

## Center Celebrates 25 Years



*by Tunde Rahim Brimah, graduate student in the African Studies MA Program*

On 23 February 1996 the Center for African Studies celebrated its 25th anniversary. A history of the program, its origins and its goals were recounted by previous directors and others involved over the years with the Center.



From top to left: Eyamba Bokamba, linguistics, addresses participants; Don Crummey, history, with Provost and Vice Chancellor Larry Faulkner and Dan Littlefield, history and Afro-American studies; Pearl Robinson, Tufts University, with Laura Seri, grad student, French, and Thandika Mkandawire, CODESRIA.



Visiting speakers presented talks on the theme of "Training the Next Generation of Africanists." Jane Guyer of Northwestern University discussed current trends in anthropology from an Africanist perspective, noting the importance of acquiring the necessary skills and tools to study the African continent in an appropriate manner.

Thandika Mkandawire of CODESRIA traced how changing economic paradigms have shaped the debates on economic development in Africa. He noted the need for continued empirical work on African development and suggested that such empirical studies often contradict the work of donor agencies, thus creating productive debates in the field.

Pearl Robinson of Tufts University discussed current issues for Africanists in political science. She evaluated recent literature, and highlighted current trends and debates, elaborating on recent applications of new comparative methodologies to Africa.

The speakers were united in their commitment to encouraging empirical research in Africa. They also stressed the continued significance of area studies in an academic environment where general international studies programming is becoming more fashionable.

## Center for African Studies 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

*Excerpted from Welcoming Remarks of Director Paul Tiyambe Zeleza*

The UIUC Center for African Studies was founded in 1970 during a period that saw the establishment of African studies centers and other area centers in many major American universities. The growth of the area centers, and the internationalization of American academia generally, reflected expanding intellectual horizons and shifting epistemological boundaries, especially in the social sciences and humanities. More concretely, it was connected to the dynamics of the Cold War, the concern that if the United States was to compete effectively against the former Soviet Union, its understanding of the histories and cultures, political and economic systems of the rest of the world, including the newly independent nations of Africa and Asia, had to increase. Specifically, the expansion of African studies was tied to, in the sixties, the explosion of the civil rights movement, and in the 1970s, to the rise of development as an intellectual and international enterprise.

### The Center

From humble beginnings, the Center has evolved into what it is today: a voluntary intellectual second home for about three dozen core faculty, who teach over 150 courses offered through 25 departments and 8 colleges to nearly 500 graduate students and over 3,200 undergraduates. In addition to its coordinating role, the Center offers its own Minor in African Studies and an interdisciplinary MA program, which attracts students from many parts of the country and abroad, and has graduated 12 students to date. And since 1988, 129 PhDs have been granted in the field of

African studies in this university.

Central to the Center's existence and operations as a Title VI National Resource Center are the African language program, currently offering six languages, and the Africana collection, which boasts one of the largest holdings of books, journals, maps, microfilms, films and videos on Africa in the nation. Over the years the Center has provided a lively and vigorous location for interdisciplinary research projects. (Details on some of these projects can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.) The Center's intellectual assets and accomplishments are numerous and impressive. A few years ago the Center was ranked number one nationally among Title VI African studies centers. It was the reputation of the Center and its faculty that attracted me to come last August, to leave the lovely winter seasons of Canada. But the challenges are also many.

### The Challenges

The political, institutional and intellectual contexts that created and sustained area studies have changed. The Cold War is over, and the chilly winds of isolationism have been blowing over Washington with increasing ferocity. Funding for Title VI, USAID, and the Fulbright programs are under threat. The other main challenge springs from international studies narrowly conceived as oppositional to area studies. Research funding agencies and others increasingly question the continued utility of the area studies model. We can neither afford to ignore nor become overwhelmed by these

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## Message from the Director

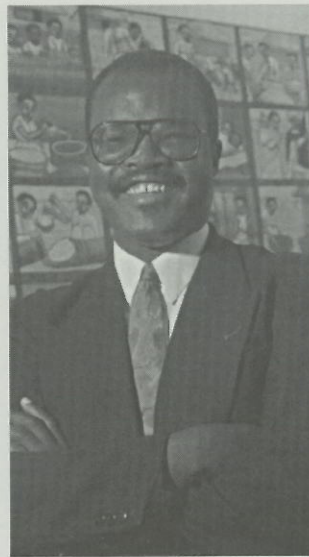
by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

I would like to begin by thanking all the Center staff, students and faculty who have made my first year here such a memorable one. My experiences have exceeded the expectations I had when I left my previous job as Professor of History and Principal of Lady Eaton College at Trent University in Canada to join the Center last September. I have been impressed by the spirit of cooperation and commitment to intellectual excellence exhibited by faculty and students associated with the Center, and of course, in the university at large.

This has been a particularly busy semester for the Center. It is gratifying to note the success of the various events that we organized or participated in. They include the Center's 25th Anniversary Celebrations, the World Centers' Joint Symposium, the Center's own Spring Symposium, the Tijaniyya Conference, and the MacArthur

Environmental Project Symposium. The Center staff: Sue Swisher, Gladys Robinson, Eric Custar, and the acting assistant director, Stephen Wooten, did a wonderful job to ensure the success of these special events and our regular events, such as the Wednesday Brown Bag Series. Stephen, who took over from Alex Winter-Nelson, who is on administrative leave this semester, is also responsible for editing this inaugural issue of the reformatted Habari newsletter.

Moments of transition provide opportunities to reflect on the past and chart new directions for the future. The 25th Anniversary Celebrations set the stage for this process.



The Center's retreat, held on May 2, was a continuation of this collective reflection and planning. Over the last 25 years the Center has built great assets which we need to build on as we confront the various intellectual, institutional, and political challenges that we are likely to face in the near future.

### Welcoming Remarks, cont'd

challenges. Together with other area centers and internationally oriented programs and units on campus, within the state, and nationally we must actively champion context-sensitive global studies, comparative and

interdisciplinary scholarship, while at the same time intervening and inserting ourselves and our students into new theoretical and methodological orientations in specific disciplines.

### New Linkages

As our beloved Africa undergoes profound political, economic and social changes, research on the continent is taking new directions in its orientation and organization, which demands the establishment of innovative, mutually beneficial linkages. For example, the linkages recently established between our Center and three independent research institutions in Africa—CODESRIA in Dakar, Senegal, the CBR in Kampala, Uganda, and SAPES in Harare, Zimbabwe—with funding from the Ford Foundation, is a recognition that universities are no longer the sole centers of scholarly production in Africa. These arrangements offer new opportunities for networking and collaborative research. We

will also explore other avenues, both traditional and electronic, involving the exchange of personnel and materials, collaborative research and publishing, in our efforts to expand and strengthen scholarly communication, and to promote productive and cost-effective intellectual conversation between our two communities, which have diverged in recent years.

All this calls for clearer conceptions of what we do and ought to be doing, of our constituencies and research agendas, and continued commitment to intellectual excellence as we train the next generation of Africanists. Difficult challenges, they all are. But perhaps not nearly as daunting as the ones that faced those who created the programs and centers of African studies in the first place. The challenges, then, are many, and stimulating. There is certainly a lot to celebrate. And may the future, the next twenty-five years, be as invigorating as the past twenty-five have been.

## Africana Library Report

by Al Kagan, Africana bibliographer

### The Internet

The Africana Library has developed a World Wide Web homepage for the African Studies Center at <http://wsi.cso.uiuc.edu/CAS/>. We are getting inquiries from across the nation and world. In addition to our latest links, you will notice a new category for "Conferences, Presentations and Other Events." The text of our video catalog is now available in the Library section under "Bibliographies and Finding Aids." We are excited to note our recent agreement with CODESRIA to make their materials available worldwide through our homepage. We intend to include full-text of some materials as well as abstracts for longer works. We also have an agreement with the African Books Collective to put their catalog of available African books on our homepage. We hope these linkages will be models for similar projects with other African research institutions and resources.

### African Studies Serials List

The Africana Unit has finally produced an African Studies Serials List of local holdings.

**For current events and other materials visit our web site at <http://wsi.cso.uiuc.edu/CAS/>**

Inaugural Edition of *Habari*

Stephen Wooten, Editor

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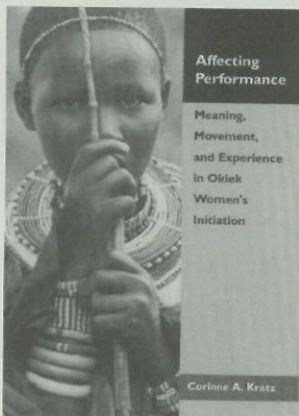
Produced for the Center for African Studies by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Publications



This project was initiated about 20 years ago by Yvette Scheven. It will facilitate research on campus as well as serve as a tool for possible cooperative collection development with the Indiana University Library. The list begins with a large section on serials that cover the continent generally or regionally. It continues with lists for each country south of the Sahara. We think we have captured almost all of the periodicals, and some of the yearbooks and other annuals. However most government reports, statistical compilations, and indexes have been excluded. We are now updating and adding North African periodicals. Copies of sections or the full list are available to faculty members, staff and graduate students.

## Videos

Continuing a former practice, the Center for African Studies has concluded a \$500 matching grant with the Undergraduate Library Media Center to purchase African videos. We have just spent the \$1000 on 8 videos. The first 6 are from the Library of African Cinema of California Newsreel: *Ca Twiste a Popenguine* (Senegal), *Femmes aux Yeux Ouverts* (Togo), *Hyeinas* (Senegal), *In a Time of Violence* (South



Africa), *Monday's Girls* (Nigeria/Britain), and *These Hands* (Tanzania). The other 2 are: *Have You Seen Drum Recently* (South Africa) from Films for the Humanities & Sciences, and *With These Hands* (Kenya/Zimbabwe/Burkina Faso) from the Filmmakers Library.

## Microfiche Collection

Some of you may have heard about the K.G. Saur project to produce a World Biographical Archive on microfiche. We have just purchased the African Biographical Archive portion which will contain biographies of approximately 75,000

subject as well as title. The other databases are: ABI/INFORM, business sources; AGRICOLA, agriculture sources; Article1st, an index of articles from nearly 12,500 journals; Contents1st, the tables of contents of nearly 12,500 journals; ERIC, an index of

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<http://wsi.cso.uiuc.edu/CAS/>

- \* African Studies Association
- \* Association of Concerned Africa Scholars
- \* ASA Electronic Technologies Group
- \* Pan African News Agency
- \* African Policy Information Center (affiliated with the Washington Office on Africa)
- \* Center for Research Libraries (including the Cooperative Africana Microforms Project collection)
- \* Smithsonian Library catalog (including the collection of the National Museum of African Art)
- \* University of the Western Cape Library catalog (our linkage partner)

individuals "from the age of the Pharaohs to the present day." It is located in the Reference Library. As of this writing, we have received fiche for individuals' names beginning with A, up to the beginning of K.

## CD-ROM

The Africana and Afro-American Units have jointly purchased our first CD-ROM, *Black Studies on Disc* from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library. It is the full catalog of their 5 million items and 108,000 records in their Index to Black Periodicals. The disc contains slightly more African-American than African citations. This first CD-ROM ends with 1993, but there will be annual updates. Come by and give it a try.

## Online Databases

Finally, some of you may know of the Library's new access to 15 online databases through OCLC FirstSearch. The service is available on the Internet through the Library's homepage (<http://www.grainger.uiuc.edu/>), and in many libraries including our own and the Reference Library. It includes WorldCat, the full OCLC database of over 30 million records of any type of material, now searchable by

journal articles and reports in education; FastDoc, an index of articles with text online or by e-mail (\$8-\$32); GeoRef, geology and earth science sources; GPO, an index of U.S. government publications; MEDLINE, an

## AFRICAN ARK

CAROL BECKWITH ANGELA FISHER



index of abstracted articles from medical journals; and MLA, an international bibliography of literature, languages, linguistics, and folklore; *PapersFirst*, an index of papers presented at conferences; *PerAbs*, an index of over 1500 journals in all fields; and *Proceedings*, an index of conference publications. You may access OCLC First Search directly at <http://www.grainger.uiuc.edu/library/first.htm>. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* is also available through the Library homepage or directly at <http://www.eb.com/eb.htm>.

## Africana Outreach Report

by Eric Beck, outreach coordinator and graduate student in the African Studies MA Program

This is a year of change for the Africana Outreach Program at the University of Illinois. We are making a transition between our full-time coordinators. At the same time we have been reevaluating the objectives of our Program. Rather than initiating new programming, we have focused on strengthening our existing activities and on developing a rapport with the local community. Along the lines of the latter, we have undertaken a study to catalog the needs of teachers in our area in order to see how we can better serve them.

Our first activity of the academic year was on October 25, 1996, when we held a workshop for secondary school teachers on the use of Africana

resources on the Internet and our World Wide Web homepages. Most of our projects this year were single event workshops and school presentations.

During the spring semester, the Outreach Program worked extensively with an area elementary school, Martin Luther King Jr., to develop linkages with university students of African and African-American descent. We have also facilitated the school's access to African cultural materials and artifacts for use in various educational programs.

The next issue of *Update*, the quarterly newsletter of the area studies centers here at Illinois, will be coming out soon. Each issue of *Update* offers a comparative view on a selected topic from the four corners of the world. If you are not currently on the mailing list for this publication, please let us know and we will gladly add your name.

## First World Centers' Joint Symposium Held

by *Nicolas Cook, graduate student in the African Studies MA Program*

On March 5, 1996, the World Area Centers of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, of which the Center for African Studies is a member, held its International Symposium on "Ethnic Fragmentation and the Nation-State in International Perspective." The interdisciplinary event was well attended.

"There was a very good turn-out, predominantly of graduate students, with a nice mix of contributions from visitors and on-campus speakers," says Donald Crummey, professor of history and former CAS director. "This is the kind of thing the centers should have been doing together for years."

Two panels comprised the half-day symposium. The first, titled "Fragmentation and State Disintegration: Current Perspectives," looked at ethnicity and politics in the post-colonial African state; ethnic fragmentation in the former Yugoslavia; and the effort by indigenous communities in Mexico to maintain

cultural cohesion and economic autonomy in the face of state attempts to incorporate them into the world economy. The African-focused contribution was presented by Dickson Eyoh, a visitor to the Center for African Studies from the Department of Political Science and African Studies at the University of Toronto, in a paper titled "Community, Citizenship and the Politics of Ethnicity in Post-Colonial Africa."

The second panel, titled "Challenges to State-Building," examined "Ethnicity and the State in Africa: The Case of the Horn"; indigenous and Black social movements in Ecuador; the construction of ethnic identity in post-war Japanese politics; and the prospects for nation-state transformation in India. Crummey presented the portion of the panel that focused on the history of state-building in the Horn.

## Tijaniyya Conference Held at Allerton

by *Charles Stewart, professor and chair, Department of History*

On April 2-5, 1996, the UIUC Department of History, College of LAS and African Studies Center co-sponsored with USIA, CNRS, NEH and Michigan State University the second in a series of workshops that began 18 months ago in Aix-en-Provence on aspects of Muslim societies and history in West Africa. The meeting brought two dozen Islamicists from Njemena and Niamey, Bamako, St. Louis and Dakar, Nouakchott, Rabat and Timbuctu as well as London, Paris and Aix and researchers and graduate students in this country from M.S.U., North-western, Kansas, Indiana, Chicago and, of course, Illinois. The particular focus of this

### Campus Visitors Speak on Africa-Related Issues in MILLERCOMM Series

The 1995-1996 MILLERCOMM Lecture Series included a significant number of impressive presentations dealing with Africa. Among this year's presentors were Jean Comaroff, Natalie Zemon Davis, Richard Estes, Jane Guyer, and Clarence Walker. The MILLERCOMM Committee maintains an interesting archive of these events at their Web Site: <http://www.cas.uiuc.edu/millercomm.html>. Please visit the site for further details on these visitors' talks.

meeting was on the transmission and meanings of the Sufi brotherhood, the Tijaniyya, in West Africa mainly during this century. Local organizer, Charles Stewart, in the Department of History, has copies of the workshop papers if colleagues and students are interested in looking them over.

## Center's Spring Symposium Addresses "Space, Culture and Society in Africa"

by *Maimouna Barro, graduate student in the African Studies MA Program*

Each year the UIUC Center for African Studies holds a Spring Symposium designed to explore an emerging theme in African Studies. The 1996 Spring Symposium, "Space, Culture and Society in Africa," was co-organized by Merle Bowen (political science), Ezekiel Kalipeni (geography) and Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (African studies and history). The symposium was held at the Levis Faculty Center on March 28-30, 1996. This year's meeting brought together a diverse group of scholars from around the globe (Canada, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, the UK and various institutions in the US) and from a range of social science and humanities disciplines. The symposium was organized in order to "engage the emerging perspectives on spatial relations, constructions and processes in Africa being developed among cultural geographers, social historians, political ecologists, literary theorists, and anthropologists." The symposium included four topical panels.

The first panel, "The Morphology of Urban Spaces," examined issues of how urbanized Africans deal with and perceive their environments, as well as how they map their changing relations and perceptions of rural landscapes. The panel included presentations by David Simon, Robert Obudho, Barry Riddell and a very interesting presentation by Meredith Turshen (Rutgers University) on "Mapping the Late 20th century Ecological Collapse in East Africa: From Gender of Urban Spaces to the Spatiality of New Epidemics."

The second panel, "Spatiality and Narratives," included presentations by F. Odun Balogun, Nkiru Nzegwu, Phyllis Reisman Peres and Tanure Ojaide. These presentations explored the relationships between texts and contexts, space and imperialism, post-coloniality, and resistance as manifested in the production and consumption of various artistic products.

The third panel, "Landscapes as Ritual and Therapeutic Spaces," explored the issue of spatiality as it relates to ritual, therapeutic, symbolic, and aesthetic spaces. In particular, the panel addressed the

spatial dimensions of health care delivery both with reference to western and traditional medicinal systems. Wilbert Gesler, Charles Good, Charles Anyiman and Lynette Jackson made presentations.

The final panel, "The Political Economy of Space and Territoriality," examined issues of land tenure and land conflicts, the reproduction of cultural and political boundaries and the formation and politicization of ethnicity and nationalism. Presentations were made by Tiyanjana Maluwa, Merle Bowen and Arlindo Chilundo, Richard Levin and Veronica Nnoma.

The symposium was capped off with an exciting night of merriment and dancing at a local pub with music provided by Ghannatta, featuring Dan Boadi.

The symposium was successful in that it opened up new avenues of looking at space, culture and society in Africa. It clearly met its objective of fostering more complex and integrated interdisciplinary understandings of these important themes.

## MacArthur Project Holds 1996 Spring Workshop

by Don Crummey, professor,  
Department of History

A group of faculty and graduate student researchers affiliated with the Center for African Studies, with the support of a generous grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is engaged in a three-year study of the environment and social change in four



Farmsteads in Wallo, Ethiopia

African countries —Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Mozambique. UIUC researchers are working with counterpart teams organized by local institutions in each of the African countries. Illinois-based researchers carry out field work in Africa in collaboration with their local colleagues, and each year the grant brings representatives of the cooperating African institutions to Urbana-Champaign for interaction with all the members of the Illinois team allowing African team members to make their own use of the institutional resources of the University of Illinois. A center piece of the interaction between Illinois and African researchers has been an annual spring workshop dedicated to some aspect of the physical sciences as they bear on the team's work.

This year the workshop, held on April 6, took up the question of "Dynamics of Plant Ecology in African Savanna Environments." Representatives of three of the African teams made presentations.

Sebebe Demissew, a botanist specializing in taxonomy and director of the Ethiopian Flora Project as well as of the National Herbarium, spoke to the group on "Vegetation in Wallo Province of Ethiopia with special reference to Ambassel. Ouétian Bognounou, an ethnobotanist from the Institut de Recherche en Biologie et Ecologie Tropicale in Ouagadougou, spoke on "The Flora and Vegetation of Burkina Faso: Environmental Aspects." Finally, Arlindo Chilundo, chairman of the Department of History at Edurado Mondlane University in Maputo, shared

his insights into "Peasant Perceptions of Environmental Change in Namialo and Netia (Nampula): A Preliminary Assessment."

Project workshops in 1994 and 1995 focused on tropical soils and on climatology. One of their features, which carried over into the 1996 workshop on savanna plant ecology, was a concern with comparative perspectives. John Taft of the Illinois Natural History Survey opened the workshop with a presentation which suggested some significant parallels between African and North American savanna environments, "An introduction to the vegetation ecology of midwestern savannas and open woodlands." And Joanna Lambert, who was completing her dissertation in the Department of Anthropology, closed the workshop with insights derived from her research in the Kibale National Park in Uganda. Her talk was entitled "African forest communities: the role of animals and implications for human resources."

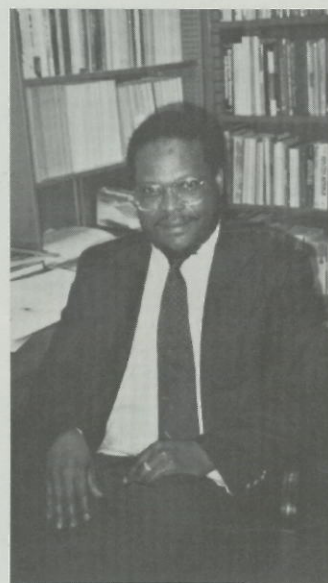
### FACULTY PROFILE

## Ezekiel Kalipeni

Ezekiel Kalipeni is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an affiliate of the African Studies Center. Kalipeni is a citizen of Malawi. He holds both a Ph.D. degree and a master's degree in geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Malawi. He has taught at the University of Malawi, 1986-1988; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1988-1990; Colgate University in upstate New York, 1990-1994; and the University of Illinois since 1994. While at Colgate University he served as director of the African Studies Program. His research interests include population geography, demography and medical geography (particularly population dynamics such as fertility, infant mortality, migration and the interrelationships between

population and the environment in southern Africa and the spatial and cultural aspects of health care delivery systems in Africa). In the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois he shares responsibility with Professor Thomas Bassett for the department's largest enrollment course (The Geography of Developing Countries, with 500 students every semester) and is in charge of the department's undergraduate spatial analysis and population geography courses. He is currently in the process of developing course offerings focused on Africa.

Kalipeni's recent publications include *Population Growth*



Ezekiel Kalipeni

and *Environmental Degradation in Southern Africa* published by Lynne Rienner, Boulder, Colorado, 1994; and *Cultural and Demographic Aspects of Health Care in Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa*, co-edited with Philip Thiuri and published by The International Association of Africanist Scholars Publishers, Inc., Langley Park, Maryland (in press). He is also finishing a manuscript on Malawi's population dynamics and the environment titled "Population Growth and the Environment in Malawi: Problems, Prospects and Policy Implications." He has published numerous articles on Africa in prestigious journals. He is also a regular contributor of chapters in edited volumes.

## Faculty News 1995-1996

Tom Bassett (geography) spent the academic year as a Directeur de Recherche Associe at the Centre d'Etudes Africaines at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. During the year, Tom made a research visit to Cote d'Ivoire and also visited two of his PhD students at their field sites in Burkina Faso (Leslie Gray) and Kenya (Joseph Otieno). He and J. Boutrais presented an invited paper, "Cattle and Reforestation in the West African Savanna," at a workshop at the Center for African Studies, University of Manchester on April 12-13, 1996.

Ken Cuno (history) presented a paper, "The Transformation of a Juridical Discourse in Ottoman Egypt: The Theory of *Israd*," at the Annual Conference of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington, DC in December 1995. In March 1996, he presented a paper, "A Tale of Two Villages: Family and Property in Rural Egypt in the 1840s," at the British Academy Symposium on Land, Settlement and Agriculture in Egypt from Pharaonic to Modern Times which was held at Oxford University. Ken also published articles in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* and *Studia Islamica*.

On September 30, 1995, Don Crummey (history) gave an invited lecture: "The Ethiopian Orthodox Church: History and Prospect," at Butler University. On October 20, he was one of fifteen American Ethiopianists and NGO representatives invited by the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington to meet with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. Don also presented an invited paper, "Ethnicity and the Nation State: The Horn of Africa Since 1945," at the UIUC World Area Centers' Joint Symposium on "Ethnic Fragmentation and the Nation State," held on March 5, 1996.

Jean Due (emerita, agricultural economics) co-published with S. C. Schmidt, an article entitled: "Comparison of Privatization of Economies of Eastern Africa and Eastern Europe," in *African Development Review*.

Alma Gottlieb (anthropology) gave an invited paper, "Do Infants Have Religion? Reflections on the Spiritual Life of Beng Babies," at the 12th Annual Satterthwaite Colloquium

on African Religion and Ritual (Satterthwaite, UK), 13-16 April, 1996. She also served as Chair and Discussant at the colloquium for a session on "Bodies, Landscapes, and Landscaped Bodies?" During the spring semester, Alma was a Center for Advanced Study (UIUC) Associate. Her associationship time at the Center was devoted to work on a new book, tentatively titled *The Culture of Infancy: A Case Study of the Beng of Cote d'Ivoire*, on how cultural factors account for the experience of infancy among the Beng.

Al Kagan (Africana Library) served as a chair of the panel "Cuba: the Cultural Cost of the Blockade," at the Annual Meeting of the American Library Association held in Chicago, Illinois on June 25, 1995. Al also gave an invited presentation, "Sources for African Language Materials from the Countries of Anglophone Africa," at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Conference held on August 23, 1995 in Istanbul, Turkey. During the year, he also published numerous reports and articles on Africana themes in the field of library science.

David Prochaska (history) presented a paper, "Viewing Photographs, Viewing Others," at the University of Chicago in February 1996. David also arranged for Natalie Zemon Davis' extended visit to the UIUC campus during the spring semester.

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (African studies and history) gave an invited presentation, "Africa's Bumpy Road to Democracy: From the Tragedy of Rwanda to the Triumph of South Africa," on January 25, 1996, to the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois. He also gave an invited talk, "Imagining Pan-Africanism for the 21st Century," at the Institute of African Studies and the Barnard Pan-African Studies Program at Columbia University on April 19, 1996. Paul, who was a recipient of the prestigious NOMA Award for his *A Modern Economic History of Africa* (1993), was honored in a special panel at the 1995 African Studies Association, "The NOMA Prize and Publishing in Africa: The Case of Zeleza." This year, Paul has published articles and book reviews in the *CODESRIA Bulletin*, *The Toronto Review*, *Afrika Zamani*, *Africa Development*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies* and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*.

## Kalipeni, Cont'd

Kalipeni has received research grants and awards from organizations such as the African-American Institute, International Development Research Center of Canada, the Norwegian International Research Organization, the French Technical Aid, the World Health Organization and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has recently been appointed as a Fellow in the prestigious Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois on a full-time basis for one semester of the 1996-1997 academic year where he will be conducting research on environmental transformation and demographic change in southern Africa.

## FACULTY PROFILE

### Valerie Hoffman

Valerie Hoffman is an associate professor in the Program for the Study of Religion, specializing in Islam. She has been on the faculty since 1983, when the (then) African Studies Program helped launch the Islam position in the religious studies program.

Hoffman's undergraduate major was anthropology (University of Pennsylvania), and her graduate work at the University of Chicago focused on Islamic texts in Arabic. Since her dissertation on Muslim women's religious lives in contemporary Egypt, she has combined the methods of fieldwork and textual analysis. In 1987-89 she did fieldwork in Egypt among the Sufis, becoming a quasi-disciple to a Sufi shaykh and spending much of her time with Sufis, attending their rituals and festivals, visiting them in their homes, sharing meals with them, and going on pilgrimages with them to saints' shrines. She wrote a comprehensive description of Sufism and its relations with other religious and cultural currents in contemporary Egypt, *Sufism, Mystics, and Saints in Modern Egypt*, published in November by the University of South Carolina Press.



Hoffman, right, stands with a Sufi woman.

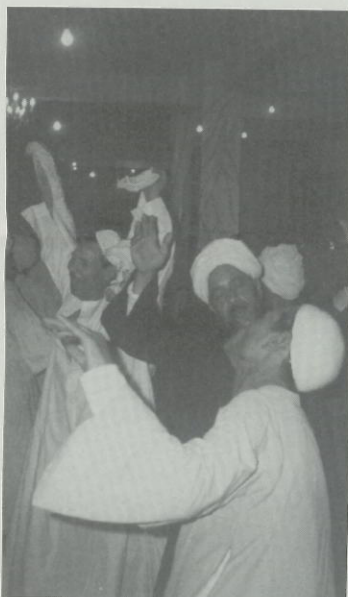
The two areas for which Hoffman has become known in the field of Islamic studies are Sufism and women. In 1995 she published "Muslim Fundamentalists: Psychosocial Profiles," in *Fundamentalisms Compared*, eds. Martin E. Marty and R. Scott Appleby; "Islamic Perspectives on the Human Body: Legal, Spiritual, and Moral Considerations," in *Embodiment, Medicine, and Morality*, eds. Lisa Sowe Cahill and Margaret A. Farley; and "Eating and Fasting for God in Sufi Tradition," in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. She also wrote articles for the *Encyclopedia of Modern Islam* and *Harper Collins Dictionary of Religion*.

Hoffman serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and was elected in November to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, for which she also serves on the Ethics Committee. She has taught courses on a number of topics in Islam, including "Islam: An Introduction," "The Qur'an (Koran) in Translation," "Islam and Society in the Modern Middle East and North Africa," "Women in Muslim Societies," and "Mystics and Saints in Islam." This past semester she taught a new course, "Muslims and Christians: Interactions and Reactions," as a result of a course development award from the Program for the Study of Cultural Values and Ethics. "Courses on Muslim-Christian relations appear to be in vogue now," she says. "I have been asked to participate in a panel on teaching this topic at the American Academy of Religion conference in November."

Thanks to a Hewlett grant from the Office of International Programs and Studies, Hoffman

will spend summer 1996 working with videotapes she and some other scholars have made of Sufi *dhikr* in Egypt, an important ritual that combines communal chanting of God's names with a performance by a singer and musicians who rouse the participants to fervor with songs freely adapted from thirteenth-century poetry. "I hope to bring the shaykh who helped me so much in Egypt to Urbana for a month to help me interpret the songs and events, and then I will work on both a scholarly analysis of *dhikr* and the production of a videotape on Egyptian *dhikr* for classroom use. There are no such audiovisual materials available right now, and there is a real need for this," she says.

Hoffman is also working on a



Men in Sufi *dhikr* at a mosque in Cairo.

study of spiritual guidance and concepts of holiness in late medieval and modern North African Sufism, utilizing particularly two texts on the life and sayings of famous shaykhs, one from seventeenth-century Morocco, the other from twentieth-century Egypt. The Moroccan book is much used in Egypt today, and the links between Moroccan and Egyptian Sufism are very strong.

## CAS Grad Student Lauds Interdisciplinary Nature of Center

**Sosina Asfaw, graduate student in the African Studies MA Program**

I am from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where I was born and raised. In 1990, I earned a Bachelor's degree in sociology from Addis Ababa University. I then worked for a year in the University's Women's Center in the Institute of Development Research. During that time, I conducted the first needs assessment survey on Ethiopian women.

In 1992, I left Ethiopia to begin graduate work in sociology at Brigham Young University (BYU). As research assistant at BYU, I was involved in a longitudinal study of Mormon families and in refugee and population studies. My involvement in refugee studies led to a Masters thesis project on the adaptation patterns of Ethiopian immigrants residing in Washington, DC. After receiving my MA, I began my studies at the University of Illinois.

Joining the Masters Program in African Studies at the University of Illinois afforded me the opportunity to work with my advisor and mentor, Professor Donald Crummey. In my opinion, two important aspects of the program stand out. The interdisciplinary nature of the program has allowed me to study with prominent Africanists in the various social science disciplines. Also, the Center often



Asfaw at the 1995 African Studies Association meeting in Orlando, FL.

provides students with unique research opportunities through assistantships. In this regard, my assistantship within the ongoing MacArthur project on Environment and Social Change has been most rewarding. I have been able to focus on my own research interests in gender issues and demographic choices households make in relation to environmental changes. I will complete the Masters program in May 1996 and plan to continue my studies as a PhD student in the Department of Geography.

## Anthro Grad Student Works to Preserve Forest Biodiversity in Uganda

**Joanna E. Lambert, graduate student in the Department of Anthropology**

I am a Doctoral Candidate in biological anthropology with research and teaching interests in primate feeding ecology and tropical forest biology. I received my B.S. in anthropology and biology and an M.A. in anthropology from Northern Illinois University. My dissertation research involved a 12-month study of foraging and fruit-feeding behavior of sympatric populations of

common chimpanzees and redbell monkeys in Kibale Forest, Uganda.

In my dissertation research, I found that the patterns in which chimpanzees and redbell monkeys forage for and process fruit differ significantly. Since up to ninety percent of Kibale Forest tree species rely on animals to disperse their seeds, these differences in foraging behavior can have important consequences for forest regeneration. Recently, I was awarded paper prizes from the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society and the American Society of Primatology for paper presentations based on my field research in Uganda.

Understanding ecological relationships such as primate seed dispersal is critical if forest biodiversity is to be successfully maintained. With this important issue in mind, I have recently organized an international symposium on "Primates as Seed Dispersers and Seed Predators in Tropical Forests" for the Joint Congress of the International Primatological Society and American Society of Primatology, August, 1996. In the future, I hope to return to Kibale Forest in order to expand my investigations into the evolutionary and ecological relationships between primate feeding behavior and the distribution and reproductive strategies of plant resources.



Lambert in Kibale Forest, Uganda.

## Student News

Elizabeth Appiah, Tunde Brimah, Kevin Carollo, Nicolas Cook, Amy Eisenhuth, James Gilmore, Amanda Miller-Ockhuizen, Veronica Ouma, Kevin Van Bladel and Solomon Woods all received 1996-1997 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for the study of African languages, societies and cultures.

A. Stacey Colwell (history) and Patricia Sandler (music) were finalists in the Graduate College's International Dissertation Travel Grant Competition.

Rosa DeJorio (anthropology) presented a paper entitled: "Competing Models and Individual Strategies for Marriage in Contemporary Mali (West Africa)" at the November 1995 African Studies Association meeting in Orlando, Florida. Rosa also presented a paper entitled: "From State Employment to Private Work: Changes in Work Practices and Representations among Urban Workers in Mali," at the November 1995 meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC. She authored a book review of *Luoghi d'Africa* edited by P. G. Solinas for *American Ethnologist*.

Stephen Hill (music) was nominated for a Fulbright-Institute for International Education Scholarship for his studies of ethnomusicology in Tanzania.

Michelle Johnson (anthropology) received a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Fellowship for her research on ritual, secrecy and initiation in Guinea-Bissau.

Leslie King (sociology) was awarded an Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security (ACDIS) Interdisciplinary Fellowship.

Dan McGee (anthropology and Medical Scholars Program) presented a paper entitled: "Too Close for Comfort: NSEP Funding and Intelligence Interests," at the November 1995 meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC. He also delivered a paper entitled: "Virulent Fear: Emerging Infections and the Popular Media," at the National Meeting on MD/PhD Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences held in April 1996 at the University of Chicago.

Amanda Miller-Ockhuizen (linguistics) recently completed her MA with a specialty in African languages. She published a photo and accompanying text entitled: "San Communal Life in Modern Times," in the 1996 International Calendar sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Association. She also authored the 1997 Culturgram for Namibia, which is one of a series published by Brigham Young University. Amanda presented a technical linguistics talk at the 27th Annual Conference on African Linguistics at the University of Florida-Gainesville.

Edward Miner (linguistics) received a Nelle M. Signor Fellowship in International Relations in support of his ethnolinguistic research in Uganda.

Patricia Clark (history), Consolata Kabonesa (women in development) and Mwenda Ntarangwi (anthropology) were awarded Ford Foundation Research Grants that will allow them to collaborate with African scholars.

Clark will be working with the Gender Institute at CODESRIA in Dakar, Senegal. Kabonesa will be working with CBR in Kampala, Uganda and Ntarangwi with SAPES-Trust in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Denise Roth (anthropology) successfully defended her dissertation on April 19th, 1996. Her dissertation "Bodily Risks, Spiritual Risks: Contrasting Discourses on Pregnancy in Rural Tanzanian Community" was based on two years of fieldwork in west-central Tanzania. Her research compares the notion of risk in the context of women's reproductive health both from the perspective of health planners and policy makers working at the international and national levels and women's own analyses of risks to their reproductive health at the local level.

Stephen Wooten (anthropology) served as the acting assistant director of the UIUC Center for African Studies during Spring 1996. He was a co-organizer and chair for a panel at

the November 1995 African Studies Association meeting in Orlando, Florida. In that panel, he presented a paper entitled: "Kinship and Ideology in the Bamana World: Towards an Explication of an Indigenous Model of Social Action." Wooten also presented a paper entitled: "Expressions of Individuality and Collectivity: Exploring the Role of Kinship and Descent in the Bamana World (Mali)" at the November 1995 meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC. His review of Conrad and Frank's *Status and Identity in West Africa: Nyamakalaw of Mande* was published in the *American Anthropologist*.

Carol Yokell (anthropology) served as one of three site supervisors for the first field school in archaeological techniques held in Egypt. The field school, which took place during the summer of 1995, was designed for Egyptian antiquities inspectors and was supported by the American Research Center in Egypt.

Gary Burlington (MA, '92), left, talks with Daniel Kafula and his uncle. Having worked as a missionary in Zambia from 1976 to 1991, Burlington returned for two years after completing his studies at the U. of I. He became very interested in how people negotiate their own, unique versions of Christian expression within the historical and mission churches. He is now working on a doctorate in missiology at Viola University.



**habari**

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