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News from the Center for African Studies • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • November 1997

From the Director's Desk

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza



Braj Kachru, Stephanie Sims, Wole Soyinka, Nic Cook, and Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

We begin the year with the good news that the Center's Title VI grant was renewed for the 1997-2000 cycle. I would like to thank the Center staff and faculty for all the hard work and assistance in preparing and writing the proposal. Also gratifying is the fact that three Africanist tenure-track appointments were made by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Let me warmly welcome our new colleagues, Professors Elabbas Benmamoun (linguistics), Kwaku Korang (English), and Zine Magubane (sociology) to our community.

This year, the Center is planning to strengthen its programming in several ways. The Fall Lecture Series is being replaced with a Fall Colloquium in which invited speakers will visit classes and participate in an afternoon colloquium with our faculty and students who work on the chosen theme. This year's theme is "Pan-African Arts and Artists," to which several prominent African, African American, and African Canadian artists and scholars have been invited. The theme is partly designed to compliment the campus project on "Identity

and Art in Diaspora Communities" funded by the Ford Foundation's "Crossing Borders" area centers initiative.

Second, the Center, jointly with the Afro-American Studies and Research Program, is launching an annual lecture series called the "DuBois Lecture," named after the great African American, Pan-Africanist scholar and activist, W.E.B. DuBois. The first speaker in the series is President Niara Sudarkasa of Lincoln University, the first African American college chartered in 1854.

Third, we are planning to expand the African Business Workshop started last academic year. It will become an annual spring event, and jointly with the Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER) and the International Trade Center, we hope to bring African business people, policy makers, and researchers to interact with their American counterparts. During my visit to Africa over the summer, I made contacts with officials of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Economic Research Consortium, all of whom expressed interest in the workshop and in working collaboratively with the Center on matters of mutual interest.

I am also pleased to announce that next spring the

Center will be running the Rockefeller-funded "Dissertation Workshop for African Graduate Students." Last spring, the Center organized the workshop at Allerton together with Northwestern University, which was then responsible for running it.

In the meantime, the Center will support students in the MA Program and the African Students Organization next spring to launch an annual symposium for UIUC students studying and doing graduate research on Africa. The Joint Centers' symposium is being moved to the fall from spring which has proved too crowded with events by the area centers. This year's theme is "Ethnic and Area Studies".

It promises to be a very busy and exciting year.

Notes from the Assistant Director

Alex Winter-Nelson

Once again, the new academic year is starting off with many new faces. In addition to three new Africanist faculty and a new office secretary, Wendy Mathewson, we are pleased to welcome six new students into the African studies masters program: Asabre Agyeman, Judith Atala, Deanna Blackwell, Brian Bunyan, Mark Johnson, and John Webb. Our new students come from as far away as Uganda and as close by as Springfield. Their backgrounds are diverse and their interests range from finance and economics to history, politics, and language. Together with our continuing students, they form a highly motivated cohort of Africanists who are sure to enrich our classrooms and our community.

While the interests of our students and faculty are diverse, many of the Center's activities this year are focusing on the arts in African studies. Many of our

special programs fall under this broad heading, including the Fall Colloquium, performances by African musical groups, readings and lectures by African and African-American writers and thinkers, and a dissertation proposal writing workshop. The Center is eager to see how our ongoing activities, such as research on the environment and social change, can be integrated into and enhanced by study of the arts. We hope our students, faculty, and others interested in Africa will join us in pursuing this theme and discovering what new insights may come from careful attention to the arts.

The arts will be a recurrent theme this year, but we will continue to provide programming on an array of topics. The spring symposium on the environment and a workshop on business in Africa are two examples of the breadth of issues we look forward to addressing. As always, we will try to provide something for everyone through our Wednesday noon seminar series in room 101 International Studies Building. Already this year, we have heard from David Prochaska (history) on colonial literature and colonial history; Jean-Baptiste Keithega (archaeology, University of Ougadougou) on the environmental effects of iron smelting, William Nganje and Andre Mbassa (agricultural economics) on food security in Cameroon, and John Cheeseman (plant biology) on mangrove/human ecosystems in Tanzania. We thank all our presenters and participants and invite all readers to become more active in the continuing discussions among UIUC Africanists through attendance at these seminars.

Outreach Report

Prosper Godonoo

The Outreach Office has been active and continues to respond to informational needs of the community by mounting various workshops and programs. In keeping with its mission, the Outreach Program continues to collaborate with units, individuals, and other institutions to respond to the growing interest in African cultures and society by K-12 educators, students, the elderly, parents, community colleges, the media, and the business community.

As part of the School Visitation Program, the outreach coordinator, Africanist faculty, and students made presentations on Africa to over 750 people at several schools in Champaign County. Outreach continues to work with schools, curriculum development committees, and teachers to revise curriculum materials and teachers' guides. As part of this effort, Outreach organized African curriculum awareness and development sessions for teachers in the Heyworth school district and at the Sugar Creek Elementary School in Bloomington-Normal. There was also a joint workshop presentation for teachers from the Champaign Schools on "Making Your Way in A Multicultural Classroom."

The Outreach Program coordinated the visits of two

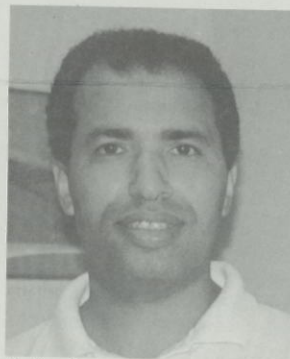
artists who conducted workshops as part of a special program, "Celebrating African Heritage." Lunna Abubakar from Ghana conducted a drumming and cultural workshop for about 65 young adults at the Douglas Community Center. This workshop was a joint venture between the Champaign Park District, Tufts University in Boston, and the Center for African Studies. In addition, David Philpot from Chicago facilitated a one-month workshop, called "African Expo," at Heyworth School. This exposition took the 450 students through such activities as individually sculpturing artwork using sandstone techniques, drumming performances, and storytelling sessions.

In terms of community programming, the outreach staff coordinated a number of very successful events. Almost ninety people attended a drumming performance by Lunna Abubakar at the Music Building Auditorium. In addition, middle school students were treated to a rich session of African storytelling with Janice Herrington and Babila Mutia, a visiting Fulbright Scholar. This session was jointly organized with the Krannert Art Museum.

During this fall semester, Outreach has set up and carried out a number of impressive events and programs. Continuing to reach out to teachers, school children, and communities, Outreach held a Drive-In Teachers' Workshop and plans to hold other workshops in Champaign and Quincy schools. In addition, the Center, in conjunction with the Center for

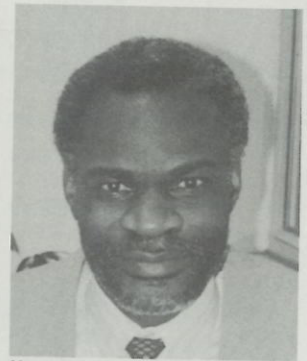
International Business Education & Research (CIBER), coordinated two Business Opportunities Conferences on Africa, one in Champaign-Urbana last spring and one in San Diego this fall. Furthermore, we recently organized the W.E.B. DuBois Lecture and Dinner and the Pan African Orchestra Concert in October. Finally, our film series, "Through an African Lens," continues to show African movies on campus twice monthly. Come join us.

Welcome to new Africanist Faculty!



Elabbas Benmamoun

Elabbas Benmamoun joins the faculty of the Department of Linguistics as an assistant professor, having completed his Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. He taught at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He also taught at UIUC from 1993-1995. Currently, his research interests include comparative Arabic syntax and morphology as well as the sociolinguistic issues involving the language situation in the Arab world. Among his recent articles, look for: "Licensing of Negative Polarity in Moroccan Arabic" in *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (1997).



Kwaku Korang

Kwaku Korang joins the Department of English as an assistant professor. He completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of Alberta at Edmonton. He has also held positions with the University of Ghana, Legon, and McMaster University in Ontario. His current research interests include modernity in African writing, and he examines the work of Ama Ata Aidoo, Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Hamidou Kane, among others. He recently published, "Post-Colonialism and Language" with Stephen Slemon in *Writing and Africa* (Longmann 1997).



Zine Magubane

Zine Magubane joins the Department of Sociology as an assistant professor. She earned her Ph.D. at Harvard University in sociology, and she taught at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include images and representations of Africans in nineteenth century South African newspapers and political debates. One of her recent publications, "The Body of the Savage: Humanitarian Narratives, 1800-1827," can be found in *Social Dynamics*, v. 23, no. 1.

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

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Rockefeller Foundation Sponsors Dissertation Workshops

Health, Culture, and Development in Africa

Veronica Ouma

From May 21 to May 25, I participated in one of the Rockefeller Foundation Dissertation Workshops, "Health, Culture, and Development in Africa." It was co-sponsored by Emory University in Atlanta. Fifteen doctoral students from all over the U.S.

ments so that they are highly competitive for funding.

Overall, I feel the workshop was a great success; it provided the necessary tools in good proposal writing. I would encourage every Ph.D. student who intends to do research in Africa to attend one of these workshops. It was really fun; I made some friends; it was informative; and it was *free!*



Participants in the Rockefeller Workshop on "Health, Culture, and Development in Africa."

and Canada, along with nine faculty members and observers, gathered together for five days at a beautiful Baptist retreat in Northern Georgia to exchange ideas and disseminate information on health-related topics. Ivan Karp, director of the Institute for African Studies at Emory, chaired the workshop.

The workshop was quite intensive. It is interesting to note that all but three proposals were about some aspect of HIV/AIDS. In the workshop, participants critiqued each other's work, discussed common research themes and methodologies, and addressed shared problems. The workshop facilitated a support network for Ph.D. students and faculty who conduct health-related research in Africa in a range of disciplines. It also enabled participants to evaluate critically their proposals and to make improve-

The Arts and Humanities in Africa's Economic and Political Transitions

The Center for African Studies is planning a workshop with Rockefeller Foundation support to be held in May 1998. The theme of the workshop is "The Arts and Humanities in Africa's Economic and Political Transitions." We are excited about incorporating the arts and humanities into the discussion of African development and hope to encourage students in social sciences, humanities, and the arts to formulate creative ways of studying the relationships between development and the arts. For information and an application for the 1998 proposal writing workshop, African graduate students can contact the Center for African Studies, UIUC. Seven other universities will offer workshops with different themes, and information on them will soon be available as well.

Wole Soyinka Speaks at UIUC

Kevin Carollo

Wole Soyinka, perhaps the most trenchantly eloquent speaker in the world today, has never been one to mince words. Rather, his words have both piqued and inspired an international audience over the last four decades. A writer of plays, poetry, literary criticism, novels, autobiography, and political testimony, he has consistently dazzled us with his brilliance.

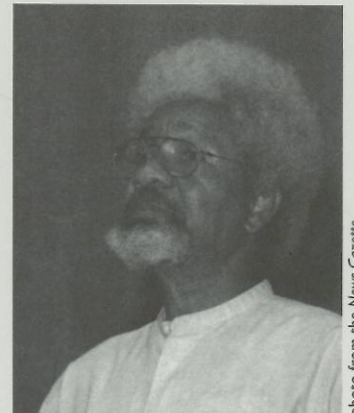
On April 3, Wole Soyinka gave a *MillerComm97* lecture at the University of Illinois' Lincoln Hall auditorium at the invitation of the Center for African Studies and the Miller Comm97 Committee. His talk, "Human Rights: The First Casualty of Revisionism," hearkened back to last year's *The Open Sore of a Continent*. Like this text, which he subtitled "A Personal Narrative of the Nigerian Crisis," his talk addressed the oppressive rule of Sani Abacha, and the hypocritical humanity such a tyrant wears on his sleeve. Soyinka framed his courageous deconstruction of despotic power and excess within the historical context of a willingness to valorize revisionist interpretations of reality whether of Hitler's Third Reich or Ceausescu's Romania.

Abacha joined this loathed pantheon of tyrants when he declared himself in charge of Nigeria's political life in 1994, and he continues to foster the ongoing political upheaval in that country. It has been a tragic tale of despotism, one that included the hanging of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995. This fact has not precluded Abacha from obtaining honorary university degrees and the "everything looks okay from here" approval of foreign visitors to Nigeria, including Carol Mosley-Braun—the modern-day Neville Chamberlain.

This past spring, Soyinka suggested to an audience of several hundred that Abacha's censored reign of terror relies on these honorary badges and open displays of sly civility. Yes, we're all happy here, come see

my degree. However, the term "revisionism" (as well as its saccharine sibling, "reform") has more than a euphemistic appeal to the Abachas of the world. It acts as a mask of international currency, one that enables the obliteration of human rights to progress unabated. One hand gives a toast to humanity while the other thrashes the general populace. It seems to be the order of the day, and thus Soyinka sardonically concluded that we should give Abacha the Nobel Prize.

But it was a bitter quip, tinged with a tired despair. It hung in the air like a stormcloud as Soyinka left to give a talk at Eastern Illinois University that evening. For Soyinka, Abacha represents the absolute nadir of Nigerian history, an egregious testament to the dissolution of humanity in his homeland, just as Hitler and Ceausescu were the catalysts for not too dissimilar processes in their respective countries. "Abacha has no *idea* of Nigeria," writes Soyinka in *The Open Sore of a Continent*. Soyinka's Nigeria insists on a multi-ethnic notion of nationhood, one in which power does not rest in hands of an elite. Tragically, his current exile bespeaks an even more profound state of alienation: of Nigerians from each other, and from their rights as human beings.



Wole Soyinka

The Center for African Studies 24th Annual Spring Symposium:

The Creation and Consumption of Leisure in Urban Africa

The 24th Annual Spring Symposium was held at the Illini Union, April 3-5, on the theme "The Creation and Consumption of Leisure in Urban Africa." It was jointly organized with the Department of Leisure Studies and co-sponsored by the College of Applied Life Sciences. This event marked the first time the Center collaborated with the two units to organize a conference, and it underscores the Center's interest in expanding its institutional linkages and intellectual horizons by collaborating with traditionally non-Africanist disciplinary and interdisciplinary units and promoting comparative, cross-regional, and thematic research and discourse.

The Conference brought together Africanists, Latin Americanists, North Americanists, and Europeanists. A sampling of presentations follows.

Overview

- Charles Ambler, University of Texas, El Paso
Writing African Leisure History

Leisure in Colonial Cities

- Kalala J. Ngalamulume, Central Washington University
Leisure in a French Colonial City: Saint-Louis (Senegal), 1850-1914
- Laura Fair, University of Oregon
Debating and Creating 'Leisure' in Colonial Urban Zanzibar
- Atieno-Odhiambo, Rice University
Kula Raha: The Contours of Leisure in Colonial Nairobi
- Valerie Hoffman, UIUC
Sufi Dhikr as Spiritual Entertainment in Egypt

Leisure in Contemporary Africa

- Richard Makopondo, UIUC
Conceptualizing Tourism in the Lake Victoria Region
- Tade Akin Aina, CODESRIA
Working People's Popular Culture in Lagos
- Tom Turino, UIUC
Popular Music and the African Middle Class in Harare
- Sada Niang, University of Alberta
Making and Going to the Movies in West Africa

Gender Aspects of Leisure

- Lisa A. Lindsay, University of Michigan
Trade Unions and Football Clubs: Working Class Networks, Gender, and Modernization in Colonial Southwestern Nigeria
- Kathy Perkins, UIUC
Black South African Women Playwrights
- Marjorie A. Franken, University of California, Riverside
The Evolution of Professional Female Dance in Colonial Cairo

The conference demonstrated the diversity of leisure activities across cultures, societies, and political economies, and the different conceptualizations about them across disciplines, as well as the complex connections between them. By the end of the conference, it was clear Africanists had much to teach and learn from scholars who study leisure in other world regions.

FACULTY PROFILES



Evelyne Accad

Evelyne Accad

Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, Evelyne Accad attended the Beirut College for Women (now the Lebanese American University) for two years. She received her B.A. from Anderson College, her M.A. from Ball State University and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Indiana University. She has been Professor at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana since 1974 in French, Comparative Literature, African Studies, Women's Studies, Middle-East Studies, and the Honors Program.

Nineteen years ago, she published a study of fiction by and about women, *Veil of Shame: The Role of Women in the Contemporary Fiction of North Africa and the Arab World* (Sherbrooke: Naaman, 1978, International Educator's Award). While the study made use of the available ethnographic materials, it was primarily a work of literary criticism. Several years later, she prepared a monograph based on research in Beirut and the Arab Gulf titled *Individual*

Rebellion and the Context of Culture; The Long Road to Maturity in the Fiction of Women Writers in North Africa and the Arab World (Beirut: IWSAW, 1986). While still based primarily on the literature involved, this study made greater use of primary sources, particularly interviews with the authors. More recently, she published *Sexuality and War: Literary Masks of the Middle East* (New York: N.Y.U. Press, 1990, French version: *Des femmes, des hommes et la guerre: Fiction et Realite au Proche-Orient*, Paris: Côté-Femmes, 1993, France-Liban Award, 1994). In this work, she uses not only novels written by men and women authors, but also the recent feminist interpretations of violence, aggression, war, and oppression.

Accad has published three novels. The first, *L'Excisee*, confronts symbolic and physical mutilation of women. The second novel, *Coquelicot du Massacre*, is about the war in Lebanon and is accompanied by a cassette of songs she wrote and performed. Her latest novel, *Journal de Tunisie: Blessures des Mots* (Paris: Côte-Femmes, 1993), is about the women's movement in Tunisia, the birth of a feminist journal, *Nissa*. She describes the various Tunisian women's experiences, how they were dealing with their lives, and how she related to the events as she spent one year there as a Fulbright scholar. It is a personal saga mixed with observations, analysis, poetry, prose, and interviews.

Veil of Shame was awarded the Delta Kappa Gamma International Educator's Prize as a book that "may influence future generations." Reviews of *L'Excisee*, which appeared in *Le Monde* and other major international papers, acknowledge not only the importance of the topic but also commended her approach to it. *Sexuality and War* is now available in paperback, and the French edition was awarded the France-Lebanon Literary Award. A Spanish translation was released this year. Her third novel was adapted for the theater and was performed before a packed audience in the center of the

Medina in Tunisia three summers ago. The English translation, *Wounding Words*, has recently been released within the African Writers series at Heinemann. Her works are being taught in universities around the country and are the topic of graduate theses in Lebanon, France, and the U.S.

Accad's other activities include writing and composing songs and performing the songs and music at concerts in the U.S. and abroad. She is presently working on a book on breast cancer from a cross-cultural perspective.



Alma Gottlieb

Alma Gottlieb

Alma Gottlieb is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and a core faculty member of the Center for African Studies and the Women's Studies Program. She arrived at the University of Illinois in 1983, having held positions at the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Union University. She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and French from Sarah Lawrence College and received her master's and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Virginia.

Gottlieb has conducted much of her research among the Beng of Côte d'Ivoire. In her research, she has focused on indigenous religious traditions, the anthropology of the body, animals and culture, gender issues, feminist theory, postmodernism, kinship and social structure, and the epistemology of field work.

Gottlieb is the author of

three books. The first, *Blood Magic: The Anthropology of Menstruation* (California, 1988), edited with Thomas Buckley, was listed by *Choice* as one of the ten best books in anthropology published in 1988. The second was an ethnography of Beng religion and society, *Under the Kapok Tree: Identity and Difference in Beng Thought* (originally published by Indiana University Press in 1992, it was recently reissued in paperback by the University of Chicago Press in 1996). Her next book, *Parallel Worlds: An Anthropologist and a Writer Encounter Africa*, was coauthored with her husband, fiction writer Philip Graham (English, UIUC). This book has received widespread praise, including the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing. It is a forthright memoir of two of the couple's stays in Bengland, written in alternating voices that reverberate with a rich lyricism.

Gottlieb has contributed articles to many scholarly journals, including *Africa, Man, American Ethnologist, American Anthropologist, Anthropology Today*, as well as to several edited collections, and much of her work is reprinted frequently in undergraduate readers. In support of her research, Gottlieb has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Social Science Research Council, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the American Association of University Women.

Gottlieb has a number of forthcoming publications, such as: "Do Infants Have Religion? The Spiritual Life of Beng Babies (Côte d'Ivoire)," in *American Anthropologist*; "Dictionnaire BengAnglais: Considérations Ethiques," in *Journal des Anthropologues*; and "Le Religioni in Africa Occidentale," in *Enciclopedia Italiana: Storia del Secolo XX*. Currently, she is at work on two new books about infancy as seen in anthropological perspective. The first focuses on her own field research among the Beng; the second is a cross-cultural collection on infancy that she is coediting with Judy Deloache (psychology).

ALUMNUS PROFILE

Nicolas Cook



Nic Cook with head nurse (right) and two nurse assistants during clinic rehabilitation survey visit in Lesotho

It snowed in Maseru during Nicolas Cook's first weekend there, but the weather did not dampen the hot political climate that he encountered. Cook is a graduate of the Center's African Studies MA program and has just completed an internship with the U.S. Department of State at the U.S. Embassy in Lesotho.

During his internship, Cook helped analyze the changing situation, drafting political reports and cables during a politically-charged period relating to the formation of the breakaway Lesotho Congress for Democracy, the ruling party, and the creation of an Independent Electoral Commission.

He also assisted and substituted for the coordinator in the Embassy Self-Help Program and Democracy and Human Rights Project (DHR). He inspected and evaluated projects, disbursed checks, and met project committees. The Self-Help Program annually funds about 20 social service projects, like building school buildings and clinics; and income-generating projects, such as produce and dairy sheds, small dam constructions

for irrigation, and women's weaving and sewing cooperatives. The DHR Fund supports about 20 non-governmental organizations that undertake work like training media workers, providing paralegal services to the poor, advocating for legal change in the rights of women and the disabled, and providing voter education.

"It is a time of radical change for Lesotho," Cook says. "The fall of apartheid in neighboring South Africa is now hitting Lesotho hard. Large numbers of miners are being retrenched and arriving home jobless and often quite politicized from their experiences in the South African labor and liberation movements, adding to an unemployment level of nearly 40 percent."

Cook also performed a range of other tasks, responded to information requests from the American and Basotho public, for instance in gaining research contacts or in one case, tracking down the status of a murder case. He also scheduled and hosted visiting Americans and coordinating the visit of a Mosotho nominee to women's business conference in the U.S. Other work included research in support of information requests, representation of the Embassy at various fora, such as donor meetings, ministerial functions, and workshops. He also drafted press releases in addition to performing general liaison activities with various Embassy contacts.

STUDENT PROFILES

Lamissa Bangali

Lamissa Bangali is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology and teaches Bamana at UIUC. Born and raised in Burkina Faso, Bangali earned two Maitrise degrees



Lamissa Bangali

from the University of Ouagadougou—one in English and the second one in sociology. He taught English and conducted seminars at the National School of Administration in Burkina, while looking into Ph.D. programs in anthropology.

Bangali is currently preparing for his preliminary exams, and is looking forward to beginning his fieldwork in Burkina this December. His research focuses on the changing status and identity of blacksmiths among Senufo people in Western Burkina. He explains, "blacksmiths play key roles in ritual settings and performances of the Senufo. They are revered for their esoteric knowledge pertaining to iron work. Studying them provides a better understanding of Senufo farmers' social interactions and the structure of Senufo society."

Bangali also has a growing interest in material culture and museum work. He spent the summer in Flagstaff as an intern at the Museum of Northern

Arizona. He catalogued a variety of Native American art items collected in different areas of the country. He also visited reservations and attended seminars and talks discussing issues involved in museum work.

Once he completes his degree, Bangali looks forward to teaching, research, and possibly museum work with a museum with an African collection.

Meg Cederoth

Meg Cederoth is a master's student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Her undergraduate degree is in Middle Eastern history, focusing on women's historiography. As a master's student, she is combining this interest with urban planning by working on international planning issues in North Africa.

During the summer of 1997 and with the support of a FLAS fellowship for the study of Arabic, Cederoth traveled to Fez, Morocco. She lived with a family for a month and studied Moroccan Arabic intensively. The host family was extremely



Meg Cederoth at the Medina of Sfax.

generous, always willing to teach her new words and polite phrases. They helped her approach language learning with an open mind and a sense of humor, especially teaching her to laugh at her mispronunciations. She found that the language training proved to be excellent preparation for the next phase of her summer, which was several weeks of research in Tunis, Tunisia.

Cederoth's master's project centers on a redevelopment and

relocation project for low income families in Tunis. Through the help of the Center for Magrebi Studies in Tunis (CEMAT), she met with the planners and architects concerned with this project. They assisted her in refining the focus of her research and provided first hand accounts of their work. She plans to return and complete her research sometime this year.

In both Morocco and Tunis, Cederoth was able to travel and enjoy the ocean in Morocco and the coast near Tunis. After completing her degree this May, she hopes to return to North Africa for some time and eventually work in the international development field.

Saliem Patel

Saliem Patel joined the Center's master's program in January 1997. He was born and grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, and moved to Cape Town in the early 1980s. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and majored in sociology and philosophy. He also tutored in both these departments while doing an honors degree.

Patel was a student activist at UWC and participated in student housing committees, student government committees and political organizations on campus. He also participated in and lectured at the Workers College, a trade union education program based at UWC.

Before coming to UIUC, Patel worked as a researcher at the Centre for Southern African Studies also based at UWC. His research interest is on the economic and political integration and cooperation of the countries in the southern African region with a special concern for labor and development issues. The irony that exists, for Patel, is that the countries in southern Africa have a combined potential to

provide sufficient food and energy to everyone living in this region and are also rich in various minerals, yet the vast majority of the population in all the countries in southern Africa live in poverty. The destabilizing role played by South Africa in the region during the 1970s and 1980s was a big stumbling block to development. Now, Patel wonders, what new political and economic strategies are required to meet the needs of the



Saliem Patel

majority in southern Africa—given the formation and existence of a regional intergovernmental organization, the Southern African Development Community.

"I am at UIUC to improve my academic skills and qualifications to be a better participant in the ongoing debate on this question," says Patel. He plans to complete his degree this fall and will return to the Centre for Southern African Studies at UWC to continue with his research.

Faculty News

Evelyne Accad (French) and Cynthia Hahn (UIUC alumna) went to Grinnell College, Iowa University-Ames, Iowa City University, and Northern Iowa University to give a reading and performance of *Wounding Words: A Woman's Journal in Tunisia*.

Marilyn Booth (comparative literature) just published, "May Her Likes Be Multiplied": "Famous Women" Biography and Gendered Prescription in Egypt, 1892-1935" in *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Jean Due (agricultural economics) and **John Due** (economics) are traveling to Tanzania this fall. John will undertake research on the newly implemented value added tax, and Jean will continue her work on privatization of state owned enterprises. Jean has also recently published with Flavianus Magayane (agricultural economics, 1994) and Anna A. Temu (agricultural economics) "Gender Again: Views of Female Agricultural Extension Agents by Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania," *World Development*.

Alma Gottlieb (anthropology) presented papers on infancy and anthropology at the University of Washington and at the Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society.

Al Kagan's (library and information science) recent publications include: editor for African countries in the *Guide to Official Publications of Foreign Countries*; "Observations on South African University Libraries," *World Libraries*; editor for African studies books, *Counterpoise*. He also traveled to southern Africa during the summer and attended the Zimbabwe International Book Fair, visited several libraries in Zimbabwe, and followed-up on UIUC linkage with the University of the Western Cape.

Ezekiel Kalipeni (geography) has recently published the following works: "Population Pressure, Social Change, Culture and Malawi's Pattern of Fertility Transition," *African Studies Review*; "Regional Polarization in Voting Pattern: Malawi's 1994 Elections," *African Journal of Political Science*; "Gender and Regional Differences in Schooling Between Boys and Girls in Malawi," *East African Geographical Review*. Kalipeni also made presentations at the International Symposium

organized by the World Area Centers of the UIUC, and the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.

Bill Martin (sociology) published with co-author Michael West, "A Future with a Past: Resurrecting the Study of Africa in the Post-Africanist Era," *Africa Today*. He presented papers at University of the Western Cape, University of Cape Town, University of the Witwatersrand, and he participated in a radio interview on Bush Radio 89.5FM, Salt River, Cape Town.

Stuart Nagel (political science) presented a series of workshops in Ghana during October on "Win-Win Policy Analysis in Africa" for the Centre for African Research and Development. He has organized similar workshops in Malawi and Kenya.

Kathy Perkins (theater) has a forthcoming anthology titled *Black South African Women: An Anthology of Plays*; it will be published by Routledge/University of Capetown Press. She has spent the past three summers in South Africa, collecting material for this collection as well as working as a lighting designer in Johannesburg.

David Prochaska (history) presented a paper at an international conference on architecture and colonial urbanism held at the University of Melbourne and a second paper on colonial Algeria to the Center for Cross Cultural Research at Australian National University in Canberra.

Zohreh T. Sullivan (English) presented a paper on Assia Djebar, Tayeb Salih, and Salman Rushdie at a symposium on war and its representations at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Her paper was titled "War, Gender, and Postcolonial Writing."

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (African studies and history) was the keynote speaker at two conferences this summer. He gave the following presentations: "Academic Freedom in the North and the South: An African Perspective" at the Canadian Association of University Teachers, International Conference on Academic Freedom and the Future of the University, Ottawa (an abridged version of the address is to be published in *Academe*, November/December issue) and "Writing as Conversation" as the opening speech at the Writers' Workshop, Zimbabwe International Book Fair, Harare.

Over the summer, Zeleza traveled for eight weeks to five African countries and numerous institutions

to conduct research and collect data for the completion of volume 2 of his book *A Modern Economic History of Africa: The Twentieth Century*. Zeleza's recent publications include: *Manufacturing African Studies and Crises* (Dakar: Codesria Book Series); "The Perpetual Solitudes and Crises of African Studies in the United States," *Africa Today*; "Gender Biases in African Historiography," in Ayesha M. Imam, Amina Mama and Fatou Sow, eds., *Engendering the Social Sciences in Africa*. (Dakar: Codesria Book Series); "Fictions of the Postcolonial," *The Toronto Review*; also published in *Codesria Bulletin*. He has also recently published a short story titled "Rocking Chair," in George Elliot Clarke, ed. *Eyeing the North Star: Directions in African Canadian Fiction* (Toronto: Stewart & McClelland).

Lawrence Muzinga (agricultural economics, african studies alumnus) successfully defended his dissertation proposal, "Modeling the Impact on Farm Firms due to Federal Income Tax Reforms: A Stochastic Simulation Approach."

Mwenda Ntarangwi (anthropology) recently returned from his field research in Kenya; during this time, he also got married. With the support of a Wenner-Gren Anthropological Foundation Fellowship, he is currently writing his dissertation, "Music, Gender and Islam in an East African Urban Context: Recording social transformations among the Swahili of Mombasa."

Joseph Otieno (geography) has a two-year post-doctoral social science fellowship in agriculture funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. He will be



Mwenda Ntarangwi and Nkirote Tirima's wedding in Meru, Kenya, December 1996. From left to right: Mumo Musau, Mwenda Ntarangwi, Nkirote Tirima-Mwenda, and Pamela Kimbui-Mumo.

Student News

Simon Donnelly (linguistics) is currently lecturing in a tenure-track position in the Department of Linguistics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He will defend his dissertation in January.

Laura Fyfe (French) is back from a year in Washington, D.C. where she conducted research at the Library of Congress. Currently, she is preparing for her preliminary exams on Senegalese literature.

Maxim Matusevich (history) has recently returned from Moscow, where he conducted pre-dissertation research at the Africa Institute. He has also recently completed his preliminary exams. His research could be broadly defined as the study of the decline in Soviet-Nigerian relations in the 1970's.

working with an interdisciplinary research team at the International Potato Center in Soroti, Uganda.

Kristina Stanley (theatre) has presented two conference papers recently: "Workshop (Re)Visited and (Re)Devised: The Creative Process and Athol Fugard's *My Life*" at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference and "The Creative Arts Workshop: Playing Against the Margins in South Africa" at the Mid-America Theatre Conference. This fall, she served as dramaturg for director Michael Littman's upcoming production of Fugard's *Master Harold...and the boys* at Illinois State University.

Alumni News

JoAnn D'Alisera (anthropology, 1997) recently completed her Ph.D. and will be teaching courses in African anthropology at Creighton University in the spring.

Virginia Danielson (music, 1991) is curator of the Archive of World Music and keeper of the Isham Memorial Library at Harvard University. She also teaches in the Department of Music on occasion. She has a book, *"The Voice of Egypt" Umm Kulthum, Arabic Song, and Egyptian Society in the Twentieth Century*, coming out this year, and a documentary film, "Umm Kulthum: A Voice Like Egypt" was based on her book. Marilyn Booth (comparative literature) was an advisor to the film.

Rose DeJorio (anthropology, 1997) completed her Ph.D. last January and has begun a new job as assistant professor of anthropology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, where she is teaching courses in anthropology and African studies.

Leslie Gray (geography, 1997) successfully defended her dissertation

titled "Land degradation in Southwestern Burkina Faso: The environmental effects of demographic and agricultural change." She currently holds a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Demography at University of California, Berkeley.

Vincent Mathews (African studies, 1995) founded, and is president of, a conflict management training firm called Peaceful Solutions. It provides training for 40 Detroit public schools and 10 schools in the Houston Independent School District. In addition, it provides community and corporate workshops.

Peter McLallen (African studies, 1995) married Nicola Whitley on July 12, 1997, in Hilton, South Africa, Whitley's hometown. They are residing in Urbana, while Whitley completes her Ph.D.

Amanda Miller-Ockhuizen (linguistics, 1996) is a doctoral student in linguistics at Ohio State University. She recently received a National Science Foundation Dissertation grant to do field work in Namibia during 1997-98 on the Jul'hoasi language. She will study the phonetics and

phonology of the language; to learn more about her research project, check the following web site: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/showaward?award=9705334>

Tristine Perkins (African studies, 1995) is associate curator of the Cultural World Collections at the Childrens' Museum of Indianapolis. The museum will feature the Field Museum's "Africa: One Continent, Many Worlds" travelling exhibit from January-May 1998 and is organizing a city-wide Africa celebration. Perkins will be working with the museum's African collections for supplementary exhibits and programming. She encourages everyone to visit the museum to see the exhibit.

Rebecca Summary (economics, 1983) is currently a professor and chair of the Department of Economics at Southeast Missouri State University. She is also serving as special assistant to the provost.

Frances Vavrus (English as a second language, 1991) is a doctoral candidate in the School of Education with a minor in African Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She

recently completed her dissertation research in Tanzania with the support of a Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and with her husband, Tim Leinbach, and son, August Jackson Leinbach, in tow. She conducted her research in and around the secondary school where she worked previously. Her husband taught at the school while she conducted her research and taught, and her son stayed busy learning Swahili from his many playmates.

Stephen Wooten (anthropology, 1997) recently completed his Ph.D. and accepted the position of assistant director at the James S. Coleman African Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Carol A. Yokell (anthropology, 1997) successfully defended her dissertation and deposited it. The title is: "Modeling Socioeconomic Evolution and Continuity in Ancient Egypt: The Value and Limitations of Zooarchaeological Analyses." She rejoined the editorial staff of the *Journal of the Steward Anthropological Society*, run by the graduate students of the Department of Anthropology.

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