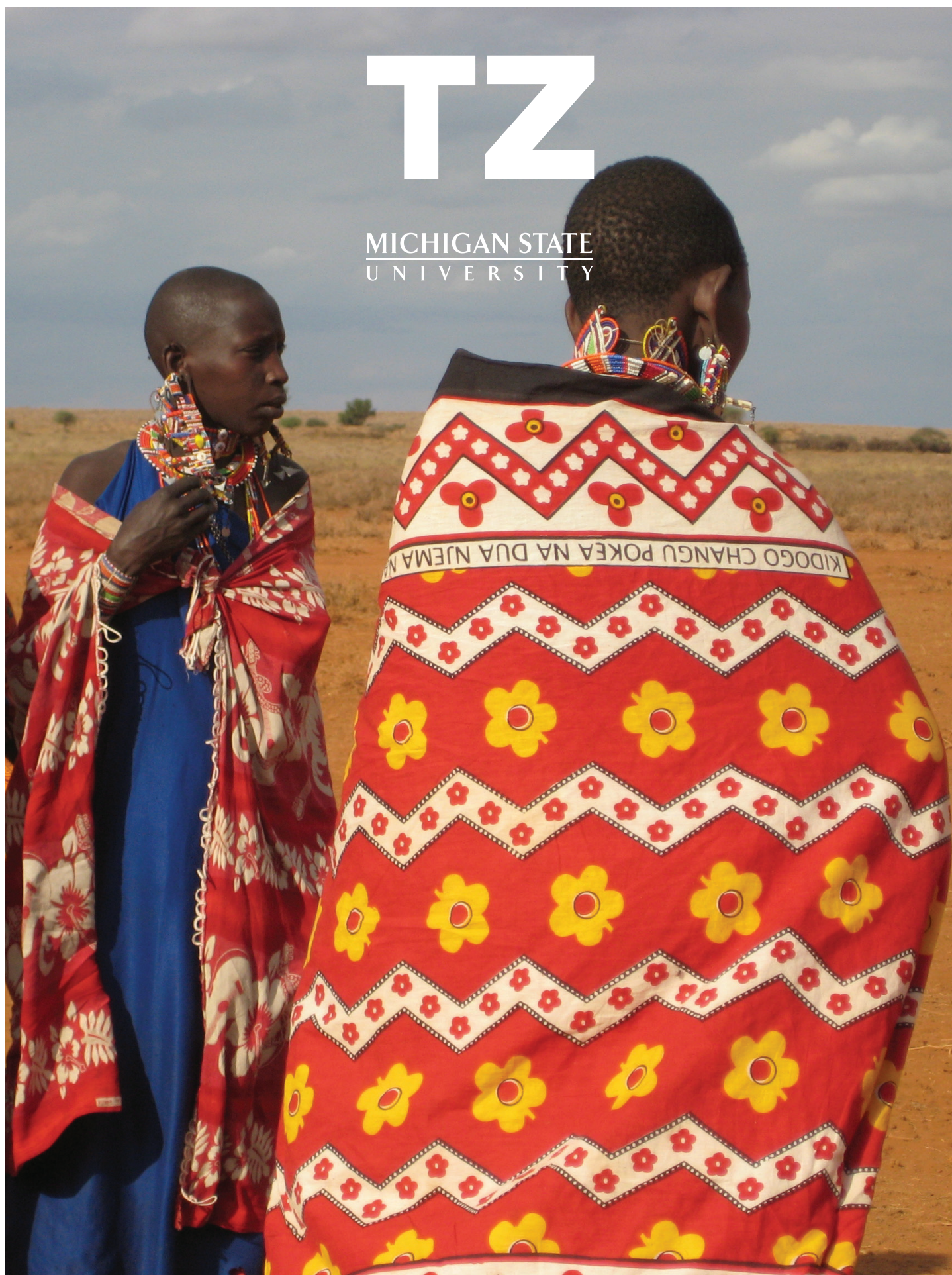


TZ

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY





A WORLD OF GOOD.

MSU STUDY ABROAD + TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Betty Okwako, an instructor at Michigan State University, is taking a group of students on a six-week study abroad program to Tanzania this summer.

“We will spend six weeks looking at how development projects and associated research contribute to community well-being,” said Okwako.

Through the course, *Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania*, students will learn different approaches to community engagement. They will also put theories to practice by working with a local Maassi community in the northern village of Naitolia.

Okwako said the program will challenge students to think about practical ways to solve issues facing rural communities. “We also hope the program will push students to challenge their assumptions and stereotypes about development.”

The study abroad program grew out of an existing project known as the Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP).

Established by MSU’s International Studies and Programs, and generously funded by Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky, TPP works to improve the overall well-being of communities in Tanzania (TZ).

The majority of Tanzanians live in rural areas, where they face a number of obstacles, including a lack of access to education and to clean water. Through this program, MSU is applying a multidisciplinary, multipartner approach to these development challenges, forging close connections with local partners to help them develop truly sustainable communities.

“As an African scholar working in the west, you always have in the back of your mind to go back and make a difference,” said Okwako.

“This study abroad gives me a chance to go back and share an amazing learning experience in community engagement with undergraduate and graduate students. I am so excited for them to see and learn about a place that is very different from what they know.”



IT'S POSSIBLY THE BIGGEST GOAL YOU COULD EVER SET.

THE QUESTION IS, WHERE IN THE WORLD DO YOU START?

If you're an ambitious student interested in development, you might begin in Tanzania, during a summer study abroad program with Michigan State University.

"In order to truly improve the lives of others, you must understand the complexities of the issues they face and genuinely engage them in finding a solution," said Justine Brunnett, international relations major in James Madison College.

TURN THE PAGE TO MEET THE FACULTY AND KOLSCHOWSKY SCHOLARS HEADED TO TZ.

PROGRAM LEADER

Betty Okwako, Ph.D., is the lead faculty for the study abroad program, Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania. She holds a doctorate in Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education. Her previous degrees include a masters in International Development from Western Michigan University and bachelor of Education, French and Business from Kenyatta University in Kenya. Betty has extensive teaching experience at different levels and context. She has taught at a girls boarding school in Kenya, Western Michigan University and Michigan State University. As a native of the East African region, Betty is very familiar with culture and language of the community where the program will take place.



KOLSCHOWSKY SCHOLARS

Betsy Ferrer is a Ph.D. candidate in Curriculum, Teaching, and Educational Policy at Michigan State University. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a bachelors in Anthropology and masters in Education. She also holds a masters degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Betsy taught middle and high school English for eight years and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in English methods and supervised intern teachers at MSU. While at MSU, Betsy has studied issues related to education and international development and Swahili through a FLAS Fellowship from the African Studies Center. Betsy's research focuses on how youth in Western Kenya use art to pursue economic, social, and political legitimacy.

Ethan Chupka, Kinesiology, College of Education

"I would like to study abroad because studying abroad will help me develop skills and give me experiences a classroom setting will never provide. Being immersed in an entirely new culture will help me better understand the world in which I live in. Studying abroad also allows me to travel to places that I might not otherwise have the opportunity to visit. This specific study abroad program interests me because it offers something that no other program can offer. This program offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to help countless individuals build a better life for themselves, their children, and their community."

Kaitlyn Rule, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Lyman Briggs College

"My greatest passion in life is traveling, immersing myself in a foreign culture, experiencing every situation, from food to social norms, that I never could have fathomed existed until I was there. This program is an incredible opportunity to encounter a culture so completely different than my own, and simultaneously have a positive impact on the community in Tanzania. The ability to connect with people so different from myself, bridging vast social and cultural gaps, will undoubtedly impact the rest of my life, continuing my growth into the empathetic and educated person I aspire to be. My experiences in Tanzania would lead to a greater acceptance and understanding of cultural diversity, which would in turn carry over into my normal interactions with people in the United States."

Justine Brunnett, International Relations, James Madison College

"I have always been passionate about improving people's lives, and my college education has taught me that in order to truly do that, you must understand the complexities of the issues they face and genuinely engage them in finding a solution. I believe that the best way to do that is by working on the ground, in the community, with people, which is what I want to do in a job at a non-profit after I graduate. The sustainable community development program in Tanzania would give me the opportunity to learn how to do that effectively. Whether I ultimately choose to work at a non-profit in East Africa or in an inner city here in America, the experiences of working across cultures and engaging community members to empower them in finding solutions to the issues they face will help me in my future."

Hannah Roberts, Global And Area Studies, College of Social Science

"I have been interested in international development for a long time. I have taken courses at MSU about development in Africa and have learned a lot about both its successes and failures 'in development.' In 2012, I spent three months in Malawi on a study abroad program through the Center for Gender in a Global Context. I learned how a NGO struggled with demands from the donors as well as meeting certain deadlines. I also saw the improvements that this NGO had made and were still making in many communities across Malawi. This experience showed me what development was like on the ground, when it is successful."

Lydia Saracina, Psychology, College of Social Science

"My passion for Eastern Africa and its countries started during the first two years of my undergraduate experience at Michigan State University. I enrolled and completed two years of Kiswahili, and through this class gained introductory knowledge on the area. My professor instilled in me a desire to visit Eastern Africa. I have never forgotten the promise I made to him that someday I would. The Sustainable Community Development study abroad caught my eye, particularly since I had been looking for a summer internship. I have been to South Africa as an incoming freshman, and ever since then I have felt the need to experience another region of the continent. I find this program to align wonderfully with where I want to go in my life as well as what I would like to contribute to the world."