From Zimbabwe to New Jersey and Back:
A Personal Journey of Knowledge and Commitment

Eileen Reinhard from Monmouth University profiles an international software engineering student who is using her education to improve the lives of children in her native Zimbabwe.

"I truly believe that it is not adequate to simply be 'willing.' We ought to do something. And it is not enough to just 'know.' We owe it to ourselves to apply ourselves to something fruitful." This is the individual philosophy of Moleen Madziva, a graduate student from Zimbabwe who studied software engineering at Monmouth University in New Jersey. And it is through her personal and enduring call to service that Madziva is hoping to inspire not only empathy, but also action, in others.

Moleen Madziva traveled a long distance from her country to obtain her university education, but in the way that life has of making what is far away seem all the more important, Madziva is ready to begin applying her American education to the needs and challenges of young people in Zimbabwe. She is in the process of laying the foundations for an agricultural sustainability project in her rural home village of Macheke and she is hoping to apply her software management skills toward building a wireless computer network there. It is Madziva's dream that this network will provide Internet connectivity for the school children of the village. "In my country, people can believe that if a typewriter still works — why replace it?" Madziva said. "I want to build this wireless network so the children of Macheke do not remain isolated from the rest of the world. Also, I am stubborn enough to refuse to be held back by people who do not think outside of the box."

Madziva, who grew up on a farm in a pre-Internet age, benefited from an international influence in her own

domestic education as several teachers in her sixth form school were from Britain and Germany. "It was a British teacher who urged me to take the SAT exam," Madziva said. As a consequence of the political changes in Zimbabwe following the country's independence from Britain in 1980, the only university in the country at the time did not offer the computer engineering course that Madziva had wanted to pursue.

On the SAT exam, she ticked the box that asked if she wanted her test scores sent to some schools in the United States as she did not know how to apply to an American college. Madziva then waited for her results.

She was accepted into the University of Mississippi and with the blessing of her family, she prepared to go abroad. "My family had never bought an international plane ticket, so we went to an American travel agency for help with this," she said. "With difficulty, my father was able to raise the money for the roundtrip ticket and I was on my way."

However, once in Mississippi, Madziva realised the school was not a good fit for

her. She called her father and asked if any other American schools had contacted her. He replied that Drexel University in Philadelphia had accepted her. Madziva made her way to Philadelphia, where she found herself in a climate more suitable to her interest in studying technology.

Having recently completed her master's degree at Monmouth University, Madziva is now focusing more fully on her humanitarian projects. Through her involvement with the University's Global Understanding Institute, which is dedicated to promoting global understanding and leadership, Madziva is building a network of supporters in New Jersey.

Moleen Madziva knows she has traveled far and succeeded against large odds to further her education. Yet it is her belief in the compassion of others and her belief in her own capacity to be an agent of change that may soon take Madziva on her greatest journey yet.

To learn more about Moleen Madziva and her Macheke sustainability project, visit: **machekeproject.blogspot.com**

Written by Eileen Reinhard
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Get to Know Us

Monmouth University is a private, full-spectrum coeducational school committed to providing a learning environment that empowers students to pursue their educational goals and realize their potential for making significant contributions to their community and society. Small classes allow for both individual attention and significant student-faculty dialogue. And, Monmouth University is consistently ranked as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review.

Monmouth offers 31 undergraduate degree programs, with unique programs offered in software engineering (one of 17 schools in the nation with ABET accreditation), computer science, social work, business, and more. The University's curriculum is attuned to today's globally oriented technological society while retaining a strong grounding in the liberal arts. In addition, the University offers 21 graduate degree programs and many graduate certificates for those wishing to pursue education beyond their undergraduate degree. The University also offers several five-year baccalaureate/master's programs for students who want to increase their knowledge and skills before entering the workforce.

International Student Support

At Monmouth, you will have the support and guidance needed to make your mark in the world. Embracing diversity, cultural understanding, and global perspective, Monmouth students come from twenty-five states and twenty-eight nations.

The University provides scholarships to qualified international students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
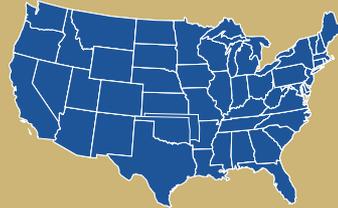
Monmouth's student body is diverse, with a total population of approximately 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Historic Campus

The school's historic 156-acre campus is located on the East Coast of the United States, one mile from the beach at the Jersey Shore in the residential community of West Long Branch, New Jersey. The campus features two landmark mansions among its 54 buildings, and is within convenient traveling distance to New York City (50 miles, 80 kilometers) and Philadelphia (85 miles, 135 kilometers). Since 1933, Monmouth University has been committed to educating leaders who achieve their goals without distraction or hesitation. It is this culture of energy, challenge, opportunity, and optimism that defines a Monmouth University education.

For complete information, please visit:
www.monmouth.edu/admission/ international/

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Art : with an optional concentration
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Business Administration: concentrations in
 Accounting, Economics, Finance,
 Management, Marketing, or Real Estate

Chemistry: optional concentrations in
 Advanced Chemistry, Biochemistry,
 or Chemical Physics

Clinical Laboratory Science: concentrations
 in Cytotechnology or Medical Technology
 (Joint program with the University of
 Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey)

Communication: Applied Communication,
 Public Relations/Journalism, or Radio/TV
 Computer Science

Criminal Justice: optional concentration
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Education: Elementary Education, Middle
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 Education Endorsement

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 Spanish and Communication/Radio
 and TV

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History

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Social Work

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Social Work (MSW)

Software Engineering