

## 2015/16 Africa Hub Advisory Board

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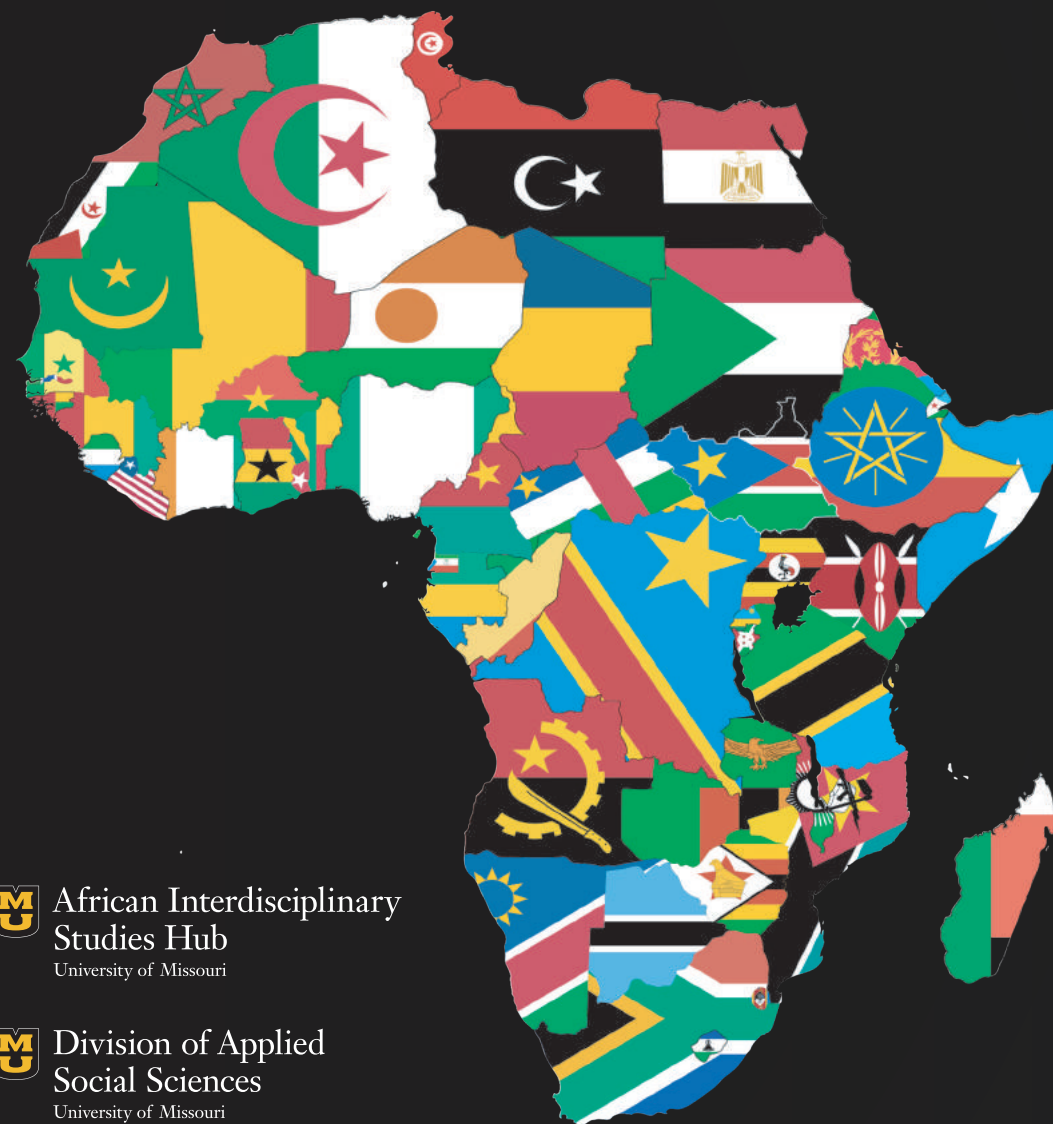
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# MU AFRICAN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES HUB



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 African Interdisciplinary  
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University of Missouri

 Division of Applied  
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University of Missouri

 College of Agriculture,  
Food & Natural Resources  
University of Missouri

FY2016  
Annual Report

## What is the Africa Hub?

MU African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub (Africa Hub) promotes interdisciplinary, collaborative research and teaching that contributes to a better understanding of Africa at the University of Missouri.

The vision of the Africa Hub is to foster and strengthen research, teaching, innovation, economic development and outreach programs in and about Africa at the University of Missouri.

The mission of the Africa Hub is to enrich the University of Missouri and surrounding communities. Through collaborative efforts, the Africa Hub will provide access to knowledge about Africa's rich legacies and encourage cross-cultural perspectives.

The Africa Hub cultivates a space where scholars and students can deconstruct stereotypes about the African continent, explore vast terrain, examine diverse cultures and traditions, illuminate critical issues, and shape new frontiers of knowledge that encourage and promote understanding and the study of Africa.

## Who is part of the initiative?

The Africa Hub is housed in the Division of Applied Social Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, led by Dr. Jill Findeis. The Africa Hub is directed by Nadège Uwase, along with an Advisory Board comprised of 14 members – students, faculty, and staff. The Advisory Board is headed by Chair Dr. Patrick Pithua.

The Hub is aided in its mission by more than 100 Africanists at Mizzou. Africanists are students, staff, and faculty teaching courses, conducting research, taking students to study abroad programs, student organizations, and much more. Africanists are individuals promoting any initiatives/programs/events about Africa at Mizzou.

## FY2017 Programs

### Global Health Initiative: International Research Elective MU-Zambia Program

In FY17 Africanist Dr. Akwi Asombang of the School of Medicine will lead the MU-Zambia Program, providing two outstanding students from medical schools in Zambia – Lusaka Apex Medical University (LAMU) and Copperbelt University School of Medicine (CBU-SOM) – the opportunity to research under an MU School of Medicine faculty mentor over the course of one summer. Students will learn the latest research techniques and be exposed to new research experiences, enhancing their skills to better advance worldwide health initiatives. This partnership is an excellent opportunity to improve medical education, research, patient-care and institutional diversity. The MU-Zambia Program is a collaborative partnership with the Office of the Research Dean at the School of Medicine, and the start of a long-term partnership with CBU-SOM, LAMU and MU.

### African Film Series

For FY17, the Africa Hub is curating a film series to promote the study and understanding of Africa. Cinema is a powerful platform, affording us space to debate political and cultural issues within our community. These films are carefully selected to help MU campus become more inclusive by exploring universal themes such as work ethic, home, and identity. Wherever possible, filmmakers will meet with students and faculty, visit classrooms, and conduct post-screening Q&As with the audience.



GUESTS ARRIVE AT THE MOTO THEATER



SARAH TLAPEK PRESENTS AT FOCUS ON AFRICA IN 2016

### Focus on Africa

The Africa Hub will continue to partner with the Life Sciences & Society Program (LSSP) and the Division of Applied Social Sciences to host monthly “blitz” lunch presentations of research by African professors, as well as those working on the continent, around the “Focus on Africa” theme. Presenters across the University highlight multi-disciplinary approaches to the intersections between the life sciences and human cultures. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Office of Research, the Africa Hub will expand the Focus on Africa audience in FY17 through partnership with MU TV to livestream the monthly presentations.

## FY16 Programs

### Focus on Africa : September - December 2015 & January - April 2016

In collaboration with Dr. Mary Shenk and the Life Science & Society Program (LSSP), the Focus on Africa International Working Group offers monthly “blitz” lunch presentations to highlight the intersection among multiple disciplinary perspectives and to promote the research of Africanists at Mizzou. Each month, 20-25 MU Africanist scholars meet over pizza and rapid-fire research presentations to stimulate each other’s thinking and potentially lead to the creation of broader research networks and joint scholarship.

### Black History Month Celebration : February 12, 2016

Award-winning South African writer and scholar Jonny Steinberg visited Mizzou. While at Mizzou, Steinberg gave two presentations and spent time with African Student Association. Currently teaching at Oxford University, he is also the author of several books about everyday life in the wake of South Africa’s transition to democracy. The event was made possible with the financial support of Provost Office’s Lectures Committee, School of Journalism, MU Libraries, and the Black History Month Committee.

### Real Colorism : February 16, 2016

Dr. Stephanie Shonekan, Chair of MU’s Black Studies Department, and Phelan Simpkins, president of Alpha Phi Alpha, served as Masters of Ceremony and led a conversation centered on the black diaspora, the historical context of colorism, self-awareness, language and the implications of how colorism impacts career and life choices. The event was presented in collaboration with the Missouri Student Association, Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Black Studies Department.

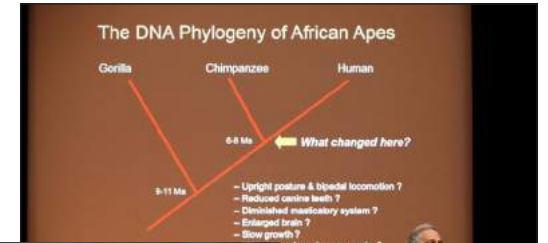
### Our African Origins Symposium : March 21-22, 2016

Dr. Meave Leakey (Stony Brook University) joined the Africa Hub for a two-day event exploring the origins of humanity. More than 570 people attended Dr. Leakey’s keynote presentation at the Missouri Theater on Monday, March 21. 150 guests settled into the



AFRICANISTS MINGLE AT THE AFRICANISTS SOCIAL GATHERING IN MAY 2015. FROM TOP: LISA SCHWARTZ AND JILL FINDEIS; UM SYSTEM INTERIM PRESIDENT MIKE MIDDLETON AND MAMADOU BADIANNE; CAROLINE HENRY, AMY DUNAWAY, NINA FURSTENAU AND FRIDAH MUBICHI

Monsanto Auditorium on March 22 for a day-long symposium discussing the rich and nuanced story of our African origins through fossil discoveries and anthropological exploration. Drs. Zeresenay Alemseged (California Academy of Sciences), Kay Behrensmeyer (Smithsonian Institution), Bill Kimbel (Arizona State University), Curtis Marean (Arizona State University), Carol Ward (University of Missouri), and Bernard Wood (Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology at George Washington University) also presented research in their respective disciplines.



FROM TOP: BILL KIMBEL SPEAKS AT THE MONSANTO AUDITORIUM; MU PROFESSOR HABIB ZAGHOUBANI CHATS WITH DRS. ZERESNAY ALEMSEGED AND MEAVE LEAKEY; BERNARD WOOD PRESENTS ON HOMININ DIVERSITY AT THE MONSANTO AUDITORIUM.



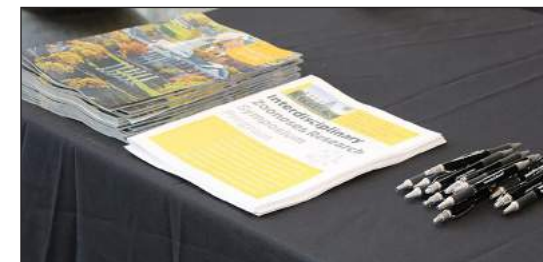
This programming was provided free of charge through the generous financial support of the Department of Student Activities, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, the School of Medicine, the Department of Anthropology, the Honors College, the Department of Pathology & Anatomical Sciences, the Donald Lectureship Fund, the Life Science & Society Program, the Chancellor’s Distinguished Visitor’s Program, and the College of Arts & Science.

### Interdisciplinary Zoonoses Research Symposium : May 23-24, 2016

Led by the Africa Hub’s Advisory Board Chair Dr. Patrick Pithua, the Research Symposium focused on the dual impact of zoonotic diseases on public and animal health, raising awareness about infectious diseases that humans can acquire from and transmit to animals and providing a platform for scientists to network with policymakers and stakeholders.

Attendees included a delegation of Ugandans, including Dr. John Kaneene, Chairman of the Africa Center at Michigan State University.

The Symposium was made possible through the generous support of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, the MU Conference Center and Mizzou Advantage.



## Additional Collaborations

**February 5, 2016** : Film screening of *Democrats*, a film about the making of a new Zimbabwean constitution, and post-screening discussion led by Zimbabwean historian Francis Musoni. The event was sponsored by the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy.

**February 26-27, 2016** : **11th Universities Fighting World Hunger Annual Summit**, a 2-day event hosted by the Deaton Institute. More than 250 attendees came together to learn about community food systems strategies and create a collective vision on the theme, “From Poverty to Promise”, including international interdisciplinary collaborations from food banks, high school and university students, anti-hunger advocates, intriguing speakers and food justice activists.

**April 16, 2016** : **Third Goal Film Festival** screenings of *Body Team 12* and *Miners Shot Down*. Hosted by the Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, the Festival features documentary and narrative films set around the world. This annual event aims to advance Peace Corps’ Third Goal: “Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.” Africa Hub Advisory Board member Dr. Daniel Domingues served as a panelist.



MIKE BURDEN AND LEBO MOORE, CO-ORGANIZERS OF THE FESTIVAL, INTRODUCE BODY TEAM 12

**April 23, 2016** : **TEDxMU Africanist Chuka Nestor Emezue** hosted this immersive, half-day conference themed ‘Shaping the Future: The Power of a Single Idea’. Speakers were drawn from MU’s students and faculty, as well as noted alumni and community members. Videos of talks are available online at <http://www.tedxmissouri.com/>. The event was co-sponsored with the generous support of Reynold Journalism Institute, Office of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Residential Hall Association, Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, The Missouri

Passion Project, Graduate Student Association, and the Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students.

**April 27-30, 2016** : **Afro-Cuban Artists conference**, an international, interdisciplinary conference hosted by the MU Afro-Romance Institute and the MU Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, exploring the aesthetics, socio-cultural and political antecedents, context and impact of the Afro-Cuban artists who came of age after 1959.



5 DR. STEPHANIE SHONEKAN DELIVERS A TALK AT TEDx MU

## Africa at Mizzou

### A Global Perspective

Mizzou has an Asian Affairs Center, a Confucius Institute, a Cambio Center as well as other smaller centers conducting research in specific countries. Africa is emerging as a major player in all aspects of world affairs. From politics to agriculture, demographics to culture, the coming decades will require a deep understanding of the place of Africa in the world. The Africa Hub is a natural extension of the other centers already active on Mizzou campus.

### Research

Mizzou is a land-grant university and a premier research facility. The Africa Hub plans to bring together and leverage many faculty members’ research portfolio and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations to strengthen our existing work in and about Africa, as well as create new opportunities for future ground-breaking research.

### Curriculum

As a higher learning institution, students are asked to graduate with sound intellectual foundation, via core learning objectives. In keeping with four goals from our core learning objectives, the Africa Hub plans to support faculty members develop courses, within disciplines and interdisciplinary, about Africa.



STUDENTS ATTEND THE REAL COLORISM EVENT AT THE BLACK CULTURE CENTER



JOHNNY STEINBERG'S BOOK ON DISPLAY AT THE MISSOURI BOOKSTORE



DR. CURTIS MAREAN PRESENTS AT OUR AFRICAN ORIGINS SYMPOSIUM