

MIZZOU

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From contention to



Photo by the Columbia Missourian

Starting in 1978, MU students protested the University of Missouri System's investments in companies trading in South Africa. In 1985, the Board of Curators resolved to divest and to initiate a partnership with a South African university. Students continued to push for full divestment during protests on Francis Quadrangle, above, into 1987.

1910: South Africa gains independence from Great Britain. Its new constitution puts political control in the hands of the white minority and institutionalizes discrimination against blacks, who make up 80 percent of the population.

By 1948, minority control had turned into apartheid.



Nelson Mandela

1963: South African government arrests Nelson Mandela, head of the African National Congress (ANC), one of two black-led parties in South Africa, and sentences him to life in prison for terrorism.

1974: Because of apartheid, the United Nations expels South Africa and the international community begins economic sanctions.

1978: Doug Liljegren, president of the Missouri Students Association, writes to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators protesting the University's investments in companies doing business in

collaboration

In the 1970s and 1980s, student protests sparked a dynamic partnership.

Kathryn Benson remembers going to class, then returning to a cardboard shanty on Francis Quadrangle to tackle her homework. She remembers huddling in the makeshift house late into the night in fall of 1986 when drunks kicked in the flimsy walls. She remembers the crush of protestors crowding the county jail.

"It was scary getting arrested," says Benson, BA '89, JD '92, of Columbia. "I'd never been arrested before."

From October 1986 until February 1987, Benson and dozens of other protestors took turns living in cardboard shanties on the Quad just north of Jesse Hall. They were protesting the University of Missouri System's \$75 million retirement portfolio investments in companies doing business in South Africa. "Sometimes you have to do something a little bit extreme to wake people up," Benson says.

The shanties were meant to mimic the dismal living conditions endured by black South Africans. At the time, South Africa operated under apartheid, a system of racial segregation and discrimination enforced from 1948 to 1994 that gave the country's white minority control over its black majority. Protestors in the United States saw investment in South Africa as support for a

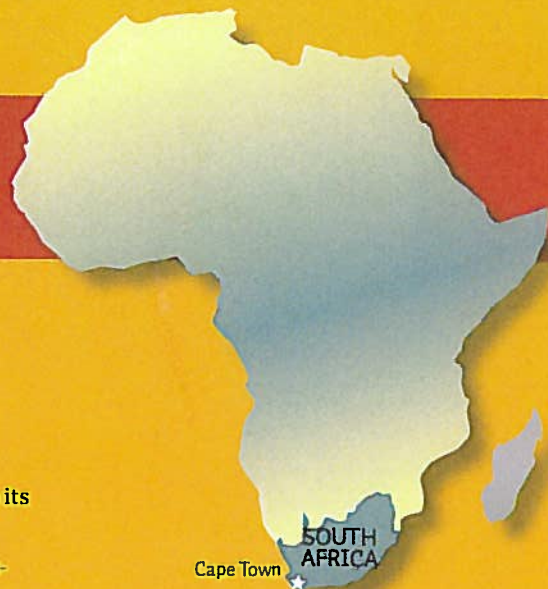
government that denied basic rights to its nonwhite citizens.

Students had been calling for divestment since 1978, when Doug Liljegren, BS EE '83, president of the Missouri Students Association, wrote a formal letter to the University of Missouri Board of Curators. By 1985, protestors were regularly crashing meetings.

"Every time the board met, the protestors were there, calling for divestment," says Ron Turner, then special assistant to newly elected System President C. Peter Magrath. As executive vice president emeritus, Turner, MA '67, PhD '70, of Columbia continues his engagement in South Africa.

"The protests were a stimulus that caused things to happen," he says. That moment in time spawned a 20-year partnership between two universities half a world apart.

In early 1985, Magrath appointed a task force to investigate divestment. The task force advised the Board of Curators to begin divesting and to develop an educational relationship with a nonwhite South African university. In adopting the recommendations, the board made a decision that was later called "brave and principled" by the University of Western Cape (UWC) Rector



Jakes Gerwel, who spent time in prison with Nelson Mandela.

To implement the recommendations, Magrath formed the University of Missouri South African Education Program Committee (UMSAEP) with members from all four campuses. After months of research, the group approached UWC in Cape Town, South Africa.

In June 1986, Magrath and Gerwel signed a cooperative agreement that focused on faculty exchanges and research collaboration. The agreement was the first ever developed between a historically black South African university and a U.S. university.

Meanwhile, unhappy with the curators' partial divestment, activists observed Anti-Apartheid Day on Oct. 10, 1986, by building the shantytown on the Quad.

Three days later, 17 protestors were arrested after refusing to remove the shanties. Charges were later dropped. Chancellor Barbara Uehling let the protestors stay in the shantytown through January 1987. When they refused to leave by February, 41 more



Photo by the Columbia Missourian

South Africa. This begins student-led protests against apartheid.

May 1978: Students rally to pressure the curators to divest from South Africa. They begin demonstrating regularly at the Board of Curators' bimonthly meetings.

April 1985: Student protests disrupt a reception following C. Peter Magrath's inauguration as president of the UM System. Magrath meets with protestors and appoints a task force to investigate.



The Meaning of Apartheid

protestors were arrested.

The System chose Benson as a test case to see if trespassing charges would stick. They didn't. Benson was acquitted on freedom of speech grounds in December 1987, prompting the University to drop charges against all of the protestors. The curators approved complete divestment from South Africa in January 1988.

While the shantytown protest was playing out, Magrath's committee was building a relationship with UWC. Turner says protestors, including the late Carla Weitzel, MA '84, Greg Barnes, JD '91, and Hilary Shelton of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, played a constructive, though contentious, role.

In 1986, Turner made the first of dozens of trips to South Africa. "When we first got there, UWC didn't even have a fax machine," he says.

By the next year, the committee had secured a federal grant to fund travel for faculty exchanges between the two universities. Student exchanges began in 1990. UM System and UWC students can spend one or two semesters abroad and have the classes credited to their degrees. In the pages that follow, read stories about the partnership today.

Today, students and faculty from 40 academic disciplines have taken part in 361 exchange visits. The partnership between the System and UWC is regarded as a model for international academic linkages. It has received funding from both the Kellogg Foundation and the U.S. Information Agency's University Affiliations Program to support international faculty exchange.

Turner says the partnership exemplifies the mission of a land-grant university because of the way it demonstrates outreach and service on a global scale. On a personal level, he's gotten a "bird's-eye view of a country in transformation."

Jan Persens, UWC director of international programs, has been part of the process since 1986. He says there was pressure from the academic community for UWC to link with a historically African-American university, not a predominantly white one. He points to the development of the program as proof that this was the right partnership.

"We are like proud moms," he says. "The fact that we could get a grant in order to do work in a whole range of projects is an absolute highlight."

As for Kathryn Benson, her experience living in a shack and wrangling with the legal system inspired her to abandon plans to become a photojournalist. Instead, she went on to law school at MU and spent about 10 years as a public defender in Boone and Callaway counties.

She's proud of the part she played in changing the world. "It's a great thing to understand the power you can have if you organize to reach a goal," she says. "It would be a great thing for all young people to know."

— Lisa Groshong

Debrin Foxcroft contributed to this story

More: For a list of faculty exchange areas and program descriptions, go to umsystem.edu/ums/departments/aa/southafrica/history.shtml

Laws such as South Africa's Reservation of Separate Amenities Act and the Bantu Education Act, both enacted in 1953, restricted the rights of black South Africans.

- Segregation touched every area of South African life. There were separate schools, churches, hospitals, public transportation, pedestrian crosswalks, swimming pools, libraries and graveyards. Blacks had designated spots at drive-in movie theaters. Black and white buses stopped at different bus stops.
- Blacks could not own businesses, work or travel in white areas without a permit.
- Blacks were not permitted to employ, marry or arrest whites.
- A white car driver could not allow a black person of the opposite sex to ride in the front seat.

December 1985: The Board of Curators adopts the task force's two recommendations: The University will develop a relationship with a nonwhite South African university. It will also phase out investments in companies doing business in South Africa

that do not subscribe to the Global Sullivan Principles outlining universal human rights guidelines. The board appoints a committee headed by Ron Turner, then special assistant to Peter Magrath, to implement the plan.



Ron Turner

April-May 1986: The first delegation from the University spends two weeks in Cape Town exploring a relationship with UWC.

February 1990: South African President F.W. de Klerk gives his "unbanning speech," promising to repeal South Africa's discriminatory laws.



Photos by the Columbia Missourian

Left: Following his April 1985 inauguration as president of the University of Missouri System, C. Peter Magrath passes protestors on Francis Quadrangle with his then wife, Diane, and daughter Mo. He served from 1985 to 1991.

Top: Shantytown protestors arrange their cardboard houses atop steam vents in the sidewalks to take advantage of rising heat on chilly evenings.

Above: Protestors confront Magrath with concerns about investments in South Africa in April 1985. They also demonstrated at a June 1985 Missouri Scholars Academy address by then Gov. John Ashcroft.

Feb. 11, 1990: The South African government releases Nelson Mandela from prison after 27 years.

1993: After South Africa approves a multiracial, multiparty transitional government, Nelson Mandela, ANC president, announces in September the end of a long-standing call for international economic sanctions against South Africa.

December 1993: The Board of Curators rescinds the University's divestment policy.

May 10, 1994: South Africans elect Nelson Mandela as their first black president in the country's first democratic election.

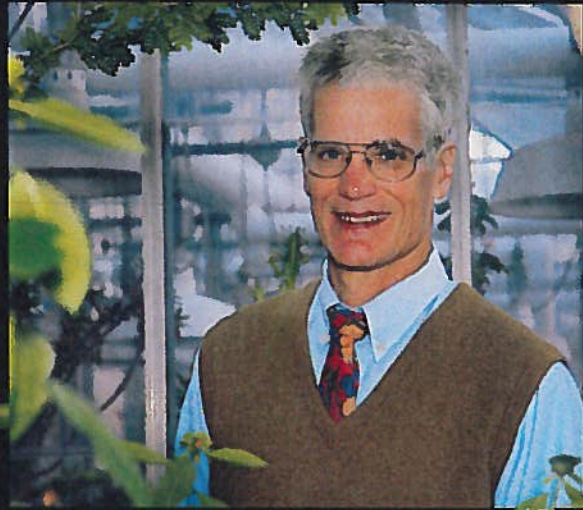
2006: The two universities celebrate the 20th anniversary of the partnership.



The Great Hall at the University of Western Cape



Researchers study promising plants



Bill Folk

Photo by Javis Bishop

Collaborative project investigates herbal remedies for major illnesses.



South Africa faces one of the world's most staggering HIV/AIDS epidemics: An estimated 5.5 million South Africans are infected with HIV. More than 30 percent of the country's pregnant women test positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

The disease kills 1,000 citizens a day.

Yet only a tiny percentage of South Africa's population has access to modern medicine.

Instead, most people rely on traditional healers who supply herbal medicines.

Healers use some of these remedies, developed over centuries but not yet scientifically evaluated,

to treat the secondary infections that cause AIDS deaths. "It's all that they have, really," says MU's Bill Folk, professor of biochemistry and senior associate dean for research at MU's School of Medicine.

This is why MU and a coalition of researchers in the United States and at South Africa's University of Western Cape have launched a partnership that will subject several of South Africa's traditional medicinal plants to rigorous Western research. Researchers hope to discover ways that traditional medicines can improve immune function and lead to a better quality of life for patients with chronic illnesses including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and cervical cancer.

MU is the lead institution for a \$3.8 million grant from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health. The grant will support research performed by The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies (TICIPS) on some of

South Africa's roughly 30,000 indigenous plants. More than 50 scientists from eight institutions in the U.S. and South Africa are involved in the project, led by Folk and his South African counterpart, Quinton Johnson, co-director of TICIPS and director of the South African Herbal Sciences and Medicine Institute. Johnson is based at UWC.

The longstanding partnership between MU and UWC and those between traditional healers and the University of KwaZulu-Natal helped the grant proposal stand out among stiff competition from this country's leading institutions, Folk says. The NIH also recognized "the importance of what we're attempting to do for health in Africa."

While the study's traditional healers use prayers and meditation to consult ancestors for medical advice, Folk consults with his peers in South Africa using decidedly modern techniques. He speaks with colleagues via the Internet telephone service Skype. The researchers are setting up clinical trials of the plant *sutherlandia*, known in South Africa as the "cancer bush," which has been used to treat infections and prevent wasting due to AIDS.

Getting approval to run the placebo-controlled, randomized trials has been tricky as the South African government grapples with the notion of an allopathic study done on an indigenous remedy already in wide use. This is just one of the cultural and logistical challenges project coordinators face. "I didn't know it was going to be this hard," Folk admits with a tired smile.

Once the researchers get approval from U.S. and South African regulatory boards, project directors will enroll patients in a yearlong clinical trial where researchers will measure adverse reactions and disease progression as well as quality-of-life markers such as depression and social and cognitive functioning in about 130 patients taking either *sutherlandia* or a placebo.

The clinical trial is directed by Kathy Goggin, associate professor of psychology at

the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Doug Wilson, chief of medicine at Edendale Hospital and faculty member at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Nelson Mandela School of Medicine. Wilson and colleagues in KwaZulu-Natal, including traditional healers, partnered to accurately translate questionnaires and consent forms into Zulu, South Africa's most widely spoken language.

Another partner is the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, which is helping to validate the plant material and protect plant habitat in South Africa. Researchers are concerned that successful results could lead to the plant being overharvested and becoming endangered. Project leaders are developing policies to protect the indigenous healers' intellectual property rights to the plants and any compounds that may result from the study, and to ensure they benefit from the study. Faculty and medical students from MU's family and community medicine department are also traveling to South Africa to teach traditional healers improved diagnostic methods at the healers' request.

TICIPS also includes faculty from MU's School of Journalism to communicate about the project with stakeholders in South Africa and the United States. Partners from the MU Law School's Center for Dispute Resolution help defuse potential conflicts, especially navigating South Africa's political climate, sometimes a dicey proposition given the relatively inexperienced government.

Despite the challenges, Folk becomes passionate when he describes the personal benefits he's reaped from the project, the life-broadening opportunities it can provide his students, and the project's potential for public health around the globe.

"I'm committed to helping the parts of the world that have fewer resources than we have," he says. "Our University must have a strong mission in extending what we do to those parts of the world. We're incredibly fortunate, and we should share with those that are in need." — Lisa Groshong

To help preserve the intellectual property rights of the South African healers who discovered the plant, MU researchers do not grow *sutherlandia* in this country.

South African student grabs opportunity of a lifetime

It was an impulsive decision, but one that led to a life-changing experience. When Mary Palesa Moilwa saw a poster calling for applicants for the Henry Mitchell scholarship, she decided to apply. She had no idea it would take her 8,546 miles away from home.

Hailing from Kimberly, South Africa, Moilwa was born into a single-parent family during the tail end of the apartheid regime. Her mother, Magdeline, who works in a furniture store, fought for the best educational opportunities she could get Mary and brother Tshepo in a country that viewed them as second-class citizens. School was everything.

"There was no place for low grades in that house," Moilwa says. In her third year of school in South Africa, Moilwa was sent to a "white" private school rather than the local public one. Her mother encouraged her to embrace as many opportunities as possible.

"Mum was strict, but she also allowed us to spread our wings."

It paid off. Moilwa's matric scores, similar to ACTs or SATs, permitted her to study psychology at one of South Africa's leading universities: the University of Western Cape (UWC), located 12 hours south of her hometown. In a country where only 30 percent of students go to college, Moilwa got to experience a world that had been off limits to her mother a generation earlier.

During her second year at UWC, Moilwa won a scholarship to study for a semester at MU. Established in 1997, the scholarship for both University of Missouri System and UWC students honors Henry Mitchell, a biology professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and one of the founding members of the University of Missouri South African Education Program Committee.

Part of what made Moilwa such a good candidate for the scholarship was her active role in Brawam-Siswam ("my brother, my sister" in slang). This UWC initiative pairs college students from disadvantaged backgrounds with high school students from similar areas.



Photo by Nicholas Bernier

Mary Palesa Moilwa, right, enjoys lunch with Camila Farias de Oliveira, center, and Holly Hanover in Dobbs Pavilion. Moilwa, who is from Kimberly, South Africa, won a scholarship to attend MU fall semester.

"They may be abused or so poor they cannot even afford books," Moilwa says. Her job was to motivate the children to complete high school and to show them that success is within their reach in a new South Africa.

The first of her family to travel outside of their homeland, Moilwa arrived in Missouri on Aug. 12, 2006. Instead of studying psychology, Moilwa took anthropology courses. The experience has been rewarding.

"The best part of MU is how helpful the people are and how efficient things are. The resources here are amazing; I haven't experienced any shortages!" Moilwa says.

Her time at MU has made her more focused and aware of how things could be improved in South Africa, particularly in education. "And I have acquired skills that are so much more advanced," Moilwa says. From her research statistics class, for example, she has learned how to analyze and interpret data.

When her visa expired in December, Moilwa returned home to graduate in March 2007. The 21-year-old also will take a fourth, or honors/research, year at UWC in

preparation for returning to MU to study for a master's degree in psychology or anthropology. "When I conduct my graduate research, I will be able to substantiate my findings with hard facts," she says.

"I want to conduct research in psychology to find out whether there are strategies or solutions that I can come up with to help children complete high school," Moilwa says. Her long-term goal is to conduct research in South Africa. The possibilities are endless.

"If you come from South Africa and you have the opportunity to go overseas, you have to grab it with both hands," Moilwa says, "particularly when you come from a background like mine where you just don't imagine it could happen to you. I will be recognized as an individual who studied abroad and did well. This will highlight my abilities to do well in a totally different environment and as someone who had the courage to step out of my comfort zone to explore new opportunities."

—Debrin Foxcroft

Student expands comfort zone in Cape Town

In the U.S., when a mental patient pours hot tea into a saucer, an attendant might see it as a symptom of the disease. After all, tea belongs in a cup. But in South Africa, the same behavior is simply the way one cools tea. It might even be a sign of progress.

Karen Hebert faced the challenge of working as an occupational therapist in a culture outside her own in a 12-week practicum in Cape Town, South Africa, during summer 2004. The current doctoral student in psychology is from St. Louis.

Hebert went to South Africa through a joint program of the MU School of health professions and the University of Western Cape. It is the only one of its kind in the U.S., according to health professions Director Richard Oliver.

Learning cultural mannerisms was only part of the learning curve for Hebert. From day one in Cape Town, she dealt with issues of safety, limited mobility and communication. Her patients spoke any number of the 11 official languages of South Africa, including Xhosa and Afrikaans.

"In an experience like this, you get the feeling of being a patient. You are thrown out of your comfort zone, and you have to rely completely on others," Hebert says. But in turn she got to see how therapists treat patients in a struggling economy. For therapy, they used plastic milk bottles filled with sand as weights, and they had to rely more on repetitions than equipment, which was scarce or nonexistent.

Hebert spent half her time working in Lentegour Hospital, a large psychiatric institution in Cape Town.

"It was unlike anything I had ever seen before," she says. "In the U.S., health care is very managed, but the services in South Africa are just so overwhelmed."

At Lentegour and later at a private hospital and in the field, Hebert led both individual and group sessions. Although it is difficult to imagine basket weaving being frightening, she led a group session with psychiatric patients in which she was the only therapist. All 30 of the patients were equipped with scissors for cutting material. Three guards provided security.

While the experience was at times difficult and confusing, the value is not lost on Hebert. She became more aware of the influence of different cultures on the behavior of patients. "It has changed my outlook as a therapist." — *Debrin Foxcroft*



Photo by Nicholas Benner

During her 12-week practicum in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2004, occupational therapy student Karen Hebert faced a heavy patient load and primitive conditions.



Photo by Richard Oliver

Law student's experience smashes stereotypes

For second-year law student Sundance Banks, numbers have taken on a whole new meaning. Take 8,000.

That's roughly how many people die each day worldwide from AIDS-related illnesses. Or 1,000. That's how many of those people die in South Africa alone. (Source: UNAIDS)

Banks' journey to South Africa gave him a new appreciation for the realities of such grim statistics. He thinks of them daily and wonders why they so rarely make the news.

As part of MU's comparative law program started in 2004, Banks studied in South Africa during summer 2006. He looked forward to the trip, but wasn't prepared for what he found. "My first impression broke down some of the stereotypes," says Banks, of Amarillo, Texas. "Cape Town is a very

cosmopolitan city, but there is still poverty there that is tough to even imagine."

For six weeks, Banks and 21 other law students studied alongside students from the University of Western Cape (UWC). Professors from both universities taught classes on topics such as comparative constitutional law and comparative criminal justice.

"Studying with the UWC students really made the experience," says Banks, "particularly in the constitutional law class." One of the students talked about an uncle whose name could not be spoken during the days of apartheid, as he was one of the thousands of men labeled as terrorists fighting for their country's freedom.

Another student decided the Americans should see South Africa's new reality. She took them to her aunt's house and asked

neighbors there to talk about life in South Africa. As they spoke with one matriarch, her daughter sat next to the students,

trembling. Banks asked through a translator why the young girl reacted to them that way. "She said it was the first time she had seen a white person on their block," Banks says.

It was there in the little shack in a township just outside of Cape Town that Banks came face to face with the reasons behind South Africa's health problems: abject poverty and a lack of education. He decided Americans have a duty to improve the situation of others. "If that girl who was trembling could switch places with one of us, have access to the same resources we have and study at an American university, I guarantee she would fight to improve this situation and fight against poverty."

After graduation, Banks hopes to clerk for a judge and then practice law and mediation in the U.S. He would like raise awareness and money for organizations providing Third World health-care services such as Partners in Health and Oxfam. — *Debrin Foxcroft*



Student Sundance Banks studied comparative law in South Africa in 2006.

Photo by Nicholas Renner



Sundance Banks saw abject poverty in Cape Town neighborhoods such as this.

Photo courtesy of Karen Hebert

2006-07 statistics of international enrollment

MU's fall 2006 international student enrollment is up 3.2 percent from a year earlier because of a gain at the graduate level. Males outnumber females 748 to 588.

Number of countries represented at MU:

Fall 2005: 91
Fall 2006: 95

Students by class:

Freshman 52
Sophomore 44
Junior 36
Senior 113
Education specialist 1
Master's 432
Doctoral 654
Professional 4
Total 1,336

Leading countries of origin:

China 325
India 202
South Korea 200
Taiwan 114
Thailand 50
Canada 23
Japan 23
Saudi Arabia 20
Turkey 18
Brazil 17
Romania 16
Russia 16

Students by educational level:

Graduate and professional 1,087
Undergraduate 249
Total 1,336

Based on fall 2006 enrollment numbers, Missouri ranks No. 16 in the nation for most international students, according to a survey by the Institute of International Education.

Prodigy Turned Patron

Isobel Degnan is creating her own Mizzou Legacy through a gift from her estate plan



Isobel Degnan, BA '48, likes to be called Robin, the name she has gone by since her days at MU. Born Isobel Robinson and raised in Crystal City, Mo., Robin's sorority sisters in college thought Robinson was too long so they shortened it — and the moniker stuck.

Always a lover of music, Degnan honed her piano performance skills through her degree in music at MU. Now, at the age of 82, Degnan still plays a couple of recitals a year.



But the piano prodigy would make her mark as the patron of the arts. Through the years, her support of the symphony and sacred music has defined her legacy. Robin has created a bequest from her estate plan that will provide \$1 million to the musical arts at MU.

To learn more about Robin's Mizzou legacy and how to create a bequest that benefits MU, visit our Web site at formizzou.missouri.edu/giftplanning. Use the envelope enclosed in this magazine to inform us about your estate gift or to request information about how to include Mizzou in your estate plans!

To speak with a representative of the Office of Gift Planning and Endowments, call 1-800-970-9977.

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