

NIH Grant Funds MSU Partnership with University of Malawi

The National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center has awarded a four-year, \$725,256 grant to establish a partnership between the University of Malawi and MSU's

Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences (CEHLS). The grant will fund the Training for Scholarship in Research Ethics project to be administered by CEHLS. The project

will enable participating African scholars to develop active research and teaching programs in the area of human subjects research ethics. As a part of the partnership, the University of Malawi will develop a master's in public health (MPH) degree program in research ethics.

Participating scholars from Malawi and the surrounding region will be involved in 15 months of organized activities. They will spend their first semester at MSU, where they will be matched with an MSU mentor and take advanced courses and independent study matched to their discipline and research interests. They will then return to Malawi to continue their coursework and continue to develop a research project under the additional supervision of a mentor in that country. Full completion of the program will entail completion of the research project, publishing a scholarly paper on the project, and teaching a course in research ethics.

According to CEHLS Director Tom Tomlinson, "We want to emphasize the importance of building capacity in the developing countries, so rather than having all the experts based here and bringing fellows here to learn from us, we will try to develop a more sustainable base of expertise within the developing countries."

Tomlinson said many developing African countries, in part because of cultural and political differences, have very different research ethics issues with which to deal, such as informed consent. Ethically significant cultural differences will offer exciting collaborative research opportunities to the MSU mentors.

Once the fellows have completed their training, they will be in a position to assist physicians, scientists, and others who deal with the ethical issues that are unique to their country. "The idea is the fellows will be better equipped to act as local experts to support local institutional review boards and provide education to local scientists regarding standards of ethical research," Tomlinson said.

The first two participants are being selected for a fall 2005 arrival at MSU. Their selection is based on scholarly promise, including assessment of their current knowledge base and skills as they relate to future research ethics work. Three or four additional participants will be chosen for fall 2006 and 2007 start dates.

The grant also will be used to recruit a faculty member who will have an MSU appointment but be based in Malawi. This person will assist as the African coordinator of the program, will work with the University of Malawi as it designs the MPH academic program, and could act as the academic mentor for some participants upon their return from MSU.

Founded in 1977, CEHLS assists with developing and teaching ethics courses in all four health professions schools at MSU. Its faculty are also engaged with graduate programs in the Department of Philosophy and the Program in Bioethics, Humanities and Society. Faculty pursue research across a wide spectrum of issues in bioethics and support a variety of public service efforts that reach health care practitioners and institutions throughout the state, across the nation, and internationally.

MSU and Malawian higher education institutions have a long history of cooperation on issues including HIV/AIDS, women in development, beans and cowpeas, the Lake Malawi fishery, malaria, food security, education, and water and land resources.

For additional information, visit the website at www.bioethics.msu.edu

—From an MSU Today article by Tom Oswald, University Relations



The College of Medicine at the University of Malawi

Sales of African Books Double

North American sales of African books through the MSU Press have more than doubled in the past year according to Jason Cox, who coordinates the African Books Collective (ABC) for the press. He says that more than 2,000 titles from 100 African publishers are currently listed.

MSU Press became the sole North American distributor of books from the ABC in 2003.

"We will work together to increase the visibility and sales of books representing the best cultural product from Africa—the wealth of its scholarship, fine literary writing, and children's books emanating from within African culture," said MSU Press Director Fred Boehm when the agreement was finalized.

The African Books Collective is the nonprofit, Oxford-based worldwide marketing/distribution outlet for more than 30 African publishers. It was founded and is owned and governed by African publishers. Its mission is to strengthen indigenous African publishing through collective action and to increase the visibility and accessibility of the wealth of African scholarship and culture.

Since 1960, MSU has been active in publishing monographs, language-learning materials, and journals on Africa, often with authors from Africa. In 2005, MSU will make available back issues of ten African scholarly journals through the African e-Journals Project of the MSU Library and the African Studies Center. (See <http://africa.msu.edu/AEJP/>.)

For more information, visit the MSU Press website at www.msupress.msu.edu/series.php?seriesID=22

MSU Course Celebrates Tenth Anniversary of South African Democracy

This year the world joined the peoples of South Africa in celebrating the ten-year anniversary of that country's extraordinary and relatively peaceful transition from racial injustice to democratic rule. To expose Michigan State University undergraduates to the rich history and vibrant present of South Africa, the MSU African Studies faculty offered a spring 2005 course on South African film and video, *Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present: Perspectives on South Africa@10*. Coordinated by the African Studies Center's David Wiley and John Metzler, the class was offered through the College of Arts and Letters and the Center for Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities.

MSU played a role in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement as early as 1978, when it became the first U.S. university to divest in companies working under the apartheid government. MSU students also started a Coke boycott to protest the Coca Cola company's continued presence in South Africa. In recognition of the close ties between MSU and the anti-apartheid struggle, the African National Congress of South Africa held its only North American Congress for students and youth at MSU in 1990.

To participate in the 11-session *South Africa@10* course, MSU brought to campus two South African visitors: Keyan Tomaselli, a leading South African film scholar at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Mandy Jacobson, award-winning South African documentarist. Seven MSU faculty experts on South Africa joined them, including South Africans Reitu Mabokela (College of Education) and Robert Vassen (English Language Center).

The course used the lens of South African narrative and documentary films, two novels, and supplementary readings to understand post-apartheid South Africa. Issues addressed in the course included the process of redress and reconciliation, social development, economic empowerment, educational expansion, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and changing gender relations.

The course's reliance on film and video is directly related to MSU's participation in the South African Film and Video Project. MSU is collaborating with several institutions in South Africa to preserve and disseminate film and video from the apartheid and post-apartheid eras for use by international educators.

For more about the South African Film and Video Project, visit the website at <http://africanmedia.msu.edu/~safvp/>

—John Metzler and David Wiley

African Focus Is Key to Internationalizing Business Schools at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Through its Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and the African Studies Center, MSU is serving as coleader (along with the University of Memphis) of an initiative to internationalize business programs at 17 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The two-year initiative for 2005 and 2006—Africa: Business, Culture, Economics, and Trade—is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the United Negro College Fund, and the participating universities. The goal of the MSU-led consortium, which includes nine universities with CIBERs and the Institute for Public Policy in Washington, D.C., is to

help bring international content into the classrooms and to expand teaching and research skills at the HBCUs.

The initiative includes three main elements, as listed in the box below.

The CIBER universities participating in this initiative, in addition to MSU and the University of Memphis, are Ohio State, Wisconsin, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Florida, Texas A&M, and Connecticut.

For more information on this initiative, contact the African Studies Center or MSU-CIBER.

—John Metzler

Initiative Components

Intensive Seminars

Intensive seminars for HBCU business faculty. In May 2005 (to be repeated a year later), several business faculty members from each of the participating HBCUs will attend a two-day seminar focused on African studies and issues related to economic development and business practice in the continent. The seminar will be led by specialists in the history, society, business, trade, and economics of Africa. The seminars will be organized by the MSU African Studies Center and hosted by the University of Memphis CIBER, and will include faculty from the partner institutions.

African Study Tours

Study tours to Africa for HBCU business faculty. In June 2005 (to be repeated a year later), 16–18 HBCU faculty members will participate in a two-week MSU-led business and economics study tour of South Africa and Botswana. Two representatives

from each HBCU school will be invited to participate in the program, which will focus on the cultural, social, political, and economic issues directly related to conducting business in these two African countries. Professors Ernie Betts and Anthony Ross, representing MSU-CIBER and the Eli Broad College of Business, and John Metzler of the African Studies Center are organizing and leading these study tours.

Long-Term Collaboration

Long-term collaboration to expand international business capacity at HBCUs. A long-term partnership between the 17 participating HBCUs and the nine CIBER universities is being established to build capacity to teach international business, with a main focus on Africa. The goal is to infuse international and African case material, activities, and learning across the HBCU business curriculum. Morehouse College in Atlanta is MSU's partner institution in 2005. Additional partner schools will be added each year.