

Kenyan Student Represents Class of 2004 at MSU Commencement

Emukule Ekirapa of Nairobi, Kenya, was one of two Michigan State University students selected to speak at fall 2004 MSU undergraduate commencement ceremonies on December 11, 2004, at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center.

Ekirapa, son of Albert and Margaret Ekirapa of Nairobi, Kenya, was born and raised in Africa before coming to MSU in 2000. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in telecommunication, information studies, and media from the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

“Coming to the U.S. was a really big adjustment, but the resources available at MSU made the transition easier,” said Ekirapa. “I was really excited when I found out I had been chosen to speak at graduation. MSU prides itself on being an international university. I think my speech is an example of this dedication.”

Ekirapa has participated in many opportunities offered at MSU. He was a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the African Student Union; a Racial Ethnic Student Aide in Wonders Hall; and a student employee at MSU’s Quello Center for Telecommunication, Management and Law, where he collected international telecommunication research.

After graduation Ekirapa planned to move back to Kenya to work for a telecommunications company.

U.S. Senator Carl Levin of Detroit presented the main commencement address and received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the ceremony.

—Kristin Anderson, *University Relations*

MSU Graduate Student Receives International Award

Angelika Kraemer, an MSU graduate student from Germany, has been named the David Merchant International Student of the Year by Phi Beta Delta, an international organization dedicated to fostering scholarly achievement in international education.

This prestigious honor, awarded at the organization’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., in February 2005, recognizes an international student member of a participating chapter of the honor society with an outstanding history of involvement in a variety of international activities. The award includes \$500, expense-paid participation in the conference, and a plaque.

Kraemer is a Ph.D. student in German and a master of arts student in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). According to MSU Professor Charles Gliozzo, long-time member of the organization, Kraemer is an excellent choice for this award because of “her superior academic achievements, her extracurricular role and participation in international activities, and her continuous commitment as well as her dedication to Phi Beta Delta.”

Kraemer’s many activities and involvements outside the organization include German language teaching, tutoring, materials development, and event coordination on campus; more than 20 academic conference presentations on language learning and research; presentations through the international speakers bureau sponsored by MSU’s Community Volunteers for International Programs; and participation as a facilitator in the MSU’s International Teaching Assistant Orientation.

The Phi Beta Delta honor society was established as an international organization in 1986 and is currently based in Washington, D.C. Affiliated chapters of the society exist at colleges and universities in most states in the U.S. and in several other countries. The organization’s mission is to foster and recognize scholarly achievement in international education by both domestic and international students.

MSU’s Alpha Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Delta honor society was one of 38 founding chapters established in 1987. Since the local chapter’s inception, more than 1,900 individuals have become members, including domestic and international students, faculty, and staff. The chapter sponsors a number of activities, including films, lectures, receptions, awards banquets, and a weekly international coffee hour.

For more information about Phi Beta Delta at MSU, visit the website at www.msu.edu/user/pbd/

