



## AFRICA @ MSU THIS WEEK

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### **The Passing of former African Studies Center Director, Dr. James Anthony Pritchett**

The African Studies community is deeply saddened by the death of our dear colleague and former Director, Dr. James Pritchett. James Pritchett passed away unexpectedly on November 29, 2019.

James Pritchett served as Director of the MSU African Studies Center from 2008 to 2014, where he was a strong and tireless advocate of the Center's core mission. He was also a Professor of Anthropology. He came to MSU from Boston University where he had served as Director of African Studies and Professor of Anthropology since 2004. He served as a board member and as past president of the African Studies Association, and greatly advanced the work of that organization over many years of service.

Earning a PhD from Harvard University in 1990, James Pritchett carried out ethnographic research for over two decades in rural Zambia. He published two widely acclaimed books on Lunda-Ndembu society in Northwestern Province (2001 and 2007). He maintained a strong interest in the African Diaspora and did research in the Caribbean, Brazil and elsewhere in Central and South America.

At Michigan State University, James Pritchett taught courses in the Department of Anthropology on Anthropology of Southern Africa, African culture; theory of anthropology; and symbols, rituals and myths. He especially encouraged studies that bridged African Studies and African Diaspora studies and worked to build strong linkages between the African Studies Center and the African and African American Studies program (AAAS) at MSU. He advised students in both Anthropology and in AAAS and served on a number of dissertation committees. He was highly regarded by his students and advisees.

On Saturday, December 14th, a memorial service was held for Dr. Pritchett at MSU. Several colleagues, friends and family members were in attendance, and many shared their memories of James' supportive and generous spirit, integrity, patience, and warmth.

We all mourn the loss of a dear and valued colleague; his legacy will live on through the many colleagues and students whose lives were greatly enriched by our interactions with James.

A memorial fund has been established to donate Dr. Pritchett's personal African Studies library to an HBCU or Community College in his family's home state of Alabama.

Please follow the URL below if you wish to make a donation:

<https://www.supportful.com/make-donation/2e3abd42-b12b-4c51-bdcd-9d02233fc60d/>



## Eye on Africa

[John Aerni-Flessner](#)

Boundaries in the Borderlands: Unbuilt Dams and Boundary Disputes between Lesotho and South Africa, 1940s-1976

Thursday January 16th 12:00-1:30p  
International Center Room 201

[Lunch will be provided](#)

[View the Spring2020 Eye on Africa Schedule \(PDF\)](#)

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## The Spring 2020 Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series

Thursday, February 13 - "TAZARA Stories: Memories of Work on a China-Africa Railway Project" - Jamie Monson, MSU Department of History, 12:00 - 1:30, Green Room, 4th Floor West, MSU Library (co-sponsored by the African Studies Center and the MSU Library Colloquia Series) [NOTE: This film showing will begin at 12:00]

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## Ubuntu Dialogues - Internship Program in Cape Town, South Africa Spring 2020

The African Studies Center is pleased to offer the Ubuntu Dialogues Internship Program to current MSU students. The Program is part of Ubuntu Dialogues: Museums and Communities Connect, an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded partnership between the MSU African Studies Center and the Stellenbosch University Museum. It places current MSU students in museums and heritage sites in Cape Town, where they will learn about how South African communities and heritage institutions record and share historical memories.

To apply, visit [osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/109555](https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/109555)

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## All-University Awards for 2019-2020

The Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Human Resources has announced the All-University Awards for 2019-20. Please join the African Studies Center in congratulating each of the following faculty and student on this very important recognition:

John Aerni-Flessner, Faculty; Residential College in Arts and Humanities; Teacher-Scholar Award

Steve Esquith, Faculty; Residential College in Arts and Humanities; William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award

Tara Reyelts; Student; History, Excellence-In-Teaching Citation

Felicia Wu, Faculty; Food Science & Human Nutrition; William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award

## William Kentridge: Universal Archive

**Exhibition:** In an expanding series of linocuts printed on dictionary pages, William Kentridge explores the arbitrariness of the definitions and borders imposed by reason and colonial oppression. The exhibition is located at the RACH LookOut Art Gallery

**Exhibit Open From:** January 16 – March 6  
**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 12-3 p.m.

For more information, view [RCAH Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

## International Program Support Position - African Scholars Program

The International Program Support position provides overall administrative and event planning support to the African Scholars Program, which assists Mastercard Foundation Scholars attending Michigan State University to acquire relevant competencies for leadership, career success and a life of service. Some events may take place outside of business hours, or on weekends. The position offers a great opportunity to gain a global perspective and improve your professional working skills!

For more information, view the posting on [handshake.com](#), posting #3378681

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