

Memo: UM President Mun Choi

From: Rodney Uphoff

Date: March 1, 2024

Re: 2023 UMSAEP Report

For the past 5 years, I have provided you a report summarizing the activities and outputs of the UMSAEP for the prior year. As in past years, I reached out to all 2023 UMSAEP awardees as well as past awardees and requested updates on 2023 activities with a UMSAEP collaborator. I reached out to 128 UMSAEP participants and received a response from 78. I would note that some of the people did not respond because they left UM or UWC, retired, or passed away. Indeed, I know that at least 11 of the 128 have retired or left either UM or UWC. So this report only reflects the significant outputs of those responders still working at UWC or for UM. I suspect a few of the non-responders are still involved in an active collaboration, but I believe I have captured most but probably not all of the 2023 outputs. Moreover, a significant number of the respondent's specifically mentioned that it had been many years since they received an UMSAEP grant and no longer are in any contact with their former collaborator. So it is not surprising that they had no outputs to report.

#### **Publications**

UM and UWC faculty reported 2 book chapters published in 2023 and 6 more accepted for publication. 2 books to be published in 2024. 22 manuscripts or articles were published during 2023. 11 additional articles have been submitted for publication and were under review or revision. In addition, UMSAEP participants reported 6 manuscripts were in progress.

#### **Conference papers/ presentations**

UMSAEP participants reported 14 international or national conference presentations.

#### **Grants**

UM and UWC faculty reported submitting several grant applications that were not funded and several more that have been submitted and are under review. The following grants were awarded in 2023 based on their UMSAEP funded work:

UWC'S Marshall Keyster:

Prof. Keyster (UWC) received a Centre of Excellence in Food Security grant for 2023 - ZAR 277 196. This work package is related to the UMSAEP collaboration with Co-PI's Prof's Mendoza-Cozatl and Heese (both from MU) and is a continuation of the initial joint Centre of Excellence in Food Security grant.

Prof. Keyster (UWC) received an industry-linked grant from GrainSA for 2023 - ZAR 452 236. This work package is also related to the UMSAEP collaboration with Co-PI's Prof's Mendoza-Cozatl and Heese (both from MU).

Prof. Keyster (UWC) and Prof. Ashwil Klein(UWC) received an industry-linked grant from GrainSA for 2023 - ZAR 993 408. This work package is also related to the UMSAEP collaboration with Co-PI's Prof's Mendoza-Cozatl and Heese (both from MU) as well as with another UMSAEP collaborator Co-PI's Prof Walter Gassman

UWC's Takalani Mulaudzi-Masuku received a grant of ZAR 1,200,000 from the Water Research Commission related to her published work with MU Prof Abe Koo

UWC's Natasha Ross received a grant of ZAR 90,000 from the National Research Foundation to work on a project in which UMKC Prof Josh Peng is co- PI

UWC's Verona Mathews received a grant of ZAR 181,070 from the National Research Foundation to work with MU's Iris Zachery to develop a skills and competencies framework on health data analytics

## **Creating Student Research Opportunities/ Capacity Building**

UM has played a major role in helping to build capacity at UWC since the inception of this partnership. This continued in 2023.

- MU Prof Xiaoqin Zou hosted a UWC Ph.D. student Luke Zondagh in her lab. The project they worked on significantly advanced Mr Zondagh's Ph.D thesis and he is expecting to submit his thesis this month. In addition, other work done under Prof Zou's guidance is now continuing back in UWC's Prof. Jacques Jobert's lab and one Ph.D. student and on Masters student are currently working on that project.
- MU Prof David Mendoza- Cozatl co-supervised two of Prof Marshall 's Keyster students: Mr. Kudzanayi Charidza's who earned his MSc degree in Sept. 2023 and Ms. Lee-Ann Niekerk's who earned her Ph.D. in Dec 2023. In addition, Prof. Mendoza Cozatl hosted two other of Prof Keyster's graduate students in his lab in the fall of 2023.
- Along with UWC DVC Jose Frantz, MU's Dr Laura Shopp co-advised Levona Johnson, a Ph.D. student who earned her doctorate last year in Physiotherapy.
- UMKC Prof John Kevern recruited a third UWC student Everal Ntsa to enroll in a Ph.D. program at UMKC under his supervision.
- UMSL Prof. Haiyan Cai hosted Rucia November, a UWC Ph.D. student who is working on her doctorate in Sports Science. Prof Cai and UWC Prof Lloyd Leach are co-supervising Ms. November and expect her to complete her Ph.D. in several months.
- MU Prof Ellen Wan and her UWC collaborator UWC Prof Riaan den Haan each had a masters student work on aspects of their UMSAEP funded project. Each earned a MSc last year based on that work.
- UMKC Prof Josh Peng is co-supervising one of UWC's Dr Natasha Ross' Ph.D. students.

### **Special Projects**

MU Prof Katina Bitsicas and her collaborators UWC's Cherith Sanger and MU's Abby Blenk produced a powerful documentary "Aliens from the Sky" on the decriminalization of sex work. MU Prof Michelle Teti developed a training program entitled Photovoice Training for Researchers in South Africa.

### **Faculty Promotion/ Awards**

UWC's Prof Marshall Keyster received the best mid-career researcher award at the University of the Western Cape. UWC's Takalani Mulaudzi-Masuku was promoted to Associate Professor and credited her experience at MU in achieving that goal

### **Conclusion**

This report highlights the major outputs of the UMSAEP in 2023. To see trip reports that describe the broad range of UMSAEP funded projects across a variety of academic disciplines, go to the UMSAEP website <https://www.umsystem.edu/president/southafrica> .

Rodney J. Uphoff  
Elwood Thomas Missouri Endowed  
Professor Emeritus of Law,  
University of Missouri School of Law,  
Director,  
University of Missouri South African  
Education Program  
Extraordinary Professor,  
University of Western Cape Law Faculty  
213 Hulston Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

Phone: (573) 882-3035

FAX: (573) 882-4984