

Trans-Saharan Professionals Learn from Local Businesses, Return Home

On Saturday, June 11, the 11 individuals in the Trans-Saharan Professionals Program will begin their journeys home with a new outlook, new connections and contacts and a business plan to better both themselves and their countries.

“For all of these people ... their primary goal is the future of their country,” said Marie Loudon-Hanes, Ph.D., dean of undergraduate education. “They are trying to help their people. They are focused on trying to provide something for their people to give them better lives, as well as their own families.”

Those 11 individuals were in the U.S. because of a nearly \$600,000

grant the University received from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Fulbright Program to address unemployment rates among young adults in Africa. The University’s College of Business has worked

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Trisha Byrne, left, works with Kadidiatou Mariko as she designs a necklace at Factory Direct International. Mariko also learned about the manufacturing process and spoke with other members of FDI’s staff.

A. Risser-Lee

Construction on Davis Street is Under Way

Construction is well under way on a new science building, which is being constructed as an addition to the existing Davis Street Building. The new building will add eight cutting-edge science laboratories, high-technology classrooms and lecture halls, eight faculty offices and student lounges.

Since last fall, four campus houses on Davis Street have been removed – two in the fall and two after students moved out in May – and a fifth house, 346 Davis St., is serving as construction headquarters until construction is complete.

With Charles and Associates as the general contractor for the

project, concrete footers have been dug and poured. The University is working with American Electric Power and Columbia Gas to move existing electrical and gas service underground, while still maintaining those services to the existing building as much as possible.

Generators will maintain power to some specialty freezers and equipment in the laboratories when the main power does need to be shut off for short periods of time. The new addition is expected to be complete in June 2012 and is being funded through the University’s Give Voice to Your Values fundraising campaign.

Situated west of the life science and pharmacy wing of the Davis Street Building, the facility will provide space for growth in pharmacy and new health professions programs, as well as expansion of instruction in biology and forensic science.



The sidewalk in front of the Davis Street Building is temporarily closed while construction crews work on the new building.

A. Risser-Lee

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with Findlay Rotary Clubs, as well as Rotary Clubs in Africa, to make this project successful.

Members of the delegation arrived in Washington, D.C., on May 16 and 17, where they were met by Loudon-Hanes, Paul Sears, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business, and Bill Ruse H '97, Rotary Club member and a member of UF's Board of Trustees.

While in D.C., the group attended a daylong meeting, which included representatives from two other universities who received similar grants. They stayed on the American University campus and did some sightseeing until May 20. Once their time in D.C. was complete, the group traveled to Findlay, where they remained for the duration of their trip.

A large portion of the group's schedule included 10 days of classroom work with John Bauer, who owns Outlaw Innovation Inc., a small-business consulting firm in Findlay. Bauer covered most of the elements necessary to complete a business plan, such as marketing, financial data and management practices. Participants presented a draft of a business plan on the final day of class.

According to Bauer, "there is more work to be done when they return to their homes," but they have a plan from which to work, as well as the basic knowledge to complete it.

The final week of the group's visit gave the individuals opportunities to learn about their industries in America through apprenticeships with local businesses, including Scarborough Pharmacy, the Women's Resource Center, Factory Direct International, Suter's Produce and more.

Drissa Ouedraogo, for example, is a male midwife from Burkina Faso who wants to open a family planning and HIV center in his country, where the mortality rate for women during childbirth is very high. He spoke with staff members at both the Caughman Health Center and the Women's Resource Center about women's health issues in America and how those compare to his country.

Kadiatou Mariko, of Niger, plans to start a clothing design and manufacturing business. She spent time with Trisha Byrne, senior merchandiser, at Factory Direct International learning about the company's processes from start to finish. "We've talked about exactly what kind of hurdles we have and have faced and how she can better prepare herself for when she opens her own factory," said Byrne.

"The community response to the program and our participants from Africa has been overwhelming," said Sears. "I am so grateful to the Rotary Club of Findlay, to our various business and internship mentors and to my colleagues at The University of Findlay for all they have done to make this experience a life-changing experience for these young men and women."

In addition to the classes and on-site job training, group members have had many opportunities to network and experience American culture. Rotarians, UF community



Laurie Turnow, LSW, (left) executive director of the Women's Resource Center, and Linda Theis, (center) abstinence educator, talk with Drissa Ouedraogo about women's health issues in America.

members and others who have had involvement with the group hosted dinners and events and fostered personal connections with each of the African representatives. On Thursday, June 9, Dr. Katherine Fell, UF president, and her husband, Roger, hosted a closing ceremony at their home.

"The more conversations we have, the more we begin to personalize each of those countries," said Loudon-Hanes. "Those are no longer places outlined on a map, but the faces of those individuals we have met ... That's the biggest piece of this – the willingness to share stories, and that's the theme that's been overriding this whole adventure from the beginning."

The Trans-Saharan Professionals Program is a two-year program. A cohort from the Findlay area will travel to Africa in November to select a second group of professionals to participate in the program. While there, the Findlay group will have the opportunity to reconnect with the first Trans-Saharan group, whom they also hope to remain in contact with through social networks online.

Oiler Pointe is Newest Housing Option

This fall, 19 returning students will be the first to live in Oiler Pointe, UF's newest housing option, on the corner of Morey Avenue and West Foulke Avenue.

The apartment complex, which recently was purchased by the University and is undergoing renovations, is substance-free housing. Students who are selected to live in Oiler Pointe sign a contract to remain tobacco, alcohol and drug free both on and off campus during the academic year. Student response has been positive.

Students who were interested in living in Oiler Pointe submitted applications in the spring. They were selected primarily based on their answers to several questions, including why they were interested in a drug- and alcohol-free experience.

According to Brian Treece, Ed.D., director of housing and residence life, the significant difference between Oiler Pointe and the other types of on-campus housing is that students refrain from substances both on and off campus. This alleviates students from coming home smelling like smoke

or intoxicated, for example.

Students' reasons for wanting to live at Oiler Pointe are varied. Some are interested in eliminating those types of distractions that interrupt studying. Others simply want to avoid the hassle of roommates who don't share their drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles. Some students may have dealt with addictions – either with family members or themselves – and would rather those experiences not be part of their college lives.

Oiler Pointe will offer programming for its residents, similar to the programming offered for students in residence halls. Each resident assistant plans general informational meetings, a service program, several social programs and two educational programs each academic year, as



Oiler Pointe, UF's newest housing option for students, is being renovated for fall. The apartments offer a substance-free housing option.

well as the residents attending four campus events as a group.

“Any time you have a unique community, you can take the programming model and make it special for the residents that are there,” said Treece. “It’s tailored to the residents.”

Oiler Pointe has space for 20 students in nine double units and two single units, one of which will be occupied by a resident director. Room and board cost is similar to other single rooms in on-campus apartments.

SummerStock Cast and Crew Prepare for June 15 Opening of ‘Snoopy!!!’



Far left, props master Jaclyn Affatato (center) with assistants Sarah Clements (left), Joshua Jones (right) and Lauren Friday (back) prepare to make the mold of a telephone handset for “Snoopy!!!”

Left, Colin Cahill, as the title character, rehearses “The Big Bow Wow” from “Snoopy!!!”

Photos by A. Risser Lee

Tour of Ireland, Scotland is Memorable

A Taste of Scotland and Ireland was the theme of a trip recently taken by a group of faculty and staff members, several students and community members, and although the food certainly was good, the group got an even better ‘taste’ of the culture.

Geraldine Finn, Ph.D., assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies, who has traveled to the area many times, was the primary organizer and wanted to make sure every member of the group experienced something new. “A high point of the trip was seeing the interest the group showed for two new cultures: British and Irish,” she said. “Going with people and seeing them seeing something for the first time was definitely a high point.”

Even Finn experienced several places she never had visited, including the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry in Ireland. Several group members mentioned the Cliffs as one of their favorite attractions. On the day of their visit, the wind off the North Atlantic Ocean was blowing so strongly that it was difficult to even walk on the path.

In addition, Finn had the opportunity to complete some research for a class she will be teaching this fall, Henry VIII and His Women. Finn visited the Edinburgh Castle, which houses the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Scone (also known as the Stone of Destiny and Jacob’s Pillow), which had been used as a traditional coronation seat for Scottish kings and queens for centuries.

Donna Smith, director of the Academic Support Center, also did

some research while she was in Scotland. Smith has been working on an ancestry project, and since she has Scottish relatives who arrived in the United States in the late 1800s, Smith did some name searching during the trip.

Because the group members had flexibility in selecting their activities, Smith chose to visit the Camera Obscura Museum in Edinburgh. From inside a Victorian rooftop chamber, visitors can see live moving images of Edinburgh projected onto a viewing table through a giant periscope, which has been in use since the 1800s. The original periscope had only one lens, and today, it has three, but the concept remains the same.

Smith noted that because of this trip, she developed a “much deeper appreciation for the people who live in Scotland and Ireland – their fortitude, their pride, their survival.” She cited the potato famine of the 1840s and numerous wars as examples of trials and tribulations the people there endured. “Everyone should have an opportunity to travel and meet the people of another culture,” said Smith.

In addition to the rich history of the two countries, the tour group



Donna Smith poses for a photo at the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland. The cliffs were among the highlights of the trip.



This statue in Dublin, Ireland, pays tribute to the people who endured and died during the potato famine of the 1840s. It is situated along the River Liffey as part of a famine memorial.

Photos provided by D. Smith

also got a taste of current culture. They visited Loch Lomond and Loch Ness but did not see Nessie, and they also visited The Elephant House in Edinburgh, where J.K. Rowling began writing the Harry Potter book series. In addition, the group toured several castles, distilleries and especially enjoyed Taylors Three Rock Pub in Dublin with traditional Irish music and dancing.

FYI is published by the Office of Public Information. Send story ideas to Brianna Patterson, public relations officer, at pattersonb@findlay.edu or call 419-434-4345.

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