



ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

This newsletter is a monthly publication designed to keep readers abreast of events and activities of the Alliance for African Partnership, a new initiative at Michigan State University that promotes innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions.

Reminder: Proposals due November 21

The AAP is inviting proposals for its initial partnership activities in 2017. As a university-wide initiative, AAP invites proposals from diverse disciplinary perspectives that address the priority areas of agri-food systems; water, energy and the environment; youth employment; education; cultural heritage development; and health and nutrition.

Successful proposals will be submitted by teams that include both MSU faculty and partners from African organizations and should be designed to lay the foundation for longer duration and sustainable partnerships between MSU and African partners. Grants awarded will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 for projects to be carried out over an 18-month time frame.

Proposals must be submitted by November 21, 2016, for consideration.

[View the Call for Proposals](#)

Recent Events

AAP at Borlaug Dialogue

At this year's Borlaug Dialogue Conference, the AAP co-hosted a session with the Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora (AAAPD), NEPAD, International Potato Center, Simplot, and others.

The event featured presentations describing the initial activities of the Alliance for African Partnership as well as presentations on the challenges and opportunities for advancing Africa's food nutrition and security by representatives of NEPAD, AAAPD, African governments, Simplot, Iowa State University, and MSU-including Steve Hanson, Karim Maredia, Thom Jayne and Amy Jamison. The session was part of broader AAP efforts to forge solid foundations for future collaboration among MSU and a wide network of African partner organizations that were represented at the World Food Prize event.



RUFORUM: Biennial Conference 2016

MSU and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) co-hosted a side event on innovative partnerships at the RUFORUM Biennial Conference, held in Cape Town South Africa, October 17-21.

The session entitled, "Innovating Partnerships: Applying Frameworks and Models in the Real World", was organized by the AAP and LUANAR with participation from the Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI), the Borlaug Higher Education for Agriculture Research and Development program (BHEARD), and the NIH/Fogarty-funded Intersectoral Fellowships on Irrigated Agriculture and Human Health in Malawi program. Attendees participated in a dynamic discussion of current frameworks for partnership, existing gaps in partnership approaches, how to innovate paths for forming new partnerships and ways to implement partnership activities that lead to innovative results in the agricultural sector. Dean Steve Hanson and Dr. Amy Jamison attended the event and the broader conference. Dr. Richard Mkandawire, chair of AAP's Advisory Board also attended the conference and played an active role in the side event.



L to R: Richard Mkandawire, AAP Advisory Board Chair; Steve Hanson, Associate Provost and Dean of MSU International Studies and Programs; Daimon Kambewa, LUANAR; Amy Jamison, AAP Coordinator

Ubuntu and Cultural Heritage: Continuing MSU-South Africa Partnerships

The Ubuntu and Cultural Heritage event was held in cooperation with the Michigan State University Museum and the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. It was part of a week of MSU-South Africa partnership activities in Cape Town that was kicked off with the quilt exhibition: "Ubuntu, Life Legacies of Love and Action" (quilt tributes to Desmond and Leah Tutu curated by MSU Museum's Marsha MacDowell and Aleia Brown). The event featured a full day of celebrations and conversations about cultural heritage and partnership between South Africa and Michigan State University, designed with the intent of strengthening positive relationships between MSU and our South African partners. During the week, MSU History Professor Dr. Peter Alegi gave a lecture on digital history at the Mayibuye Museum at University of the Western Cape, and Professors Walter Hawthorne and Dean Rehberger also gave remarks.

Because Cultural Heritage Development is one of the priority areas for the MSU Alliance for African Partnership, the MSU African Studies Center invited South African universities (University of the Western Cape, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University); South African artists; and museum institutions that focus on cultural heritage to this one-day event to celebrate, discuss, and learn together. The event was held at the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum in Lwandle Township and at the Nelson Mandela Gateway Museum in Cape Town, South Africa. The panel discussion at Lwandle Township was titled: "Legacies and Future of Cultural Heritage".

The evening events at the Nelson Mandela Gateway Museum featured three artists who discussed their work and how it is used in cultural dialogue and activism. Artists were: Mr. Lionel Davis, South African Artist and former political prisoner at Robben Island; Ms. Edjohnetta Davis, Quilt artist and U.S. Ambassador from the Women of Color Quilters Network where 1,800 quilt makers from around the world are members; and Ms. Tazneem Wentzel, Artist and Founding Member, Burning Museum Collective. The conversation with the artists was entitled: Art, Experience and Activism. A second panel discussion was entitled: Intergenerational Dialogue: Cultural Heritage Partnership, allowing a platform for youth to express their views in exchange with elders.

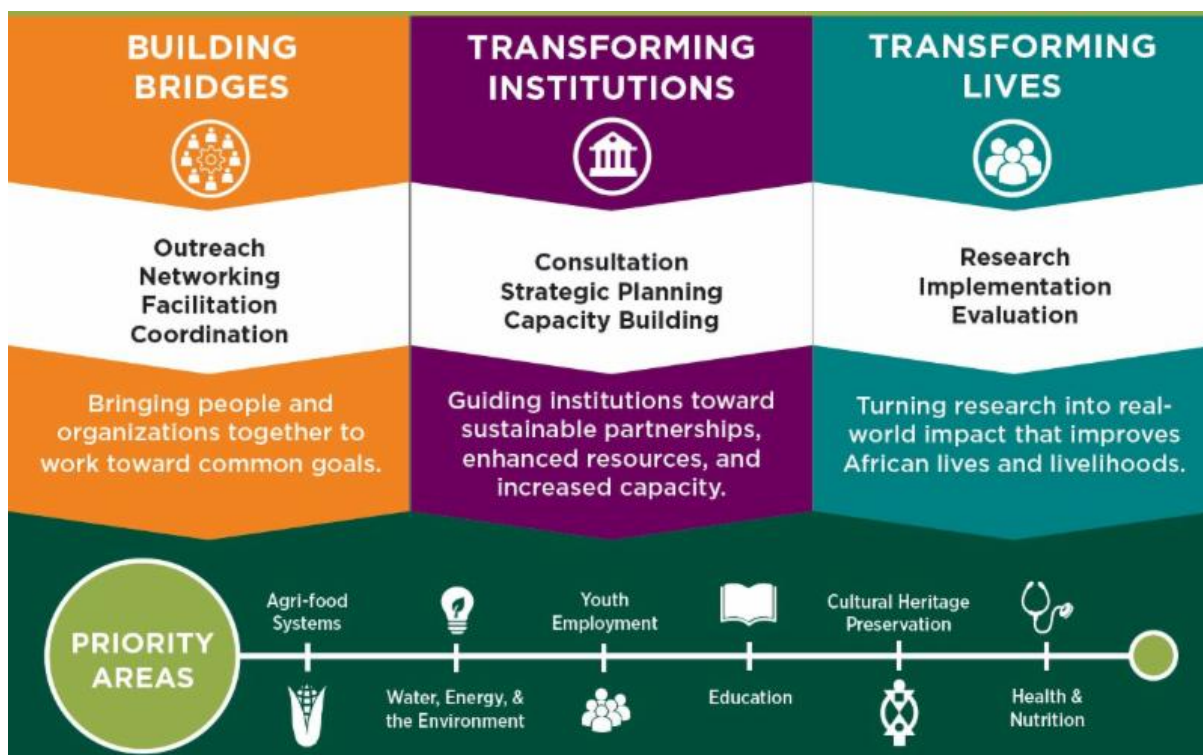
Nearly 100 people attended the entire day of events, including the Educational Officer, Ms. Bongwiwe Qotoyi from the Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha, South Africa. The event sparked meaningful conversations and plans for real actions surrounding cultural heritage preservation and international partnership in South Africa.



Leah and Desmond Tutu pose with their daughter, Mpho Tutu-Van Firth, Marsha MacDowell, MSU Museum curator, and Aleia Brown, visiting scholar with the MSU Museum, at a cultural heritage event held at the Nelson Mandela Gateway Museum.

About the AAP

The Alliance for African Partnership is a new Michigan State University initiative designed to promote innovative approaches to collaborative research and partnership with African institutions to address emerging challenges in today's world.



Get Involved

The Alliance for African Partnership seeks to be inclusive of all in the MSU community who are engaged in or who would like in the future to engage in partnership activities with African research, policy and implementation organization.

For questions or more information on getting involved, [visit the AAP website](#).

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