

# Dr. Pindi strives for women empowerment

By KAREN AMBROCIO  
MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Gloria Nziba Pindi, Assistant professor of Communication, has been involved in advocating for women's and LGBTQ+ rights. She was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo where she received her Bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Studies from Catholic University of Congo.

Growing up in a male-centric community, Dr. Pindi belongs in a culture where education is a privilege for a female.

She joined a women's center in Carbondale and received a certificate Rape Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence.

"[I] became involved with the women's issue [of] raising awareness. Your education is a privilege and if you have the opportunity to go to school, you need to know your right."

Dr. Pindi participated in a performance of The Vagina Monologues by feminist activists in 2009 who raised awareness around the world



Dr. Gloria Nziba Pindi, Ph.D poses near the Social Behavioral Sciences Building.

Photo by Melissa Scrivnor

on women's issue, and part of the fundraising was to raise awareness on gender violence in Congo.

During her college years in Congo, Dr. Pindi applied and was selected for a scholarship the U.S. government offered to some African countries. She first learned English and spent 10 hours on English per week in nine months.

"It was a big competition in the country, I went through the selection from my university, and ended up being selected.. I was the only girl selected, among four men ... I was the first female to be selected for that scholarship in my university."

Dr. Pindi then completed her Masters in Communication Studies from San Diego State University.

While she was working on her Ph.D. in Communication Studies in Southern Illinois University Carbondale she received a graduate certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

"I realized from my education that I wanted to be a testimony to the humanity, like woman can do it, I am the first Congolese woman with a Ph.D. in Communication in

an American university."

She taught courses in Africa as a primary instructor and also as a teacher assistant in the communication theory and media studies field. In the United States she taught public speaking and non communication classes.

Although Dr. Pindi did not plan to be a teacher, she later found teaching a fulfillment.

"I believe I was born to

teach, I like interacting with people and I like teaching, and I feel fulfilled... When I teach.. I am passionate about teaching, so I don't envision my life out of academia," said Dr. Pindi

She said she has always been passionate about language and speaks five languages such as English, French, Swahili (Eastern Congo), Kikongo (Western Congo) and Lingala (the official language in Congo) and also studied Latin in high school for four years.

She advises students at CSUSM to strive for their dreams.

"Don't give up, just follow your dream you can make it through . Set up a goal, what are your goals and objectives and what do you want to do. Surround yourself with positive energy but above all believe in yourself because you might rely on other people to help you to get to where you are but if you don't have that belief in yourself it's not going to work..."

