The United States-Southern Africa

Center for Leadership and Public Values
at Duke University

Strengthening public leadership
Extending the reach of civil society
Promoting the public values essential to a democracy
Activities of the United States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values and its sister Centre at the University of Cape Town cluster around three major streams: the Emerging Leaders Program, the Civil Society Forum and Ethics in Public Life Initiatives.

**Emerging Leaders Program**

Each year, the two Centers recruit and appoint 20-25 mid-career leaders primarily from historically disadvantaged communities in southern Africa and the United States and across the public, private and non-profit sectors to Fellowships in a year-long, in-service program on principle-centered leadership. The goal is to better prepare Fellows for dealing with the moral challenges they will soon face as senior leaders in their professions and communities. Key program elements include: an intensive opening seven-day Retreat on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned and at the University of Cape Town, the services of a personal executive coach, a series of written assignments across the year, and a three-day reunion Retreat, again in Cape Town, during which Fellows jointly assess and assign meaning to their experiences. The Program focuses Fellows’ learning around several themes: what the Anti-Apartheid and Civil Rights struggles teach about servant-leadership, African and western theories of values-centered leadership, ethics and accountability, personal renewal (intellectual, spiritual and physical), ethical communications, and building personal networks. Additionally, Fellows are encouraged to identify and select personal mentors, senior leaders who can serve as personal advisors, guides and sources of connections within Fellows’ professions.

**Civil Society Forum**

Each year, some thirty or so nonprofit leaders from South Africa and the United States come together in this on-going Forum, either at Duke University or the University of Cape Town, to share ideas about critical challenges for improving the quality of life and achieving social and economic equity in both nations – such as more effectively combating HIV/AIDS among low-income people, advancing the agendas of restorative justice, and promoting and supporting indigenous forms of community philanthropy. They review the status of affairs in each area of concern, identify key issues and leverage points, and shape strategies to move the agendas forward. Increasingly, the Forums have turned attention to how members can best influence the attitudes and policies of other leaders in the public, private and NGO sectors. By working together, reflecting, listening to and supporting one another, Forum members find that they also renew their own sense of mission and of leadership as a profoundly moral undertaking.

**Ethics in Public Life Initiatives**

The Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University and the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town, homes to the Centers, are seeking to collaborate on a series of initiatives to contribute to scholarship and the conversation about public values. Initiatives may include research, seminars or conferences for policy makers and opinion leaders, articles, occasional papers, monographs, special interviews and panels for television and radio, and presentations to key audiences.
The Centers for Leadership and Public Values reflect a bi-national partnership between the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University and the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town.

The Center seeks to:

- Enhance the capacity of highly promising emerging leaders, primarily in southern Africa but also in historically disadvantaged communities in the United States, to contribute to the empowerment of their communities and the transformation of their countries.
- Strengthen civil society with particular regard to mutual learning and collaborative initiatives between independent sector leaders in southern Africa and the United States.
- Make a substantive contribution to the public discussion and understanding of the role of ethics and values in public life in both southern Africa and the United States.

Illustrative Public Life Initiative: Building Community Philanthropy

The Centre at the University of Cape Town conducted a two-year project to study indigenous forms of philanthropy in some 100 low-wealth communities in Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The research focused on the various ways, norms and structures through which members of each community provided “help” to one another, from informal but frequent philanthropic acts to more formal ones like burial societies and stokvels. The results have been pathbreaking in that so little heretofore had been documented and analyzed about how resource-limited communities, with little to no government or donor support, mobilize internal resources for survival and developmental purposes. In building a nuanced picture of philanthropic practices at the community-level, the project has developed a wealth of data highlighting successful self-help models. The Centre will feedback the knowledge to the communities and disseminate it to government, corporations and foundations to heighten their interest in reinforcing indigenous community philanthropy and doing so in ways that honor the norms of such giving, strengthen grass roots leadership, and develop low-wealth communities.
“Leading a professional life of integrity, I learnt is a non-negotiable.”
Ndoyisile Miti, Fellow, 2002/03 Emerging Leaders Program

“Well organized, unique, life-equipping.”
Juliet Rugeiyamu Kairuki, Fellow, 2004/05 Emerging Leaders Program

“Most leadership programs focus on skills...what I like about ELP is its focus on character.”
Margarita Rubalcava, Fellow, 2004/05 Emerging Leaders Program

Center Leadership

JAMES A. JOSEPH is executive director of the Center for Leadership and Public Values at Duke University, professor of the practice of public policy studies at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, and the Leader in Residence for the Institute’s Hart Leadership Program. He is a founder of the UCT Center and an honorary professor at UCT. He coordinates the partnership arrangements between the two institutions and serves as an executive consultant to the UCT Center. He has been vice president of Cummins Engine Company (1971-76), chief executive officer of the Council on Foundations (1982-95), and appointed by four US presidents to various public offices including Under Secretary of the Interior (1977-81) and United States Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa (1996-2000).

CERI OLIVER-EVANS is the director of the Centre for Leadership and Public Values at UCT. She has held a number of senior administrative positions within the University. Until her appointment as the director of the UCT Centre, she directed a Leadership and Management Development Project for the UCT Vice-Chancellor, which focused on the leadership development needs of academic heads of departments. Prior to 1996 she lectured in Social Anthropology at UCT. She holds a BAFA (Rhodes University) and a BA (Hons) and MA from the University of Cape Town.

LANCE BUHL is Deputy Director of the Center at Duke. Dr. Buhl (history, Harvard) completed a twenty year career in higher education, was program officer then director of corporate contributions for British Petroleum in America, and since 1992 has served as consultant to foundations, nonprofits and corporations for strategic planning, community assessment, and program evaluation.

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