



African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub

University of Missouri

FY20 Talking Points

○ **What is the Africa Hub?**

- MU African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub promotes interdisciplinary, collaborative research and teaching that contributes to a better understanding of Africa at the University of Missouri.
- Contact information:
 - Email: africahub@missouri.edu
 - Website: <https://africahub.missouri.edu/>
 - Twitter: @MUAISHub
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MUAfricanStudiesHub/>

○ **Who is part of the initiative?**

- Director: Jenifer Pilz
- Volunteers: Nadege Uwase and Veli Thipe
- CIP staff: Kerry Clark, Lindsey Saunders, & Linda Journey
- Advisory Board:
 - Composed of students, staff, and faculty
 - 2016 Advisory Board Chair: Patrick Pithua
 - 2017 Advisory Board Chair: Michael Marlo
 - 2019-2020 Advisory Board Chair: Kerry Clark, Director of CIP
- Africanists: We have identified 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.



African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub

University of Missouri

○ **Where is the Hub?**

- The Africa Hub has an academic and fiscal home in the College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (CAFNR) under the International Programs office (CIP).
- Address
 - MU African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub
1-28 Agriculture Bldg. |710 Hitt St.
Columbia, MO 65211

○ **Why or what is the purpose or what does the Hub do?**

- **Inclusion:** 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.
- **Research:** Mizzou is a land-grant university and a premier research facility. One of our main goals is 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 Hub plans to support faculty members develop courses, within disciplines and interdisciplinary, about Africa.



African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub

University of Missouri

- **Previous Programs**

- What we did in FY16

- Hosted Our African Origins Symposium with Dr. Meave Leakey as the keynote speaker. We received financial support from the Department of Student Activities, Office of Undergraduate Studies, School of Medicine, Department of Anthropology, Honors College, Department of Pathology & Anatomical Sciences, Donald Lectureship Fund, Life Science & Society Program, Chancellor's Distinguished Visitor's Program, and College of Arts & Science
- Hosted the 2016 Interdisciplinary Zoonoses Research Symposium with the financial support of the Mizzou Advantage, the Conference Center, and the College of Veterinary Medicine
- Hosted Jonny Steinberg, a South African writer and scholar at Oxford University, with the financial support of Provost Office (Lectures Committee), School of Journalism, MU Libraries, and Black History Month Committee
- Hosted Focus on Africa blitz presentations by Africanist faculty members. The program is a partnership with Life Science & Society Program (directed by Mary Shenk) and the Division of Applied Social Sciences
- Hosted Real Colorism with Missouri Student Association, Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and the Black Studies Department
- Screening of Democrats, film about the making of a new Zimbabwean constitution, with Kinder Institute
- Utilizing social media to help promote Hub and programs as well as events about Africa around campus

- What we did in FY17

- Host an African Film Series and start series by screening Ota Benga



African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub

University of Missouri

- Encourage students and faculty to submit applications to the Fulbright program by hosting knowledge sharing programs with the International Center
 - Fundraise to host student interns at the Global Health Initiative: International Research Elective. This will be a collaboration with the School of Medicine and our recently signed MOUs with Copperbelt University School of Medicine and Lusaka Apex Medical University in Zambia
 - Continue Focus on Africa blitz presentations
 - Seek collaborative opportunities with Africanists and units around campus
- What we did in FY18
 - Continued Focus on Africa blitz presentations
 - Helped Advisory Board members, Tunde Ojewola, Yassine Dguidegue, and Jenifer Pilz to start and support African Graduate and Professional Student Association
 - Provided funding to events that promote the study and understanding of Africa at Mizzou
 - Hosted Social Gathering to celebrate the end of the semester for African Students
 - Hosted dinner for Cochran Fellows from Senegal
 - Helped to host a presentation by Yousouf Ouattara, a Fulbright Mizzou Alumni
 - What we did in FY19
 - Continued Focus on Africa blitz presentations, African Film Series, and African Book Series
 - Provided funding and collaborated with offices and departments on campus for events that promote the study and understanding of Africa at Mizzou.
 - Hosted MU Africanist Social Gathering



African Interdisciplinary Studies Hub

University of Missouri

- World Café Method discussion of vision, mission, current initiatives and the next five years.
- Supported efforts of African Student Association (ASA) and the African Graduate & Professional Student Association (AGPSA).