

From left: Amber Stott and her friend, Patience, at a rural school in Dududu; Amber (left) and Shannon McCafferty on the beach at Nonguri, Zanzibar.

Summer in the Rainbow Nation

Amber Stott

During the summer of 2000, I was in a country known as the Rainbow Nation and in a province called Zululand. Here, I spent my summer learning Zulu language, customs, and realities. Yet, the lessons I learned were not necessarily those written on a syllabus. The knowledge I gained certainly could not have been provided within the walls of the U of I campus or absorbed by reading a book from the library. What I learned came from my relationships with the men and women, boys and girls that I met during my trip. The valuable goods I took away from this rich environment were not packed in my suitcase but tucked deep within my memory.

I traveled to South Africa on a Fulbright-Hayes Group Projects Abroad program organized by Ohio State University. While in KwaZulu-Natal, this group of 12 stu-

dents experienced the Rainbow Nation in several different ways. For the majority of our summer, we lived on the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg campus in a residence hall and ate cafeteria meals of an Afrikaans nature. Yet, for two weeks out of the eight, we were granted the unforgettable opportunity to live with two host families—one in an urban township, the other in a rural village.

Traveling to Africa also afforded me the chance to renew friendships I had made here at the U of I with other African Studies graduate students. For one week, I visited Zanzibar island with Shannon McCafferty, who was in Tanzania on a Swahili Fulbright-Hayes. Through this trip, I was able to experience the vast differences between post-apartheid South Africa and post-colonial Tanzania—a lesson I could not have learned by signing up for a history class. This past summer was one filled with new experiences, new friendships, new languages, and new memories that I will not soon forget.

Returning to Tanzania

Shannon McCafferty

This summer, I was a participant in the Fulbright-Hayes Group Project Abroad in Morogoro, Tanzania. Along with twelve other students, I received a fellowship to study advanced Kiswahili for seven weeks. Undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. participated in this program, coordinated by the University of Pennsylvania and directed by Dr. Lioba Moshi of the University of

Georgia. In Tanzania, our instruction was by local students in the missionary training school that hosted us.

Although the instruction was generally relaxed, I felt by the end of the seven weeks that my language proficiency had improved remarkably. In addition to the classroom learning, we socialized with students at the school, and traveled to several historical and cultural sites. At the end of the program, I traveled to Zanzibar for three weeks to visit friends, and they were really impressed with my progress in Kiswahili.

This trip was my third visit to Tanzania. While I was an undergraduate, I participated in a year-long study abroad program, and I returned Tanzania to visit friends last winter. Having traveled and studied there before gave me a rather unique perspective as compared to most of my fellow students. I knew that I was returning to a familiar place with close friends and my host family nearby. Also, I find that I approached the program and am now reflecting on my experiences based on a greater understanding of Africa through both my academic work and experience in Tanzania.

From the Acting Director

Alex Winter-Nelson

The Center for African Studies, like Africa itself, is defined by a mix of continuity and change. At the Center, names and faces change with the season, but the mission to promote research and knowledge relating to Africa remains. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza's temporary leave from the directorship of the African Studies has given me the chance to see how very active the Center is in this mission. I congratulate the many faculty, staff, and students who have been participating in expanding the curriculum, initiating special

— continued on back page

A Note from the Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator

Romanus Ejiaga

My article for this issue of *Habari* is on our outreach activities for this academic year. Outreach offers curricular workshops for K-12 educators and business community, and sponsors radio programs on Africa and other related international issues, publication series for schools and handbooks on Africa for teachers, an African film series, and Internet searching tips for locating Africa sites. In our effort to expand and improve on our programs, I formed a 10 member Outreach Advisory Council last year that includes representatives from various academic and community groups.

AFRST 415, Practicum in African Studies

We have just developed a course for our MA African Studies program that emphasizes participation in the Center's educational activities and includes organizing conferences and outreach to K-12 educators, the media, and the community. The ½ unit course will provide appropriate

community experience for students and an opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to practical situations with a view to disseminating knowledge about Africa.

Outreach to Business

In April 2000 the Center in cooperation with the World Trade Center Chicago, the International Trade Center and CIBER organized its 4th Annual African Business Workshop in Chicago. The theme of the workshop was "Building Partnerships on the African Continent: A Trade and Investment Conference on the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS). The workshop brought over 200 business executives and government officials from the US and west Africa, and the Executive Secretary ECOWAS was the keynote speaker. This year's workshop will focus on the entire region and will include labor union representatives from Africa and the US.

Africa Virtual Trade Mission

During this academic year we will start the Africa Virtual Trade Mission project with some Champaign schools. The AVTM seeks to introduce information about international trade into the high school curriculum through the use of the Internet and visits by business leaders and representatives from the target countries. It is being designed as an interactive, multimedia model, which will allow students to practice and apply relevant skills. The project is being supported by the grant we received from the University of Illinois Online's Public Service and Informal Education.



Ambassador Sheila Sisulu of South Africa Visits the U of I

During Spring 2000, the Center for African Studies

coordinated the visit of Ambassador Sheila Violet Makate Sisulu. During her stay, she presented a CAS/MillerComm 2000 lecture, "The New Democratic South Africa: The Past and the Future," was a guest on the WILL radio program—Focus 580, and met with students and faculty.

Distance Education

The outreach directors of four area studies centers on campus, African Studies, Latin American and Caribbean, Russian and Eastern European, and South East Asian are planning to have an online course this year for K-12 educators. The topic is comparative religion and our Center's module is "Islam in Africa." We are also actively working to develop several online courses offering African languages for distance learning.

The African Festival of the Arts

The Center participated with the Africa International House USA Inc. in the 8th African Festival of the Arts, Chicago, from September 1-4. Our primary objective was to bring an educational component to the festival by extending our educational resource materials (especially the Power and Beauty: Learning Module Project) to teachers and students from K-12 schools and community colleges.

The African Festival of Arts is a four-day, end of summer event that attracts over 300,000 people from all over

the US and Africa. The festival re-creates a traditional African marketplace and features workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions of traditional folk arts and crafts, awards, prizes, games and competition along with live entertainment, music, dance, theater and other performances etc.

Through the African Lens

This year we are taking our "Through the African Lens", an African film series on campus into the Champaign public schools. We are planning to integrate many of our exciting children's video on Africa into the After School Care Program.

While the African Studies MA program continues to provide Africa-related training on campus, and provides schools, the media, business, local community, and the general public with programs, services, and resources they need and request. We will also pursue new activities that strengthen and take our outreach program in new directions.

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Gender and Globalization: UI 5th Joint Area Centers Spring Symposium 2000

The Center for African Studies joined with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in the central coordination of the spring symposium held April 13-15, 2000 at the Levis Faculty Center. Co-sponsors of the conference included the Center for Russian and East European Studies, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, Program for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Office of Women in International Development, and Women's Studies Program.

The Office of International Programs and Studies and the UI International Council also provided generous support for the event and made it possible to bring an impressive range of scholars from across the US and Africa. *Gender and Globalization* provided a thematic platform of both intellectual and practical interest, giving rise to lively presentations concerning Western and non-Western feminisms, North-South dialogues and divisions, the political economy of global capitalism, and cultural responses to the challenges of the 21st century: human rights, poverty, AIDS, and newly gendered work forces.

Months of planning and consultation among the area center directors, staff, and UI faculty who served as panel coordinators resulted in five stimulating sessions on interrelated themes:

- I. Theory: Intersections of Globalization and Gender;
- II. Environment and Reproduction;

- III. Economy and Society: Capitalism, Structural Adjustment, and Politics;
- IV. Culture and Media;
- V. Political Empowerment and Social Movements.

All 27 participants, including UI discussants and coordinators, contributed to each of the sessions, which were well attended by an audience of interested students and faculty.

The symposium was highlighted by the Miller-Comm lecture given by Amrita Basu, internationally renowned scholar of women's movements and contemporary gender issues. Basu, professor of Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, Amherst College, spoke to a large audience of Illinois faculty and students and to members of the C-U community on "Mapping Transnational Women's Movements: Globalizing the Local, Localizing the Global."

The thematic coherence of the entire symposium generated enthusiasm for publishing the proceedings. The editorial committee, composed of Cynthia Radding (CLACS), Gale Summerfield (WID), Winnie Poster (Sociology) and Paul Zeleza (Center for African Studies) has begun working to bring together a volume of original papers that will address the global thematic issues raised at the symposium and represent the geographical regions that our centers serve.

Reprinted from the newsletter for the UI's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Identity, Culture, Politics

Boatema Boateng

The Conference on Black Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Identity, Culture, Politics was held at the University of Illinois from 1-4 June, 2000. It was jointly organized by the Afro-American Studies and Research Program (AASRP) and the Center for African Studies (CAS). Participants came from Canada, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, the UK, and the USA. In all, about seventy-five people attended and presented papers.

According to Alice Deck, Professor of English, Acting Director of the AASRP and conference coordinator, planning for the conference began in 1997. She said, "my plans were to bring as many black women as possible from Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States together to talk about the linkages among us as women of African descent. While not as many black women attended the conference as I would have liked, I am happy to say that black women from every area of the globe were represented!"

Among those women were a number of distinguished scholars and activists such as plenary speakers Dorothy Roberts, Professor of Law at Northwestern University, Carole Boyce Davies, Director of African New World Studies at Florida International University (now of Northwestern University), and Cherry Short, County Councillor, Cardiff, Wales.

Several papers were presented in panels on the following themes: Immigration and Education; Cultural Expressions of Agency, Making up the Self-Body Image and Skin Color; Issues of Gender and Political Authority; Reading the Diaspora; Religion and Identity; Visual Arts; Women

and Political Involvement; and Issues in Education-Identity, Access and Achievement.

At the roundtable discussion on future directions that ended the conference, one important area of need identified was that of Black women in the academy serving as mentors to younger scholars. One such young scholar, conference participant Chinyere Osuji, was clearly inspired by the more established scholars whom she met at the conference. She said, "it was really great to see blacks in higher education, because there is such a dearth of them on this campus. It made me feel more connected to other black women for that time. It also made me very proud to see that black women are doing research that means something to our black communities." Osuji expressed the desire to continue to hear from people who attended the conference about what they are doing as a follow-up experience.

A high point of the conference was the opening at the Krannert Art Museum of an exhibition of art by African and African-American Women on the theme, "Rivers of Spirit: ArtWomen in the African Diaspora." The exhibition will remain open until January 2001.

According to conference coordinator, Alice Deck, participants were very favorable in their comments on the conference. She added, "some people even asked for another conference on the same theme in a year or two." The organizers plan to publish a collection of essays from some of the conference presentations.



From top: Jessica Philips on the Waterfront, Capetown; with Mrs. Shelle at Makunaskop Old Age Cottages, the first Black retirement community in South Africa; and volunteering at the Settler's Hospital.

Studying Abroad in Grahamstown, South Africa

Jessica Philips

Grahamstown, South Africa, became my real life case study of the theories and lessons presented in my Africa classes. Rhodes University, based in Grahamstown, was home to me for five months and while I was there I was able to learn about the academic system and also gain a better understanding of post-Apartheid society.

The friends I made there will be for life, and I hope the stories of the adventures out live me, especially when they include bungee jumping on the Garden Route, exploring Cape Town and its townships, backpacking through the Transki and Wild Coast, hitch-hiking through Swaziland, and being on safari in Kruger National Park.

For me, the most important part of my experience was the work I did in the Township of Grahamstown and in the local hospital. I worked for the municipality in the housing division. My main project was to help lay out the plans to completely renovate, restore, and improve a retirement community in the township. This project is unique because there is no record of an all Black retirement community. Even now that I am back in Urbana-Champaign, I continue to work on this project by helping raise funds for the project's costs, which are an estimated \$50,000. This project also provided me with an excellent learning experience, as the South African government was directly involved and I learned a lot about bureaucracy.

Volunteering in the Children's Ward of the Grahamstown Settler's Hospital made the most lasting impression on me and has shaped how I will live out the rest of my life. Stunting, TB, meningitis, sexual abuse, rape, neglect, starvation, malnutrition, chicken pox, pneumonia, and of course AIDS were things that I saw and dealt with daily. The lack of supplies and personnel compounded my frustrations, and undoubtedly South Africans and other people working there were also frustrated. If anything though, these experiences have also increased my drive to get back to this wonderful country.

Faculty News

Stan Ambrose (anthropology) presented a seminar entitled "Geochronology and Tephrostratigraphy of Late Quaternary Archaeological Sites in Kenya: A progress report" this fall.

Merle Bowen (political science) traveled to South Africa and Mozambique in October to begin a new comparative research project on decentralization, democracy and traditional authorities. She presented, "Unfinished Business? Land, Labor and Inequality in Mozambique," at the 2000 Annual Colloquium of the Southern African Regional Institute for Policy Studies in Zimbabwe; "Rural Transformation in Postconflict States: Gender and the Reconstruction of Chiefly Power," at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Thirty-First Annual Conference, Washington, DC and at the American Political Science Association Ninety-Sixth Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. She was also the recipient of a course development grant for Social Movements and Globalization in the Postcolonial World (PoLS 341).

Al Kagan will be on sabbatical from January to August in South Africa, hosted by the Cape Library Cooperative (CALICO).

In June, **Bruno Netti** (music) was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Carleton College in Minnesota. Netti gave a brief address to the audience of 7000, which included the main commencement speaker, President Bill Clinton, who was thus introduced to the field of ethnomusicology.

Ken Salo (NRES) is introducing a new course this spring: International Environmental Policy (NRES 300). As an introduction to international environmental policy, the course focuses on the relationship between a scientific understanding of the causes of global environmental degradation and international

policy responses. Specific natural resource management problems of international concern will be explored through seminar presentations and debate to evaluate international policy responses in the light of current indicators of social equity, ecological integrity and economic sufficiency.

Mahir Saul (anthropology) participated in the sixteenth Satterthwaite Colloquium on African Ritual and Religion in the Lake District, England, where he presented, "Rites of Nature." In June and July, he did a study on women's cross-border trade in West Africa, commissioned by WID-Tech, a non-profit organization in Washington, DC. The study focused on the international and regional import and export activities of women, conducted at various scales, from those who cross the border on foot with a head-load of goods to the largely unreported and unknown world of transatlantic wholesale importers or those who organize trade expeditions to the Far Eastern or Middle Eastern cities. In conducting the study, he and a co-researcher traveled to Mali, Senegal, Benin, Ghana, and the neighboring areas of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

Tom Turino's (music) book, *Nationalists, Cosmopolitans, and Popular Music in Zimbabwe*, has recently been released. It was published with the Chicago University Press.

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

Leslea Hlusko, a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, recently earned her Ph.D. (2000) from Penn State University in Biological Anthropology. She studies the evolution of



primates, including humans. This research encompasses paleontological fieldwork in Eastern Africa and

the study of genetics in modern savannah baboons. She has participated in field projects in Kenya and Ethiopia, and her fieldwork is in the Middle Awash region of Ethiopia. The modern animals she works with are part of a colony housed in San Antonio, Texas, though they descend from animals captured from the wild in eastern Africa.

The courses Prof. Hlusko teaches range from human and primate paleontology to anthropological genetics. This fall semester, she taught a course on race, in which she examined the biological basis of human variation and the misconceptions that have stemmed from this variation. She also taught an upper division course in genetics. Next semester she will teach a large introductory course in human evolution (Anth 102).

Cynthia Oliver is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Dance. Her performance experience includes having toured the world with many companies, performed as an actor in works by Greg Tate, Laurie Carlos,



Jason Finkelstein

and Ntozake Shange. Her own performance work, a melange of dance, theatre and the spoken word, incorporates Caribbean themes and cultural conflicts. She won a 1995/96 New York Dance and Performance Award (a Bessie) for her evening length work "Death's Door."

She is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Performance Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Her scholarly work has focused on performance in the Anglophone Caribbean. Her dissertation examines the cultural phenomena of beauty pageants in the United States Virgin Islands and

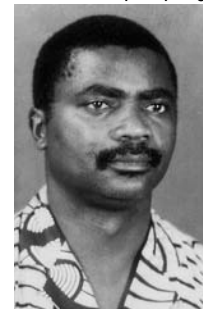
the ways in which mechanisms of pageantry move toward defining black womanhood in the region. Her on-going research is in the areas of intersection between contemporary dance, feminism, black popular culture, and the expressive performances of Africans in the diaspora, with an emphasis on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prof. Oliver is teaching advanced and intermediate Contemporary Dance of the African Diaspora, and two Discovery Courses: Dance in Performance and Introduction to Twentieth Century Contemporary Dance.

VISITOR

During 1999-2000, Professor **Augustin Simo Bobda** joined the University of Illinois community. He was on this campus as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar, affiliated with the Department of Linguistics and worked with Dr. Braj Kachru. His research has mostly contributed to the knowledge of the status, the functions, the features of African English, and the problems involved in using/learning/teaching English in Africa in general and Cameroon in particular.

While on campus, Prof. Bobda researched "African accents of English," and he participated in several campus programs beyond



his own research. He gave a lecture in the Center for African Studies and a seminar in the Department of Linguistics. He also

participated in area and national conferences, including the Center for African Studies fall colloquium and the African Studies Association meeting in Philadelphia.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Zohreh Sullivan** (English) and **Tom Turino** (music and anthropology), who were promoted to Professor in 2000! Congratulations to **Ezekiel Kalipeni** (geography) and **Adlai Murdoch** (French), who were promoted to Associate Professor in 2000!

Excellent and Outstanding Educators during 1999-2000

Congratulations to the Africanist professors and teaching assistants ranked as excellent by their students (outstanding are designated by an asterisk).

Evelyne Accad *	Mustapha Hamil *	Ngamboko P. Muzinga *
French 155	Comparative Literature 190, 142	Finance 254
Daniel Altneu	Ben Juday	Fallou Ngom
Geography 101	Geography 101	Linguistics 241, 242
Maimouna Barro *	Suvir Kaul	Dianne Pinderhughes *
Linguistics 343, 344	English 285	Political Science 327
Merle Bowen *	Annie Kinwa-Muzinga *	Mouna Sari *
Political Science 345	ACES 100	Linguistics 201, 202
Liora Bresler *	Bertin Kouadio *	Sarina Singh *
Curriculum and Instruction 407	African Studies 303, 304	Linguistics 303, 304
Kevin Corollo	Bing Li	Zohreh Sullivan
Comparative Literature 402	Linguistics 232	English 274
Charis Cussins	Zine Magubane *	Bjorn Westgard
Sociology 131	Sociology 296, 482	Anthropology 270
Don Crummey *	Adlai Murdoch	Alex Winter-Nelson
History 298	French 210	African Studies 354
		Josephine Yambi
		Linguistics 333,334

Student News

The Graduate College awarded **Stephen Hill** (music) a dissertation completion fellowship for his study of the musical life of the Wamatengo, southwestern Tanzania. He presented, "The Death of Mganda?: Continuity and Transformation in Matengo Music" at Toronto 2000, a "mega-meeting" involving over ten academic music organizations. His presentation was under the auspices of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Josephat Myriam Ikuku (African studies; GRID graduate student) is the winner of the best graduate paper in the Eighteenth Annual Student Paper Competition of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program (formerly the Office of Women in International Development) for her paper entitled "Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Law and Actual Practice."

Michelle Johnson's (anthropology) article, "Becoming a Muslim, Becoming a Person: Female "Circumcision," Religious Identity, and Personhood in Guinea-Bissau" appears in *Female "Circumcision" in Africa: Culture, Controversy, and Change*, (Lynne Rienner). She also published a chapter, "The View from the Wuro: A Guide to Child Rearing for Fulani Parents," in *A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies*, ed. J. DeLoache and A. Gottlieb (Cambridge U. Press).

Wudu T. Kassu (history) has written entries for the second volume of *Encyclopaedia Aethiopia* to be published by the Institute of African and Ethiopian studies at the University of Hamburg, Germany.

Moses O. Oketch (educational policy studies) passed his prelims this fall. His article, "Costing and Financing Higher Education for Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Kenya's case," was published in the *International Journal of Education*.

Veronica Ouma (geography) presented, "Women Respond to HIV/AIDS: The Case of Kisumu District, Kenya" at the Conference on HIV/AIDS: Africa and African Diaspora's Public Health in the

New Millennium, Ohio State University. She also presented, "HIV Testing in Kenya: From Policy to Laymen Perceptions" at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting in Nashville.

Flora Makundi (agricultural and consumer economics; GRID graduate student) was selected to receive a Kathleen Cloud International Research Grant for dissertation fieldwork in Tanzania. Her dissertation will examine the quality aspects of family planning services from private and government facilities and the socio-economic determinants of contraceptive use in Tanzania.

Ngamboko P. Muzinga (agricultural and consumer economics) received the Commerce Council award for top teaching assistant in the College of Commerce and Business Administration. Students selected him from more than 150 TAs.

Fallou Ngom (linguistics) is the recipient of a dissertation travel grant and a University fellowship from the University of Illinois; these grants enabled him to travel to Senegal for his dissertation research and to focus on his research. He also received a National African Language Resource Center fellowship during the summer of 2000.

Fred Walumbwa (ILIR) is presenting "Canadian Employment Equity Laws and Multinational Firms" (co-author with John Lawler) at the 53rd Industrial Relations Research Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, and he presented "Taking Stock: Applying Transformational and Transactional Leadership for Quality University Instruction" at the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada and International Federation of Scholarly Association of Management in Montreal. He and Prof. John Lawler are beginning a study of "Gender issues, employment practices, and American multinationals: A comparative study of Africa, Asia, and the U.S." This study is supported by the Illinois Center for Business Education and Research and University Research Board, and Fred will be travelling to Kenya for data collection this December.

Alumni News

This April, **Denise Roth Allen** (anthropology '96) married William Allen, a doctoral student in African History at Florida International University in Miami. Her post doc at Princeton comes to an end in December, and then they will be moving to Atlanta, Georgia.

Amy (Eisenhuth) Brimah (political science '97) received her Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She successfully passed the Colorado Bar Exam this July. She is now working with a legal firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Strickland doing corporate transaction and real-estate work.

Meg Cederoth (urban planning '98) is living in Washington, D.C. and works as an Urban Environment Program Analyst with a USAID contractor, PADCO.

In June, **Nic Cook** (African studies '98, Library and Information Science '00) took a position as an Analyst in African Affairs with the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). He was hired as a Graduate Recruit, and in October his position became permanent. He

was recruited as part of a three-year succession initiative at CRS, where 50 percent or more of the workforce will be eligible for retirement in the next five years. At CRS, a legislative branch agency within the Library of Congress, his work involves responding to Congressional research requests and writing anticipatory reports and memos on a range of Africa-related policy issues. He would like to hear from current and former Center students and faculty at ncook@crs.loc.gov.

JoAnn D'Alisera (anthropology '97) is now in the second year of a tenure-track job as assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas. Her new e-mail address is: dalisera@comp.uark.edu. JoAnn published an article this past June on Sierra Leoneans in the Washington, D.C. area in the journal, *Anthropology and Humanism*.

Nicole Hawkes (African studies '00) is the recipient of a scholarship given by the National Association of Corporate Art Managers for an arts administration student at Boston University. In her essay, she argues for corporate responsibility



Don Crummey (history), **Renee Clift** (curriculum and instruction), **Frey** and **Abebe Fisseha** (curriculum and instruction '00) celebrating Abebe's successful defense of his dissertation, "Education and the Formation of the Modern Ethiopian State, 1896-1974."

in investing in the arts and creating programs that enrich the lives of their communities and employees, particularly in the realm of collecting non-western arts.

Joanna Lambert (anthropology, '97) recently received the University of Oregon's Bray Faculty Award for exceptional contributions in research and teaching. Over the summer, Joanna was an invited plenary speaker at the Third International Congress on Frugivory and Seed Dispersal held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In January, she will return to Uganda to continue her research on primate feeding biology in Kibale National Park.

Fran Vavrus (English as an international language, '91) accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of International and Transcultural Studies, Teachers College, Columbia University. She held a Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health, during which she went to Tanzania to begin a longitudinal study of the factors affecting children's transition to secondary school in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania. She will return to Tanzania next summer to continue with the study. She presented a paper at ASA in Nashville on girls' education and fertility decline in Tanzania and Uganda.

Stephen Wooten (anthropology, '97) recently published, "Antelope Headdresses and Champion Farmers: Negotiating Meaning and Identity Through the Bamana *Ciwara* Complex" in *African Arts*, 32(2). At the ASA meeting in Nashville, Stephen presented, "Traditionally Modern: Toward an Understanding of the *Ciwara* Complex in a Contemporary Context".

Carol Yokell's (anthropology '98) dissertation has been accepted for publication by the British Archaeological Reports, International Series. She continues to work at Texas Christian University as an adjunct professor. In the two years that she's been there, she and other faculty have worked to rebuild the program and are developing a major.

Warm Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

Ellard Malindi (agricultural and consumer economics '97) has faced some serious health problems this year as a result of kidney failure.

Grace Malindi (human and consumer economics '97) reports that following two operations Ellard is doing well and has been released from the hospital following a transplant. His sister, the donor, is also doing well and has been released from the hospital as well. If you would like to contact the Malindi's you can do so through the following address: Ministry of Agriculture, Box 10134, Lilongwe, Malawi.

"Wewe ni bora," Albert Scheven

Albert Scheven passed away this summer and is dearly missed by many.

Albert was born in the Netherlands in 1913, the second of 11 children. In 1927, he entered the junior seminary of the Society of Missionaries of Africa and was ordained priest in 1939.



It was known that the Germans would soon invade the Netherlands,

so Albert's class was quickly dispatched to the missions. He was assigned to Tanganyika, and quickly became adept at the local languages. In fact, soon after he arrived at a new mission, he felt confident enough to try a simple sermon in the language. All went well until the congregation burst into laughter. It seemed that rather than saying "A great crowd," he had said, "A great hyena followed Jesus."

Albert had a variety of assignments in his 31 years in Tanzania. Parish work, teaching in a junior seminary, teaching in a teacher training college, preaching retreats to African and missionary sisters and catechists, and finally, working in a Pastoral Institute that was charged with acquainting clergy throughout the country with the messages of Vatican II.

Eventually, Albert found a new life in the United States, where he married Yvette. He taught African languages for twelve years at the University of Illinois, always Swahili, but also Luo and Sukuma. His students honored him with several teaching awards, but his most treasured award was from the last group of students he taught. They gave him a wooden plaque that read, "Wewe ni bora" (You are excellent). Luo was Albert's first African language, and he was able to pun in that tongue more than thirty years after he had spoken it. While at the U of I, he compiled a collection of Swahili proverbs (now out of print) and recently had completed a much expanded edition. He also wrote his memoirs.



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 ILLINOIS

Acting Director, continued from front

programs, and strengthening linkages with institutions in Africa. I invite all readers to take advantage of the opportunities related to these developments as they are announced through the *Calendar of Events*.

Aside from Prof. Zeleza's absence, we recognize Melissa Steen, who resigned from her secretarial position at the Center to begin teaching high

school, and the recent graduates who have moved on to other endeavors. Best wishes to all these alums.

While we miss the graduates, we welcome the arrival of new students. Aaron Love and Kapila Sankaran are newly arrived into the MA program and rapidly integrating themselves into the life of the Center. Welcome to them. Welcome also to new faculty

on campus with Africanist interests. We look forward to increased interaction with Leslea Hlusko (anthropology) and Cynthia Oliver (Dance), both of whom arrived this fall.

The flow of people always stimulates creative change, but that change is only made positive by the support of an often unseen and under appreciated core. As acting

director, I have seen how diligently the staff at African Studies works to bring about activities to enrich the experience of everyone interested in Africa. In closing then, I wish to thank Jamie McGowan, Sue Swisher, Sheila Calhoun, and Romanus Ejiaga for their efforts and to encourage readers to make time to take advantage of the fruits of their labor.