MSU Alumni Celebrating 40 Years of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

Michigan State University Humphrey Fellowship Alumni gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa on September 14-16, 2018 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. Pictured above are Kouakou Bruno Tano, Sonia Joao Buvana, Dera Zafindravaka, CASID Director Robert Glew, Djelika Pare, Ventura Mufume, Vasenden Dorsami, Coulibaly Ba Aliou, Paresedes Bakseka, and Angeline Tendai Chikwanda (not pictured). The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education (IIE) hosted African Humphrey alumni to celebrate with a conference entitled “African Humphrey Voices: Building a Better Future for Our Continent”. Once the current class of Humphrey Fellows finish their individual programs, they will join this network of 5,870 Humphrey Fellows from 162 countries around the world who are advancing in their careers and advancing economic, social, political, educational, agricultural and environmental development in their communities.

President Jimmy Carter initiated the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in 1978 to honor the memory of the late senator. Funded by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by the Institute of International Education, the program brings outstanding mid-career professionals from around the world to the United States for a year of study and professional development. The goal of the program is the creation of mutual understanding in order to develop long-lasting relationships between citizens of the United States and their professional counterparts in other countries.

For more information about the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at MSU, visit the CASID website at casid.isp.msu.edu/humphrey-fellowship-program.

Featured in this Issue:
- MSU’s Tanzania Partnership Program
- MSU’s Advancing Young Women Professional Fellows Program
- MSU Celebrates Students Selected for Peace Corps Service
- CASID International Strategic Partnerships
From the Director’s Desk

I am pleased to present the 2018 issue of the CASID Update, a newsletter of our programmatic achievements for 2017. 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 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 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

Robert S. Glew  
Director
Andrea Allen  
Associate Director
John Bonnell  
Program Director, Tanzania Partnership Program
Jennifer Brewer  
Program Coordinator and Project Manager, Tanzania Partnership Program
Barbara Cernadas Doty  
International Program and Financial Coordinator
Helen J. Faer  
Office Assistant
Beth Muguero  
Program Manager, Humphrey Fellowship Program
Chad Papa  
Peace Corps Recruiter
Kelsey McClure  
Peace Corps Recruiter and CASID Communications
Rachel Elbin  
Research Assistant, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Program

MSU Humphrey Alumni Updates

Asad Aleem, Afghanistan  
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow 2003-4

After completing my rewarding Humphrey Year at MSU in 2003-2004, I continued my professional affiliation with the World Bank through November 2004 in Washington DC. Thereafter, in December 2004, I was recruited by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and have been part of the ADB team ever since. I work in infrastructure financing sector and currently I am the Senior Energy Specialist responsible for ADB’s energy investments and programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan. During my 14-year stint with ADB, I have been based in ADB’s offices in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Ba Aliou Coulibaly, Mauritania  
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow 2015-16

Ba Aliou Coulibaly is a 2015 Hubert H. Humphrey Alumni from Mauritania. He works as the National Coordinator of Publish What You Pay (PWYP), an organization advocating for more transparency in the extractive sector. In this position he contributes the elaboration and implementation of projects related to local communities’ rights. Prior to joining PWYP, Coulibaly worked as a communication officer for Oxfam GB, a humanitarian NGO.

As a Humphrey Fellow for the 2015-16 academic year, Coulibaly produced research papers on the correlation between extractive industries and community development in resource-rich countries in Africa. During his professional affiliation, Coulibaly worked as a consultant at the World Bank Governance Department in Washington D.C. and produced a governance note on the management of oil and gas contracts in Mauritania and Senegal.

After the Humphrey Fellowship, Coulibaly returned to his home country, Mauritania. In addition to his traditional civil society activities in the Publish What You Pay, Coulibaly conducted an advocacy campaign to help the rural communities in the south of Mauritania to face the impact of desertification and climate change. This action resulted in the organization of a dry season agricultural campaign for the first time in Kaedi in more than 30 years.

On extractive issues, Coulibaly’s opinion has been prominent for most of the decision makers (Ministry and Members of the parliament) and also the major media in Mauritania. Recently, Coulibaly has been solicited to contribute to an assistant professor in the prestigious international Natural Resources Governance Program at the University of Nouakchott.
Humphrey Fellows Building International Partnerships:

Serbian Minister of Finance Dušan Vujović Visits


Dušan Vujović has served as the minister of finance in the Republic of Serbia since August 2014. Previously, he was minister of economy. Dr. Vujović is a professor at Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration at the Singidunum University, Belgrade and an affiliate MOC faculty member of the institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at the Harvard Business School. He has worked for the World Bank as a consultant in the areas of R&D for innovation, macroeconomic policy, and fiscal and governance reform, and as a USAID consultant on the issues of budget and fiscal reform. He is research fellow at CASE Institute, Warsaw. Vujović authored and co-authored a number of publications on macroeconomic policy, development, and institutional reform and transition issues.

During his visit to Michigan State University, Vujović was a guest lecturer at CASE Institute, Warsaw. Vujović authored and co-authored a number of publications on macroeconomic policy, development, and institutional reform and transition issues. He also met with Steven Hanson, dean of the College of Social Sciences, Rachel Croson, dean of the International Studies and Programs, and Norman Graham. He also met with Steven Hanson, dean of the International Studies and Programs, and Norman Graham. He also met with Steven Hanson, dean of the International Studies and Programs, and Norman Graham.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDING CONTINUED FOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP

Michigan State University has been selected by the U.S. Department of State to continue as a host institution for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program through the 2021 academic year. The Humphrey Fellowship Program is a visiting scholars program designed for mid-career professionals to network and study in the field of economic development and human resource management. Fellows are selected from designated countries to study at Michigan for one year followed by a professional affiliation with American counterparts for several weeks. The Fellowship year also provides fellows with opportunities to interact with leaders from U.S. government, civil society and the private sector.

The Humphrey Fellowship Program grant is being administered by CASID. Program activities are being led by Ashley Green and managed by CASID staff members Beth Muayavo, Andrea Allen and Barbra Cernadas Doty.

MSU received approximately $1,000,000 in funding from the U.S. State Department, Institute of International Education, to support the administration of the Humphrey Fellowship Program for the academic years of 2017-18 to 2021-22. Funds will support five new cohorts of Program Fellows to study at MSU. Of the 13 universities chosen to host the Humphrey Fellowship Program, MSU is one of only two schools that focus on economic development/finance and banking.

Humphrey Fellow Zaw Naing Returns to MSU

Nine years later, Zaw Naing collaborates with faculty, presents to students, and engages with fellows

On April 25, 2017, Michigan State University welcomed returning Humphrey Fellow, Zaw Naing, to the University.

During his 2008-9 fellowship year, Zaw Naing worked with Qi Jiaguo in the Department of Geography as a faculty mentor. Jiaguo advised and collaborated with Zaw Naing through the year, and upon his return to Myanmar at the conclusion of his Humphrey year, they continued to work together on select projects and initiatives of mutual interest. Among those is the Asia Hub Initiative with the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations. As the founder and managing director of Mandal Technology, a company specializing in Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and technological services, he develops GIS systems and laboratories and works at the confluence of information technology, business, and engineering. He is committed to applying technology as a tool for economic development, infrastructure development, international trade and promotion of foreign investment in transition economies. Previously, Mr. Naing was professionally affiliated with the World Bank and served as country manager for Myanmar Credent Technology.

In order to share his research highlights, Zaw Naing presented on his work at the Center for Global Change & Earth Observations to a group of students, fellows and faculty. Furthermore, he engaged in several Humphrey Fellowship Program events and activities. After participating in year-end retreat activities and sharing his experience with the graduating class of Humphrey Fellows, Zaw Naing presented at the 15-Year Humphrey Fellowship Anniversary Commemoration on the impact of his fellowship year on his career and research along with Provost June Youatt, College of Social Science Dean Rachel Croson, and International Studies and Programs Dean Steven Hanson.

Ashley Green Named New Coordinator of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

In July 2018, Dr. Ashley Green began leading the Humphrey Fellowship Program. She is the assistant dean of administration at MSU’s International Studies and Programs where she provides leadership in the implementation and administration of international programs and global initiatives advancing and strengthening university wide missions related to research, instructional, outreach and engagement activities. Before coming to ISP, she was the program manager for the National and International Fellowships and Scholarships Office within MSU’s Honors College, where she led the daily operations of the office and assisted students in pursuing national and international funding awards. Before joining NIFS, she was the program manager for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program in the Center for Advanced Study of International Development within ISP. Her higher education administration experience also includes roles in Admissions, Career Services, and various multicultural programs at Grand Valley State University, the University of Toledo and the University of California, Berkeley. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from MSU; a master’s degree in higher education student affairs from the University of Toledo; and a doctorate in educational leadership and administration from Western Michigan University. Her doctoral research and dissertation focused on the experiences and motivation of successful African American first generation college students.

Photo: Zaw Naing presenting at the 15-Year Humphrey Fellowship Anniversary Commemoration and Year-End Celebration to fellows, faculty mentors, community members and MSU leadership

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Sonia Joao Buvana, Mozambique

Sónia Joao Buvana is the head of human resources at Lethegio Financial Services Mozambique, a commercial bank with strategic intent of becoming the leading inclusive finance bank in Mozambique. Throughout her time with the Humphrey program, Ms. Joao Buvana intends to focus on social entrepreneurship, organizational design and training. Her ultimate goal is to pass these lessons along to girls aged 13-18, positively impacting social justice and leadership while at the same time contributing to poverty reduction, gender equity, and a reduction in social delinquency, and unemployment.

Sophia-Joy Soli, Papua New Guinea

Sophia-Joy Soli has spent her career in the Papua New Guinea transport industry after receiving her business computing degree. She held management roles in occupational health and safety, human resources, and customer service. Paramount in her career is the safety and welfare of business operations to provide services to local and international customers. Ms. Soli’s academic interest is international trade and supply chain management, policy, and regulatory frameworks within the economic corridor development model. During her fellowship, Ms. Soli hopes to explore unmanned aerial systems and their applications to asset monitoring, maintenance, and cold chain in addressing geographical and infrastructural barriers.

Santiago Laserna Fernandez, Bolivia

Santiago Laserna Fernandez is the head of planning at CIDRE IFD. In this position, he coordinates the implementation of the social responsibility-focused mission and vision of the institution and the integration of these goals within the financial goals. Ms. Laserna Fernandez’s main areas of interest during his Humphrey year are food security, climate change, poverty reduction through economic development, and small and medium enterprise finance. His ultimate goal is to create innovative tools and products to augment the social investment framework.

Asrar Jaber, Gaza

Asrar Jaber is a center coordinator at the Life and Hope Association. Her responsibilities include working with a youth initiative that enhances the role of youth in decision-making positions, especially in municipalities. Her primary area of focus during her Humphrey year will be human resource management including needs analysis, work-life balance, evaluation and compensation. She intends to share these skills within her own organization as well as to others in her country to address stunted progress in underemployment, communication, compensation, and organizational capacity in all sectors.

Maha Abu-Rumman, Jordan

Maha Abu-Rumman is a senior analyst for the Royal Hashemite Court – Office of His Majesty King Abdullah II. In this role, she conducts macro analysis of the Jordanian economy and fiscal and monetary policies, and evaluates the feasibility of development projects. Her research focus is decentralized economic development, and she intends to develop a new holistic model for attracting investment, supporting entrepreneurship and SME creation to relieve pressure on the economy due to regional conflict and a resulting changing demographic.

Carla Lima Aranzaes, Bolivia

Carla Lima Aranzaes is head of talent management for Monopol Ltda where she oversees the candidate recruitment and selection, organizational climate improvement, and workforce development, and evaluation. Her goal is to be an agent of change by building a training program in conjunction with the human resources team. While at Michigan State University, she would like to study human resources and the integration thereof with talent management, workforce planning, employee relations and organizational climate. Her overarching objective is the fortification of human resource management and implementation of process improvements within both her organization and her country.

Reem Fouad Mikhail, Egypt

Reem Fouad Mikhail is an international development consultant at Lattanzio SpA where she provides technical support to development projects in areas related to labor market and economic development. She is a former labor marker advisor and gender focal point for Deutsche Gasellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Her major area of interest is economic development broadly, corporate social responsibility and policy interventions related to workforce development. Her ultimate goal is to initiate a CSR project to develop the economy and workforce stabilizing the country politically.

Sahd Joseph Kaifineh, Sierra Leone

Sahd Joseph Kaifineh is the assistant registrar for the Muralido Institute of Management, Entrepreneurship and Technology. Mr. Kaifineh’s major area of focus during his Humphrey year is policy development, the economics of poverty alleviation and natural resource management, and financial instruments of economic development. Upon his return to Sierra Leone, he intends to share his experience and ensure colleagues are development-oriented, as well as to provide support and guidance to the sustainable development goals of his country through his position.

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Asmaa Fizazi, Algeria

Asmaa Fizazi is a deputy director of the organized and training at Sahra Mohamed University where she manages career paths and training, counseling, and management of personnel records. During her Humphrey year, her research focus will be human resource management and ethical governance. More broadly, her goal is to help develop human resource practices in her university and the road freight transportation company she is developing. She would like to contribute to the creation of a strong educational institution, which in turn will be better equipped to produce research, technological and social innovations. She would also like to increase her knowledge about the evolution of transportation culture, the organization of trade, and forecasts of road transport trades.

K. Ashna Mahepal, Suriname

Kajal Mahepal is a senior sector economic development consultant at Surinamese’s economy through effective government interventions. In addition to this, she is a social entrepreneur stimulating young entrepreneurship, empowering youth and supporting the SDG’s.

Aleem Siddiqui Matabaloa Guiapal, Philippines

Aleem Siddiqui Matabaloa Guiapal is the executive director of the Regional Economic Zone Authority where he is in charge of the policies, plans, and programs of the economic zones in Muslim Mindanao. His major area of interest is in the development of the agricultural industry, tourism, investment, finance and comprehensive sustainable development. His ultimate goal is to develop and implement a six-year plan based on the US model of solutions-based economic development.
MSU hosts East African fellows: Ongoing exchange program advances young women in agribusiness

As a project accountant at Numa Feeds, Ltd., Eudine Awuzu Asara conducts financial reporting for the Ugandan grains producer and distributor, and works closely with farmers teaching them recordkeeping skills. “When I was young and growing up, I looked at farming as a thing for people who have not gone to school. But as a CPA (certified public accountant), my perception has changed. I know it can be done by any person, in any profession,” said Asara, who plans to work with Numa Feeds to develop a nutrient-rich product made from locally available ingredients. “I would like to change other people’s mindsets, especially young people, because I think that’s how I’ve been empowered, and I’d like to pass it on.”

Asara is one of 11 East African agribusiness professionals participating in the first cohort of the Professional Fellows Program: Advancing Young Women Agribusiness Entrepreneurs and Innovators, which brought together individuals from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Hosted at Michigan State University, the program is implemented in partnership with Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), University of Nairobi (Kenya), and Kyambogo University (Uganda). Hosted at Michigan State University, the program is implemented in partnership with Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), University of Nairobi (Kenya), and Kyambogo University (Uganda) and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Focused on women’s economic empowerment, leadership skills, and business development, the program builds capacity and facilitates connections.

While in Michigan this May, fellows participated in four weeks of internships, seminars, site visits and project development. Fellows then spent one week in Washington, D.C. for the Professional Fellows Congress, where they met fellows from 14 other host institutions. Over the next year, the fellows will continue their careers in agribusiness while implementing individual projects that build on what they’ve learned. This fall and winter, MSU faculty and staff, as well as representatives from internship sites, will travel to East Africa to visit the fellows and continue the exchange of knowledge, ideas and skills.

“This is an example of how Michigan State University can draw across the varied expertise on campus and bring seemingly different disciplines together,” said Amy Jamison, associate director for the Center for Gender in a Global Context and the Alliance for African Partnership. “The Professional Fellows Program connects MSU’s extensive work in agriculture, women’s empowerment, and capacity building, while building deeper connections with our partners in Africa.”

Engaging locally
Based on the interests of the fellows, MSU selected eight local organizations to host internships for a fellow or two. Sites included the Michigan Biotechnology Institute, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Swallowtail Farm, Bee Wise Farms, Michigan Farmers Market Association, Allen Neighborhood Center, and the MSU Product Center. This hands-on opportunity to connect on a shared goal benefited both the fellows and the hosts.

“When we got this opportunity to work with MSU on this fellowship program, we thought this is such a good opportunity to not only educate our employees locally, but to educate internationally,” said Elana Fata, legal operations specialist at GreenStone Farm Credit Services where Asara interned. “Eudine spent a lot of time with all the departments in our corporate office. She spent time with our CEO learning about GreenStone and asking about our challenges, and asking him advice about her challenges at Numa Feeds in Uganda. This hasn’t just been education for Eudine—we have learned so much from her and it has been an invaluable experience.”

As much as it’s been an idea-generating experience for many of the fellows, the local hosts have had their views of agribusiness widened, as well.

“I’ve never run into a beekeeper here that literally makes everything that they do!” said Lacey Ingrao, co-owner of Bee Wise Farms on Lansing’s Eastside, where Kenyan Joan Watheri Kinyanju interned. “Joan’s resourcefulness has been a gigantic eye opener for me. If someone asked me to find a place to build a bee smoker, I’d be like ‘I don’t know who to go to!’ Her ability to see a product and decide to make that—she’s been taking pictures and measurements—it’s just been really huge for me.”

Founder of Yatta Beekeepers, Kinyanju has been selling honey products and wax plus equipment like centrifuges, smokers, wooden hives, and cloth beekeeping suits. The business is run by Kinyanju and her husband, and she contracts with people to help build the equipment.

“I have people who help me make the beehives, the smokers, the bee suits, and I have people who help me harvest when I need to, and I have people who help me package,” said Kinyanju. “[Lacey and Adam ingrao] taught me about variety honey. I don’t have to grow the plants that bring the variety honey, but I can partner with the people who grow the plants and I can take the hives to their farm. Then I can have sunflower honey or mango tree honey or watermelon honey in that specific season. I can label my honey with the different varieties, which would make it fetch a higher price.”

Expanding expertise
In the afternoons, seminars and workshops were held by MSU faculty and staff as well as external partners, including Tom Emigh, Acorn Leadership Consulting; Peter Lemmer, CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Service; Gretchen Nesler, director of MSU’s Center for Global Connections in Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, and many others. Topics included innovation and entrepreneurship, gender in agri-food systems, personal development and success, and finance, marketing and governance in agribusiness industries.

To experience what Michigan organizations bring to the world of agribusiness, fellows visited various parts of the state. Site visits included the Women in Agriculture Development Center in Flint, the Hantz Farms in Detroit, the Kalamazoo Community College Food Hub in Kalamazoo, and more.
Meet the CASID Advisory Committee

Lisa D. Cook

Lisa D. Cook is an associate professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State University. She was the first Marshall Scholar from Spelman College and received a second bachelor's in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University. She earned a doctorate in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, with fields in macroeconomics and international economics. She is currently co-director of the American Economic Association Summer Program and was president of the National Economic Association from 2015–2016. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Lemelson Center for the Study of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Smithsonian Institution and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. From 2017–2019, she will be a Sigma Xi (Scientific Research Society) distinguished lecturer.

Stephen P. Gasteeyer

Stephen P. Gasteeyer is an assistant professor of sociology at Michigan State University. His research focuses on the nexus across water, land, and community development. Before coming to Michigan State University, he was faculty in the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois. Prior to that, he was the research and policy director at the Rural Community Assistance Partnership in Washington, D.C., and a research consultant on issues of global water governance. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali from 1987–1990 and worked with environmental nongovernmental organizations from 1993–1996 in the Palestinian Territories.

Maria Claudia Lopez

Maria Claudia Lopez is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Sustainability, an economist specializing in natural resources management, environmental economics, experimental economics and collective action. She completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University with the Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis. Before coming to MSU, she was a research associate in the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Recently, she has been working with a multidisciplinary group of colleagues in a National Science Foundation-funded grant aiming to study how economic incentives—in this particular case a payment for environmental services—may change users’ behavior once the payment is in place and what happens when it is removed. The research focuses on forest users of Uganda, Bolivia, Peru, Tanzania, and Indonesia, with collaborators in each one of these countries.

Andrea Louie

Andrea Louie, an associate professor of anthropology, has conducted research exploring how ideas constructed around “Chineseness” as a racial and cultural identity, have been reworked as transnational processes that bring Chinese from different parts of the world in contact with one another. Her book, Chineseness Across Borders: Negotiating Chinese Identities in China and the U.S. (Duke University Press, 2006), won the Association for Asian American Studies Social Sciences’ book award (March 2006). Her new book, How Chinese Are You? Adopted Chinese Youth and their Families Negotiate Identity and Culture, was released in August of 2015. This ethnographic study analyzes how both white and Asian American adoptive parents engage in changing understandings of and relationships with “Chineseness” as a form of ethnic identity, racial identity, or cultural capital over the life course.
The Tanzania Partnership Program: Supporting Education and Maternal, Infant, and Reproductive Health in Tanzania

**MSU’s Tanzania Partnership Program**

Since 2009 Michigan State University, the Institute of Resource Assessment at University of Dar es Salaam, the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, Sokoine University of Agriculture, and the Aga Khan Foundation have partnered together to develop the Tanzanian Partnership Program (TPP). The 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 abroad program. TPP began its work in two pilot villages, Milola, 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 university and donor support and international partners, TPP is making a difference in and with 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.

**Education**

TPP projects focus on the areas of infrastructure, teacher professional development, and improving learning environments. These projects work to make strides to overcome educational barriers by reducing student hunger, providing textbooks and learning materials, girls’ education, and connecting the national curriculum to experimental learning.

**Human Health**

A key area of focus in human health is the reduction of maternal and infant mortality during home births. With half of all births in Tanzania occurring in the home, TPP is working with women, clinicians, and traditional birth attendants to improve safety during pregnancy and delivery. Health programs include: Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Delivery Kit Program; Tea with a Midwife family planning program; Health Dispensary Professional Training.

**Water Access**

Insufficient, unpredictable, and contaminated water is among the most serious problems in Eastern Africa. In rural Tanzania more than 44 percent of people do not have access to safe water. During FY17, TPP worked to improve water access and quality in the northern site with a focus on repairing and updating the community’s water system after an unseasonably heavy, 100-year flood. TPP also worked with committee members to develop a water management system with each community.

**Animal Health**

Sustainable livestock management is focused with the use of Community Animal Health workers. With provided training, members of the Village Water Committee were taught to sustainably manage cattle dip systems for the community. In August, the Uhuru ('Freedom') Torch, one of the national symbols of Tanzania, visited the Naitolia cattle dip. For 55 years, the Uhuru Torch has travelled around Tanzania and stopped to honor sites that symbolize significant development achievements in local communities. The torch stopped at the Naitolia cattle dip, which was constructed in 2014, to honor this development effort and officially open the dip.

**Program Participants and Activities**

**Participations**

- **MSU**: 53 Undergrads, 12 Grads, 12 Faculty
- **SUA**: 16 Undergrads
- **UDSM-IRA**: 5 Undergrads, 11 Faculty
- **DUCE**: 1 Undergrad, 2 Faculty

**Activities**

- **Water Access**: 4 Undergrads
- **Education**: 13 Undergrads
- **Animal Health**: 6 Undergrads
- **Human Health**: 10 Undergrads
- **Engaged Research**: 13 Undergrads

**Key Areas**

- Education
- Human Health
- Animal Health
- Water Access

**Program Priorities**

- Assessment
- Improvement
- Renovation
- Instruction
- Empowerment
- Practices
- Nutrition
- Workshops
- Collaboration
- Community
Girls’ Mentoring Clubs in Milola, Tanzania

This study focused on understanding how mentoring clubs in Milola affect girls’ educational experiences. In addition, the study provided feedback to tailor mentoring club models to scale the program up in future years. The three-phase study focused on: 1) baseline data about community stakeholders’ perspectives on girls’ education and the role of girls’ mentoring clubs, 2) perceptions of mentor teachers and girls who are participating in the mentoring clubs, and 3) community members’ perceptions of mentoring clubs and club participants’ experiences.

Developing Sustainable Solutions for Human-Wildlife Conflict in Naitolia and the Maasai Steppe, Tanzania


This study will deepen understanding of the interdisciplinary factors associated with human-carnivore conflict in Naitolia and the other villages along the Maasai Steppe, so as to provide guidance and support to community members about the techniques and best practices that can decrease the risk of livestock depredation from carnivores. Outcomes of this project will empower landowners to take specific action (e.g., fortified bomas, improved husbandry practices, and maintenance of vegetation structures on their property) to reduce the risk of carnivore depredation on their property and support the conservation of carnivore populations with which they share these landscapes.

Reports and Publications


Curriculum Modules for use on Educational Playgrounds and Sports Fields (August 2016). Unpublished Teacher Professional Development materials developed by the TPP Education Team and MSU College of Education graduate students.

The 2017 MSU Kolschowsky Scholars with Jonathan Choti.
MSU Celebrates Students Selected for Peace Corps Service

During the 2017-2018 academic year, a new group of Michigan State University Alumni began their service as Peace Corps Volunteers. In 2018, MSU ranked 17th among large universities and colleges for the number of graduates joining the organization, with a total of 47 currently serving volunteers. Since the beginning of Peace Corps in 1961, 2,407 MSU alumni have served around the globe. In 2017, Chad Papa joined the MSU Peace Corps Office in the fall of 2017. After graduating from the University of Florida with bachelor’s degree in science in environmental sciences, Chad served in the Peace Corps in Senegal as an agroforestry extension agent. In Senegal, Chad collaborated with community partners, government extension agents, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to increase food security of local communities through increased fruit production as well as helping farmers increase soil fertility through the implementation of agroforestry practices. Chad also served as the Kedougou Youth Leadership Camp monitoring and evaluation coordinator in 2014 increasing youth development. During the rainy season, he served as a monitor for the PECADOM+ malaria program. Additionally, he managed the international NGO, Trees for the Future’s, regional office in Kedougou, conducting budgeting, reporting, and programing duties along with local staff. After his service, Chad worked as a horticulturist at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens for a year, and then he came to MSU, where he obtained his master’s degree in forestry in 2017. He is currently working towards his doctorate in forestry at MSU focusing on agroecological systems in the Fouta Djallon region of West Africa. To speak on agroecological systems in the Fouta Djallon region of West Africa.

Kelsey McClure joined the Michigan State University Peace Corps Office in September of 2017, shortly after completing her Peace Corps service in Cambodia. From 2015 – 2017, Kelsey worked as an English Teacher and Teacher Trainer at a local secondary school in Cambodia. Along with her daily tasks of teaching English with Cambodian counterparts, Kelsey also conducted after school English classes to help students further their English learning. Kelsey also organized summer English classes and participated in the planning and implementation of Camp STAR (Students Taking an Active Role) with other volunteers in her province of Kampong Cham. Kelsey grew up in Holt, MI, but moved to Western Michigan University for her undergraduate studies where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education. After her service, Kelsey decided to come back to the Lansing area to work in the Peace Corps Office and in the Center for Advanced Studies in International Development (CASID) at MSU. In the future, Kelsey hopes to continue her work in education by pursuing a graduate degree in International Education.

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 environments to discuss ways to internationalize the curriculum at their home institutions.

In the summer of 2017, the consortium workshop dealt with the topic of “Human Migrations and Global Networks”. During the curriculum workshop, faculty participants attended sessions revolving around the different aspects of human migration, including the presentation entitled, “Historical Human Migration in Asia: Cases from India to Indonesia” by Siddharth Chamda. Chamda is Director of Michigan State University’s Asian Studies Center.

CASID is proud to co-sponsor the MIIE summer workshops along with the African Studies Center, and the Asian Studies Center.
Leaders in Global Engagement Visit MSU

During 2017, the Global Engagement Speaker Series brought four speakers to Michigan State University to present on a variety of topics related to human rights and justice. This lecture series brings individuals from across industries with experience in outreach and engagement to speak about their experiences with the MSU community. Speakers will present on the importance of higher education and its role in democracy and human rights.

In the spring semester of 2017, Shawn Wilson, director of research at Gubhi College of Indigenous Australian Peoples, Southern Cross University, and Catherine Odora Hoppers, a professor in the Department of Science and Technology, and National Research Foundation South African Research Chair in Development Education at the University of South Africa, were brought to Michigan State University to speak about their experiences in higher education. Both he and Hoppers spoke on indigenous cultures and the benefits of integrating those areas into higher education institutions. Wilson spoke of the importance of including traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in the university setting to create inclusive and caring environments for students while Hoppers spoke of the importance of valuing and including traditional knowledge systems in community outreach and engagement in higher education.

Rachel Elbin Joins CASID Team as Research Assistant

Rachel Elbin joined the Center for Advanced Study of International Development in the fall of 2017 as a Research Assistant for the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) program. Rachel is an anthropology PhD student at Michigan State whose dissertation research focuses on development, natural resource extraction, and political morality in Tanzania. At MSU, she has had the opportunity to teach on such topics as gender, race, ethnicity, and nationalism. Last year, Rachel developed and taught the course “US Social Inequalities” for VIPP. Having personally benefited from the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships program throughout her graduate career, Rachel is now happy to assist CASID in applying for FY 2018 FLAS Program funding.

CASID Offers Two Undergraduate Minors

The Center for Advanced Study of International Development now offers two undergraduate minor options administered by the College of Social Science. Both are 15 credits and interdisciplinary. Students should meet with advisors in the College of Social Science to decide which courses best align with their interests.

International Development – designed to help students currently working toward their bachelor's degree in the College of Social Science to understand the social context of international development practice. Students will learn how social scientists approach international development and how to integrate the multiple disciplinary methods involved in the field of international development.

Global Studies in Social Science – designed to help 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.

Additional information about the minors, including a complete list of course options is available on the CASID website, casid.isp.msu.edu.
Global Land Programme Selects MSU as North American Nodal Office

In October, the Global Land Programme, an international organization of scientists, practitioners, and policy makers focusing on land system change around the world, selected MSU’s Center for Global Change and Earth Observations as their North American nodal office. This achievement brings international recognition to the Center for Global Change and Earth Observations’ innovative interdisciplinary work.

John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor Emilio Moran and Professor Jaquio Qi, both from the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Science, will act as co-directors of the nodal office, with William McConnell, an associate professor at MSU’s Center for Global Change and Earth Observations, coordinating the program. Other Global Land Programme nodal offices are located in China, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Argentina, Ivory Coast, and Cyprus.

Land systems relate to all human use of land, including socioeconomic, technological, organizational, as well the consequences—positive or negative—resulting from human activities. The Global Land Programme supports the interdisciplinary study of land systems and works to understand design solutions to the problems arising from changes in land systems. Using modelling, monitoring, case study synthesis, and long-term studies, the Global Land Programme focuses on six major themes: urban-rural interactions, telecoupling, land-climate interaction, land use, land and conflict, land governance, tradeoffs on services and biodiversity, and land management systems.

Each nodal office is also responsible for organizing regional events to bring together researchers and policy makers from a common geographic area to discuss their work and connect scientific findings to policy and practice. To this end, the North American nodal office organized a scoping workshop during the 2017 annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Boston. The workshop was attended by Land Change scholars to discuss future Working Group proposals.

Through the relationship between the Asia Hub Initiative, MAIRS and GLP-North America Nodal Office, Asia Hub Initiative brought together the Asia WEF Nexus workshop in Thailand, Representatives from Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam participated in the workshops to achieve the objectives of Pre-launch of the Asia Hub Initiative, beginning of MAIR Asia WEF Asia Hub Initiative, MAIRS and GLP-North America WEF Nexus Working Group, organization and solicitation of special issue papers for the Journal of Water, and to present the latest WEF Nexus-related to related research findings and activities.

CASID, along with other university units, is pleased to help support the administration of the nodal office. For more information on the Global Land Programme and their current projects, please visit glp.earth.

Global Business Club of Mid-Michigan Continues to Connect Local Companies to the World

The Global Business Club of Mid-Michigan focuses on global issues of interest to the mid-Michigan business community. Since 1990, the monthly Global Business Club luncheons have provided an opportunity for local academics, public policy makers, and the local business community to network and hear from distinguished speakers about business in a global context. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development—along with Michigan State University’s Center for International Business Education and Research, the Greater Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Foster Swift Law Firm, Lansing Community College, Michigan State University College of Law, and the Center for Gender in Global Context—is a proud supporter of this unique outreach organization and its programs.

Participants of the workshops included Humphrey fellows who presented ideas they were developing for sustainable impact projects in their home countries and networked with local exporters.

“I had the opportunity of learning how best I could take advantage of international trade shows, and method of entry to the logistics and legalities of shipping my product overseas and getting paid. I must say that the training exposed me to great deal as someone new to exporting.”

-Sahr Joseph Kaifineh, Humphrey Fellow Sierra Leone

Congratulations to MSU’s Student Fulbright–Hays Award Recipients

The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award funds graduate students conducting international research in a less-commonly taught language. The awards provide between six and twelve months of dissertation research support. 2017 awardees include:

Jessica Ott—Anthropology
Country/Region: Tanzania
Research Topic: Women’s education in Zanzibar

Tara Reyelts—History
Country/Region: Tanzania
Research Topic: Gendering of law and justice in precolonial and colonial (Zanzibar)

Additionally, two other MSU graduate students received funding under the U.S. Student Fulbright Program funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Institute for International Education.

Tara Reyelts—History
Country/Region: Tanzania
Research Topic: Gendering of law and justice in precolonial and colonial (Zanzibar)

Akil Cornelius—History
Country/Region: South Africa
Research Topic: Armaments utilized by the Venda people of South Africa in their asymmetrical warfare against European aggressors

Congratulations to the MSU students who received awards. Interested students should contact Roger Bresnahan, the MSU Fulbright advisor, at bresnaha@msu.edu.
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 support detailed, contextual exploration of global issues and current events, linking a wide range of social, cultural, economic and political topics from international perspectives. LATTICE 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 2017, LATTICE participants took part in a wide variety of presentations, including “Student Voice: Celebration of Diversity”, “Legal Issues Regarding the Travel Ban”, “Happiness, Stress, and the Adolescent: A cross cultural approach”, “Can You be a Global Citizen and a Patriotic Citizen at the Same Time?”, and “Conflict Resolution: School models and global connections”.

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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 College of Education, the Graduate School, International Studies and Programs, the Center for Gender in Studies, the College of Education, the Graduate School, International Development, the African Studies Center, the Asian

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 will meet the critical need for language specialists in American education, government, and other policy-focused organizations. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development and the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) awarded 21 FLAS Fellowships for the summer of 2017 and the 2017-18 academic year. These 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.

2017-18 Graduate Academic Year Fellowship Awards

- Rebecca Minardi – Community Sustainability, Portuguese
- Marcela Omans – Anthropology, Chinese
- Chad Papa – Forestry, Malinke/Mandinka
- Lyudmila Austin – History, Russian
- Suban Cooley – Rhetoric, Writing, and American Cultures, Swahili

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 College of Education, the Graduate School, International Studies and Programs, the Center for Gender in Studies, the College of Education, the Graduate School, International Development, the African Studies Center, the Asian

Michigan High School Students Travel the World in a Day

In March 2017, over 600 Michigan high school and community college students attended Michigan State University’s tenth annual World Languages Days to learn about world languages and cultures. The event, which is free for all participants, encourages high school students, 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. Various MSU units, faculty, graduate students, and members of the community led more than 75 sessions and staffed 15 exhibitor information booths. Session topics ranged from the food of Thailand to the dialects of Germany. Sequoia, a student from Detroit, said of the event, “My favorite part was getting to learn more about the cultures I am interested in, and learning more about language as a whole and the importance of being able to speak more than one language.” World Languages 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 its sponsorship of this exciting event.

2017 World Language Day Sessions Included:

- From Arabic to Zulu: Study language at MSU
- The endangered list: Documenting disappearing languages
- Skill Learn to celebrate like a true Viking
- La vie d’un lycéen: What’s French high school like?
- Get to know the country of hakuna matata!
- Let’s play: Korean hacky sack and other traditional games
- West Java: Not on the Starbucks menu
- Birds and Bollywood
- Israel’s multicultural music
- A taste of Thailand: Spices, sayings, and script
- Chinese folk dance: Combining art and life
- Dragons, snakes, and a taste of Vietnamese culture
- Sky boats and fire cars: Stories from a Peace Corps volunteer
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- Sky boats and fire cars: Stories from a Peace Corps volunteer
- Seven symbols to celebrate the New Year - in March!
- Japanese calligraphy: What are all them squiggly lines?
- Grumbeere und Zicken: Fun with German dialects
- Todo en español! (All in Spanish!)
Christian Ahlin
Department of Economics

Christian Ahlin earned his undergraduate degree in math and computer science from Duke University in 1995, and his doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago in 2001. He has been at Michigan State University since 2007, having previously taught at Vanderbilt University. Ahlin’s research focuses on economic development, especially financial and political aspects. He has contributed most extensively to understanding the microcredit movement. A key question is how microcredit and related sectors interact with the broader economy. His research has established how much and in what ways microfinance institutions are dependent on macroeconomic conditions. He has also contributed to understanding the conditions under which microcredit might serve as a catalyst for a broader development process, acting as a stepping stone that eventually becomes obsolete. Another focus of his research is to understand what the impediments were to lending to low-wealth households throughout the world, and what lending innovations were and are key to overcoming these obstacles. In several contributions, Ahlin studies group lending and repeated lending as two techniques that can make uncollateralized lending possible, identifiable and explaining trends in their use, and providing conditions under which each works best. Ahlin has also contributed to the literature on corruption and economic development, examining effects, causes, and remedies for corruption. A current project provides a new statistical technique for understanding correlates of income inequality, showing how to estimate the Gin coefficient in a regression framework. This technique is applied to Thai data to show that wealth differences play a much smaller role in income inequality among those households connected to the financial sector than among those unconnected.

Jeff Conroy-Kutz
Department of Political Science

In 2017, Norway became the first country to shut down FM radio, completing a transition to digital-only broadcasting. This move furthers the notion that radio was going the way of the telegraph, carrier pigeon, and cassette as an information transmitter. However, in Africa, FM radio remains king. Even as social media there explodes, radio remains the go-to source for news in most African countries. Radio is cheap to access, doesn’t require literacy, uses myriad vernaculars, and covers local events most relevant to people’s lives. However, while radio informs and provides venues for engagement, it can also spread messages of division and hate.

Jeff Conroy-Kutz, an associate professor who joined the Political Science Department at MSU in 2009, is a core faculty member of the African Studies Center, and has studied FM radio in Africa for over a decade. His doctoral work (Columbia University, 2009) focused on how information access affects ethnic voting in Uganda and Senegal. In 2012, he co-conducted a field experiment in Ghana on the effects of partisan radio on polarization during a presidential campaign, finding that, contrary to conventional wisdom, those exposed to counter-attitudinal broadcasts during their morning commutes had more moderate attitudes, while like-minded and neutral messages had no effect. CASID support, including a Strategic Partnership Grant to study polarization with the Center for Democratic Development in Ghana, has been critical for his research in East and West Africa. Other funding for his work has come from the National Science Foundation, BBC Media Action, US State Department, US Agency for International Development, and the Embassy of the Netherlands. Conroy-Kutz is currently focusing on three projects related to radio in Africa. In 2018 and 2019, he will organize several experiments to study the effects of a radio soap opera designed to reduce inter-group tensions in the cross-border region of Burundi, DR Congo, and Rwanda. Later this year, he will conduct a field experiment to study the effects of a radio discussion program in Niger. He is currently working on a broader project to measure the effects of both hate speech and “peace programming” in Kenya.

John Kerr
Department of Community Sustainability

John Kerr is professor and associate chair in the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. He has been at MSU since 1999. Previously he worked at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC, and the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, India. He earned his PhD in applied economics in the Food Research Institute at Stanford University.

Kerr’s research interests are in international agricultural development and natural resource management. Focal areas of his research have been on adoption of agricultural technology and natural resource conservation practices, collective action and property rights related to natural resource management, and the interaction of these things with rural poverty in developing countries. He has lived in and conducted research in India, Mexico, and Egypt, and conducted short-term research in many other countries as well.

His current research focuses primarily on two main areas: 1) Complexities in how people respond to payment for environmental services (PES) initiatives, focusing on interactions between financial incentives and social norms; and 2) farmers’ knowledge and actions regarding soil management in parts of the world where soil degradation is a major constraint to agricultural development, such as in parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Mahesh Nalla
Department of Criminal Justice

Mahesh Nalla is a professor in the School of Criminal Justice. He teaches courses in criminology, globalization & crime, and security management. His primary research interests are focused in emerging and transitional democracies on two broad areas: Governance, legitimacy, and social regulation (public & private policing); and, gender, victimization, and public health. He is currently engaged in three major projects. The first relates to legitimacy of police and criminal justice organizations in India, Russia, and Hungary. The second project explores issues of migration and xenophobia in Russia and Turkey. The third project relates to gendered spaces and violence, particularly on public transportation, bus stops, and other public spaces in Delhi, India.

Nalla’s teaching, research, and outreach goals are centrally tied to and aligned with the core mission and efforts of CASID’s foci on international development in areas of environment, health, and justice. His recent volume Violence Against Women in India (co-editor, Oneworld, UK: Routledge, 2016) and publications on gendered violence (Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces, 2015), and, his current projects on fear of the other and xenophobia, and police legitimacy are some of the outcomes that are in tune with CASID’s goals.

Nalla’s outreach efforts have reached the far corners of the world. In one of his earlier projects, the United Nations (UN) had commissioned him to coordinate and conduct workshops for UN member state from over 200 countries around the world on the issue of “Prevention of Illicit Firearm Violence.” His written proceedings from these workshops included best practices for reducing firearm violence through legislative means and police practices formed the cornerstone for the draft International Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, as a supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
Sarah Murray
Urban and Regional Planning

Sarah Murray graduated from Western Michigan University with Bachelor’s Degrees in French and German and a minor in International Relations. She focused on leadership development, building networks, and international exchange programs, funded by the U.S. Department of Development. As the Associate Director, Sarah facilitates short-term mobility and climate change, and their impacts on food systems in Tanzania and Brazil.

In 2017, Sarah joined Indiana University’s Office of International Development for two summers and for the past academic year (2017-2018). She is a third-year PhD student in the Department of History, where she focuses on the history of Modern Russia and the Soviet Union. Through the FLAS Fellowship, she was able to take a uniquely designed program, Russian for Heritage Speakers, through the American Councils for International Education in St. Petersburg, Russia. She was also able to use her Russian language skills to take Ukrainian for Reading Knowledge, a course that builds on students’ command of Slavic languages, at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. Additionally, a FLAS academic year fellowship allowed her to advance her command of Russian language through research for a two-semester course taught at the University of Michigan, which included an academic year of archival research in the fall.

Karl Schneider
International Relations and Economics

Karl Schneider is a Fulbright English teaching assistant at Universidade Estadual Norte do Parana (UENP) in Brazil. He graduated with dual degrees in International Relations and Economics from Michigan State University in 2017. During the 2015-2016 school year, he participated as a FLAS scholar focusing on the study of Portuguese and Brazil, taking coursework in International Development and advanced Portuguese classes.

This experience as a FLAS fellow, previously as a study abroad participant and more broadly with his coursework on Latin America inspired him to apply as a Fulbright ETA in Brazil following graduation. In Brazil, Schneider uses his Portuguese skills and context focused on the small business lending, lending discrimination, and regulatory burden on financial institutions.

During his time at MSU, Karl also worked as a Research Assistant on a National Science Foundation project focusing on bioenergy development in the Amazon and four other American countries. He wrote his thesis focusing on Latin American development banks and the expansion of Southern financial institutions.

His daily responsibilities at UENP include giving cultural lectures on the United States, developing institutional activities with the International Center, working with students on English grammar, speaking, and listening, and designing relevant discussion topics. Additionally, Schneider works on research primarily with Economics Professors at UENP. His research includes projects on the impact of Lavo Jato on the Brazilian stock market, continuing his thesis work, and a comparative analysis of American and Brazil state debt.

Following the conclusion of the Fulbright grant, Karl will return to Washington D.C., where he works as a Research Assistant for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. His portfolio includes issues of small business lending, lending discrimination, and regulatory burden on financial institutions. He hopes to eventually attend graduate school in either political science or criminal justice, focusing on international issues of political economy, emerging markets, and trade.

Suban Nur Cooley
Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures

Suban Nur Cooley has been a Center for Advanced Study of International Development and Center for Gender in Global Context Foregin Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow recipient for two academic years and spent a summer intensive in Sarzb, Tanzania. She will be a FLAS Fellow again this coming summer, heading to Arusha, Tanzania – and an academic year recipient again next year. She will be a third-year PhD student in the department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures.

Through the fellowship, Suban has gained a strong proficiency of Swahili in order to support her research goals of working with women in refugee communities from East Africa – particularly Somalia – where she is from. This language knowledge will allow for her to more deeply connect with all refugee populations who speak Swahili (Sudanese, Eritrean, etc.) in order to support those who have spent ample time in refugee camps as they transition to countries like the United States, where they are seeking asylum.

From an international development and social justice perspective, Suban’s research interests are focused on activist collectives, digital technologies, displacement, and breaking the one-sided narrative of the Somali community in the media and beyond. She looks forward to continuing her work supporting displaced East African communities in the future as an educator, or while working within nongovernmental organizations across the globe.

Lyudmila Austin
History

Lyudmila Austin has received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from the Center of Advanced Study for International Development for two summers and for the past academic year (2017-2018). Lyudmila is a third-year PhD student in the Department of History, where she focuses on the history of Modern Russia and the Soviet Union. Through the FLAS Fellowship, Lyudmila was able to take a uniquely designed program, Russian for Heritage Speakers, through the American Councils for International Education in St. Petersburg, Russia. Lyudmila was also able to use her Russian language skills to take Ukrainian for Reading Knowledge, a course that builds on students’ command of Slavic languages, at the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. Additionally, a FLAS academic year fellowship allowed her to advance her command of Russian language through research for a two-semester course taught at the University of Michigan, which included an academic year of archival research in the fall.

Lyudmila studies migration since the late Soviet period, more specifically, the migration to Russia of Russian-speakers who lived outside of their constituent ethnic territories. Lyudmila focuses regionally on migration of Russian-speakers from the Southern tier of the USSR to the Northern Caucasus, a diverse and vibrant border zone in Russia. Lyudmila’s dissertation project received the Stephen F. Cohen—Robert C. Tucker Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. Through the support of this fellowship, she will embark on an academic year of archival research in the fall.
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My/Our total gift will be paid as indicated:

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427 North Shaw, Room 202
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https://www.givingto.msu.edu/gift/?smid=an151

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