South Africa Program Update

University of Missouri System and University of the Western Cape

January 2013

A report from the University of Missouri South African Education Program Committee

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- Dr. Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe, Missouri S&T
- Dr. James K. Scott, MU
- Dr. Judith McCormick, UMKC
- Mr. Michael Middleton, MU
- Dr. Richard Oliver, MU
- Dr. Lois Pierce, UMSL
- Dr. Jeanie Hofer, Missouri S&T
- Dr. Nicholas Peroff, UMKC
- Dr. Linna Place, UMKC
- Dr. Gwen Turner, UMSL
- Dr. Greg Gelles, Missouri S&T
- Professor Rodney Uphoff, Director, UMSAEP

INSIDE
2012 – Study Abroad Initiatives .................. 1
Leolyn Jackson ................................. 5
UWC Students in Missouri ...................... 5
Cape Town curanderas ......................... 6
2012 Faculty Exchanges ......................... 8
UM/UWC Partnership News ................. 10
Death of Former UWC Rector ............... 11
News In Brief .................................. 12
UM/UWC Faculty Exchange Summary Update ...... 14
Mitchell Scholarships .......................... 14

2012 – Study Abroad Initiatives

Since its inception in 1986, the University of Missouri (UM) and University of the Western Cape (UWC) relationship has focused primarily on faculty exchanges. These exchanges have led to curricular advances, new course offerings and new approaches to reaching and teaching students. In addition, these faculty exchanges have promoted research collaborations that have both produced a considerable amount of scholarships as well as secured some significant external funding.

In 2012, most of our faculty exchanges involved research collaborations that we expect to generate a number of articles. Groups of UM/UWC faculty members also worked together on several grant proposals designed to obtain significant funding that
would allow them to tackle some serious social-economic issues. Our long history of successfully working together puts us in an excellent position to compete for outside grants. Last May, UWC’s Deputy Vice Chancellor Ramesh Bharuthram, MU International Center Director Jim Scott and UMSAEP Director Rodney Uphoff met in Pretoria with USAID officials and with officials of the South African Department of Science and Technology to impress upon them the strength of our partnership. Bharuthram and Uphoff will continue to work with faculty members of both institutions to build research collaborations that can successfully compete for grants and work with government officials, foundations and the private sector to identify additional funding sources that will enable us to address major problems that face South Africa, Africa, Missouri and the world.

2012 was marked, however, by increased attention to study abroad opportunities for our students. Certainly past newsletters have highlighted various student exchanges that have enriched the lives of the UWC or UM students that participated. 2012 saw the highest number of students traveling to South Africa in the history of this partnership. Thus, this newsletter will feature two ongoing study abroad programs along with two new programs launched in 2012.

MU Law Program

2012 marked the ninth year that law students from the University of Missouri School of Law and other American law schools studied at UWC in a comparative law program with South African law students. For the American students, the program lasted from June 7 to July 15. The 20 American students first took a Comparative Constitution Law course taught by UWC Professors Patricia Lenaghan and Wessel LeRoux. This course introduced the American students to the South African constitution and the South African legal system. In the second course, Comparative Criminal Justice Administration, 15 UWC students joined the American students. This course, taught by UWC Dean Julia Sloth-Nielsen and MU Professor Rodney Uphoff, focused on similarities and differences in the South African and American criminal justice system. Finally, the American students and a different group of 20 UWC students took a course entitled Alternative Dispute Resolution team taught by MU Professor Jim Levin and UWC Lecturer Hakim Salum. This course introduced the students to different mechanisms in each country, outside of the traditional legal system, to resolve disputes.

As in past years, students from both countries enthusiastically endorsed the program and the courses. The students value the opportunity to broaden their perspective by learning how similar issues are addressed in another country’s legal system. They relish the chance to discuss and debate issues with students and professors from another country. Perhaps most importantly, students from both countries describe how their experience broke down stereotypes they held about the other country and its people before the program. The program clearly not only benefits the American students who have traveled to UWC, but also the UWC students who gain from exposure to and interaction with their American counterparts and professors.
**UMKC Public Health Program**

In 2011, Mike Wood, a Senior Fellow at UMKC’s Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, and his colleague, Professor Arif Ahmed, launched their study abroad program at UWC. In June 2012, Wood returned to UWC with six UMKC students. Wood again worked with a number of UWC faculty, including Gail Hughes, David Sanders and Ehi Igumbor to provide the UMKC students an extraordinary experience. Among the highlights were a field trip to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, a lecture from a traditional healer and doing lab work in UWC’s magnificent Life Sciences Building. Firdouza Waggie and Gerard Filies from UWC’s Interdisciplinary Teaching & Learning Unit coordinated much of Wood’s course. Among the other highlights of their visit were trips to clinics and programs in the townships and an overnight stay in Genadendal, a rural community located two hours from Cape Town. Wood’s students found the classroom sessions very good, but praised above all the opportunities to observe and interact with the South Africans.

**Missouri S&T**

In June 2012, Professor Greg Gelles, a member of the UMSAEP committee and chair of Missouri University of Science and Technology’s (Missouri S&T) Economics Department, took 15 Missouri S&T students to UWC for a two week program. Professor Gelles was accompanied by his colleague, Professor Lance Haynes, Chair of the Arts, Language and Philosophy Department at Missouri S&T. Gelles, along with his UWC collaborator, Professor Ephias Makandze, team taught a course, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics. Professor Haynes also taught a course: Intercultural Communications.

In addition to classroom sessions that were also attended by some of Professor Makandze’s students, the students went on field trips to the Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant, to the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, to Table Mountain and to the winelands. They also spent a day exploring a
polluted river near Houtbay, a wetlands area in Noordhoek and a storm water pool in Khayelitsha.

The opportunity to see the environmental challenges that the South Africans face was fascinating for the students, particularly in light of the socio-economic problems that South Africa also must address. Given the incredible beauty, biodiversity and cultural diversity in the Cape Town area, it truly is an amazing place for students to take these two courses. Professors Gelles and Haynes hope to be able to offer a similar program in the future.

**MU College of Engineering**

In June 2012, Marty Walker, Director of Administrative Services for MU’s College of Engineering, and J.R. Swanegan, Jr., the college’s study abroad director, took eight MU engineering students to South Africa on a trip of a lifetime. The students went to Kruger National Park and then to the Kusile power plant being built outside of Johannesburg. This plant, a project of Black & Veatch, an engineering firm based in Kansas City, will be one of the largest coal fired power plants in the world. The students were hosted at the plant by two MU educated engineers.

But for the students, the most memorable part of the trip was the three day science camp that the MU students put on for high school students in one of Cape Town’s poorest townships, Mitchells Plain. The MU students introduced the South African high schoolers to basic engineering concepts by showing them how to dismantle a disposable camera, testing boats made of water bottles and engaging the students in entertaining activities. The goal was to stimulate interest in science and to show the students what engineers do. The MU students’ journals reflect what an invaluable experience it was for them. Without the assistance of Dr. Firdouza Waggie, Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning Unit in UWC’s Faculty of Community and Health Sciences, and her colleague, Gerard Fillies, Service Learning Sites Coordinator of UWC’s Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning Unit, Walker and Swanegan would not have been able to offer their students this incredible experience.

To read more about this trip, please visit: www.columbiatribune.com/news/education/engineering-school-takes-lessons-abroad/article_69e1f234-b195-5143-8a0d-487b1a3f42f5.html
Leolyn Jackson

Last year saw the appointment of Leolyn Jackson to the position of UWC’s Director of International Relations. A 1987 Honors graduate of UWC in Theology, he began as a lecturer at the school in Hebrew and Old Testament studies in 1988. He then managed UWC’s Student Enrollment Management Unit from 2000 until 2007 when he was named Director of the Southern African Nordic Center, an international consortium involving 34 members from eight African countries and five Nordic countries.

Leolyn traveled to Missouri in April and stopped at each of UM’s four campuses. Although it was a whirlwind visit, Leolyn very much enjoyed this opportunity to see firsthand each campus and to meet some of the many UM people touched by this relationship. He found the visit invigorating and it left him with an ever greater appreciation for the depth of the partnership.

UWC Students in Missouri

It is more of a challenge for UWC students to get to one of the Missouri campuses than it is for UM students to travel to UWC. Most of the UWC students who have traveled to Missouri over the past two decades have been Henry Mitchell Scholars. This past year Bryce Sage and Delray Zeeman both attended MU as part of the program. Both spoke glowingly of their time at MU.

In May 2012, UWC law students Stella Zondi and Noluthando Xolilizwe received a Masters of Laws in Dispute Resolution at MU School of Law’s graduation ceremony. In August, Thendo Tshivhengwa enrolled as the 12th UWC recipient of a fellowship to study in the MU’s School of Law Dispute Resolution LLM program. This fellowship is supported by gifts to the MU School of Law by Fred White, Geoffrey Oelsner and Robert Lande.

The UWC LLM graduates have done amazing things upon their return to South Africa. Two have taught law at UWC, one has clerked for the South African Constitutional Court, one is the first UWC law grad to work for Webber Wentzel, one of the most prestigious firms in Johannesburg, and another is working on her PhD.
South African students research plant-based medicines at Mizzou

Cape Town curanderas

University of the Western Cape students Happy Mamadisa (left) and Dineo Nkholise spent the summer researching plant-based medicine in a Mizzou Undergraduate Research program.

Never before has anyone traveled as far as Dineo Nkholise and Monyamaku Mamadisa to take part in MU’s Undergraduate Research summer programs.

On May 28 Nkholise and Mamadisa left Cape Town, South Africa, for a 24-hour trip to Mizzou, where the two University of the Western Cape students would spend the summer conducting research.

Historic partnership

In 1986, the University of Missouri System began an academic and research exchange program with the University of the Western Cape. The agreement was signed during the restrictive South African Apartheid and was the first such agreement between a U.S. university and a historically black South African university.

Through the program, faculty members from each university spend time on the sister university's campus. More than 365 faculty exchange visits have taken place between MU and UWC so far.

Nkholise and Mamadisa are the first undergraduate research students to participate in the exchange program. They have spent two months on the Mizzou campus, conducting research with the MU Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences (MU-iCATS).

“It is a great experience,” Nkholise says. “It’s a chance to travel to a new place and a great opportunity to get a different type of research experience.”

Students from Mizzou’s School of Law and College of Engineering are currently at the University of the Western Cape, and MU plans to send medical students to UWC in the next few years.
The trip from Cape Town to Columbia took Nkholise and Mamadisa though London, Chicago and St. Louis before they arrived in Columbia, their home for the summer.

“I found Missouri so welcoming. It felt like home,” says Mamadisa, who goes by the nickname Happy.

It may have felt like home, but it didn’t look like it.

“The campus is quite big,” says Nkholise, at least twice as big as her home university. “The buildings and the infrastructure are a lot bigger here.”

The two students are living in Defoe-Graham Hall, which Nkholise compares to a hotel and Mamadisa describes as “glamorous.”

Both students are working with Zezong Gu, a professor in the School of Medicine, on botanical-related translational research projects.

“Dineo and Happy are doing challenging work,” Gu says, “but they are already familiar with the techniques and are working to generate meaningful data.”

Mamadisa examines herbal botanical medicines often used by traditional healers in South Africa to see if they have any effect on preventing strokes. Nkholise tests botanical extracts to observe their influence on different types of cells and determine whether they can be used to cure diseases.

“We are running analysis to see if botanical extracts can be used for larger-scale experiments and test for diseases,” Nkholise says. “This is all new to me. It is really exciting.”

Nkholise describes the lab as very organized. Both young scientists plan to take what they have learned from working in Gu’s lab and use it to improve the function and efficiency of their lab back home.

“It’s definitely very different,” Nkholise says about the research at Missouri. “I learn something new every day.”

Jiankun Cui, a professor in the School of Medicine, is working with both students and is the leading author on Mamadisa’s study.

In addition to conducting research, students participating in summer programs through the Office of Undergraduate Research have opportunities to take part in seminars and workshops, as well as several social functions.

Nkholise and Mamadisa have toured Columbia, taken a trip to Kansas City and found time for shopping. While there is fun to be had, their experience at Missouri will be judged by their work in the lab.

“There is a lot invested in sending us here,” Nkholise says. “So, it is expected that we come back with additional skills.”

Nkholise will go back to researching botanical plants, focusing mostly on African-traditional plants, when she returns to UWC, where she is studying whether people who are diabetic may use alternative forms of medicine.

“I am trying to analyze what they use, what the reasons are and what their perceptions of Western medicines and African medicines are,” she explains.

Mamadisa, who is in her first year as a master’s student at Western Cape, is working on a research project to identify traditional herbal medicines for mental illness.

“I’m planning to go into the field and collect data to see what kind of medical plants can help treat mental illness,” she says.

After completing school, both Mamadisa and Nkholise are interested in careers in public health.
Before that they will share their experiences at Mizzou with classmates and friends back home and to encourage others to take advantage of the opportunity of studying at MU.

“It has been great,” Nkholise says. “I’ve made contacts that will aid me in the future. I am truly grateful.”

Mamadisa adds, “I wish I could come back. I’m just so absorbed in my research here.”

2012 Faculty Exchanges

In 2012, as in prior years, UM and UWC faculty members participated in a number of productive exchanges. The two following examples highlight the kind of collaborations that have been the hallmark of this partnership:

**Vicki Carstens/Loyiso Mletshe**

Both MU Professor Vicki Carstens and UWC Professor Loyiso Mletshe were awarded UMSAEP linkage grants in 2012 to fund their collaborative work on the Xhosa language. Professor Mletshe is in the Xhosa Language Department at UWC while Dr. Carstens is a professor in MU’s College of Arts & Science and Chair of MU’s Interdepartmental Linguistics Program.

Professor Carstens made two trips to UWC in spring 2012 to work with Dr. Mletshe and his graduate students in the Xhosa Language Department. Carstens and Mletshe have been collaborating to construct the linguistic structure of the Xhosa language. Dr. Mletshe summarized their project as follows:

“The project focused on the distribution of nominal expressions, determiner phrases (DPs), in null subject languages so as to determine their characteristics in morpho-
syntactic relations with special reference to Xhosa preverbal subject position. Previous studies by linguists such as Baker 1996, 2003 & Schneider –Zioga 2007 have maintained that Bantu preverbal subjects exhibit A(rgument) properties and are always topicalized or left dislocated. This view by these linguists has not been conclusive in so far as demonstrating how DPs behave in other languages such as Xhosa.

The primary goal of the project was to examine the DP properties of a range of Bantu languages so as to establish the similarities and areas of divergence in these languages. This meant that we had to look at non-Bantu Niger – Congo and Afro-Asiatic languages as such a study would provide a considerable data for further analyses, thereby enabling us to test our findings. To achieve this goal, the project had to compile a generic Xhosa data which dealt with the properties of the subject in all its manifestations. A questionnaire was compiled to engage the native speakers of Xhosa on these pertinent issues without being pedagogic on the participants.”

On June 22 and 23, the University of Missouri hosted its first African Linguistics Workshop. The conference, organized by Carstens, was planned to coincide with Dr. Mletshe’s visit to Missouri. The workshop provided Dr. Mletshe an opportunity to meet some of the linguists in the US who work on African linguistics and for Carstens and Mletshe to present their joint project.

The conference presentations focused on the unique syntax (phrase and sentence-level grammar) and phonology (sound systems) of several African languages including Zulu and Xhosa (South Africa), Manyika (Zimbabwe), several varieties of Luyia (western Kenya), Kikerewe (Tanzania), Pular (Guinea), and Chichewa (Malawi). According to Carstens, the workshop “turned out to be a very stimulating and at the same time a fun event. My concept was to host something big enough to be lively but small enough to foster and strengthen collegial ties and scholarly exchange.”

There was a special session of talks based on papers written in the Spring 2012 course Field Methods in Linguistics taught by MU Professor Michael Marlo. Field Methods is the capstone course for the undergraduate major in linguistics. In it, students learn to document and analyze an unfamiliar language from scratch. This year the class worked on Tiriki, a variety of Luyia. The conference participants were all impressed that the students produced work worthy of presentation at a professional meeting. One of the student presenters, Jonah Bates, and one of the audience members, Isabel Hoss, are participating in the Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program with Michael Marlo as their mentor, continuing work they began in the Field Methods class on Tiriki.

Carstens and Mletshe are working on a lengthy manuscript which they hope will be ready for publication soon.

To read more about the University of Missouri South African Educaation Program, please visit, our website: [www.umsystem.edu/ums/aa/southafrica/](http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/aa/southafrica/)

**Carole Murphy**

UMSL Professor Carole Murphy also received a linkage grant in 2012 to work with her colleague, Professor Pat Boyer and with their UWC colleagues Professor Lorna Holtman, Director of UWC’s Postgraduate Studies and Professor Beverly Thaver, UWC’s Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies, on an innovative distance learning seminar with graduate students from both UMSL and UWC.
The first course, EDUC, offered in the beginning of 2012, was designed to help beginning graduate students get started on their doctoral process. The course heightened the students’ perspectives of the similar challenges they face while also giving them a broader understanding of the skills and competencies needed to obtain their doctoral degree. Although some technical issues complicated communication, the students and professors saw great value in the stimulating discussions and interactions between faculty and students from another country.

A second course conducted via video conference was held in the later part of 2012. Again after overcoming some technical glitches, the course proved to be a great success. The students used My Gateway and other social media to communicate and to work on course projects together. The student response to the course was very enthusiastic. Professors Murphy, Boyer, Thaver and Holtman anticipate publishing an article regarding this collaborative course and hope that it will stimulate their students research efforts.

UM/UWC Partnership News

On May 8, 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered an important speech at UWC. Following that speech, Deputy Vice Chancellor Ramesh Bharuthram publicly thanked Mrs. Clinton and during his remarks made special mention of the role that the UM/UWC partnership had played in UWC’s growth as an institution. Mrs. Clinton spoke to Dr. Bharuthram about our partnership as she was leaving UWC after her speech.

In October, the South African Ambassador to the United States Ebrahim Rasool visited Kansas City. Accompanying Ambassador Rasool were three members of the South African Consulate in Chicago. During a lunch meeting, which included UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton, Mike Wood and Professor Uphoff among others, Ambassador Rasool spoke of the important role that UM has played in South Africa with its partner UWC.

In September, UWC’s Roy Maartens, who holds the prestigious National Research Foundation (NRF) Research Chair in Astrophysics and Astronomy at UWC, delivered the Justin Huang Memorial Lecture in Columbia. His visit represented another important step in a growing collaboration between the MU Physics Department and that at UWC. Professor Maartens was awarded an A-Rating by the South African NRF, the first person ever from UWC to receive that rating. To receive such a rating, the scholar must be a leading international researcher who is unequivocally recognized by peers as an international leader based on the high quality and impact of his or her research.

UWC Deputy Vice Chancellor Bharuthram also serves as the head of the Astronomy Desk at the South African Department of Science and Technology. Thus, UWC is an important player in astronomy in the country which will soon host the world’s largest telescope network. For more information about the SKA project and its potential, see www.skatelescope.org.
Death of Former UWC Rector

Professor Jakes Gerwel, the former UWC Rector, passed away on November 28, 2012. He received an Honorary Degree from MU in 2002. The following post from the UWC website describes some of the accomplishments of this remarkable man:

“The University of the Western Cape mourns the passing of one of its most eminent alumni, Professor Jakes Gerwel. He was associated with UWC for most of his adult life, and was instrumental in its transformation from an apartheid institution to a leading intellectual resource for the new nation. He was an inspiring teacher, pioneering new approaches to his discipline of literary studies. At the same time, he was fully engaged in intellectual and practical ways with the struggle for freedom. At a time when the slogan “Liberation before education” was widely heard, Vice-Chancellor Gerwel led UWC to articulating a confident vision of itself as an intellectual place hospitable to socio-political visions excluded from the South African mainstream of the time. His actions resonated through the South African higher education system, inspiring significant changes in other institutions.

When democracy triumphed, the respect for his leadership was evident in his being appointed Director General in the Office of President Mandela, a task he performed with distinction. Since then, he has been a prominent public intellectual, contributing thoughtful articles to the press, speaking in a wide variety of forums, and continuing to lead as Distinguished Professor of Humanities at UWC and as Chancellor of Rhodes University. Jakes Gerwel will be sorely missed. Professor Gerwel became Rector and Vice-Chancellor of UWC in 1987 at the height of apartheid in South Africa.

His seven years in that role saw an unambiguous alignment with the mass democratic movement and a new edge to the academic project. It also saw the growth of UWC as a community of staff and students active in the transformation project. Under the banner of "an intellectual home of the left", space was created for curriculum renewal and for innovative research and outreach projects. Important social and policy issues which had been swept under the carpet by the government of the day received attention. A body of pertinent research was thus available as a basis for policy after the first
democratic elections. Under Jakes Gerwel’s leadership UWC also pioneered ways of making university education more widely accessible, and accepting the challenge of helping students thus admitted to surmount their difficulties and succeed. Early in his term as Vice-Chancellor, UWC defied government segregation policy and opened its doors to all races. A period of rapid growth followed, with students coming from all around the country: UWC had become a national university. The teaching and learning challenges were (and continue to be) both demanding and exciting. Despite severe constraints, students from disadvantaged communities graduated in increasing numbers, equipped to make a professional contribution to the new South Africa. President Nelson Mandela lauded UWC for having transformed itself "from an apartheid ethnic institution to a proud national asset.”

Professor Brian O’Connell, current Rector and Vice-Chancellor said: “I’m saddened by this painful loss. Jakes and I studied and worked together for many years. He was not only my colleague but my friend. Our vibrant relationship dates back to the ‘60s when we were both student leaders at the University College of the Western Cape (now known as the University of the Western Cape). We have lost a great intellectual at a time when our country sorely needs critical voices of reason and steadfast optimism like Jakes. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to his Phoebe, his children and the extended Gerwel family during this difficult time.”

Internet Resources on South Africa
- African Internet Connectivity: www3.sn.apc.org/africa
- The South Africa Initiative Office (U. of Michigan): www.umich.edu/~saioum
- Independent Online News: www.iol.co.za/
- UMSAEP: www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/aa/southafrica
- The University of the Western Cape: www.uwc.ac.za

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Linkage Awards**

The UMSAEP Committee met via video conference with UWC Deputy Vice-Chancellor Ramesh Bharuthram on September 6, 2012, in Columbia to select participants for the 2013 faculty exchange. The committee authorized UMSAEP awards to five UWC faculty members and nine UM faculty members.

UWC faculty receiving UMSAEP awards (UM hosts in parentheses)
- Hazel Bradley (Jack Fincham - UMKC)
- Gail Hughes (William Folk – MU)
- Leslie Petrik/Ojo Fabota (Kwame Awuah-Offei – Missouri S&T)
- Salam Titinchi (Paul Sharp – MU)
- Henriette Weber (Joanna Mendoza, Arianna String Quartet - UMSL)
UM faculty receiving UMSAEP awards (UWC hosts in parentheses):

- Angela Coker – UMSL (Tamara Shefer)
- Niyi Coker – UMSL (Leolyn Jackson)
- Patricia Kelly – UMKC (O. Adejumo and J.M. Frantz)
- Lise Saffran – MU (Ehimario Igumbor)
- Lenny Sanchez – MU (Vuyokazi Nomlomo and Sivakuman Sivasuramaniam)
- Nancy Shields – UMSL (Kathy Nadasen)
- Nicholas Watanabe – MU (Marion Keim)

In addition, the committee also awarded two 2013 South African Partnership grants:

- Natalie Bolton – UMSL
- Kenneth Thomas – UMSL

UM and UWC Visitors


2012 UWC visitors to UM campuses include the following: Sahar Abdul-Rasool, Rolene Bauer, Taliep Hattas, Leolyn Jackson, Shaun Jonkers, Nebo Jovanovic, Marcel Londt, Monyamaku Mamadisa, Loyiso Kevin Mletshe, Kelvin Mwaba, Dineo Nkholise, Viresh Ramburan, Nicolette Roman, Doug Sanyahumbi, Jacob Thampi, Thendo Tshivhengwa.
UM/UWC Faculty Exchange Summary Update:

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Mitchell Scholarship Application 2013-2014 Deadlines Announced

UWC’s Delray Zeeman and Sage Bryce and UMKC Madeline Leal were selected as Henry Mitchell Scholars this past year.

The application deadline for the winter 2014 semester is September 15, 2013.

An application form is available to download at www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/aa/southafrica/request.shtml#3. A completed application should be sent to the international office on your campus.