

Dr. Turner T. Isoun (left), Nigeria's minister of science and technology, was on campus for the spring 2005 College of Veterinary Medicine commencement ceremony, during which he was recognized for his accomplishments through the conferral of the Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award. Here he is shown with Dean Lonnie King after the ceremony.



Distinguished Nigerian Alumnus Honored at Spring 2005 Commencement Ceremony

Dr. Turner T. Isoun received the Distinguished Veterinary Alumnus Award from the Alumni Council of MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine. The award was conferred during the college's commencement ceremony in East Lansing on May 6, 2005. The award recognized Isoun's principled leadership and ethical use of scientific knowledge and skills to address the socioeconomic problems of humankind.

Isoun did his undergraduate work at MSU and also earned a D.V.M. and Ph.D. in pathology from MSU in 1965 and 1970, respectively. Since his graduation, he has pursued careers in academia, serving at various times as vice chancellor of two Nigerian universities, and in government service, mobilizing science and technology for development.

In 2000, Isoun was appointed Nigeria's minister of science and technology. In this capacity, he is formulating new national policies, with priority given to information technology, space science, remote sensing, biotechnology, and energy.

He is also working to facilitate partnerships between his ministry and leading universities around the world.

—Linda Chadderdon

Among his achievements:

- Establishing the Nigerian Information Technology Development Agency, which has enhanced awareness and promoted commercial development of the sector, including locally designed and produced mobile Internet units
- Launching Nigeria's first land observation satellite and planning for more space-based infrastructure
- Positioning Nigeria's rapidly evolving phytopharmaceutical industry
- Investigating potential sources of energy for the country, including renewable energy technologies
- And, nearing completion, constructing a gamma radiation facility for food and industrial sterilization

Ambassadors Visit Campus

Five MSU alumni who have held top-level diplomatic posts were featured in two special ISP-sponsored MSU Sesquicentennial events in 2005. In addition, they all made themselves available for class talks and meetings with students, faculty, and administrators.

During the week of the annual International Awards Ceremony in April, the featured event was "Diplomacy in a Single-Superpower World," a panel discussion featuring Ambassadors Thomas Weston, Roger Meece, and Riina Kionka.

Weston is a retired career U.S. Foreign Service officer whose most recent ambassadorial appointment was as U.S. special coordinator for Cyprus (1999-2004). He is currently on the faculty at Georgetown University. He earned two degrees from MSU, a B.S. in social science (1966) and an M.A. in political science (1967).

Meece is currently U.S. ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (since July 2004), where he had previously been deputy chief of mission. He served as ambassador to Malawi (2000-03) and before that was director for Central African Affairs at the State Department. He earned a B.S. in mathematics from MSU in 1971, after which he served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone.

Kionka currently serves as undersecretary for European Union (EU) Affairs at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following a four-year assignment as Estonia's ambassador to Germany (2000-04). She earned a B.A. from MSU in 1983 with dual majors in international policy studies and German literature. She also holds a Ph.D. from Columbia.

The three MSU alumni were joined on the panel by Willard "Bill" DePree, retired U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh. Previously he had served as ambassador to Mozambique. Immediately before his MSU visit, he had been on special assignment for the State Department in Lebanon. He grew up in Zeeland, Michigan and holds degrees from Harvard and the University of Michigan.

"Post-Cold-War Europe and U.S. Interests" was the theme of an MSU International Education Week 2005 presentation in November. The featured speakers were John Kornblum and Richard Barkley; Norman Graham, director of the MSU Center for European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, served as moderator.



Two sets of MSU alumni who have served as diplomats were on campus this year to give presentations on world affairs. Ambassadors Thomas Weston, Roger Meece, and Riina Kionka (left to right) spoke on "Diplomacy in a Single-Superpower World" in April.



Ambassadors John Kornblum (center) and Richard Barkley (right) addressed "Post Cold War Europe and U.S. Interests," moderated by Norman Graham (left), director of the Center for European and Russian/Eurasian Studies.

Barkley was ambassador to the Republic of Turkey from November 1991 until his retirement in January 1995. Before serving in Turkey, he was the last American ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), 1988-90, and presided over American policy there during the crucial months surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany. Other postings included Finland, the Dominican Republic, Norway, and South Africa. He graduated from MSU in 1954 with a B.S. in social science/prelaw.

Kornblum's final posting of his U.S. Foreign Service career was as U.S. ambassador to Germany (1997-2001). As a European specialist, he had previously served in Austria, Belgium, and Finland, and had held numerous other posts, including deputy U.S. ambassador to NATO, U.S. representative at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, assistant secretary for European and Canadian affairs, and special envoy to the Balkans. He is a native of Dearborn, Michigan, and earned a B.A. in history from MSU in 1964.