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## The 2012 CSU Global Leadership Summit Newsletter

Regennia N. Williams  
*The RASHAD Center, Inc.*

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# Global Leadership Summit

Transcending Boundaries in Global Leadership Change

July 8 – 20, 2012

Bloemfontein, South Africa

*\* This publication contains edited excerpts from essays written by Summit delegates from CSU.*

## Engaging Diversity at Home and Abroad

By Katherine (Kat) Sullivan  
CSU Student Delegate

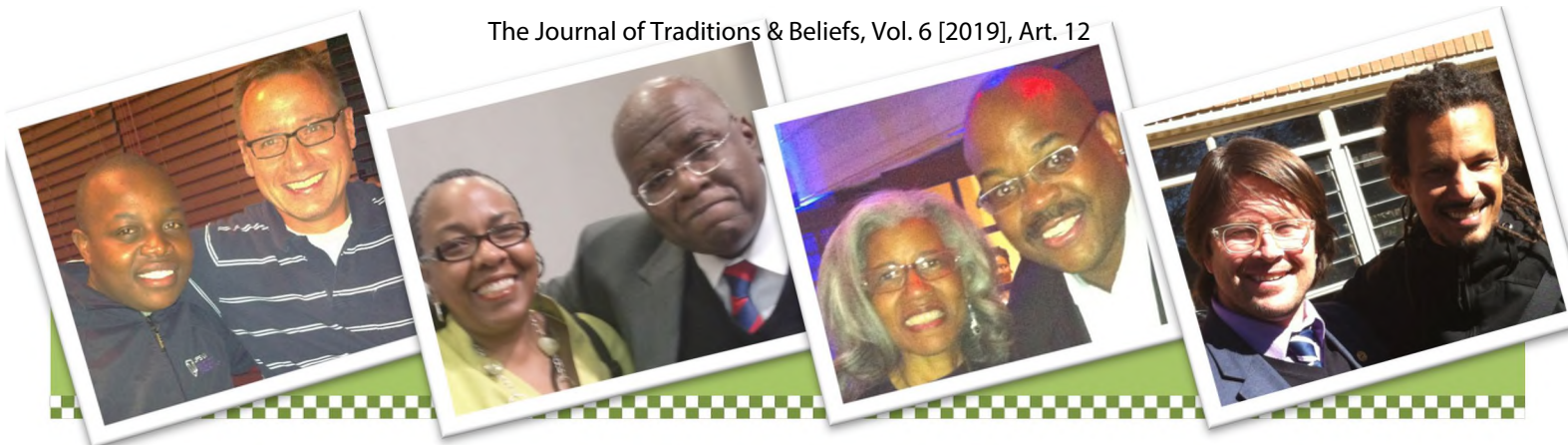
Before traveling to the University of the Free State for the Global Leadership Summit, South Africa was introduced to me as the “Rainbow Nation” representing the unity of different cultures and nationalities. I interpret this definition as the coming together of many outstanding individuals, regardless of skin color, physical or mental ability, gender, or other differences. The former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, coined the phrase “Rainbow Nation” during his first election, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu uses this metaphor to describe post-Apartheid South Africa. Today, South Africans are working very hard to become and remain a diverse country with no prejudice or acts of racism. Comparably, Americans also struggle with diversity-related issues, but to a different degree. Knowing this, I traveled to Bloemfontein, South Africa with an open mind, hoping to understand the nation’s past struggles with racism and the history that South Africans are currently making.

I was intrigued with the foundation that Professor Jonathan Jansen, UFS Vice-Chancellor and Rector, was providing for university students. He was able to overcome his own hatred towards whites and learn how to see everyone as human beings. His realization has set forth a new era for young students on campus who are willing to embrace diversity.



### Photographic Memories

*Pictured above are the Cleveland State University student delegates to the 2012 UFS Global Leadership Summit. They are (left to right) Jasmine Elder, Estefany Rodriguez, Kat Sullivan, Dan Morgan, Mo Al Bitar, and Chris Caspary. In the photo on the left, Kat Sullivan (in blue hat) poses with South African students.*



## Learning from the Past While Planning for the Future

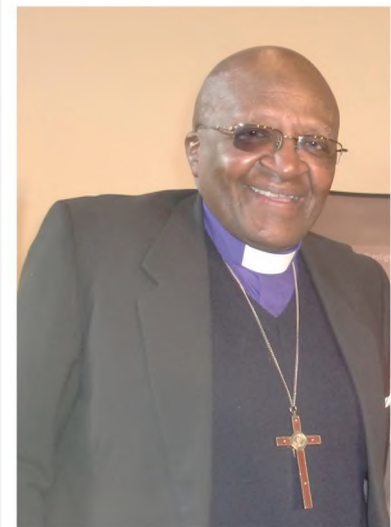
By **Regennia Williams**  
CSU Faculty Delegate and Editor

As an American coming of age during the 1970s, I often felt that my experiences were far removed from those of students living under Apartheid in South Africa. All of that began to change, however, during the 1980s, as college-aged students, performing artists, and other American activists added their voices to the South African-led chorus calling for an end to Apartheid rule and the creation of a democratic government. Then as now, those who were willing to stand up for change came from different races, classes, cultures, and nations. None, however, seemed to embrace the idea of change more than black South Africans, whose lives had been so circumscribed by Apartheid. Some of their names, including those of Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, would become household words. The legacy of their 20<sup>th</sup>-century struggles continues to shape the action agendas of visionary South African leaders, including Dr. Jonathan Jansen, UFS change agent and progenitor of the Global Leadership Summit.

The Summit included many lectures and panel presentations, and the off-campus excursions were among the other program highlights. The visits to the secondary schools (Lekhulong for my group) and the involvement of secondary students in Summit activities allowed participants to experience South African education in diverse settings while interacting with students of various ages. The trips to Clarens and Qwaqwa allowed participants to see some of South Africa's incredible natural beauty, and there was also time for enjoyable social and cultural activities.

I look forward to working with UFS colleagues and other Summit participants in the future, and I am happy to know that plans are already underway to facilitate international research activities, including the publication of a peer-reviewed journal for interested scholars.

*Photos (top, left to right): Mr. Thabiso Letselebe and Dr. Jim Drnek, Dr. Regennia Williams and Dr. Jonathan Jansen, Dr. Donna Whyte and Mr. Amelious Whyte, and Mr. Rudi Buys and Mr. Siboniso Kanobana. (bottom, left to right) Guests approaching the dining hall on the Qwaqwa campus of UFS, and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.*





*Estefany Rodriguez (second from right) with students.*



## Connecting with South African Students

**By Estefany Rodriguez**  
CSU Student Delegate

I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to go to South Africa as an undergraduate student. As soon as we arrived in Bloemfontein, I noticed how hospitable the people were and that the South African students liked to be engaged and interact with others. There were students from so many different countries, and it was as if the South African students found time to interact with everyone.

These interactions provided my greatest learning experiences, and I feel that the students really wanted changes to happen, and

they had open minds regarding the issues going on in their country and the world.

There was and still is a divide between the blacks and whites (Afrikaners) in South Africa. Although a lot of change has gone on, more change is needed.

Many of the racial issues really affected education, which was the topic that my cohort focused on during the Summit. Most of the people who have access to higher education are those in the higher economic classes. Many black South Africans have been kept in the lowest economic classes and are not able to obtain the best education.

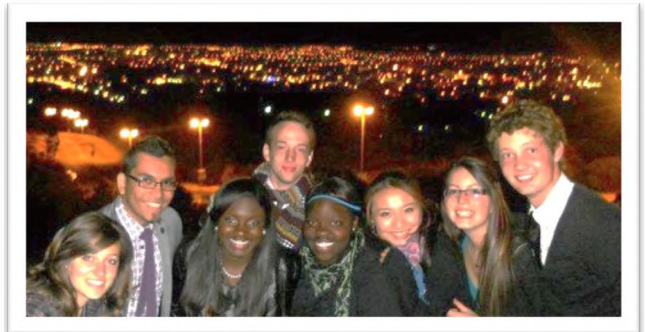
Language is another contributing factor to the divide in higher education. South Africa has 11 official languages, but most of the university courses are taught in Afrikaans or English, and this presents another challenge to students who do not speak these languages.

I also learned that, regardless of their majors, students are required to give back to the community before they graduate. To me, that is a great idea, especially since some of those students may need to go out and learn more about what is going on in their society, in order to be better citizens and contribute to the movement for change.

**By Jasmine Elder**  
CSU Student Delegate

Overall, my experience in South Africa was extremely gratifying. I went to the Summit with an open mind and a willingness to learn. This mindset allowed me to see different perspectives, without judgment. It also gave me insight on what I already knew and opportunities to share my knowledge with those who were willing to listen and learn. I also learned so much from the daily seminars that we attended. These seminars focused on the history of South Africa, what it takes to be a change agent, reconciliation around the world, globalization, citizenship, education, and race. The biggest thing I learned from this trip was my purpose. I now understand that, in order to change the world,

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*Jasmine Elder (center) with other Summit participants.*

sometimes we have to step outside normality and stand up for something that is progressive. I now understand that there is an issue out there with my name on it.

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To find out more about the UFS-CSU partnership, call (216) 687-9394.



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Logos for some of the Summit's partner institutions.