

**RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Provided strategic direction, coordination, and enabled collaboration among 15 Vice Presidents and Vice Provosts of International Education through the Big Ten Academic Alliance
- Oversaw program development and planning at campuses across the Big Ten, including benchmarking, evaluation, and program execution
- Analyzed data to leverage funding for an institutionally supported insurance program and a new professional position
- Enabled development and execution of international program initiatives
- Initiated programs for recruiting international talent in STEM fields
- Innovated a new badging system for courses addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Tracked metrics and produced program evaluations for Vice Provosts/Vice Presidents and Provosts
- Supervised administrative and professional staff as well as graduate assistants
- Launched staff professional development programs across the Big Ten Academic Alliance
- Led the development of enhanced policies and practices for international travel
- Shepherded a large initiative on health equity spread across 26 institutions and 250 faculty and staff while liaising with provosts, senior research officers, deans and state health commissioners
- Assembled and tracked budgets for projects, offices, and Big Ten Senior International Officers
- Secured grant funding totaling over \$16.3 million through grant writing and proposal development

**ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ROLES – International Programs**

**Director, Global Research Office**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, August 2019-present

- Leads campus internationalization via global partnerships, proposal development, and collaboration
- Directs comprehensive partnership strategies with funding agencies, foundations, and corporations
- Liaises with the Office of Research Engagement to enhance global research success, offer campus seed funding, and increase funding for research
- Builds institutional capacity and connections across the university to leverage global research
- Oversees a data analysis project examining international research, publications, and outcomes
- Champions the implementation of a new partnership platform to highlight institutional strengths
- Tracks core metrics that support a global research strategy as well as the *Times Higher Education's* University Impact Rankings
- Guides the development of initiatives tied to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Strategized a path for the hiring of an international risk management position

**International Grants and Contracts Manager, Strategic Interdisciplinary Research Office,**  
Pennsylvania State University, September 2018 – July 2019

- Advanced campus internationalization via research collaborations and grants development
- Guided faculty teams as they developed university-wide, multi-university, interdisciplinary research proposals for global research
- Identified programs and funding sources that aligned with institutional strengths and strategic goals
- Strategized and coordinated faculty needs for proposal development
- Fostered interdisciplinary connections between faculty to enhance proposal development
- Developed and led the Big Ten International Research Professionals network/peer group
- Provided mentorship and guidance on best practices for proposal development to junior staff

**Assistant Director, Global Collaborations,** Big Ten Academic Alliance (formerly Committee on Institutional Cooperation), August 2014 – August 2018

- Led the development of collaborative research, education and outreach proposals in support of global initiatives of the SIOs and related stakeholder groups
- Led the development of Big Ten/State Health Office Health Equity Initiative involving 26 large partner institutions
- Secured funding from two major foundations for Health Equity Initiative
- Liaised with external partner organizations to foster new opportunities with peer groups
- Managed professional development exchange network between universities
- Organized research workshops between Big Ten universities and international partners
- Communicated the impact of global collaborations and emergent issues in the field

**International Program Manager,** Committee on Institutional Cooperation, August 2012–Aug 2014

- Facilitated the cooperative initiatives of the Senior International Officers, Study Abroad Directors, and Share Programs Abroad Coordinators at fifteen, top-tier research institutions
- Galvanized the CIC's international peer groups to pursue strategic priorities, saving over \$107,000 in Fall 2013, launching new opportunities for faculty and staff, and enabling comprehensive internationalization of campuses
- Coordinated with external partner organizations to foster new opportunities with peer groups
- Managed the US-portion of the Khorana and Bose Programs, offering US-India exchanges; expanding participation in the program by 52% in year two
- Organized international research workshops between CIC universities and international partners
- Researched and wrote "Global Briefs" and reports on cross-cutting internationalization topics

**Associate Director, Center for African Studies,** University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, August 2007-January 2010

- Wrote successful grants and coordinated reports, including:
  - US Dept of Education -Title VI/NRC-FLAS
  - Office of Public Engagement, University of Illinois, 2010
  - CAS/MillerComms, University of Illinois, 2007-2010
- Initiated summer teachers' workshops, student careers workshops, and annual thematic program
- Organized weekly brown bags and campus-wide lectures
- Organized extra-curricular programs for Summer Cooperative African Language Institute, 2007
- Supervised graduate assistants for website, outreach, and communications & programs
- Led outreach planning, Local Arrangement Committee, African Studies Association, 2008
- Chair, Outreach Council, African Studies Association, 2007-2011

**Assistant Director, Center for African Studies,** University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, August 2003-August 2007;

- Organized and led a Fulbright-Hays GPA study tour for 14 teachers and a faculty member in Ghana
- Compiled data, researched and wrote sections of grants and reports: USED-Title VI/NRC-FLAS
- Edited annual newsletter and weekly listservs
- Produced reports, promotional booklets, and flyers
- Organized academic conferences and initiated workshops for businesses, teachers, and media
- Advised undergraduate students and taught graduate course: Practicum in African Studies

**Coordinator of Special Programs, Center for African Studies,** University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, October 1998-August 2003

- Wrote grants on behalf of faculty, including:
  - National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Focus Grant, awarded 2001, "Examining African Studies"

- US Dept of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, awarded 2001
- Compiled data, researched grants and reports for:
  - US Dept of Education - Title VI/NRC-FLAS
  - Rockefeller Foundation, Humanities Institute
  - Ford Foundation, Nairobi
  - Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Wrote numerous successful campus grants (Brown v. Board of Education, Hewlett Conference, etc)
- Edited biannual center newsletter, produced promotional booklets and literature, edited listservs
- Organized campus extra-curricular programming

## EARLIER EXPERIENCE

### **Program Assistant, Center for African Studies, University of Illinois, October 1996-October 1998**

- Edited newsletter, produced informational materials, organized seminars, advised students, and provided research for USED-Title VI NRC/FLAS grant

### **Research Assistant, Department of Geography, University of Illinois, 1994-95 and 1997-99**

- Conducted research that resulted in a publication: *Maps of Africa to 1900: A Checklist of Maps in Atlases & Geographical Journals in the Collections of the University of Illinois*, Urbana-Champaign, (T. Bassett & Y. Scheven, 2000). The book was awarded the Conover-Porter Award in 2002 for outstanding achievement in African bibliography.

### **Peace Corps Volunteer, Ghana, July 1989-September 1991**

- Established two community-based tree nurseries and water sources for the nurseries, led community outreach, initiated radio educational programs on tree-planting, hired and supervised all 20 employees, liaised with country-wide project director and community management committees.

## PUBLICATIONS & SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS:

- 2021 "Global Faculty Engagement through Seed Grants and Other Incentive Programs," Association of International Education Administrators Conference, Virtual
- "Leadership and Career Development for International Education Professionals," Association of International Education Administrators Conference, Virtual, Organizer
- "International Research During the Time of COVID-19," Virtual SPARKS, Office of Research and Engagement and the Center for Global Engagement, University of Tennessee
- "SDG badges for courses and students put sustainability at our core," Times Higher Education, April 19, 2021: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/sdg-badges-courses-and-students-put-sustainability-our-core>
- 2019 "VPR/SIO Interface: Promoting a University's International Research Interests," Commission on International Initiatives, APLU Meeting, Burlington, VT.
- 2017 "Uncovering the Roles of African Surveyors and Draftsmen in Mapping the Gold Coast, 1874 to 1957," *Decolonizing the Map: Cartography from Colony to Nation*, Ed. J.R. Akerman, University of Chicago Press.

- 2016 "An Environmental Scan and Exploration of Best Practices in US Universities' Presence Overseas," Association of International Education Administrators Conference, Montreal, Canada
- "Health Equity Initiative and Its Data Plans," Data Science for Public Health panel, Midwest Big Data Hub All-Hands Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2010 "Mapping Independence in Ghana: Scientific Standards and Political Possibilities," 17th Nebenzahl Lectures: Mapping the Transition from Colony to Nation, The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.
- 2010 "The Stakes of British and African Mapping of the Gold Coast, 1874-1900," Mapping Africa from the Ninth to the Nineteenth Century Construction, Transmission and Circulation of Cartographic Knowledge about Africa (Europe, Arab World and Africa), Institut national d'Histoire de l'Art and at the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

### PROFESSIONAL GRANT-WRITING

Supported and guided the development of numerous external grants submitted to the National Science Foundation, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Education, US Department of State, and to several philanthropic foundations, including Rockefeller Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Ford Foundation. Additionally, I solely authored or was a key author of the following grants:

- American Councils on International Education, "Catalyzing Research and Administrative Collaborations with Uzbekistan," awarded 2020 for \$22,000
- Pennsylvania State University, Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, "African and African Diasporic Artists Residency Program," awarded 2019 for \$16,069
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "SHO/CIC Health Equity Initiative," awarded 2015 for \$184,695
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "SHO/CIC Health Equity Initiative," awarded 2015 for \$184,695
- University of Illinois, Office of Public Engagement. "Extending the Sister Cities Initiative: Understanding Malawi in Urbana," awarded 2010 for \$15,000
- Rockefeller Foundation. "Humanities Institute on Education and African Modernities," awarded 2002, \$325,000
- US Department of Education, Fulbright-Hay Group Projects Abroad. Awarded 2001, \$63,000
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Focus Grant. "Examining African Studies," awarded 2001, \$25,000
- University of Illinois, Partnership Illinois. "African Virtual Trade Mission," awarded 2000, \$14,000

### SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

- Urbana Arts Grant, Creative Mix, City of Urbana Public Arts Commission, (annually 2014-2017)
- Harley Fellowship in the History of Cartography, Trustees of the JB Harley Research Fellowships Trust Fund, U.K., 2009
- Charles S. Alexander Graduate Fellowship for Women in Geography, U of Illinois, 2008-09
- Dissertation Travel Grant, Graduate College, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2008
- Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society Member, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1993-1995
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Swahili in African Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1993-94
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Swahili in African Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Summer 1993

- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Swahili in African Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1992-93
- President's Advisory Committee on South Africa, Macalester College, 1988-89

## **EDUCATION**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D., Department of Geography, December 2013

Dissertation: *Conventional Signs, Imperial Designs: Mapping and Surveying Ghana, 1874-1963*

M.A., Department of Geography, August 1995

Thesis: *Women and the Environment: A Case Study of an NGO's and Women's Interest in the Ngundu Community Forestry Project, Njoro, Kenya*

Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota

B.A., Department of Geography; Concentration in Environmental Studies, May 1989

## **SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Improving your Executive Presence for Effective Leadership, July 18, 2017, Denver, Colorado. Academic Impressions.
- Creating High Functioning Teams in Higher Education, February 8-9, 2016, St. Louis, Missouri. Academic Impressions
- Academic Leadership Program, Big Ten Academic Alliance, 2013-14
- Comprehensive Internationalization Workshop, Summer 2013, Arlington, Virginia. American Council on Education.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

2016- Member, NAFSA

2012 - Member, Association of International Education Administrators

## **SERVICE**

Commission on Blacks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2021-

Mentor, UT Promise Mentor, Knoxville, 2020-2021

COVID -19 UT Campus Support, 2020-2021

Coordinator, West African Dance Community, Knoxville, 2019-2020

Coordinator, West African Dance Community, State College, 2018-2019

Co-Director, West African Dance and Drum Collective, Champaign-Urbana, 2007-2018

Volunteer, Education Justice Project, a model college-in- prison program, 2007-08 and 2011-12

Volunteer, Tap-In Leadership Academy, An enrichment program for youth 2007-09

Mentor, Urbana One-to-One Mentoring Program, 2003-05

## **LANGUAGES**

Intermediate language proficiency in Swahili. Beginning proficiency in French and German