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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY





Photo credit: Kristin Gmerek

IT MAY BE THE BIGGEST GOAL YOU 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.

"My future in development is more informed, and my future as a global citizen will be ever more loving and understanding than it could have been before," said Clare O'Kane a senior in Comparative Culture and Politics.



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PROGRAM LEADERS

Jonathan Choti has a PhD in linguistics from MSU. He teaches Swahili and an integrative course in the arts and humanities that focuses on African cultures, languages, and literature. A native of Kenya, Jonathan is conversant with the culture and language of the community where the program takes place. He attended Egerton University, Kenya, for his MA and BA degrees in English language and linguistics. He has been a high school Swahili/English teacher and a management communication lecturer at Kenya's School of Government. He supervised students in research proposal writing projects, most of which dealt with rural community development. Jonathan has also taught Swahili at Kalamazoo College and University of Florida, Gainesville, and linguistics at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya.

Tula Ngasala is a second year PhD student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. She was born and grew up in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. Tula has been involved in different community projects focusing on water access and quality analysis, sanitation improvements and conservation. Her Ph.D. research focuses on surface and underground water quality improvement through proper management of wastewater collection systems in low income areas of Dar es Salaam. One of her immediate goals after graduation is to help communities in developing countries that are facing water quality and sanitation challenges and lack of access to clean water.

Jessica Ott is a third-year doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research interests include public health and human rights approaches to gender-based violence in Tanzania. Jessica entered her PhD program with an MPH and almost five years of work experience in public health, including over a year spent working for EngenderHealth in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Her experience and interest in the East Africa region began during a six-month study abroad program at the University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya, when she was an undergraduate.

KOLSCHOWSKY SCHOLARS

Elise Caruso, graduated Summer 2015, Psychology

"My experience in Tanzania gave me first-hand insight into putting community development theory into practice. It allowed me the opportunity to connect with cultures across the world and build relationships with them."

Kristin Gmerek, Junior, Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities

"I wanted to understand, in great depth, the circumstances that I experienced, observed, and learned about while I was in Tanzania. There is a demand to feel what you are seeing with your eyes, engaging with your heart, and comprehending with your mind. For me, engaging with the people I came across on my study abroad continues to have an impact. The genuine conversations, unique perspectives, and dialogues in Swahili all brought me a sense of unending gratefulness for the immensity of our world, and the versatility of human beings on our planet."

Hannah Boyke, Junior, Social Relations and Policy

"I didn't know what to expect when I arrived in Tanzania, I was scared, I was worried that this experience would change me. Because I've never done anything like this before, I wasn't sure what type of change it would be. I left Tanzania a different person, but I am different for the better. This experience has motivated me to do something better, to show people that sympathy isn't enough—people need action, recognition, and support. I think about those children at the primary school everyday, and if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't know how powerful true strength is. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't know how powerful love is, this emotion that drives me to do everything I can, because they deserve it."

Clare O'Kane, Senior, Comparative Culture and Politics

"Tanzania changed the course of my life, and opened my heart to new people and cultures I never could have guessed would grow to be so important to me. My future in development is more informed, and my future as a global citizen will be ever more loving and understanding than it could have been before. I am very grateful for everyone who made this opportunity a reality for me."

Rheanne Pecsénye, Senior, International Relations

"When I look back on my study abroad experience, I feel thankful for the opportunity that was afforded to me and how it allowed me to see development for what it is, meet new people, understand different cultures, and seek opportunities for my future. The people of Naitolia were very gracious in allowing us to be a part of their community for a short time, and I will never forget the relationships I was able to cultivate with other Tanzanians. The entire trip was a whirlwind of experiences that challenged me and my understanding of development, and has reinforced my passion for international relations."

Jane Ahlborn, Junior, International Relations

"My study abroad experience was something I never expected, and I am so grateful for that. I was able to experience a culture entirely different from mine own, and make incredible friendships along the way. This study abroad challenged me not only academically, but also personally through our field work. Tanzania is an incredible country, and I can't wait to go back!"