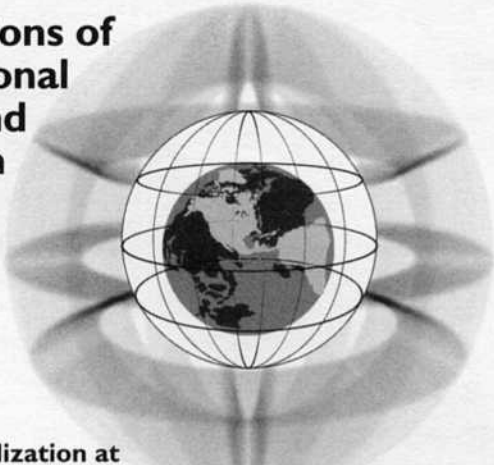


Visions of International Studies and African Studies at UIUC



Impact of Globalization at the Local Level

In recent interviews, Charles C. Stewart, executive associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Earl D. Kellogg, associate provost for international affairs, express their visions for international studies and area studies programs at UIUC. Both point to the emergence of the global community as a significant factor impacting the research, teaching, and service agendas of area studies centers and the disciplines. They also both see interdisciplinary work as a gateway to further understanding the world and interrelationships within it. By exploring the intersections of disciplines, area studies, and globalization, UIUC will continue to enhance its reputation as a pace-setting institution.

Area Studies Interface with Globalization

Stewart explains that area studies programs face the challenge of reinventing themselves. Rather than being driven by the Cold War agenda of the past four decades, African studies, like other area studies programs, must find its way in new intellectual, institutional, and international contexts. He sees the emerging global community as creating opportunities and meaningful directions for African studies at UIUC. Stewart adds that the Center is in position to build on its strengths—with already estab-

lished interdisciplinary collaborations. In terms of the University's mission to provide research, teaching, and service, the Center demonstrates ways in which area studies can interface with the processes of globalization. For example, Diaspora studies resonates at various geographical scales and locations, and the Center for African Studies leads the way in this direction in teaching and research. In addition, K-12 schools are seeking new approaches to internationalize their curriculum, and the Center's Outreach Program offers some concrete support to the schools to achieve this goal.

New Major in International Studies

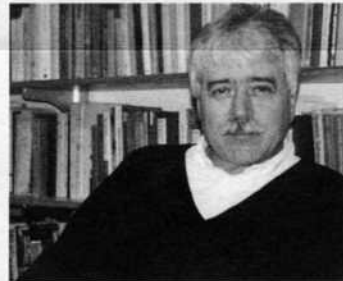
To provide a greater understanding and appreciation of the complexities of the global community, Stewart also points to the introduction of a new College major in International Studies, which could be in place by fall 1999. This new major is intended to provide an umbrella to the various programs on campus. It will bring visibility to area studies and will "hopefully lead to innovative collaborations that will serve students and faculty, as well as the wider community."

Other initiatives being planned by the College of LAS include the development of intersession study abroad programs, in which faculty may coordinate a group research project for students. LAS also

wants to foster students' intellectual development and interest in international issues by keeping cohorts of students together and shepherding them through the general education program while assisting them in determining their future courses of study. He adds that to develop a greater sense of community amongst students and to enhance their educational experiences, the College would like to make housing arrangements available to students with similar academic interests, such as international studies.

Exchange and Outreach

Kellogg also sees globalization as a significant trend influencing the University of Illinois. To strengthen the international dimension of research, teaching,



Charles Stewart

and service at UIUC, Kellogg has suggested some of the following priorities. All students should be aware of the international context of their fields because globalizing forces come into play in the most parochial of studies. Kellogg suggests that UIUC must prepare students and the wider community to be informed citizens on these matters.

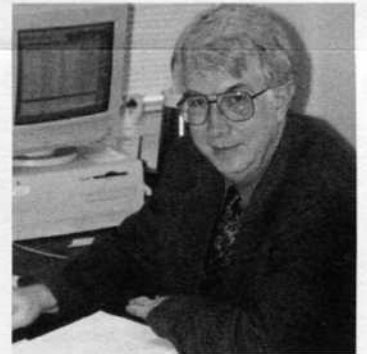
To solve problems in Illinois and the U.S., UIUC's faculty and graduate students must have access to international expertise; to accomplish this goal, he supports creating international linkages and collaborative projects among UIUC faculty and programs, and innovative work being done abroad. He suggests that internationalizing the curriculum and research agendas can also be enhanced by strength-

ening the faculty base devoted to international studies.

Like the students and faculty at the University, the broader public that the University serves can also benefit from an international understanding of issues and relationships. Therefore, Kellogg seeks to further the incorporation of international content in UIUC outreach and continuing education programs.

Finally, Kellogg points to the need for organizational support for the international research, teaching, and services provided by the various units and departments on campus.

In terms of African studies at UIUC, Kellogg notes that he is gratified by the development and maturity of the program and its activities. With an American public that is largely



Earl D. Kellogg

unaware and/or misinformed on issues relating to Africa, Kellogg sees the Center's role as key to addressing such shortcomings. Furthermore, the Center brings together individuals from an array of disciplines to address some of the enormous challenges faced on the continent. He adds that while departments have more control over faculty lines and instructional units, the Center serves the campus by bringing in outside resources and by creating a sense of community amongst students and faculty. The multi-disciplinary projects that emerge through the Center not only create and update knowledge that is place-specific, but also foster understanding of the interrelatedness of disciplines and world systems.

From the Director's Desk

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

We live in a period of great intellectual ferment in which both the traditional disciplines and area studies face increasing epistemological and organizational challenges, spawned by passionate internal debates and external pressures over what should be their concerns, content, and composition. The dramatic changes brought about by globalization and the rapid and complex transformations that Africa is undergoing render old disciplinary forms of understanding and organizing knowledge increasingly inadequate. The need for interdisciplinary and comparativist approaches becomes more evident.

It is partly in response to these developments that the Center for African Studies has embarked on a program of active collaboration with other units on campus. They include our "natural" allies, such as the Afro-American Studies and Research Program (AASRP) and the other area centers. Jointly with the AASRP, we launched the annual Du Bois Lecture series this year to bring to campus prominent visitors to talk on Pan-Africanist issues.

We look forward to the development of new courses on the African Diaspora.

As for the area centers, we are now into our third year of



Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

organizing a joint annual symposium on themes that have cross-regional and international implications. This year's theme, "Area and Ethnic Studies: Commonalities and Differences" is particularly pertinent in exploring the intellectual and institutional relationships of (foreign) area and (domestic) ethnic studies programs in the American academy.

The Center is also establishing links with disciplines and colleges with whom we have not had strong connections in the past. We have used both established and new programs to pursue this agenda. Last year's Spring Symposium, which was on the "Creation and Consumption of Leisure in Urban Africa," was organized jointly with the Department of Leisure Studies and the College of Applied Life Studies; and next year's symposium on "Human Rights in Africa" will be organized

jointly with the College of Law.

This year's symposium, "African Savannas: New Perspectives on the Environmental and Social Change," has been co-sponsored by the campus-wide Environmental Council which was set up a couple of years ago. Among the new collaborative programs is the annual "African Business Workshop," which was started

last year and is organized jointly with the International Trade Center and the Center for International Business Education and Research. This workshop not only facilitates linkages to the College of Commerce, but it is also an important part of outreach to the business community in the state, nationally, and in Africa.

Notes from the Assistant Director

Alex Winter-Nelson

Spring 1998 is proving to be an exciting time at the Center. We have enjoyed visits from the Egyptian feminist-activist-author, Nawal el Sadaawi, as well as the U.N. Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Andre Kapanga. In February, the African Studies MA students, led by Deanna Blackwell and Brian Bunyan, successfully held the first annual UIUC graduate student conference on "African and African-Diasporic Issues." Congratulations to Deanna and Brian and all the participants. The conference revealed an impressive amount of scholarship and enthusiasm among UIUC graduate students with 20 presenters and 47 people attending the conference. March brought a joint colloquium on Area and Ethnic Studies that included a keynote address from Robert Berdahl, chancellor at the University of California, Berkeley. Also in March, the Arabic Linguistics Society held the Twelfth Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics at the University of Illinois. In April, a Spring Symposium on the theme "African Savannas: New Perspectives on the Environment and Social Change" brought together Center faculty

and collaborators from Africa and Europe. This research group has been studying the interrelationships between social change and the environment over the past five years and has been supported by the MacArthur Foundation. May will bring the Rockefeller Foundation-supported dissertation development workshop on "The Arts and Humanities in Africa's Economic and Political Transitions." In June, the Center is organizing a workshop for American and African agribusinesses. We feel there is something for everybody this year.

Looking to the future, the Center for African Studies' admissions committee examined a strong pool of applicants this year, and we are now entering a new phase of our recruitment efforts. The application pool has benefited from the efforts of a current student and graduate assistant, Peter Jones, who has been waving the Center's flag and encouraging applications at campuses all over the state. The Center thanks Peter and our other students whose energies are a real asset to the institution.

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

Jamie McGowan, Editor

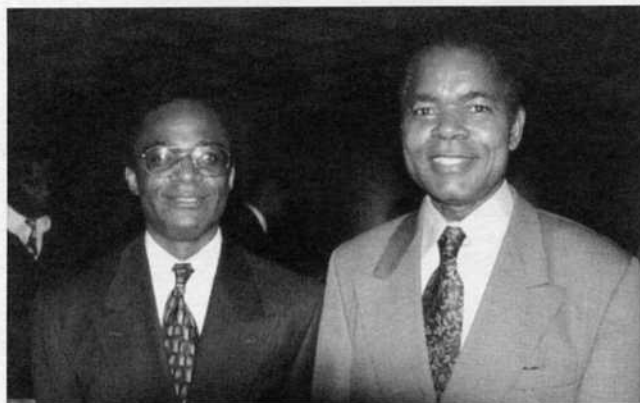
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Produced for the Center for African Studies by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Publications

“The Resurgence of Africa: Reclaiming the Congo”

Kevin Carollo



Ambassador Andre Kapanga (left) and Professor Eyamba Bokamba

Andre Kapanga, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) first ambassador to the United Nations, visited the University of Illinois on February 5th. His talk, “The Resurgence of Africa: Reclaiming the Congo,” offered reflections on the immensity of the task before the new government of Laurent Kabila. The DRC is a large, culturally diverse country of over 45 million people, and currently lacks adequate food supplies, clean water, passable roads, books, and a stable economy. A tenured professor at Illinois State University and founder of a Congo newsgroup on the Internet, Kapanga embodies at least one irony of the nationalist movement—those who govern must often prepare to do so outside of their nation's borders.

Though Kapanga gave a thorough history of the government under Mobutu, one sensed that he and the audience were more interested in exploring the uncertain terrain of the DRC's future. Indeed, the most pressing questions for the DRC today are unanswerable at this time. They center around this ambiguous “inheritance” from Mobutu, and the possibility of overturning the effects of thirty-plus years of

U.S. and European-backed dictatorial rule. Kapanga is hopeful, and, thus, spoke of the DRC as part of a new wave of Africans searching for national identity and justice.

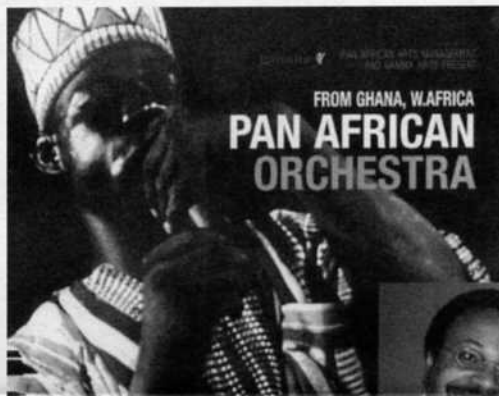
Nevertheless, building the DRC will require the same kind of international commitment Mobutu enjoyed for much of his reign. The new government must face two important questions: how much compromise is too much, and how much choice do the people of the DRC have? Kapanga is optimistic that the Kabila government will not exist as a Mobutu-esque marionette for Western capitalist interests. In light of this hope, our hearts go out to him and the people of the DRC.

Fall 1997 Colloquium: Pan-African Arts and Artists, October 20-23

Last fall, the Center organized its first Fall Colloquium; the theme was “Pan-African Arts and Artists.” The annual event is intended to bring at least three visitors to the campus for several days to attend classes and participate in the half-day colloquium.

Lamar, an African-American novelist, essayist, and screenwriter who lives in Paris. The three writers took part in an evening of readings that included our very own local novelists, Evelyne Accad, professor of French, who is also a songwriter and singer, and

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, director of the Center. The two panels of the colloquium, one on the literary arts and the other on music and the performing arts, sought to examine



George Elliott Clarke (left) and Rashidah AbuBakr

The colloquium was launched with a bang. Besides bringing three very exciting writers, we managed to bring the world renowned Pan-African Orchestra from Ghana. Performing a repertoire that combines Africa's diverse musical traditions and instruments to create a unified symphonic form, the orchestra's pulsating rhythms, fine tunes, and elegant singing almost brought down Foellinger Auditorium. This rare treat was enjoyed by several hundred students, faculty, and people from Urbana, Champaign, and farther afield. The leader of the orchestra, Nana Kodjo Abiam, also participated in the colloquium.

The three invited writers were Rashidah AbuBakr, a West African poet, playwright, and essayist based at the Pratt Institute in New York; George Elliott Clarke, an African-Canadian poet, literary critic, and anthologist and professor at Duke University; and Jake

the extent to which the creative artists of continental Africa and the African Diaspora have developed and continue refining a more or less distinctive black or Pan-African aesthetic. UIUC faculty participants in the colloquium were from various departments, including English, French, sociology, dance, music, and theater.

International Agriculture Association Visits South Africa

David M. Albin and Jennifer E. Wubben

International Agriculture Association (IAA), a registered student organization at the University of Illinois, took its first tour of Africa in December, when a group of 20 departed Chicago for Johannesburg, South Africa. Each year to year and a half, the IAA organizes an international trip; in the past the organization has traveled to Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Canada. John Santas, assistant dean of ACES, explains that South Africa was chosen as a destination because, "the students knew they would be seeing a land of contrasts." The group includes international and domestic students as well as graduate and undergraduate students. Faculty advisors accompany the group. The students represent an array of disciplines, but all of them have a common interest in agriculture and problems worldwide.

The purpose of the tour was to study South African agriculture. The group saw many different parts of the country as we traveled from the Johannesburg/Pretoria area in the Gauteng Province, to the Free State Province, through Kwazulu/Natal Province, and through the Eastern and Western Cape Provinces, ending our tour in Cape Town. IAA members had the opportunity to visit an agricultural research center, a terminal for storing sugar for export, and farms growing corn, sunflowers, soybeans, and sugar cane. Also, pasture was a common sight in parts of South Africa with various species of cattle and sheep being raised. We observed that pork operations, which are not common to South Africa, resemble U.S. farms with the exception of a huge labor force resulting from the lack of mechanized feed and waste handling systems. Additionally, the trip enabled us to witness some of the on-going effects of the Apartheid regime



Residents of Hopewell Township accompany IAA members on an outing.

in terms of agriculture and distribution of resources, including land.

The effects of Apartheid were easily visible throughout our trip. Many times, we were shocked by the attitudes we encountered. It is evident that the transition from Apartheid to equality for all will be a long process. For example, the economic structure of agriculture is still based on an exploited labor force that Apartheid created. The entire agricultural system will have to change before opportunities will exist for all people. However, hope is alive in South Africa. We were inspired by IAA member Lindsey du Toit's mother who runs a pre-school for children of Hopewell Township.

Santas, who accompanied the group to South Africa, notes that while the purpose of the trip was "to study the agriculture sector, they also learned about a host of other areas and topics. ...[They] learned a great deal about that country's history, politics, cultural

diversity, economics, and geography... This group used their foreign vantage point to learn a great deal about their own country." He adds, "all members of the group became sensitized to events in South Africa and Africa in general. Any media coverage or mention of events in that part of the world will definitely attract their attention and will now have special meaning because of their participation in this study tour. This is an especially positive outcome, because we know there will be many interesting future events, and the world will be watching as South Africa continues the transition toward recognizing the full rights of all its citizens."

Africana Library Report

Al Kagan

I am pleased to formally announce the appointment of our new library technical assistant, Gregory Kiselev. He has an M.S. from Moscow State University's Institute of Asia and Africa, and he was a senior research fellow at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Kiselev was also director of their "Oriental Literature" publishing program and has written books on precolonial Africa and Hausa history and culture. Please greet him next time you come to the Library.

Clicking on Library

Gateway "Article

Databases" now reveals

42 online sources,
and eight of them are
full-text.

Those of you who have used the Library Gateway (<http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/gateway.asp>) may have noticed the increase in available

FACULTY PROFILE

Jean Due

Jean Due is professor emerita, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, UIUC. Although retired, she continues to conduct research actively on and in Africa. Over the last two years, her research has focused on sales of government-owned enterprises in Tanzania to private firms. She undertakes this research jointly with young faculty at Sokoine University of Agriculture, essentially as a mentor. Due has made more than 35 trips to various parts of Africa undertaking research on



Jean Due and her husband, John.

a variety of topics from agricultural and economic development, financing the agricultural sector and small enterprises, privatization, evaluating loans to women, evaluating small holder farmers' attitudes to women agricultural extension agents, and other gender issues. She also has more than 70 publications in referred journals. While no longer teaching, Due believes that travel and research in Africa are essential to the effective teaching of courses on Africa.

From 1970 to 1990, Due taught a course on African economics. She also continues to recruit African women for graduate work at UIUC. Her recruitment efforts began when she was co-principal investigator of the USAID-financed Bean/Cowpea CRSP for Tanzania. This funding brought both men and women to UIUC for graduate training, some of whom are on staff at Sokoine University of Agriculture. Due demonstrates a commitment to education and scholarship by continuing to mentor African women at UIUC, often reading and making suggestions on papers and theses.

databases. Clicking on "Article Databases" (<http://gateway.library.uiuc.edu/article.htm>) now reveals 42 online sources, and eight of them are full-text. As a part of the Library Gateway, note, especially, The Web of Science, which includes the three citation indexes beginning with 1997 (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Science Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index). Another interesting acquisition is Contemporary Women's Issues. Finally have a look at the four "multi-subject" full-text databases.

The Center's Library Committee and the Library's Media Center are continuing our successful matching funds agreement. We also continue to receive videos through the Media Center's Non-print Competition. The following titles have recently arrived from California Newsreel: *Flame*, *Dakan*, *Tableau Ferraille*, *Taaf Fanga*, and *Clando*. From First Run/Icarus, we have purchased *Keeping a Live Voice*, *Imperfect Journey*, *Taxi to Timbuktu*, and *A Republic Gone Mad*. We have also acquired *Black Power* (Coronet) and *Neria* (DSR). Until we get an updated video catalog, feel free to consult the distributor's catalogs in our office.

Finally, we have begun e-mail distribution of our "New Acquisitions List" for monographs. It is free for the asking. Please just specify if you would like it as an attachment in MS Word or as a normal e-mail file. Send requests to: akagan@uiuc.edu.

STAFF PROFILE

Sue Swisher

Sue Swisher joined the Center in 1987, when it was on West California Street in Urbana. She was hired by then director, Don Crumme, and Betty Ann Glende, the woman she replaced, and there was never any doubt in their minds about whom to hire. Swisher had a self-confident, open, and "can do" attitude that later years have given her ample opportunities to demonstrate.

Swisher is the Center's program administrative assistant, a bland title that hides a slew of responsibilities and initiatives that defy easy description. She is in charge of executing all the administrative needs of the Center. She supervises the front office staff, maintains the Center's complicated accounts, and manages the director's schedule. The Center has been blessed with excellent front office staff, lessening Sue's burdens in that direction. However, the accounts get more numerous and intricate by the year, and keeping track of the director is challenging to say the least.

In former days, Swisher used to produce the Center newsletters, and her hand can still be seen in many of its special announcements. She has attended national meetings on behalf of the Center and has

proven a genius at organizing its annual symposia, mastering such minutiae as: international jet travel and how best to ticket it; the whimsical needs of visitors; and arcane issues of scheduling and accounting. She has a true gift for hospitality and has handled with aplomb the numerous visitors generated by the Center's projects and exchange programs, not to mention anticipating the needs of teaching assistants and faculty. Swisher has also proved



Sue Swisher and friend, Frehiwot, picking up custom made Ethiopian dress at markato in Addis Ababa.

herself willing to go more than the proverbial extra mile: she drove at least one graduate student to O'Hare when there was a chance he might miss his overseas flight due to bad weather at Willard.

Swisher has been a wise and trusted advisor to two Center directors, and a friend to the African community on campus.

STUDENT PROFILES

Deanna Blackwell

Deanna M. Blackwell is a first-year graduate student in the African Studies program. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a B.A. in literature and spent a semester studying in Zimbabwe at the SAPES Trust through Syracuse University. Upon earning her degree, Blackwell worked for one year at the Supreme Court Library of Illinois and at various elementary schools under the Springfield Public School District's Title 1 program. She has been a waitress, radio disc jockey, and a student worker in



Deanna Blackwell

a women's resource center. Blackwell also writes poetry and has had her work featured in such publications as *Elm City Blue*, *Southern African Feminist Review*, and *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's national newspaper. Most recently her work has appeared in a photodocumentary project of the predominantly black community residing along Martin Luther King Drive in Springfield, Illinois. The exhibit, entitled "Don'cha get weary," was displayed in full at the Fusion Gallery in Chicago and is currently at LaSalle Bank in downtown Chicago. It was also featured in *Illinois Issues*, January 1998.

Blackwell is a volunteer worker at Canaan Academy. After completing her master's in African studies, she plans to pursue a career in educational policy studies.

Michelle Johnson



Michelle Johnson with kids in Bafata-Oio.

Michelle Johnson received her B.A. in anthropology and Spanish from the University of Washington in 1993 and later joined the University of Illinois's anthropology department, where she is currently a fourth year doctoral student. Her interests include symbolic and interpretive anthropology, and religion and ritual in West Africa.

For the 1996-97 academic year, Johnson received an International Predissertation Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council to spend one year in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, preparing for her future dissertation research. Her project concerned the history and practice of women's initiation, which includes the practice of excision, and its relationship to personhood and identity among the Mandinga people. In both urban and rural contexts, she also explored the changing nature of initiation practices for both men and women, as well

as how the global debate surrounding excision and the struggle to end it is being perceived at the local level.

Johnson spent seven months in the capital city of Bissau, affiliated with INEP, The Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa, where she conducted archival research and studied the languages of Kriolu and Mandinga. For the remaining five months, Johnson traveled to Guinea-Bissau's northern Oio

region where she visited several Mandinga villages, ultimately deciding to work in the village of Bafata-Oio. Johnson was assisted in her research by her husband, Edmund Searles, a doctoral student at the University of Washington. She plans to return to Guinea-Bissau in 1998 to conduct her dissertation research on initiation, social change, and

religious identity among the Mandinga.

ALUMNA PROFILE

Frances Vavrus

As we approached Moshi Town on the bus from Dar es Salaam, I was reminded of a Swahili proverb: "Mountains never meet but people do." When I left Tanzania in 1993, I was not sure whether I would ever see Mount Kilimanjaro or my friends in Moshi again. Yet, there I was in January 1996, returning to the Moshi area for a year of fieldwork at the school where my husband and I had taught three years earlier. This time we were not just young, volunteer teachers; we were also parents bringing our first-born son to meet his Tanzanian "grandpar-

ents," and I was a researcher with a Fulbright fellowship to study the relationship between schooling and fertility decline.

My roles as a teacher, parent, and researcher in Tanzania were greatly enhanced by the knowledge of Swahili and Tanzanian culture that I gained while working on my master's degree at the University of Illinois from 1988-1991. In 1990, with the support of the African Studies faculty, especially from Dr. Bokamba in my home department, I applied for the Group Project Abroad program for Swahili students and received a fellowship to spend a summer improving my Swahili skills in Tanzania and Kenya. Thus, when I returned to Tanzania in 1992-93, and again in 1996, I was able to draw on these language skills to hasten my integration into the community in the Moshi area that has now become something of a second home. I plan to return to Tanzania in a year to conduct post-doctoral research, to visit friends, and to introduce my newborn son, Oscar, to the community where his older brother learned to walk and speak Swahili.



Fran Vavrus (1991 alumna, DEIL) with young women from nearby school in Old Moshi, Tanzania. Fran's son, Augustino, and his playmate and Swahili "instructor," Regie, are also pictured. Fran is currently completing her Ph.D. in the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Faculty News

Eyamba Bokamba (linguistics) has been appointed by the UIUC Board of Trustees as associate in the Center for Advanced Study for the upcoming academic year. He will conduct a sociolinguistic analysis of multilingualism in Africa for a book manuscript. He, along with colleagues at Howard University, also recently received a grant of \$40,000 from the African Language Project, University of Maryland, to write a Lingala Reader for 2nd and 3rd year Lingala courses at universities.

In connection with this Lingala project, Bokamba spent two weeks in Kinshasa in December to set up the local research team and collect initial data. The project is expected to be completed in a year. While in Kinshasa, Bokamba was invited to participate in a nationally televised debate with Prof. Kahombo Mateene, a former OAU Diplomat and currently professor of linguistics and African languages at the University of Kinshasa. The debate was on "The Role and Place of Congolese National Languages," with special emphasis on Lingala.

This winter, Bokamba also helped coordinate "The 2nd Regional Teachers Training Workshop on the Teaching of African Languages" at Indiana University, Bloomington. This workshop involved three institutions: UIUC, Indiana, and Ohio State. It was attended by 18 teachers, including five faculty members.

Don Crummey (history) spent eight months in 1997 in Ethiopia doing research into environmental history thanks to a senior Fulbright Research Fellowship. He spent a few months in Addis Ababa, but the rest of his time he split between the towns of Dessie and Gondär. His research involved collecting the life histories of farming men and women. Crummey also had release time during the fall semester of 1997 and spent it in the Department of Geography studying aerial photography and remote sensing, tools that he plans to use in his study of recent Ethiopian history.

For the November 1997 meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in San Francisco, **Ken Cuno** (history) organized a panel entitled "The Uses of Muhammad Ali's Census: Demographic and Social History in Nineteenth-Century Egypt," in which scholars from France, Egypt, and the U.S.A. participated. His own contribution was "The Social History of a Village in Nineteenth-Century Egypt: Sandub, 1848-1868." In January 1998, he traveled to Israel for an invited lecture in the Economic History Seminar being conducted by

the Departments of Economics and Middle Eastern Studies of Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva. His topic was "Reconstructing the Rural History of Egypt."

Alma Gottlieb (anthropology) has received a Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. She will use the fellowship to complete her book, tentatively titled: *The Afterlife Is Where We Come from: West African Infant Care Practices*. She and co-author Philip Graham (English) presented a paper, "Parallel Worlds: Update 1997," in an invited session, "Subject to Writing: The Victor Turner Award and the Ethnographic Text," at the 95th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C. (November 1997). Gottlieb and Graham also presented a reading from and discussion of their book, *Parallel Worlds: An Anthropologist and a Writer Encounter Africa*, at Illinois Wesleyan University in February 1998.

Don Johnson (geography) just returned from a one month expedition to the Western (Libyan) Desert of Egypt during February studying the Acheulean archaeology (200,000-600,000 BP), the Quaternary geology-pedology, and the environmental evolution-desertification of the eastern Sahara. This is a continuation of research begun in 1978 in Egypt, Chad, Sudan. The team was led by Prof. C. Vance Haynes, University of Arizona, Tucson, and Dr. Ted A. Maxwell, Smithsonian Institute. Egyptian Geological Survey geologist Dr. Ali El Kelani joined the team. The trip was rigorous and tiring, but professionally very rewarding, with considerable new and exciting paleoenvironmental information gained.

Daniel C. Littlefield (history and Afro-American Studies and Research Program) was recently appointed by the UIUC Board of Trustees to be an associate in the Center for Advanced Studies. As a part of his appointment, he will examine the significance of African ethnicity in South Carolina slave culture.

Zine Magubane (sociology) was named one of the Faculty Research Fellows in the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. She is exploring the influence of African-American expressive culture on South African cultural production—from missionary efforts in the early 1900s to hip-hop music today.

On April 6, **Bill Martin** (sociology) was interviewed on the subject of Clinton's Africa trip by the nationally syndicated, Washington, D.C.-based, Talk Radio News Service. His latest policy-related publication is also just out: "Waiting for Oprah and the New US Constituency for Africa," *Review of African Political Economy*, 75: 8-24.

Press), co-edited with Judith Stephen is due out this spring. Her fourth anthology, *Black South African Women* (Routledge/University of Cape Town Press) is due out this fall. She recently received a William and Flora Hewlett International Research Grant to continue research in Africa on women playwrights.



Don Crummey (left) and his research assistant Merera Ejeta (center) interview Negatu Abegaz in Wällo province, Ethiopia.

H. Adlai Murdoch (French) recently presented: "(Dis)Articulating Caribbean Divisions: A Cultural Poetics of Place in Maryse Conde's 'En attendant le bonheur'" at the Fourth Annual Carolina Conference on the Romance Literatures, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also organized and chaired the panel: "Dis-Membering the Hexagon: Diasporic Francophone Women's Writing." He presented: "De-Scribing the DOM: Interrogating Chamoiseau's Articulation of Francophonie" at the 15th International Colloquium in 20th Century French Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; "Inscribing Caribbean Orality: The Polysemic Discourse of Patrick Chamoiseau" at the 24th African Literature Association Conference, University of Texas, Austin; and "Creole Representations: Doubling and Diversity in Caribbean Culture" at the "Narrative" Conference, Northwestern University.

Kathy Perkins (theatre) is the recipient of the 1997 Chicago Black Theatre Alliance Award for Best Lighting Designer for *Seeking the Genesis* at the Goodman Theatre. She designed the Chicago hit comedy, *For the Four Queens, No Trumps and Train is Comin'*. Her upcoming shows include Pearl Cleage's *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and Oyamo's *Let Me Live*, which both open at the Goodman Theatre, and *La Boheme* for the Illinois Opera Theatre. Perkin's third anthology of plays, *Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women* (Indiana University

Dianne Pinderhughes (political science and Afro-American Studies and Research Program) contributed to *Civil Rights Journal*, Fall 1997 edition. This edition marks the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

David Prochaska (history) was named an associate in the Center for Advanced Study for next year by UIUC's Board of Trustees. He will be studying approaches for writing orientalisms.

Mahir Saul (anthropology) has recently published "Islam et appropriation mimetique comme ressource historique de la religion bobo" in *Journal de Africanistes*, 1997.

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (African studies and history) had book reviews appear in: *Technology & Culture*, Vol. 38, No. 3, and *Journal of African History*, Vol. 38, No. 3. His recent articles and book chapters include: "The Challenges of Editing Scholarly Journals in Africa," in Philip G. Altbach and Damtef Teferra, eds., *Knowledge Dissemination in Africa: The Role of Scholarly Journals* (Chestnut Hill, MA: Bellagio Publishing Network); "Academic Freedom in the North and the South: An African Perspective" in

Academe: Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors, Vol. 83, No. 6; "Visions of Freedom and Democracy in Post-Colonial African Literature" in *Women Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 25, Nos. 2 & 3; "Research Cooperation in Africa" in *Academic Book Production and Distribution in Africa* (Conference Report. Bergen, Norway: Chr. Michelson Institute, 1997); and "The New Frontiers for African Scholarly Journals" in *Africa Periodicals Exhibit 1997 Catalogue*. Zeleza also gave the following conference presentations: "Malawi in the Last Hundred Years," as keynote speaker on "Malawi Day" organized by the Malawi High Commission to Canada and the Commonwealth Society of Ottawa; "Imagining and Inventing the Postcolonial State in Africa" at conference on "States of Imagination", Center for Development Research, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Student News

Kevin Carollo (comparative literature) gave two papers this semester, one on postcolonial identity and Aminata Sow Fall's first novel, and one on the poetics of African prisons. Next fall he will be a fellow in the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

Laura Fyfe (French) is heading to the "Madness and Literature" Conference at California State, Long Beach this April 2-3 to present a paper entitled, "Coping with Violence: Madness in the works of Marietou M'Baye (Ken Bugul) of Senegal and Calixthe Beyala of Cameroon."

Maxim Matusevich (history) presented his paper, "The Interplay of Ideology and Pragmatism in the Decline of Soviet-Nigerian Relations" at a conference at York University in Toronto.

Kristina Stanley (theatre) is directing the American premiere of South African playwright Athol Fugard's *Dimetos*; it will be presented in the Armory Free Theater, April 17th at 8pm and midnight and April 18th at 5pm and 8pm. This production features Kevin Asselin, Richard Barrows, Joi Hoffsommer, and Nicole Mattis. The Armory Free Theatre is located at 160 Armory. The facility is handicap accessible. Admission is free.

Alumni News

Simon Donnelly (linguistics, '98) successfully defended his PhD dissertation, entitled "Aspects of Tone and Voice in Phuthi." Phuthi is a small south-eastern Bantu language spoken in parts of southern Lesotho and central South Africa. Donnelly also presented at the Linguistics Society of America annual meeting in New York City, "Locality vs. specification: tone and voice in Phuthi".

Carol Yokell (anthropology, '97) completed her Ph.D. in anthropology in October and has a one-year teaching position at Wright State University in southwestern Ohio. She is currently working in the Office of International Programs and Studies, Office of Development and for Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities.

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