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I am honored to present to you the Annual Report of the African Studies Program (ASP) for the Academic Year 2013-2014. The report outlines the efforts of ASP to promote the study of Africa through teaching, research and service at the University of Pittsburgh. The program has over 40 affiliated faculty members who conduct research and teach courses on topics related to Africa. ASP also offers 3 African languages (Arabic, Swahili and Yoruba). More than 30 students travel to Africa each year for study abroad, conduct research and engage in internships that span the sciences, social sciences and the humanities.

ASP affiliated faculty and our wonderful staff have been instrumental in the success that we have achieved this year and I would like to sincerely extend my gratitude to all. ASP faculty work extremely hard every year to foster an academic environment where students can enhance and expand understanding of Africa, and the African experience grounded in the social sciences, the humanities, and the professional schools. In this report, I shine a spotlight on ongoing research and partnership initiatives, consulting activities by some of our faculty, working in collaboration with African institutions and scholars. In addition, I share news about ASP students, and their various research, internships and other learning activities with a focus on African Studies.

Students enrolled in this interdisciplinary program are not only exposed to multiple perspectives in their respective areas of study through our courses, but they are also presented with opportunities for study abroad, research and internships in Africa. Most of the students who have had the chance to travel to Africa for various activities have returned with a renewed commitment to Africa’s promise and Africa’s future, and have expressed a desire to continue with their scholarship in African Studies. I am excited to present some of the activities and stories by students and to also feature students who won prestigious national scholarship awards to study and conduct research in various institutions in African countries. As expressed in their own words through their stories, the students are motivated and inspired to further their understanding of the important problems and challenges facing the continent as well as the changes and opportunities underway.

ASP also hosts the “Let’s Talk Africa” series, to provide a forum for faculty and students to discuss current themes and events in African studies, and explore some of the pressing challenges that respective African countries encounter. We want our students and members of the university community to acknowledge and embrace the endless possibilities that present themselves in a continent that is transforming rapidly—becoming a fast-growing economy with a middle class and tons of opportunities for trade with other nations, government relations and
infrastructure projects. Our goal is to give students the opportunity to develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of Africa, one that allows them to grasp the region’s internal dynamics and its evolving place in the world. The challenges faced by many African countries are numerous, and we want our students to understand the various and complicated dynamics, as they prepare to join the world of work as global citizens.

To support our students in their Africa related interests, we have established a grant program to fund undergraduate and graduate students conducting research in Africa. Please, join us in this effort by making a donation through our website: http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/. Thank you for your time and I hope you will continue to support the African Studies Program at Pitt.

-Dr. Macrina C. Lelei, Interim Director
Meet the Staff

**Eric Swetts** has completed his first full year serving as Administrative Assistant to the African Studies Program. In that time, he has taken on numerous responsibilities beyond the daily operations of the program, in addition to his role in promotional material design, website design and maintenance, social media upkeep, student enrollment, and support of the African Studies Program’s staff, interns, and students.

**Chelsea Davis** is a 2014 graduate of the School of Social Work. She served as Events Coordinator for the African Studies Program since 2011. During her time, she oversaw the organization of countless lectures, and spearheaded events such as *Celebrate Africa*. She was an indispensable part of the African Studies and is sorely missed.

**Anna Maria Karnes** is a graduate student in the School of Education’s Department of Administrative and Policy Studies. She was originally born in Cameroon but comes to us from Texas. She began her Ph. D studies in International Comparative Education fall 2012 and focuses on comparative and higher education in Ethiopia. Anna-Maria works on grant opportunities and K-12 outreach, allowing African Studies to actively challenge public perception of Africa throughout the community. She also advises all African Studies Certificate students on what courses to take to complete the program.
Interns

The African Studies program had three interns this academic year. In the Fall semester, Stephanie Barbeau (1) a senior Pre-med student and Joshua Barbin (2), a junior Political Science major, joined our team. They aggressively visited classrooms, tabled in towers lobby, and helped design advertisement material for the African Studies program. In the spring, Stephanie remained in a limited capacity and we were joined by Bhavini Patel (3), a sophomore Pre-med student, who assumed the aforementioned responsibilities and helped us best serve our students and the community. We wish them all the best as they move forward and pursue excellence!

Volunteers

Every year we utilize the service of volunteers to help the ASP achieve its many goals. This year, we had a great outpouring of volunteers for our many events. Many thanks to Kendra Brumfield for her help at Celebrate Africa!, to Scott Crawford, Dillon Narry, Ryan Anders, Abena Botwe-Asamoah, Khadija Awa-Diop, and various members of ASO for the 3rd Annual Model African Union (MAU), and to Danica Cooper, [and the rest of the dancers] for leading a dance activity at Harrold Middle School. Finally, thank you to anyone we may have overlooked! Without your dedication, our program would not touch nearly as many lives each year.
African Studies Certificate

Recipients

Each year undergraduate and graduate students demonstrate their expertise on Africa by completing the requirements of the African Studies Certificate Program. Requirements include courses, language proficiency, a paper, and a presentation upon graduation. Our graduating students of the 2014-15 academic year are as follows:

**Graduates**
- Laura Barry
- Kendra Brumfield
- Melissa Tolomeo
- Galata Tona

**Undergraduates**
- LaVonda Baldwin
- Danica Cooper
- Chelsea Davis
- Huron Hill III
- Jaclyn James
- Bridget Kane
- Brittany Reyes
- Maya Wilson
Laura Barry

Hometown: Warwick, RI
School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Major: International Development

Before coming to Pitt for her Master's in International Development, Laura spent 4 months working at Instituto Internazionale de Maria Auxiliatrice, a human rights organization in Geneva, Switzerland and then 8 months teaching English in Gisenyi, Rwanda. Through the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, she spent the summer of 2013 in Entebbe, Uganda working with Dr. Louis Picard of GSPIA. Her purpose there was to implement a new structure to the financial system of Bright Kids Uganda, a nonprofit organization that provides a stable home and education for at-risk children.

Laura focused many of her projects at GSPIA on Africa, including taking a capstone course in Genocide Prevention in Sudan and the DRC.

After graduation, Barry is hoping to work in East Africa or work with an organization that has close ties with Africa. Her heart is in Africa, and she will find a way to incorporate her skills and experiences into her future career.
Kendra Brumfield

School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Major: Public Affairs
Concentration: Public and Non-Profit Management

I became interested in African studies primarily because of the parallels many of African countries share with my home state of Louisiana. I am fluent in French and traveled to Senegal as a student and later as an intern for Africare-Senegal.

Since joining the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), I have never regretted my decision. I was awarded the Beulah Glasco Memorial Scholarship to complete an internship in Kenya and had the opportunity to contribute to the planning of a conference of public administrators in Windhoek, Namibia where I also gave a research presentation on my work in Senegal working with Africare.

Through my interaction with the amazing staff in the African Studies program, I was able to witness a televised Kenyan presidential debate, only the second in its national history. I also helped to plan the program’s African festival to celebrate African culture in Pittsburgh, and to connect with countless individuals who share my interest in the diverse history and cultures of the African continent.

In the fall of this year, I plan to begin a PhD in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware and work as a graduate assistant, contributing to their growing partnership with a think tank in South Africa. My greatest thanks to Dr. Lelei, her incredible staff, and African Studies affiliates for enriching my academic journey and personal life.
Abigail Salisbury

School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, School of Law
Major: Public Policy and Management (GSPIA), International Law and Legal Studies (Law)

Abigail Salisbury completed a Masters of Public Policy and Management through GSPIA, as well as a Doctor of Law (JD) in International Law and Legal Studies from Pitt’s School of Law, in 2013. Abigail was the executive director of JURIST, an award-winning non-profit legal news and research service powered by nearly 50 law students at Pitt. Previously, she taught at Mekelle University in Ethiopia, where she taught International Human Rights Law. During this term, she published a peer-reviewed article that led to censorship by the Ethiopian government. The African Studies Program invited her to present her story and experience being in Ethiopia as part of the Let’s Talk Africa! Series. Today, she works as a Clinical and Corporate Contracts Officer at the University of Pittsburgh. The Let’s Talk Africa! series provides a forum for students and faculty for the exchange of ideas about Africa from a wide range of disciplines. Let’s Talk Africa! is hosted once a month by the African Studies program.

Did you know:

-Ethiopia, a country of over 93 million people, has a median age of only 17.5 years old?

-Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries in the world yet has one of the world’s fastest growing non-oil economies?
Emily Sikora

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

Major: International Development

Minor: Energy and Environmental Studies

Concentration: Nongovernmental Organizations & Civil Society

Additional Certificate: Global Studies

Emily Sikora worked with non-profit and social service organizations for seven years prior to attending GSPIA. Although she received a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University, her resume following her undergraduate education points definitively toward a passion public service and helping others. She has held positions with AmeriCorps, the American Cancer Society, and even the Peace Corps, where she was stationed in Mozambique and taught students in grades 7-12 Chemistry, Physics, and Information Technology for two years.

Today, she works for Brother’s Brother Foundation as a Program Coordinator, working in the areas of fundraising and logistics for the enormous non-profit. Her work touches the lives of thousands of people each year.
Melissa Tolomeo

Hometown: Gibsonia, PA
School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
Major: Human Security
Minor: Energy and Environmental Studies
Concentration: International Development
Additional Certificate: Asian Studies

My experience with African studies has been accidental, in a way. Though I have always felt drawn to Africa and the culture, I lived in Asia for a year and a half working in both the non-profit and education sectors. During my time there, I became entrenched in the Nigerian community and became very interested in the role Asia has played in the development of Africa. My interests with respect to Africa are focused on children’s rights, religion, conflict resolution and the role of institutions and foreign aid as tools of mitigation or exacerbation; education and issues of energy and environmental sustainability.

Presently, I will be moving to South America upon graduation, but have become very interested in the African legacy that is ever present throughout Latin America. My career goals are very entrepreneurial and although I plan on implementing my strategic plan in Latin America first, in the future, I hope to expand my reach to support beneficiary communities of marginalized children in Africa.
Galata Tona

Hometown: Shashamene, Ethiopia  
(grew up in Minneapolis, MN)

School: Graduate School of Public and International Affairs  
Major: International Development (Land Rights,  
Foreign Aid, Economic Development, & Human Rights)

The African Studies Program allowed me to refine my passion and narrow my focus to the African continent, which allowed me to study the details of my work, instead of thinking generally and producing incomplete broad ideas. The program also allowed me to dive deeper into issues on the continent by coordinating events relevant to my focus and issues currently discussed across the continent. Although I was born on the continent, I have not had the chance to go back since I was eight years old. However with the help of family, and different media outlets, I have been able to keep abreast issues that pertain to the continent.

Specific research I have done span from: Land Rights in Ethiopia and effect on economic and political development, Policy Analysis of Land Grabs in Ethiopia and costs and benefits, the state of Urbanization in Ethiopia, and Foreign Aid and its impact on growth in Sub-Saharan Africa.

My future goals are to work on the continent. With what I learned while at GSPIA and in the African Studies program, I believe I am well equipped to tackle any obstacles that may come my way. My future plans are to work on the continent in any capacity that enhances people’s lives.
LaVonda Baldwin

Hometown: Bensalem, PA

School: School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

Major: Communication Science & Disorders

Minor: Africana Studies

Additional Certificate: American Sign Language

During her spring semester of 2012, she participated in Pitt in Ghana, where she took university courses and volunteered as a caregiver, teacher, and speech pathology aide with nonprofits. By 2013, she traveled to Ireland as well, where she visited clinical and research centers related to communication science and disorders.

She has also been awarded a 2013 Thomas R. Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship. Through this award, she will be provided with financial support for her senior year of undergraduate study and one year of graduate school. She will also participate in two internships, one domestic and one foreign, and work in the U.S. Department of State’s Foreign Service for at least three years after earning her graduate degree.

In the future, she plans to work in the State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.
Danica S. Cooper

Hometown: Wilkes-Barre, PA
School: School of Arts & Sciences
Major: Anthropology
Concentration: Physical Anthropology
Minor: Museum Studies

African Studies helped me find more classes that I was interested in taking, narrow down my interests, find my passions, make friends, and learn more about cultures I didn't understand well.

Throughout the program, I have gained experience in African music and dance through seven semesters in the African Drumming Ensemble. For three years, I have been a founding member, historian, secretary, and president of the African Music and Dance Club. Also, I have been accepted for a part-time position with an African music and dance company after graduation.

I plan to pursue a career in African music and dance while simultaneously pursuing work in a museum of natural history studying fossils and human evolution.

Danica playing drums for an outreach event to Harrold Middle School during Cultures day, April 2014
I began pursuing this certificate after making the decision to study in Ghana during the summer of 2012. Since I returned, I have been working in the African Studies Program as an Event and Media Coordinator, revisiting Ghana, and making plans to spend at least a year or two in West Africa to gain work experience and learn more about that area of the world.

During my study abroad experience in 2012, I lived with a host family, and that alone taught me many things about Ghanaian culture and life in modern Ghana. One of the most touching experiences I had was going with my host uncle to visit the village where he grew up. He introduced me to his grandmother and aunties, who raised him, and showed me around the area, talking about places he went and experiences he had as a child. It was then that I saw two worlds collide, the traditional experiences in rural Africa that are often embellished in the United States, and my experiences in urban Ghana up to that point, which many Americans know nothing about.

After graduation, I plan to use the certificate as well as the knowledge and skills I gained through participating in the program to pursue work opportunities in West Africa in the realm of non-profits. Immediately after graduation, I will be returning to Accra, Ghana to begin making connections and establishing myself through community involvement.
Huron Hill III

School: School of Arts & Sciences
Major: Economics

After taking a few introductory classes and seeing my friends participate in the African Drumming Ensemble, I have gained a greater respect and awareness for the African struggle in America to gain equality, as well as Africa’s global stance for independence.

While I was unable to travel to Africa during my time at the University, the knowledge and encouragement of the African Studies Program staff will guide me as I look towards future visits. After graduation, I plan to apply to attend graduate school at Point Park University for a two-year MBA program in hopes to eventually be involved in real estate and community development.

Jaclyn James

Hometown: Hendersonville, TN
School: School of Arts & Sciences
Majors: Political Science and Anthropology
Minor: French
Additional Certificate: Global Studies

African studies courses helped prepare me for my study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa where I participated in a service learning program. During my time there, I worked as a teaching assistant for a third grade classroom in Manenberg, a township outside of Cape Town, and completed my own research on the restructuring of South Africa’s educational system and overcrowded classrooms. I am taking a few years off but hope to return for graduate school at the University of Cape Town.
Bridget Kane

School: School of Arts & Sciences
Major: Anthropology
Concentrations: African Studies and Geographic Information Sciences & Remote Sensing

I originally began taking Swahili courses through the Less Commonly Taught Language Center to pursue my interest in primatology. Having worked on a game reserve in South Africa during high school, I took advantage of Pitt’s first study abroad program in Ghana to explore a different region of the continent. Staying in Accra for six months was a truly amazing experience!

While my areas and activities of interest have changed, my African studies certificate has benefitted me in a number of ways—most recently, I have been focusing on the analysis of links between terrorism and organized crime in the MENA region and will begin an internship with the National Geospatial Intelligence-Agency this summer. Ideally, I will continue to put my certificate to use in the Intelligence Community.
My name is Melissa Prosper and I am a proud University of Pittsburgh Alumna! Hail to Pitt! I am a recent graduate, having crossed the stage in December of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and an academic certificate in African Studies. Currently, I am serving as a Residential Counselor for a behavioral health system in New Jersey. I am currently applying for graduate school to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Health, with a concentration in social and behavioral sciences. Upon participating in the Pitt in Tanzania Program in the summer of 2013, I was exposed to the field of Public Health and immediately became passionate about its principles. Further, I realized that concentrated studies in African culture and health practices would lay a foundation for my professional interests, due to my desire to study East African health practices. My desire is to increase health outcomes in individuals by integrating traditional and western medicine and health practices.

I believe that cultural competence increases the likelihood of success in any field and opens a window for thoughtful and meaningful exchange. Obtaining the African studies certificate was the first step toward gaining the important knowledge that I needed to begin exploring the ways in which those identifying with African culture, approach health care. I know that as I delve into graduate study, my choice to pursue the African Studies certificate will enrich my graduate studies and will allow for a greater sense of understanding for African health practices, thus giving rise to techniques that can meaningfully and sensitively hybridize medicine. I am forever grateful for the knowledge captured from pursuing the African Studies certificate and I am hopeful that my graduate studies will continue to build on the foundation that the African Studies certificate has provided for me.

Jozani National Park (Zanzibar) at the Mangrove Boardwalk. Here the students walked amongst the Mangrove forest in the sea. The brackish water that flows through the mangrove is a nursery ground for hundreds of species of tropical fish, which can be seen feeding in the shallow waters, whilst crabs and other molluscs can be observed feasting in the nutrient rich mud. With Mangrove forests and salt marshes, the area is an extremely rich mosaic of Zanzibar’s diverse natural habitats, a haven for wildlife including rare, endemic and endangered species.
While in Tanzania, I studied the impact of the Marriage Act within the country and how it creates an increased rate of child marriage, specifically for females. I examined how the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to achieving universal primary education and gender equality, lead to the disempowerment of young female youth. I know that I will continue building upon the knowledge that I have gained through this certificate, especially as it relates to my Kiswahili knowledge, and have made it a personal goal of mine to return to Dar es Salaam in the future. I will be pursuing my graduate education next year to obtain a Master’s degree in Social Work and Public Administration at either Columbia University, The University of Texas at Austin or University of Pittsburgh!

Brittany Reyes

Hometown: Takoma Park, MD

School: School of Social Work

Major: Social Work

Minor: Sociology

Certificate: Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

The African Studies certificate program was something I have delved into after studying abroad this past summer in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with Momma Macrina (my hero). I am thankful to have had the opportunity to expand my knowledge of not just this country, but Africa as a whole through this program. It has been a year since I have traveled abroad but feels as if it were just yesterday as the experience is still something that I am actively engaged in today. A neat project I have become invested in since returning from abroad is the Krate for Karagwe project which is dedicated to raising $20,000 to send a 40’ container filled with medical supplies to Karagwe, Tanzania.
Morgan Smith graduated with dual degrees from the College of General Studies in Fall 2013. In addition to receiving the African Studies Certificate, Morgan also studied abroad in Tanzania through the Pitt Panther Program. She was interested in culture and its impact on the legal justice system in the country. In addition to classroom instruction and cultural immersion activities, students in the program also got the opportunity to visit the Rubondo Island in Lake Victoria. It is the largest island national park on the continent and is all but untouched by man.

Elephants roam wild, colorful birds and butterflies flit through the boughs of pristine indigenous forest, and the waters teem with the iconic Nile Perch. Students had a wonderful experience sailing in the lake, learning about the various species of fish and birds and some wild animals found in the park.
Maya Wilson

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland
School: School of Arts & Sciences
Major: Political Science
Minors: Theatre Arts and Africana Studies
Certificate: Global Studies

What I enjoyed most about the African Studies program is how welcomed I felt, which cultivated my eagerness to learn more about the continent. I am an African-American in America who, before my experience with the African Studies department and other departments here, had never really felt connected to the African Diaspora. By attending lectures, seminars, workshops, and even luncheons, I learned so much about individual experiences that Africans, on and off the continent, had. I could relate to so many people and gained confidence in exploring my cultural background.

At the university, I did a lot of research on international relations, with Africa always being my focus. So, I was able to not only observe the continent as a separate entity, but within the larger context of the world. I learned a lot about issues plaguing the continent and thus plan to use this newfound knowledge in the future. I would really like to work, either through advocacy or diplomacy, on human rights issues in Africa such as child soldiering, human trafficking, and genocide. I hope to touch African soil soon, as a culminating experience for all that I have learned.
Alumni Spotlight: Kakenya Ntaiya

Kakenya Ntaiya is many things— an educator, an advocate, an inspiration. Through incredible odds, she negotiated her way through the disadvantages of being a female born of the Massai people, and today operates a highly-competitive all-girl boarding school. She is an alumna of the University of Pittsburgh School of Education and the African Studies Program. She returned to her alma mater for several days to accept the Sheth International Young Achievement Award and share her story of hope and dedication to the university community.

Kakenya is the recipient of many awards, including the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award in 2008, being named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2010, a Newsweek “150 Women Who Shake the World” in 2011 and a CNN Top Ten Hero of the Year for 2013.

Now, Kakenya has another award to commemorate the excellence and leadership she has exemplified in bringing about lasting social change. The Sheth International Young Achievement Award “recognizes a University of Pittsburgh alumna or alumnus for contributions to the international community through professional achievement and societal impact.” After sharing her story via talking to she humbly accepted this award on November 14, 2013.

1. From Left: Dr. Alan Lesgold, Dean of the School of Education; Kakenya Ntaiya; Madhu and Dr. Jagdish N. Sheth
2. Kakenya and Dr. Lelei, Director of the African Studies Program and Kakenya’s advisor while at Pitt.
This year, the African Studies Program supported three Panther study abroad programs, all of which took place over Summer 2014. This year also saw the creation of two new programs, Pitt in Zambia and Pitt in South Africa.

- Pitt in Tanzania, located in Dar-es-Salaam, focuses on cultural immersion, study of health issues, and learning of Swahili language.
- Pitt in South African, located in Cape Town, focuses on South Africa's history, as well as contemporary literature and social entrepreneurship efforts.
- Pitt in Zambia, located in Lusaka, offers graduates and exceptional undergraduates the opportunity to complete first hand research and data collection in connection with the USAID-funded Read to Succeed Project.
For its inaugural year, three students travelled to Wits University in June-July 2014 and will complete their individual studies between September – December 2014. Students are residing in on-campus housing and have completed internships with organization such as the Mvula Trust, Planact, and The Center for Defense and Security Management at Wits University. Before returning to the United States, students complete courses in program evaluation, international development and security.

Program Details:
Master’s students at GSPIA who elect to participate in the exchange will be responsible for completing 3 courses taught at the University of Witwatersrand and a 36 hour per week internship with a local NGO, government or university organization.

Upon completion of the program, student participants from GSPIA will receive a Certificate of Participation and 9-12 credits toward the GSPIA degree. The exchange program provides University of Pittsburgh students with exposure to humanitarian, human security and development opportunities and important international experience. In addition, PhD students may pursue an advanced certificate or conduct research related to their projects. In exchange, doctoral students from Wits will also be able to spend a semester at GSPIA studying re-search methodology.

The South Africa-GSPIA connection creates additional partnership and internship opportunities with international organizations working in South Africa, including: Doctors Without Borders, Plan Act Johannesburg and the Institute of Democracy in Africa, and the Institute for Security Studies. Students and faculty/staff at both universities will be able to participate in joint applied Human Security research activities in the fields of program assessment, capacity building, and strategic planning, as well as focused research on Marginalized Peoples in various parts of the world.

Interested students should contact Elizabeth Hruby (eah44@pitt.edu) in GSPIA Student Services or Chris Belasco (belasco@gspia.pitt.edu) at the Ford Institute for Human Security for additional information about this ex-change opportunity. An information session will be held in October 2013.

From Left: Jemima Homawoo, Duran Ward, and Bryce Aaronson, hiking in the Drakensberg Mountains in Kwa-Zulu Natal.
Pitt in South Africa

This program allows students to engage with South Africa's history, as well as contemporary literature and social entrepreneurship efforts. Students take up to 6 credits and can fulfill 2 foreign culture requirements by spending 5 weeks in Cape Town affiliated with the University of Cape Town, Africa's premier English-language university.

Students will also get to experience the stark physical beauty of the Western Cape and see first hand the challenges of post-apartheid. Students will take courses focused on the history of modern South Africa, literature and the development of the "Rainbow Nation". Local site visits are included to enhance the academic experience. Students will visit Robben Island, district six museum, company gardens and Cape of Good Hope among others. The program will be located in the University of Cape Town. The program director is Dr. John Stoner whose teaching and research interests include: U.S. political, social, labor history (20th century); U.S. and the world; sub-Saharan African labor, political history; comparative history; and transnational history.
Pitt in Tanzania

This program is six-week, ten credit summer program designed to provide students with a unique educational opportunity for cultural and social immersion with the Swahili speaking people of Tanzania. First, students spend two weeks in Pittsburgh, beginning coursework prior to departure for Tanzania. Then they travel to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where they spend four weeks studying language, culture, and health issues.

The program is located in the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, hosted by the Taaluma Institute. The program is designed to offer classroom instruction, language exchange with native speakers, workshops, excursions, field trips and cultural activities. It uses a functional approach and is ideal for students who would like to learn Swahili in a relatively short period of time as they enrich their cross-cultural experience and language proficiency.

This year, nine students participated in the program. From morning until night, schedules were packed with classwork and educational field trips to and around Dar-es-Salaam. Many students volunteered their evenings tutoring adults in English and, in turn, getting tutored in Swahili. It was a rich cultural and educational exchange between our students and the local population.

Back Row, From Left: Dr. Macrina Lelei, Talia Rothfus, MaryGrace Levis, Joseph Streets, Camara Chantel Singleton, Seth Scheetz

Front Row, From Left: Staci Indermuhle, Bhavini Patel, Mallory Thomas, Mary Elisabeth Moscirella

RIGHT– Student posing for a photo during a visit to the historic Bagamoyo.
Megan Carson was a 2013 Boren Scholar and studied at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi Kenya from September 2013 to April 2014.

During her studies in Nairobi, she developed a cultural understanding of higher education in the country. She was particularly interested in learning about the public university system and the private university system. She is building on that pilot research that she began while in Nairobi to explore issues of access to higher education in Kenya. She will be applying her regional knowledge to explore the exclusion of government-sponsored students from marketable programs in favor of the privately-sponsored students at public Kenyan universities. The question is: how can you have a private arrangement within the public university setting? She plans to translate her undergraduate thesis, regional familiarity, and Swahili proficiency to implement field research in Kenya.

Pitt in Zambia

New for summer 2014, the Pitt in Zambia program offers graduate students and exceptional undergraduates the opportunity to travel to Southern Africa to complete research and coursework. The program is a cooperation between the Institute for International Studies in Education, the University of Pittsburgh School of Education, the African Studies Center, the Study Abroad Office, and the University of Zambia.

In addition to coursework on Program Evaluation, students will have the opportunity to complete first hand research and data collection in connection with the USAID-funded Read to Succeed Project.

Student Research in Kenya

Megan Carson was a 2013 Boren Scholar and studied at the United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi Kenya from September 2013 to April 2014.

During her studies in Nairobi, she developed a cultural understanding of higher education in the country. She was particularly interested in learning about the public university system and the private university system. She is building on that pilot research that she began while in Nairobi to explore issues of access to higher education in Kenya. She will be applying her regional knowledge to explore the exclusion of government-sponsored students from marketable programs in favor of the privately-sponsored students at public Kenyan universities. The question is: how can you have a private arrangement within the public university setting? She plans to translate her undergraduate thesis, regional familiarity, and Swahili proficiency to implement field research in Kenya.
Approximately 63% of the world’s population lives in low-income countries, which share a disproportionate burden of communicable diseases. An efficient and accessible laboratory infrastructure is important in helping to identify and diagnose these diseases and provides an essential foundation to developing quality healthcare. Evidence has shown that laboratories in low-resource settings are underdeveloped and lack adequate maintenance and can be hindered by misunderstandings and several challenges.

In order to address these barriers and the diagnostic process as a whole, it is important to understand the laboratory workflow and the communication between multiple hospital departments. A study protocol was designed to test the “total testing cycle,” of the complete laboratory testing process at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi. This begins when a provider decides to order a laboratory test (pre-analytical phase), and ends when the clinician acts on the laboratory results (post-analytical phase), with the laboratory test itself being termed the analytical phase. After conducting and testing this protocol, we formulated a complete workflow analysis including challenges encountered and bottlenecks throughout the process. During this time, we encountered several challenges in the complete laboratory testing process workflow that encouraged us to refine our protocol for a future study. Both confusion and a lack of consistency proved to be primary barriers in the laboratory testing process, leading to delays at all phases of the total testing cycle. We presented these findings to both the clinicians and health workers of the medical ward at KCH and the leadership at the KCH laboratory. Quantifying the delays in the total testing cycle will allow us to suggest a more efficient workflow to increase the overall performance and efficiency at each phase. Our future goal is to introduce a laboratory information system that will track laboratory specimens and automate their results.
Each year, the African Studies Program, often working in conjunction with various programs and departments across campus, brings a variety of educational and cultural events to campus. Highlights include the *Let’s Talk Africa! Lecture Series*, *Celebrate Africa* Festival, and *Model African Union* for high school students.
Let’s Talk Africa!

Each year, the African Studies Program invites faculty, graduate students, and members of the university community to share their research or experience about Africa. What always begins as a fascinating lecture switches gears and turns to open discussion amongst those in attendance, allowing for in-depth discussion that’s hard to match. This monthly series is aptly named “Let’s Talk Africa!”

Abigail Salisbury

*Balancing Human Rights and the War on Terror in the Horn of Africa*

September 25, 2013

Abigail Salisbury is a graduate of both the Pitt Law School and GSPIA. She shared her experience as an Assistant Professor at Mekelle University Law School in Ethiopia, the resulting fallout with the Ethiopian government from an article published in the JURIST, and used her expertise to facilitate a discussion on the war on terror and human rights.

Dr. Brenda Berrian

*My Twenty Years in South Africa: Pre and Post-Apartheid*

October 23, 2013

Dr. Brenda Berrian is a Pitt professor in the departments of Africana Studies, English, and Women’s Studies. She shared her unique perspective as an African–American woman living in South Africa before and after Apartheid.
**Victoria Nalongo**

*Conflict in Northern Uganda*

September 20, 2013

Victoria Nalongo is the President and Founder of Bright Kids Uganda, Entebbe House, an orphanage for children from various backgrounds. The discussion centered on the organization’s challenges and successes, including an in-depth analysis of conflict in Northern Uganda and its lasting legacy.

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**Brian Fraile, J.D.**

*Pitt Law Student in Kenya: Tablets Bridging the Resource Gap in Education*

January 28th, 2014

Brian Fraile, Assistant Director of Pitt’s Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and Pitt alumnus, discussed his role in the distribution of android tablets at Moi University in Kenya in Fall 2013. Mr. Fraile has insight into the unique educational challenges facing Africa, which were discussed at length.
Dr. Mary N. Getui

Women and HIV/AIDS: Cultural Challenges and Transformation in Contemporary East Africa

March 27, 2014

Dr. Mary N. Getui is Chairperson of the National AIDS Control Council in Nairobi, Kenya, and Professor at Catholic University of Eastern Kenya. Her discussion addressed the unique cultural challenges that women and girls face in addressing the epidemic, from the myth of female virginity offering a cure to AIDS to a lack of reproductive self-determination. However, the discussion also highlighted the rise of women-organized social support groups and female leadership in confronting these challenges.

Dr. Joshua Kivuva

Democracy and Devolution: Kenya’s New Constitution and Implications for Development

April 18, 2014

Dr. Joshua Kivuva is a Professor at the University of Nairobi Department of Political Science and an expert on Kenya’s constitution. Dr. Kivuva discussed Kenya’s new Constitution (as of 2010) which devolved power from the federal government and shifted greater power, resources, and representation to Kenya’s 47 counties. His focus was the constitution’s impact on economic development throughout Kenya.
Celebrate Africa!

On November 20th, 2013, the African Studies Program, with support from the Ford institute for Human Security and the Global Studies Program, brought together a myriad of people representing all regions of Africa. Our goal was to celebrate Africa's rich cultural diversity and to share perspectives from across the continent. Thus, we assembled a mix of vendors, performers, NGO's, activists, and many others, to engage students and the larger community on what it is to be African.

Among the highlights of the day's events was a performance by the Pitt African Music and Dance Ensemble, led by Yamoussa Camara. Nigerian Singer Jemiriye made an appearance to promote her tour's leg in Pittsburgh. There were over a dozen individual presentations.

The day culminated in a presentation by Invisible Children, with commentary by Dr. Louis Picard, director of Pitt’s Ford Institute of Human Security and professor in the University’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), followed by facilitated discussion.

1– Invisible Children Table
2– Catering provided by Salim’s Market
3– Professor Rebecca Cech, Dept. of English, speaking at FORGE’s Democratic Republic of the Congo: Conflict, Refugees, and Transition presentation
1– Kenyan Craft Connections set up their African merchandise for sale.

2– Dr. Mundundu. Photo Credit- Subhana Chaudhri, Pitt News

3– Yamoussa Camara leads the African Drum and Dance Ensemble during a performance at lunch.
In keeping with past years, the African Studies Program participated in Harrold Middle School’s Cultures Day (April 30, 2014), which offers programming to teach students about different parts of the world. This year, we had a 2-prong approach to teaching students. First, Anna-Maria Karnes and Eric Swetts gave a presentation challenging children’s perceptions of Africa. Second, Danica Cooper, Aiden Smith, Dominic Milesi, and Nathan Schauerman brought in a drum and taught students an African dance. Over a six hour period, over 250 students rotated between these two classrooms and experienced a bit of Africa.
Thank you Eric Sweetts for teaching us about the life in Africa. I thought it was very interesting to learn. I think Africa is the coolest and most interesting continent.

Sincerely - Garrett

Dear, Anna-Tine Harris

Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to come into Harold and teach us about Africa. It was very interesting to hear about your home in Cameroon. I enjoyed how you tested what we knew as well as improved our knowledge of Africa. We all appreciate your time and effort. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Marzelle

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[Image of a hand-drawn outline of Africa with country names like Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo labeled]
The Model African Union is a parliamentary-style simulation of the African Union. Prior to the event, students research pre-selected topics affecting Africa, and are assigned a country whose interests they represent on the day of the event. This year’s event brought out over 90 students from nine area high schools. Dr. John Stoner of the History Department provided the keynote address, Khadija Awa-Diop provided African-style storytelling, and Yamoussa Camara led the students in a dance workshop. Catering was provided by Salem’s Halal Market. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Africana Studies, Global Studies Center, the World History Center.

**Topics of this year’s MAU:**

I. Sustainable Energy Security Plan for the Continent

II. Social Issue: Improved Sanitation on the Continent

Participating Schools:
North Allegheny Senior High School
Baldwin High School
West Allegheny High School
North Allegheny Intermediate High School
Riverview High School
South Side High School
Moon High School
University Preparatory School
Quaker Valley School District

From Left: Ryan Henderson, Moderator; Scott Crawford, MAU Chairman; Dillon Narry, Moderator; Abena Botwe, Volunteer;
Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg

Capitalizing on unprecedented popularity of the World Cup in the US, the African Studies Program joined the Wilkinsburg Boys and Girls Club and the Cameroon Football Development Program to introduce local youth to different countries through soccer. Around 50 children from elementary and middle school rotated between different activities hosted by community organizations, enjoyed authentic Jamaican and West African food, watched the Cameroon vs Brazil game, and even met Ian Bishop, former professional player for English Premier League teams such as Manchester City F.C. and West Ham United. The African Studies Program was on site with an interactive map of Africa and trivia, and were well received.

Heart Connections

On February 6, 2014, The African Studies program joined the organization Four Hearts Pittsburgh to enrich young minds about Africa. More specifically, we gave an interactive presentation to a group of over 40 foster children from the greater Pittsburgh area, teaching them about the late Nelson Mandela and South Africa.
This year, the African Studies Program teamed up with boundary2 editorial series and co-hosted visiting scholar and author Nuruddin Farah. Mr. Farah was brought here as part of a boundary 2 series of events considering the work of Edward W. Said on the 20th anniversary of his book *Culture and Imperialism*. Mr. Farrah read excerpts of his own books, after which he engaged an eager audience on a variety of topics pertaining to colonialism, imperialism, and governance, among other things. The entire presentation was broadcast in real time online.

The School of Music and the African Studies Program brought Louise Meinjtes, Associate Professor of Music and Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. Her research focuses on the politics of music production, the intersection of song and dance, voice, the arts, and human rights. She has authored *Sound of Africa! Making Music Zulu in a South African Studio*. Her presentation was on Johnny Clegg, known widely as the “White Zulu,” and his synthesis of political agenda with performance, cultural representation and proliferation, and Zulu culture.
On October 2, 2013, the African Studies Program supported Workforce Development Global Alliance (WDGA) in its 8th Annual Dinner. Dr. Macrina Lelei was honored at the dinner for her work supporting the organization, whose mission is to connect disadvantaged youth in Pittsburgh and Kenya and empower both to become change agents and emerge as socially responsible and employable citizens. The event was rounded out with a performance by artist Marilyn McCoo-Davis (top left).
The African Studies Program Mission

The African Studies Program (ASP) promotes the interdisciplinary study of Africa at the University of Pittsburgh through teaching, research and outreach. The program provides students with a learning environment that facilitates a comprehensive and critical understanding of Africa, and the development of new ways of thinking about Africa. Through a diverse array of courses and other learning activities they are able to develop a better understanding of the continent’s internal dynamics and its evolving place in global perspective. The overarching goal is to train and prepare the next generation of African Studies scholars and experts who will apply their language skills and their knowledge of the respective countries of Africa in their professional careers.

A Vote of Thanks

Our appreciation goes out to all ASP affiliated faculty in the Arts & Sciences, as well as the professional schools. They all contribute immensely to making the program successful through their teaching, research and service. Please continue to support our efforts to build the program to greater heights for the benefit of our students and future generations of Africanist scholars, experts and leaders.

We also wish to express our appreciation for our students past and present. Without their interest in African Studies we would not have a program. We hope their academic experience being in the program has been worthwhile and has had, or will have a lasting impact in their lives as they pursue their professional, academic and personal lives.

ASP Scholarship Fund

In 2013, ASP established a scholarship fund to support African language programs, conference participation, research and study abroad in Africa. Deserving students who otherwise would not be able to study abroad in Africa and experience another culture, or pursue research study opportunities due to prohibitive costs will receive help through the ASP scholarship fund. We are appealing to you to donate to our course. Your generous contribution will go a long way in helping expand learning opportunities for our students, and assist us in strengthening ties between Pitt and African institutions. To make a contribution, visit the ASP website: https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/content/donate-african-studies-scholarship-fund

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