



**Salih Booker delivers the W.E.B. DuBois Lecture:**

## **“When they’re talking about Africa, they’re talking about your mama”**

*Amanuel Bereket*

This fall, the Center for African Studies and Afro-American Studies and Research Program was pleased to welcome Salih



Dianne Pinderhughes, AASRP and political science, and Salih Booker, senior fellow and Council for Foreign Relations

Booker to the U of I to deliver the Second Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture and to meet with students and faculty. Booker is a senior fellow and director of African Studies Program at the Council for Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Council, Booker worked as a consultant for a number of international organizations and NGOs in Africa including the UNDP, Ford Foundation, African Development Foundation, Africare, and Catholic Relief Services. Booker is the author of the UNDP's first two reports on South Africa and has published numerous articles and opinion pieces on Africa in

various U.S. and international publications.

In his lecture, “The Color Line: Africa and America in the 21st Century,” Booker addressed U.S. foreign policy toward Africa and the significance of race as a policy determinant and in U.S. perceptions of Africa. The title of his talk draws on W.E.B. DuBois’ work of almost a century ago, *Souls of Black Folks* (1903). In this work, DuBois coined the phrase “the color line” and argued that racism is fundamental to U.S. policy towards Africa. Booker argues that “the color line” still defines U.S. foreign policy, and “it will emphatically as we enter the new millennium.”

Booker dealt with three main themes: democracy, security, and development. He argued that the current wave of democratic movements in Africa, dubbed renaissance, has been both ignored and misrepresented by the American media, which in turn has misled the American public. In the past nine years, Africa has undergone dramatic changes. One-party states held elections, and long-standing political dinosaurs lost or yielded the privileges that accompanied their positions. Echoing the classical novel by Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man*, Booker argued that Africa is “the invisible land” when it comes to U.S. media coverage.

On the economic front, Africa has witnessed great economic growth that outstripped population growth for the first time in a long time. In two-way trade relations, U.S. and South African trade is larger than that of the 15 newly independent former Soviet Republics. While this economic growth is no doubt significant, Booker questioned the lack of support for development aid. “Trade not aid” is the current mantra invoked by U.S. politicians who preach the “tough love” approach when dealing with Africa in regard to devel-



Abena Busia (center) with (from left) Deborah Kakoma, Itonde Kakoma, Christobel Aseidu, and Elizabeth Appiah

## **Abena Busia Explores the Constructions of African Feminism**

*Koudeji Koita*

This February, the Center for African Studies was pleased to host Dr. Abena P.A. Busia, a writer, poet, and scholar from Rutgers University. While her visit was relatively short, Busia had a full schedule, giving a CAS/MillerComm lecture, visiting an African literature

class, meeting with graduate students, being interviewed on WILL AM580, giving a poetry reading, and meeting with the “Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora” conference planners. Fortunately for us, she had tremendous energy,

*—continued on page 2*

opment. Booker rhetorically asked, “did the United States tell Europe that it was on its own after World War II, which left that continent in ruins?” No, instead, President Truman orchestrated the Marshall Plan, to channel in excess of 19 billion dollars to the reconstruction of Western Europe. Booker noted that the “tough love” approach of the conservatives resembles the domestic agenda of the Republican Party. He argued that aid is a public investment, and measurement of returns can be determined in terms of benefit allocated to the poor and the masses.

On a similar note, Booker argued that slavery was a subsidy, credit, and economic aid that was taken out of Africa for the development of the United States. Similarly, colonialism was a subsidy for the development of European economy and, in particular, an economic subsidy and source of raw materials to reconstruct the

war devastated Europe after World War II.

When it comes to U.S. policy, “the color line” is defining, and little progress has been achieved since the term was coined by DuBois at the turn of the last century. The distribution of power combined with long-standing, deep-seated stereotypes and racist views are tremendous challenges with respect to U.S. policy towards Africa. Booker, at one point during his lecture, stated with both a serious and comical edge, “when they’re talking about Africa, they’re talking about your mama,” meaning that Africa is the birthplace of human beings, the cradle of humanity, and therefore, whether support or criticism is being leveled, one must respect and defend the continent—for we all hail from Africa.

## From the Director's Desk

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

Over the last decade, the range of programs and events organized by the Center for African Studies has expanded considerably. Particularly notable has been the growth of extra-curricular programs. In the last few years, we have launched five new sets of activities in addition to the traditional Weekly Seminar Series and the Center's flagship annual conference, the Spring Symposium. These include the Fall Colloquium, the African Business Workshop, the Graduate Students Conference, the Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture (organized jointly with the Afro-American Studies and Research Program), and the Joint Centers' Symposium (organized in collaboration with the University's other area studies centers).

This has been achieved without significant additions of financial or administrative resources, which has meant more work for the Center's small but dedicated staff. We should all be proud for having such an energetic and hard-working staff at the Center. It is partly in response to the administrative challenges the Center faces that we decided to reorganize the positions of the outreach coordinator and assistant director. Previously, the former

was .50 FTE and the latter .25 FTE. We have combined the two into one full-time 12-month administrative position. The new position of assistant director and outreach coordinator, for which we are currently recruiting, will help expand and improve the Center's administrative capacities.

As always, the Center will continue to depend on the support and cooperation of the faculty and students in organizing its various activities. In this context, it is quite gratifying to note the efforts of various faculty who have taken the initiative to organize or coordinate, in addition to our regular extra-curricular activities, international conferences in their respective disciplines and fields of research and study. In the last calendar year, there were two such conferences: the Twelfth Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics held in March 1998 organized by Professor Elabbas Benmamoun, and the 5th International Conference on World Englishes held in November 1998 and organized by Professor Eyamba Bokamba. This year, there are two conferences being organized in July: "HIV/AIDS in Africa: Reviewing the Past, Understanding the Present and Charting the Future," organized by Professor Ezekiel Kalipeni; and the "African Linguistics Conference," organized by Professor Bokamba. Let me take this opportunity to thank these colleagues for promoting the intellectual and institutional mission of the Center in this manner and to encourage other faculty who might be contemplating undertaking such initiatives.

### Abena Busia, con't

fascinating narratives, and thought-provoking and constructive ideas to share.

Busia was born in Ghana, where her father was once prime minister. She and her family left Ghana following a *coup d'état*, and she has lived much of her life in exile. She was educated at Oxford, England, and has taught at Yale, UCLA, and at the University of Ghana, Legon. Currently, she is an associate professor at Rutgers University where she is affiliated with the Departments of English, Comparative Literature, and Women's Studies. She is the author of numerous articles, a book of poetry, and has edited two collections.

On February 4, Busia delivered the CAS/MillerComm lecture, "The Many Things I Call Myself. Or What Does It Mean to Work Out an African Feminist Identity." In her lecture, she explored constructions of identity in part through self-reflection and also by examining other people's construction of her identity. She pointed to the richness and diversity of the African continent, which is the second largest in the world, and noted that its richness is often subsumed by simplifications and homogeneous classifications. Busia gave a number of examples of such oversimplifications and reflected on being an "African feminist," where her ethnicity and nationality are often lost to the continental identification, and her political, social, and economic agendas and interests are reduced to labels such as "Mother Africa." She also stressed the importance of context in defining a person's identity, because in the U.S she might be seen as an African, among Africans as a Ghanaian, and within Ghana as an Akan. Similarly, context shapes feminism, and feminist theory is quite distinct from its praxis. The feminist movement is often referred to in the

singular and thought of as homogeneous; yet, Busia argued that feminism in practice reflects many different movements based on a wide range of interests and concerns that women face.

Another highlight of Busia's visit was her poetry reading at a reception hosted by Paul Tiyambe Zeleza. Her poetry was powerful and moving, and as she read, she gave each word and line the emphasis intended—building more power, rhythm, and beauty into her poems. She ended her reading with a remarkable tribute to President Nelson Mandela. She explained that at the time of Mandela's release, 27 years of imprisonment seemed reduced to just these words—"27 years"—repeated in the media and with little awareness of the amount of time that had passed. Busia explored the significance of these years by retracing significant historical events both in Africa and around the world, and after every five years of describing many momentous events continually reflecting on Mandela, "and still you were not free."

Personally, I appreciated Abena Busia's academic work as well as her presentation style, openness to questions, and kindness. Furthermore, I found her philosophy towards education admirable—as she considers teaching to be a noble profession. She suggested that an instructor cannot take teaching for granted; it should be a challenging experience in order to be rewarding for both teachers and students.

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

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WELCOME

## Assistant Director's Report

Alex Winter-Nelson

There have been many comings and goings at the Center for African Studies. The departure of our outreach coordinator, Prosper Godonoo, has been felt on many levels. Prosper left his position at the U of I in November to take on responsibilities as assistant director of African studies at Rutgers University. We congratulate Prosper on this deserved professional advancement, and we deeply regret his departure. At his farewell party in February, many colleagues gave him due credit for invigorating outreach and the area studies centers in general during his too-brief stay at Illinois.

Fortunately, the Center is receiving able (if temporary) support from Boatema Boateng, who is serving as our interim outreach coordinator while a search for a full-time assistant director is underway. Boatema has considerable experience doing outreach work, and we are grateful for her presence. In addition to Boatema, the Center for African Studies is benefiting from the work of Melissa Steen, who has been our office secretary since Wendy Mathewson

left the position to begin graduate studies at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. We are delighted to have both Boatema and Melissa working with us.

Other new faces in African studies include three visiting scholars: Dr. Andrew Temu, Dr. Hussein Ahmed, and Dr. William Munro. We welcome these guests and are delighted to have them contributing to our programs.

Among those leaving the Center, we count an able group of graduates. The Center extends congratulations to Sara Farnsworth, Meg Janits, Laura Kakoma, and Tiffany Ko for completing the requirements for an undergraduate minor in African studies. We commend Asabre Agyeman and Judith Atala for completing their masters' degrees in African studies in December 1998. Best wishes to these five graduates for success in their future endeavors.

Finally, the Center for African Studies recognizes the African studies MA students who have made a remarkable contribution to the campus through the annual graduate student conference on African and African-Diasporic Issues. This year's conference, held February 26-27, included 24 papers and an engaging keynote address from Professor Adeniyi Coker of Eastern Illinois University. The Center congratulates and thanks the conference organizers: Amanuel Bereket, Deanna Blackwell, Nicole Hawkes, Bertin Kouadio, Tammy Paul, and Mattito Watson. Their work has enhanced the Center and contributed substantively to the field of African studies.



**Hussein Ahmed** is a visiting scholar in the Department of History and the Center for African Studies this spring. He is an associate professor in the Department of History at Addis Ababa University. While at the U of I, he is teaching a course, "Discovering New Sources for African History" and pursuing some of his research interests: Islam and Yemeni Arabs in Ethiopia. Among his recent publications are: "Islamic Literature and Religious Revival in Ethiopia (1991-1994)," *Islam et Sociétés au Sud du Sahara*, 12 (1998) and "Islamic Literature in Ethiopia: A Short Overview," *Ethiopian Journal of Languages and Literature*, 8 (1998). This is Hussein's second visit to the U of I; he first came as a guest of the Center in 1993 to participate in the International Symposium on "State, Land and Society in Sudanic Africa."



**Bill Munro** is a visiting scholar affiliated with the Center for African Studies and the Department of History. He is currently teaching a course entitled "Southern Africa: Race and Power." His research focuses

broadly on the politics of agrarian change and state formation in southern Africa. In his current project, Munro examines the geography of democratization in post-apartheid South Africa by analyzing the intersection of political and economic restructuring in the countryside. His book, *The Moral Economy of the State: Conservation, Community Development and State-Making in Zimbabwe*, was recently published by Ohio University Press (1998).



**Andrew Temu** is a visiting scholar being hosted by the Center for African Studies. He is on sabbatical from Sokoine University in Tanzania, where he is a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agri-Business. While at the U of I, he is working on three papers: savings and credit cooperatives integration with rural development projects; Tanzania's food security and factors impinging on vulnerable groups; and privatization and the business environment in Tanzania. Temu's work is progressing well thanks to Illinois' stimulating academic environment and the library's strong collection and helpful staff. He co-authored a recent article with Jean Due, "How Successful Have Newly Privatized Companies Been? Some Evidence from Tanzania," *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, v. 19, 1998.

## Graduate Students in African Studies Organize a Conference on African and African Diasporic Issues

Nicole Hawkes

On February 26-27, the Second Annual U of I Graduate Student Conference on Africa and African Diasporic Issues was held at the Illini Union. Created by the Africa in Academics Student Association (AIASA), the conference provided a forum for graduate students from across campus to share their work on Africa and Africa-related topics. The members of the AIASA planning committee for this conference, Amanuel Bereket, Deanna Blackwell, Nicole Hawkes, Bertin Kouadio, Tammy Paul, and Mattito Watson (all African studies MA students), were encouraged by the positive responses from students and enthusiastic support from faculty, staff, and administrators. The conference was generously sponsored by the Afro-American Studies and Research Program, the Center for Advanced Study, the Departments of History, Geography, Political Science, Comparative Literature, Sociology, and the Center for African Studies.

The conference opened on Friday evening with a keynote address by Dr. Adeniyi Coker, director of the African American Studies Program at Eastern Illinois University. Coker addressed the theme of the conference, "Global Africa in the 21st Century," through a multi-media presentation examining the portrayal and participation of Africans in Hollywood cinema over the past 50 years. As the scope of Hollywood's message and influence extends throughout the world, Coker challenged students to work to eradicate the dissemination of false information about and negative images of Africa and African peoples. He encouraged students to seize opportunities to correct and educate the public concerning African issues and African peoples.



Dr. Adeniyi Coker

Conference participants gathered on Saturday at the Illini Union for a breakfast reception and opening words by Charles Stewart, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Stewart expressed support for the continuing success of the annual conference, and he commended the presenters for the high quality of scholarship being presented and carried out by U of I graduate students. A series of eight student-led panels comprised Saturday's activities involving students from the Departments of Theatre, History, Sociology, Communications, Anthropology, Psychology, Geography, Education, Linguistics, and the Center for African Studies. In all, 24 papers were presented on a wide range of themes, provoking interesting discussions and engaging, productive dialogue. For many first-year graduate students, this conference provided an opportunity to present their work for the first time in a comfortable and friendly environment and to receive feedback on it. The conference was well attended by faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students providing a significant audience for presenters and a rich variety of comments.

Alex Winter-Nelson, assistant director of African Studies, delivered closing words for the

conference during a celebratory pizza party. The Second Annual U of I Graduate Student Conference on Africa and African Diasporic Issues continued to build on the positive response from the initial conference a year ago. It is the sincere hope

of the AIASA that enthusiasm for and participation in the annual conference will continue to grow and flourish as an integral feature of Africanist scholarship at the Urbana-Champaign campus.

### World Englishes and African Identities: Fifth International Conference on World Englishes

Edward Miner

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hosted the 5th International Conference on World Englishes, November 5-7 at the Illini Union. Organized around the theme of "World Englishes and African Identities," this conference contained numerous papers, interest groups, and panels related to the use and politics of English in Africa and the African diaspora. The conference was a great success with quality presentations and scholarship and useful exchanges. Another success was conference attendance, which exceeded 200 with nearly 100 participants coming from overseas.

Thanks are in order to the local organizers, who include: Professor Eyamba Bokamba, Edward Miner, Susan Frenck, and Stanley Yunick, as well as to sponsoring units, including: Center for African Studies, Department of Linguistics, Center for Advanced Studies, Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Division of English as an International Language, International Programs and Studies, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

#### Plenary speakers:

- Vivian de Klerk, Rhodes University, "Black South African English: Where to from here?"
- Efurosibina Adegbija, University of Ilorin, "Nigerian Englishes: Towards a standard variety"
- Muriel Saville-Troike, University of Arizona, "Unseen faces: Cross-cultural constructions of self-representation"

#### Invited focus lectures:

- Rajend Mesthrie, University of Cape Town, "Language and

- language use amongst male African workers in Cape Town"
- Alamin M. Mazrui, Ohio State University, "The English language in the post-Cold War period: Africa in comparative perspective"
- Sali Tagliamonte, University of York, "Tracing AAVE's roots: What British English dialects reveal"
- Marcyliena Morgan, Harvard University, "Shakin' the tree": Language and social face in the African diaspora"
- John V. Singler, New York University, "Mississippi in America, Mississippi in Africa: The role of enclave evidence in reconstructing the history of African American English"

#### The invited colloquium:

"The Future of English: English Beyond 2000," consisted of discussants Efurosibina Adegbija, Yamuna Kachru, Edwin Thumboo, Larry Smith, Cecil Nelson, and Rolando Romero.

#### Other Africa-related sessions:

- "Attitudes and identity in the African context"
- "Ebonics ain't nothin' but a word. Or is it?"
- "The decolonization of English: Power, politics and identity"
- "Rap music: Oral music in African American discourse"
- "Pidgins and Creoles in the African context"
- "(Re-)experiencing hegemony in world Englishes"
- "English and African multilingualism"
- "Language policy and politics in the African context"

**FACULTY PROFILE**

**Kathy A. Perkins**

Kathy Perkins was born and reared in Mobile, Alabama, where she was always active in the arts in some form or fashion. Her undergraduate work was at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in drama with an emphasis in lighting design. In 1978, she received a M.F.A. in lighting



design from the University of Michigan.

While a graduate student at the U of I in 1977, Perkins became aware of the paucity of information on African Americans behind the scenes in the American theatre. She began researching the lives of the men and women who preceded her in theatre's technical fields. With a Ford Foundation grant, which she received in 1981, she was able to carry out an in-depth investigation in this area, and over time, her research expanded to include the work of women practitioners in Africa, specifically South Africa, Zimbabwe, and most recently

Uganda. In her research, she demonstrates that women have been and are still very active in theatre on a global level. This summer, she will be returning to South Africa and Zimbabwe to continue with her work.

Perkins's talents and achievements have been widely recognized. She was awarded the NAACP Image Award for her expertise in lighting design, and since 1978, she has designed nearly 300 shows in the area of drama, musicals, music concerts, opera and dance throughout the U.S. as well as in Europe and South Africa. She has edited or co-edited award-winning anthologies, including: *Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Play before 1950* (1989), which received the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award of 1990, and *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color* (1996), which received the Association for Theater in Higher Education's Research Award for Outstanding Book in Theater Practice and Pedagogy. Her latest anthologies are *Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women* (1998) and *Black South African Women: An Anthology of Plays* (1998). In 1998, Perkins was named by the University of Illinois as a University Scholar, a prestigious award given to only ten faculty each year.

Since 1989, she has been head of the lighting design program in the Department of Theatre at the U of I. She has expanded the curriculum, developed an internship program, and actively encouraged and facilitated her students to study in Africa. Notably, all of her M.F.A. graduates have been offered professional positions, which is a remarkable achievement in such a competitive field.

**STUDENT PROFILE**

**Mattito Watson**

Mattito Watson graduated from Purdue University in 1990 with B.A. in biology, and he was pre-med. Soon after receiving his degree, Watson started his career in development work in Africa. His introduction to Africa was in Senegal, where he was a Peace Corps volunteer. He then served as a mathematics teacher in a rural high school in the Republic of Guinea. While most of his time was spent in the classroom, Watson also worked with students and health care workers to address several health-related issues. From 1993-95, he taught in Cameroon and began to conduct teacher-training workshops to counter the spread of

AIDS. His most recent experience in Africa was in the newly independent nation, Eritrea. Again, working with the Peace Corps and the Eritrean Ministry of Education, Watson

trained new Peace Corps volunteers who would teach in Eritrean schools. The opportunity to live and work in both eastern and west Africa has been rewarding. Also, having traveled in 16 African countries gives Watson a great appreciation for the richness of African cultures as well as for the similarities between them.

Currently, Watson is a first year graduate student working towards two master's degrees, one in African studies and the other in public health. His primary interest is the development and success of culturally sensitive health education programs, which address the basic level of health at the grassroots level. Watson says, "The Center for African Studies and the program in public health have allowed me to pursue my interests as well as build a solid academic foundation for continued work over-

seas. While this program offers the flexibility and opportunity to achieve my personal and professional goals, it's the personal contact between the members of the Center that has kept me going when things get demanding!" Watson wishes to thank all the staff and students of the Center for supporting him throughout this challenging first year. Under the guidance of Dr. Ezekiel Kalipeni (geography) and Dr. Jae Kennedy (community health), Watson is currently formulating his thesis proposal. He plans to carry out an evaluation of AIDS prevention programs in Africa and test their cultural appropriateness.

In addition to his academic work, Watson serves as the Peace Corps representative on campus and an active member



Mattito Watson (lower center) with students.

of Africa in Academics Student Association. Even though his studies and work keep him busy, he finds some time to spend with his "little brother" of the Partner Program at Child Welfare and Services, and occasionally he takes time out to practice his Afro-Brazilian axé drumming. "I have an active schedule, but I am trying to get all I can out of this experience."

Watson hopes to put his dual masters to good use after he finishes his degrees at the U of I; he plans to return to Africa. He feels that the language training, academic exploration, and the tutelage he is receiving here will strengthen his future plans within health education and the field of development.

## Faculty News

**Stanley Ambrose** (anthropology) has published two papers: "Chronology of the Later Stone Age and food production in East Africa," *Journal of Archaeological Science*, v. 25 and "Late Pleistocene human population bottlenecks, volcanic winter, and the differentiation of modern humans," *Journal of Human Evolution*, v. 34. In December, Ambrose and graduate student, Janet Atkinson, went to Ethiopia to participate in the Middle Awash Valley Paleontology and Archaeology Project. Ambrose was also invited to present papers at two conferences: "Middle and Later Stone Age settlement patterns in the Central Rift Valley, Kenya" and the conference of the UISPP Commission 27: Middle Paleolithic and Middle Stone Age Settlement Patterns. At the World Archaeology Congress 4, he organized the Millennial Landmarks Symposium and presented "Problems and prospects for accurate chronometric dating of the Middle Stone Age in the Kenya Rift Valley;" "African human diet reconstruction with stable isotopes of collagen and apatite;" and "The impact of volcanic winter on modern human biological and cultural evolution."

**Tom Bassett**, (geography) has recently published "Influenze africane sulla cartografia europea dell'Africa nei secoli XIX e XX," ["African influences on European mapping of Africa in the 19th and early 20th centuries"], in E. Casti & A. Turco (eds), *Culture dell'alterità: il territorio africano e le sue rappresentazioni* (Bergamo: Edizioni Unicopli, 1998).

**Elabbas Benmamoun** (linguistics) delivered an invited paper on Arabic syntax at the International Roundtable on VSO languages. In February, he presented a paper at the Arabic Linguistics Symposium in Stanford, and in March, he presented a paper at the Afroasiatic Conference in Fez, Morocco. His recent publications include: *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics*, co-edited with M. Eid & N. Haeri. (Philadelphia: Benjamins); *Fragments: Studies in Ellipsis, Gapping and Coordination*, co-edited with S. Lappin. Also, Benmamoun and Daniel Silverman are recipients of a Research Board grant to study a dialect of Modern Aramaic, Tiaraya.

**Merle Bowen's** (political science) new course, "Pan Africanism in the Americas, Europe, and Africa" (POLS 243/AFRST 243/SOC 267), was recently approved by the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. The course introduces students to Pan

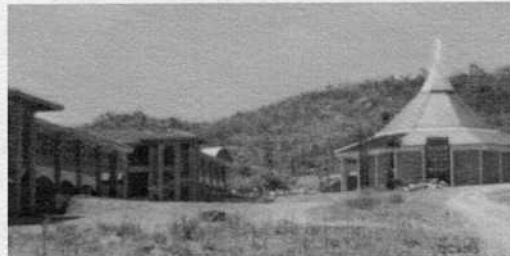
African political movements and ideologies from the Americas to continental Africa.

In October, **Don Crummey** (history) visited Hamburg where he took part in a symposium on the historical relations between Ethiopia and Europe. He also consulted with Siegbert Uhlig and the staff of the *Encyclopedia Ethiopica*. He spent time in Italy researching the Ethiopian activities of a former director of the the Istituto Agronomico d'Oltremare, Armando Maugini, and participating in a workshop dedicated to historical land tenure in Ethiopia.

**Kenneth Cuno** (history) presented a paper, "The Reproduction of Elite Households in 18th Century Egypt" at the Research Scholar's Seminar of the American University in Cairo this February.

**Valerie J. Hoffman** (religious studies) has received a Hewlett International Studies Grant for summer 1999 to return to Zanzibar to pursue research on "Ibadi Islam in the Religious Configuration of Zanzibar." She is presenting a paper in Tehran, Iran at a conference commemorating the famous 17th-century Persian philosopher, Mulla Sadra, and she has been invited to deliver lectures in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

While in Africa last fall, **John Due** (economics) and **Jean Due** (agricultural economics) met with colleagues and former graduate students who are now at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. In Zimbabwe, the Dues were guests of Africa University at Mutare. The Dues also visited Mozambique, including Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, where



Chapel (right) at Africa University, Zimbabwe

Jean made two presentations on gender issues. Both John and Jean were invited to deliver papers to the Economics Club of Maputo, where the audience was made up of economists from the private sector, government, and university. John has an article that will appear in a future edition of the *VAT Monitor*, published in Amsterdam.

**Al Kagan's** (LIS) recent publications include: *Reference Guide to Africa: a Bibliography of Sources* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 1999), which was co-authored with **Yvette**

**Scheven** (LIS); "Teaching African Studies Bibliography" in *Africana Librarianship in the 21st Century: Treasuring the Past and Building the Future: Proceedings of the 40th Anniversary Conference of the Africana Librarians Council*, N.J. Schmidt (ed.), (Bloomington, IN: African Studies Program, 1998); "Access to Appropriate Electronic Documents" in *Anglophone Africa Seminar on Government Information and Official Publications, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, 15-18 December 1994*, M.M. Moshoeshe-Chadzingwa (ed.), (Boston Spa: IFLA Offices for UAP and International Lending, 1998).

**Ezekiel Kalipeni** (geography) is organizing a conference to be held this summer on "HIV/AIDS in Africa: Reviewing the Past, Understanding the Present and Charting the Future."

**Bill Munro's** (history) research on "Contract Farming, Community Development and the Politics of Production among Small Growers in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa" appears in *African Rural and Urban Studies*, 1999.

During January, **Kathy Perkins** (theatre) traveled to Makerere University in Uganda, where she conducted workshops on lighting design and taught a two-week course on African American theatre history. She also continued her research on the works of women playwrights.

**Juliet E.K. Walker** (history) edited *Encyclopedia of African American Business History*, which will be published in 1999.

**Paul Tiyambe Zeleza** (African studies, history) has been asked by Routledge, the British publishing house, to be general editor of the *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History*.

He is assembling a team of contributors from all over the world for entries into the encyclopedia. He has also been appointed as editorial consultant for a 100-part radio series on 2,000 years of African history that is being produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation to mark the millennium. He has been included in the 17th edition of Marquis *Who's Who in the World*. Zeleza made several presentations for Black History Month in Champaign and participated in a special symposium on Africa at the Camden Conference Center in Camden, Maine.

## Student News

This February, **Nicole Anderson** (history) traveled to Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire to begin some of her pre-dissertation research. She was recently awarded an International Predissertation Fellowship by the SSRC to study at Boston University and the Universities of Conakry and Kankan in Guinea.

**Sosina Asfaw** (African studies '96, geography) has been awarded an African Dissertation Internship Award from the Rockefeller Foundation for her field research on "The Paradox of Degradation: Borana Pastoralism and Bush Encroachment in Southern Ethiopia." She also received a Dorothy Mann Scholarship and Graduate College funding.

**Lamissa Bangali** (anthropology) recently returned from conducting his dissertation research in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Côte d'Ivoire. He was also on a collection expedition on behalf of the Spurlock Museum at the U of I. He brought back farming implements, musical instruments (kora and xylophone), mud/indigo cloths, and a variety of pictures and slides. This semester he is helping with the African Art Gallery at the museum as well as teaching in anthropology.

This spring, **Caleb Bush** (sociology) is completing his master's degree in sociology with specialization in transnational studies. In the spring, he won the department's Harvey Choldin Urban Award for his paper, "Housing and Urban Policy in South Africa: How the New Should Not Be the Old," and recently he was nominated and accepted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society.

**Nicolas Cook** (African studies '98, library and information science) is completing an MS in library and information science at the U of I. He is in charge of maintaining the Center's web site. He invites your suggestions for and comments on the site (nt-cook@uiuc.edu).

**Kevin Corollo** (comparative literature) is completing his dissertation, "Frontier Legacies: The Search for Home in the 20th Century." In April, he will be giving a talk on African artistic production in Italy/Italian at the IPRH conference, "Culture, Place, and the Cultures of Displacement."

**Rob Daniels** (geography) won the Graduate Student Paper Award of the Association of American Geographers' Africa Specialty Group for his paper, "The Adoption of Conservation Measures in the Catchment Surrounding Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya."

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

**Laura Fyfe** (French) is in Madison this year studying Wolof and working on her dissertation. She presented a paper at the Simone de Beauvoir Conference in Paris this January. Her article, "Coping with Violence: Madness in the Works of Marietou M'Baye of Senegal and Calixthe Beyala of Cameroon" was recently published in *Genre*, 1998. Fyfe is also the editorial assistant of the first *Journal of the African Languages Teachers' Association*.

**Maxim Matsuvich** (African studies '95, history) presented "Justification by Steel Alone: Impact of Ajaokuta Construction on the Soviet-Nigerian Dialogue" at the "History Across Disciplines" Conference at Dalhousie Univ. in Halifax, Canada this March.

This May, **Fallou N'gom** (linguistics) is presenting his research, "Intercultural-Communicative Teaching Approach for Less Commonly Taught Languages in the U.S.," at the International Conference on Language Teacher Education at

the Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

**Veronica Ouma** (geography) is making progress on her dissertation field research, "The Spatial Context of AIDS-Related Health and Preventative Behaviors: An Analysis of Kisumu District, Kenya."

**Kristina Stanley** (theatre) directed *The Road to Mecca*, a play by Athol Fugard, at the Station Theatre this January.

**Joyce Sukumane** (linguistics) has a number of publications appearing this spring, including: "Language Policy in Education and the Future of African Languages in South Africa" in D. Kibbee (ed.), *Language Legislation and Linguistic Rights: Impact Studies in Language and Society* (Philadelphia/Amsterdam: Benjamins); "African Languages and English in Namibia," *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*, v. 28; and a review of *Languages in Schools* (by R. Noss) appears in *World Englishes*, v. 17.

## ALUMNA PROFILE

### Carla W. Heath

Since completing her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois' Institute of Communication



and policy for her dissertation.

At Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Heath teaches courses in media history, broadcasting policy, global communications, and African women. The focus of her research has been African media policies. This work has taken her to Ghana, where she studied children's television. More recently, she has examined the transition from a state broadcasting monopoly to a system in which state, community, and private stations compete for

audiences and commercial sponsors. Last summer, she spent a month talking with station managers at a couple dozen new FM stations. The changes in the past three years have been dramatic and warrant careful attention.

Both Heaths are involved in efforts to promote peace and justice. Ev is the president of the Lynchburg Peace Education Center, and Carla is working with a local group to establish the Legacy Museum of African American History. Their family is scattered: elderly mothers in the Boston area, a daughter and her husband in New York City, a son and his wife, daughter and two grandchildren in Hawaii. Visits with all are all too infrequent.

Research in 1986, Carla Heath has taught at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, a small liberal arts college in Lynchburg, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Ev, her husband and a former professor of veterinary anatomy at the U of I, left academia to establish a house call veterinary practice, which keeps him busy and has introduced him to a wide range of people in south-central Virginia.

While at the U of I, Heath developed an association with the Center for African Studies—having held a FLAS fellowship to study Hausa and Swahili as well as taking courses in African history and literature. She spent a year in Kenya on a Fulbright researching broadcasting history

## Alumni News

**Eric Beck** (African studies '96) recently got engaged to his girlfriend, Maria Lourdes "Malou" S. Cristobal. A date for the occasion has not been set, but most likely it will be in August or September.

In April, **Tunde Brimah** (African studies, '97) will present a paper at the Free Market Competition in Educational Policy to the American Society of Public Administration being held in Orlando, Florida. His wedding to **Amy Eisenhuth** (political science '97) is set for July 1999.

**Meg Cederoth** (urban planning '98) has been working in Washington, D.C., where she is interning with the African policy analyst at the U.S. Committee for Refugees.

**Aziz Diop** (linguistics '93) was recently promoted to associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages at Delaware State University.

**Nadine Dolby** (curriculum and instruction '98) accepted a faculty position in the Centre for Research in International Education at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Also, her paper, "Youth and the Global Popular: The Politics and Practices of Race in South Africa," was accepted for publication in *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

**Laura Downing** (linguistics '90) has a number of publications appearing: "Prosodic Stem, Prosodic Word in Bantu" in T.A. Hall and U. Kleinhenz (eds.), *Studies on the Phonological Word* (Amsterdam: Benjamins); "Verbal Reduplication in Three Bantu Languages" in H. van der Hulst, R. Kager, and W. Zooneveld (eds.), *The Prosody-Morphology Interface* (Cambridge Univ. Press); and "Prosodic Misalignment and Reduplication" in G. Booij & J. van Marle (eds.), *Yearbook of Morphology* (Kluwer Academic Publishers).

**Leslie King** (sociology '98) is now an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Maine, Orono.

**Ron Nicosia** (library and information science '98) and his wife, Adriene, had a baby, Andrew Justin, in December.

In July, **Mwenda Ntarangwi** (anthropology '98) will assume the role of acting director of the St. Lawrence College study abroad program to Kenya.

In November, **Denise Roth** (anthropology '96) completed a two-year placement as a University of Michigan Population Fellow in the Division of Reproductive Health, World Health Organization, Geneva. She now has a two-year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anthropological Demography at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. During the post-doc year, she will revise her dissertation for publication with the Univ. of Michigan Press, teach a course, and continue her research into women and men's reproductive health concerns in a rural community of west central Tanzania.

**Katherine L. Roth** (journalism '89; African studies '90) announces her marriage to Tsutomu Kono, a political officer dealing with Iraq in the United Nations' Department of Disarmament Affairs. Roth worked for Radio France Internationale and Reuters in Paris and later covered Egypt, Algeria, and Yemen for Agence France-Presse and various American and British newspapers. She is now a reporter in the New York City Bureau of the Associated Press. She studied Islamic movements in the Arab world on a two-year Institute of Current World Affairs fellowship and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Cesar Tique** (geography '96) is spending much of his time in rural Mozambique. He is working on a large project involving participatory approaches to natural resource management. He is also involved in conducting a community-based land use planning initiative. Also, he and Nalia married last November.

**Stephen Wooten** (anthropology, '97) recently developed and taught an intensive intercession course on "Art and Society in Africa" at Southwest Missouri State University. This spring, he is teaching "Peoples and Cultures of Africa." In February, as part of African American Heritage Month Celebrations, Wooten organized a special performance and lecture by Alhaji Papa Susso, a Mandinka *jali* (griot).

**Carol Yokell** (anthropology '98) has moved to Fort Worth where she is teaching archaeology and anthropology classes at Texas Christian University. She looks forward hearing from U of I friends at c-yokell@eudoramail.com.

## “A Sense of Wonder: African Art from the Faletti Family Collection”

Nicole Hawkes

Last fall, the Krannert Art Museum hosted the exhibition, “A Sense of Wonder: African Art from the Faletti Family Collection.” Comprised of selected objects from the collection of U of I alumnus Richard Faletti, the exhibition includes over 80 sculptures and masks from a wide variety of African cultures. The exhibition was organized by the Phoenix Art Museum and contains objects dating from the 16th to the early 20th century.

During the semester, Drs. Mary Nooter Roberts and Allen F. Roberts, guest co-curators of the exhibit, visited and gave lectures at the museum. Mary Nooter Roberts is a former curator of the Museum for African Art in New York City and is currently a scholar affiliate at the University of Iowa. She conducted an afternoon

gallery talk focusing on the pieces as visual representations of African ideas concerning human relationships, communication with nature, and the possession of knowledge.

In a joint lecture, both curators emphasized the exhibited objects’ ability to evoke awe and wonder for both contemporary Western audiences as well as for their original creators in context. The Roberts stressed the notion that an art object possesses a social “life,” throughout which it takes on different roles and meanings. Allen Roberts, professor of anthropology and African-American world studies at the University of Iowa, discussed the idea of the “sublime” as an African aesthetic value, which affords at once the experience of transcendence and amazement. In both the



lecture and accompanying exhibition catalogue, the curators support the centrality of “wonder” and the sacred in relation to African art.



Left: Memorial Mask, Akan Peoples, Ghana, 19th Century  
Right: Divination Bowl: Agere Ifa, Yoruba Peoples, Oyo Region, Nigeria, 19th Century

Photos: Jerry Thompson

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