

## **French Students Collaborate with Malian Villagers in their Fight against Malaria**

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### **Summary**

In 2004, a French professor and an entomology professor started a partnership that anticipated the 2007 recommendations of the Modern Language Association Ad Hoc Committee entitled “Foreign Languages: New Structures for a Changed World.” The collaborative work of these two professors provided students with innovative courses, and the opportunity to apply their newfound trans-disciplinary knowledge—of entomology, natural product toxicology, horticulture, holistic management, cultural and linguistic competency—as they implemented service-learning projects in Malian villages. This chapter describes the evolution of their collaboration so that it may serve as a roadmap for professors of French and professors of Entomology interested in developing similar interdepartmental alliances. The numerous service-learning projects detailed in the chapter were successful in eliminating malaria from the village and sustained for over five years through the villagers’ continuous engagement, Dr. Dunkel’s and Dr. Giusti’s collaborative work, the Malian mentors’ dedication, and students’ enduring interest and enthusiasm. Through this innovative collaboration, both professors and numerous MSU students dissolved traditional disciplinary boundaries—they became students without borders and they greatly expanded their knowledge base. Entomology faculty can be the connectors since they know the ways that insects become a part of everyone’s life and how insects are related to most issues the world faces today—intercultural appreciation and management of resources such as water, land, and food. Modern language faculty can be the guides, the cultural facilitators to encourage this essential appreciation for a sustainable world.