

## **University of Scranton Professor Awarded Rotary Grant**

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Tata Mbugua, Ph.D., associate professor of education at The University of Scranton, received one of only 20 Rotary Grants for University Teachers awarded in the nation. She plans to teach at the Catholic University of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, during the spring 2008 semester while on sabbatical.

Awarded through a national competition, the Rotary Grant for University Teachers program seeks to build international understanding and development by strengthening higher education in low-income countries. Grant recipients must teach subjects that are relevant to the local population's needs and contribute to the area's socioeconomic development.

According to Dr. Mbugua, a native of Kenya who will become the president of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons in July of this year, this program blends two of the Rotary's most important objectives: to encourage volunteer service and education through person-to-person contact.

"This opportunity puts me in a unique position to teach and learn. The award is a perfect fit for my education philosophy of social and educational justice for the underprivileged and marginalized communities, as well as cross-cultural and global perspective in education," said Dr. Mbugua. "It gives me an invaluable opportunity to give back to the Kenyan community, where many have sacrificed so much for me to be where I am today."

Dr. Mbugua plans to continue pursuing scholarly research while in Kenya. She will survey the early childhood educational settings in Kenya using the Global Guidelines Assessment Tools developed by the Global Guidelines for Early Childhood Education and Care for the 21st Century Task Force, of which she is a member.

Dr. Mbugua joined the faculty of The University of Scranton in 1998. She earned her bachelor's degree from Nairobi University and her Master's degree and Ph.D., from Ohio University.

Although her trip has been delayed due to unrest in Kenya, Dr. Mbugua remains optimistic that soon she will be able to continue with her travel plans.