CONTINENTAL REACH: Students from 32 African countries are enrolled at the University, including several from a college preparatory program in South Africa.

Morocco

Tunisia

Algeria

Libya

Western Sahara

Mauritania

Mali

Niger

Chad

Senegal

Gambia

Guinea Bissau

Guinea

Burkina Faso

Benin

Sierra Leone

Cote D'Ivoire

Ghana

Togo

Nigeria

Central African Republic

Liberia

Cameroon

Equatorial Guinea

Gabon

Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Angola

Namibia

South Africa

# A Great Gathering

Rochester has become the No. 1 destination for graduates of a selective college preparatory program in South Africa.

*By Rachel Goldstein '13*

Senegal native Rose Mbaye '16 is the first person in her family to leave the African continent.

Entering her third year at Rochester, she's studying biomedical engineering with the intention of using her knowledge and skills to transform health care at home.

"Many countries in Africa, including Senegal, are behind in health care infrastructure and access," says Mbaye. "My number one goal is to become the person who revolutionizes health care in developing countries. Everything that I have been doing at the University since arriving here has been toward reaching that goal."

One of the key stepping stones in Mbaye's transition from Senegal to Rochester was the African Leadership Academy (ALA), a selective college preparatory program in South Africa. Founded in 2008, the academy identifies African high school students who demonstrate leadership potential and helps set them on a path to becoming African leaders and entrepreneurs through a rigorous two-year pre-university program.

## Faces of Leadership

Since its founding in 2008, the African Leadership Academy has had more than three dozen of its graduates matriculate at Rochester, more than at any other university in the world. The strong connection is an indication of Rochester's growing role as a trusted partner in African education, says Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid.

**Eyram Adedze '17**
Economics
*Ghana*

**Olasunkanmi Asunmonu '17**
Electrical and computer engineering/*Nigeria*

**Mohammed Atul '17**
Business
*South Africa*

**Marthe Avissoudo '17**
Mechanical engineering
*Senegal*

**Samuel Barongo '14**
Electrical and computer engineering/*Uganda*

**Daniel Bonga '14**
Electrical and computer engineering/*Sierra Leone*

**Bridget Chabunya '14**
Epidemiology
*Malawi*



**Yesubet Dereje '17**
Biomedical engineering
*Ethiopia*



**Boubacar Diallo '16**
Mechanical engineering
*South Africa*



**Abdelrahman Hassan '16**
Interdepartmental studies
*Egypt*



**Xavier Joaquinho '17**
Undeclared
*Mozambique*



**Brian Kalugira '14**
Chemical engineering
*Tanzania*



**Ntemena Kapula '18**
Biological sciences
and biochemistry/*Zambia*



**Bongumusa Khoza '18**
Undeclared
*South Africa*



**Magnifique Nsengimana '18**
Audio and music engineering
*Namibia*



**Alhassan Omar '18**
Undeclared
*Egypt*



**Zanga Ouattara '16**
Computer science
*Burkina Faso*

Many of ALA's graduates attend U.S. colleges, and about 10 percent of those graduates have enrolled at Rochester—more than at any other university in the world. In August, the University hosted ALA's fourth annual *indaba,* meaning "gathering" in Zulu—the largest conference in North America for the academy's graduates who are pursuing higher education in the U.S.

"We have become the top destination for African Leadership Academy graduates because we've not only been committed to having so many of their students, but those students also have done very well," says Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid at the University.

Mbaye is one of 37 graduates of the academy who have enrolled at Rochester. When she first arrived at ALA, she spoke little to no English, but now speaks Wolof, her native language, French, English, and some Spanish.

She spent the summer of 2014 working at the Kwazulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV in South Africa, developing an automated image analysis program to analyze the dynamics of cells infected with a type of tuberculosis.

She also worked at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, helping design a paper-based diagnostic device that health care clinics in developing countries could use as a low-cost, alternative technology for detecting antibody levels in the presence of infectious or autoimmune diseases.

**Rose Mbaye '16**
Biomedical engineering
*Senegal*



**Caroline Modise '15**
Political science
*Botswana*



**Rafael Muchanga '18**
Chemical engineering
*Mozambique*



**Solange Munezero '17**
Chemical engineering
*Rwanda*



**Mame Coumba Mbodji '17**
Mathematics
*Senegal*



**Ngosa Mupela '16**
Financial economics
*South Africa*



**Aissalou Ndiaye '15**
Biology
*South Africa*



**Akan Nelson '15**
Economics
*Nigeria*

Burdick says that Rochester's role in helping provide an education to students who return to their home countries makes a significant impact on African society.

"It makes a bigger difference for somebody to get an engineering degree from a place like Rochester and go back to Sierra Leone, than it does to go back to the San Francisco Bay Area," he says. "It's the same education, but the impact is significantly greater."

The first cohort of six ALA students graduated this spring, four of them with engineering degrees. One of them, Daniel Bonga '14, from Sierra Leone, plans to complete a master's degree at the University, and five have returned to their home countries.

Incoming freshman Rafael Muchanga '18, from Mozambique, is culture-shocked but excited to begin a new adventure. "I am not here just to study," says Muchanga, "but to design what I want to do and become a well-rounded, open-minded person."

The *indaba* gave him an opportunity to learn more about American culture, meet new people, and explore Rochester.

In total, the University has enrolled students from 32 different African countries, including those who have entered through other programs or on their own.

"It's all an indication of how big we've become as a trusted partner among African educators," says Burdick. "Hosting the conference is part of a larger effort to make sure we are well connected up and down the continent." ®

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*Rachel Goldstein '13 writes for University Communications.*

## Not pictured

**Oswald Codjoe '14**
Financial economics
and political science/*Ghana*

**Gaella Kabeya '18**
Business
*Zambia*

**Jeffrey Kanyama '17**
Electrical and computer
engineering/*Zambia*

**Hamed Kone '15**
Chemical engineering
*Cote d'Ivoire*

**Jordan Mukisa '18**
Chemical engineering
*Uganda*

**Adil Nyambasha '18**
Undeclared
*Zimbabwe*

**Ntakamaze Nziyonvira '17**
Mechanical engineering
*Uganda*

**Kawtar Rai '15**
International relations
*Morocco*

**Ali Ramoul '15**
Mechanical engineering
*Algeria*

**Yahouza Maman Sani Sabo '18**
Electrical and computer
engineering/*Niger*

**Siham Sh'Mumin '18**
Business
*Somaliland*

**Rodrigue Yoguelim '14**
Mechanical engineering
*Senegal*