



**Duke**  
UNIVERSITY

**Africa** *the*  
INITIATIVE

**Duke Africa Initiative**  
**2013-2014**  
**Annual Review**

Prepared For **Vice Provost of Global  
Strategy and Programs**

## **Duke Africa Initiative 2013-2014 Academic Year Review**

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## **Introduction:**

The Africa Initiative has had an active year, building on early successes while extending our reach and deepening our scope. We continued to develop our seminal programs while introducing new initiatives. We remained committed to funding faculty-sponsored workshops and seminars on campus; continued with our distinguished speaker series; held salons for a wide-range of people in the Duke community that highlighted faculty interests, and retained our highly successful visiting scholars program. The latter program brings young African pre/post-docs to Duke for two months.

In addition to these aspects of our mission, we added two new initiatives, improved our communication with the Duke community writ large, and sought to enhance our connections with scholars and institutions in Africa. The new programs included five course development awards as a way to invigorate Africa-related course offerings on campus and eight small grants to students organize their own programs/ curate art exhibits/develop databases on/for the Duke community. This latter effort yielded great benefits as it drew students, primarily undergraduates, more fully into the orbit of the Africa Initiative, both invigorating discussions and enhancing the vibrancy of the Initiative.

To improve communication with the campus, we launched a weekly newsletter and twitter feed. The former quickly became a mainstay of news about Africa-related events on campus and various groups quite quickly turned to us to get the news out about their seminars, etc. This year we also expanded our connections to the African Development Bank, the RISE Scholars Program, and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa.

The steering committee consisted of John Bartlett, Charlie Piot, and Karin Shapiro (co-chairs), as well as Ian Baucom, Fred Boadu, Randy Matory, David Toole Erika Weinthal, and Anne Yoder. Mike Merson and Rob Sikorski served in an ex-officio capacity. Anna Alcaro ably provided administrative assistance. Eve Duffy also supported the work of the Initiative.

In sum, the Africa Initiative is now a recognized entity on campus, supporting faculty and (now) students in their efforts to bring a deeper understanding of the continent to Duke and Durham. The Initiative also disseminates information about Africa-related events on Duke's campus, sharing relevant news stories, funding opportunities, and conferences.

## A. Faculty Project Small Grant Awards:

1. **Jenni Owen** (Public Policy) | *Rural Health and Rural Academic Excellence in South Africa: Exploring perspectives and opportunities in the context of the social accountability of universities and bridging research, policy, and practice*. From April 6-12 Dr. Mosa Moshabela, Dr. Bernhard Gaede, and Ntokozi Mntambo of the University of KwaZulu-Natal interacted with faculty, students, and staff from multiple departments, schools, and programs across Duke. Events included a public talk, a visit to a public policy class, small group discussions with faculty and students, and networking opportunities with North Carolina stakeholders. The visit provided opportunities for further collaboration in experiential and academic exchanges, virtual information exchanges, and cross-sectoral training on evidence-based policy and practice.
2. **Gary Gereffi & Giovanni Zanalda** (Sociology and Economics) | *New Perspectives on African Agriculture and Global Value Chains*. A series of events brought together students and scholars to discuss how a farmer-focused approach, rather than a top-down strategy, can promote agricultural innovation in Africa. Participants included Ajmal Abdulsamad (CGGC Duke), Peter Bolt (Managing Director and founder the Dutch Agricultural Development and Training Company (DADTCO)), and Kimberly Pfeifer (Head of Research at Oxfam America). The panel and discussion attracted a large audience of 90 people, including numerous students who learned a great deal about how collaboration can promote agriculture as a driver for food security, environmental stability, and economic growth.
3. **Subhashini Chandrasekharan** (Center for Genome Ethics, Law, & Policy) | *Genomics Research, Commercialization, and Justice in Africa*. This mini-symposium was held jointly by two faculty members in conjunction with the Science and Society Initiative as well as the Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy on November 4, 2013.
4. **Bruce Hall & Mbaye Lo** (History and Asian & Middle East Studies) | *Islamic Institutions of Higher Education in Africa | A Workshop*. The Africa Initiative supported this two-day workshop to explore issues of Islamic scholasticism in Africa and learn more about how Islamic Institutions of Higher Learning impact development. Workshop participants included scholars from across Africa, the United States and Europe. Follow-up will include the publication of an edited volume



Yvette Christiansë – professor of English and Africana Studies at Barnard College and South African-born poet, novelist, and scholar – gave the opening keynote for *The Haunted Present*, a workshop about reckoning after apartheid.

of the papers presented at the workshop and efforts to foster an intra- and inter-Muslim higher education network.

5. **Anne-Maria Makhulu and the Concilium on Southern Africa** (Cultural Anthropology) | *Conference focused on “Violence and Reckoning in the South African Present.”* This three-day conference explored the unsettled legacies of South Africa’s apartheid past. The keynote by novelist Yvette Christiansë was attended by a large crowd of more than 100 people, and each panel comprised 10-15 participants.

#### **B. Course Development Awards:**

1. **Sheryl Broverman** (Global Health)- Associate Professor of the Practice, Biology and Global Health  
Course Title: (Bio 287FS) Africa, Development, and Disease Emergence (NS, STS)
2. **Stuart Pimm** (Environmental Sciences) - Doris Duke Chair of Conservation Ecology, Nicholas School of the Environment  
Course Title: (Advanced Con Bio course (593.127)) Non-Invasive Techniques in Wildlife Monitoring Advanced Conservation Biology Course.
3. **William Reichert** (Biomedical Engineering) - Alan L. Kaganov Professor of Biomedical Engineering  
Course Title: (BME525) Makerere University Joint Course in Biomaterials and Biomedical Devices for the Developing World. Support to offer a class in Uganda and to develop course materials that will be part of a Duke MOOC.
4. **Kearsley Stewart** (Global Health) - Associate Professor of the Practice, Duke global Health Institute (DGHI) and Department of Cultural Anthropology. Course Title: (GLHLTH 302) HIV/AIDS in Africa: Building a Digital Humanities Database for the Undergraduate Course “Global Narratives of HIV/AIDS.” Support to increase Africa-related content in the course, develop innovative classroom activities, build a network of artists, activists and scholars engaged with HIV living on the continent to interact with Duke students. Innovative learning methods combine with original content and teams for a dynamic engagement and service learning experience.
5. **Janet Ewald** (History) - Associate Professor of History and the Duke University Middle East Center (DUMEC)  
Course Title: (HIST: 3XX) Rational for Health and Healing in Africa.

#### **C. Distinguished Speakers:**

1. **Dr Muhammad Pate** | Former Minister of State for Health in Nigeria | Dec 5, 2013  
“From Polio Eradication to Saving One Million Lives in Nigeria.” Dr. Pate’s talk focused on the opportunities and challenges facing Nigeria, and his efforts to

- transform healthcare in Nigeria by working with local leaders and empowering mobile healthcare workers.
2. **Mike Cowing** | Environmental expert specializing in conflict and waste management | Collaborating with a Bass connections team led by Erika Weinthal, the Africa Initiative hosted environmental expert, Mike Cowing on January 29. Cowing was anticipated to give a talk titled African Conflicts: The Environmental Dimensions, but this was canceled due to weather. He kindly met with students and faculty about what he had intended to discuss as a public lecture: Nigerian Ogoni oil fields; national deforestation in Cote D'Ivoire following their ten-year civil war; and a waste management plan in South Sudan.
  3. **Ambassador Ibrahim Rasool** | South African Ambassador to the U.S. | March 27, 2014 | Collaborating with the Concilium on Southern Africa and the Religion Department, the Africa Initiative hosted Ibrahim Rasool, who gave a public lecture titled, "Pushing Global Health Forward: Can the BRICS Do Heavy Lifting?" Rasool also met with students during an Africa Initiative-hosted lunch.



The Ambassador to the United States from South Africa – Ibrahim Rasool (far right) – presented to a group of students at the Sanford School.

#### D. Evening Salons:

1. Evening Salon with **Fall 2013** Faculty Project Fund Recipients | Sep 3, 2013  
More than forty Duke personnel listened as the faculty member recipients of Africa Initiative small grant funds presented their work and plan for the semester's activity.
2. Evening Salon with **Spring 2014** Faculty Project Fund Recipients | Feb 6, 2014  
Similar to the fall semester, faculty member small grant recipients presented their project summaries. The co-chairs also polled attendees about what they hoped to see from the AI moving forward.

**The Africa Initiative has hosted *five* Evening Salons since starting in August 2012.**



## E. Visiting Scholars:

**Justin Jacob Omolo** | Tanzania | Justin Jacob Omolo currently works as an Organic Chemist and Principal Research Scientist in Dar es Salaam. He received his PhD (in organic chemistry) at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa in December 2011 under the sponsorship of the [Regional Initiative in Science and Education \(RISE\)](#). He was the first RISE scholar to receive his PhD through the program's sponsorship. During his two months in the U.S. in the Africa Initiative Visiting Scholars Program, Justin was able to network and make connections at Duke University, the University of Chapel Hill (UNC), Harvard University, Princeton University, and the University of Texas. Having this opportunity was "extremely valuable" to him and has resulted in a potential post-doctoral fellowship in the Natural Products Laboratory at UNC.

**Hienin Ali Diakite** | Mali | Hienin Ali Diakite is currently a doctoral candidate in the Humanities section at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Lyon, France. He is working on a dissertation titled "Critical Edition and Translation of Manuscripts Relating to Intellectual Life in the Western

**"I strongly encourage this program as a good opportunity for PhD students and African researchers to share their knowledge with American colleagues at Duke, while enjoying the intellectual and cultural wealth of the United States."**

Sudan during the Nineteenth Century." Ali is expected to receive his PhD in 2015. While at Duke he collaborated closely with Bruce Hall in the Department of History. As a native French and Fulani speaker, Ali enjoyed the opportunity to improve his English conversation skills. He also spent many hours in the Bostock Library sorting through and translating historical texts in Duke's resource-rich archives. In addition, Ali presented his research to his colleagues and students in the History Department. Ali "strongly supports the Africa Initiative Visiting Scholars program...It is a good opportunity for PhD students and African researchers to share their knowledge with American colleagues at Duke, while enjoying the intellectual and cultural wealth of the United States."



2014 Africa Initiative Visiting Scholars, Hienin Ali Diakite and Justin Jacob Omolo.



Since its inception in 2012, the Africa Initiative has hosted five visiting scholars from four African nations.



### F. Student Project Support Funds:

1. **Jessica Adimora & DukeAFRICA** | Host guest speaker, Mukoma Wa Ngugi, Kenyan author, poet, and scholar to speak on African identity in the US

2. **Dagbedji Fagnisse & Dimeji Adidoje** | Create a searchable consolidated online platform detailing Duke Africanist faculty and scholars

3. **Nupur Gulati, Zack Fowler, & WISERDuke** | Hosted a WISER student at Duke and held a presentation about their experiences on topics such as global health and gender equity.

4. **Queen Isu, Business in Africa (BIA) Club, and Black & Latino MBA Organization (BLMBAO) at the Fuqua School of Business** | Africa Innovation Symposium – “Bridging the Gap: Identifying & Developing Sustainable Growth in Africa”

5. **Candice Jansen & Sarah Stacke** | Curate a photography exhibition and host a panel discussion aimed at fostering dialogue on cross-cultural visual literacy and the development of narratives surrounding African communities

6. **Maria Prebble** | Panel on the intersections of climate change, migration, and conflict in West Africa



WISERduke hosted Kennedy Mikula (L), Mercy Adhiambo (C), and Violet Singoei (R) in April 2014 to talk about the WISER school in Kenya.



7. **Busi Sibeko, Africa Conversations Club, and the MasterCard Foundation Scholars** | Form a Durham Outreach Program, which will seek to facilitate workshops that challenge stereotypes about Africa at Duke and within the greater Durham community
8. **Jacob Tobia** | Hosted guest speaker, [Graeme Reid](#), activist, historian, and the director for LGBT policy at Human Rights Watch, to talk on homophobia and sexual diversity on the African continent

#### **G. Communication:**

1. Weekly Newsletter
2. Twitter Feed | @DukeAfricaIn

#### **H. Networking for Sustainable Funding:**

1. **African Development Bank** | Our colleagues at the Regional Initiative on Science Education (RISE) had been in conversation with Agnes Soucat, Director of Human Development at the African Development Bank (AfDB), when RISE notified us that AfDB would be sending a representative to the U.S. to further discuss a RISE-AfDB partnership. As a partner with RISE – having hosted two alumni as Visiting Scholars – the Africa Initiative hosted Nawsheen Elaheebocus, Human Development Officer at the AfDB in Durham in March 2014.

This visit was in accordance with the AfDB’s Strategy (2013-2022) to “have technology and science ... at the center of the Bank’s skills development agenda [in Africa].” RISE, which seeks to prepare scientists and engineers to staff and strengthen African universities, and build capacity in science, technology and innovation as a key to economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, sought out AfDB as a strategic partner. As a RISE-affiliate the Duke Africa Initiative stands to gain from fostering this collaboration. During her time at Duke, Nawsheen spoke with many faculty members about their ongoing projects across the continent, specifically noting those faculty members whose work focuses on education, science, technology, and/or health. Since this visit, AfDB and RISE are organizing the Second High Level Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation in Africa, which will be held in Rabat, Morocco, on October 14-17 of this year. The Africa Initiative will be sending a representative at that time.

2. **University of KwaZulu Natal Delegation** | Jay Golden, Victor Taylor, Tom Healey. The Africa Initiative hosted a lunch meeting with a delegation of visitors from UKZN brought under the auspices of the Associate Vice Research for Provost, Jay Golden.

**I. Forward Thinking:**

This next year we will continue to build on our successes, further entrenching some of our programs into the fabric of Duke's community. We will also introduce two new programs that are relatively well formulated at this point. First, we will start a seminar series probably titled, "The AI Seminar: African Cities and their Hinterlands." This seminar will be co-sponsored by Franklin Humanities Institute. Second, in conjunction with Duke Performances, we will bring at least three Malian performers to Duke, with their visits combining a large public performance and salons during which their craft and message will be discussed.

While our funding is secure for 2014-5, we will attend to raising funds for future years.