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THIS COVER IS A COMPOSITE OF SELECTED UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LANDMARKS, AND THE TWELVE COHORTS (2009-2019) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AFRICAN PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS (UMAPS) PROGRAM. CREATED FOR ASC'S *ALLIANCES*, ISSUE NO. 11.

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are you in the next cohort?

The twelve cohorts (2009-2019) of the U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) program

Application to the 2020-2021 cohort runs August 15 until October 15, 2019. Turn to page 15 to read more about the program, the newest alumni, and the incoming cohort.



ANDRIES COETZEE
 Director, African Studies Center
 Professor, Department of
 Linguistics

Dear ASC community,

The African Studies Center (ASC) has been mission-driven since it was founded in 2008. ASC's mission, summarized in six points, helped us to focus our activities over the past year, and helps set the course into the future. During the 2018-19 academic year, the many conferences, presentations, and activities of the center were all guided by our focus on this mission. This 11th issue of our annual newsletter, *Alliances*, features a selection of some of the activities, and in this message, I will highlight how these activities have been aligned with our mission.

Deepen and expand scholarly and educational partnerships between U-M and African institutions: Our flagship UMAPS program has become one of the most respected US-based research fellowships for Africa-based scholars. In 2018-19, we hosted the 11th UMAPS cohort on campus, bringing to 149 the number of scholars who have participated in the program. See pages 15-19 for a report on the 2018-19 UMAPS alumni, and an introduction to the new 2019-20 cohort.



Support exchanges of students, faculty, and staff between U-M and African institutions: Since our founding over a decade ago, ASC has funded hundreds of students and faculty with over a million dollars to conduct research in and on Africa. We continued with this important work in 2018-19, awarding funds to 21 students and to nine faculty-led research projects. See page 37-39 for more on the work that U-M faculty and students are doing in and about Africa. We also hosted senior delegations from key partner institutions on the continent, including from the University of Ghana and Makerere University, thereby further strengthening relations between U-M and our African partners.



Enhance the study of Africa, past and present, within the U-M curriculum: ASC has supported the development of Africa-focused courses at U-M since our founding, including the development of an African languages program in collaboration with the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. U-M now offers a full three-year sequence of Swahili, and we are happy to add Yoruba as a second African language taught on the U-M campus starting in the 2019-20 academic year. See page 32-33 for more information about our language programs, including about Oluwatoyin Olanipekun, who will join us as Yoruba lecturer through the Fulbright FLTA program in the fall.

Connect faculty and students working in/on Africa from all colleges and units on campus: ASC continues to be a hub for U-M faculty and students with an interest in Africa. In 2018-19, we sponsored or cosponsored 25 Africa-focused events on campus and on the continent, that were attended by over 1,100

participants. Some examples are described on pages 24-27, 30-31, and 36.

Foster interdisciplinary research to find imaginative solutions to contemporary social, cultural, medical, technological, and environmental problems: Since our founding, ASC has been organized around initiatives (ASRI, AHHI, STEM-Africa, with EMC2 joining this year). These initiatives bring together faculty from across all U-M schools and colleges to collaboratively explore research on Africa. The initiatives organize interdisciplinary conferences on campus and on the continent, offer training workshops, award seed grants to teams of U-M faculty and African collaborators, and more. See pages 7-14 for a report on the activities of the initiatives during the 2018-19 academic year.



Serve as a public resource on Africa and Michigan's involvement with it for the state and local community: ASC events are free and open to the public, and are regularly attended by interested members of the Ann Arbor and broader Michigan community. ASC participated again this year in the African World Festival in Detroit, the largest public event in the US focusing on African culture. Starting in the fall 2019, ASC will also be the sponsor for the African Students Association (ASA), an organization that serves the interests of students of African descent on our campus, and whose many activities actively reach out to the broader community.



We would not be able to realize our mission without support from the U-M community and the ASC team—consisting of Laura Beny, Raquel Buckley, Gloria Caudill, Kathy Covert, Henrike Florusbosch, and Sandie Schulze. We are deeply thankful to President Schlissel for his ongoing support of our UMAPS program, to Provost Martin Philbert for his commitment to expanding U-M's engagement in Africa (see pages 20-23 for more), and to (former) Vice Provost James Holloway for his many years of support to the ASC.

We would like to add a special thanks to Cindy Nguyen, who served as ASC's academic program specialist for the past two years, and has left us to pursue a graduate program in philosophy at Boston College. Her enthusiasm for ASC has contributed immeasurably to our community. Many good wishes, Cindy, as you embark on your next endeavor! Congratulations are also in order. Raquel Buckley, our communications editor (and hence also the person responsible for the design of this newsletter), graduated at the end of the winter semester with a master's degree from the U-M School of Education. Congratulations from all of us, Raquel!

Andries W Coetzee

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ASC APPOINTS ADVISORY BOARD

ASC is pleased to announce the formation of its advisory board and the inaugural members, who share our passion for committing to the University of Michigan's vision of equitable engagement with Africa-based partners, specifically in the domain of higher education.



MEMBERS OF THE ASC ADVISORY BOARD, UMAPS ALUMS, AND ASC STAFF AT THE ASC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



ASC ADVISORY BOARD AND STAFF MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG.



Dominic Akuritinga Ayine is a former deputy attorney general of the Republic of Ghana and a senior partner of Ayine & Felli Law Offices, a firm he co-founded in 2009. He is currently the Member of Parliament for Bolgatanga East Constituency and the chairman of the Subsidiary Legislation Committee of the Parliament of Ghana. Prior to entering

politics, Dr. Ayine was a lecturer at the University of Ghana Law School from 2000-2013, where he taught International Trade and Investment Law, Natural Resources Law, and Administrative Law.

Dr. Ayine graduated from the University of Ghana Law School in 1993. After his call to the bar in October 1995, he joined the University of Ghana Law School as a teaching assistant. In August 1997, he was admitted to the University of Michigan Law School where he studied for the Master of Law specializing in international economic law. After his graduate studies at Michigan, he returned to Ghana and joined the University of Ghana Law School before returning to the United States to study for a doctorate at Stanford Law School, which he earned in 2006.



Jennifer Bisgard received a BA '85 magna cum laude in political science and economics from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in social change and development from The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, a division of Johns Hopkins University

based in Washington, D.C. After completing a year-long internship in Liberia in 1987 with USAID/Monrovia, she moved to Pretoria, South Africa in 1988. Until 1993, she served as the senior education specialist at USAID/Pretoria, which had been established under the United States Congress' Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986.

Bisgard co-founded Khulisa Management Services in 1993, and currently leads the company's evaluations and capacity building assignments in the education, democracy, and governance sectors across Africa. She speaks and writes about evaluation and evaluation use, most recently publishing a chapter in *Evaluation Failures: 22 Tales of Mistakes Made and Lessons Learned* (Sage Publishers, 2018). She has served on the boards of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA).



David Heleniak (AB, University of Michigan; MSc, London School of Economics, JD, Columbia University) spent the majority of his career at the law firm of Shearman & Sterling, LLP, rising to become its senior partner (CEO) in 2001. From 1977 to 1979, Heleniak interrupted his career at Shearman & Sterling to serve in

the United States Government, first as executive assistant to the deputy secretary of the treasury and then as assistant general counsel (domestic finance). At Shearman & Sterling, Heleniak worked principally on mergers and acquisitions; he also served as Anglo-American's and De Beers' principal outside corporate counsel starting in the

post-apartheid era and worked closely with the Oppenheimer family.

Heleniak became the vice chairman of Morgan Stanley, a member of its management committee in 2005, and a senior advisor at Morgan Stanley in 2009. He continued his relationships in South Africa, including meeting with President Mbeki, and provided advice on Nigeria's oil and gas business to President Obasanjo. Heleniak is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is active in numerous educational, community, cultural, and bilateral organizations, for many of which he served as president of the board: the New York City Ballet, the MacDowell (artist's) Colony, and the Council for the United States and Italy. Heleniak also served for two decades on the board of directors of The New York City Partnership and of The New York City Investment Fund, among several other organizations. Among his education board memberships are the provost's Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee of the dean of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, both at the University of Michigan; and the North American Advisory Board of the London School of Economics. In 2009 he was named an honorary fellow of the London School of Economics.



Anne Petersen (PhD, measurement, evaluation, and statistical analysis, Chicago University) is a research professor at the University of Michigan's Center for Human Growth & Development and an active member of U-M's ASC STEM-Africa Initiative, the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program, and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

She is the founder and president of Global Philanthropy Alliance, a foundation making grants in Africa.

Petersen has authored 18 books and over 350 articles, and has held administrative and faculty roles at Stanford, the University of Minnesota, Penn State, and Chicago prior to coming to U-M. Petersen also served as senior vice president for programs at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and U.S. President-nominated/Senate-confirmed National Science Foundation deputy director. She was associate director for health at the MacArthur Foundation, and worked

closely with the Swiss Jacobs Foundation in many roles. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine and as a fellow in several scientific societies. She currently leads the secretariat of the International Consortium of Developmental Science Societies, chairs NASEM's Policy & Global Affairs Divisional Committee, chairs CRDF's Global Board, and serves on NSF's International Committee, among other U.S./global voluntary boards and committees.

Michael Sudarkasa (BA, highest honors, history, University of Michigan; JD, Harvard Law School) is the CEO of Africa Business Group (ABG), a South Africa-based and continentally active, African economic development company, focused on economic and business development consulting; agriculture, tourism and renewable energy projects; and capacity development. The Group specializes in the



areas of private sector development, trade, and investment within Africa, and between Africa and the global business community. It also has designed and manages the Global African Agribusiness Accelerator Platform as the company's principal capacity development initiative. ABG's sister company, Africa Business Energy, is the vehicle through which the group provides training, advocacy, project design, development, and implementation in the domain of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

A U.S. commercial attorney by training, Michael has lived, travelled, and worked in 50 countries around the world (including 35 in Africa) and is the author of several publications, including *The African Union Commission's Africa Business Directory: Toward the Facilitation of Growth, Partnership and Global Inclusion* (African Union, 2014) and *A Field Guide to Inclusive Business Finance* (UNDP 2012). Michael currently serves as the chair of Impact@Africa, a continentally focused impact investment ecosystem development platform, and as a member of the University of Michigan provost's Advisory Committee, and of the board of Constituency for Africa.



CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS NAOMI ANDRE, DONATO SOMMA AND INNOCENTIA MHLAMBI WITH DILIZA KHUMALO, SON OF PROFESSOR J.S.M. KHUMALO.

UPDATES

AFRICAN HERITAGE AND HUMANITIES INITIATIVE (AHHI)

Much of (African Heritage and Humanities Initiative) AHHI's work is done through collaborative projects involving several AHHI members and colleagues based at African universities and other institutions of knowledge production, such as museums, theater companies, and music institutions.

Some of these AHHI projects are described in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, including the study trip of School of Music, Theater and Dance students and faculty to South Africa (spearheaded by AHHI member Anita Gonzales) on page 38, and Laura De Becker's *Beyond Borders: Global Africa* exhibition and associated events on page 26. Many AHHI members from U-M as well as long-term AHHI collaborators from the continent were involved in an ambitious project, spearheaded by Derek Peterson (History; Afroamerican and African Studies), to digitize a large collection of photographs documenting the regime of former Ugandan president Idi Amin. Spanning the period of the mid-1950s to the late-1980s, the collection was forgotten in the archives of the Uganda Broadcasting Association until 2015. Since then, Peterson has worked with AHHI member Tom Bray



PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF PROFESSOR J.S.M. KHUMALO.

2018-2019 SEED GRANTS AND OTHER ASC-FUNDED PROJECTS

“The Asian Presence in East Africa: History, Identity, and Community Fifty Years after the Expulsion,” Seed Grant project by Gaurav Desai (U-M) and James Ocita (Stellenbosch)

“Colloquium on Theatre History Methodologies,” Seed Grant project by Anita Gonzales (U-M) and Zerihun Berihanu (Addis Ababa University)

“Graffiti in Ancient Nubia and Beyond” symposium organized by Geoff Emberling (U-M), in conjunction with an exhibition at the Kelsey Museum of Antiquities, drawing on Emberling’s archaeological work in Sudan

“Gone to the Village: The Burial and Final Funerary Rites of Asantehemaa Nana Afia Kobi Serwaa Ampen II,” final stages of completion of a documentary film by Kwasi Ampene (U-M) and Lawor Akunor (film editor, Ghana)

and others on the inventory and digitization of the circa 7,000 photographs, funded in part by AHHI. Because these important visual documents had never been seen by the Ugandan public, the project also comprised the development of a traveling exhibition, opening first at the Uganda National Museum in Kampala. This exhibition was curated by Peterson, Uganda National Museum curator Nelson Abiti, Richard Vokes, and Edgar Taylor. Other AHHI members and long-term collaborators consulted on the project, including Laura De Becker (U-M), Raymond Silverman (U-M), Cirraaj Rassool (UCT, South Africa) and Kodzo Gavua (UG, Ghana).

Laura de Becker and Raymond Silverman are also co-PIs on a Humanities Collaboratory project investigating the origins of African Art History as a discipline. Originally focused on the role of the Peace Corps as a potential defining factor, the project has broadened to encompass the variety of threads and origin stories that have contributed to the genesis of the field, including those that have been obscured from view. Current sub-projects include the history of collections and exhibitions of African Art at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and an oral history project with early generation of African art historians, who started their careers as Peace Corps volunteers.

Judith Irvine (Anthropology) served as the 2018-2019 representative to ASC’s executive committee on behalf of AHHI; Naomi André (Afroamerican and African Studies; Women’s Studies) will take over this role for the coming year. Future AHHI plans include efforts to broaden the interest in Africa-based or comparative research among U-M faculty around themes in which AHHI has historic strengths; these include “Gender and Performance in Africa,” “Communication in Africa: Technologies and Arts,” and “Rethinking Ethnographic Museums in Africa.”

In August 2018, Naomi André co-organized a successful symposium at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, South Africa, on “The Intellectual Legacy of Professor James Steven Mzilikazi Khumalo.” Themba Msimang, who was a close collaborator of Khumalo on the opera *Shaka, Son of Senzangakhona*, delivered the opening address of the symposium that was funded in part through an AHHI seed grant.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE MELLON WORKSHOP “SPATIAL TYPOLOGIES AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT,” HELD MAY 2019 AT WISER, JOHANNESBURG.

JOINING THEORY AND EMPIRICISM IN THE REMAKING OF THE AFRICAN HUMANITIES: A TRANSCONTINENTAL COLLABORATION IN 2018-2019

In June 2018, the Andrew Mellon Foundation extended funding for the collaboration between U-M and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) for another two years, and approved the creation of a joint post-doc position for each of these years. Dr. Okechukwu Nwafor from the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra State, Nigeria, was selected as the inaugural post-doc on the grant. During his time, first at U-M and then at Wits, he pursued a research and publishing project entitled ‘The Ubiquitous Image: Obituary Photographs in South-Eastern Nigeria and the Allure of Public Visibility’.

The overarching goal of the ongoing collaborative, *Joining Theory and Empiricism in the Remaking of the African Humanities*, is to expose scholars to the particular research philosophies—one theoretical, the other empirical—that are dominant in the universities of Southern Africa and North America. Specific goals for the research and joint workshops that are organized as part of the grant are that they engage ambitious theoretical

questions; explore the boundary between the humanities and the social sciences; and engage closely with the African continent in a manner that addresses an international scholarly audience.

In 2018-2019, we organized two thematic workshops, one in Ann Arbor and one in Johannesburg. The Ann Arbor workshop, *The Filmic and the Photographic: African Visual Cultures*, was organized by Kelly Askew of U-M and Pamila Gupta of the University of the Witwatersrand. For four days in November 2018, scholars from South Africa, Mozambique, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the US discussed their work around film and photography in Africa, both from the continent and its multiple diasporas. Presentations covered a range of topics, including South African photographer Zanele Muholi, Nigerian photography albums and funeral brochures, film stories from Tanzania and Zambia, and the politics of the Polaroid Corporation that connect Civil Rights movements in the US with anti-apartheid activism in South Africa.

The Johannesburg workshop, *Spatial Typologies and the Built Environment: Navigating African Urban Landscapes* was organized by Pamila Gupta of the University of the Witwatersrand with Martin Murray of U-M. Workshop participants praised the mix of different disciplinary approaches represented at the workshop (including anthropology, urban planning, architecture, history, and geography), as well as the many cross-cutting themes and international comparisons (from Beirut to Nairobi to Johannesburg and Detroit).

The Mellon workshops and collaborations they foster are also producing significant published research, bringing this work to a larger scholarly public. Most recently, a special issue of *Social Dynamics* (2019) featured eight articles from the 2016 Mellon workshop *Print Cultures*; collections of papers from four other Mellon workshops are currently under consideration for publication, either as special issues of academic journals or edited volumes.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASRI-SPONSORED COURSE ON QUANTITATIVE METHODS, USING THE SOFTWARE PACKAGE R, HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN KUMASI, GHANA.

UPDATES

AFRICAN SOCIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE (ASRI)

ASRI's activities in the past year included new iterations of the quantitative methods courses spearheaded by ASRI members, and the organization of two Mellon-funded workshops with strong involvement from ASRI members. Nahomi Ichino (Political Science) served as ASRI representative to ASC's executive committee for the 2018-19 academic year; she will be succeeded in this position by Pamela Jagger (School of the Environment and Sustainability) for 2019-20.

Two quantitative methods courses were held in Ghana in July and August 2018. The first, week-long course was organized by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and focused on regression models and diagnostics, using the statistical software package R. Instruction for the course was provided by ASRI steering committee members Rod Alence and Alecia Ndlovu, both from the University of the Witwatersrand. After having taken place in Accra for six years, this year the course was held in Kumasi, at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST); Kumasi was chosen due to its central location in the country to allow for easier access for participants from across Ghana.

“For me, as a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Rural Development at KNUST, the ASRI workshop was the solution to the “something new” I was looking for to enable me to conduct quantitative analysis in relation to my thesis. Through the course, I realized that R and R Studio are very intuitive and user friendly as long as the user is committed to frequent practice and usage. I enjoyed the workshop and am grateful to the coordinators and sponsors.

Funding for the course was largely provided by ASRI, and participants expressed great satisfaction with the course on the exit evaluations.

The second, 10-day course under the auspices of ASRI was organized by the Department of Economics of the University of Ghana (UG), Legon. Instruction was provided by UG faculty, including ASRI member Nkechi Owoo; ASRI members David Lam of the University of Michigan and Murray Leibbrandt of the University of Cape Town, also contributed to the course, as did U-M student Sandra Nwogu who served as a teaching assistant. The course focused on the statistical analysis of demographic, economic, and health datasets, using Stata, a leading statistical software package for which permanent licences were provided to course participants. This year represents the 8th iteration of the course, and the 6th time it was held at the University of Ghana, Legon. U-M Provost Martin Philbert was able to visit with the course instructors and students as part of his visit to Africa in the 2018 summer.

ASRI steering committee members were also heavily involved with the organization of two workshops held as part of the joint U-M/Wits Mellon grant on *Joining Theory and Empiricism*. The 10th workshop in the series was held in June 2018 at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop on *Intellectual and Cultural*

Life under Conditions of Austerity, co-organized by ASRI member Anne Pitcher, focused on the effects of austerity on the production of knowledge on the African continent. The event was attended by thirty academics and researchers from the U.S., South Africa, and other countries from across Africa, who were joined in Maputo by scholars based in Mozambique. Organized in collaboration with colleagues at UEM, and with organizational and intellectual support from Kaleidoscopio, the workshop has led to the establishment of new research relationships with Mozambican colleagues. An edited volume of selected papers from the workshop is currently being planned.

The 12th Mellon workshop, held in May 2019 in Johannesburg, also had a strong ASRI connection, being co-organized by ASRI-member Martin Murray (together with Pamila Gupta of the University of the Witwatersrand). Under the theme of *Spatial Typologies and the Built Environment: Navigating African Urban Landscapes*, this workshop sought to open a dialogue between the aesthetics of architecture, urban design, and planning and the actual socioeconomic conditions that shape how urban residents make use of, and traverse, urban space. Two keynote addresses anchored the conference, the first focusing on Monrovia, Liberia, and the second on navigating Beirut through the lens of mini-bikes and food-delivery services.



ETHIOPIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE AFRICAN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ADVENTURE (AURA) PROGRAM VISITING ASC FOR LUNCH AND CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS FROM KOREA HOSTED BY THE U-M NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES.



AURA STUDENTS WITH AURA PROGRAM LEAD FACULTY, TODD AUSTIN AND VALERIA BERTACCO, AND AURA PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SARAH SNAY.



AURA STUDENTS AT THE MICHIGAN STADIUM.

UPDATES

ETHIOPIA-MICHIGAN COLLABORATIVE CONSORTIUM (EMC2)

With the decision of ASC's executive committee (EC) to change ASC's bylaws to allow for the creation of "initiatives" beyond the original three (AHHI, ASRI, and STEM-Africa), the Ethiopia Michigan Collaborative Consortium (EMC2) officially became an ASC initiative in April 2019, and the only one to be focused geographically. The goal of EMC2 continues to be bringing together U-M faculty and students with diverse stakeholders in Ethiopia—from ministry officials and national funding agencies to universities and non-governmental organizations—to engage in community-based knowledge production, patient care, service learning, scholarship, and research.

Todd Austin (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) serves as the first EMC2 representative to ASC's executive committee. Two new Ethiopia-focused programs were initiated in 2018-19. The first involves the development of "on-boarding" resources for students traveling to Ethiopia, funded through an M-Cube grant awarded to Oveta Fuller, Alex Blackwood, and Todd Austin. Based on an earlier "on-boarding" short course developed by Professor Fuller, the pre-departure training for students heading to Ethiopia aims to increase their cultural sensitivity and to develop win-win relationships between institutions in each country. In the first year, the training was piloted with students in the co-PIs' respective Departments of Microbiology & Immunology, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and Computer Science.

A second pilot program is the African Undergraduate Research Adventure (AURA). The program will bring African undergraduate students in engineering, specifically from Ethiopia, to U-M to do summer research with U-M faculty and students. In the program's first year, ten students from Addis Ababa Institute of Technology (AAiT) were placed in four departments in U-M's College of Engineering: Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electrical and Computer Engineering

(ECE), and Mechanical Engineering (ME). The students worked with nine faculty mentors: Todd Austin (CSE), Valeria Bertacco (CSE), David Blaauw (ECE), Evgueni Filipov (CEE), Heath Hofmann (ECE), Baris Kasikci (CSE), Necmiye Ozay (ECE), Kathleen Sienko (ME), and Jenna Wiens (CSE). Over 150 students applied to the AURA program. As part of the application process, interested students were asked to indicate their preference for three of the research projects proposed by U-M faculty. The breadth of student interest is evident from the fact that each project was selected by at least 20 students, and that each project was the first choice of at least three students.

The goal of the AURA program is to create mutually beneficial, long-lasting research collaborations between the University of Michigan and the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology. Through the program, AURA students developed research related to their senior theses, in collaboration with their College of Engineering faculty member and other U-M postdocs and PhD students. At the end of the 12-week program, AURA students are expected to remain in touch with their research collaborators as they spend their final year at AAiT focused on completing the research they started in Ann Arbor.



STEM-AFRICA'S ELIJAH KANNATEY-ASIBU WORKING WITH STUDENTS ON AN APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

UPDATES

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)-AFRICA

The efforts of the STEM-Africa Initiative this past year have focused on organizing its fifth conference, *STEM-V: Innovation and Appropriate Technology in Africa*, to be held 18-20 October, 2019, in Ann Arbor.

The conference is intended, in part, as a memorial and tribute to long-term collaborator of STEM-Africa and many individual faculty members at U-M, Dr. Moses Kizza Musaaazi, late of Makerere University, Uganda, who passed away on September 18, 2018. An In Memoriam of Dr. Musaaazi can be found on page 34. Dr. Musaaazi was a master of both innovation and “appropriate technology”, which serve as the key themes of the conference. Importantly, the conference organizers aim to highlight the creativity and scientific rigor involved in rethinking technical problems to come up with alternatives to the standard solutions. Designing locally apt solutions in the context of severe materials sourcing or distribution constraints can be more challenging, but the results can also be more transformative for the user

population and rewarding for the engineer/scientist.

STEM-V is conceived as a way to guarantee that Musaaazi's work will be continued and his insights will be taken up beyond Africa. Bringing together some of the best practitioners from the continent and their collaborators at U-M, STEM-V will assess the current state of appropriate technology approaches, both from the engineering/scientific perspective, and in terms of local innovation and entrepreneurship. These latter aspects are viewed as vital to the effective distribution of creative solutions to on-the-ground problems and empowerment of the user communities, including especially women. Finally, the conference will highlight U-M student experiences with engineering and design projects in Africa, to help ensure that such fruitful opportunities will remain available for U-M students. The STEM-Africa Initiative looks forward to broad engagement from the ASC community in the panels, keynote, reception, and student poster session.



Cheers to the newest alumni! 2018-19 UMAPS COHORT

Each February, the UMAPS farewell dinner following the last UMAPS colloquium of the academic year marks the final campus event that brings together UMAPS scholars, faculty collaborators, and the larger ASC community. Returning to their various home institutions in the days following the farewell dinner, that year's cohort of the U-M African Presidential Scholars program then officially become UMAPS alumni. With the departure of the 2018-19 cohort, the UMAPS alumni network now comprises 149 faculty members based at 39 universities in 11 different countries.

These exemplary scholars and scientists continue to contribute to international scholarly conversations, provide research and other leadership at their home institutions, and enrich U-M through our ongoing relationships. The newest alumni, of the 2018-19 UMAPS cohort, “were the most productive group yet in terms of written work,” says Chris Feak, who has led the writing workshop sessions since the inception of the UMAPS program in 2009. This written output includes two completed book manuscripts, two finished dissertation manuscripts, a finished dissertation proposal, and at least seven articles either published or submitted. Others wrote and submitted grant applications, leading to grants being awarded to at least three 2018-19 UMAPS alumni so far.

In reflecting on their experiences with the UMAPS program, many of the new alumni remarked on how productive they had been in their research and writing. Lemlem Beza Demisse (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia) was able to write and submit three articles as well as a grant application, in addition to finishing the coursework for her PhD. She notes that in her academic career so far, she has never been as productive as during the six months of her UMAPS residency. “Back home in Ethiopia, I have not had time off dedicated for academic development, such as the time to spend reading and writing. I was always challenged with two or more competing commitments. At U-M, I was able to dedicate time to read and write, which I never did for the last eight years of my work experience.”

Patrick Cobbinah (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana), whose residency was dedicated to finishing his book, *The Geography of Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Ghana*

(Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) credits his productivity as a UMAPS scholar to “the paradox of concentrating on one’s research project and at the same time socially engaging others through colloquiums and social gatherings. The genuine willingness of some mentors—irrespective of their fields of interest—to know and share their experiences on scholars’ projects was amazing; the encouragement and



I came to know young African intellectuals from every corner of the continent which I have used as a means to broaden my understanding of my continent and broaden my network of friends in the African academy.

— Zerihun Birehanu, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

mutual support I received from faculty members and other UMAPS scholars was indescribable.”

Working together closely with a U-M faculty member, who for some UMAPS fellows serves more as a mentor and for others more as a collaborator, is an indispensable aspect of the UMAPS program, and one that is highly valued by UMAPS fellows. Adélaïde Nieguitsila (Université des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku, Gabon) spent her time

at U-M working closely with the members of Lutgarde Raskin’s research lab, which focuses on a variety of biological water and wastewater treatment processes. Nieguitsila benefitted much from the group meetings and calls Raskin’s mentorship “truly exceptional.” Raskin and Nieguitsila’s collaboration continues to the present, with the award of a new research grant on “Linking Research and Management

for Sustainable and Safe Water Supply by Drinking Water Utilities across International Contexts.” Aimed at pioneering a model for integrative water quality capacity within Gabon, this project was awarded a “Catalyst Grant” by the Graham Sustainability Institute.

Kholekile Malindi (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), who calls UMAPS “by far one of the best fellowship programs on offer for African scholars,” underlines the benefit of working with U-M faculty who are leaders in their area of research. He notes, “I had the distinguished pleasure

“The UMAPS program has changed my entire outlook and attitude towards life as an academic. It’s not easy to find someone to give you the support like I got here, and it’s that support that makes me more comfortable to start my research.

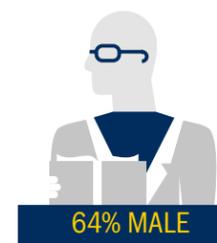
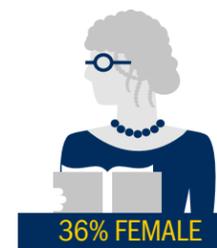
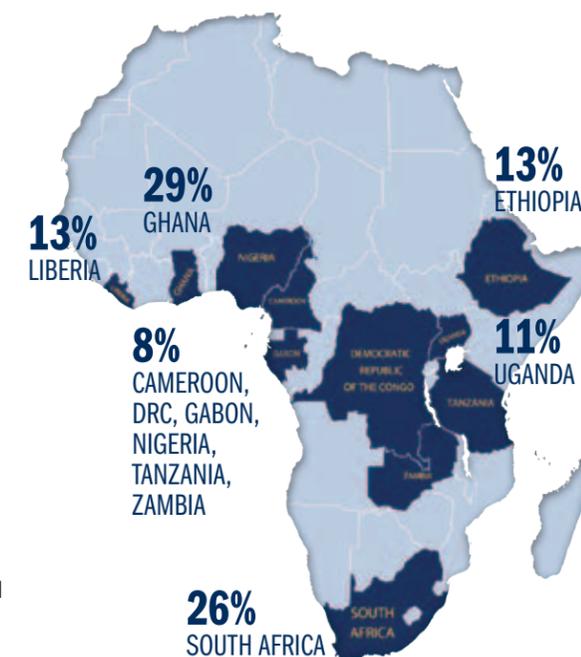
— Faida Zacharia, University of Dodoma, Tanzania

and honour of receiving research mentorship from Prof. David Lam, in the form of frequent discussions and engagements about my research, which were undoubtedly the highlight of my time as a UMAPS fellow.” Since returning to South Africa after his UMAPS residency, Malindi has successfully defended his dissertation on “Labor Market Determinants of Income Dynamics for a Highly Unequal Society: The South African Case,” making him the 43rd UMAPS alumnus to earn a PhD after their time as a UMAPS scholar (48 alumni already had a PhD at the start of UMAPS).

Bringing faculty from African universities to campus not only contributes to the career development of these individual scholars, but also benefits their home institutions in Africa and, maybe most of all, the University of Michigan. The final UMAPS colloquium provided a telling example of how UMAPS fellows enrich the intellectual life at U-M, when a visiting post-doc from Columbia, who worked in the same

public health department where Lemlem Beza Demisse was based, noted how much her experience at U-M had been enriched by her encounter with Demisse’s work. What this post-doc appreciated about U-M’s scholarly community is that it is a global one, and that it provides for new connections, including South-South exchanges between emerging scholars.

So far, 131 U-M faculty have worked directly with one or more UMAPS scholars; in many cases, these collaborations have included guest lectures of the UMAPS scholar in a professor’s class or presentations at lab groups. Over 20% of U-M faculty who have worked with a UMAPS scholar have done so more than once; each successive UMAPS cohort thus includes new and repeat faculty collaborators, increasing both the breadth and depth of U-M faculty involvement with the UMAPS program. Another indication of this broad support for UMAPS is that to date faculty from 15 of U-M’s 19 Schools and Colleges have served as UMAPS collaborators.





MEET THE 2019-2020 UMAPS COHORT

ASC is pleased to welcome the 12th cohort of the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) program to campus. This year's cohort consists of 13 faculty members from nine universities in six countries, bringing the number of UMAPS fellows, since the inception of the program, to 162. U-M's engagement with Africa is built on the premise that strengthening African universities is one of the most effective ways to contribute to the continent's growth and continued excellence.

Doreen Agyei is an assistant lecturer in commercial law at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. She received her LLM from the University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom. Doreen's research project, entitled "Enforcement of Copyright and Related Rights: A Burden for Ghanaian Law and Practice," compares how copyright infringements are being handled in Ghana and the US. Her U-M faculty collaborator is Jessica Litman (Law School and School of Information).

Darlington David is a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, University of Liberia. Darlington received his PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. His research project at U-M is "Mathematical Modeling of Cancer Self-Remission and Tumor Instability as Prey-Predator System," which will use a combination of both continuous as well

as discrete mathematical modeling. He will be working with Trachette Jackson (Mathematics, LSA).

Meseret Desta is the vice-president for business and development at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. She received her PhD in Natural Resources and Life Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria. Her research project is a mixed-methods investigation of women's participation in agroforestry practices in Maytemeko watershed in Northwestern Ethiopia. Her faculty collaborator is Rebecca Hardin (School for Environment and Sustainability).

Aminu Dramani teaches in the Department of History and Political Studies at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, where he is also a PhD student. He received his MPhil in

Political Science from the University of Ghana, Legon. At U-M, Aminu will be working on his PhD project, which tries to understand the factors that explain the protraction of low intensity conflicts using the Bawku chieftaincy conflict in Ghana as a case study. He will be working with Michael McGovern (Anthropology, LSA).

Tesfaye Habtu is a lecturer of theatre arts at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, who holds an MA in Cultural Studies from the Institute of Ethiopian Studies from the same university. He will be working on a research project on one of Ethiopia's most highly appreciated national heroes: "Representation and State Ideology in Ethiopian Drama: A Critical Study of Historical Dramas of King Thewodros II." His faculty collaborator is Anita Gonzales (Theatre and Drama, SMTD).

John Hena is an instructor in the Department of Chemistry, University of Liberia. He has a MSc in Applied Analytical Chemistry from Kenyatta University, Kenya. John will be working on a project to develop workflows and teaching methods in mass spectrometry (MS) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy metabolomics, with the goal of strengthening the research culture at the University of Liberia, particularly regarding non-communicable diseases. He will be working with Robert T. Kennedy (Chemistry, LSA; Medical School; and College of Engineering).

Chinwe Ikpo (Moody scholar) lectures on nanochemistry and physical chemistry at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, where she also received her PhD in Chemistry. At U-M, Chinwe will work on a project to design nanostructured electrode materials for advanced lithium and sodium ion batteries: "Investigating the Electrochemical and Structural Properties of Na₂MnSiO₄ and Li₂MnSiO₄ in CNT-Graphene Nanonetworks for Na/Li-ion Batteries." Her faculty collaborator is Pierre Ferdinand Poudeu-Poudeu (Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering).

John Imokola is an assistant lecturer at Makerere University, Uganda, who holds an MA in Journalism and Communication from the same university. John's research project "Television Local Content Regulation in Uganda: An Exploratory Study" will explore the implementation of the local content quotas for TV programming in Uganda, in view of rapid globalisation and the ethnic and language diversity of the Ugandan society. His

Funding for UMAPS is provided by the U-M Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and the South African Initiatives Office. This year, an additional post-doc position has been funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation as part of the "Joining Theory and Empiricism" grant jointly held by U-M's ASC and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

faculty collaborator is Stuart Soroka (Communication Studies and Political Science, LSA).

Nonhianhia Mbatha (Phille) (Moody scholar) is a lecturer at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, who received her PhD in Environmental and Geographical Science from that same university. At U-M, Phille will be working on a research paper on "Plural conservation governance systems and rural coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean region of South Africa." Her work highlights how legal pluralism and historical context affect governance processes, and how this affects the day-to-day livelihoods. Her faculty collaborator is Bilal Butt (School for Environment and Sustainability).

Wawa Nkosi (Moody scholar) is a lecturer in the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University, where she is also a PhD candidate. Wawa's research project "Prosecuted cartels and cartel prosecution: the South African context" aims to assess the implementation and effectiveness of South Africa's Competition Act by analyzing data on all prosecuted cartels since the implementation of the act in 1998. Her faculty collaborator is Jim Adams (Economics, LSA).

Abigiya Tilahun has a masters of public health from Addis Ababa University, where she also teaches; she is also a PhD student at Martin Luther University, Germany. Her project "Integrating psychosocial service in routine breast cancer care in rural hospitals in Ethiopia" uses a cluster randomized control trial in order to assess the impact of psychosocial interventions on adherence to treatment, reduction in mental health problems, and

improvement in quality of life of breast cancer patients. Her faculty collaborator is Bradley J. Zebrack (School of Social Work).

Valentine Ucheagwu is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Chukwu Emeka Odumegwu University, Nigeria. He has a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Ebonyi State University, Nigeria. Valentine will be working on his research titled "The victims as well as the caregivers: Reducing the burden of dementia in developing African nations (Nigeria as a case point)." His faculty collaborator is Bruno Giordani (Psychiatry, Medical School; and Psychology, LSA).

Hiyal Yimer is an assistant professor and chair of the Department of Ecosystem Planning and Management at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He has a PhD in Environmental Planning from Addis Ababa University. At U-M, he will be working with Larissa Larsen (College of Architecture and Urban Planning; and School for Environment and Sustainability). His research project is entitled "Integrated assessment of ecosystem services, livelihood dependency and anthropogenic pressures on Lake Ziway, Ethiopia."

Johannes Machinya will be joining ASC as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow for the theme "Historical and Contemporary Expressions of Populism in Africa and Beyond." Johannes holds an MA in Industrial and Economic Sociology from the University of the Witwatersrand, and recently completed doctoral studies at the same university. His project at U-M is entitled "Migration and politics in South Africa: normalising xenophobia through political demagoguery." Anne Pitcher (Afroamerican and African Studies, LSA) is his faculty collaborator.

“THE UMAPS PROGRAM HAS A MULTIPLIER EFFECT THAT WE CAN NEVER FULLY QUANTIFY

Interview with University of Michigan
Provost Martin Philbert
—Henrike Florusbosch



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY CONGER

A recent piece in [Inside Higher Education](#) made the argument that every university should have an Africa strategy. How would you describe U-M's Africa strategy?

Our strategy is developing, but has as its foundation the more than decade-long engagement with Africa through the UMAPS program. The core of the strategy is capacity building and the building of a transnational network on the continent; a network that strengthens research and scholarship more broadly, that enhances the

the first time to Africa with humanists, and it tore the veil off of a different dimension of life on the continent, or at least in three specific, very different countries.

[Pointing to a photo of the U-M delegation at the palace of the Asantehene (Asante king) in Kumasi, Ghana, which is prominently displayed in the provost's office]: This was a really amazing moment, when I found myself—son of a working class family whose forebears, on one side

through DNA, my connection to Ghana or whatever countries my forebears came from, are lost in the specific familial sense; but in the more generic sense of place, during my most recent trip, I reconnected with the continent.

What has emerged for me afterwards are the possibilities. [U-M president] Mark Schlissel talks about talent being distributed equally, but opportunity not; he talks about this domestically. How much more true is this globally? How much impact could we have in

“What I connected with most was the joy of the place: in the expression of the arts, the amazing manuscripts in the orthodox churches in Ethiopia, staring down on the bones of Lucy, the first known hominid, and the amazing economic development in South Africa: the full range of the human experience.

possibility for co-equal, transparent collaboration between our university and this network of research-intensive universities across the continent, and that, finally, enriches the scholarly life of faculty, students, and staff at our institution and our partner institutions.

You visited some of U-M's partners and collaborative projects in Ghana, Ethiopia, and South Africa in the summer of 2018. What impressed you most on that trip, in your position as provost? And what was a personal highlight?

One of the joys of traveling to Africa in the past, as the dean of the School of Public Health, is the engagement I had with people who don't always have all the resources that we have here (with respect to infrastructure, clean water, clean air), but who in the face of that are resourceful, resilient, and innovative in developing strategies that sustain life and, as much as possible, promote health. As provost, I went for

of the family, were forcibly removed from Africa and deposited in the Caribbean—sitting in the palace of the king of the Asante as the provost of a world-class, research-intensive university. When I was robed, some part of my DNA reverberated in this unlikely circle, separated by generations. Other than tracing

transforming lives, and the trajectories of lives for generations? It's just astonishing. But we have to do so responsibly, ethically, and with all humility and humanity, sharing of the wealth of what we have.

The football team recently went on a trip to South Africa—the team's first visit to an African country. What



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVOST PHILBERT

“We live in a candy store of intellectual goods and offerings, and it’s easy to think that you understand the world sitting in Ann Arbor. And then you go elsewhere. The world is a vast and amazing place, while at the same time being really small. It’s hard to teach that in words, in lectures, or even in movies. It’s not until you go there and immerse yourself in it, that you are truly educated.”

[significance do you think this first-ever trip to the continent has for the football team, for the players, and for U-M?](#)

Many of these young people had never left their state, let alone their country, or their continent, but just the act of traveling opens you up, even if you go to Canada or Mexico. It opens you up to the fact that not everything you take for granted is so elsewhere—good, bad, and indifferent. I hope that this would be the first of many opportunities they have to educate themselves, not just about the African continent, because they only got to see a very tiny, tiny piece of South Africa, let alone the great heterogeneity of the rest of Africa.

Then there are all of the cultural notions of what it is to be African, and in everybody’s head comes a picture of a prototypical “African.” Just the opportunity to go there, and experience that there is a whole range of what it is to be a black African, if you just focus in on Black Africa—or a white African for that matter, or an Indian African. And that across these notional national groups, there are many things that are more alike across the various races and ethnicities than are different.

The athletes also went to the Apartheid museum, and when you think of all the atrocities that are documented there, one could almost have a feeling of righteous indignation, the feeling of elation when at the end of the movie the good guy wins and the bad guy gets thrown off a building—but that didn’t happen. I don’t know of any other time [than the 1994 transition to democracy in South Africa], where at that scale, that kind of reversal of fortune happened, with minimal violence.

[Mary Sue Coleman visited the continent in 2008, which inspired her to found the ASC, and start the UMAPS program. What do you see as the key accomplishments of the ASC and the UMAPS program since that time?](#)

The UMAPS program has a multiplier that we can never fully quantify: we’ve now had 149 UMAPS scholars, all of whom have gone back, except one who passed away, and one who accepted a job in the US. I have been part of lot of disciplinary training grants, and if you’re trying to keep people in the discipline, or in academia, you don’t get those numbers. It’s an extraordinary success rate. It’s focused in ASC, within LSA, but it’s definitely had a much broader reach. What if we could endow that, building on the decade-plus years of co-investment, from the people coming in from Africa and the faculty, students, and staff involved in ASC: what if we could make that permanent?

The hope is that 140 years from now, people will view our relationship with Africa in the same way as they view our relationship with China. Right after the Boxer rebellion and the reparations to China, it was then-



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY CONGER

U-M president Angell who was out there building this relationship with China. And all these years later, we end up with a very robust relationship with Asia, having just had an alumni reunion in Hong Kong, which was attended by 400 people, from 14 countries. This sort of event glues people together through nothing more than a notion of place, and a common understanding of what a Michigan education provides.

We can build this network in Africa, too—in a suitable way, partly residential in Ann Arbor, but mostly in Africa. When I was there last year, it was remarkable to see people showing up with their pins and U-M flags, talking about their days in Ann Arbor, and regardless of nationality, building networks that are helpful in terms of policy, trade, and mutual aid. It’s that fundamental catalyst for good that we ought to be and continue to be going forward.

[What are some new insights about how to strengthen U-M’s engagement on the continent that you have taken away from your own most recent visit? What did you learn from your peers and other university administrators at the African institutions you visited?](#)

We were in an emergency room in Kumasi, Ghana, and I was talking to Rocky [Oteng, emergency physician at U-M], and I was looking at a sparsely equipped emergency room and IC, and said, “you must need lots of equipment.” “No,” he said, “I need people and process.” There are things we could learn from that. It’s not a 1-way street, but we can learn much, for example, about delivery of high-quality, low-cost health care: appropriate triaging, where we get the appropriate health care to the right person at the right time, at the right place. That insight is just sitting in the middle of an ER in Kumasi, so what other insights are there in the humanities, and in the social sciences, that we would uncover together? There is this wonderful potential.

So in addition to solidifying our position with the current UMAPS program, I would love to see the UMAPS program spread across campus, to all of our 19 academic units. We’ve had faculty collaborators representing 15 of these already, so there is definitely interest from U-M faculty. What if we could increase the volume and the scale, while maintaining the quality and the sense of community, which comes from the size? So the next question is, how do we scale to the right size, so that we optimize both reach as well impact for each of the scholars?

[What do you think U-M’s relations with Africa will look like for faculty, students, and staff in 2030? What role do you see here for ASC?](#)

That we do our best work together, in a sustainable fashion, pro bono publico, for the good of the public. Help me understand what you need in order to make that happen.

“It’s a trite saying that freedom is not free, and then you go to places: it’s still bewildering to me that our athletes got to stand in a place, the jail, that tried to stifle these ideas [of freedom], which becomes the highest court in the land. It speaks to the irrepressible nature of the human spirit. And how indomitable we can be with an educated mind.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAYMOND SILVERMAN

THE LAST ANIMALS

Film screening and panel discussion presented as part of the 2019 Galaxy Experience

By Bilal Butt

On a beautiful Friday afternoon in May, the African Studies Center co-sponsored a documentary screening for *The Last Animals*. The screening was a showcase event for the 2019 Galaxy Experience—a sustainability learning exchange organized around real-world case studies, bringing together professionals, educators, innovators, concerned citizens, and scientists. Shown in the main screening room of the Michigan Theater, this wonderfully cinematic documentary examined some of the hard hitting problems around ivory poaching in Central and East Africa. This documentary is produced and directed by former U-M Knight-Wallace fellow Kate Brooks, who worked closely with Rebecca Hardin in the School for Environment and Sustainability to conceive of the project and bring it to fruition.

The ivory poaching crisis is perhaps one of the most complex and pressing environmental issues of our time. The documentary examines the linkages in the chains of exploitation—from elephants and rhinos under threat from poaching in Africa to consumers in Asia. The evocative imagery and anthropomorphization renders painful accounts of the deaths of elephants and rhinos, and the struggles of those who work to keep them alive. Rangers, conservation managers, scientists, and conservation policy makers comprise the cast of characters. The documentary skillfully moves between the savannas of East Africa to zoos in San Diego and the Czech Republic and the labs of scientists, all working to increase our understanding of the poaching crisis.

Images of poorly trained rangers fighting faceless and often nameless poachers raise questions of human rights, while the sophistication of ivory poachers is confronted with ever increasing levels of militarization in conservation. Many legacies of colonialism persist in conservation practices today, as electric fences, helicopters, and armed guards attempt to keep elephants and rhinos safe—often at huge expense. Many questions remain about how we understand and confront the poaching crisis—for example: Who are poachers and where do they come from? How did the crisis begin, and how did it get so bad? Is there an “othering” that occurs when we speak of poachers? What are the implications of characterizing the poaching crisis as a “war” for biodiversity? And, what role do local communities and African conservationists themselves play in reducing and eliminating the ivory poaching crisis?

The documentary gives us glimpses into these pressing questions. While thinking through these layered complexities, *The Last Animals* serves as an important pedagogical tool, along with the Michigan Sustainability Cases, to thinking more critically about the contextual terrain surrounding wildlife conservation efforts in much of sub-Saharan Africa. The documentary leaves us thinking more about the racialized nature of conservation in Africa today and about the question, for whom rhino and elephant are *The Last Animals*.

A GROUP OF ELEPHANTS, FROM THE DOCUMENTARY *THE LAST ANIMALS*, COURTESY OF THE FILMMAKER KATE BROOKS.

INSTALLATION VIEWS OF *BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBAL AFRICA*, ON VIEW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART, AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2018. PHOTOGRAPHY: CHARLIE EDWARDS.



BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBAL AFRICA

By Laura De Becker

From August to November 2018, the exhibition *Beyond Borders: Global Africa* was on display at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA). Curated by Laura De Becker, the Helmut and Candis Stern Associate Curator of African Art and an ASC associate, the exhibition brought together historical and contemporary work by artists from Africa, Europe, and the United States.

During its three-month run, more than a 1,000 U-M students visited the exhibition, exploring the show through their elected courses of Judaic Studies, French, anthropology, art history, English, and, of course, African Studies.

The exhibition broadly explored the topic of borders and how they are used to demarcate, define, and classify. Borders can be geographic, delimiting continents or countries, or they can be conceptual, marking social and political territories invisible to the eye but essential to how we structure and navigate our lives. *Beyond Borders* showcased artworks that transcend such borders, emphasizing how they were sometimes invented, often imposed, and always crossed, in Africa.

Many of the current national borders in Africa were drawn in the late 19th century, when Africa was carved up by European colonizers. The colonial borders rarely reflected the complex, fluid, and manifold identities of the individuals they claimed to contain: distinct peoples were lumped together into so-called “ethnic groups,” while culturally related peoples were divided into subgroups or assigned to different nations. These borders also failed to acknowledge that people, ideas, and goods in Africa have always been mobile. Indeed the continent’s history is defined by encounter and exchange, with its arts at the very heart of these interactions.

By conveying the international reach and scope of art from Africa and the African diaspora, *Beyond Borders* aimed to refute long-held assumptions that visual traditions in Africa were internally homogeneous and highly distinct from one another, as well as the notion that African art developed in isolation from the rest of the world. It also remarked upon the persistent significance of borders. In our current time, when nations worldwide are shutting down possibilities for the easy movement of people, it is important to remember that crossing borders truly is of all times and places.

The exhibition was presented through generous support from the African Studies Center. It was accompanied by extensive programming for K-12 and university students, teachers, and the general public. Some highlights include a panel inspired by Marvel’s *Black Panther* on the topic of the repatriation of African artworks, moderated by Raymond Silverman, with guest speakers Nii Quarcoopome (Detroit Institute of Arts), Sylvester Ogbechie (UC Santa Barbara), and Monica Udvardy (University of Kentucky). In late September, UMMA hosted a sold-out concert of the musician Tunde Olaniran, who was named NPR’s Top Artist to Watch in 2017.



MUSICIAN TUNDE OLANIRAN PERFORMING AT UMMA



PANEL DISCUSSION *AFRICAN ART IN MUSEUMS: ETHICAL QUANDARIES*, OCTOBER 26, 2018. LEFT TO RIGHT: RAYMOND SILVERMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN), NII QUARCOOPOME (DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS), MONICA UDVARDY (UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY) AND SYLVESTER OGBECHIE (UC SANTA BARBARA). PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK GJUKICH.



ASA MEMBERS AT UMMA DURING THE “OUR GLOBAL AFRICA” EVENT



Four new titles appeared in academic year 2018-2019 in the *African Perspectives* book series published by the University of Michigan Press: Frieda Ekotto's *Nimrod: Selected Writings*; Lily Saint's *Black Cultural Life in South Africa: Reception, Apartheid, and Ethics*, Erin Accampo Hern's *Developing States, Shaping Citizenship: Service Delivery and Political Participation in Zambia*, and Jacqueline-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué's *Gender, Separatist Politics, and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon*. A fifth new title, Evan Mwangi's *Postcolonial Animal*, will be released in September 2019, bringing the number of available titles in the series to nine.

Released earlier in 2018, Mukoma Wa Ngugi's *The Rise of the African Novel: Politics of Language, Identity and Ownership* was selected as a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title as well as one of Quartz Africa's twenty "Best Africa books we read in 2018" for "positing compelling questions about the 'manufacturing' of the archetypal modern African novel." Book reviews in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *World Literature Today*, and on H-Net likewise praise the book's innovative analyses of African writing of different eras, and the lasting significance of Wa Ngugi's argument for a "properly rooted literary tradition that encompasses the breadth and depth of African literature," including pre-1962 African novels written in indigenous African languages and later translated into English.

Questions of language, colonialism, and race are central to Frieda Ekotto's *Nimrod: Selected Writings*, which presents the multifaceted work of Chadian writer Nimrod to a global audience beyond Francophone Africa. Including Nimrod's seminal essays on Léopold Sédar Senghor that bring out the full complexities of the latter's philosophy, as well as examples of his prose fiction and poetry, this volume too was highly recommended by CHOICE Reviews. "[The] essays, in particular, are valuable as food for thought for anyone interested in the implications of African writing in the language of the former colonizer."

The *African Perspectives* book series is published by the University of Michigan Press and edited by Kelly Askew, professor of anthropology, and Afroamerican and African studies; and Anne Pitcher, professor of Afroamerican and African studies, and political science. For more information about the African Perspectives book series, please contact executive editor Ellen Bauerle at bauerle@umich.edu.





AFRICAN WOMEN FILM SERIES AT MICHIGAN THEATER

By Frieda Ekotto

In 2018-19, the African Studies Center (ASC), the Center for the Education of Women (CEW+), and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) partnered with Michigan Theater to screen three films by and about African women. All films were free and open to the public, with the goal of introducing the local community to African visual arts and to highlight poetic images produced by African women filmmakers.

The screenings were preceded by an introduction by U-M faculty members and followed by a Q&A session featuring the film's director for the first and third film screened. The partnership with Michigan Theater was highly successful in attracting interested audiences, and we hope to continue the screening of more African films by African women in future years.

Throughout Africa, women have emerged from the double oppression of patriarchy and colonialism. As producers, directors, actresses, scriptwriters, financiers, promoters, marketers and distributors of film, television, and video, they have become the unsung heroines of the moving image in postcolonial Africa. Unfortunately, these immense contributions by women are underrepresented, both in industry debates and in academic research. There are now many cases in which African women in front of and behind the camera lens have overcome social barriers, yet this is often overlooked and the power of their work is often invisible.

The first film in the series was the documentary *Vibrancy of Silence: A Discussion with My Sisters* (Marthe Djilo Kamga and Frieda Ekotto, Belgium/USA, 2017). In this documentary, director Marthe Djilo Kamga takes us along as she engages in fruitful conversations with four other African female artists who, like her, know exile as well as the necessity of transmitting to younger generations what they have learned as their multiple identities have evolved and fused. The original score that accompanies the

voices of three generations of women is an active part of the adventure, a witness for the future. The conversations are connected by key themes of cultural heritage, historical memory, and the role of images in shaping personal and collective memories.

The second screening was another documentary, *Fruitless Tree* (Aicha Macky, Niger, 2017). Director Aicha Macky recounts her own story as a married but childless woman, which is a situation totally "out of the ordinary" in her country. But just like everywhere else in the world today, Niger also experiences problems with infertility. Based on her personal story, Aicha Macky explores the private suffering of women in her situation with great sensitivity. Speaking openly as a childless woman among mothers, she breaks a taboo in Nigerien society.

The third film, *Notre étrangère/The Place in Between* (Sarah Bouyain, Burkina Faso/France, 2010) is the second feature length film by a woman from Burkina Faso. The film is a fictional account of Amy, a young woman with a French father and Burkinabé mother, who has lived in France for most of her life. She returns to Bobo in Burkina Faso in the hopes of visiting her mother from whom she has been separated since she was eight years old, but upon arrival, she only finds her aunt in the once-crowded family house. A second story line focuses on Mariam, a 45-year-old Burkinabé woman, who has been cleaning houses in Paris for many years, seemingly living as a furtive shade sliding on life's edge.



CONNECTING TO HERITAGE THROUGH LANGUAGE: STUDYING SWAHILI AND YORUBA AT U-M

By Marko Mwipopo and Cindy Nguyen

Studying an African language at U-M not only prepares students for study abroad, research, and volunteer work in Africa, but it also opens avenues for students to reflect on the importance of heritage and connecting with the African continent in a more personal way.



Students at U-M have been able to study Swahili on campus since 2008, and beginning with the 2019 fall term, Yoruba will be available as well. The choice to add Yoruba to the U-M African languages program as an on-campus option stems from a shared desire by ASC and DAAS to continue strengthening the African languages options available to students. Yoruba was identified as an important heritage language for students with connections to Nigeria, Benin, and the Americas (since Yoruba is also an important language in the African diaspora in many parts of the Americas). In April 2018, a student-initiated petition asking U-M to offer more African languages, and Yoruba in particular, garnered over 100 signatures in just two days.

To further support students studying an African language, ASC awarded language study scholarships to three students for the study of Swahili in 2018-2019, and to one student for the study of Yoruba in 2019-2020. ASC will be accepting additional applications for language scholarships for 2019-2020 until the add/drop deadline in the fall 2019 semester.

Reflecting on what he gained from studying Swahili, Maxwell Otiato (BS in Biology and International Comparative Studies) stated: "Taking an African language allows students like myself to connect with the continent in a way I simply could not do in English. Swahili affords me a chance to not just talk about these communities, but to engage and listen to them." Otiato plans to use his Swahili language skills to conduct research and develop interventions to support the self-management of chronic diseases among young people in Uganda, and ultimately to engage with communities across East Africa on health issues.

Asha Hill (BS in Sociology) and Isabell Astor (BS in Computer Science), both recipients of ASC language scholarships, expressed that their interest in Swahili was influenced by their desire to connect with their heritage. Hill stated, "I was excited because I was going to be able to learn from the perspective of somebody who really knows the culture and language and not from the media."



The Yoruba language program is made possible through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program, which is sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

The U-M community welcomes Oluwatoyin Olanipekun, the incoming FLTA instructor, who will be teaching Yoruba classes on campus in the 2019/20 academic year.

Olanipekun is from Nigeria, where she recently completed her Masters in Education/English at Obafemi Awolowo University. Marko Mwipopo, a former FLTA scholar himself and currently a Swahili lecturer in DAAS, will be working alongside Oluwatoyin. Mwipopo will provide mentorship based on his expertise in language pedagogy, and will also introduce Oluwatoyin to U-M and local communities.

THE ASC COMMUNITY WAS SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF THREE REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS whose lives touched many in the U-M campus community and beyond.

Moses Kizza Musaazi July 1951 - September 18, 2018

Dr. Moses Musaazi was an engineering professor at Makerere University, Uganda, where he was first hired as a tutorial fellow in 1975. He received his PhD from London's Imperial College in 1985 and continued teaching at Makerere University until reaching the statutory retirement age of 60 in 2011. Even in retirement, he nurtured upcoming scholars and researchers, and had most recently been working together with U-M and Makerere colleagues on a STEM-Africa funded project aimed at scaling solar power solutions for off-grid communities in Uganda.

Dr. Musaazi was a long-term key partner to ASC's STEM-Africa initiative and many others at U-M, including faculty in the Medical and Nursing Schools, and the Colleges of Engineering and Literature, Science, and the Arts.

His engagement with ASC dates back to the first STEM-Africa conference, held in Ann Arbor in 2010, where he spoke on some of his inventions. Over the years, he has collaborated with various U-M faculty working in Uganda, and visited the Ann Arbor campus on a number of occasions, most recently as a speaker on the STEM-Africa panel at ASC's 10th anniversary symposium in March 2018. He also encouraged his colleague Emmanuel Miyingo to apply to the UMAPS program as part of the 2015-16 cohort, an experience that led to Emmanuel being accepted into a PhD program.

Dr. Musaazi's work has brought tremendous benefit to society, focused especially on addressing challenges facing women and girls. He was an internationally recognized innovative engineer and serial inventor, whose numerous inventions include the MakaPads and Interlocking Soil Stabilised Bricks (ISSB). These inventions have transformed countless lives, of school-going girls and refugees respectively, creating hundreds of jobs for poor youth and redefining low-cost housing. Among his awards and recognitions are an African Initiative Grant (2012), a Siemens Stiftung "Empowering People Award" (2013) and his appointment by the Royal Academy of Engineering as a judge of the inaugural Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation (2015).



Alexius Lambat Amtaika August 2, 1966 - April 2, 2019

UMAPS alumnus Alex Amtaika died tragically, together with his 19-year-old daughter, Wala Sibutha, a first-year student at Rhodes University, in a car accident on April 2, 2019. At the time of his passing, he was associate professor in the Department of Political and International Studies at Rhodes University, after previous appointments as lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (2002-2010) and senior lecturer at the University of the Free State (2010-2017). Described by his colleagues as an ebullient teacher, Professor Amtaika was a prodigious scholar and thinker on democracy and liberty who lived his life in the pursuit of academic excellence and a commitment to social equity and civic responsibility.

Alex was part of the first UMAPS cohort, spending the winter 2009 semester at U-M, earning a Certificate in Research Methodology as well. He is fondly remembered by his colleagues in the first UMAPS cohort, who cherish the many pleasant memories of their interactions at the Courtyard Apartments and on campus during their shared time in Ann Arbor. His post-UMAPS publications include two comparative monographs on political leadership and the consolidation of democratic practices within the structures of the governing parties, as well as the control of economic power structures in South Africa and Zimbabwe.



Niara Sudarkasa August 14, 1938 – May 31, 2019

Niara Sudarkasa was a highly accomplished scholar and university leader, who played a crucial role in the creation and early years of the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at U-M. In recognition of her importance in making African studies an integral part of U-M's curriculum and research, ASC invited her as an honorary guest to its 10th anniversary symposium in March 2018.

Born Gloria Marshall, Dr. Sudarkasa was a precocious student who received her BA in anthropology and English from Oberlin at the age of 18, after having attended Fisk University on a Ford Foundation Early Entrance Scholarship for three years. She continued her studies in anthropology at Columbia University, which at the time had the best anthropology program in the US. After earning her PhD from Columbia at age 25, she became an assistant professor of anthropology at NYU, one of the first African-American scholars ever to teach at NYU.

Professor Sudarkasa came to U-M in 1967 as the first African-American hired in anthropology, and only the second woman in the department. During a 17-year career at U-M, Niara became the first African-American female director of the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS). Through CAAS, she became a nationally and internationally noted pan-Africanist, focusing on the cultural ties between Africa, the Caribbean and black America. She was also a leader in the Black Action Movement (BAM) campaign that sought to increase the number of African-American and African students on campus, and was a vocal activist for black students. She left U-M in 1986 to become the 11th and first female president of Lincoln University, the oldest historically black college in the US.



THE ALCHEMY OF CULTURE AND LAW IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

FILM SCREENING & PRESENTATION BY ALBIE SACHS

By Daniel Herwitz

In January 2019, the African Studies Center (ASC) was honored to have Albie Sachs, former Constitutional Court Judge of South Africa, freedom fighter, and cultural visionary, present his film on the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg. After the screening, Sachs spoke to the culture of democratic law, of which the Constitutional Court Building is iconic. Sachs had been the presiding impresario of the court as well as among the cadre of inaugural judges for the court, appointed by then State President Nelson Mandela. His journey from jailed activist to judge did not come easily. In 1988 he was nearly killed when a bomb was placed in his car in Maputo by the apartheid security forces.

The court building reflects Sachs' vision of the intersection of law, culture, and democracy in a country now, for the first time, open to the diversity of citizens (during apartheid there were separate courts for persons of color). Sachs' vision of democratic inclusiveness has played an important role in the creation of a democratic South African culture. In 1990 he presented (through an emissary) to an in-house meeting of the African National Congress (ANC) a document called "Preparing Ourselves for Freedom". The ANC was in the process of being unbanned, and about to begin its three tumultuous years of negotiation with the National Party,

inaugurating the new democracy. Sachs' paper aimed to change the organization's ideological thinking about culture. Rejecting the struggle conception of art as a weapon, Sachs called for, called forth, an inclusive new culture reaching across lines of social division, vivified by cross-pollination, aiming to discover or create as yet undiscovered forms of likeness and shared belonging across South African populations, while also giving voice to a diversity of heritages.

This notion of democratic inclusiveness, whether in culture or law, is a Judge Sachs trademark. He penned important decisions on the death penalty, discrimination, and other important constitutional issues during his tenure on the Constitutional Court of South Africa, and explored the intersections of culture and law in his award-winning 2009 book, *The Strange Alchemy of Life and Law*. The book was the second of his works to win the Alan Paton Literary Prize.

Sachs also spoke to his current project, a museum and archive of and for the court. The University of Michigan's own David Wallace (School of Information) is integral to the archival element of that project, and plans are currently underway to involve U-M students in this project too.

FACULTY NEWS

ASC ASSOCIATES ARE REGULARLY FEATURED IN NEWS OUTLETS FOR THEIR AFRICA-FOCUSED EXPERTISE, OR HONORED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR SCHOLARLY FIELDS

The Unseen Archive: Opening of the first public exhibit on Idi Amin

In May 2019, the Ugandan National Museum (UNM) in Kampala debuted *The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin*, curated by Derek Peterson (U-M), Nelson Abiti (UNM), Richard Vokes (University of Western Australia), and Edgar Taylor (University of Johannesburg).

The exhibition showcases a selection of 200 photos taken by photographers of Uganda's Ministry of Information, which had been forgotten in the archives of the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation until 2015. The pictures chronicle high politics and everyday life in Uganda from the late 1950s to the mid 1980s. In the exhibit, the grand images of public life, mostly focused on Idi Amin, are juxtaposed with images of those who suffered or were killed during his regime, so as to enable a pluralistic understanding of the past. The exhibition is part of a broader project aimed at digitizing the negatives and related radio and film recordings. To read more: <http://myumi.ch/J9dde>

Siobán Harlow on the importance of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad

ASC associate Siobán Harlow (Epidemiology and Global Public Health) has worked with Dr. Mukwege and his colleagues since 2013, when the International Center for Advanced Research and Training (ICART) was created (in partnership with the Evangelical University of Africa and U-M). ICART has focused on developing local research capacity to address the health consequences of dislocation and conflict-associated gender-based violence. Harlow notes that in

recognition of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Dr. Mukwege, with his links to U-M, "it behooves us as an institution to reflect on our commitment to social justice {and} to ending sexual violence." To read more: <http://myumi.ch/L1zZd>

Oveta Fuller and Elizabeth King Publish Findings on 'Trusted Messenger Approach' to HIV-Prevention in Zambia

Former ASC Director Oveta Fuller developed the "trusted messenger approach" to enlist religious leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention in Zambia over 10 years ago. A recent paper, co-authored by ASC Associate Elizabeth King and John Mark Wiginton evaluates the effectiveness of the program. To read more: <http://myumi.ch/6ey1n>

The music of Fela Kuti comes to life!

AHHI steering committee member Kwasi Ampene is part of a Flint-Ann Arbor faculty team that was awarded an Mcubed award in the most recent grant cycle of this U-M program to stimulate innovative collaborative research. The award will allow the team to bring authentically recreated performances of the Afrobeat music of Nigeria's Fela Kuti to both the Ann Arbor and Flint campuses. To read more: <http://myumi.ch/aVgmn>

Afrikaans and Afrikaans speakers in Argentina's Patagonia region

A unique community of Afrikaans speakers in the Chubut province of Argentina forms the focus of a project by a team of U-M researchers, including ASC director Andries Coetzee. Between 1902 and 1906, a group of around 650

Afrikaans speakers left South Africa to settle in the remote Patagonian desert, and 120 years later their descendants still speak a peculiar variety of Afrikaans. The multi-disciplinary U-M team, funded through the Humanities Collaboratory, is documenting the linguistic practices of the community, and also investigating questions relating to identity, race and religion in this community. To read more: <http://myumi.ch/6wW2x>

Jody R. Lori one of two recipients of the 2019 Sarah Goddard Power Award

Professor of nursing and the associate dean for global affairs at the School of Nursing, Jody R. Lori, was honored with a Sarah Goddard Power award, in recognition of her "significant contributions to the betterment of women through their leadership, scholarship or other ways in their professional life." An example of this is Lori's mentorship of early-career Africa-based scholars through ASC's UMAPS program. To read more: <http://myumi.ch/aMDqE>

Judith Irvine named Distinguished University Professor

Judith Irvine was one of six faculty members to receive this top honor of the University of Michigan, in recognition of her exceptional scholarly achievements, national and international reputations for academic excellence, and superior records of teaching, mentoring and service. Irvine has served ASC in numerous roles, most recently as AHHI representative on the Executive Committee (2018-19) and as associate director (2016-17). To read more: <http://myumi.ch/gjJGY>

Cultural Immersion and Arts for Social Change

SMTD STUDENT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

By Anita Gonzales and Rachel Francisco

A group of students and faculty from U-M's School of Music, Theater & Dance (SMTD) traveled to Johannesburg over Spring Break 2019 for a week of interaction and study with the Market Theatre, one of South Africa's most vibrant theater and learning communities. Funded in part by the African Studies Center, the visit allowed U-M students and faculty to explore the potential of the arts to promote social change and engage in practice as research, while learning about South African history and culture through cultural immersion. The trip also served to strengthen the emerging partnership between SMTD and the Market Theatre, some of whose actors have already visited U-M to engage in classes and projects with students.

The Market Theatre opened in 1976 as an independent, anti-racist theatre at the height of South Africa's apartheid regime, and survived years of financial struggles to triumph after the crumbling of apartheid in 1994. It remains at the forefront of producing and presenting cutting-edge work that celebrates authentic African artistic voices. Its "Laboratory" is one of the premiere training facilities for actors and theater makers, and is deeply committed to providing opportunities to talented

youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who would not otherwise be able to pursue their passion for the arts.

The trip began with the South African organization's staff leading the U-M exchange team on an in-depth introduction into the history of apartheid, through visits and guided tours of historical centers and cultural sites, including the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill, the new Constitutional Court, and the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto. Students listened to first-hand accounts about the struggles and political structures that shaped South Africa. After the introductory excursions, the Michigan team visited the Market Theatre's training facilities and performance spaces. The Market Theatre's outreach extends to other arts organizations around the city, including the Windybrow Arts Centre, the Hillbrow Outreach Foundations' Theatre Project, PopArt Theatre, and the Sibikwa Arts Center. Each of these art centers also sponsors social service activities including immigrant services, programs for the unemployed and youth programs. At many of the sites, the U-M team participated in joint workshops, learning techniques and sharing masterclasses. SMTD

students learned theater games, African dance, and improv techniques. Graduate dance student Sherry Lin led a masterclass in "breaking and popping" moves, and Christina Traister led a stage fight workshop. U-M students and their South African counterparts also exchanged ideas about producing and promoting theater for social change.

The trip proved an enormously rewarding experience for the students involved, as well as for SMTD faculty members. Nyah Pierson, a rising senior pursuing an acting degree, was particularly touched by the connections she established with Market Theatre actors and realized the similarity of some of their experiences. "My peers at the Market Theatre shared stories of their own lives that brought them to theater, and for every story I heard, I realized how I had similar connections to theater in my own journey. It was through the arts that I was able to see more of this land's humanity. Every person seemed to walk with a story on their back and seemed to be ready to share it with others. I realized through these stories that my previous understanding of South African history was very incomplete and that there was another chapter of theatre, social activism, and politics of which I was unaware."



LEFT: PERFORMERS AT THE ASA CULTURE SHOW; RIGHT: AUDIENCE MEMBERS AT THE ASA CHARITY BALL

AFRICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: A YEAR OF ACTIVITY AND TRANSITION

For over 20 years, the African Students Association (ASA) of the University of Michigan has been an energetic force for creating an inclusive campus community for students of African descent and others interested in Africa. In fall 2019, ASA became an official Sponsored Student Organization (SSO), with the African Studies Center (ASC) as its sponsoring unit. Gaining official SSO status gives ASA access to additional resources at U-M to organize events, and recognizes the role of ASA in U-M's growing engagement with Africa.

There were many exciting events on ASA's calendar during the 2018-2019 academic year. In the fall term, ASA collaborated with three other student organizations (the Caribbean Student Association, Creatives of Color, and the Black Student Union) as well as the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) to host, "Our Global Africa," a showcase of the diverse talents from the African diaspora community on campus. Guests enjoyed food, conversation, and various performances at UMMA, along with a public viewing of the UMMA exhibit, *Beyond Borders: Global Africa*.

Later in the fall, ASA hosted its first ever charity ball to raise funds in support of African charities. Proceeds generated by the evening's event went to Project Bududa of the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIRMC). ASA raised over \$1,500 for Project Bududa's work to alleviate sexual health and HIV/AIDS-related challenges in Ugandan communities. ASA's Charity Ball also raised awareness on the health-related challenges faced in Uganda and across the continent.

ASA ended the academic year with its 21st Annual Culture Show, held at the Michigan Theater. This year's show was titled "Ubuntu," a Zulu word which loosely translates to "I am, because you are." This South African expression embodied the theme for the evening with its focus on connection, community, and mutual caring. As in past years, a fashion show was at the center of the show, leaving attendees in awe of the African-inspired fashion. From a dance performance by the Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater Company to a solo music performance by Mind of Asante, the program offered an array of talent, and presented the community with an entertaining, yet educational, experience.

SONIA RUPCIC IS THE 2019 RECIPIENT OF THE LESTER P. MONTS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA.

She received this honor for her incisive analysis of the role of witchcraft in the South African criminal justice system, in her paper titled "Mens Daemonica: Guilt, Redress, and the Occult in South Africa."

Rupcic is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Her work addresses gender, sex, race, violence, and remedy at the intersection of the anthropology of law and medical anthropology. Her dissertation project investigates how survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones seek justice in post-apartheid South Africa. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in the former homeland of Venda, her dissertation considers how practical activities of redress produce gender and racial inequalities, inside and outside institutions of state law.

