

# RELIGION

## Urbana pastor leads delegation in Malawi

URBANA — A team of area people is in Malawi, Africa, this week to deliver money, books about Illinois and friendship.

Led by the Rev. Don Mason, pastor of Urbana First Presbyterian Church, and his wife, Donna, the group will deliver a \$15,000 grant from the national Rotary organization that will help toward a long-standing project to dig shallow wells for safe drinking water in local villages.

Both Don Mason and state Sen. Michael Frerichs of Gifford, who helped arrange the grant, are Rotarians.

The amount will bring the total of financial support from the church this year to about \$50,000.

Dennis Roberts, an Urbana councilman from Ward 5 who also is on the trip, will deliver books about Illinois to African college and church libraries. He is an employee of the University of Illinois Press, which published the books.

The delegation will visit Grace Malindi, whose family made friends at the Urbana church some 20 years ago, and tour the Luangwa Nature Preserve.

— *The News-Gazette*

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The small brick Vermillion County sta ing services in Septen The first sermon was Sept. 19, 1857, and th was dedicated the Now, the Vermillion C seum Society owns th

To submit informa marriages at Mann' call the museum at f send an e-mail to: nol.com.

Updates about the tron will be publiciz Web site [www.vermilmuseum.org](http://www.vermilmuseum.org).

— *The News*

## Area Catholics honored at ceremony

Five Catholics from tral Illinois have bee to receive this year'squette Award in recce service to their part

The 11th annual a be presented Nov. 18

Twenty-seven peop list of 120 nominees, v medals.

Area recipients at dine Bowsher of St. Church, Rantoul; Hacker and Joseph E of Holy Cross Church

## UI employee donates books to struggling African libraries

By Sharita Forrest  
Assistant Editor

**A**n employee of the UI Press is warming the hearts of people in an African country by donating books to its struggling libraries.

Dennis Roberts, a book designer at the UI for 12 years, joined a group from the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana on its "Shallow Wells" mission trip to Malawi in August. The church sends workers to Malawi every other year to help dig wells to provide residents around the small rural community of Domasi with clean drinking water.

Although not a church member, Roberts said he was intrigued by the project, and asked if he could accompany the group on its trip in August. Roberts said he wondered as he prepared for the journey, "How could I make a personal contribution? What could I add to the mission of the group based on who I am and what I do?"

Naturally, the answer was books — books that would ac-

quaint Malawians with the history, agriculture and people of Illinois. Roberts donated his personal copies of some of the books he had designed, and co-workers contributed other books. The cache, which included books on Abraham Lincoln, Illinois history, folk music and culture and photography, totaled 20 books, enough to fill half a suitcase.

With the help of Donna Mason, who co-led the trip with her husband, the Rev. Don Mason, Roberts selected three libraries in Malawi to receive the books: the University of Malawi Chancellor College Library, the Malawi Institute of Education, and Domasi College of Education.

And when Roberts visited each library to drop off the books, "They were dumbfounded," Roberts said of the libraries' staff members. "It was very unusual for them. But they were very excited about it."

At the University of Malawi's Chancellor College Library, Roberts was ushered into the office of Dickson Yuwa Phiri, director of the library's American collection.

"When I told him I was visiting from the U.S., and that I work at the UI Press and wanted to donate books, he looked at me, just stunned, and said, 'I can't believe you're sitting in my office. I was in the U.S. two weeks ago and was in Urbana.'"

Coincidentally Phiri had been one of two African librarians among a group of 30 librarians who had visited the Mortenson Center for International Programs on the Urbana campus as part of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program.

During his two-day stay in Urbana, Phiri had visited Arthur, and told Roberts he had been fascinated by the Amish, but lamented that he had no mementos of the community. To Phiri's great surprise, Roberts then pulled a copy of the UI Press book "Visit to Amish Country" out of his book bag. The book was one of five books to be donated to the University of Malawi library. When Phiri told Roberts that many of the books in the university's American collection

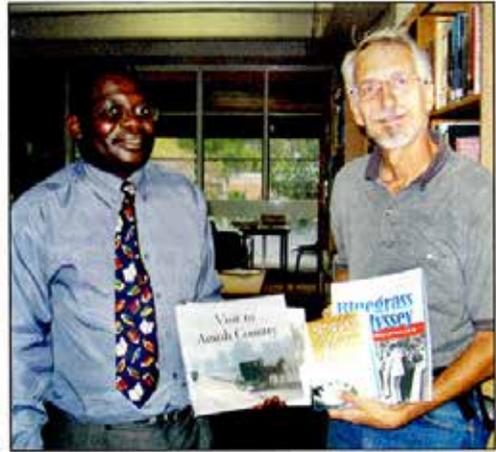


photo courtesy Dennis Roberts

**Gifts that speak volumes** Dennis Roberts, a book designer at UI Press, right, and Dickson Yuwa Phiri, director of the American collections at the University of Malawi in Zomba, display some of the books donated to the library by Roberts and his co-workers. Roberts delivered the books to three struggling libraries in Malawi while on a mission trip sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana.

are 30 years old. "It became clear to me how important these book donations would be to students in Malawi," Roberts said.

Besides delivering books, Roberts spent two days laying brick in the bottom of a shallow well that the church group helped install in the village of Chipawange.

Since his trip, Roberts has shipped five more boxes of books, and a box of past issues of the *Journal of American History* to Malawi. He also gave a brown bag lunch talk to his co-workers, who donated many of the books.

In one of the "many wonderful coincidences that helped the project along," Ulemu Malindi, a cultural affairs specialist for the U.S. embassy in Malawi whom Roberts met at a dinner party during his trip, helped make arrangements for Roberts to ship books to an embassy office in Virginia, which then ships them to Malawi at the embassy's expense.

Roberts, who has footed the bill for most of the shipping costs as well as his Malawi trip, hopes to add more libraries to his dis-

tribution list and send shipments monthly.

Roberts wants to talk with anyone in the university community interested in helping continue the donations. "It's all about the wonderful opportunity this can become for building understanding, friendship and cross-cultural pollination."

The Malawian libraries want books on almost any topic, but are keenly interested in current books on computer-related topics relevant to students, books about primary and secondary school education, and modern agriculture and farming practices.

A member of the Urbana City Council, Roberts also is developing a pen pal program between children in Urbana and children in Malawi and hopes to begin a "sister cities" relationship between the communities of Urbana and Zomba. "We have a lot in common," Roberts said. "One of their primary crops is maize, or corn, just like Illinois. And we're both university communities." ♦



photo courtesy Dennis Roberts

**Clean water** People from the Malawian village of Chipawange pump water at a new well that was completed by the mission group from Illinois.

## URBANA

# Panel applying for grant to help sister city in Africa

**By The News-Gazette**

URBANA — A grant application that could improve water, sanitation or health services for residents of Zomba, a sister city of Urbana located in southern Malawi in Africa will be discussed at a meeting set for 7:15 p.m. today in the Satterthwaite Conference Room in the lower level of the Urbana Free Library, 210 W. Green St., U.

Dennis Roberts, an Urbana alderman and chair of the Urbana Sister City Committee, said the group will apply for a grant from Sister Cities

International, which received \$7.5 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish an African-poverty-alleviation program.

Roberts said \$150,000 will be given to an African community for a project involving water, sanitation or health and \$10,000 will be given to the U.S. sister city to cover administration and travel costs.

"The African community will decide the goals of the local project," Roberts said.

Zomba showed interest in trash receptacles for residents,

public toilets and sewer lines, he said.

Malawi is one of the poorest nations in Africa, according to Roberts. Zomba is the municipal center of the Zomba District in southern Malawi and home to the University of Malawi.

"They have a very high mortality rate," he said.

The Urbana-Zomba link began 20 years ago following a First United Presbyterian Church ministry. The Urbana City Council approved the sister-city partnership two years ago, he said.

# Urbana to host representatives from sister city Malawi

BY TAYLOR GOLDENSTEIN  
STAFF WRITER

Next Monday, Urbana will host representatives from its sister city, a city thousands of miles away and across the ocean: Zomba, in Malawi, Africa.

The partnership began 25 years ago and stemmed from the long-standing relationships that community organizations had with Malawi.

After returning from a mission trip in 2007, Dennis Roberts, Urbana council member-Ward 2, introduced the idea of becoming sister cities with Zomba to Mayor Laurel Prussing. Prussing agreed, and the partnership was approved in February 2008.

Two years later, Urbana received a \$115,000 grant from Sister Cities International through the African Urban Poverty Alleviation program and became one of 17 projects currently monitored by the organization.

"Urbana's project is considered to be one of the best — the best managed and the best organized," Roberts said.

In August, Roberts and other committee members did a site visit in Zomba to evaluate needs. The final proposal for grant money use was submitted in February.

The proposal consists of three projects related to health, sanitation and water, as the grant requires. The first project will provide water to those without access to it by constructing standpipes connected to the city water system.

At three primary schools in Zomba with nearly 1,000 students, children share four toilets. To improve this situation, the second project will triple the number of toilets available by adding three eight-unit pit toilets, similar to what Americans would refer to as an outhouse, at each school, Roberts said.

"We're going to be providing toilet facilities to probably four or 5,000 children and clean, chlorinated, safe drinking water to about 7,500 to 10,000 people," said Scott Dossett, secretary for Urbana's sister city committee.

Lastly, in Zomba, hospitals strictly treat a patient's health needs, which means relatives must solely take care of sick patients.

"We visited the hospital and village and found very bad sanitation conditions," Roberts said.

Dossett added that the guardian shelter, where caretakers stay, is "woefully in need of remodeling."

In the last project of the pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS ROBERTS

Members of the Urbana Sister Cities Committee repair the pump handle on one of the shallow wells near Domasi, Malawi during their trip in August.

posal, Zomba Central Hospital will receive four showers and eight flushing toilets that will connect to a main sewer line. Currently, all the waste is running into the street, Roberts said.

Once the proposal is approved by Sister Cities International, they will search for a construction company. When potential offers are received, Dossett will travel to Africa to open the bids with partners in Zomba.

"I anticipate that the project will be very successful," said

Adam Kaplan, program manager at Sister Cities International. "It will help decrease the incidence of waterborne diseases ... and ... increase attendance (at the schools) and (decrease) time spent traveling to toilet facilities or water points."

As a first for the new sister city program, representatives from Urbana will attend the 55th annual conference in Arlington, Va., from March 3 to 5.

Travel allowance for visitors Charles Kalemba, chief executive officer of Zomba, and Mussa

Mwali, administrative director of Zomba, who are attending the conference and visiting Urbana, will be funded by Sister Cities International.

During their trip, the representatives from Zomba will have dinner with the mayor and University President Michael Hogan, as well as sit in on an Urbana City Council meeting.

"(Government members in Malawi) took very good care of us during our visit in August," Dossett said. "We're real pleased to be able to reciprocate."

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## LOCAL

## URBANA

# Group of Malawians pays visit to sister city

By PATRICK WADE  
pwade@news-gazette.com

URBANA — Sorry, Champaign-Urbana has a different sister city.

Visitors from Zomba, Malawi — Urbana's African sibling — are in town this week to meet with city and University of Illinois officials to discuss how to further the two governments' relationship and create an understanding of different cultures between each city's inhabitants.

"That understanding is maybe what is lacking," said Charles Kalembe, Zomba's chief executive officer. "That's why we have wars, we have disagreements. People don't understand one another. So we are looking at a situation whereby when people start to know one another then we will be able to live together and we will be

able to achieve peace in the world."

That might be a long-term goal, but the program also is helping to solve more immediate problems in the city of 88,000 in southeast Africa, just below the Zomba Plateau.

The differences in culture between the sister cities are vast. Many of Zomba's residents hike more than a half-mile to the river bed for their drinking water. Schoolchildren line up to use bathrooms, a wait that can grind their education to a halt. And relatives who travel to the hospital to care for their sick relatives sometimes end up needing care themselves.

Scott Dosssett, the secretary of the Urbana Sister Cities Committee, visited Zomba last year, and he said the conditions at its hospital were hard to see. For a group of about 200 to 300

people who live there while they take care of loved ones, there is one water spigot, no showers and no toilets.

"So they come to help their uncle, and now all of a sudden, they don't have a good water supply, they can't take a shower, they get sick," Dosssett said.

With a \$115,000 grant from Sister Cities International, the group hopes to solve some of those problems for residents of Zomba. The money will help give 7,500 to 9,000 people a clean water supply, workers will build toilets for the schoolchildren and the conditions at the hospital will be improved.

"There is a huge need for clean water," Karembe said.

Those are the immediate benefits of the program, but organizers hope it will have a long-standing effect.

"The things that we can give to

them in some ways pale in comparison to what they can give to us," Dosssett said.

That means a different way of thinking about what you really need and how to make progress in society, he added.

"The spirit of people-to-people relationships is to be able to draw the strength from one and to improve the weakness from the other," Karembe said.

Organizers are looking forward to future visits to and from each city, they said. Karembe wants to see lawyers, teachers, students and doctors in the two cities exchange information.

Scott Dosssett and his group are looking for donations in order to continue the work. They have received the grant to do the initial project, but any future projects will depend on

local fundraising.

The group will fly out of Chicago early Friday morning. On Wednesday, the group visited Urbana High School and Wiley Elementary School. Today, the group will meet with UI President Michael Hogan at his house and members of the UI African studies department.

They have spent all week in Urbana after attending a conference in Arlington, Va. During the drive to Illinois through the Appalachian Mountains, Mussa Mwale, Zomba's chief administrative officer, who wore an Urbana High School hooded sweatshirt on Wednesday, saw something he had never seen before.

"We came out and saw it falling on our heads," he said of the mountain snow. "It was nice."

# Urbana committee helps out with 3 projects for Malawi

BY TAYLOR GOLDENSTEIN  
STAFF WRITER

African representatives from Urbana's sister city Zomba came Wednesday to a "Malawi Mixer" at the Urbana Civic Center to meet with community members and hear about local projects related to Africa.

The representatives, Charles Kalemba, chief executive officer of Zomba, and Mussa Mwale, administrative director of Zomba, have been working with an Urbana committee for the past year trying to finalize plans for three projects for the improvement of health, water and sanitation.

"(The project is) connecting us to see how we can work better together, and that's the spirit of people-to-people relationships," Kalemba said. "It's being able to draw the strength from one, and improve the weakness in the other."

These projects are being funded by a \$115,000 two-year grant received last spring from Sister Cities International through the African Urban Poverty Alleviation program.

Travel expenses for Kalemba and Mwale were paid for by Sister Cities International, so they could attend its 55th annual conference.

At the conference, four projects

were chosen to give a presentation out of the 27 that are funded by the alleviation program. The Urbana-Zomba partnership was one of the chosen four.

After the conference, Dennis Roberts, Ward 2 Urbana city council member, and Scott Dosssett, sister city committee secretary, drove the two from Arlington, Va., where the conference took place, to Urbana.

For Mwale, it was his first time out of Malawi, Africa, his first time on an airplane and his first time seeing snow. This is also the first time anyone involved in the grant work has come to visit.

"(Urbana is) a small city, but it's a city with people who have a passion to do something in the world," Mwale said.

Along with representatives interacting with community members, the Malawi Mixer allowed for local groups to share the kind of similar work they are doing related to Africa.

Presenters included First Presbyterian Church in Champaign, the Urbana Free Library, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Urbana Rotary Club.

To improve education on Malawi in public school systems, a \$15,000 grant was created in January by the Depart-



Mussa Mwale, left, and Charles Kalemba, both representatives from Zomba, Malawi, grab the food during the "Malawi Mixer" at the Urbana Civic Center on Wednesday.

WILLIAM SHR THE DAILY ILLINI

ment of Public Engagement and Outreach in collaboration with the African Studies program at the University. Students will have reading groups at elementary and secondary levels starting this month and continuing until the fall.

"Extending the Sister City Initiative: Understanding Malawi in Urbana, Illinois," as the project is called, will be funded by the grant from

Jamie McGowan, associate director of the Center for African studies. The grant allows for the hiring of a graduate assistant, Tholani Hlongwa, to help with the educational part of the program.

Community involvement beyond work on the grant projects will be centered on communication and education. Dosssett said the committee hopes to have projects in the future where stu-

dents can Skype with African students. "I'm looking forward to more interactions," Mwale said.

Anyone is welcome to attend sister city meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. and may join any one of the five or six standing committees.

"This is the beginning of something," Roberts said. "This is not the final party — this is the start."

*The Daily Illini*, dated March 10, 2011 (event held at Urbana Civic Center)

# The Daily Illini

paper of the University of Illinois since 1871

www.DailyIllini.com

Friday  
December 2, 2011

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## Urbana, African city strengthen ties

BY THOMAS THOREN  
STAFF WRITER

South African food and music will fill the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center this Saturday in celebration of the Urbana-Zomba Sister Cities program. The free event is open to the public and will run from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Sister Cities committee members will provide updates on projects in the Urbana community and Zomba, Malawi.

Wongani Katundu and the Machona Band will perform Kwela music — upbeat, jazzy street music popularized by southern Africa in the 1950s. The band performed at the Urbana Free Library last June as part of a Sister Cities' tribute to the music genre.

Attendees will be informed about progress on the construction underway in Zomba. The work is part of a two-year, \$115,000 grant awarded to Urbana by the Sister Cities International's Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program. It is aimed to provide healthier and more sanitary facilities.

Scott Dossett, project manager for the program and Sister Cities committee member, said construction teams are currently installing new sanitary pit toilets for three elementary schools. He noted that 75 percent of Zomba is not equipped with sanitary sewer systems.

Work is also progressing on a sanitary center for Guardian Village, a shelter next to Zomba Central Hospital. It will provide toilets, showers and clean water for caretakers and families of sick relatives as they

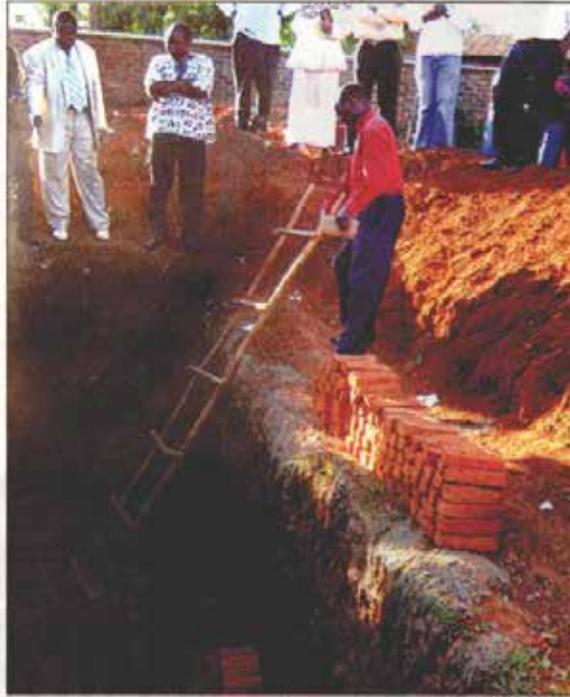


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GOMEGANZI NYUSULU

A construction team works on an excavation to install new sanitary pit toilets at the Mpotola School in Zambo, Malawi.

nurse patients back to health.

In Urbana, a separate \$15,000 grant awarded by the University's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement has allowed residents to learn about Zomba and Malawian culture

See **ZOMBA**, Page 3A

### Celebration of Urbana-Zomba program

**Where:** Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 3 at 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
Admission is free

## ZOMBA

FROM PAGE 1A

through several community outreach events.

Tholani Hlongwa, coordinator of outreach and graduate student in the Center for African Studies, said the program has three components: K-12 school curriculum develop-

ment, outreach programs organized through the Urbana Free Library and collaborative programs between the Sister Cities committee and the University.

Hlongwa worked with Urbana elementary school teachers to help educate students about Malawian culture.

"By my count, we impacted about 30 teachers and probably about 300 students with the pro-

gram," Dossett said.

Dennis Roberts, chair of the Sister Cities committee and Urbana alderman for Ward 5, said Urbana teachers were very receptive at a summer training session and have requested that the program continue after the grant runs out in December. He said the program might be extended and run on a volunteer basis in the future.

# ZA partners international cities in sanitation drive

JOY KHAKONA  
CORRESPONDENT

**T**he Zomba City Council (ZCC) has embarked on a one-year project to provide infrastructure for improved sanitation and sustainable environment in the city.

The development follows the partnership the city has with its sister cities of Urbana in the United States of America (USA) and Haizhu in China.

The enhancement of the \$100 000 project titled 'Integrated Waste Management' took centre stage during a press briefing by representatives on Friday.

ZCC project manager Busta Chiona said the project will ensure safe disposal of wastes to protect the general population and environment.

Local sister city committee chairperson Dickson Vuwa Phiri said it is high time communities



PHOTOGRAPH: JOY KHAKONA

Vuwa Phiri (L), Chen (C) and Chiona at the Civic Offices in Zomba

learn to make manure from the disposable wastes.

In her remarks, Sister City International programmes manager Lulu Chen expressed

hope that the relationship between the sister cities will bring more developmental initiatives that will work to the benefit of the local communities. ■

*The Nation*, Malawi's national newspaper, 2012 – article on the SAI grant project



**THELONI HLONGWA** (center), graduate student in the Center for African Studies, dances to the music of the Wagoni Katundu and Machona Band at the Malawi Mixer gathering held at the Independent Media Center in Urbana on Saturday. The event, featuring live African Kwele music, allowed visitors to learn more about Urbana's Malawian sister city, Zomba.

## URBANA CELEBRATES PARTNERSHIP

### Sister city program enlightens citizens about Malawi culture

BY THOMAS HLONGWA  
STAFF WRITER

Over 100 people celebrated the progress made by Urbana's sister cities program with Zomba, Malawi, Saturday evening.

Visitors ate a variety of southern African foods such as goat curry stew, fried plantains and mima — a main course dish similar to grits — while they waited for the Kwele music to begin.

Wagoni Katundu and the Machona Band performed the southern African music with a variety of performers and instruments.

**More on:** Tune in at 5 p.m. on **WPGU 103.1 FM** to hear more about the Urbana-Zomba sister city celebration.

as well as cheers for an encore of a song performed by two children playing clarinets.

The event was the final community outreach activity funded by a \$15,000 grant from the University's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement. This grant has also funded educational programs within the Urbana school district and the Urbana Free Library as part of the Urbana-Zomba Sister Cities program.

**Theloni Hlongwa**, graduate student in the Center for African

Studies and coordinator for outreach, began working with elementary schools last spring.

"The spring semester was kind of a pilot visit because everything was new," Hlongwa said. "We were creating everything from scratch."

She said the curriculum changed this fall to align with Illinois education standards.

This included supplying 90 copies of "Galimoto" to elementary schools. Students read the book about a Malawian boy who constructs a toy car out of scrap wires and then were given the supplies to build their own cars.

Caree Inskeep, youth services librarian for the Urbana Free Library, collaborated with the sister cities program for several community activities.

A screening of "Rider First" gave citizens and University students in the College of Education a chance to learn more about the issues that force many African students to drop out of school.

"The students wanted to understand why some kids can drop out in some other countries, like in Malawi," Hlongwa said. "Mostly girls drop out of school because of a lack of water."

Grant money supplied free copies of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," a book about a courageous Malawian boy, to residents so they could discuss it together.



**KORRINA BECKMAN** (left) and **THELONI HLONGWA** (right) attend the Malawi Mixer gathering held at the Independent Media Center in Urbana on Saturday. While people celebrated Urbana's Malawian sister city, they ate curry stew, and fried plantains.

The library had to add a second meeting because of the high level of interest.

She said there was an overall "strong response" to the library's events and will look for future possibilities to work with the sister cities program.

"All the things just humanize the people from Malawi," Inskeep said. "I would expect the library will do more programming."

Attendees were also given an update on the construction in Zomba that is part of the

"(The students) wanted to understand why some kids can drop out in some other countries, like in Malawi."

**THELONI HLONGWA**, graduate

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## MALAWI

FROM PAGE 1A

\$415,000 grant from Sister Cities International.

Scott Dosssett, project manager for the Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program within Sister Cities International, said construction in Zomba is on schedule and going well.

"Construction workers are going into their rainy season now, so we have footings; those really mean a lot to me because that means that we've done the

in-ground work already for most of these projects," Dosssett said.

He said this work would not be possible during the rainy season, so its completion will allow construction crews to work without interruption during the season. He said the work in Zomba will be likely be completed in April 2012 and the sister cities program will then look for new projects in Malawi.

Dosssett added that the Sister Cities committee meets every third Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Urbana city building and is open to all members of the public.



Residents of Zomba, Malawi, stand at a rural market. Urbana won a grant to further its relationship with Zomba, one of its sister cities.

## Urbana joins Malawi, China in tri-city grant

BY CORINNE RUFF  
STAFF WRITER

The small kitchen was crowded with plates of egg casseroles and overlapping conversation that blended English and Chewa, the native language of Malawi. Steaming mugs of coffee and hot tea were passed around to men in thick sweaters and women in long patterned dresses with silver buttons and colored scarves wrapped around their necks.

The idea of breakfast at a friend's home isn't customary in Malawian culture, but for the six visiting members of Urbana's sister city Zomba, it's a part of strengthening their relationship.

"Our visit is two dimensions," said Dickson B. Vumba Phiri, chairman of the Zomba community and leader of the trip. "One is the project and on the other hand is the cementing of relationships between the citizens of our city and the other citizens here."

The project is a new tri-lateral grant given by Sister City International to develop methods of solid waste removal in an urban environment through the coordination of three cities. Urbana was chosen as one of three cities in the United States to receive the Sino-African Initiative grant of \$100,000. For this grant, Urbana continues its partnership with Zomba, using the money to improve Zomba's sewage system, but it will also add a new sister city, the Heilong District of Guangzhou, China. Together, the three cities will work to develop better technologies for disposing solid waste.

Throughout the week, community leaders from Zomba in the fields of engineering, administration, education, environmental health



Women are served first during a picnic on Malawi's Mother's Day, a national holiday, on Oct. 15.

and liquid waste management, visited Urbana to explore the city's organization of modern technology in sewage sanitation and garbage disposal.

Environmental health officer Elizabeth Mooren Chingayipe said the lack of a detailed

network of trash collection in Zomba causes many problems.

"We have the start of this system," she said. "A few days the truck will come to get garbage

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The Daily Illini | www.dailyillini.com

### MALAWI

FROM PAGE 1A

from the houses. But if it doesn't come, people just dump their garbage in the backyard or in a nearby stream.

The visitors toured many of Urbana's waste removal and recycling plants. Some facilities included the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District, ABC Sanitary Handling and Recycling and the Landscape Recycling Center.

Innocent Malomo, environmental health officer from Zomba, said one aspect of the grant is maintaining sewers and healthy water, which is difficult without modern technology. In Zomba, filtered sewage is poured into streams for disposal,

and the stream is later tested for sanitation.

"If the fish survives in this type of environment we have almost created a natural environment and then the water has been treated," he said.

After visiting the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District and seeing modern processes for treating waste, as well as hearing a lecture by an environmental chemist at the University, Malomo said he has learned many practices that can be applied to the system back home.

Alderman Dennis Roberts, Ward 5, chairman of the sister city committee, said that because Malawi is a highly agricultural country, grant money will be focused toward construction for a composting center that will turn food waste into fertilizer to keep the soil healthy.

Lulu Chen, program officer of the Sino-African Initiative and Urbana native, spent a few days with the group to evaluate the feasibility of such a grant, because it is the first of its kind.

"This will add to my research to determine whether it is a good way to approach projects in the future," she said. "We know it is a platform to do many projects."

While the grant focuses on the development of solid waste disposal methods, Roberts said there is a strong emphasis on learning from each other culturally and growing a relationship between citizens.

"Engaging the wider community is one of the goals of Sister City International," he said. "Peace and understanding is more possible to happen between citizens and community members rather than

governments."

Urbana residents attended a "Malawi mixer" Tuesday night to get to know the people of Zomba. The evening included an African-American soul food dinner and a Cajun band for entertainment.

Because of engagements like these, Phiri said he thinks the sister city program also helps bring greater awareness to a country he feels generally misperceives the overall style of living in Africa.

"The publicity likes to stop at the dark spots," Phiri said. "They focus on famine, woes and poverty. But that is a mosaic of life there. There are spots we don't like, wars break out, yes, but normal life still goes on."

Corinne can be reached at cruff@dailyillini.com

**CITY OF URBANA**

## Six 'diplomats' leave for visit to sister city in China

**By The News-Gazette**

URBANA — City officials and other people involved in Urbana's sister-city program left for China on Wednesday, hoping to involve another international community in their efforts.

Six "citizen diplomats" — including Mayor Laurel Prussing, Alderman Dennis Roberts and Alderwoman Diane Marlin — are traveling to Guangzhou City in China in an effort to strengthen their sister-city partnership and involve the Chinese community in Urbana's efforts in Africa.

Guangzhou is northwest of Hong Kong in southern China and has a population of more than 10 million. Roberts said a city of its size is much too big to form a meaningful sister-city connection, so they are

focusing on working with a smaller area, the Haizhu District, which has a population under 1 million.

They will invite Guangzhou officials to participate in Urbana's \$100,000 grant to improve solid-waste collection and organic composting in Zomba, Malawi. That grant was provided by Sister Cities International and included no city funds.

Guangzhou officials visited Urbana for two days last year.

According to Roberts, the Urbana delegation will spend four days in Haizhu, and then the group will take an additional week to visit points of interest in Shanghai, Xian, and Beijing. No city funds are being used for the trip, Roberts said, and the group will return to Urbana on July 31.

## Memorable trip? Tell us all about it

We will be using this space each week to bring you stories and photos submitted by our readers who are eager to

share the highlights of a recent vacation. If you've taken a trip that you think others would like to hear about, contact us, and

we'll get it scheduled. We would like the stories to be about 500 words and ask that they contain helpful facts, such as

information about prices and recommendations for eateries, accommodations and not-to-be-missed sights or events. To

submit, email [travel@news-gazette.com](mailto:travel@news-gazette.com) and put travel story in the subject line.

## CHINA

## Journey to Haizhu: Building a Sister City bond

By DENNIS ROBERTS

For The News-Gazette

Between July 17-31, six "citizen diplomats" traveled to southern China to visit Urbana's newest Sister City: Haizhu District of Guangdong City, The People's Republic of China.

This was everyone's first visit to the city of Guangzhou — and my first flight across the Pacific Ocean to Asia. Urbana Mayor Laurel Pressing, Ward 3 city council member Gene Martin, John Martin of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center in the Prairie Research Institute, Christopher Sidor of the University of Illinois Department of Geology and the project grant manager for the Sino-African Initiative, Mervyn Ryan, the chairman of the Urbana Sustainability Committee and I flew nonstop from Chicago to Hong Kong via Canada and Haizhu, going north toward the pole.

We checked into the City View Hotel in Kawloon. That night, we experienced our first meal in China, selecting our main course from a fish tank in the restaurant.

We spent one full day in Hong Kong, visiting Victoria Peak, the highest viewpoint in Hong Kong. Catching the last evening train to Guangzhou (old Canton), we passed through customs and entered Communist China.

On our arrival, we were greeted by Mrs. Chen Jinyu, director of foreign affairs for Haizhu District, and members of her staff. We arrived at our hotel in a heavy downpour. It was typhoon season, and I hadn't packed any rain gear.

Next, we saw the sights of Guangzhou. We went immediately to Canton Tower, at 600 meters, the third-tallest structure in the world, rising dramatically at the edge of the Pearl River. Naturally, we went right to the top and enjoyed a bubble car ride along the edge of the viewing deck. From this vista, we looked out over our new Sister City.

Since Guangzhou's total population is 12.7 million and Urbana's is 41,250, we went to form bonds of friendship specifically with Haizhu District. With a population of 1.2 million and home of Sun Yat-sen University, it is a better match.

We made a memorable visit to the "Swamp Park," a botanical wetland garden. Here we discovered a tree dedicated to Urbana in 2012. Urbana was invited by Guangzhou to enter an international competition for municipal innovation.

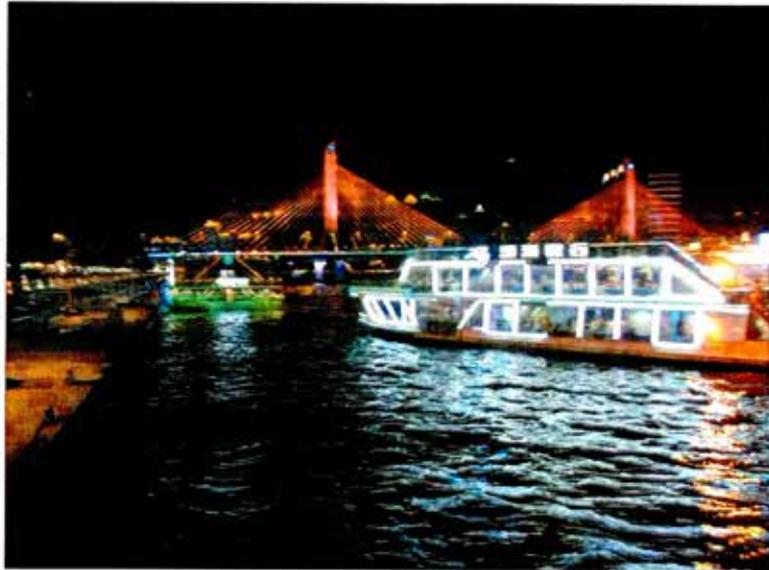
While Urbana's entry on urban forest diversity did not win, a tree was planted in our honor: Tree No. 111, *Chenista speciosa* (aka Rose tree).

On July 20, we met Kathy He, a member of the Guangzhou Municipal Public Security Bureau. We had met her in Urbana six months earlier when she visited the University of Illinois Police Training Academy.

Kathy was an incredible hostess. We visited the Chen Clan Temple and Folk Arts Museum, Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall and the Five Rats Statue in Yuxiao Park. This statue celebrates the legendary arrival of the Five Immortals, riding on five rats, soaring rice stalks in their mouths, which saved the populace from starvation more than 2,000 years ago.

That evening, we were treated to a cruise on the Pearl River. The buildings and bridges spanning the Pearl River, and even Canton Tower, were all illuminated, while the tour boats plying the river were decked with lanterns and colored lights, creating a brilliant panorama.

Our delegation began its real work July 21, with a meeting with Haizhu's foreign affairs officers and Jian-jian Yao, secretary general of the Guangdong's Peoples Association for Friendship and Foreign Countries, a high-ranking Communist Party representative. The formal seating and a gigantic red banner underlined the



ABOVE: Cruises on the Pearl River offer a tremendous light show. BELOW LEFT: The Urbana contingent visited Sun Yat-sen University. BELOW RIGHT: Canton Tower visitors can take a bubble car ride along the edge of the viewing deck. The building in Guangzhou is 600 meters tall.



importance of our first diplomatic exchange. Greetings were shared, introductions made and we watched a short video about Guangzhou City. Our own presentations highlighted Urbana's goals for environmental responsibility and sustainable practices and ended with an invitation to participate in Urbana's Sister Cities programs.

We then presented Yao with gifts including books on Illinois, items from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, music CDs and a booklet printed in Chinese on the history of Urbana's Sister Cities Program.

We concluded with an invitation to Haizhu to participate in the Sino-African Initiative, the \$120,000 bilateral grant awarded to Urbana by Sister Cities International in 2012. Several group photos were taken.

At the formal banquet that followed, we were pleased to learn that participation in informal exchange

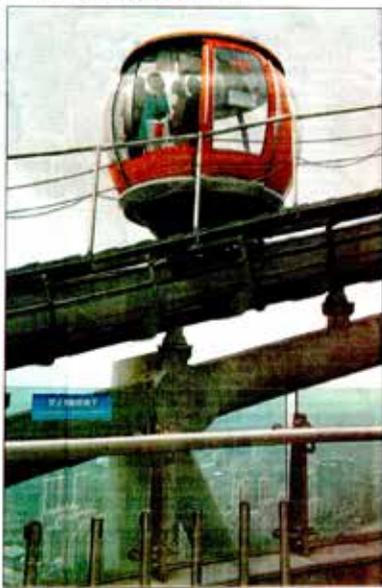
trips between our communities would be approved.

Our last day in Haizhu brought us to Sun Yat-sen University, where we reconnected with Professor Fuxiang Liu in the Department of Geology. Friendly interactions and gift giving resulted in the approval for Fuxiang to travel to Africa to assist in our SAI grant project to build new solid waste collection and composting facilities in Zambia.

In November, a delegation from Zambia also will visit China, while Urbana will send representatives to attend both meetings.

This ended Urbana's first Sister Cities visit to Haizhu District. Our group went on to visit Shanghai, Xian and Beijing before returning home.

Dennis Roberts is the Ward 3 alderman on the Urbana City Council and chairman of the Urbana Sister Cities Committee.



LEFT: Urbana delegation meets with leaders of Haizhu District, and make their presentation Urbana's Sister City Program and express interest in future efforts of cooperation.

RIGHT: Mayor Laurel Pressing and other members of Urbana's delegation stand next to tree #111, which is dedicated to Urbana at the wetland park botanical garden in Guangzhou City, China.

# Le programme du 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire

## Samedi 15 novembre

C'est la grande journée de commémoration avec en point d'orgue, une reconstitution historique grandeur nature.

- **Exposition Thanks Boys** : la Libération en images, au Beffroi de Thionville : photos inédites, glanées dans les familles des GI's.

- **Animations** : dès 14 h, le centre-ville revivra les ambiances de la Libération.

- **Reconstitution** : à partir de 14 h 30, une quarantaine de figurants vont rejouer un mouvement de reconnaissance qui s'est réellement déroulé dans Thionville. Il s'agit de la première percée d'éclairage, effectuée en septembre 1944, pour identifier les positions allemandes. Les figurants ont été mobilisés par Moselle River 44. Une réalisatrice professionnelle orchestre la reconstitution.

Les scènes seront filmées et se dérouleront sous la forme d'un tournage (arrêts, reprises, mises au point...), ce qui garantit une certaine animation. L'ensemble sera joué au niveau du pont des Alliés et sera retransmis en direct sur un écran géant, place du Marché. Fait particulièrement émouvant, des soldats américains vétérans et leurs descendants seront spectateurs...

- **Défilé de véhicules militaires** : à la suite de la reconstitution, avec environ 85 véhicules d'époque. Dont les fameuses Jeep US, symbole de la liberté !

- **Bistrot et bal jazz** : sur la place du Marché et la place Claude-Arnould, à partir de 17 h. Thionville est libérée, le swing règne en maître... Venez vous dégourdir les jambes !



Photo archives Armand FLOHR.

- **Concert de l'orchestre philharmonique** de Thionville, au théâtre de la ville, à 18 h 30.

- **Film *Welcome in Vienna*** d'Axel Corti, au cinéma La Scala, à 20 h 30.

## Dimanche 16 novembre

La journée sera consacrée au recueillement.

- Cérémonie officielle du Souvenir de la Moselle, en présence de 300 porteurs de drapeaux et de nombreux élus, à 9 h, sur la place de la Liberté. Une stèle à l'effigie d'un soldat américain sera inaugurée, puis transférée dans un lieu encore à déterminer.

- 20 h : concert du "band officiel de l'armée américaine en Europe", au théâtre de Thionville.

*La Républicain Lorrain*, November 14, 2014, printed the program for the 70th Anniversary Celebrations. Urbana's Sister Cities delegation participated in many of the events

# Urbana, la sœur jumelle américaine

Thionville a officialisé hier soir son jumelage avec Urbana. Le conseil municipal d'Anne Grammerch a accueilli les élus américains en mairie. Focus sur la cité, située dans le sud de Chicago, avec le maire Laurel Prussing.

À peine jumelée avec Urbana et les choses changent déjà. Désormais, dites "Thionville". Le délicat accent de Laurel Prussing, première magistrats de la cité d'Illinois, apporte une touche de classe qui flatte, imaginez la scène, hier, dans une belle salle de la mairie, lorsque l'élu a inauguré le livre d'or pour sceller la nouvelle amitié. Ce n'est pas un jumelage qui a débute, mais le début d'une époque !

D'autant que la délégation américaine était composée d'un large panel de personnalités d'Urbana, dont une élégante femme noire, ancienne élue aux affaires scolaires impressionnante de charisme et de chaleur humaine.

Nul doute cependant que la délégation lorraine conduite par le député-maire Anne Grammerch, a fait le même effet à nos amis d'Urbana. Surtout que dès le début de la cérémonie, il a été question de sciences.

### Un peu d'histoire

Anne Grammerch a initié ce jumelage dans une grande « haute cérémonie » : celle de la libération de Thionville par les Américains en 1944, dont on célèbre les 70 ans aujourd'hui. Pragmatique, l'élu a aussi souhaité un jumelage concret, notamment à travers les échanges étudiants que nous pourrions envisager.

Car Urbana, ville de taille équivalente à Thionville située



Anne Grammerch et Laurel Prussing : Thionville et Urbana sont désormais jumelées ! Photo Pierre HECHEL

au sud de Chicago, accueille l'un des campus les plus prestigieux des États-Unis : l'Université d'Illinois.

« Nous ne gérons pas directement l'université, prévient Laurel Prussing. C'est l'état d'Illinois qui possède la compétence. Mais évidemment, l'impact sur notre ville est considérable. »

reille qui amène le campus. « Des jeunes du monde entier viennent étudier à Urbana, c'est une richesse extraordinaire pour nous. »

Notamment des étudiants chinois et ce, bien avant le développement de l'Empire du milieu. « Le premier étudiant chinois est venu il y a

cent ans. « Lorsque le choc Education mise à part, Urbana doit ressembler à une banlieue chic standard des États-Unis, avec toutefois son joyau, la plus grande bibliothèque publique de pays.

Elle depuis le début des années 90. Laurel Prussing met aussi l'accent sur les nombreuses terres agricoles autour d'Urbana et les programmes de recyclage des déchets qui lui tiennent à cœur.

### « Illinois est français »

Autant dire qu'il a fallu poser de nombreuses questions pour obtenir ces informations. Car le maire d'Urbana, dans une lettre et une polonaise ses nord-américaines, n'avait jamais vanté sa ville ainsi. Elle a d'ailleurs souvent tenu à rapprocher son propos de la France. « Illinois est un nom donné par les Français, vous savez. »

Nom attribué par nos explorateurs au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, lorsqu'ils sont tombés nez à nez avec les Peaux-Rouges locaux : les Illinois. On aurait perle que Mickaël Jordan ait un oncle à Paris mais bon, c'est déjà pas mal.

Pour accueillir la délégation transatlantique, la Ville de Thionville a mis les petits plats dans les grands. Week-end de visites autour du patrimoine local, participation aux commémorations qui s'annoncent spectaculaires et bien sûr quelques bonnes tables !

Hubert GAMELON.

### JUMELAGE

## Thionville avec l'accent d'Illinois



Élus thionvillois et d'Urbana, en Illinois, ont scellé le jumelage hier en mairie. Photo Pierre HECHEL

La ville d'Urbana, aux États-Unis est désormais jumelée avec Zomba (Malawi), Canton (Chine) et Thionville ! Les livres d'or ont été signés hier soir, en mairie thionvilloise. Pourquoi ce choix ? Parce que Zomba n'a pas de beffroi et Canton pas de Scala, c'est évident.

Plus sérieusement, les 70 ans de la libération de Thionville par les Américains, que l'on célèbre aujourd'hui, ont pesé dans la balance. Pour Thionville, ce nouveau jumelage est plein de perspectives : certes Urbana est une petite ville américaine. Mais elle accueille notamment le campus d'Illinois, mondialement reconnu.

> En page 4

Le Républicain Lorrain, November 15, 2014, a French newspaper article on Urbana delegation's visit to Thionville (page 1. and page 4.)

THONVILLE

# Elle s'arrache, la liberté



Quel dénouement. Thionville est libérée du joug nazi depuis soixante-dix ans. Les opérations se sont déroulées entre septembre et novembre 1944. Soldats allemands et américains avaient campé sur leur position, chacun d'un côté de la Moselle. Plus que la Libération, ce sont ces deux mois « au milieu des fantômes » que nous vous proposons de revivre, avant les festivités de samedi.

» En page 2

*Le journal de Moselle Nord coverage of the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Liberation of Thionville during WWII, November 14, 2014 (page 1. center panel)*

Hayange : le mari laissé libre

> En page 8001

# Le journal de Moselle Nord

LE RÉPUBLICAIN LORRAIN

Dimanche 16 Novembre 2014

www.republicain-lorrain.fr

LIBÉRATION DE THIONVILLE

## 1944, c'était hier



Thionville a célébré les 70 ans de sa libération hier. Des milliers de spectateurs se sont pressés le long des barrières pour le défilé, avant de flâner en ville. Un superbe instant de communion...

> En page 2

*Le journal de Moselle Nord* coverage of the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Liberation of Thionville during WWII, November 16, 2014 (page 1. center panel)



# Learners told to read widely

HOLYCE KHOLOWA  
CITIZEN JOURNALIST

Zomba City Council (ZCC) mayor Melia Douglas says reading widely of non-curricula books among learners from primary schools is a stepping stone towards a knowledgeable and developed society.

She said this last Wednesday in Zomba when the council in partnership with Urbana City of the United States of America (USA) distributed fiction books and writing materials to Chikamveka, Chalomwe and Thundu primary schools in the city to spur a reading culture in their schools.

According to Douglas, the dwindling of the reading culture is due to lack of non-academic books in school libraries where learners can read from as most students are exposed to text books that are regularly studied for examinations.

"The society that reads widely is a well-informed society as its citizens make critical decisions in fostering developments of their society hence we felt duty-bound to source and supply these non-academic books to schools to induce a reading



Dossett (R) symbolically handing over the books to Douglass

culture among the students," he said.

Speaking after handing over the books, team leader for the Urbana City Scott Dossett called on the teachers to inspire their learners to develop the spirit of reading to enrich them with wide knowledge of human development.

"We advise teachers not to

keep the books in libraries just for safe keeping, but lend them to learners to enhance their lives with information," he said.

Deputy head teacher for Chalomwe Primary School Kenneth Kalele described the donation of books as timely as more schools are running short of books.

"We will make sure that our

school libraries are open even during weekends to resuscitate the reading culture among learners," he said.

Urbana has shared sister cities with ZCC since the signing of their charter in 2008 where Urbana City has implemented various major projects such as provision of health facilities in Zomba. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: ANANDA KANDOO

*The Nation*, Malawi's national newspaper, covers donations of school supplies and bi-lingual readers made by members of the Urbana Sister Cities Committee during their August visit to Malawi, September 2, 2017



# The News-Gazette

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

BREAKING NEWS AT [WWW.NEWS-GAZETTE.COM](http://WWW.NEWS-GAZETTE.COM)

Year 165, No. 330

Champaign-Urbana, Danville and East Central Illinois

## URBANA'S SISTER CITY

# Trio going to Malawi to lend a hand

### Any donations to help with projects welcome

By **DEBRA PRESSEY**  
[dpressey@news-gazette.com](mailto:dpressey@news-gazette.com)

URBANA — Patient caretakers stand in mud to get water and breathe in smoke from inefficient wood-burning cook stoves next to a hospital in Zomba, Malawi, one of Urbana's sister cities.



Provided

Scott Dossett of Urbana and two others aim to make some improvements there on a service trip they're planning for August.

A retired research scientist from the Illinois State Water Survey, Dossett will be making the Malawi trip Aug. 8-19 with his partner, Meg Miller, a retired teacher, and Urbana City Council Alderman Dennis Roberts, Urbana's Sister City chairman.

The guardian shelter by Central Hospital in Zomba will be the base for some of their work, Dossett and Roberts said.

Please see **MALAWI, A-6**

## MALAWI

Continued from A-1

The shelter is where family members — largely women — stay while helping care for those in the hospital, they said.

Roberts, who has made four previous trips to Zomba, said the female caretakers provide laundry and food for their family members in the hospital and sit with them at their bedsides.

"There are doctors and nurses that are trained by the state," he said. "They have almost no supplies or medicines. You go there, and you're provided a bed, but if you want a meal, your relatives will provide it for you. They'll be staying at the guardian village or bringing it from their homes."

One project that he, Dossett and Miller have planned for the guardian

village includes building six to eight high-efficiency wood-burning "rocket" stoves to replace traditional three-rock cook stoves. Plans also include pouring a concrete walkway and rebuilding a concrete pad around the only water point in the shelter, where the caretakers must now stand in mud and debris, Dossett and Roberts said.

The group also hopes to do some restroom door work at three schools and distribute some bilingual English/Chichewa books, Dossett said.

The team will have about \$1,000 from Urbana's Sister City budget to help with the rocket stoves and will also be using some of its own money to help with the cost. With travel and living expenses included, Dossett said, the trip may run the three team members up to about \$15,000.

They'll be footing their own expenses for the trip,

but are asking the community to help fund \$5,000 for some of the work they'll be doing, Dossett said.

Urbana first entered into a Sister City relationship with Zomba, Malawi, in 2008.

Work already done in 2011-12 through the Urbana Sister Cities Committee has included construction of pit toilets at three primary schools in Zomba and the construction of an ablation block with toilet stalls, showers, laundry tubs and a clothes-drying area in the guardian shelter.

"Over the past few years, the city of Urbana's Sister City Program has completed projects related to sanitation and recycling in Zomba, Malawi," Urbana Mayor Diane Marlin said. "These small-scale efforts make a big difference in people's lives, and the current rocket stove project is another example of this."

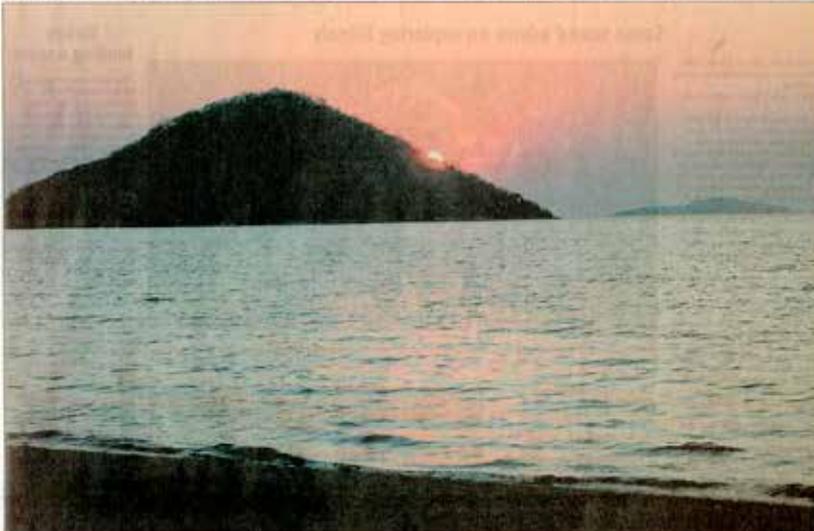
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tions and not-to-be-missed sights or events. To submit, email [travel@news-gazette.com](mailto:travel@news-gazette.com) and put "travel story" in the subject line.



The service group witnessed a beautiful sunset while visiting the Cape Maclear Peninsula on Lake Malawi.

Scott Dossett photo

URBANA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE TRIP TO AFRICA

# SERVICE AND GREAT SIGHTS

By SCOTT DOSSETT

For The News-Gazette

Travel to Africa always requires a careful balance of good planning and trip execution, and then some luck. It helps when you have friends across the water and good, seasoned travel companions. On our most recent Urbana Sister Cities Committee trip to Malawi, we had it all.

For me, Dennis Roberts and Greg Miller, the trip was built mostly out of our desire to be of service to the citizens of our first Urbana Sister City, Zomba, Malawi. We have had community health and educational projects there for the past 31 years or so, and we were being called back again to "The Warm Heart of Africa."

There were several work goals established early and coordinated with our friends in Zomba. These included the construction of high-efficiency wood cooking stoves for hospital volunteers, the distribution of educational supplies to three schools we had worked with before and the development of a new project in cooperation with some friends at the University of Illinois and Zomba's Chawabura College.

Zomba is located in the south central part of Malawi and was the historical capital of what was once British Central Africa. It lies near the Zomba Plateau, a striking 1,200-meter uplift that is heavily forested with African jampers and intertwined with streams and waterfalls.

In the distinct advantage of the local population, the plateau provides clean water, fuel in the form of wood and charcoal and



Liwonde National Park features magnificent creatures, including elephants and zebras.

a reservoir and water treatment facility built with World Bank funding in the 1990s. Our work there has centered around the Zomba Central Hospital, which serves the region of about 250,000 people, and three area schools — Chikwembika, Tsoko and Chalobwe.

We spent the better part of two days working on rocket stoves and a water point protection facility in the hospital garden shelter. The gardeners are volunteer family members who must come with a patient to provide meals, clean clothes, water and other sanitary services. This is quite different from our high-tech, heavily financed hospitals where housekeeping staff provide such services.

Our work building cooking stoves that make less smoke and

use less wood and cleaning up, reassembling and donating the solar water system used by hundreds of women was very much appreciated.

This was made possible by a GoFundMe campaign I did called "Concrete for the Guardians Feet." We really are appreciative of the local people who helped us.

At three primary schools, we distributed much-needed basic classroom supplies, and at the schools' sets of English Chichewa primary readers, which had in some better facilities we constructed in 2012 and leveraged some media attention for our work there.

Our trip started with landing, after 24 hours in planes, in the capital, Lilongwe. Located between Botswana, Tanzania,

and Airport and Zomba are two of our favorite touristy spots. Dada Porter, near the town of Dada, offers an exceptional craft work and a wonderful lunch.

Liwonde National Park is one of the most productive environments for the African elephant. Many were seen from distances as short as 20 meters when we encountered a family group of between 20 to 30. In addition, wart hogs, gazelles, hippos, bush bucks and kudu are abundant.

We were assisted during our trip by our guide, Adam Choso, who explained the takeover of the and several other parks in Africa by African Parks, an international NGO that provides much-needed management and protection. You can see their work at African parks.

ing, Adam, a local villager, was selected to provide guidance and security for us and to educate the local population about poaching and the benefits of the park. He was very friendly and knowledgeable regarding the flora and fauna.

Closing out the trip with a short visit to the Cape Maclear Peninsula on Lake Malawi really hit the spot. Many species of African cichlid fish color the waters of local lakes in fantastic shades of blues and oranges.

Feeling we had done good service work and had some fun, we returned via Dubai to Chicago, a 15-hour flight, tired and happy. A great trip.

Scott Dossett of Urbana is an Urbana Sister Cities Committee member.



LEFT: A helper works on a rocket stove at the hospital. RIGHT: The hospital also received an upgraded water point.