

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM



Building bridges of understanding Africa

2018~2019 Annual Report



PittGlobal

University Center for
International Studies





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Message from the Associate Director



This has been yet another exciting and productive year for the African Studies Program. Our calendar was full of events, new programming and ongoing intellectual discussions and conversations about Africa. I am pleased to share some of our key activities and achievements for the 2018-19 academic year. Our highlights include the month-long Africans in India exhibition—the first of its kind at Pitt, hosted in collaboration with the University Center for International Studies, the Asian Studies Center, the African Heritage Nationality Room, and other units on campus. The exhibition was aimed at highlighting an

otherwise forgotten and erased history, giving recognition to the many African elites, Indians of African descent and their contributions to India. This aligns with our larger effort to broaden understanding of African history and the dispersal of African peoples, especially through slavery.

We also co-sponsored other notable workshops including the Global Health Inequalities & Infectious Diseases Workshop at the School of Law; a lecture series on Race, Science and Technology in the Global African World in the Department of Africana Studies; and the **Annual African Studies Spring Conference** titled “**Pondering African Futures: Technologies and Strategies for Growth**.” At all these forums, Africanist scholars converged at Pitt to discuss scenarios, current trends, and ponder the potential for sustainable growth in Sub-Saharan Africa from multiple perspectives such as health, history, governance, education, politics and much more. The underlying argument in all of our conversations is that the new technological advancements have transformed the lives of millions of people and will continue to do so if harnessed properly.

This report also highlights work of some of our core faculty involved with African Studies, many of whom regularly garner national and international recognition in the areas of teaching, research, and service roles. Faculty affiliated to African Studies publish in renowned journals, share their findings at major conferences, and work with African partners and institutions globally—all while actively bringing their research and collaborations into classrooms and coursework. They also engage with scholars in African institutions on research and other service efforts of impact.

Message from the Associate Director (continued)

The achievements of our students— both graduates and undergraduates — who are actively engaged in Africa related research, study and service activities are highlighted in this report. **27 students** (9 graduates and 18 undergraduates) completed certificate requirements and earned the Certificate in African Studies. Additionally, more than **77 students travelled to various African countries for study, research, service learning or volunteerism**. While abroad in an African country, faculty and program assistants work closely with students to equip them with language proficiency, history, and cultural awareness skills. They get to experience the respective countries first-hand. Students are then empowered to interact and engage with the African citizens from many nations, becoming agents of change and building bridges of understanding that will remain with them upon their return to Pittsburgh, and even long after their graduation from Pitt. In the latter pages of this report, several ASP students and recent alumni share the impact the program has made on their academic choices and career goals after graduation.



On the Cover: As part of the Pitt Panther Program in Ghana, a group of ASP students trek across a rope bridge while touring a rain forest. ASP offers study in Africa programs that blend classroom time at Pitt with study, travel, and service opportunities in host countries. (Photo submitted by Grace H. Cunningham, Summer 2019.)

The African Studies Program also hosts a series of educational and cultural activities aimed at helping students enhance their knowledge and appreciation of Africa. These include the **Let's Talk Africa** series, **Critical Research on Africa** series, and community engagement programs that increase awareness of this large, diverse and often misunderstood continent. Student groups affiliated to African Studies host cultural events including the **Africa Gala night** and **Wazobia Fashion Show** to educate about Africa and showcase the African Pride. All our programming activities align with our goal—to educate, influence and instill an authentic understanding of Africa, African experiences and perspectives at Pitt and beyond. I encourage you to visit our website at www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa. Follow us on social media and join us for events scheduled throughout the year to enhance your knowledge and understanding of Africa.

Thank You.

Dr. Macrina C. Lelei
Associate Director, African Studies Program

Meet our Staff Team

Qiana Peoples
Administrative Assistant



Qiana joined the African Studies Program in September 2018 and worked with us through June 2019. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Pennsylvania State University with a major in journalism and a minor in Communication Arts and Science. With these skills and a love for Africa, Qiana added value to our program in many ways. We wish to extend our appreciation for her hard work coordinating office communications and scheduling events and taking a huge role as we updated our

website. She showed dedication to the program and we wish her well in her career. Qiana shares she was excited about her role on the staff team, which allowed her to meet many students, interact with them, and enhance her own knowledge of Africa. "This position provided me with valuable experience working at the University where I met many wonderful colleagues and made friends and learned so much."

Ashley Saxe
Graduate Student Fellow & Undergraduate Advisor



Ashley is a Doctor of Physical Therapy student in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Pitt. She serves as the academic advisor for undergraduate students in the African Studies program. Ashley is passionate about connecting students with African Studies and is committed to helping them complete the requirements for the certificate in a timely manner. She guides and encourages students to become more involved with the many learning opportunities available to them as pursue their interests and

passions related to Africa. Ashley received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences with a certificate in African Studies. She has traveled to Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Uganda. She is a passionate Africanist, and because of her travels she now has connections and resources across the entire continent. She continues to be an asset to the program and an informed advisor for students. .

Staff Team

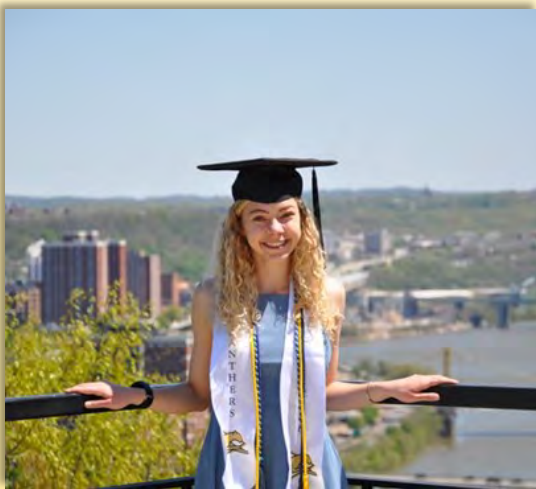
Abena Ampofo
Student Ambassador



Abena is originally from Ghana and is a sophomore studying Psychology and Chemistry with a certificate in African Studies on the pre-health track. In addition to her duties as a student ambassador with the program, she helps international students with their assimilation into American culture as a Global Ties Mentor. She also works as a Research Assistant at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Abena is interested in learning much more about Africa and helping other students expand their global horizons. In Summer 2019, Abena studied abroad in Tanzania to expand her experience in African Studies. She will

continue to serve as a student ambassador for African Studies for the 2019-20 academic year, sharing her passion and experience with students interested in African Studies at Pitt. We are grateful to have Abena on our team.

Elizabeth Morris
Student Ambassador



Elizabeth graduated with a major in Anthropology and Ecology & Evolution, with a minor in Chemistry and a Certificate in African Studies. She studied abroad with Pitt in Tanzania in the summer of 2017. Although the safari during the program was what initially peaked her interest, she left Tanzania with a new passion for global public health and continued to pursue public health and African Studies back on Pitt's campus. As a Student Ambassador in African Studies, she actively engaged in promoting certificate requirements and encouraging

students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the African Studies Program. She visited many classrooms to talk about African Studies to fellow students. We wish her all the best as she continues her career plans in the public health arena. She will be pursuing her Master's degree in Colorado School of Public Health.

Staff Team

Paige Alderson
Graduate Fellow



Paige graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Graduate School for Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). Her focus while completing her Masters in Public and International Affairs includes human security, African studies and international development. She served as program graduate fellow for the 2018-19 academic year, where she was tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the High School Model African

Union program. She showed exemplary skills in organizing and overseeing the program that reaches out to high school students in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. She was instrumental in expanding the program's outreach by raising awareness of African initiatives in today's increasingly globalized world. We wish Paige all the best after graduation and in her new career.

Stephen Juma
Graduate Fellow

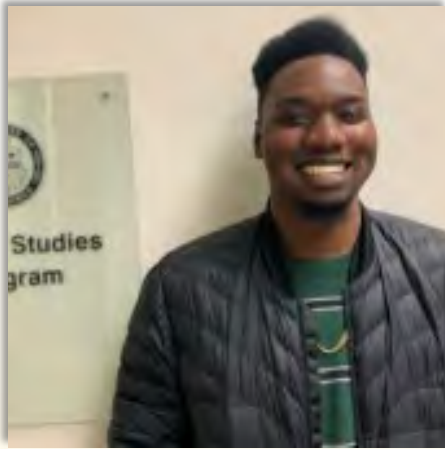


Stephen graduated from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) majoring in International Political Economy, earning certificates in both Global Studies and African Studies. He represented international students in the GSPIA Student Cabinet and served as ASP graduate fellow for the 2018-19 school year, where he coordinated and lead the Pitt Model African Union Club. In February 2019, Juma and the team participated in the International Model African Union Conference for College Students in Washington, D.C. Juma was the first Swahili Fulbright Scholar to Pitt and H.J. Heinz Fellow to be selected in the African

Studies Program in 2015-16. He returned to Pitt in 2017 to pursue a Master's degree, and upon graduation in Spring 2018 he accepted a position with the Kenya Institute for Public Policy in Nairobi (Kenya). We wish him well as he assumes this new role in his home country of Kenya.

Staff Team

Youhana Martin-Benansio Student Ambassador



Youhana is an undergraduate student in the School of Social Work. He served as ASP work study student for the 2018-19 academic year. He assisted with the distribution of promotional materials and engaged in class visits to talk to fellow students about African Studies at Pitt. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge of Africa—especially about his own home country of South Sudan.

He is a member of the African Union Club at Pitt and in February 2019, he participated in the International Model African Union Conference for College Students in Washington, D.C. Youhana enjoys sharing with fellow students and talking about African affairs, politics, challenges and opportunities that the continent faces.

Pitt's ASP Staff Team builds bridges of understanding on campus, in the community & abroad in Africa



ASP Staff Team, 2018-19.
Back Row, Left to Right: Dr. Macrina Lelei, Associate Director; Abena Ampofo, Student Ambassador; Ashley Saxe, Academic Advisor; Emmanuel Wanjala, Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant; and Youhana Martin-Benansio, Undergraduate Student Ambassador. **Front Row, Left to Right:** Quiana Peoples, Administrative Assistant; Elizabeth Morris, Student Ambassador; and Paige Alderson, Graduate Fellow. (Missing from photo are: Stephen Juma, Graduate Fellow; and Dr. Joshua Kinuva, Visiting Scholar, Advisor and Fulbright Scholar from the University of Nairobi in Kenya, Eastern Africa.)

Visiting Scholars

Emmanuel Wanjala

2018-19 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)



Emmanuel was born and raised in Bungoma, Kenya. He graduated from the University of Nairobi in 2017 with a Bachelor of Education (Arts) in Linguistics and Literature. He has taught and examined English Literature at Lenana School, Mbakalo Friends Secondary School, and Hospital Hill High School where he served as a class teacher and Assistant Drama Club Patron. In May 2018, he presented stand-up comedy during the Kenya National Drama Festivals. Emmanuel had a very productive and interactive year serving as FLTA and Heinz Fellow. He visited many schools to give talks and

educate school students about topics related to Africa. He also served in the community as volunteer and guest speaker. We appreciate Emmanuel's role in helping to enhance knowledge of African cultures and languages by supporting the teaching of Swahili and sharing his experiences with fellow students and community.

Dr. Joshua M. Kivuva

2018-19 Visiting Scholar

A political scientist, Dr. Kivuva is a Fulbright Scholar and tenured professor in the Department of Political Science in the University of Nairobi (UoN), where he holds the position of Senior Lecturer with a joint appointment as Research Fellow with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). Dr. Kivuva is a visiting scholar affiliated with the African Studies Program in the University Center for International Studies at Pitt. This position was made possible with support from the Undergraduate and International Studies Foreign Language (UISFL) Program grant. Dr. Kivuva teaches the **Politics in Africa** course. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Joshua also served as faculty advisor to the Pitt Model African Union, and has also been very instrumental in supporting the Model African Union program for High School Students. Joshua added tremendous value to the African Studies Program and we are grateful for his role in advancing our mission.



This year Joshua served as a faculty advisor and led a team of students who participated in the International Model African Union for Pitt Students. The program is designed to encourage students to learn more about the African Union, apply their knowledge and networking skills by participating at the international conference in Washington, D.C.

Certificate in African Studies

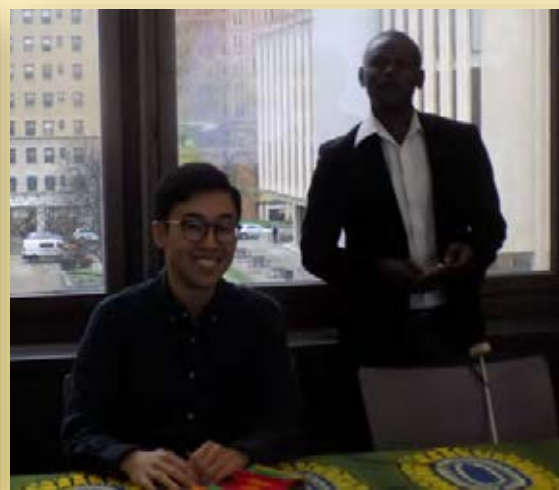
This year, 27 students (9 graduates and 18 undergraduates) earned the Certificate in African Studies. In this report we share some of their interests in Africa, unique experiences in the program, their hopes and aspirations upon graduation. We are incredibly proud of them for their achievements. The Swahili word for congratulations is *pongezi*, and we wish all of our students the very best!



Pongezi! Featuring some program staff team and some of the 2018-19 ASP certificate recipients. **Back Row, Left to Right:** Fiona Eichinger; Ariel Armony, Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Director of UCIS; Macrina Lelei, Associate Director; & Ashley Saxe, Academic Advisor. **Front Row, Left to Right:** Aissata Thiam, Priyanka Srinivasa, Olivia Zhou Yan Peters, Elizabeth Morris, Stephen Juma, Yuto Iwaizumi, H. Davis Weaver, and Alejandro Trelles with his daughter.



Above: Macrina Lelei looks on as Ashley Saxe congratulates Olivia Skiro for receiving the certificate in African Studies. Olivia also traveled to Iringa, Tanzania on.



Above: Yuto Iwaizumi and Stephen Juma enjoy the celebratory gathering after Graduation Presentations on April 12 in Posvar Hall.

Certificate Recipients, 2018-19



All of the Colors of Africa! The Staff Team and this year's Certificate Recipients wear the colors of African nations in celebration of completing the African Studies certificate requirements. A reception and graduation presentation was held on April 12 in Posvar Hall.



Above: Faculty, staff and students listen to presentations by Certificate Recipients.



Above: Oluwatobi Ajimoko shares her time studying abroad with the Pitt in Ghana Program.



Above: Monica Angelotti shares her research on governance issues. She applied for the Boren Fellowship in Tanzania to continue studying Swahili, aiming to pursue a PhD and complete field work in Eastern Africa.

Student Reports

Oluwatobi Ajimoko

Undergraduate

Tobi double majored in Economics and Africana Studies. She also served as a Resident Assistant and current President of Reaching Inside your Soul for Excellence (RISE), an organization that assists minority students through mentoring and self-development opportunities. She enjoys learning about different and often less commonly talked about cultures around the world and how we communicate, relate and work with each other despite our differences. She thinks it's important to learn how to communicate cross-culturally because that allows us to understand each other on a deeper level; this is part of the reason she decided to pursue an African Studies Certificate. She participated in the Pitt in Ghana Program this summer after her graduation. The reason for the decision to study in Ghana was to allow her to experience the country of her origin first-hand, and to see the world beyond what she is used to. She also wants to continue to build skills and knowledge and prepare to solve the world's toughest challenges with a open mind.



Nnenna Anyanwu

Undergraduate

Nnenna majored in Neuroscience and Africana Studies, minored in Chemistry, and completed a certificate in African Studies. She is originally from Nigeria but grew up in New Jersey with her mother, father, and three brothers. One highlight of her college career was studying abroad in Ghana where she experienced West African culture, societies, and performing arts. Her trip was sponsored by the African Heritage Room Committee, and in 2018 she was selected as the Nationality Room Scholar. She will be attending pharmacy school at the University of Pittsburgh in fall 2019. Her future plan is to integrate everything she has learned throughout her undergraduate years into her pharmacy career in order to truly serve her community. With a deeper understanding and appreciation for diverse cultures.



Student Reports

Alexis Damiani Undergraduate

Alexis Damiani, is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is graduating with a bachelor's degree in Emergency Medicine along with a minor in Swahili and a certificate in African Studies. Her journey originally started in 2014, when she took a two-week trip to Nairobi, Kenya. This is where she fell in love with the African people and African culture. When she joined the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2015, Alexis started studying Swahili, the language of East Africa. She also enrolled in different classes that taught about African cultures and societies. She was able to return to Africa in 2017, when she traveled through Pitt's Study Abroad Program to Tanzania. While in Tanzania, she focused on medicinal practices, learning about the dichotomy between modern medicine and traditional medicine. Alexis was able to speak with traditional healers, as well as surgeons and aspiring doctors. These interactions helped inform her understanding on how traditional medicine and modern medicine are combined to serve the local community, in both urban and rural settings. While in Tanzania, Alexis was also introduced to the health issues that are rampant throughout the country. She was able to discuss with different medical practitioners about how these issues are being addressed and how to improve the health of the people of East Africa. She hopes to further her education by attending an accelerated nursing program gaining her BSN within sixteen months. Once Alexis receives her BSN, she hopes to return to East Africa to practice full time.



Below: Dr. Lelei (featured on the far right) gathers students together often to help develop a sense of a learning community among students in the African Studies Program. Visit www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa to see our Calendar of Events.



Student Reports

Fiona Eichinger Undergraduate

Fiona is graduating with a Bachelor of Philosophy in International and Area Studies and Biological Sciences, a certificate in African Studies with a minor in Spanish. She was born in the United States just months after her family emigrated from Germany to Philadelphia, and this influenced her passion for health and well-being at the intersection of society, policy and migration. In the Summer of 2017, she studied public health, East African culture, and Swahili in Tanzania to further explore the integration of social concerns and science to care for physical, social, and mental needs. Fiona was impacted by Neema Crafts, which provides handicraft training and employment for people with disabilities. While in Iringa, she also conducted research on the relationship between traditional and modern medicine by interviewing *waganga* (traditional healers), including the President of the Federation of Traditional Practitioners in Tanzania. In Pittsburgh, she is involved in Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Growth and Empowerment (FORGE), a student organization that supports local refugee populations. She conducted weekly visits to a family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who had also lived in refugee camps in Tanzania. Engaging in the resettlement process motivated her to conduct research on the priorities and outcomes of resettlement models in the United States, Germany and Spain. After graduation she will study Arabic before pursuing master's degree in migration studies and policy evaluation.



Nakumiza Gizaza Undergraduate

Nakumiza Gizaza is a graduating senior earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Africana Studies and a certificate in African Studies. Over the past four years she has been involved in Pitt's African Students Organization, Student Emergency Medical Services (STEM), Reaching Inside Your Soul for Excellence (RISE), and is currently the co-president of the Ya'baso African Dance Team. Nakumiza has also served as an intern for the African Studies program. She has studied abroad in Beijing, China and also Cuba and has visited Uganda many times. After graduation, Nakumiza plans on entering the healthcare field with a particular interest in global health.



Student Reports

Elizabeth Morris

Undergraduate

Elizabeth is pursuing a dual major in Anthropology and Ecology & Evolution with a minor in Chemistry. She accidentally stumbled upon the African Studies Program after randomly studying Swahili her freshman year. Once in the program, she continued her studies of Swahili and studied abroad in Tanzania in 2017. During her 5 weeks in Tanzania she learned about public health and the role that both domestic and wild animals play in the communication of disease. Her interest in the topic was sparked on the trip and has now led her to pursue a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health next year, where she hopes to focus on zoonotic wildlife diseases. Although she was not able to return to Africa since studying abroad in Tanzania, she continued to learn about the continent while serving as an undergraduate fellow in the African Studies Program. As a fellow she encouraged other students to study Africa and hopes that their certificate is as impactful to their lives as hers was.



Hamilton Davis Weaver

Undergraduate

During the spring of his freshman year, Davis stumbled into the African Studies Program offices to ask about internship opportunities in Pittsburgh over the summer that had to do with Africa in one way or another. It was at that moment that he was introduced to the certificate program and all it had to offer. Having already been pursuing a Global Studies Certificate with a concentration of Peace, Conflict, and Security in North Africa/



Middle East, he saw this as an opportunity to expand his knowledge on another important area of the world that he found just as interesting—sub-Saharan Africa. The certificate awarded him the opportunity to take a variety of classes that focused on Africa in a multitude of ways. He enrolled in classes that ranged from Global Health History to Human Security. He says the ASP program is an excellent opportunity for students to expand their interest in areas of the world that are often overlooked.

Student Reports

Paige Alderson Graduate

Paige graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Graduate School for Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). Her focus while completing her Masters in Public and International Affairs includes human security, African studies and international development. She served as graduate fellow for the 2018-19 academic year in African Studies. She was tasked with the responsibility of coordinating the High School Model African Union program. Her position where she demonstrated exemplary skills in organizing and overseeing the program that reaches out to high school students in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. She was instrumental in expanding the program's outreach by raising awareness of African initiatives in today's increasingly globalized world. We wish Paige all the best after graduation and in her career.



Monica Angeloti Graduate

Monica is from Erie, PA. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from John Carroll University in Cleveland in 2017, and realized that she wanted to pursue graduate studies in a field that was more internationally-focused. She began her Master's degree in International Development at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of International Affairs (GSPIA) in fall of 2017. Her interest in African music and culture, and Africa's prevalence in the development field led her regional focus on Africa. She chose GSPIA courses that focused on Africa or topics related to Africa, while learning about East African language and culture by studying Swahili. While she did not get the chance to travel to Africa during her time at Pitt, she was still able to learn a great deal about Africa through coursework, and research. She served as a moderator for the High School Model African Union Conference hosted by Pitt and focused a large portion of her research in GSPIA on governance issues in Africa. She hopes to spend time working or studying in Africa after graduation. She applied for the Boren Fellowship in Tanzania to continue studying Swahili and is also seeking government and consulting work in the development field, both in Washington, D.C. and in Africa. She intends to pursue a PhD and complete field work in East Africa.



Student Reports

Natalie Cole Graduate

Originally from Connecticut, Natalie completed a Master's of Public Administration with a major in Governance and International Public Management, and with a minor in Policy Research and Analysis. She came to GSPIA after working as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia for two years and knew coming in that she wanted to continue to focus on Africa. She says the African Studies certificate complemented her studies well and allowed her the chance to focus more specifically on policy issues and the unique issues the people of African countries face. Through her studies at GSPIA she completed a governance audit on Ethiopia. She researched ethnic conflict in conjunction with minority rule governments in Africa as part of her coursework Ethnic Politics, Python and data programming. She also authored policy memos and research papers detailing aid granted to East African countries, focusing specifically on Somalia and Ethiopia.



Alicia Houser Graduate

Alicia Graduated from the School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) with the Masters in International Development. She was born in Botswana and grew up in Namibia. She moved to the US at the age of nine. Since then, she has been learning about and visiting as many African countries as possible. She served as a graduate fellow for African Studies in 2016-17, where she assisted with organizing and leading the Model African Union for Pitt students. Under her leadership Pitt students participated in the National Model African Union conference for college students in Washington, D.C. Alicia was one of the graduate student winners of the 2018 Boren Scholarship to support her studies of languages and cultures most critical to our nation's security. Alicia is studying in Tanzania, East Africa, and returns in September home to the United States.



Student Reports

Alejandro Trelles Doctoral Candidate

Alejandro holds master's degrees in political science from both Pitt and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City. He graduated with the Ph.D in Political Science this Spring. His dissertation focuses on the causes and consequences of the autonomy of electoral management bodies in Latin America and Africa.



Alejandro is a political scientist, political analyst, and expert in electoral matters. He specializes in the comparative study of public institutions, elections and electoral boundary delimitation in Latin America and the Caribbean. He currently serves as an external consultant to the Organization American States (OAS), where he has participated as an expert in electoral organization and redistricting during the elections of Nicaragua, Haiti, Belize, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas, and Jamaica. He has over 10 years of experience as a public official in the Federal Public Administration in



Mexico and at the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE). In the latter, he has served as Advisor to the General Council and to IFE's Boundary Delimitation Technical Committee. His research on boundary delimitation and the use of combinatorial optimization algorithms in redistricting was recognized by ITAM as the best research in political science in 2007. He is a co-principal investigator in the Public Mapping Project of Mexico. He has research

and consulting experience in Venezuela, Mexico, Ghana, Kenya and Egypt. Furthermore, Alejandro is co-author of two political analysis books: "Anatomy of the PRI and AMLO: Political" and "Personal History of the Head of Government of Mexico City." He has published several articles about elections, political participation, transparency, open data, and mapping tools in academic journals in Mexico and the United States, as well as more than 20 articles on political and electoral issues in different media outlets. His research has been published in Political Geography, Electoral Studies, Latin American Politics and Society, Journal of Politics in Latin America, and Política y Gobierno.



Study Abroad in Africa

Developing study abroad, field-based learning and internship programs for students interested in African Studies continues to be a priority. The goal is to provide opportunities for cross-cultural skills, and helping students gain deeper firsthand experience and enhanced understanding of the continent of Africa. Students participating in these programs have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge outside the confines of the classroom, participate in community engaged learning, and experience real-world challenges.

In partnership with the Study Abroad Office (SAO) and various Departments and Schools on campus, ASP offers programs in the following countries:

- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda



Students also participate in programs in Africa through Pitt-recognized providers. These programs have been vetted by Pitt and approved for students to apply to third party organizations to study with them and receive transfer credits. Approved locations include:

- Botswana
- Ghana
- Madagascar
- Morocco
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda



Pitt in Ghana

Eric Beeko

Faculty Director, Department of Africana Studies

Dr. Eric Beeko is the faculty director for the Pitt in Ghana Study Abroad Program. This program offers two courses that provide an integrated understanding and appreciation of the social and cultural lives of the West African peoples in multifaceted dimensions. After one week of orientation at Pitt, students travel to Ghana for the program which includes rigorous intellectual exploration in both formal and informal settings in selected locations of the country. Activities in-country include lectures, field trips, community immersive activities, visiting sites of historical significance and experiential learning within a Ghana centered perspective. Ghana's rich history and cultural heritage provides a fascinating and unique location for study and a great environment for reflective learning. Students will have the opportunity to relate their first-hand experiences and gain a deeper understanding of the local and global contexts.



Host Institution: University of Ghana

Pitt in Ghana is hosted in the University of Ghana—the oldest and largest of the thirteen Ghanaian public universities. It was founded in 1948, in the British colony of the Gold Coast, as the Goad Coast, and was college of the supervised its academic degrees. It gained full currently has over Students studying at the mainly Ghanaian but a good number of countries in Africa and Pitt students participating in the Pitt in Ghana program are presented with a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from different cultures, interact, network and learn from each other. Professors from the University of Ghana offer lectures and talks to Pitt students on selected topics of West African cultures & society, and West African performing arts.



University College of the originally an affiliate University of London that programs and awarded status in 1961 and 40,000 students.

University of Ghana are the university also admits students from other from around the world.

Pitt in Ghana

Grace H. Cunningham

Pitt in Ghana 2019

Grace studied abroad with the Pitt in Ghana Program. Multi-talented, her photographs are featured on the cover and throughout this report. She so eloquently outlined her experience that we chose to feature her story in this section.



“Throughout my time in Ghana I got out of my comfort zone and was able to experience a number of new things. By far my favourite experiences were teaching, helping children with homework, visiting the Cape Coast Castles and Kakum National Forest. My favourite part about teaching was that I was able to help them with subjects that I had tutored back at home. It was interesting to see that 5,300 miles away, children were still learning the same math subjects. Another thing that was exciting for me was going to the Cape Coast Castles because I was able to learn about slavery in a place where it happened and was so relevant. Being able to learn about a topic, not in a classroom setting, helped me understand and identify with the subject so much more. Although there were so many memorable experiences that I had while in Ghana, the last one that I will talk about was a canopy walk in the Kakum National Forest. Before walking across the canopy bridges built above the rain forest, I was slightly terrified. Although I was scared, being with the friends I had made on the trip and getting myself out of my comfort zone made the experience so memorable. If given the opportunity to return to Ghana— whether for a few days or weeks— I would take the chance in a heartbeat. Thank you for this experience!”



Pitt in Ghana



Above and Below: While Grace H. Cunningham teaches young students classroom activities the students are in return teaching Grace vocabulary and helping her develop conversational language skills. The end result of these exchanges is that everyone learns from each other. And many smiles are shared!

Pitt in Ghana



Above, Left & Below: The Elmina Castle —one of the principal slave depots in the transatlantic slave trade for more than three centuries. It was erected in 1482 by the Portuguese. Students visit these historical sites and more as part of the Pitt in Ghana program.



The Elmina Castle, Ghana: Slavery has existed since the remotest times around the world. However, from the 15th to 19th Century A.D. it was in Africa alone that millions upon millions of people



were forced across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas. Students in the Ghana program learn about the history of the Slave Trade during their visit to Assin Manso the Elmina Castle, in the central region of Ghana. According to the traditional historians, the Assin Manso a town in the Central Region of Ghana that was used to serve as the last stopover where the captives would be forced to have their “last bath” before officially being

sold and shipped out to the new lands. The Elmina Castle was the last port for slaves to be shipped overseas. Students get to experience pieces of history including the dungeons through which the captives were led from the castle to the ships.

Pitt in Ghana



Above and Left: Students explore a canopy walkway in Kakum National Park, located on the coast of Southern Ghana.



Students get the opportunity to visit one of Ghana's most famous parks consisting of undisturbed coastal forest and is home to Africa's only rainforest canopy walkway, and one of only a dozen or so such walkways in the world.

The rain forest canopy walkway connects six enormous trees and is in seven sections which total to a length of 330 m (1,080 ft). It reaches the height of 40 meters (130 ft) above the forest floor and is secured by a series of nets and wires for safety purposes. This is definitely an exciting experience. From the treetops, you have a unique and spectacular view of the rainforest fauna which cannot be seen from the ground.

Pitt in South Africa



This summer, 12 students participated in the Pitt in South Africa Program, studying Modern South African History and Environmental Education for Social Change. The faculty leader for the Program was Dr. John Stoner a faculty in the Department of History, and the faculty co-leader was Danielle Andrews-Brown, a faculty member in the Geology Department. We added a quick two-day trip to Mpumalanga (to experience both a private and public game reserve) and three days in George, which is the location of the campus of Nelson Mandela University that focuses on nature conservation.

On this program students engage with South Africa's complex history and the ways in which environmental education can lead to social change. Students will receive seven credits while in Johannesburg, George, and Cape Town. In addition to classroom engagement, participants visit historical sites, universities, national parks, and several different communities.

After almost a week in Johannesburg to build a basic understanding of South African history, students travel to the Kruger National Park to discuss the role of wildlife tourism and community accessibility.



They then move to George, where they work with partners from Nelson Mandela University. They conclude the program with three weeks in Cape Town, also known to South Africans as the “Mother City” being the oldest town in the country.



Pitt in South Africa



Students in the program get to visit many sites of historical significance and learn from local experts and learn about the history and society and much more.



Engineering Design for Social Change: South Africa



This summer, 20 students of the School of Engineering participated in the Pitt in South Africa program. The group including one Global Engineering Preparedness Scholarship (GEPS) Program Ambassador who was selected from a group of GEPS scholars that previously participated in the program. GEPS Program is funded through NSF S-STEM grant and is housed in the Engineering Office of Diversity. The ambassador was tasked with supporting the program as a peer advisor during the weeks prior to the trip and during the program in South Africa. The program continues to build global preparedness in engineering students by teaching cultural sensitivity practices and an ethnographic approach to exploring engineering problems and solutions.

This year the study abroad program successfully included new partnership with Cape Peninsula University of Technology, in addition to an established collaboration with the University of Johannesburg. Along with the cultural and engineering site visits, Pitt students spent time with peers from each partner university in visiting Johannesburg and Cape Town. The program is now in its third year and continues to produce positive impact on students, increasing engineering workforce preparedness and their perception of engineering in global, societal, and cultural contexts. Field-based learning is a perfect way to introduce them to designing solutions that impact humanity.

Engineering Design for Social Change: South Africa



Student Testimonies

Student 1: “I have always been a critical thinker, but these company visits and the trip as a whole have taught me to absorb and dissect rather than judge, ask the tough questions, and recognize that there are situations when I know better and many more situations when I don’t, and so I need to engage in lifelong learning. Recognizing strengths is important, but so is recognizing areas for growth and committing to see that growth through. Some of the companies we visited have already started to exhibit growth, and others still have a long way to go. My hope is that we have had some kind of impact on these companies, ideally an impact for the better, but at least one that leaves the company leaders thinking about what they have left to do. In any case, I know that I have been so positively impacted by the experiences I have had and the meaning I have created with them (Shout-out to our Professor!). It definitely empowers me to help change the world.”



Engineering Design for Social Change: South Africa

Student Testimonials

Student 2: I just want to finish with saying that deciding to do this study abroad program was one of the best decisions of my life. I was nervous going into the trip, considering I did not know anyone, but the students and professors on this trip made it all worthwhile. This experience taught me to go into situations with a more open mind, and it exposed me to problems and aspects of engineering that I had never thought of before. I am going to miss South Africa and will always remember the memories I made and lessons I learned.

Student 3: The people who I met on this trip, whether it was my peers, the professors, ISA staff, or the South African students all contributed greatly to making it such a great experience for me by bringing their varied perspectives and experiences and allowing me to learn from them. In addition, I think that because I made sure to be an active listener and to keep an open mind throughout the trip, I was able to help myself maximize my learning too. All in all, while I did have high expectations going in, the trip far exceeded them in just about every way, and I am incredibly grateful that I got to have this experience and to share it with everyone else who went.



Pitt in Tanzania

The Pitt in Tanzania ~ Health, Cultural and Swahili Language Immersion Program is a six-week, 10 credit summer program designed to provide students with a unique educational opportunity to learn and



immerse in the culture and society of the Swahili-speaking people of Tanzania. Students spend one week in Pittsburgh beginning coursework and completing orientation. They then travel to Tanzania where they spend five weeks in the country studying and participating in immersive and learning activities.

This summer, 16 students and their faculty program director **Mathew Tembo** travelled to Tanzania. On arrival they met with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) staff responsible for coordinating all of the learning and community engagement activities, offering students a rich learning experience that combines classroom instruction, culture immersive activities, and field trips to sites of cultural, historical and economic significance. Students started the program with a tour of Dar-es-Salaam, the major commercial port city in Tanzania, to learn about the history, current trends, and the city's economic impact on the region. Dar is also the most populous Swahili-speaking city in the world, offering students rich insights about the Swahili language and Tanzanian culture.

Mathew Tembo, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Music was the faculty Director of the group. He says: ...I enjoyed the experience of leading students in Tanzania. The course is a great way of exposing our students to East African cultures. The students experienced firsthand the culture of Tanzania and most of them confessed that they learnt so much about African culture in the five weeks we spent together. I also would like to commend CIEE's staff for coordinating our experience in Iringa. I would like to increase the interactive activities between our students and the children of Kilolo in future visits as the perfect way for encouraging engagement and public service.



Pitt in Tanzania

Students explored the key historical town of Bagamoyo, which once was one of the most important ports on the East African coast, and was noted as the ultimate stop for slave traders and ivory caravans travelling by foot from Lake Tanganyika to Zanzibar. Once the caravans reached Bagamoyo slaves and ivory were shipped by dhow to Zanzibar, and then dispatched all over the world. Missionaries made Bagamoyo a center for their activities and were active in abolishing slavery and ended the illegal trade of ivory tusks.

Formerly a fishing village, the area has been home to Indian and Arab traders, the German colonial government, and Christian missionaries during its storied history. Once an active slave trading outpost and ivory and coconut trading port, Bagamoyo, Tanzania is now home to a landmark church, a German graveyard, a history museum, and a thriving sailboat industry. Guided tours are recommended for an authentic glimpse into this ancient East African trade port with a unique Swahili culture.



Above & Left: Students visited various Kaole ruins found in Bagamoyo, including the Slave Market Ruins and the magical well in the ruins believed to contain pure water and never dries. It is said that the usage of the water cures any ailments in the body (myth).

Pitt in Tanzania Partner CIEE

The Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE)

Pitt in Tanzania is hosted by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) a non-profit organization promoting international education and exchange. It was founded in 1947 and is based in United States with field offices in several countries around the world. CIEE in Iringa is our host institution for the Pitt in Tanzania Program. It is responsible for coordinating program activities and teaching Swahili and cultures.

CIEE Staff in Tanzania

Justin Beckham is the Resident Director of CIEE. He helps to ensure that all program activities are well planned and implemented. He is excited to share Iringa's wonders, challenges and opportunities with CIEE students. CIEE is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, the country's oldest and largest nonprofit study abroad and intercultural exchange organization. Since 1947, CIEE has helped thousands of people gain the knowledge and skills necessary to live and work in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world by offering the most comprehensive, relevant, and valuable exchange programs available.



Paulo Kateme is the CIEE Program Coordinator. He has been a veteran Swahili language and cross-cultural facilitator with foreigners in Tanzania for more than 15 years. As a language program coordinator and certified language teacher, he has authored several Swahili training manuals. Paulo loves helping American students to learn the beautiful Swahili language and to adjust to Tanzanian culture. He is the Swahili instructor for the Pitt in Tanzania program and serves as the cultural coach. He plans cultural activities and accompanies students on field trips and community visits.



Sarah Beckham, PhD, is the faculty instructor for the Health Issues in East Africa course. Her research focuses on socio-structural influences on health and implementation science approaches to ensuring evidence-based interventions reach populations most in need. In the past 10 years, her research has been mainly on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, especially among key populations in the epidemic, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, and drug users. Her research is focused on intersections of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS among female sex workers, and how motherhood and pregnancy intertwine with work-based risk behaviors.



East Africa: Field-Based Learning, Research & Internships

This program allows students to apply academic knowledge outside of the classroom to real-world challenges. By teaming up students with community organizations, students develop intercultural and leadership skills while learning firsthand how local experts are addressing issues facing their communities. The program is open to graduate students in the professional schools who wish to enhance their cross-cultural experience and language competency as they also attain practical field experience, research and workplace skills.

Students in the program are involved in experiential learning in a setting that directly supports segments of the community. They also have opportunities to go into the field and try on a particular professional role in public or community service. There are also opportunities for research activities depending on student interests education and capacity development. This summer 8 students, 2 faculty directors and a program assistant travelled to Uganda for the program.

Examples of topics that students can select include the following:

- Advocacy and justice
- Education
- Gender violence
- Health
- Human security
- International development
- Rural development
- Social entrepreneurship
- Special needs programs
- Sustainable development

This year's program was partially funded with a grant from the Year of Pitt Global with matching funds from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) and the participating professional schools (GSPIA and School of Education) with Students contributing a modest cost-share



Field-Based Learning, Research & Internships: East Africa

Students in the program immerse in the local culture, language and customs and learn firsthand about the people and the country. They visit several sites of interest to interact with the locals and learn about the various organizations and the development related work they do while completing their individual academic projects. They also network, make new connections and sometimes reconnect with available alumni in the host country.



Above: Justin Giantonio visiting the Children's home and School with Medi Begembe the founder of the Great Kings and Queens Children's Center



Above: Dr. Louis Picard, former Director of ASP has been engaged with African Studies at Pitt since its founding. He continues to actively engage students with Africa and has played a key role providing the next crop of Pitt Scholars with field based experiences in Africa over many years.



Above: Dr. Maureen Porter, along with her Pitt students, present Pitt Alumni Silver Francis Oonyu (School of Education, '12) with gifts from their shared alma mater.

The School of Education— team under the direction of faculty director, Dr. Maureen Porter, met with Pitt Alumni Silver Francis Oonyu, who returned to his home country of Uganda after graduation and established a school for the blind in the rural village of Soroti where he grew up. The team visited the school to learn and experience first hand challenges of special education in rural Uganda. Silver started the school for blind children because children with disabilities are less likely to start school and if they do, they are unlikely to transition to secondary and higher education. Silver aims to improve access for children with disabilities while offering information to improve understanding about their needs, lack of trained teachers, and classroom support learning resources and facilities. He argues that denying children with disabilities their right to education has a lifelong impact on learning, achievement and employment opportunities, hence hindering their potential for economic, social and human development.

Affiliated Faculty Reports

ASP affiliated faculty are drawn from multiple disciplines and the professional schools representing the full spectrum of the study of Africa. They dedicate to teaching about Africa, research that explores the contributions, challenges, strivings, and achievements related to Africa within the wider global context. They engage in the formulation of the program's academic and intellectual agenda, and nurture student learning and research interest on Africa related topics. Faculty play a key role in guiding and equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for their respective professional career paths on the global stage. More than 60 faculty members are affiliated to African Studies by virtue of their teaching, research and service experiences related to Africa, including African language instructors.

In this report we shine a spotlight on some of their scholarly activities promoting African Studies through their teaching, research and service. ASP affiliated faculty organize and host activities outside the classrooms that foster student and faculty engagement with the continent, encouraging interdisciplinary research that lead to improved understanding of Africa.

In this report we spotlight some key achievements of ASP affiliated faculty including awards and recognitions for service, new publications, new programs and conference attendance and presentations here in the United States, in Africa and in other parts of the world where conversations are ongoing related to African affairs. Ongoing research locations in Africa include Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe among other locations. Dr. Fapohunda and a research and partner in Nigeria participating in a training workshop on Cancer Screening and referrals. The workshop which is a partnership between Pitt ASP and the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos Nigeria reached more than 100 healthcare practitioners providing services in public and private settings, helping to improve lives everywhere in the country.



Above: Dr. Fapohunda with Dr. Oge Llebune (Head of Strategy, Development and Outreach & Family Physician).in Nigeria participating in a training workshop on Cancer Screening and referrals. The workshop which is a partnership between Pitt ASP and the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos Nigeria reached more than 100 healthcare practitioners providing services in public and private settings, helping to improve lives everywhere in the country. Dr. Oge is a graduate from the University of Nigeria Medical School in Enugu.

Faculty Reports

Jerome Branche

Department of Hispanic Languages & Literatures



Jerome Branche is Professor of Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures at Pitt. His teaching and research focus on racialized modernity and the way creative writers across the Atlantic imagine and write about slavery, freedom, the nation, being and gender. He has served on the Executive Board of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), and chair of the Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples section of the Latin

American Studies Association (LASA). He is currently serving, as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana where he is also editing a series of afro-related narratives and critical works, the Serie Malunga. Branche's books to date include Colonialism and Race in Luso-Hispanic Literature (Missouri 2006), and The Poetics and Politics of Diaspora: Transatlantic Musings (Routledge 2014).

In Spring 2019, Professor Branche organized an international conference that took place in April at the University of Pittsburgh. The theme of the conference was **"Empire and Its Aftermath: Trans Hispanic Dialogues on Diaspora."** T



The conference brought together academics from all over to explore and discuss the experiences of diaspora Africans and their descendants as recorded in literature and visual culture in the Hispanic world (Spanish and Portuguese speaking), over the past 500 years..

Faculty Reports

Abi Fapohunda

Department of Africana Studies



Abi Fapohunda teaches part-time in the department of Africana Studies. She was a visiting assistant professor of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences for two years at the University Of Pittsburgh's Graduate School Of Public Health. Over the past 7 years, she has conducted several studies among African Americans, Africans in the Diaspora and on the African Continent. The focus of her research is "Healthy Community for Black Immigrants" in Allegheny County and "Cancer Awareness in Lagos, Nigeria". She is a trained

epidemiologist and health educator with over seventeen years' experience of running her consulting company and being in public health, conducting needs assessments and program evaluation on the effectiveness of numerous community-based initiatives related to health disparities in both behavioral and physical health, including nutrition, smoking cessation, HIV/AIDS and oral health.

She is actively engaged in research and training in Nigeria in partnership with the Lakeshore Cancer Center in Lagos. She has made trips to Nigeria for research with funding support from the African Studies Program, UCIS-

Hewlett Grant and the Department of Africana Studies. Her research in Nigeria focuses on cancer awareness and prevention. This year in February, Dr. Fapohunda traveled to the Lakeshore Cancer Center Nigeria to facilitate workshop training program that was conducted in diverse location in Lagos. The workshops aimed at finding ways to reduce cancer incidence in Nigeria, and enhancing competency of healthcare professionals in early diagnosis and screening.



Faculty Reports

Cancer Screening & Referral Training Workshops Lakeshore Cancer Center, Lagos, Nigeria



In preparation for the training workshops, 81 healthcare practitioners completed surveys at the Health Providers Conferences for doctors and nurses in October and November 2018. The data was analyzed and used to develop the contents and training curriculum. The research team at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center also provided assistance during development of the curriculum and facilitator presentation.



Above: Abi Fapohunda advocates for the great need for cancer awareness training for healthcare practitioners in Nigeria. Her plan is to scale up the training project that she and partners in Nigeria have started.



Left: healthcare practitioners, including doctors nurses and social workers completing surveys resulting in data that was used to develop training content

Faculty Reports

Julius M. Kitutu

**Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Alumni Relations, Acute & Tertiary Care,
School of Nursing**

Dr. Kitutu received the **2019 Distinguished Alumni Award** from the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. This award honors the outstanding accomplishments of its graduates through its Alumni Award Program. Criteria for the award include recognition of professional achievement, public service to the advancement of the educational field, and a commitment to the continued success of the School of Education and the University of Pittsburgh.



Congratulations to Dr. Kitutu for this recognition for his service to the University, distinguishing himself in his career and for the many significant contributions to the wider community including his public service and civic activities and engagements.



For many years, Dr. Kitutu has worked passionately to build a collaboration between the University of Nairobi Nursing School and the University of Pittsburgh Nursing School. He has helped organize a book drive which has made a significant difference on lectures and students at the University of Nairobi School of Nursing. He has worked with students and faculty in the

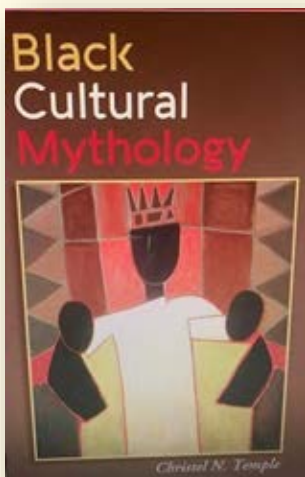
book drive and in partnership with the Brothers Brother Foundation, he has been able to ship many boxes of donated books to the University of Nairobi to be added to the book shelves at the Nursing School Library. In addition, when the Pitt School of Nursing replaced their skills lab mannequins and other supplies, the Dean Jacqueline Dubar-Jacob offered to donate the slightly used ones to the nursing school at the University of Nairobi. The support from the nursing school through the efforts of Dr. Kitutu have truly had a major impact in the nursing school at the University of Nairobi and on many young professionals and leaders. Congratulations Dr. Julius Kitutu on your achievement!

Faculty Reports

Christel N. Temple

Chair, Department of Africana Studies

This year, Dr. Temple was honored to be invited to prepare the extensive overview essay for the “Literary Pan-Africanism” section, part five, which introduces four additional scholars’ orientations to the topic of The Routledge Handbook of Pan-Africanism, as edited by Reiland Rabaka and forthcoming in 2020. She is the only scholar with a book-length study (Literary



New Release in 2020: Christel’s new book, *Black Cultural Mythology* is also in press for an early 2020 release with SUNY Press. It is a seminal work defining the sub-field of Africana Cultural Memory Studies, with significant African worldview intersections such as Ngugi Wa Thiong’o’s approach to “memory, restoration, and African renaissance” as well as historian Ana Lucia Araujo’s extensive work on enslavement trade memory and tourism.

Pan-Africanism: History, Contexts, and Criticism, 2005) on the topic of literary Pan-Africanism that emphasizes the contributions of Ghanaian and Nigerian writers such as Wole Soyinka, Ama Ata Aidoo, Kofi Awoonor, and Ayi Kwei Armhah. Her overview essay captures the greater breadth of literary Pan-Africanism.



Its earliest usage has roots in late 1960s African and Caribbean debates about Négritude legacies, and it reappears in 1990s scholarship about Harlem Renaissance era literary and Black press attention to the Ethiopian-Italian conflict of the 1930s. The background covers the fertile Lincoln University setting during the years that Kwame Nkrumah attended and encountered writer George S. Schuyler’s journalism and literature on Ethiopia, the work of historian J.A. Rogers and activist George Padmore on African political topics covered in the Pittsburgh Courier, and the role of Black Atlantic Studies—as a field—in brokering balance among the diverse worldviews of Africa and the Diaspora. The discourse related to literary Pan-Africanism also engages with traditional and contemporary perspectives ranging from E. Casely-Hayford, Toyin Falola, Kofi Anyidoho, Ngugi Wa Thiong’o, and with African periodicals such as the magazine *Chimurenga*, founded in 2002 by Ntone Edjabe, a Cameroonian living in Cape Town, South Africa.

Faculty Reports

Christel N. Temple

Department of Africana Studies

For Black History Month, Christel gave a lecture and presentation on “Images of Heritage and Achievement” with the African American mother’s organization—Jack and Jill of America, Inc.—at Robert Morris University. She juxtaposed the limited images of African Americans on national currencies with the amazing images of Africans on African national currencies. The group went in-depth to explore the biographies of and meaning of African historical figures and events commemorated in the images and symbolism of primarily African, but also Caribbean, national currencies.

Christel also gave a lecture on “Black Migrations” to the Department of Energy’s Pittsburgh Office that was telecast to two other offices in West Virginia and Oregon. The lecture explored how African and Diaspora writers address migration issues in their texts. It included African writers such as Chudi Uwazurike (Nigeria), Bessie Head (Botswana), Wole Soyinka (Nigeria), Ama Ata Aidoo (Ghana), Kofi Awoonor (Ghana), and Ayi Kwei Armah (Ghana), as well as the experiences of Diaspora writers with African backgrounds or experiences such as Russian-Tanzanian memoirist Yelena Khanga, Maya Angelou’s years in 1960s Ghana, Maryse Condé’s Pan-African literary geographies, as well as writers’ critical sensibility of the Akan philosophy of Sankofa. She even challenged the group to locate the African history and migration context of the Broadway musical (and opera) *Aida*, based on adaptations of a folk narrative about Egyptian-Nubian encounters.



Above: In February 2019, in recognition of Black History Month and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Christel presented two highly creative lectures in the Pittsburgh community. Her lecture on “Black Migrations” was also telecast in both West Virginia and Oregon by the Department of Energy.

Faculty Reports

Josef P. Werne

Department of Geology & Environmental Science

Josef's work in Africa has continued primarily through initiation of new projects in Tunisia, working with collaborator Dr. Nizar Ouertani, University Tunis el Manar. We have been performing field sampling in Bizerte Lagoon, in northern Tunisia, in support of our project "Anthropogenic impacts on a critical aquatic system: organic pollutants in Bizerte Lagoon, Tunisia."



In September 2019, Josef traveled to Tunisia to initiate field sampling for the project in and to explore two potential study sites. One location in Sabkha Boujmel (featured in the photograph below) is a promising location for the study of microbial biosignatures in evaporative systems.



Above: Josef and a research partner walk this stretch of earth in Sabkha Boujmel, Tunisia, in Northern Africa. Researchers believe this region is a promising location for the future study of microbial biosignatures in evaporative systems and also the formation of biosignatures similar to those found on Mars. Josef, in collaboration with other partners, has submitted applications for funding from NASA to explore two new sites.

The second site is located in Sabkha Boujmel and offers a microbial mat worthy of further investigation—and as such, is an analog for the systems being studied on Gale Crater on the planet Mars. Understanding the environmental conditions that produce a given suite of biosignatures on analog systems here on Earth helps us understand the possible

conditions leading to formation of biosignatures that might be found on Mars or other explanatory systems. In partnership with Tunisian partners and other collaborators, we have submitted proposals to the NASA Exobiology Program seeking support for new research in this area of Africa.

Faculty Reports

Josef P. Werne

Department of Geology & Environmental Science



Lake Magadi

Saline, Alkaline Lake in Kenya. Composed of a dense sodium carbonate brine which precipitates vast quantities of the mineral trona- the raw mineral used for Soda ash or simply sodium carbonate

In September 2018, Josef also presented work with a student author, Troy M. Ferland, about Lake Magadi in Kenya, Eastern Africa, at the 2018 Geological Society of America National Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. The abstract, “Assessing molecular isotopic proxies in a saline tropical lake: Lake Magadi, Kenya” by Ferland*, Troy, J.P. Werne, I. Castañeda, A. Cohen, T. Lowenstein, D. Deocampo, R. Renaut, R. Owen was published by the Journal of Geoscience Education by the Geological Society of America, 2018; and offers deeper-dive perspective of the strata found in saline tropical lake featured in the photograph at the right.

Josef also presented his work, "Paleobiogeochemistry: Using molecular isotopic signals to understand climate and environmental change in Lake Malawi, East Africa," as part of a departmental seminar at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Lake Malawi, also known as Lake Nyasa in Tanzania and Lago Niassa in Mozambique, is an African Great Lake and the southernmost lake in the East African Rift system, located between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. Lake Malawi is a meromictic lake, meaning that its water layers do not mix.



Faculty Reports

Dr. Filipo Lubua

Department of Linguistics

Swahili Instructor, Swahili Program Coordinator, Swahili Minor Advisor

Congratulations Dr. Filipo Lubua on your Ph.D graduation in Spring 2018, Ohio University

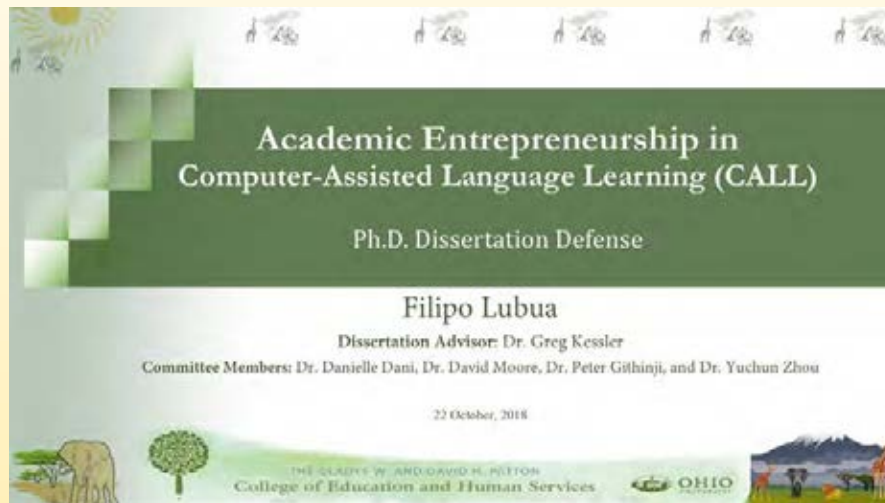


Filipo was born, raised and partly educated in Tanzania. He did his undergraduate degree at the University of Dar es Salaam, in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. Filipo enjoys teaching. Before coming to Pitt in August 2016, he taught Swahili at the University of Wisconsin Madison, Ohio University and University of Florida. Filipo likes involving himself around activities related to creating and developing digital resources for learning and promoting Swahili language. He is currently a board member of the Global

Association for the Promotion of Swahili (CHAUKIDU).

Apart from teaching Swahili, Filipo also enjoys writing Swahili novels and poems.

In addition to his role as Swahili Instructor, Filipo is the Swahili Minor Advisor. The minor allows students a



chance to take four semesters of language study and electives such as Swahili Coastal Culture: Gateway to Africa and Social and Health Issues in East Africa. Interested students are encouraged to consider a minor in Swahili. We are please to share the good news of Filipo's graduation from Ohio University receiving his Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and Design.



Left: Dr. Filipo Lubua (center in graduation gown) celebrating his graduation with wife Susan (left) and Emmanuel (Swahili FLTA).

Events & Activities

The African Studies Program hosts a variety of events on wide-ranging topics aimed at promoting learning outside of the classroom and scholarly exchanges about “all things Africa.” Our goal is to enhance intellectual discourse on Africa, broaden knowledge and understanding of African issues and perspectives. We encourage discussion between faculty, students, staff and the broader community on important issues and challenges facing African countries and collectively seek ways to become active problem-solvers.

Throughout the academic year, we coordinate and sponsor activities— with support from other units across the University, depending on the faculty roles and interest in the topics:

- ◇ Critical Research on Africa Series
- ◇ College Model African Union
- ◇ High School Model African Union
- ◇ Let’s Talk Africa Series
- ◇ Spring conference
- ◇ Teaching About Africa Workshop
- ◇ Community engagement



Above: The Pitt African Music and Dance Ensemble provides students an opportunity to learn African music and Dance, and hosts a concert each Spring and also in the Fall.

Students groups affiliated with African Studies also host a series of events aimed at promoting cultural awareness and bridging the knowledge divide between Africans and non-Africans. They are focused on enhancing authentic understanding of Africa and African experiences. There are four key groups on campus that foster effective networking and educational events: the African Students Organization (ASO), Pan-African Graduate & Professional Student Union (PanAf), Model African Union Club (Pitt MAU), and Swahili Students Association (SSA). Student groups that feature African culture and heritage events each year:

- ◇ **September / October:** Celebrate Africa Week
- ◇ **November:** African Kings, Queens & Heritage Pageant
- ◇ **April:** Swahili Day
- ◇ **April / May:** Wazobia Fashion Show
- ◇ **February:** Model African Union International Conference
- ◇ **Fall & Spring:** African Music & Dance Ensemble Concert
- ◇ **Afropop Ensemble:** January/February & September/October

Events & Activities

The Critical Research on Africa (CRA) Lecture Series provides a space for intellectual dialog on Africa for the academic community not only at Pitt but also in our neighboring and consortium institutions. Faculty and graduate students are strongly committed to interdisciplinary research on Africa gather to share and discuss their current research, exchange new ideas and network.

Let's Talk Africa (LTA) Series provides a space for our learning community to talk about Africa related affairs. It is particularly designed to bring students together to talk about their experiences studying abroad in Africa, doing internships, research or other learning activities pertaining to Africa. It is a great forum that allows students to acknowledge and talk about Africa's achievements while also exploring the problems and seeking policy solutions. The program is organized and run by students.

Spring Conference provides a forum for faculty and students to share knowledge, ideas and engage in broader intellectual discussions about Africa, and within global context. The conference invites Africanist faculty, researchers, practitioners and graduate students from across the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes regions to conference together at Pitt. The larger goal is to stimulate a regional intellectual community for Africanist scholars and researchers across a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds and institutions.

The Model African Union (MAU) Program provides both college and high school students opportunities to learn about Africa and advance their understanding of the African Union, contemporary African issues, and the role of diplomacy in solving continental problems. Every spring we host a MAU conference for High School Students from our area schools. We also have a MAU club from Pitt students who participate every spring in the international conference hosted by Howard University in collaboration with the African Union Mission in Washington D.C. and member state embassies.



Left: Casey McMullen and Abena Ampofo undergraduate students serving as volunteers during the Spring 2019 Model African Union conference for high schools. Both are also members of the Model African Union Club at Pitt. They greeted high school students, welcomed them to Pitt, showed them the conference venue and assisted with moderating the sessions. As cultural ambassadors they also answered any questions the students might have about the African Union. Casey studied abroad in Ghana 2018 and Uganda 2019. Abena studied abroad in Tanzania summer 2019.

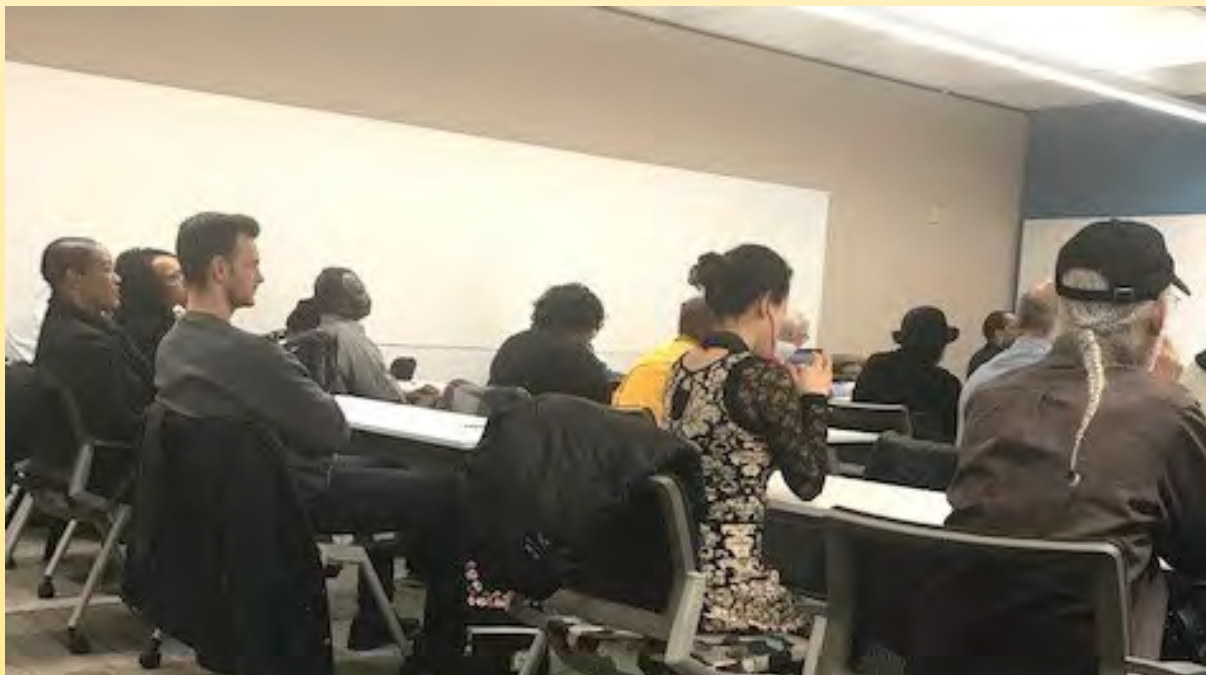
Critical Research on Africa

Citizenship Crises Among Second and Third Generation Fulani's in Ghana



Dr. Mary B. Setrana is a lecturer at the University Center for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon. She was appointed the first female lecturer at the Center for Migration Studies. She applies her multi-disciplinary background of sociology, political science, linguistics and migration in her teaching and research that uniquely distinguishes her output. Published both nationally and internationally, Dr. Setrana is the 2019 winner of the US Department of state Award to represent Ghana in Delaware on the “National Security & Policymaking” program. Setrana was at the University of Pittsburgh as one of the presenters for the International Symposium on the topic:

“Deexceptionalizing Displacement: Rethinking Citizenship and Mobility” organized by Heath Cabot of Pitt and Georgina Ramsay of the University of Delaware. In addition to her symposium presentations, Dr. Setrana gave a talk about her research on displaced Fulani populations in her native country of Ghana to African Studies students and faculty. She shared her findings on the politics of belonging and its various dimensions such as citizenship, issues of status and entitlements. She used the 1992 constitution and the citizenship act of 2000 of Ghana to explain how boundaries are socially constructed and maintained to differentiate between indigenous and non indigenous Ghanaians.



Critical Research on Africa

Dr. Mavhunga is an Associate Professor of History and Science and Technology Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His professional interests lie in the history, theory, and practice of science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the international context, with a focus on Africa. He is the author of *Transient Workspaces: Technologies of Everyday Innovation in Zimbabwe* (MIT Press, 2014), which received



Honorable Mentions in the Turku Prize (European Society for Environmental History) and Herskovits Prize (African Studies Association) in 2015. His second book is an edited volume entitled *What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa?* (MIT Press, 2017).

His presentation was a reflection on the 'experiential location' from which Aime Cesaire and Frantz Fanon both were writing about colonialism and self-liberation, and placing it in conversation with science and technology. The lecture critiques discourses of colonialism in STS which often do not pause to consider seriously the categories of those who are so-called colonized. The preoccupation with concepts whose origins are already 'white'-washed leaves very little breathing space for non-white categories and meanings of the scientific and the technological. It leaves the black scholar feeling like a visitor to the discipline, feeling “postcolonial technoscience” in syllabi and “peopled out” at conferences on science and technology even in Africa. In the lecture Dr. Mavhunga reflected on this alienated existence through Cesaire and Fanon, as a starting point towards opening up white STS into a Global STS.

Internal Collaborators: Year of Pitt Global, Faculty Research and Scholarship Program (Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences), African Studies Program, Urban Studies Program, Center for Bioethics and Health Law, Department of Human Genetics, Center for Health Equity, Global Studies Center, Department of Sociology, World History Center .

External Collaborators: African American Programs, Senator John Heinz History Center; Pittsburgh Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), Dr. Edna McKenzie Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

Let's Talk Africa

Peacekeeping: Experiences from Angola & Mozambique



A presentation by Professor Dennis Jett, founding faculty member and Professor of International Affairs at Pennsylvania State University. Professor Jett is a former American ambassador who joined the School of International Affairs after a career in the U.S. Foreign Service that spanned twenty-eight years and three continents. His experience and expertise focus on international relations, foreign aid administration, and American foreign policy. Immediately prior to joining Penn State, he was dean of the International Center at the University of Florida for eight years.

In his presentation, Professor Jett discussed why peacekeeping operations fail drawing from his experience working in Angola and Mozambique. As ambassador to Mozambique, he helped bring about the successful conclusion of one of the world's largest peacekeeping operations, enabling the country to hold its first democratic elections. For his efforts, he received the American Foreign Service Award Association's Christian Herter Award. Dr. Jett compares the unsuccessful attempt at peacekeeping in Angola with the successful effort in Mozambique alongside a wide range of other peacekeeping experiences. He argues that while the causes of past peacekeeping failures can be identified, the chances of success will be difficult to improve because of the way such operations are initiated and conducted, and the way the United Nations operates as an organization. He discussed the history of peacekeeping and the evolution in the number, size, scope, and cost of peacekeeping missions. He also explained why peacekeeping has become more necessary, possible, and desired and yet, at the same time, more complex, more difficult, and less frequently used.

Right: Some of our graduate students interested in Peace and Security issues in Africa as well as policy studies

Issata Thiam, Stephen Juma and Monica Angelotti



Let's Talk Africa

Nisi Shawl

Write, Editor & Journalist

This year we hosted Nisi Shawl for the ASP Let's Talk Africa Series. Shawl gave a presentation on themes surrounding her recent book, "Everfair." Her latest work features

an alternative future of The Congo. Technology is a writings, and she discussed at in Africa from a historical

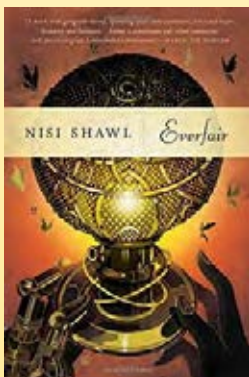
Everfair is a Neo-Victorian explores the question of Belgium's disastrous the native populations had technology earlier. Fabian join forces with African-purchase land from “the Leopold II. The land they and is set aside as a safe-for native populations of the slaves returning from where African natives are mistreated.



Nisi Shawl is a writer, editor, and journalist from Michigan. She is best known as an author of science fiction and fantasy short stories who writes and teaches about how fantastic fiction might reflect real-world diversity, gender, sexual orientation, race, colonialism, physical ability, age and other sociocultural factors.

Democratic Republic of the
recurring theme in Nisi's
length the role of technology
perspective.

alternate history novel that what might have come of colonization of the Congo if learned about STEAM Socialists from Great Britain American missionaries to owner” of Belgian Congo, King purchase is named Everfair, haven and imaginary Utopia Congo- as well as escaped America, and other places



Shawl's Everfair has received praise from New York Times Best Selling Author, [Karen Joy Fowler](#), as "a book with gorgeous sweep, spanning years and continents, loves and hates, histories and fantasies... Everfair is sometimes sad, often luminous, and always original. A wonderful achievement."

Let's Talk Africa

War, Conflict and Hidden People



Victoria Nalongo, Founder & CEO of Bright Kids Uganda discussed the war in northern Uganda and the impact the war has had on children and communities. She explained to the audience why the war has gone on for almost 20 years without any end in sight. She discussed the causes and contributing factors to the continuation of the war as well as identification of potential opportunities for bringing peace to the region. She particularly stressed the role of the local communities in peace building initiatives. She reiterated that it is very important to work together to develop peaceful and empowered communities who are able to create a conducive environment for sustainable de-

Community Based Organizations (CBOs): Internships & Volunteer Opportunities



Justin Forzano and Victoria Nalongo participated in a roundtable discussion with students to talk about opportunities available for students with community-based organizations doing development work. He is Founder and CEO, CameroonFDP; Director of Programs, Pittsburgh Soccer Community. After spending three summers in Cameroon working on water projects as an undergraduate, Justin says he felt like the African nation was a “second home.” “So many people made me feel so welcome in a place so foreign,” he says.

While watching the World Cup in 2010 he learned about the Sport for Good movement, which uses sports to address health and social issues. When he realized nothing like it existed in the “soccer-loving” country of Cameroon, he founded the Cameroon Football Development Program (CFDP). CFDP now employs 12 staff members in Cameroon with support from a board of directors in Pittsburgh. Justin spends a month or two in Cameroon every year, working to improve health, education and leadership skills of more than 500 youths through soccer. After his success overseas, Forzano connected to Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community, a youth development program that allows college students and athletes to serve as mentors. He offers Pitt students volunteer and internship opportunities and encourages young professional to make public service part of their future career goals.

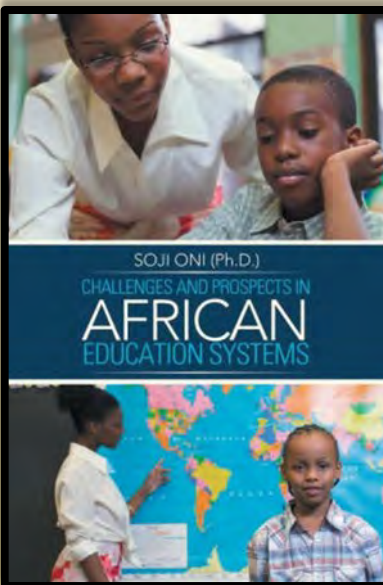
Let's Talk Africa

Experiences from Africa: A student Panel



Students who travelled to Africa in AY 2018 came together to share their experiences from the respective countries of their programs abroad. Students travelled to various countries in Africa throughout the year and this student panel provided them the space to share their experiences. Students have amazing stories to share and we provide this space for them to do so. Students who attend the forum learn about options and logistics if they are contemplating studying or working abroad in Africa. The forum is open to students, faculty and the university community to come, join the conversations, and enjoy authentic food.

Multi-Cultural Education in Africa



A presentation by Dr. Soji Oni, the 2018 Rooney Visiting Scholar, Robert Morris University. Dr. Oni is a professor in the School of Education at the University of Lagos Nigeria. He specializes in Sociology of Education. His area of research focus includes; social problems in education, Social change in education, social deviances/social disorganizations in education with particular focus on students' secret cult in Nigeria.

In his presentation he discussed how the Issue of security has threatened the continued relevance of the scheme and challenges confronting it. Why is the unity of Nigeria being persistently threatened? Why has our diversity as a people become a huge challenge to national unity? What can Nigeria learn from the age-long diversity of America as a way of sustaining her fragile diversity? These questions were captured by this presentation and the audience participated in trying to offer answers why and a way forward to forge a peaceful Nigerian society.

Let's Talk Africa

The Robert Frederick Smith Internship and Fellowship Program: A Roundtable discussion with African Studies Students



Presenter **Anjali Lalani** currently serves as the Smith Fund Interns and Fellows Program Administrator at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), where she is designing and administering all aspects of a rigorous professional development program catered to individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in the cultural sector.

She is an experienced arts management professional specialized in education, program development, and management. She holds a master's degree in arts management from American University.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture hosted a student roundtable for those who would like to learn more about the Robert Frederick Smith Internship Program – a summer program that provides well-paid full-time internships for 12 weeks with projects in DC, Pittsburgh, and other locations around the country. The informational session included application instructions, internship benefits, and tips on making your application competitive. Students had an opportunity to learn about the opportunities for students and organizations and ask questions of interest to them.

The program seeks to build a professional pipeline for historically underrepresented individuals to grow successful careers in the cultural sector. All internship opportunities with this program focus on work related to digital imaging, media preservation, digital preservation of personal and community objects, digital content management, collections information management, recording and preserving oral histories, or digital filmmaking. Many students who have served as interns have found the experience very valuable. With internships, students gain valuable real world work experience directly relating to their majors and minors. Our students were encouraged by the presenter to apply for the internship opportunities available at the Robert Frederick Smith Internship and Fellowship program.

Annual Spring Conference

2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes African Studies Conference

**“Pondering African Futures:
Technologies & Strategies for Growth”**



The conference was held on Saturday, May 11, 2019. It brought together academics, practitioners and researchers from across the mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes region and 2 African institutions to share their research and discuss important issues pertaining to Africa while networking and sharing knowledge. The keynote speaker was Dr. Patrick Manning whose topic of presentation **“African Population and Migration: Past, Present and Future”** spurred conversation among conference attendees.

Patrick is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History, Emeritus, at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also president of the World History Network, Inc., a nonprofit corporation fostering research in world history. A specialist in world history and African history, his current research addresses global historiography, early human history, and migration in world history, the African diaspora, and the demography of African slavery. Trained as a specialist in the economic history of Africa, he has become a specialist in world history overall, emphasizing the place of Africa and Africans in global affairs.



Dr. Patrick Manning offered the featured presentation of the conference. Patrick is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History, Emeritus, at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also president of the

<https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/spring-conference>

Annual Spring Conference

“Pondering African Futures: Technologies & Strategies for Growth”

Institutions represented at our second annual Spring conference include the following:

- ◆ City University of New York
- ◆ Frostburg State University
- ◆ Lehman College (New York)
- ◆ Kenyon College (Ohio)
- ◆ MercyHurst University
- ◆ Temple University
- ◆ The College of Wooster (Ohio)
- ◆ The Ohio University
- ◆ Towson University
- ◆ University of Buea (Cameroon, Central Africa)
- ◆ University of Central Florida
- ◆ University of Michigan
- ◆ University of Pittsburgh
- ◆ University of The Free State (Bloemfontein, South Africa)
- ◆ Washington & Jefferson College
- ◆ West Virginia University



The Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes African Studies Conference creates a space for the sharing of ideas and broader intellectual engagement for Africanist faculty, researchers, and graduate students from across the Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes regions. Seeing the need for opportunities for scholarly development and networking among educators and researchers in African Studies outside of the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, we invited Africanists from universities, community colleges, HBCUs, and other academic institutions in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, and New York to participate in the conference.

The larger goal of organizing an annual gathering is to stimulate a regional intellectual community for Africanist scholars and researchers across a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds and institutions. Papers aligned with the conference theme or papers on other African themes were shared. We are grateful to our co-sponsors, Pitt's University Center for International Studies and the Department of Africana Studies, and also the U.S. Department of Education for their continued support of this important event.

Art Exhibition—Africans In India

Africans in India: From Slaves to Generals and Rulers



The African diaspora is expansive, reaching the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe. The Art Gallery exhibition shows the lives and contributions of members of the African diaspora that are often overlooked: Africans in India. Generals, commanders, admirals, prime ministers, and rulers, East

Africans greatly distinguished themselves in India. They wrote a story unparalleled in the rest of the world — that of enslaved Africans attaining the pinnacle of military and political authority not only in a foreign country but also on another continent. The exhibition shows their extraordinary story. In addition to appearing in written documents, East Africans, known as Habshis (Abyssinians) and Sidis, have been immortalized in paintings from different eras and styles that form an important part of Indian culture. The exhibition features



stunning photographic reproductions of these paintings, as well as photographs representing a unique face of the African experience in India, one that has not received the recognition it deserves. By bringing out of obscurity the lives and accomplishments of the Sidis, this exhibition inscribes their fascinating story in the history of the global African.

Right: Sylvia Rohr (Director, UAG) speaks to high-school teachers from the Pittsburgh area on including the Africans in India exhibition in their curriculum.



Annual African Gala



The Annual African Gala is presented by the Pitt African Students Organization (ASO). ASO aims to provide a space for the university community to celebrate Africa's rich and diverse cultures and showcase some of the great achievements of its people, as well as the African diaspora. The Gala brings together students, faculty, and community members together where they can learn more about the great traditions, cultures, history and societal transformations over time. It is a great opportunity for people to network and learn more about each other.



The event also features different aspects of the African cultures including: music and dance, art, fashion, traditions and foods. A cultural show involving student performances and a fashion show, as well as a unique African dinner to illuminate the diverse cultures of Africa are also highlights of the gala night. Additionally, trivia games and other fun activities to educate and entertain are featured.



Pitt Afro-Pop Ensemble Concert

In 1988, a radio series called Public Radio International (PRI) coined the term “Afropop” to refer to a cross section of traditional and urban music styles that originated or had roots in Africa. At their recital On 30 March 2019, the Pitt Afropop Ensemble performed Afropop music that has either been influenced or has influenced other music styles from the Americas and Europe. The performance had the Pitt Afropop ensemble students expose Afro-reggae, highlife, Afrobeat and Afro-jazz, genres that have resulted from the fusion of African and Western music. The performance specifically focused on exposing what I refer to as sonic migrations between Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean. “Sonic Migrations” is an exploration of how sound has traveled from Africa to other locations of the world and back to Africa. The event exposed connections between rumba of Cuba and soukous from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Jamaican reggae and Afro-reggae. As part of the event, Dr. David Aarons, assistant professor at the University of North Carolina, offered a talk on the connections between Jamaican reggae and Afro-reggae. Dr. Aarons has studied the migrations of Jamaican people and their music to Ethiopia. He joined the UNC faculty in 2018, and currently teaches such courses on American music and music of world cultures.



The director of the Pitt Afropop Ensemble is the Zambian Afropop musician, Mathew Tembo. Their performances include popular music styles from Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Nigeria among other sub-Saharan music cultures. The concerts also feature the Pittsburgh based reggae outfit Truths and Rites, Nigerian native Jemiriye Adeniji, and Congolese guest guitarist Clement Kalombo. Mathew teaches a Afropop Ensemble course, Music 0061, that exposes the interconnection between African

music and the music of the African Diaspora such as reggae and jazz. The course focuses on Sub-Saharan Afropop through performance and composition, exploring musical elements of call and response, repetition, polyphony, improvisation and syncopation. Instructor Mathew is a doctoral student in ethnomusicology at Pitt and an award-winning musician. He studied world music performance at the renowned School of Music at Northern Illinois University, and graduated in 2013 with a Master’s degree in music.

Pitt Model African Union

17th Annual Model African Union International Conference in Washington, D.C.

This year the University was represented by a diverse team of graduate and undergraduate delegates at the 17th Annual Model African Union for College Students. Faculty Advisor & Visiting Scholar, Dr. Joshua Kivuva and Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, Emmanuel S. Wanjala traveled to Washington, D.C., with 5 graduate students and 3 undergraduates. Graduate student delegates included Group Leader Stephen Juma, GSPIA; Benjamin Carl Emswiller, GSPIA; Benjamin Alvah Smith, GSPIA; and Adaeze Nwamuo, School of Engineering. Abena Ampofo, Youhana Martin Benansio, Casey McMullen were the undergraduate delegates.

The international conference is a simulation of the proceedings of the African Union—the regional organization of African States. Students are presented with a unique opportunity to study the role, structure and activities of the African Union as well as the economic, social and political security issues facing African countries. Each participating university represents one or more Member States of the African Union.

Delegates receive the opportunity to debate, negotiate and write resolutions. They work in teams, connecting and building rapport in preparation for their leadership roles in the global stage.

Through simulation, students gain a better and clearer understanding of the capabilities and constraints that shape the policies of AU Member States in the arena of intra-African diplomacy on issues of mutual concern. In addition to a prepared agenda, students in the Executive Council grapple with a contemporary crisis revealed at the conference. The University of Pittsburgh delegation actively participated in the debates in their various committees, and their resolution prepared by the Committee on Pan-Africanism and Intercontinental Unity was adopted.



This year eight Pitt students along with Faculty Advisor, Dr. Joshua Kivuva, participated in the 17th Annual Model African Union for College Students hosted by Howard University, in collaboration with the African Union Mission in Washington, D.C. and member state embassies.



High School Model African Union



8th Annual Model African Union for High School Students

In the spring term, the African Studies Program with support from other units on campus, hosted its 8th Annual Model African Union Conference for High School Students. More than 200 students from 14 schools in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas converged at Pitt to hold debate and produce

regional resolutions. Delegates were required to write resolutions for combatting climate change and displacement on a national, regional and global level. The resolutions outline the steps member states would take to reduce the effects on the African continent, and include accountability measures, capacity development, monitoring and reporting.

Prior to attending the conference, delegates were assigned countries and research topics. They study the issues as it affects their respective countries and prepare talking points. They draft position papers, allowing them to explain their country's position and provide ideas on how the country can tackle issues. In the process they learn the art of diplomacy and good ambassadorship for their assigned countries. This conference provides many



opportunities for high school students. They learn about Africa while building skillsets in leadership, public speaking, diplomacy, and global competence among many other skills. They also get to experience the campus and community that is the University of Pittsburgh, meet new people, and experience a multicultural environment with African music, dance and food.

High School Model African Union

What topics are discussed at the Model African Union?

Topics of discussion are wide-ranging:

- ◆ Peace and Security
- ◆ Women, Gender, and Development
- ◆ Youth Unemployment
- ◆ Rural Economy and Agriculture
- ◆ Civil Society and governance
- ◆ Good governance and democracy
- ◆ Sustainable development in Africa
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Migration

What benefits are offered by the Model African Union?

- ◆ Improved debating skills
- ◆ Improved research skills
- ◆ Improved awareness of African issues
- ◆ Improved skills in teamwork, diplomacy and leadership
- ◆ Resolution writing
- ◆ Field trip to the University of Pittsburgh.
- ◆ Improved global competence skills
- ◆ Stand out on college applications.
- ◆ Network and Make new friends
- ◆ Cross-Cultural competence



School Visits

Emmanuel Wanjala Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) 2018/19

Emmanuel Wanjala is from Kenya. He graduated from the University of Nairobi with a Bachelor's degree in education, majoring in linguistics. As Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant in 2018-19, he provided instruction and language tables, as well as working with community members to develop Swahili language skills. In addition to



his teaching responsibilities, Emmanuel visited several schools in our area to share his experience and knowledge of Africa with students and teachers. In his presentations, he very generously shared the culture of the people of Kenya, East Africa and what he is learning about the United States during his stay.

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program is designed to develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures and languages by supporting teaching assistantships in over 30 languages at hundreds of U.S. institutions of higher education. The program offers educators from over 50 countries the opportunity to develop their professional skills and gain first-hand knowledge of the United States, its culture and people. Fulbright FLTA program is a great program that helps to build bridges of understanding among people of different nations.



Above: Emmanuel encourages a young student to learn more about Africa and speak Swahili at Wendover Middle School in Greensburg, PA.

Left: Emmanuel also spent time in local high schools, teaching Basic Swahili. Here he is huddled up with students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills, PA.



Left: Emmanuel and our Swahili Instructor Dr. Filipo Lubua in the background hosting Swahili Day at Pitt—a day where Pitt students only speak Swahili and display their projects in the language.



Left: In the picture above Emmanuel is holding a Swahili conversation session with students interested in learning the language outside of the classroom experience.

In Memoriam

Professor Joseph Adjaye

Sunrise: April 7, 1940—Sunset: Jun 27, 2019



It is with sadness that we share the news of the untimely loss of Professor Joseph Adjaye who passed on June 27, 2019. Professor Adjaye was the inaugural Director of the African Studies Program from 2001 until his retirement in 2011.

Joseph enjoyed a rich and well lived life. Born on April 7, 1940, in Tarkwa, Ghana to Elizabeth Ulzen Adjaye and Robert Adjaye, he graduated from St. Augustine's College (high school) in Ghana in 1957. He received his BA, with honors, from the University of Ghana, Legon in 1963, MA from SUNY-Binghamton, MA from Northwestern, and his PhD from Northwestern University. He was an

eminent scholar and one of the top most Ghanaian historians who had a distinguished teaching and administrative career at several educational institutions in Ghana and the US, including the University of Illinois (1977-1980), University of Wisconsin - Madison (1980-1987) and the University of Pittsburgh (1987-2011). He authored seven books, dozens of articles, book chapters and review essays that span subjects as diverse as chieftaincy, cultural transmission, information transformation, indigenous knowledge, Ghanaian rituals, sustainable development, time in the Black experience, Black popular culture, the African Diaspora and many more. Joseph was the recipient of numerous awards and honors including Ghana's Teacher Ambassador to the U.S. (1972-73), Choice magazine Outstanding Academic Book award, Herskovits finalist for Diplomacy and Diplomats in 19th Century Asante, various Fulbright-Hays and National Endowment for the Humanities grants, and teaching and research grants from the University of Pittsburgh and Northwestern.

Joseph was centrally involved in building the African Studies program and was beloved by many colleagues. We pray for his Eternal Rest in Peace.

Looking Ahead

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 rich learning environment that facilitates a comprehensive and critical understanding of Africa, and the development of new ways of thinking about Africa within the larger global context.

Through a diverse array of courses and outside of the classroom learning activities students are able to develop a better understanding of the continent's internal dynamics and its evolving place in the global space. Our mission is to train and prepare the next generation of African Studies scholars and experts who will apply their language skills and their knowledge in their professional careers and personal lives as they make their impact in the world.

With Appreciation

Our appreciation goes out to our affiliated faculty in the Arts & Sciences, as well as the professional schools for their active participation in advancing ASP's mission. The University community contributes immensely to making the program successful through teaching, research and service. We continue to take the program to greater heights for the benefit of our students and future generations of Africanist scholars, experts and leaders.

Our appreciation also goes to our students, both past and present, for their interest in African Studies and for their desire to help to make the world a better place.

Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to the ASP staff team, who work tirelessly to ensure that we are successful at what we do. Together, we look ahead to progress, growth and continuing the conversation about all things Africa as we continue to build bridges of understanding and appreciation of our diversity and shared interests. We invite you to join us!



Join us on the journey! We look ahead to progress, growth and continuing the conversation about all things Africa.

Follow us on social media and check out our website.

<https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa>

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