

# Estamos Juntos



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MAY 2009

U.S. MISSION TO MOZAMBIQUE

## RIZE



Join the group and show off your dancing talents at Guebuza Square in the Maputo Shopping Center, Sunday, May 10 at 3:00 pm  
**DON'T MISS IT!**



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## Music Diplomacy at its Finest



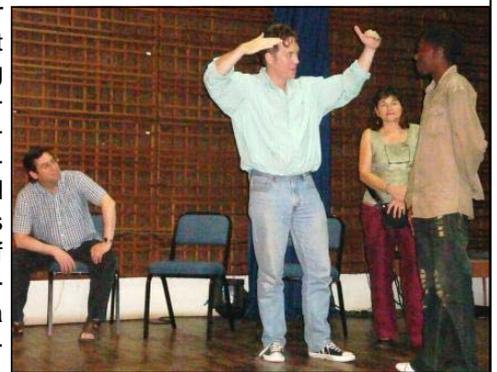
Pianist Joe Walsh, Tenor Dan Snyder, and Maestro Peter Mark sharing opera with Mozambicans

Support from the United States' Government's Performing Arts Initiative program, the U.S. Embassy facilitated this first-ever visit to Africa for the American musicians.

But performance was only part of the visit for the opera stars. Exchange – learning about Mozambican musical traditions, and sharing their expertise – was also a focus. The Virginia Opera rehearsed for days with Mozambique's Majescoral culminating in a collaborative performance. The Americans shared the stage with Mozambican musicians throughout the Festival, including some of the country's future stars during the workshop. As one participant noted, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn from world-class musicians.

An opera company in Mozambique? There just may be before too long following the visit of four Americans from the Virginia Opera who visited Mozambique to participate in the Fifth International Music Festival, April 18-29. While here, the American musicians invited 25 students of the National Music School to a workshop, including one-on-one instruction for young Mozambicans training in voice.

Under the leadership of Maestro Peter Mark, pianist Joseph Walsh, tenor Daniel Snyder and soprano Mary Elisabeth Williams shared their music and theater to audiences all over Maputo and the surrounding area. With support



Tenor Dan Snyder works with a School of Music student

## Message from the Chargé d'Affaires



Todd C. Chapman

The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs fosters mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries through a variety of international programs. The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation has supported Maputo's Museum of Natural History; a new archaeological museum in Niassa; the Swiss Presbyterian Mission in Xai-Xai; and two important projects on the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mozambique Island. Understanding the importance of cultural diplomacy, we

bring American cultural groups to Mozambique for a rich exchange of ideas and talents. In late April, through the Performing Arts Initiative, we brought four musicians from the Virginia Opera to participate in Maputo's 5<sup>th</sup> International Music Festival. And now, from May 4 – 13, we are hosting three American "Cultural Envoys" in a program about as different from opera as is possible: these "RIZE" dancers will show off their "clown" and "krump" style of dance (a new and unique form of hip hop) which revolutionized the lives of youth in Los Angeles and is sure to have a major impact here. We are pleased to sponsor this diverse range of cultural offerings in Mozambique and hope that you have the opportunity to attend some of our cultural events.

*Todd Chapman*

## Cashew Industry Makes a Comeback



Grading cashews at the Condor factory in Nametil (Photo: Technoserve)

Mozambique was once the world's leading cashew nut producer, until civil war and poor policy decisions devastated the industry. By the late 1990s, Mozambique was shipping its reduced production of raw cashew nuts to India for processing, forfeiting a significant amount of value in the process. To rebuild the domestic industry and meet the growing global demand for cashew nuts, USAID's partner, TechnoServe, stepped in to help entrepreneurs establish commercially viable processing plants and train farmers to produce more and better nuts. As a result, nearly 150,000 factory workers and farmers are now earning higher incomes, and there is an economic boom in rural villages.

Since 2002, nine cashew processing plants have opened in the northern province of Nampula. These factories have created a reliable local market for tens of thousands of small-scale cashew producers who are

now able to sell directly to the factories, rather than to merchants based in the city (where transportation costs and poor road conditions ate into profits). Moreover, processors are also training farmers to improve quality and yields, leading to higher incomes.

Today, thanks to programs like these, Mozambique is once again one of the world's leading cashew nut producers -- fourth according to recent international reports -- and is developing a substantial processing sector.

## Girls Must Be Assertive Against Sexual Harassment

"If a teacher approaches me and tries to seduce me I just say NO!", said a 16-year-old girl from Raparigas em Desenvolvimento, Educação e Saúde (REDES) during a debate over the relationship between teachers and students, in Chimoio, Manica province.

"You must be decisive," said the girl, adding that usually the teacher gives up. She was sharing her experience with more than 25 other girls from Sofala, Manica and Tete provinces who left their homes to attend the fifth annual REDES conference.

The participants acknowledged that girls who have been victims of sexual harassment at school sometimes feel



REDES girls during an animated debate at the Conference in Chimoio

that they cannot turn away due to fear of reprisal. "Girls should not hide when they suffer from sexual harassment," encouraged teacher Veronica, one of the facilitators of the debate.

Other issues discussed during the first work session included: sexual violence (particularly at home) and inter-generational sex.

The REDES conference took place

from April 13 - 18 and was organized by a partnership between Peace Corps volunteers, local authorities, especially through the Ministry of Education and with support of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## Boys' Conferences Help Transmit Life Skills

The other article in this newsletter talks about a particular challenge for young girls in Mozambique, and much attention is paid to girls' development. Boys, however, face unique challenges, too – challenges that are helped to be overcome by social boys' clubs in their high schools, with a regional conference, called Youth for Action and Change (JOMA) in April that selected boys' club members get to attend.

To combat the phenomenon of many boys dropping out of school early to help support their families, JOMA seeks solutions by teaching the boys life skills. At one JOMA 2009 regional conference, in Chimoio, close to 25 boys had the chance of getting life skills in the fields of journalism,

photo-journalism, music, theatre, and art. This knowledge will give them more confidence in pursuing a job to earn money to support their families, current and future.

JOMA conferences, which also took place in Nampula (Northern Mozambique) and Inhambane (Southern Mozambique) this year, are organized by Peace Corps volunteers with local partners and supported by the U.S. President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The initiative to recognize boys' special challenges was recognized internationally at the 2007 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting in Rwanda where JOMA organizers attended to give a presentation to global leaders fighting the disease on what more can be done.



A girl from JOMA conducting a journalism working session



JOMA young men during an art working session

## American Students Fighting Hunger in Mozambique



Two Mozambican boys with donated food from Grains for Hope

In 2002, teacher Carol Spangler and her colleagues at Sabetha High School in the U.S. state of Kansas presented their students with a challenge: make a theoretical problem-solving project a reality. The young Americans responded, and Grains for Hope (GFH) was born. This innovative group of students, teachers, and businessmen is dedicated to fighting malnutrition by producing and distributing micronutrient-enhanced food products to those in need. Grains for Hope is distinctive in its student-focused methods, empowering high school students to take an active role in the workings of a charity organization.

Over the next several years, the group expanded and evolved. In 2006, the first shipment of grain was successfully distributed in Mozambique with assistance from an officer from the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, himself a native of Kansas. Volunteering his time and expertise, the Embassy officer provided

logistical support and helped connect GFH with international groups and the Mozambican recipients. Since 2006, GFH has produced a total of three shipments of nutritionally fortified grain; over 25,000 pounds (55,000 kilograms) in all. GFH is currently planning to build its own production facility in Sabetha, which will greatly enhance the organization's capabilities. As it moves into the future GFH seeks to form alliances with a wide variety of partners to enhance its capacity and sustainability to help meet nutrition needs worldwide.



Two Sabetha High School students represent Grains for Hope at a 2008 conference

# 25 years of Progress & Partnership

## Transparency Tour Launched

While the U.S. has had a diplomatic presence in this country since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, our official foreign assistance to the independent nation of Mozambique started through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in October 1984. To mark 25 years of partnership and progress, Chargé d'Affaires Todd Chapman as well as other officials, like the USAID/Mozambique Mission Director Todd Amani, are embarking on tours of projects throughout Mozambique. Mr. Chapman pledges to visit all the provinces in the next six months and is using "Transparency" as his theme. The U.S. government expects transparency from its own projects and holds Mozambique accountable for transparency, too. It is an opportunity for all to rise to the occasion and realize our shared objective – the betterment of lives for all Mozambicans.

-  **U.S. foreign assistance 1984 – 2009: 2.75 billion (not adjusted for inflation)**
-  **U.S. bilateral foreign assistance is provided through USAID; the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC); the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI); the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD); and a number of specialized grant programs.**
-  **The U.S. government is also the largest contributor to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the United Nations; the World Bank; and the World Health Organization.**

## Give an Orphan a Fish...



*A young girl from Bairro Mateus Sansão Muthemba in Tete poses in front of a future "fish farm"*

As the old adage goes, "Give a man a fish, and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you will feed him for a lifetime." With that in mind, our Embassy's PEPFAR (U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) Quick Impact Program recently funded the construction of a fish farming enterprise in Tete Province.

A group of caregivers in the community of Bairro Mateus Sansão Muthemba working with orphans and vulnerable children received the relatively small grant of \$9,000. With that money, they were able to build a sustainable fish farm near their orphanage. Once completed, it will not only provide food for the orphans, but will also provide income to the orphanage through the sale of fish in the local markets. By teaching them how to (grow) fish, they will not only be able to feed today's orphans, but many generations to come.

## Mozambique at a Glance



*Photo by Michael Barrientos*

*3/23/09: Alex Joaquim, 28, holds a neighbor's baby whom he and his wife were looking after, near his home in Mahlampwene. The home is next to a minefield being cleared by HALO trust. Joaquim operates a "cantina" in front of his home and serves the mine clearance team. He was able to purchase a home and land, on a cleared minefield, but with two young children is still nervous about landmines.*

**Comments/Questions? Would you like to receive this publication by e-mail?**

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