanzania.

After receiving a master of public health degree from the University of Michigan in 2009, Jessica worked for an international NGO addressing the relationship between gendered violence and HIV infection in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. After attending dozens of global health policy meetings while working in Tanzania, she became interested in exploring how global health policymaking processes frame gender and violence against women and the politics of global health delivery more broadly.

While at MSU, Jessica has received two summer (2014 and 2015) and one academic year (2015-16) Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships to study Swahili from the Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the Center for Gender in Global Context. This past summer, with the support of a summer FLAS Fellowship, Jessica studied Swahili at the State University of Zanzibar, where she became interested in human rights approaches to addressing violence against women in Zanzibar. She was also able to conduct preliminary archival research on colonial era state and religious interventions related to gendered violence and the status of women in Tanzania. Jessica plans to return to Tanzania to conduct her dissertation research in 2016 or 2017.



Stephanie Saba

Arabic

Senior Stephanie Saba was one of fifteen undergraduate students to receive a Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) and Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in 2015-16; this was the first time CASID and GenCen awarded the fellowships to undergraduate students. With this funding, Stephanie was able to spend the summer of 2015 studying Arabic in Meknes, Morocco.

Stephanie's program was part of the MSU Flagship Program, which is an academic program through the American Council for International Education for those studying critical languages. During her stay in Morocco, the Arabic major had hoped to significantly raise her proficiency in the Arabic language. By the end of the two months she studied in Morocco, Stephanie completed the entire 400 level of Arabic coursework—the equivalent to one year of Arabic at Michigan State University (MSU). The program was highly intensive; Stephanie went from being at the intermediate high level of Arabic to the superior level by the end of the program.

Studying Arabic abroad was particularly important to Stephanie because she is of Palestinian heritage. She lived with a Moroccan host family and enjoyed learning about a culture that is similar to her own and at the same time so different. She said, "It's always a beautiful thing to both learn from and teach others—to share language, culture, and most importantly to develop friendships with those who differ from you."

Stephanie would like to develop her Arabic skills and cultural competence even further. After graduating from MSU this year, Stephanie plans to return to Morocco for a year and stay with the same host family while she completes an internship and continues her Arabic language studies. Eventually, Stephanie plans to work internationally in refugee services or education, particularly focusing on education in the Middle East.



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