

1125-VS-3087      **Michael Obiero Oyengo\*** (mchlyng2@illinois.edu), 1409 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801, and  
**David A. Stern** (d.a.stern@reading.ac.uk). *Closing a cycle by helping develop the next generation of African problem solvers.*

Like many bright students graduating with excellent degrees from African universities I lacked the skills needed to think independently, to solve problems, be creative and innovative. This is partly due to the culture of learning in our schools and universities. During my masters', I was lucky to work under the guidance of a visiting international professor who helped me develop these skills. The same cannot be said of most young African students who aspire to advance their studies and do meaningful research. African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) provides a cultural shift by bringing together a diverse group of Africa's brightest students in a structured environment where they can learn from the best professors around the world, and from themselves. Mathematical Problem Solving is one of the skills courses taught at AIMS, and is tailored to meet the deficiencies that most young African students have. By design, the course requires the students to find their own solutions to problems, develop their own writing and presentation skills. We will discuss our experiences in teaching this course at AIMS Tanzania in the fall of 2016. We will also discuss the broader vision of AIMS in nurturing the next generation of African mathematical scientists. (Received September 21, 2016)