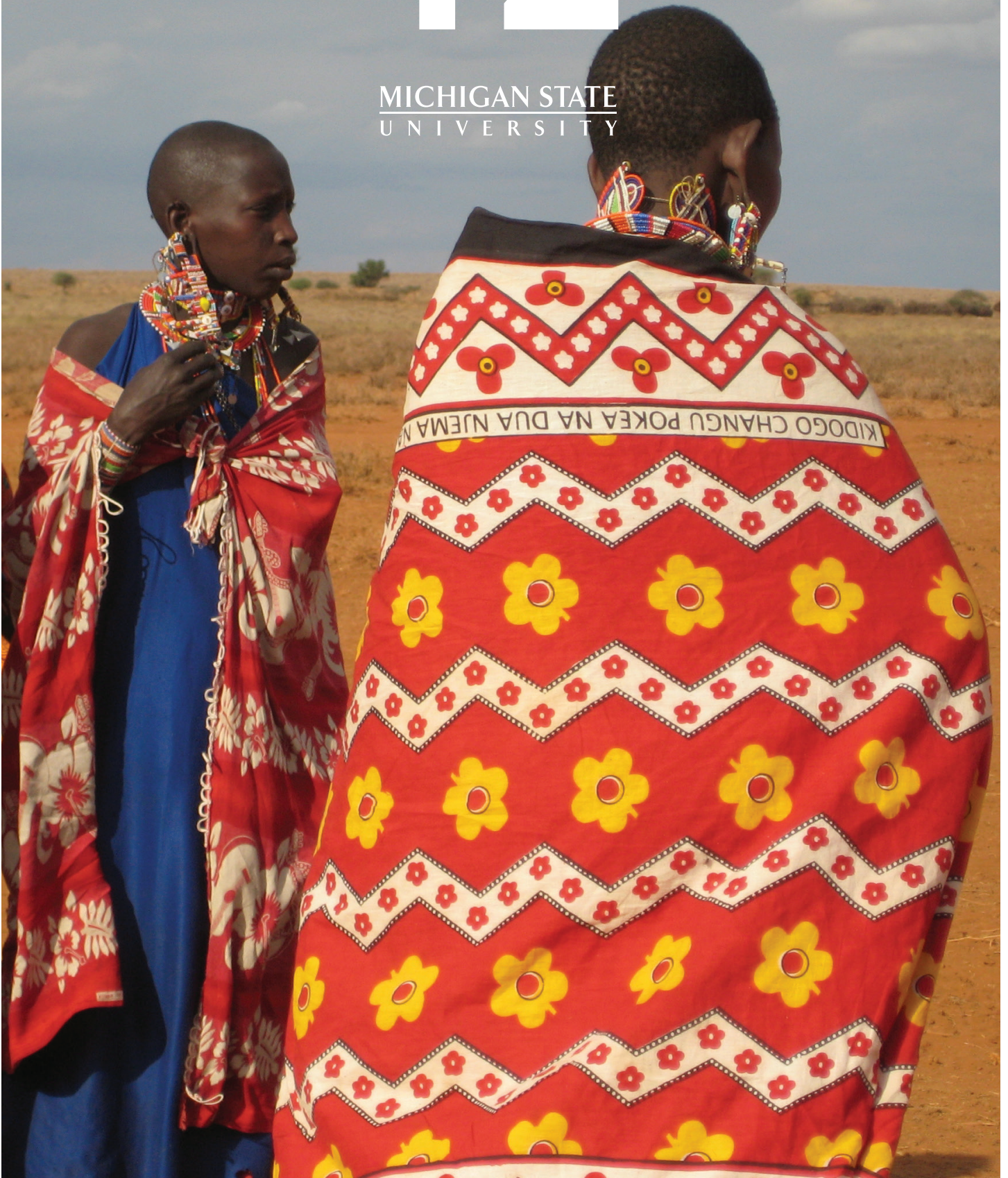


TZ

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 Maasai 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.”



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.

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, and has extensive teaching experience at different levels and contexts. 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

Felix Yeboah

As a doctoral student in Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies (CARRS), Felix's PhD study is in environmental policy and international development, with an additional specialization in environmental and resource economics. His research interests focus on the potential linkages between social cash transfer programs and productive economic activity, specifically as it appears among Ghana's rural poor population. As a master's student, Felix was involved in a study to assess behavioral barriers to implementing sustainable practices at MSU; he is still a contributor to this ongoing study. After completing his PhD, Felix hopes to return to his home in Ghana and help inform environmental policy.

Alisha Brown

Alisha Brown is a third-year doctoral student in the Educational Policy program. Her research interests include inclusive education policy and practice, and access to quality education for students with disabilities and other marginalized groups. These interests are both domestic and international in scope, with a particular focus on Southern Africa. Alisha is an Erickson Research Fellow and has been a research assistant on the Tanzania Partnership Program. Her work with TPP focused on girls' education and out-of-school children in Tanzania.

Mikole Levrin

"Being immersed in a new country for six weeks may seem scary to some, but I see it as an amazing opportunity to learn about a new culture, try new foods, meet locals, and to truly understand the lives of Tanzanians. I believe the skills and knowledge I gain through this program will help me pursue work in development abroad or in struggling cities within the United States. I know this program best fits my interests and will give me the opportunity to embark on an experience that will only enhance my passion of cultures, people, environment and traveling."

Benjamin Spreitzer

"This study abroad experience is everything I've been looking for to bring my personal aspirations and academic experiences to life. It will give me an amazing opportunity to engage in international development first-hand and learn what it takes to make a real impact in developing communities. With this authentic experience, I can get a better idea of how to better myself professionally and personally. By learning from the program about sustainable community building skills, I can become a more formidable agent in change both here and abroad."

Kaitlyn Beyer

"In Tanzania, I hope to expand my intercultural repertoire, refine my problem-solving ability and develop my critical thinking. I want to learn to see problems from the perspective of the people they affect, and to solve them in a way that benefits, not hinders, the country. This skill set can be used regardless of which career route I ultimately choose; the adaptability and intercultural perspective I gain from this trip will be tremendous."

James Cotter

"A key component in choosing this program was the need to get outside of my 'comfort zone'. Growing up comfortably in a suburban town of mid-Michigan, I have not had many opportunities to be exposed to drastically new perspectives from personal experiences. This trip would allow me to learn in a setting unfamiliar to me, and in the best of ways. Stepping outside of my everyday settings will not only allow me to expand greatly as a student and future professional, but as a person as well."

Devonna McCarthy

"In my future profession I plan to work in international politics in relation to development. I looked at other programs that had possible relevance to my educational and career interests; the descriptions given were not as hands-on as I was hoping for. I love that this program matches each student with another from the resident country. I feel that one of the best ways to learn is through others that have first-hand experience."