



# INSPIRING EDUCATION ABROAD

The quirky newsletter from your friends at Academic Solutions



**SPECIAL EDITION:**

**TANZANIA & STUDY ABROAD  
ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

## **BIG SHOUT OUT FOR THE HEAL THE COMMUNITY TOUR!**

*Written by  
Charlotte Hill O'Neal (Mama C)  
Co-Founder, UAACC*

The UAACC HEAL THE COMMUNITY TOUR 2023 was, as usual, full of excitement, blessings and overloaded with love! Everywhere that I landed was a testament to the old African saying that 'what you send out into the universe is sure to come back to you!'

I experience this truth year after year after year and the fact that 2023 was the 27th year that I have been blessed to bring this wisdom to gatherings of young and old, all over the United States, is very meaningful to me.

One of the first presentations that I did upon arrival was in my hometown, Kansas City, where I was interviewed on stage as a part of the Bruce R. Watkins SPEAKING TO THE ELDERS documentary series. I was even awarded an official Proclamation from the office of the Mayor, Quinton D. Lucas, attesting to my work over the years!

People are always surprised that I will be 73 years old in a couple of months and still have the energy to travel from city to city bringing the healing and joy to universities, community centers, and even private venues. What many don't realize is that my batteries are continually recharged with the response that always meets me!

Working with young people especially recharges my batteries and keeps me going like the proverbial Energizer Bunny! I am always welcomed wherever I go because of the cloak of African Ancestral Royalty that I carry wrapped around me.

The students and staff and community surprised me with a most Royal welcome when I went to the renowned Carter G. Woodson School in Winston Salem, North Carolina. I was met and feted with a marching band, singing, dancing and multiple signs created by the students from kindergarten to the twelfth grade. Of course, that show of love brought me to tears of joy! And when some of the theater students performed one of the poems from my book HOMAGE, adding their own rifts and creativity to I LOVE ME SOME HIP HOP BEATS, I was flooded!!

I mention this school with pride as the founder, Mama Hazel Scott, is one of my Black Panther comrade sisters! They have brought study abroad groups here to our center in Tanzania two times and are planning another trip this year!!

It was the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party and I had the honor to speak about our life as New World Africans in the Motherland and the strong component of community service inherent in our Panther history and philosophy that remains an integral part of our work in Tanzania at UAACC! It's amazing how young people want to know more about that powerful history as it is hardly taught in schools these days.

The tour took me to Sacramento, where I enlightened teachers about the power of African Spirituality with rituals and music. I went to UC Davis and University of Berkeley where the students loved my presentations that emphasized the healing and elevating properties of beautiful videos like MAROON LOVE that we create at UAACC.

The 2023 tour was nonstop with additional visits to communities in Birmingham, New Orleans, Oakland, Seattle, Chicago and more!!

It's hard to believe that I'm already gearing up for the 2024 HEAL THE COMMUNITY TOUR, which will be from September to October, but I am ready!! Who knows...maybe I will see you in your city!!

Blessings flow...



**Charlotte Hill O'Neal**, aka Mama C, is a writer/poet, visual artist, musician, healer, longtime community activist and co-Founder of the United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC) based in Tanzania, East Africa

## AFRICA ASCENDENT

*Written by Ryan Lorenz  
Founder & Director  
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Study Abroad interest in sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly growing. When I first ran programs in East Africa in the late '80s very few US students chose to study there. Statistics from the Open Doors survey indicate astonishing growth since that time: student participation across sub-Saharan Africa expanded by 340% during the first decade of the 21st century compared to 184% worldwide and keeps on growing. Tanzania outpaced even that growth: 380% during the same period and at present it is the top destination in both East and Central Africa, as well as #3 across sub-Saharan Africa. Many popular explanations are typically offered: Tanzania is politically secure, socially peaceful, her people are truly welcoming, there is both human and natural diversity, and the KiSwahili language is a principal African language and valuable to learn. Of course visitors are also attracted to an abundance of wildlife and marine parks as well as the mighty Mount Kilimanjaro.

I suggest a more compelling argument as to why institutions should encourage their students to study in Tanzania: to promote equity in study abroad, both by participation and destination. Study abroad has traditionally served economically privileged white students studying abroad in Europe and its destinations of global privilege, an echo chamber where similar cultural histories, values and knowledge reinforce each other. African study abroad allows us to break this pattern, engaging a wider diversity of US students as well as promoting a focus centred on the Global South and the experience, values and knowledge of its people. Educational exchange is more likely and the learning potential is exponentially greater. We have seen the results with our students where after even a short period of study they generally use the word 'transformative' to describe their experience and its impact on their knowledge, understanding and perspective.

This is also the age of Africa. According to the New York Times, Africans were a mere 8% of the global population in 1950 but they are expected to be a full quarter of all humanity by 2050. That same year it is expected that a third of all youth worldwide will be African. This veritable 'youthquake' is driving Africa to global audiences today, whether in music, fashion, politics, business or economics. Your students are more likely to connect to African people and their societies than my students from the '80s. This future can begin with study abroad in Tanzania.

## CREATING EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

*Written by Rachel Mantiñán  
Equity & Inclusion Officer,  
Academic Solutions*



Our very special and longstanding collaboration with the [United African Alliance Community Center](#) (UAACC) helps us to put Equity, Inclusion and Justice at the very center of all phases of program development in Arusha, Tanzania. This is because these values are at the very core of the UAACC and of the Black Panther Party, [the origins of the center](#).

There is no other way we would like to bring programming to the African Continent than through a locally established, Black-owned organization that knows and understands the community's strengths and needs. It is important for us to develop programming that pairs well with the resources and expertise at the destination. As a result, our programs will provide transfer of knowledge, skills, and commitment back to students' home communities.

Our programming possibilities will primarily focus on environmental and social justice, food security and sovereignty, sustainability, race and gender, spirituality and the arts, areas in which we have strong, local academic contacts. Our local network will provide a multitude of opportunities for co-curricular activities to engage students with pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities to learn about land rights, governance, natural resource management, social and economic empowerment, youth organizations working in civic engagement, human rights, and climate issues, small businesses working in sustainable farming, and much more.

We intend for our programming to be transformational for students, which is why it is important to coach the students in articulating their learnings and experiences in Tanzania. The creation of a video blog with guidance from a local coach and filmmaker while abroad is one way we intend to help students grasp and articulate their learnings. Programs like these are oftentimes difficult to put into words or even to recognize the transformation one has experienced. The process of these video blogs will offer students a clearer understanding of their time on the continent, as well as a final product that they can share with future employers, projects, or studies.

Let's co-create just the right Tanzania experience for your students together!