

## PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS



### **Fulbright Scholar and Professor Offers Special Program About Teaching in Rwanda**

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Dr. Kathleen F. Malu relates her experience as an educator in Rwanda .

**Dr. Kathleen F. Malu, a Fulbright scholar who worked as an educator in the East African country of Rwanda, brought her experiences to PCCC in a special February 14 lecture event, “Rwanda Today: Remembrance, Reconciliation, Reconstruction.”**

**The two-hour program was sponsored by the PCCC Professional Development Committee, and Dr. Malu, a professor in the Department of Secondary and Middle School Education at William Paterson University, urged the students who attended to consider the benefits of teaching overseas one day.**

**“It was fabulous to see the changes in 30 years,” said the professor who had served in Rwanda as a Peace Corps volunteer in the early 1980s and returned in 2010 to teach for 10 months through the Fulbright scholarship.**

**In an engaging program, Dr. Malu provided historical background of Rwanda, insights into the culture, and a first-hand account of everyday life there where the influence of American culture and modern life co-exists with traditional practices and, sometimes, harsh poverty.**

**“The country is trying to be very progressive and aggressive in assuring equality for women,” said Dr. Malu, noting that 56 per cent of the government parliamentarians is female.**

**On a darker note, the increased female presence in Rwandan public life is also due to the fact that a large portion of the male population was killed in the country’s 1994 genocide.**

**“No family was left untouched by this horrific experience,” said Dr. Malu, citing statistics that about one million people were killed in 10 days.**

**In Rwanda, Dr. Malu taught at the Kigali Institute of Education, the nation's premiere teacher training college where she was able, through the Fulbright support, to innovate creative programs, such as collaborations with artists to enhance the educational process.**

**She also initiated a successful Children’s Literature Conference and worked on a gender audit project with the U.S. Embassy and the National University of Rwanda.**

**One of her most memorable projects, she said, was the Interdisciplinary Genocide Summer Studies Program which drew college faculty and students from around the world.**

**“I urge anyone interested to explore the fantastic opportunities provided by the Fulbright Scholarship Program,” said Dr. Malu.**

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*Crafts, artwork, and other artifacts of daily life in Rwanda, including a banner with the image of President Obama (top) and currency and jewelry (bottom ) were on display.*



*(Left) A woven tapestry that has the appearance of a painting depicts a traditional form of courtroom proceedings in Rwanda.*

