Undergraduate Researches Community Development in Ghana

Elaine Brantley, an interdisciplinary studies senior, traveled to Ghana in May of 2007 to participate as an interviewer in a community-based research project in Central Ghana. The deciding factor in her participation was an undergraduate research grant from the College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA).

The two-week study abroad program, titled "Ghana: Community Development in Ghana: Planning the Minoratánanso Cultural Center of Techiman," was supervised by Dr. Robert Gino, director of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). The project was a collaboration of scholars from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Kwame Nkrumah Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). The project was a collaboration of scholars from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, as well as community leaders and citizens of the Techiman region.

Brantley interviewed stakeholders in the community about the proposed cultural center, which will provide a space for the expression and celebration of the region’s diverse religious and ethnic diversity. After graduating from MSU, Brantley plans to attend medical school and begin a career in international medicine.

"It is through the lens of their cultures, as well as bodies," said Brantley. "It is through understanding of global issues and has him thinking about what he can do to contribute to the human development of other countries. As a student, Singh was able to see the impact MSU can provide to countries around the world."

"We the People" Challenge Grant Met!

The College of Social Science is excited to announce that the "We the People" Challenge Grant has been met! Thanks to the generosity and support of MSU alumni and friends, the College has raised the three million dollars necessary for this initiative.

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Sarah Blom, Senior Director of Development & Alumni Relations
U.S. News
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U.S. News
Message from the Dean

Welcome to the redesigned MSU College of Social Sciences newsletter—Newsletter! This newsletter will be issued twice a year, in the fall and spring, to share news with alumni and friends about the social, behavioral, and economic sciences at MSU. Outstanding alumni, faculty, and programs continue to shape the foundation of the College, and we hope you are inspired, like us, by stories of people and places around the world.

Our efforts to engage undergraduates and graduate students in their social science learning experience continue due to the hard work of an outstanding group of scholars and teachers. We have 1,108 new faculty members this fall, and this has had an enormous impact on the college and what we can accomplish.

The College recently appointed Christopher Maxwell, an associate professor in the School of Criminal Justice, as Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Maxwell will be creating a new plan to support faculty as they seek external funding for their research. Bill Caliendo began his new role as Director of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations in August 2008. Bill has already begun to pursue exciting initiatives that are catching the attention of the corporate sector and faculty and worked with the faculty to craft a new strategic plan for the School. Ellen Govek, a professor in the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, recently received an achievement award at the Academy of Management for her significant scholarly contributions the field of gender and diversity in organizations.

Outstanding Alumna and Professor Honorod

Alumna Remembers Alma Mater

When Social Science ’74 alumna Ann Parker thinks of MSU, she smiles. “An incredible season of life for me,” she says, and she’s not exaggerating. In 1971, Parker graduated with a major in anthropology, visiting http://anthropology.msu.edu/.

Four years later, she returned to MSU to pursue a master’s degree in criminal justice. “I got into both programs and was very excited to be back again,” she says. “I knew I wanted to stay.”

Parker was a graduate assistant in the School of Criminal Justice and worked on a project that looked at the relationship between police attitudes and crime rates. “It was a revelation to see how the research and data could be used to make a difference in the community,” she says.

In 1975, Parker began her career as a program director for the Missouri Department of Corrections. She worked on several high-profile cases, including the trial of James Byrnes, a prominent Mossadite who had been accused of murder. “I was able to gain valuable experience in the court system and learned a lot about the legal system,” she says.

Parker’s dedication to her work and her commitment to making a difference in the community continued as she moved up the ranks in the field. She eventually became the director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, a position she held for 20 years. During her tenure, she oversaw the implementation of new policies and procedures that improved the lives of inmates and reduced recidivism rates.

Parker’s contributions to the field of criminal justice were recognized with numerous awards, including the Missouri Bar Association’s Distinguished Service Award. “It was an honor to be recognized for my work,” she says.

Parker retired from her position at the Department of Corrections in 2007 and is currently a consultant for criminal justice organizations. “I love being able to continue to make a difference in people’s lives through my work,” she says.

Parker encourages others to consider a career in criminal justice and to make a difference in their communities. “There is no substitute for the sense of pride and satisfaction you feel when you know you are making a difference in someone’s life,” she says.

Parker is looking forward to retirement and enjoying more time with her family and friends. “I’m excited to have more time to travel and spend time with my grandchildren,” she says.

Social Science Alumni Association Update

As President of the College of Social Sciences Alumni Association (CSSAA), I encourage you to stay connected. We have a network of 6,000 diverse alumni in varied fields, living around the world. We are involved with this dynamic network of Social Scientists by keeping up with our current events calendar, remaining a fellow of a charitable organization, or contributing a tax-deductible gift that is put to use by the College.

In addition, we hope you will consider joining or renewing your membership in the MSU Alumni Association. By selecting Social Sciences as your constituent group, you become a part of a diverse alumni community that supports the excellence of MSU.

As the year comes to a close, please consider making a gift to MSU. Your gift helps support the educational mission of the College and enables us to continue providing top-quality education to our students. We thank you for your support and look forward to continued success.

Go Green and Stay Connected!

Professors Making a Difference

Dr. Norm Sawyer, Dr. David Foran and their colleagues in the multidisciplinary Forensic Science Program are attempting to solve crimes from past and present. The program is renowned and their expertise is highly sought after for high-profile cases such as the September 11 World Trade Center Attack and the reconstruction of the Hiroshima Platform.

In 2006, Sawyer, Dr. Todd Faust, Dr. William Lewis, and a team of graduate students assisted in the investigation of a Michigan farm suspected of committing the murder of female farmer Vaclav kost. Sawyer and Faust were brought in by the Michigan Attorney General to assist with the investigation. They were able to provide the State with critical information that was used to successfully prosecute three of the accused farmers.

Last year, their work was also used to state-of-the-art DNA analysis to find the remains of a victim of the 1991 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. They were able to identify the remains of a victim of the 1991 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. They were able to identify the remains of a victim of the 1991 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. They were able to identify the remains of a victim of the 1991 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

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Welcome to the undated MSU College of Social Science newsletter. This newsletter will be issued twice a year, in the fall and spring to share news with alumni and friends about the social, behavioral, and economic sciences at MSU. Outstanding faculty, students, and programs continue to be a hallmark of the College, and we hope you are inspired by and proud of their achievements and the ways in which you share with us.

Our efforts to engage undergraduates and graduate students to advance in social science learning experience continue to draw the world’s outstanding group of scholars and students. We hope you have enjoyed the new faculty member that’s come on board at the college and who can contribute.

The College recently appointed Christopher Maxwell, an associate professor in the School of Criminal Justice, as Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Maxwell’s appointment is another step forward in the College of Social Science’s strategic plan, Executive Agenda, to establish a research enterprise and enhance its national and international standing. Undergraduate student Kaitlyn Wood also recently received a scholarship for her work in social science.

Outstanding Alumni on Our Team

Alumna Remembers Alma Mater

When Social Science (’74) alums Ann Parker thinks of MSU, a crop full weekend on campus immediately comes to mind, as well as the exciting intellectual environment provided each year. Every time a social science graduate, she has celebrated the holidays with her friends from her freshman years in McIlhenny Hall.

As Parker reflects back to those days on campus, she recently documented a generous gift plan to the College by making a planned gift. She honored her late father, Oscar Parker, by including the bequest to the College of Social Science general fund, providing ultimate flexibility on how the money can be used in the future.

To read more or to nominate someone for the Outstanding Alumni and Teaching Awards, visit www.socialsciences.msu.edu/alma-mater.

Go Green and Stay Connected!

The College of Social Science at Michigan State University is a community of scholars committed to creating, disseminating, and applying knowledge in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Our faculty and students are making important contributions to solving some of the world’s most pressing problems.

Your Support Means So Much

As you look for the many consider making planned gifts to their favorite nonprofit organizations. We hope that the MSU College of Social Science is one of your thoughts as you make your year-end tax-deductible contributions. Through the generosity of donors, your personal support can make a difference in the lives of our students, each year.

Alumni, friends, and faculty members of the MSU College of Social Science are making a difference in the lives of our students. Your support means so much to us! We hope you’ll join us in making a planned gift today via our secure website. Thank you for your support and dedication to MSU and the College of Social Science!
Undergraduate Researches Community Development in Ghana

Elaine Brantley, an interdisciplinary studies senior, traveled to Ghana in May of 2007 to participate in an internship as a community-based research project in central Ghana. The deciding factor in her participation was an undergraduate research grant from the College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA). The two-week study abroad program, titled "Grassroots Development in Ghana: Planning the Nonviolent Community Center of Techiman," was supervised by Dr. Robert Glew, director of the Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). The project was a collaboration of scholars from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, as well as community leaders and citizens of the Techiman region.

Brantley interviewed stakeholders in the community about the proposed cultural center, which will provide a space for the expression and celebration of the region’s diverse religious and ethnic diversity. After graduating from MSU, Brantley plans to attend medical school and begin a career in international medicine. She hopes to use her education as a tool for aiding countries and communities in the fight against disease and poverty.

Brantley’s experience with MSU has greatly extended her knowledge of the world. "I have learned to have a better understanding of the issues facing the international community through travel, conversation, conferences, and volunteering."

Brantley’s experiences will be invaluable as she continues her education and career. "I am hoping to have a better understanding of the issues facing the international community through travel, conversation, conferences, and volunteering."

The generous CSSAA grant is awarded each year to support undergraduate research or internships in developing countries. "I am hoping to have a better understanding of another culture. The generous CSSAA grant is awarded each year to support undergraduate research or internships in developing countries."

MSU created a desire in Singh to see all of the places he read about as he studied Asian history and religious studies, stoking a passion for travel that had been instilled by his parents. "I always allow travel. Being in a new country, learning about another culture, and being out of my comfort zone are incredible challenges and an amazing thrill."

His History degree influenced his political career. Singh remembers learning about historical figures who acted upon strong values: "The writings of Robert Kennedy motivated me to fight for things that weren’t always popular. I remember class conversations about the decisions that Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt made. We discussed whether they were the right decisions for the long term or just the short term, and how their personal experiences were woven into those decisions."

Singh’s connections to MSU and the College of Social Science beyond his History degree and have had an impact on his literary career. As a student, Singh helped create MSU’s Sims To The Streets, a student organization dedicated to community service. After graduating, Singh completed the Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) and served as an advisor board member for this nonprofit organization housed within the College of Social Science. The MPLP recruits, trains, and equips tomorrow’s policy leaders.

During his current trip, Singh traveled to Nigeria as part of an MSU delegation led by the College of Social Science’s Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID). The group visited the cities of Abuja and Jos to conduct a series of site visits and present a daylong seminar on local government and NGO development. In Abuja, they presented a daylong seminar on local government and NGO development. In Jos, they participated in a community about the proposed cultural center, which will provide a space for the expression and celebration of the region’s diverse religious and ethnic diversity.

Singh plans to continue to have an impact on these issues after he returns from his trip. "This trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widened Singh’s horizons, and his trip has widen...
Undergraduate Researches Community Development in Ghana

Elaine Breathing, an interdisciplinary studies senior, traveled to Ghana in May of 2007 to participate in an interviewee in a community-based research project in central Ghana. The deciding factor in her participation was an undergraduate research grant from the College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA).

The two-week study abroad program, titled “Development in Ghana: Undergraduate Research Community year to support undergraduate research or internships in developing countries. The project was a collaboration of scholars from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Kwanza Hihahah University of Science and Technology in Ghana, as well as community leaders and citizens of the Technac region. Breathing interviewed stakeholders in the community about the proposed cultural center, which will provide a space for the expression and celebration of the region’s diverse religious and ethnic diversity.

After graduating from MSU, Breathing plans to attend medical school and begin a career in international medicine. She hopes to use her international experiences to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders. “It is important to have international experience to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders,” she said. “It was very important to be able to speak the language and to be able to communicate with the locals.”

Singh interviewed stakeholders in developing countries for a doctor to understand her patients’ cultures. “It is important to have community about the proposed cultural center, which will provide a space for the expression and celebration of the region’s diverse religious and ethnic diversity.”

Singh already checked two experiences off his worldlist: celebrating the Junkanoo Festival in the Bahamas, running a half marathon in Antarctica, trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, searching the Great Pyramids in Egypt, and running with the bulls in Spain. In Russia, he danced as a court Jester; at the University of Panana, he spoke at the International Association of Volunteer Effort Committee, in Morocco, he attended the World Sacred Music Festival, and in Costa Rica and London, he participated in Habitat for Humanity builds.

Singh has already checked two experiences off his worldlist: celebrating the Junkanoo Festival in the Bahamas, running a half marathon in Antarctica, trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, searching the Great Pyramids in Egypt, and running with the bulls in Spain. In Russia, he danced as a court Jester; at the University of Panana, he spoke at the International Association of Volunteer Effort Committee, in Morocco, he attended the World Sacred Music Festival, and in Costa Rica and London, he participated in Habitat for Humanity builds.

Singh plans to attend medical school and begin a career in international medicine. He hopes to use his international experiences to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders. “It is important to have international experience to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders,” he said. “It was very important to be able to speak the language and to be able to communicate with the locals.”

Singh plans to attend medical school and begin a career in international medicine. He hopes to use his international experiences to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders. “It is important to have international experience to work for a program such as Doctors without Borders,” he said. “It was very important to be able to speak the language and to be able to communicate with the locals.”
Alumni Remembers Alma Mater

When Social Science ’74 alumna Ann Parker thinks of MSU, a crisp fall weekend on campus immediately comes to mind, as well as the exciting intellectual opportunities that MSU once provided her and her classmates. Now every year since graduation, she has celebrated the holidays with friends from her freshman year in Mr. Bill Miller.

What has Parker reflecting back to her days on campus? She recently documented a generous planned gift to the College by making a gift to her endowed scholarship that she established to help her classmates in the College of Social Science general fund, providing ultimate flexibility on how the money can be used in the future.

To read more or to nominate someone for the Outstanding Alumni and Teaching Achievement Award, contact Sarah Blom at blom@msu.edu or toll free at 866-678-2005.