Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania

5 Years of Education Abroad
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania (SCDT) education abroad program has made it possible for a group of students, the Kolschowsky Scholars, from Michigan State University (MSU), the Institute for Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM-IRA), Dar es Salaam College of Education (DUCE), and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) to learn hands-on how sustainable development is practiced. In its fifth year of programming, SCDT offers students two interrelated opportunities: 1) undergraduate students work with faculty and graduate student leaders in sustainable community development on collaborative research projects using a community engagement approach; and 2) graduate student leaders receive support for programs in areas related to the sustainable community development initiatives of MSU’s Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP). The SCDT program is generously funded by Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky.

SCDT is at the forefront of MSU’s and TPP’s efforts to embed community engagement principles into the study abroad experience. This six-week program incorporates the academic literature on development with involvement in a community engagement project that focuses on development. As part of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural teams, students and faculty from MSU, UDSM, DUCE, and SUA work together and with the community to organize, manage, and complete projects. The program site, Naitolia, is the focus of several long-term collaborative TPP development and research initiatives developed in partnership with numerous Tanzanian academic institutions, development organizations, and government entities. Students engage with ideas of development through their relationships with each other and the community. In doing so, they learn to situate development theory into practice.

SCDT is designed to be a transformational experience for MSU and Tanzanian students while increasing community capacity and improving community well-being. During the program, students learn about the socioeconomic organization and customs of the Maasai, the history of development in Tanzania, different approaches to development, and receive linguistic training in Kiswahili. To culturally orient and deepen students’ connection to the community, the SCDT program includes a homestay with local families. Students gain an awareness of the similarities and differences in sustainable development challenges in Tanzania and the US and the strategies for addressing them in both contexts.

The Kolschowsky Scholars gain friendships and form international academic partnerships that continue long after the program ends. By the end of summer 2017, sixty-one MSU and Tanzanian students will have participated in this innovative study abroad program. SCDT participants continue to achieve great things, both academically and professionally.
PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES

**DUCE**

Caroline Charles Shao, 2014. (UDSM Tutorial Assistant, (Dar es Salaam, TZ)  
The program had a great deal of impact on my academic choice to become a resourceful and competent teacher. My view of the world has changed for the better thanks to the program. My way of thinking and analyzing issues in the world is not the same as it was. I am now hungry and thirsty for development that I tend to search and seek for every opportunity for possible and sustainable development around me.

Salmon Daudi Oloo, 2014. (UDSM Student Loan Officer, (Dar es Salaam, TZ)  
Prior to visiting the field site, I did not have a serious concern to the people who are said to live in a disadvantaged environment. But after the program and observing the lifestyle of Maasai, Datoga and Hadzabe with the realities of food insecurity, lack of clean and safe water, hostile environment, lack of strong village leadership and uncoordinated governance, I questioned my role to the community and nation at large. I am intending to further my postgraduate studies in Research and Public Policy for a good policy is the blueprint for development.

**SUA**

Gloria Peter Njau, 2016. Veterinarian (Dar es Salaam, TZ)  
The study abroad program has helped me grow confidence with work. I worked with farmers, training them on proper brooding and rearing of chicken for improvement of nutrition and raising of income. Since then and in my current job, I have been involved in projects targeting rural areas.

Kabelege Moses, 2016. Veterinarian (Mbeya, TZ)  
The program helped me to create a good brotherhood and friendship with MSU students and DUCE former students. It also gave me the exposure and lessons which I apply until now, such as, water treatment by using sunlight. The program has played a crucial role for me getting a job in Hester Bioscience Company by sharing my experiences from the program.

**UDSM-IRA**

Beatus Mbogo, 2013. Secondary School Teacher (Mwanza, TZ)  
I believe that I am better employee because I had gained a lot of diverse skills and experiences from moving around during the Study Abroad Program. These skills and experiences help me solve dilemmas creatively, to improve the quality of teaching in the direction of sustainability, and to inspire my students to achieve the best in academic and socio-cultural issues and interactions.

Neovitus Cassian Sianga, 2015. Conservation Program Officer (Arusha, TZ)  
TPP program in Naitolia helped me to develop my working capability in terms of balancing my development and conservation work. I worked with the pastoral group that researched human wildlife conflict in terms of livestock depredation. Through the program, I saw the importance of protecting the livestock and big cats to improve community livelihood. I’m currently working on a livestock protection model that demonstrates the value of shared knowledge, exhibits culturally appropriate solutions, provides a regular point of community outreach, and serves as a model to communities in other parts of Tanzania and East Africa.
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPANTS
FROM YEARS 2013 TO 2017

MSU
SUA
UDSM-IRA
DUCE

53 UNDERGRADS
VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
JAMES MADISON
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
NATURAL SCIENCE
EDUCATION
LYMAN BRIGGS
ARTS & LETTERS
ENGINEERING

16 GRADS
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION
SOCIAL SCIENCE
ENGINEERING

6 FACULTY
VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
EDUCATION
VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
ARTS & LETTERS
NATURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITIES
FROM YEARS 2013 TO 2017

4 WATER
13 EDUCATION
6 ANIMAL HEALTH & AGRICULTURE
10 HUMAN HEALTH
13 ENGAGED RESEARCH

ASSESSMENT | IMPROVEMENT | RENOVATION | INSTRUCTION | EMPOWERMENT | PRACTICES | NUTRITION | WORKSHOPS | COLLABORATION | COMMUNITY
PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVES (CONT’D)

MSU

James Cotter, 2014. High School College Adviser (Kalamazoo, MI)
For the past two years I have been serving as the College Adviser at Comstock High School (Kalamazoo, MI) as apart of the Michigan State University College Advising Corps. I have kept strong perspective while remembering that before community development, must come community involvement. One must gain trust and respect in a community before the needle of their initiatives is moved. And most importantly the goals of the individual must reflect the goals and needs for all. Since Naitolia, through time and trust, I’ve become an active member of the Comstock community, and Naitolia has been and will continue to be my foundation.

Clare Worthington, 2015. Administrative Assistant (East Lansing, MI)
I am currently an Administrative Assistant in the MSU Office of the President and Board of Trustees, and I am completing my Master’s in Business Management through Harvard University. The lessons and experiences of my study abroad experience influenced my choice to pursue a career in nonprofit work, especially in those with an international focus. The worldview and compassion for others in far reaches of the world that I gained from this trip have stayed with me in the two years since its completion, and I hope to continue learning positive methods for effective change and international engagement in the years to come.

Betty Okwako, 2012, 2013. Assistant Professor (Albion, MI)
As a native of the East African region, I am very familiar with the culture and language of the community where the Tanzania study abroad program takes place. As an African scholar working in the West, you always have in the back of your mind to go back and make a difference. This study abroad gives me a chance to go back and share an amazing learning experience in community engagement with undergraduates and graduate students. I am so excited for them to see and learn about a place this is very different from what they know.

KOLSCHOWSKY SCHOLARS

2013
ETHAN CHUPKA  MSU • Education • Kinesiology (UG)
JUSTINE BRUNETT  MSU • James Madison • International Relations (UG)
KAITLYN RULE  MSU • Natural Science • Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (UG)
HANNAH CLINE ROBERTS  MSU • Social Science • Global & Area Studies (UG)
LYDIA SARACINA  MSU • Social Science • Psychology (UG)
NDEKA KIZITO  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
GRACE KAKAMA  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
BEATUS MBOGO  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
BEATRICE SAWE  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)

2014
KAITLYN BEYER  MSU • James Madison • Social Relations & Policy (UG)
ALISHA BROWN  MSU • Education • Education Policy (G)
JAMES COTTER  MSU • Social Science • Intr Studies in Social Science (UG)
MIKOLE LEVRAN  MSU • Social Science • Global & Area Studies (UG)
DEVONNA MCCARTHY  MSU • Social Science • Intr Studies in Social Science (UG)
BENJAMEN SPREITZER  MSU • Social Science • Social Work (UG)
FELIX AIDUNUS  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
HYASINTA PAUL  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
FLAVANIUS FERDINAND  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
SENOBINA MWINGIRA  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
EDWARD OTIENO  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
FELIX YEBOAH  MSU • Ag & Natural Resources • Community Agriculture, Recreation, & Resource Education Policy (G)
CAROLINE CHARLES  DUCE • Education (UG)
GEORGE MWANANZUMI  DUCE • Education (UG)
DAUDI SALMON  DUCE • Education (UG)
2015

JANE AHLBORN  MSU • James Madison • International Relations (UG)
HANNAH BOYKE  MSU • James Madison • Social Relations & Policy (UG)
ELISE CARUSO  MSU • Social Science • Psychology (UG)
KRISTEN GMEREK  MSU • Arts & Letters • Global Studies Arts & Humanities (UG)
TULA NGASALA  MSU • Engineering • Civil & Environmental Engineering (G)
JESSICA OTT  MSU • Social Science • Anthropology (G)
CLARE O’KANE  MSU • James Madison • Comparative Culture & Politics (UG)
RHEANNE PECSENYE  MSU • James Madison • International Relations (UG)
LINDA MUNISI  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
NEOVITUS SINGA  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
ISAYA KIBAYA  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
MICHALE LINGOFU  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
FARAJA NGENDELO  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)

2016

ALONDRA ALVIZO  MSU • Ag & Natural Resources • Agribusiness Mgmt (UG)
CARLY COHEN  MSU • Engineering • Environmental Engineering (UG)
TULA NGASALA  MSU • Engineering • Civil & Environmental Engineering (G)
DAVID RAVITZ  MSU • Engineering • Environmental Engineering (UG)
ALEXANDER RAY  MSU • James Madison • International Relations (UG)
MEGAN VILLONE  MSU • Social Science • Global & Area Studies (UG)
LINDA MUNISI  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
RONALD NDESANJO  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
FARAJA HOSEA  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
MOSES KABELEG  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
GLORIA NJAU  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
ELIZABETH MUSHI  DUCE • Education (UG)
JANETH MWASHAMBWA  DUCE • Education (UG)

2017

MIA BOSANKIC  MSU • Ag & Natural Resources • Environmental Studies & Sustainability (UG)
VERONICA BUSCHHAUS  MSU • Social Science • World Politics (UG)
SAMUEL CAYEN  MSU • James Madison • International Relations (UG)
OACIA FAIR  MSU • Ag & Natural Resources • Environmental Studies & Sustainability (UG)
ASHLEY GREENLEAF  MSU • Lyman Briggs • Lyman Briggs (UG)
ASHLEY NANCE-PANEK  MSU • Natural Science • Human Biology (UG)
AIMEE MONTAMBEAU  MSU • Natural Science • Human Biology (UG)
MYCALA SMITH  MSU • Natural Science • Zoology (UG)
CHRISTER MWILONGO  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
FADHILI RUZIKA  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt (G)
EMMANUEL KAIJAGE  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
JOYCE MGANGA  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
EZEKIEL SIGALA  SUA • College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomed Sciences (UG)
EFRATHA KRISTOS  DUCE • Education (UG)
ONESMO MADARAKA  DUCE • Education (UG)
ELIZABETH SHIRIMA  DUCE • Education (UG)
STUDY ABROAD FACULTY LEADS

BETTY OKWAKO-RIEKKOLA  MSU/Albion • Education
JONATHAN CHOTI  MSU • Arts & Letters
FAUSTIN MAGANGA  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt
VICKY MOSHY  UDSM-IRA • Natural Resources Assessment & Mgmt
S.I. KIMERA  SUA • Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
EMILIANA MWITA  DUCE • Education

Dar es Salaam College of Education
Sokoine University of Agriculture
Aga Khan Foundation
University of Dar es Salaam
Michigan State University

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