SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGY GROUP REPORT

YEAR 4

Membership

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Vanessa Allen-Brown  Associate Professor of Education
Michael Battle  Provost, Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Vivek Choudhury  Associate Dean, Lindner College of Business
Nnamdi Elleh  Associate Professor of Architecture
Prince Ellis  Assistant Professor of Economics
Habtu Ghebre-ab  Professor of History, UC Clermont
John Kalubi  Associate Teaching Professor of Africana Studies
John McNay  Professor of History
Lizzie Ngwenya-Scoburgh  Assistant Professor of Business & Economics
Joseph Takougang  Professor of Africana Studies
Victoria Wangia-Anderson  Associate Professor of Analytic & Diagnostic Sciences
Jonathan Weller  Director, International Admissions

Related Local Organizations

African Institute for Urban Studies
African Foundation USA
African Professionals Network
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
SOTENI
Village Life Outreach Project

Activities of Focus for Next Few Years

- Develop activities with new Ethiopian partner, University of Gondar
- Identify partner in Ghana
- Work on next steps with Botswana International University of Science & Technology
- Bring ambassadors to campus
- Develop more faculty-led study abroad student opportunities
- Bring 5-10 students from partner institutions annually
- Encourage faculty collaboration
2015-16 Sub-Saharan Africa Strategy Group Summary

Botswana

Botswana International University for Science & Technology (BIUST)

BIUST is a new university in northeastern Botswana that at this time last year was still under construction. Working with a young institution provides UC an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with them as they are developing. Last year, the Provost headed a large delegation to visit BIUST. Followed by a strategy group member taking a group of students to engage with the community. That event was an incredibly meaningful experience for the students: each of them having an opportunity to teach a class in their major to middle school students in Palapye. This trip will be repeated again in May.

Now that BIUST has had another year to build out, we hope to start identifying collaborative opportunities in earnest – both for students and faculty alike. Currently the UC Engineers without Borders chapter is applying to the national organization to be able to do work in Botswana in addition to their work in Tanzania.

We are honored to be receiving a visit May 19-20 from His Excellency David John Newman, Ambassador to the U.S. from Botswana. We will be discussing best next steps with him as this relationship progresses.

And, we continue to stay in contact with alumna Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, former Ambassador to the U.S. She remains a vital connection and loyal resource for us in Botswana, both now and in the future.

Ghana

This year the strategy group has been investigating Ghana as a potential location for another relationship in Sub-Saharan Africa. A sub-group, including a native Ghanaian, Prince Ellis, looked at all the universities in Ghana and developed a short-list of four that they recommended looking at more closely. Those four are:

- University of Ghana (UG)
- The University of Cape Coast (UCC)
- Kwame Nkruma University of Science & Technology
- University for Development Studies (UDS)

We are currently planning a delegation to Ghana to visit UDS and potentially UG as well. UDS is an interesting opportunity, being a young university (est. 1992) with a focus on sustainable development. In just 24 years it has grown to an enrollment of 20,000. It serves the northern regions of Ghana, an area in which rural poverty and environmental degradation are generally prevalent. UDS intends to blaze a new trail in higher education by effectively combining academic work with practical hands-on training, experience and work among these communities.

The University of Ghana (est. 1948) is the premier institution in Ghana with an enrollment of 30,000+. Like UC, they have launched a strategic plan in recent years. Their vision is to become an excellent research-intensive university over the next decade.

Ethiopia

University of Gondar (UoG)

UoG is one of the oldest universities in Ethiopia (est. 1954). They began as a public health college and training center but have evolved to a university with 22,000+ students. In addition to medicine and health sciences, they offer business and economics, social sciences, humanities, education, law, technology, agriculture and natural and computational science. Just recently a 14-member service learning group went to Gondar and had a very positive experience.

Our former attempt to partner with an Ethiopian university has not evolved as we would like. But we still want to try to find an enthusiastic Ethiopian partner. Why? There are many good reasons, chief among them:

- It has great historical significance, having long been a crossroads of civilization
- It is the headquarters of the African Union
- It has the second largest population in Africa
- English is the language of instruction in secondary and higher education

Sub-Saharan Africa Student Enrollment – Fall 2015

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