



AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER *at the*
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

IN REVIEW

2008-15



message

FROM THE DIRECTOR



KELLY ASKEW

ASC Director

Professor of Anthropology and
Afroamerican/African Studies

Greetings from the African Studies Center (ASC)! As we approach our 10th anniversary, we felt it important to take stock of our accomplishments and highlight the immense ways Africa-related research, partnership, and engagement involving University of Michigan students and faculty have expanded over the past seven years. Our many activities have been grounded on the principles of what President Mark S. Schlissel calls “Michigan’s approach to global education—collaboration, capacity building, and leveraging, all driven by mutual benefits.”

This is an exciting time with the university extending collaborations in Africa—from a new education abroad program in Senegal, to fast-growing engagements in Ethiopia. ASC performs the central role of enhancing these partnerships by providing knowledge, context, and networks; connecting U–M faculty and students to one another and to collaborators on the continent; increasing student access to Africa-related courses and research opportunities; and informing the Michigan community about developments on the continent.

When first established in 2008, ASC sought to deepen and bring higher visibility to longstanding U–M/Africa institutional partnerships, especially in Ghana and South Africa, and to support the emergence of newer collaborations with universities in Cameroon, Liberia, and Uganda (to name a few). As evidenced herein, we have accomplished this and much more. Yet still more is needed given transformations in Africa’s global position in heritage conservation, international relations, commodity flows, natural resource extraction, demographics, and more.

We thank you, the many faculty, students, staff, alumni, and collaborators, for your contributions to these efforts and look forward to partnering with you as we continue to reconsider, indeed reconfigure, the reach and understanding of African studies.

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The **African Studies Center (ASC)** at the University of Michigan is funded by the Provost's Office and organized around three primary research initiatives that have been funded separately by the Office of the President through 2016: the **African Heritage Initiative (AHI)** coordinating partnerships in the humanities and qualitative social sciences; the **African Social Research Initiative (ASRI)** coordinating partnerships in the quantitative social sciences and public health; and **STEM-Africa** coordinating partnerships in the sciences, math, and engineering. A fourth presidential initiative is the **U-M African Presidential Scholars (UMAPS) Program**, which brings early-career faculty from African institutions to U-M for research and writing residencies lasting up to six months.

MISSION

- 1 Deepen and expand scholarly and educational partnerships between U–M and African institutions
- 2 Support exchanges of students, faculty, and staff between U–M and African institutions
- 3 Enhance the study of Africa, past and present, within the U–M curriculum
- 4 Connect faculty and students working in/on Africa from all colleges and units on campus
- 5 Foster interdisciplinary research to find imaginative solutions to contemporary social, cultural, medical, technological, and environmental problems
- 6 Serve as a public resource on Africa and Michigan’s involvement with it for the state and local community

ASC serves as a conduit through which the many Africa initiatives across the university, from the humanities, sciences, and social sciences to Medicine and Engineering, may be furthered to the mutual benefit of the university and its African partners. We have:

- Strengthened and expanded institutional partnerships in Africa
- Implemented a competitive student and faculty grants program to support research and travel
- Strengthened Africa-focused curriculum and expanded education abroad programs in Africa
- Sponsored numerous Africa-focused events at U–M and at partner institutions in Africa
- Introduced new research projects that support research and knowledge on Africa





Institutional Partnerships



ASC was founded in part to deepen and expand existing partnerships in Africa, especially those in Ghana, with the University of Ghana and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and South Africa, with University of Cape Town, where U–M faculty had longstanding collaborations.

Those ties were honored by Michigan’s thirteenth President Mary Sue Coleman in her historic 2008 visit to Ghana and South Africa. Since then, the number of linkages between U–M and academic institutions in Africa has increased, with ASC serving as the primary node of communication and logistical support.

AHI

African Heritage Initiative

University of Ghana
Makerere University
Mountains of the Moon University
University of Fort Hare
Rhodes University
University of Western Cape
University of Witwatersrand
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

STEM–AFRICA

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

University of Liberia
Makerere University
University of Ghana
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
University for Development Studies
University of Fort Hare
University of South Africa
University of KwaZulu–Natal
University of Witwatersrand
University of Johannesburg

ASRI

African Social Research Initiative

University of Ghana
University of Cape Coast
Ghana Health Service
University of Nairobi
University of Malawi
University of Cape Town
University of Witwatersrand
University of Stellenbosch
University of KwaZulu–Natal
University of Dar es Salaam
Makerere University

UMAPS PROGRAM

U–M African Presidential Scholars

University of Liberia
University of Buea
Pan–African University
African Institute of Mathematics
National Mathematics Center
University of Zambia
Copperbelt Medical School
Ethiopia Academy of Sciences
St. Paul’s Hospital
Millennium Medical College
African Virtual University



UMAPS PROGRAM

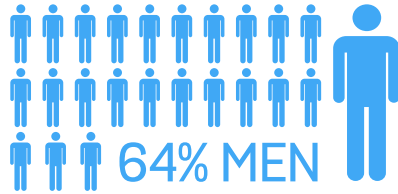
The UMAPS program offers another avenue of expanding and strengthening partnerships.

From 2008–15, it brought to U–M 108 faculty from universities in Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Liberia, and Uganda and paired each one with a U–M faculty mentor for a research residency of up to six months. These collaborations have yielded joint publications, jointly held grants, new institutional ties, and innovative research. Additionally, we have hosted visiting scholars from African universities through the Fulbright Scholars program and others like it, further developing our networks on the continent.



Program Statistics 2008-15

108 UMAPS Scholars



35%
GHANAIS

11%
UGANDANS

17%
LIBERIANS

8%
OTHER
Cameroon, DRC,
Ethiopia, Tanzania

31%
SOUTH AFRICANS

SINCE UMAPS PARTICIPATION

12 completed PhD

5 published books

15 received promotions
& distinguished
positions

80+ articles and
book chapters
published



Map of U-M student and faculty engagement in Africa by country

Student & Faculty Grants

In order to support engagement with Africa, ASC awards substantial research funding that is open to all U-M students and faculty. Competitive fellowships are awarded to students for research, internships, and conference participation. Faculty awards include conference travel grants, funding for research conducted in Africa, and collaborative seed grants to support innovative projects in African heritage studies, African social research, and STEM-Africa.

ASC disbursed over
\$550,000
 for research and
 summer grant
 programs from
 2008-15

Supporting Scholarship

U-M's Africa-focused curriculum is unique and noteworthy for its breadth across schools and colleges. ASC provides financial and administrative support to select courses, disbursing \$123,452 from 2008–14 in funding for new or existing Africa-focused courses. The total number of courses at U-M on Africa has more than doubled over the past decade.

ASC has also invested heavily in education abroad programs and faculty and student research in Africa—extending the reach of resources such as the International Institute's Experiential Learning Fund and Individual Fellowships, Rackham International Research Awards, and the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies' SAIO Moody Fellowships and African Initiative Grants.

Selection of supported education abroad and academic courses

Between Earth and Sky: Field Research and Designing in Ghana, **James Chaffers**

Global Impact of Microbes: Fieldwork in Zambia, **Oveta Fuller**

The Archaeology of Nubia, **Geoff Emberling**

Engineering Appropriate Technologies: Needs, Design, and Entrepreneurship in Ghana; **Kathleen Sienko; Aline Cotel et al.**

Pedagogy of Action in South Africa, **Nesha Haniff**

Sustainable Development in Post-conflict Countries: Educating and Empowering the Next Generation of Engineers and Agriculturalists in Liberia, **Steve Wright**

Selection of supported student research

Media War: Emerging Expressive Cultural Practices in Contemporary Egypt, **Nama Khalil**

The Politics of Infrastructural Regionalism in East Africa, **Kevin Donovan**

Understanding Preconception Counseling Gaps for People with HIV in Botswana, **Sarah Gutin**

Urban Cleansings and the Making of Socialist Mozambique, 1974–88, **Benedito Machava**

Choreography of Pronouns: The Body as Laboratory Examining Post-Apartheid Complexities of Transition, **Eryn Rosenthal**

Selection of supported faculty research

Isithunzi: Deepening an Organizational Culture of Writing by Visual Artists, **Julie Ellison**

Improving Understanding of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality through Social Autopsy in Ghana, **Cheryl Moyer**

Trusted Messengers to Effectively Address Ebola Virus in Liberia, **Oveta Fuller**

First Comparative Documentation of the Two Most Distinctive Varieties of the Cape Verdean Language, **Marlyse Baptista**

Africa-Related Courses 2013–14

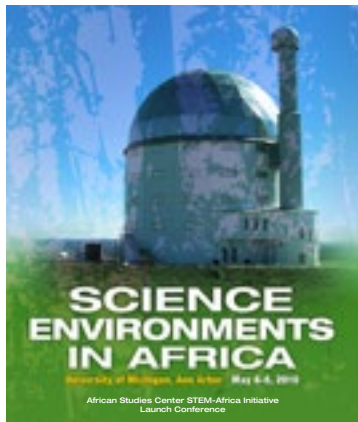
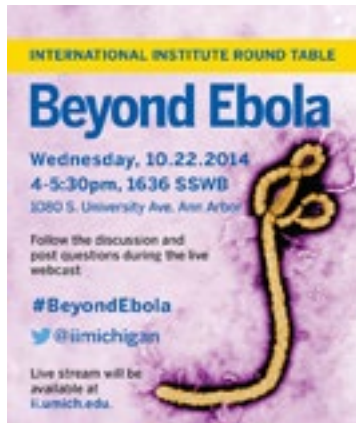
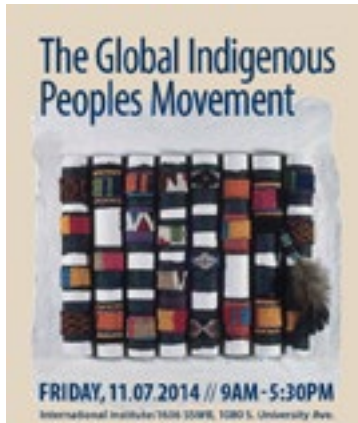
Professional Schools 45 TOTAL COURSES

- Public Health (16)
- Music, Theater & Dance (7)
- Engineering (3)

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts 109 TOTAL COURSES

- Afroamerican and African Studies (45)
- History (20)
- Anthropology (14)

U-M has regularly led the nation in the number of U.S. Department of State Fulbright Awards received, with 18 awardees placed in Africa from 2008–13.



Public Events

In the effort of increasing knowledge of Africa, ASC has sponsored over 100 events on campus and more than 30 events in Africa in collaboration with partner institutions. These academic lectures, seminars, and conferences produce public occasions of knowledge sharing and knowledge production. In addition to co-sponsoring Africa-related events offered by other units on campus, ASC organizes several signature events.

Special Events: ASC organizes special public events to address current issues in Africa, providing a public voice on African affairs for the university community and beyond. Topics have included the state of science education in Africa, the rights of indigenous peoples in Africa, and the current and future impacts of the 2014 Ebola epidemic.

UMAPS Research Symposia: Visiting faculty with the UMAPS program present ongoing research performed during their two- to six-month tenures at U-M. Topics range from “Mathematical models for seismic data analysis in Liberia” to “Eco-culture in Uganda: Literary representations and implications.”

Presidential Initiative Conferences: The AHL, ASRI, and STEM-Africa presidential initiatives host biennial conferences that feature 20–25 speakers and alternate locations between U-M and partner institutions on the continent.

ASC in the News & Social Media

ASC initiatives and events are frequently covered in the local campus and national news, faculty research has been profiled in major journals and news outlets, and ASC social media announcements reach a broad audience.



▶ *UofMHealth.org News: June 17, 2014, Doctors from U-M and Ghana create new partnerships for improving health in low resource countries.*



▶ *Global Michigan: June 19, 2014, Building a better stove with the Maasai in Tanzania.*



▶ *Global Michigan: April 2, 2014, World Bank VP on science in Africa: 'Leaping from 'Yes, we can' to 'Yes, we do'*



1,259
Total Page Likes

972
People Engaged

972
Total Reach

50
Average Reach per Post



ASC Blog

Since 2011

500+
Total Visitors

1,148
Total Views

Average per Month

21 **31**
Visitors Views



351
Followers

10.4%
Engagement Rate

To read more stories, visit ASC's news page:
ii.umich.edu/asc/aboutus/news



External Funding

ASC has been engaged in fundraising for interdisciplinary research and capacity-building, leveraging nearly \$5 million in external funding for center-driven initiatives. Even more funds have been secured as follow-up grants to research initially seeded by ASC research grants to faculty, graduate students, and UMAPS scholar-mentor teams.

These funds help to extend our institutional linkages to Africa; facilitate exchanges of students and faculty; foster innovative, interdisciplinary research; and strengthen capacity in African academic institutions.

Institute of International Education and the partnership for Higher Education in Africa grant for African Scholars Summer Research Training

Enable our inaugural cohort of UMAPS scholars to take summer training courses at ISR and SPH.

Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar series on Ethnicity in Africa – a partnership between DAAS and ASC

Entailed three international workshops exploring a range of perspectives on ethnicity in Africa, both broad—ethnicity defined historically, politically, genetically, and socially—and localized case study on Yoruba ethnicity.

Center for Research Libraries grants to catalogue and digitize the Kabarole District Archives, Uganda

Led by Derek Peterson, professor of history, these summer projects involved graduate students from history, anthropology, and information in partnership with faculty and students from Mountains of the Moon University.

United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) support for Analysis of Census and Survey Data for Social Science Research

Allowed the ASRI group to launch a two-week intensive and residential statistical training course for researchers and policymakers in West Africa to complement the longstanding 15-year original program in South Africa. The program, now in its fourth year, generated new partnerships with University of Cape Coast and University of Ghana, and involves longstanding South African partner University of Cape Town.

Google Corporation grant to catalogue the Uganda National Archives

Involved students from School of Information, History, and Anthropology in collaboration with faculty and students from Makerere University, Uganda.

USAID Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD)

Grant to rebuild the College of Engineering at University of Liberia and College of Agriculture at Cuttington University, in partnership with Rutgers University, North Carolina State University, RTI International, and Kwame Nkrumah University for Science and Technology. The grant has entailed annual summer residential programs for engineering and agricultural students to develop their science, math, English, and computer skills.

U.S. State Department Appropriate Technology for Resource Limited Settings: A Study Abroad Partnership between U-M and Kwame Nkrumah University for Science and Technology (KNUST)

The three-year summer program, hosted by KNUST, trains equal numbers of U-M and KNUST undergraduate engineering students and requires them to conduct original research that engages with community.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for Joining Theory and Empiricism in the Remaking of the African Humanities: A Transcontinental Collaboration between U-M and the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa (WITS)

This five-year partnership entails biannual intensive workshops, one each at U-M and Wits, with both faculty and students on revolving topics in the humanities.

USAID grant to the U-M Medical School and the Navrongo Research Centre (Ghana) for Preventing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality in Rural Northern Ghana

This three-year partnership, originally seeded with an ASC grant to Cheryl Moyer, assistant professor of learning health sciences, will identify the social and cultural factors implicated in maternal and neonatal mortality using mixed methods such as social autopsies, community audits, and geographic mapping.

Publications

As the center grows ASC has kept its students, faculty, and affiliates up to date by producing various publication materials.

African Perspectives Book Series



In partnership with the University of Michigan Press, ASC has launched a new book series

entitled African Perspectives. Series editors are Kelly Askew, ASC director and professor of anthropology and Afroamerican/African studies, and Anne Pitcher, ASRI coordinator and professor of Afroamerican/African studies and political science.

The first titles are in production for 2015 releases and feature work by both emerging and established scholars. The series publishes exemplary and innovative research from scholars based in and beyond Africa, and offers a venue to disseminate knowledge borne of U–M engagements with African partners, though it is not limited to this alone.

Annual Newsletter

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

Browse our current and past issues by visiting: ii.umich.edu/asc/aboutus/publications.





Gifts to ASC

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

Gifts to ASC will help support:

- **Residencies for U–M African Presidential Scholars**
- **Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research**
- **Faculty research focused on Africa**
- **Strengthening African social research data**
- **Advancement of African studies in U–M’s curriculum**
- **Multilateral partnerships between U–M and African partners**

If you wish to support the African Studies Center, please contact us at:

(734) 615-3027

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or visit ii.umich.edu/asc/giving.



ASC Happenings 2008–15

Top row from left to right:

Banner announcing the “Heritage Matters!” conference, Accra International Conference Center, December 2009

Group interview, Prof. Elisha Renne’s project on “Small-Scale Mining in Ghana,” 2011

2014–15 UMAPS cohort with mentors, August 2014

Middle row from left to right:

U–M delegation to Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University, April 2015

Archaeology/Heritage Workshop, University of Ghana, December 2014

Science Environments in Africa conference, Ann Arbor, May 2010

Rita and Miria Mbambire with their new stove (minus chimney), 2014

Bottom row from left to right:

Fontomfrom drummers with Michigan students on steps of the Union, Peace Corps 50th anniversary celebration, October 2010

African Heritage Initiative International Convocation, Ann Arbor, January 2014

ASRI Launch Conference, Cape Town, July 2009







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