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News from the Center for African Studies • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • 2003-2004

President Kenneth Kaunda's Visit

By Jamie McGowan

On May 2 2003, President Kenneth Kaunda, one of the most respected statesmen of postcolonial Africa, visited the U of I campus. During his visit, he delivered a lecture to a full house at Levis Faculty Center. The lecture was entitled "The Liberation of Southern Africa: Reflections by President Kenneth Kaunda." And at a reception held in his honor, President Kaunda's charm and warmth filled the room. Before leaving Champaign, he entertained us with a love song that he frequently sang to his wife. In turn, the people in attendance showed their appreciation by singing and wishing him a happy 79th birthday.

President of the Republic of Zambia from 1964-1991, Kenneth Kaunda steered his Southern African nation to independence from British colonial rule. His leadership in the struggle emerge quite early in life, as he was a trained teacher and later a headmaster. The political dimension of his leadership began in 1949 when he was amongst the founders of the Northern Rhodesia African National Congress of Chinsali District. He became more actively involved in leading the African National Congress but ultimately broke with the party, convinced that a

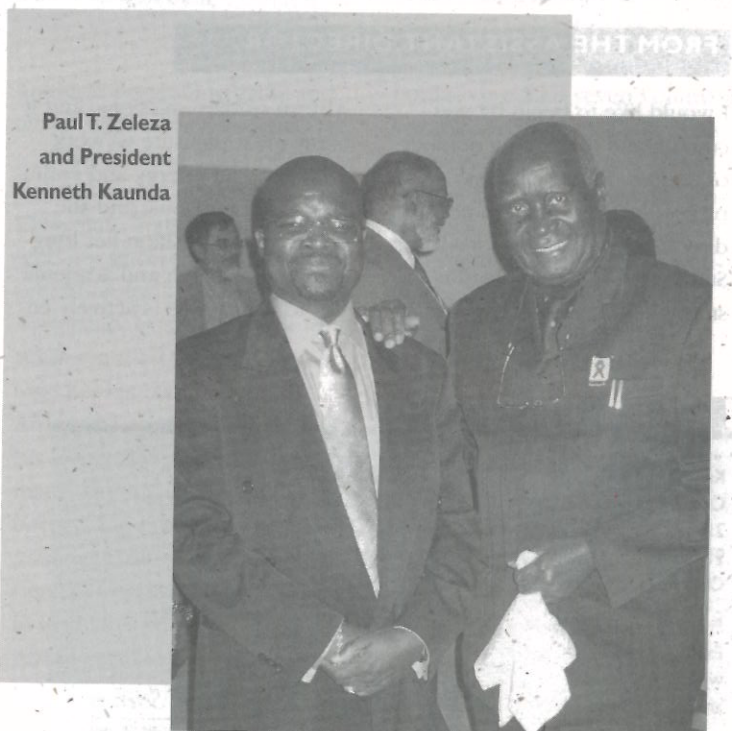
stronger leadership was necessary in order to put an end to colonial rule, discrimination, and segregation. Kaunda established the Zambia African National Congress and became its president. The party was established on the basis of Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, which Kaunda hoped would be a means to his goal of a "one-man, one-vote" democracy. "His words went straight to my heart," Kaunda has said, recalling his earlier encounter with Gandhi's philosophy. "I became more and more convinced that [nonviolence] was the only way to win your enemies to your way of thinking." On August 25, 1964 Prime Minister Kaunda was elected President-designate of the new nation without opposition. In a ceremony at the capital city of Lusaka, on October 24, 1964, the former British protectorate of Northern Rhodesia became the Republic of Zambia, Africa's thirty-sixth independent country, and the ninth British colony in Africa to gain independence.

President Kaunda held many leadership positions in regional and international organizations including the Kaunda served as chairman of the Pan-African Freedom Movement for East, Central and South Africa, the

Organization of African Unity, the Southern African Development Conference, the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa States, and the Frontline States, a group of independent Southern African countries spearheading the liberation of South Africa and Namibia. He also served as President of the Commonwealth countries and the Non Aligned Movement. Kaunda played an important role in the struggle for independence in Africa and particularly in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique and Angola. The African National Congress of South Africa was based in

Lusaka, the Zambian capital, and it was there that negotiations began in the late 1980s between South African business, religious and political leaders and the leaders of the exiled ANC which led to the political reforms of 1990, including the release of Nelson Mandela, culminating in the end of apartheid in 1994.

In 1992, Dr. Kaunda founded the Kenneth Kaunda Peace Foundation, dedicated to the establishment of peace and conflict resolution on the continent. He is now devoting the best part of his life to fighting HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa.



Paul T. Zeleza
and President
Kenneth Kaunda



Jean Allman

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Building Momentum

2003-2004 is a year both of change and of continuity in the Center's history. Most notably, after eight years of tireless service and inspiring leadership, the Center's Director, Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, took up a position at Penn State University. Though he will be sorely missed by us all, he leaves behind a program that is one of the strongest in the country, and we look forward to building upon the excellence—in research, teaching and outreach—that is his legacy to us. Other changes are also in evidence for those visiting the Center. I am delighted to report that Jamie McGowan is the Center's new Assistant Director and Outreach

Coordinator. We want to congratulate her predecessor, Romanus Ejiaga, on his new position as Director of African and African American Studies at the Southern University of New Orleans. Assisting Jamie, especially with organizing brown bags, seminars, outreach and other Center events, is Kumi Silva who, among other things, has made the Center THE place to be for Wednesday lunch! With Sue Swisher and Sheila Calhoun holding everything together in the office, even through the perils of the university's new Banner system, we have managed to survive the worst of the fiscal crises facing many units on many campuses. On that note I am pleased to report that the Center has again been awarded funding (2003-2006) by the

Department of Education under its Title VI program. We are one of only eight National Resource Centers in the United States devoted to Africa.

Over the past two years, the Center has focused substantial attention to African Studies and higher education in Africa. Our 2002 symposium on African Universities in the 21st Century, co-hosted with CODESRÍA and convened simultaneously in Champaign and Dakar, built toward a semester-long NEH seminar last year on African Studies and the disciplines, as well as a major Rockefeller Humanities Grant. In collaboration with the College of Education, the Rockefeller support has allowed us to establish an Institute on Education and African Modernities. The Institute will

support two postdoctoral fellows a year between 2003-2006.

This year, we have welcomed our first cohort—**Dr. Adhiambo Oduol** (Ph.D. U. of Nairobi and Assoc. Prof at the United States International University) and **Molatlhegi "Chika" Sehoole** (Ph.D. U. of Witwatersrand and Lecturer, University of Pretoria). They have already invigorated discussions across campus about African higher education, gender, and globalization. The momentum from these initiatives has put us on an exciting trajectory for the coming years.

As the Center's new director, I look forward to building upon these initiatives with the support of our outstanding faculty, dedicated staff, and terrific graduate students.

FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

I would like to begin by welcoming and thanking a number of people. First, I am very pleased to welcome the new director of the Center for African Studies, Jean Allman. Jean is strengthening and enhancing

African studies' missions, and it is my great pleasure to work with her. Her energy and enthusiasm is contagious, and she brings to the position her long-standing research and academic ties to Africa. She is actively en-

gaging with colleagues about what it means to study Africa. As she initiates further discussions both in the U.S. and Africa, the Center for African Studies will certainly benefit from her collaborative approach in formulating programs that build on our strengths and benefit faculty, staff, and students.

In addition to being director, Jean Allman is Professor of History and Women's Studies. She is also very active in the Association of African Studies, co-editing Heinemann's books series on the Social History of Africa, and co-editing the

Journal of Women's History. In terms of her own research, she has authored and edited five books, most recently *Women in African Colonial Histories*, and a sixth one will soon be out: *TONG: Of Rituals, Resistance and Trans-Migration in West Africa*. Her scholarship has been supported by many internal as well as external grants, including ACLS, the NEH, the SSRC and Fulbright-Hays.

We would like to welcome and congratulate several new students in the Masters program in African studies and recipients of FLAS fellowships. In fall 2003,

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Kwame Essien entered the MA program having completed his BA in history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is interested in the history and connections between Africa and the African diaspora. He received a FLAS fellowship to study Swahili. **Erica Hill** joined the Center in the fall semester after having taught 4th grade in California for several years. She holds a BA in Africana studies and in English from San Diego State University and a MA from the University of Phoenix in organizational management. Last fall, Erica worked in African studies helping with its outreach mission, and she currently holds a FLAS fellowship to study Swahili. Erica is interested in the ways that gender and class intersect in gaining access to health care and education on HIV/AIDS.

Shawn Lampkins entered the graduate program in African studies this January, and is also pursuing a graduate degree in educational psychology. He did his bachelors in psychology at the University of Illinois, and he worked as a teacher for the past three years. His academic pursuits center on education in South Africa and in francophone West Africa. In terms of other FLAS recipients, **Alice Jones-Nelson**, history, interested in tourism in Ghana, is learning Twi. **Adrienne Pickett**, African studies and art history, received a FLAS fellowship to study Wolof and continue with her studies on public art in Senegal.

Last but not least, I would like welcome two other people

to the Center for African Studies, both of whom have proven to be great assets to our programming. **Christobel Asiedu**, a graduate student in sociology, is the new webmaster, and she has jumped into the role, making significant improvements to the site and making more materials available. We are also lucky to have **Kumi Silva** working at African studies; she is

lieve that our academic and outreach programming launched a considerable number of new and valuable activities, and I look forward to continuing with and building on these initiatives. Both Romanus and Alex also served as graduate advisors, and their thoughtful guidance to our students facilitated the students' academic development and enabled our

lectures on Pan-Africanism, shaping fall colloquia into focused discussions that extend into classrooms, and encouraging interdisciplinary study and scholarship.

During his tenure as Director of African Studies, he raised the profile of the center by supporting faculty initiatives and research, through his ties to research networks in Africa, and through grant writing to institutions including the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Rockefeller Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. He attracted public intellectuals, political leaders and scholars to our campus, including President Kenneth Kaunda, Nawal el Saadawi, Mahmood Mamdani, Randall Robinson, Sheila Sisulu, and Wole Soyinka.

Beyond these public events, Paul remained motivated to his own intellectual development and scholarship. He wrote two books, co-edited seven volumes, wrote over 30 articles and book chapters, delivered over 50 papers as keynote address, at conferences, and seminars. His accomplishments for the institution and personally are impressive, and it was rewarding to work with him and learn from him.

Jean Allman is sure to not only build on, but also extend Paul's vision for the Center and I am delighted to be part of the Center as it continues to grow.

Looking back over the past 7 years that I have worked at African studies, I believe that our academic and outreach programming launched a considerable number of new and valuable activities, and I look forward to continuing with and building on these initiatives.



Jamie McGowan

completing her PhD in communications from the University of Oregon. She runs many of the extra-curricular programs, publicity, poster designing, films series, and newsletter editing and more.

Having stepped into a new position at the Center for African Studies is proving to be an exciting challenge and one full of rewards. I am grateful to the previous Assistant Directors and Outreach Coordinators, Romanus Ejiaga, Alex Winter-Nelson, Boatema Boateng, and Prosper Godonoo. Looking back over the past 7 years that I have worked at African studies, I be-

graduate program to grow and attract high caliber students.

With Dr. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza's recent departure for Penn State, I also want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for his labors and leadership. In shaping African studies at the U of I, he forged together his commitments to Africa and academic excellence, his leadership skills and diplomacy, and his enthusiasm and energy. He envisioned new programmatic directions for the Center—from collaborating with individual U of I colleges to organize spring symposia, instituting the annual DuBois

outreach

The Center for African Studies is implementing a number of activities to reach interested constituencies.

By Jamie McGowan

To serve teachers and students, we have a number of on-going programs. First, is our international summer institute run in collaboration with the other area studies and international studies programs. The institutes have attracted 20-25 teachers each year, who have come from as close by as Urbana High School and as far away as the Marshall Islands. Last summer, the theme was comparative politics and government. Teachers received reading packets, attended regular lectures and discussions, viewed films and attended a web-resources session, and the week ended with a day-long workshop that involved implementing some of these ideas into their curriculum. In summer 2004, the theme is on globalization and economics, and we are looking forward to the discussions and debates that emerge in these sessions.

We have also worked to promote African studies' outreach programming in the area school districts. Erica Hill (African studies) has played an important role in contacting teachers and curriculum specialists, developing a speaker's bureau listing, and creating an abbreviated bibliography of the outreach library's holdings. We are distributing information nationwide through the joint area studies newsletter, "Update" and via our website. With the new website, Christobel Asiedu, has made a concerted effort to develop the site's outreach materials for K-12 teachers—linking lesson plans and other useful materials at www.afrst.uiuc.edu/OutreachKids.html as the entry point. She continues to update and revise the site, and we wel-

come your suggestions.

Extending from some of our initiatives to reach out to area schools, the Center for Africa Studies arranged and participated in a number of school events. Chika Sehoole (African studies and education), Grace Msangi (human resource education), Adrienne Pickett (African studies), Rama Kane (education policy studies), Awa Sarr (French), and Maimouna Barro (curriculum and instruction) have all assisted with these activities. Among these events, 155 students and 10 teachers from B.T. Washington attended a special Krannert session where the Drummers of West Africa performed. (See photos). Their performance enabled the students to not only see and hear but participate in some of the masterful drumming with Doudou Ndiaye Rose and his ensemble.

Another event this fall involved Damian Manuhwa, a stone sculptor from Zimbabwe, and we were able to bring him to Champaign this fall, while he was in residence in Chicago exhibiting his works and offering courses through the Chicago Botanical Garden. During his stay, he demonstrated his craft at the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, at B.T. Washington Elementary, and at the Douglas Public Library, all of which was facilitated through Krannert Art Museum's Art-To-Go initiative. Damian along with his remarkable artwork has traveled worldwide, and he thoughtfully donated a piece to the Krannert Art Museum.

In Fall 2003, Kumi Silva and I coordinated a workshop on domestic conflict in the context of African families, which served professionals working in social service agencies, schools, medical fields, and the police department. The workshop involved presentations and roundtables, and it provided informa-

tion to local service providers on how their services can best reach and serve African families in need, especially families who may not be aware of all the services available to them. Dr. Takyiwaa Manuh, University of Ghana at Legon, presented "Domestic Violence in African Communities" and Dr. Helen Neville, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, provided insights into what some community responses have been to sexual violence in Ghana. The roundtable generated a lively discussion about how domestic conflict may be handled within different cultural contexts, perceptions of police and medical personnel, and the ways in which the absence of an extended family or community network can hinder resolution. Many thanks to the presenters and the roundtable participants: Maimouna Barro (curriculum and instruction), Riham Khafagy, Wembo Lombela (linguistics), Dr. Adhiambo Oduol (African studies & education), Dr. Jerry Ogbudimkpa (McKinley Health Services) and Dr. Chika Sehoole (African studies & education).

In the works for the spring semester, African studies is planning several events to serve the media, business, teachers and students, along with the general public. The annual business conference will take place in Chicago on March 16th. The theme is "Destination: Africa," and it is designed to help travel agents develop a deeper appreciation of the opportunities and mechanisms for building business relationships between the U.S. and African-based companies, as well as a wider understanding of travel and tourism in African countries. For this event, we are working with the Africa Travel Association and the Association to Promote Tourism to Africa. The

International Trade Center and the African Business Center along with the Small Business Development Center at Chicago State University are co-organizing the event. Other cosponsors include Center for International Business Education and Research at UIUC and International Affairs at UIC.

This year's media workshop, "Covering Africa: The Representation of Islam" will take place at Northwestern University on May 1st. Ayesha Imam is the featured keynote, and other presenters and discussants from various media will serve on the round table. The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, the Medill School of Journalism and the Program in African Studies, which are based at Northwestern, are also co-sponsoring this event.



Above: West African Drummers perform and interact with children from B.T. Washington Elementary School.

At left: Damian Manuhwa demonstrates stone carving at the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club.

Below: The newly revised website for the Center includes a link for Outreach activities.

Center for African Studies

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Outreach Publications

Title VI Outreach Center Programs

Opportunities for K-12 Educators

Virtual Trade Mission

Area Studies Centers of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We encourage you to download and copy "Update" to share with your colleagues and students. To be added to the mailing list or make a suggestion, write to any of the Centers.

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- [New Resources 2003 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Politics 2003 \(pdf\)](#)
- [New Resources](#)

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Profiles of Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellows, 2003-2004, Center for African Studies

A Conversation with Adhiambo Oduol and Chika Sehoole

By Kumi Silva

Adhiambo and Chika, give us some background information. Where are you from? What is your academic background? Where were you teaching, etc?

Adhiambo: My name is Jacqueline Adhiambo Oduol and I am from Kenya. I am a faculty member in the School of Arts and Social Sciences at the United States International University (USIU), Nairobi Campus. I hold a Masters Degree in General Linguistics and a PhD in Historical Comparative Linguistics, both from the University of Nairobi. I have also embarked on a Masters Degree in International Relations at the United States International University. At USIU I teach intercultural communication, research and critical thinking skills and gender studies. I am also the moderator of "The Great Gender Debate", which brings members of the academic community and other professionals to USIU to reflect on issues of gender equality and women's empowerment. Before moving to USIU, I taught general linguistics courses including introduction to the study of languages and research methods at the University of Nairobi.

Chika: My name is Molatlhegi Trevor Chika Sehoole (fondly known as Chika), from Marapyane village, South Africa. I am a faculty member in the Department of Educational Management and Policy Studies at the University of Pretoria where I teach Comparative Education and Policy Studies. Before then I had worked for the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape as a policy researcher, the Joint Education Trust as Projects officer and Grants Manager, as South African Institute for Distance Education as an Education Researcher. Being from a rural village, I also boast thirteen years of cattle herding experience. These cattle contributed towards payment of my university studies.

What made you apply for the post-doc at the Center? What was attractive about this particular program?

Chika: I completed my doctoral studies in higher education policy in South Africa in 2002, and shortly afterwards I saw the advert. Having done all my studies in South Africa, I had been contemplating having a break from South Africa by seeking a post-doctoral opportunity. When I saw this pro-

gramme advertised, I was attracted by its higher education focus which is my field, its focus on Africa universities for the first year, which I thought would give me an opportunity to learn about higher education in Africa which my studies in South Africa never exposed me to.

Adhiambo: I applied for a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center because it offered an opportunity for me to reflect on information that I had gathered as a researcher, a gender advocate and a teacher on the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment in the African context. I am concerned by the serious state of gender inequality and would like to contribute to opportunities for reflective thinking and argumentation on the subject at the university level. The program with its theme of Education and African Modernities: the Development of African Universities was an excellent framework against which to interrogate conventional wisdom on gender against the strong academic background of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I also wanted to be part of an academic community in the US since all my training had taken place at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and to forge links for research and advocacy with scholars and social scientists from other parts of the globe.

What is the research that you are currently carrying out through the post-doc? What do you see as the significance of this research? What are the implications of this research in terms of how African studies is constructed in the United States?

Adhiambo: My research project is entitled "The Gender Agenda in Africa: A Call for Alternative Models of Analysis." My focus is to see how to locate the case study of Phoebe Muga Asiyo of Kenya in a critique of mainstream gender strategies (the global way of knowing) as a way of gaining deeper understanding of specific contexts and demonstrating the need for alternative analytical frameworks.

There is an emerging knowledge base that is increasingly defining the world-view of gender work in Africa. This worldview tends to emphasize and rely on the production of global knowledge on gender equality and

women's empowerment for addressing societal needs. Yet effective transformation of gender relations does not occur in a cultural vacuum and so systems of action and interaction on gender equality must be seen against the socio-cultural realities of societies in which they occur. Although the international approach to gender studies on Africa as constructed in the US presents considerable opportunities, it also contains significant risks such as increasing inequality of views taken as the standards of interpretation and the loss of cultural identity and orientation, through uniformity.

In using the case study approach, I am trying to understand more fully and deeply how and why certain actions were taken, the nature of the context which contributed to the success or failure of her actions to challenge gender inequality, and that of individuals or groups with whom she interacted, and the skills that were required to resolve the particular gender problems that she addressed.

Chika: My research focus is on universities and African modernity and it explores three themes: (a) Globalization as an expression of Western Modernity and its impact on African development (Modernity); (b) Africa's own development initiatives as embodied in the African renaissance and NEPAD and the extent to which they are extensions of Western Modernity or an expression of African Modernity; (c) What implications do these developments (initiatives) have for the revitalization of universities in Africa, or conversely, how do universities respond to the challenges posed by NEPAD as an embodiment of western modernity and African modernity.

This project and the questions it poses are counter hegemonic. A question needs to be asked in terms of what agenda is African Studies in the US serving. Is it done to promote the US foreign policy or is it serving the countries wherein research is being conducted. This question is important since an answer to it will inform the way in which questions, methodologies and approaches to research in Africa are framed, and analysis conducted. It will inform the extent to which U.S. experts (professors) are open to perspectives and views of their graduate students and researchers from the African continent. An approach that is willing

to derive mutual benefit from both perspectives, and setting aside paternalistic approaches to African voices and perspectives, will go a long way towards enriching a better construction of African Studies in the US.

Describe your experiences with this post-doc. What are some of the greatest benefits? Some unexpected challenges?

Chika: Just being away from home and being able to look at the system of education I have from the outside, has been an interesting experience. The irony of the matter is that one had to come to the US to learn more and better about his continent.

Access to library facilities and the amount of resources available here has been phenomenal. It has been good to have an opportunity to exchange views and perspectives with some of the leading minds in different fields within the university. Visiting some graduate classes and sharing one's experiences with students has been one of the highlights. These exchanges have given me a new meaning of expertise. I have become more aware that I am expert on higher education in South Africa. The weather has been an unexpected challenge. It was for the first time to see a snow, needless to talk of three weeks of walking on a snow. I got sick of it.

Adhiambo: The greatest benefits with this post-doc have been the facilities and resources for research and academic development. I would single out the wide range of information available in the library and the highly qualified and experienced faculty with a ready disposition to engage in intellectual discussions and professional growth through workshops and other activities. A major challenge has been cultivating the right balance between theory and practice on gender and in particular, feminism; sorting out the large and varied information that I had gathered before the fellowship into a coherent piece, without losing my goal and focus and becoming a spokesperson for the voices from Africa whose experience with existing models suggest the need for alternatives.

At the end of this experience what will you take back with you (academic and otherwise)?

Adhiambo: A network of faculty and students committed to sustained review and reflection of the modes of inquiry in gender studies on and in Africa and how debates are being framed in academic discourse. A draft manu-

script, interest and/or commitment from a publisher and two articles submitted for publication to refereed journals. I came here as a scholar-advocate with a lot of experience on gender advocacy, activism and community involvement which I wanted to convert into scholarly energy and outputs. This fellowship and its location at the Center for African Studies has set me on track and with improved skills, knowledge and experience I look forward to joining my colleagues at home in a concerted effort to internationalize African perspectives on gender that have not been so visible within the global context.

Chika: I will take home a lot of confidence with regard to my development as an academic. I have learnt that despite apartheid oppression and limited resources, I have received good training that is able to stand its own against the best in the world. This is not credit to apartheid, but to scholars and mentors back home who were committed to my development. I am taking home good memories of working with a mentor (Professor Fazal Rizvi) who had respect for my intellectual capacity and growth and contributed to reinforcing that. The administrative staff at the Center for African Studies has been wonderful and played a big role in helping us to settle as well as to enjoy our stay here.

My eyes have been opened to what scholarship entails. There is culture of writing and publishing here, which needs to be developed and encouraged back home. My mind was blown by the amount of new books that are being published annually in different fields. This I encountered when I attended the African Studies Association conference in Boston in October, where I came across the biggest number of publishers ever; meeting under the same roof. The choice of new titles written in that year was mind boggling. In contrast to back home where a book published three or five years ago would still be regarded as new, here a book published a year ago might be regarded as old since new titles would have been published since its publication.

Socially, I have made friends with scholars and students from the other parts of the African continent. Given the restrictions in



Adhiambo Oduol (left) and Chika Schoole

movements of black people which the apartheid government put, black South Africans had limited opportunities to interact with fellow African citizens.

Any other comments?

Chika: I am taking knowledge and understanding of American football. I was always treated to free tickets by a friend who had access to them, and taught me the rules of the game within 15 minutes of the first game I attended. The principles are not different from Rugby football, which is a big sport in South Africa. My only disappointment was that despite going there to shout for the Illini, there not a single day I came from the match with a smile. I think I came during a bad year!

I will miss the friendly faces of Champaign-Urbana, the familiar phrases of the businesses and office staff on campus who would always greet one with welcoming phrase as you enter the door "good morning, what can I do for you today," or "how can I help you today."

Adhiambo: A rich atmosphere for professional and academic growth, certainly one that I will recommend highly to my colleagues back at home. The international character of UIUC is priceless since as they say at home, if you do not travel you will operate under the misguided notion that your mother's cooking is the best. In the area of gender in particular I do not think I can overemphasize the significance of maintaining unity in our diversity.

Dismantling the Myths of Africa in the 21st Century

The Sixth Annual African-in-Academics Student Association Conference

By Taje Biswalo

On March 1st, 2003, the African-in-Academics Student Association (AIASA) hosted the sixth annual graduate conference. The theme, Dismantling the Myths of Africa in the 21st Century, served two purposes. On the one hand, it spoke to the renewed interest in Africa within Western academia. On the other, it took into consideration current discourses on globalization and attempted to address the misconceptions associated with the continent.

A variety of disciplines involved in the study of Africa at UIUC and other institutions were represented on eleven panels. Presenters from UIUC as well as other universities participated in paper presentations. Reflecting the breadth and diversity of studying Africa, and reinforcing

the theme of the conference, papers from a variety of departments including, history, art and design, education policy studies, African studies, and political science, were represented on the panels.

Director of the Center for African Studies, Professor Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, gave the opening remarks and welcomed participants and guests to the conference. Following this, the panel presentations began. The panels, moderated by graduate students from the Center, reflected a high level of scholarship and papers were followed by thoughtful and invigorating debates. The conference also provided an excellent opportunity for Africanists from various departments, to interact and further discuss issues raised by the



From left: Peter Kagwanja, Dana Rush, Mahir Saul, Kwaku Korang, Alex Winter-Nelson, Paul Tiyambe Zeleza.

panelists. The conference, taking a more academic approach to Africa than previous conferences, was a bridge between various disciplines in the University. Reflecting this, in addition to the formal panels, a roundtable discussion, moderated by Peter Kagwanja, a doctoral candidate from the history department, and consisting of core faculty from the Center for African Studies at UIUC, also took place. The panel consisting of Kwaku Korang (English); Mahir Saul (anthropology); Paul Zeleza (history); Dana Rush (art history); and Alex Winter-Nelson (agriculture economics) discussed challenges and new directions in African studies. Following these events, the keynote address for the conference was delivered by Dr. Gilda Sheppard, an accomplished filmmaker and sociologist from The Evergreen State College, Tacoma-Washington. Sheppard spoke of her work as a filmmaker and sociologist. And how, through these areas, she works to uncover power relations present in issues of race, gender, class, sexuality and no-

tions of empire to encourage critical and creative thinking.

The organizing committee worked tirelessly to mobilize fellow graduate students and faculty members to make the conference a success. As a testament to these efforts, the conference was well attended by members of the UIUC community, including graduate and undergraduate students and various campus organizations such as the African Student Organization, the African American Student Organization and the Latino Student Organization. A successful conference is always a collaborative effort and to this end, the organizing committee owes many thanks to a number of departments, faculty, students and organizations for participating and making the conference a success. The committee is especially grateful to their sponsors: Student Organization Resource Fee, Center for African Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Departments of Anthropology, Geography, History, Sociology and the School of Art and Design, for providing support.



From left: Adrienne Pickett, Gilda Sheppard, and Eliza Johannes.

Mortenson Center for International Library Programs

By Barbara J. Ford

Carnegie Grant for the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at UIUC

The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, will work with seven universities and their libraries in Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda as part of the Carnegie Corporation's focus on The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa. The Partnership supports innovative programs that are revitalizing the universities and their libraries and equipping the universities to educate future country leaders and administrators. While everyone recognizes the potential impact of strong universities and robust libraries in the growth of nations it is also obvious that librarians need additional professional development to enable them to manage and implement sustainable changes. The Mortenson Center staff plan to consult with the Carnegie grantees about a needs assessment for their libraries and future training programs for library staff. The Mortenson Center specializes in providing short-term training for librarians from outside the United States. Founded in 1991, the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs has welcomed more than 600 librarians from 76 countries.

Staff from the Mortenson Center will visit the seven Carnegie grantees to assess the capabilities of their libraries. The review will focus on user access to information. The resources of the libraries in areas

such as technical infrastructure, delivery of services, ease of access to and strength of collections and databases, staff development training, bibliographic instruction for users, understanding of international standards, and related services will be reviewed. New technologies and their role in the library will be part of the assessment. Visit our website to learn more. www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson.

This assessment will be the first step in evaluating the need for a professional development program for grantees at the Mortenson Center for International Programs. With this current grant we will visit with university library staff from the following institutions: Ghana—University of Ghana Legon and University of Education at Winneba; Nigeria—Ahmadu Bello University, University of Jos, and Obafemi Owolowo University; Tanzania—Dar es Salaam University; and Uganda—Makerere University.

University libraries in all countries have an exciting and challenging future. They must learn quickly and efficiently to select, implement and manage new technologies to provide better access to information. Information today is no longer confined to a physical structure such as a library, and learning to provide access to virtual information is critical to the educational mission of the university. One way to help librarians transition into an open access information environment is to provide a professional development program that focuses on the new technologies and the skills needed to use them.



Barbara J. Ford, director of the Mortenson Center and Susan Schnuer, assistant director of the Center will oversee the project. Joyce Latham, a current instructor at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, will also work with the project. The Mortenson Center staff looks forward to the opportunity to work with these university libraries in Africa in identifying needed training and developing appropriate programs.

Kenya National Library Service and the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs

Fifteen librarians from seven countries (Kenya, Colombia, Russia, Japan, India, Nigeria, South Africa) were at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign this fall. An eight week program, including classes and library visits, was developed for the group. The Illinois State Library host program sent Mortenson Associates to spend time at public and academic libraries around the state as

The Mortenson Center and the Mortenson Distinguished Professorship seek to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians, regardless of geographic location or access to technology.

part of the professional development program. You can learn more about the Mortenson Center at www.library.uiuc.edu/mortenson.

Five of the program participants were directors of libraries in the Kenya National Library Service and sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as part of the public library revitalization project in Kenya. This project is upgrading book stock, providing access to information technology and establishing a development office. In addition advocacy, publicity and marketing for the libraries and staff training and development are being emphasized. You can visit the Kenya National Library Service web site at www.knls.or.ke to learn more about public libraries in Kenya.

Artist: Mona Hatoum
Traffic (with detail): 2002
 Suitcases, plastic, metal,
 and human hair.
 19" x 22.5" x 26.75"

Beyond East and West: Seven Transnational Artists

By David O'Brien

Beyond East and West: Seven Transnational Artists, a major exhibition on display at the Krannert Art Museum from January 23 through April 4, 2004, was organized by David O'Brien (art history) and David Prochaska (history). The artists in this exhibition came from the region stretching from Egypt to Pakistan, but they have lived much of their lives in Europe or the United States. The exhibition highlighted the ways in which these artists draw on their experience of displacement and knowledge of multiple cultures to offer alternative visions of the contemporary world and new kinds of intercultural understanding.

The featured artists were Jananne Al-Ani, Ghada Amer, Mona Hatoum, Y.Z. Kami, Walid Ra'ad, Michal Rovner and Shahzia Sikander. The Egyptian artist Ghada Amer had been featured in a number of major exhibitions devoted to African art, including *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994*. Each artist was represented by a choice selection of works, ranging from large installations and video projections to miniature paintings, prints and sculptures.

The exhibition was accompanied by a catalogue and an international conference exploring contemporary transnational artistic practice. The catalogue contains essays by O'Brien and Prochaska and statements by the artists. The conference, which took place on February 6th and 7th, included a number of major scholars of African art. Among them, Barbara Thompson, curator of African art at the Hood Museum, and Okwui Enwezor, a visiting professor of art history at Illinois and professor of art history at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Bon Coiffure: Hair Signs in West Africa," Featured Works XV in the Krannert Art Museum

By Dana Rush

Iran l'ewà obinrin

(The air adds to a woman's beauty)

—Yoruba proverb

In African art and life, hair has always been afforded utmost attention and care. Even the earliest European explorers were struck by the complexity and diversity of African hairstyles. There is an undeniable link between African coiffure and beauty. However, hairstyles are not restricted to the purely aesthetic; they may also serve to identify ethnic origin, gender, religious or political affiliation, social status, or profession of the wearer. A well-tended head is an important criterion for not only physical attractiveness, but also moral integrity.

La coiffure, or "hairdressing" is both an art and a vocation in Africa. While men's hairstyles tend to be relatively clear-cut, female hairstyles are generally more complex, often incorporating techniques of intricate braiding and threading. Certain particularly elaborate coiffures may take a hairdresser anywhere

from several hours to multiple days to complete. Sometimes several hairdressers work together on one hairstyle to help expedite the process.

In order for hairdressers to advertise their line of work, they commission hand painted hair signs, which display various popular and classical hairstyles. Often placed outside of a home, or at a market stand, these hair signs signal that a hairdresser is in or near the premises. The coiffures painted on a hair sign represent the repertoire of the hairstylist: Most women's hairstyles are fashioned into an assortment of crown-like designs either comprised of tight detailed plaiting of the hair into intricate designs, or the hair is bound with black thread into filaments that are gathered to form elaborate patterns. Braiding and binding may also be combined. Complex three-dimensional patterns are





Critical social awareness is elucidated in a sign titled: "Salon de Coiffure dit BABA." In this sign, three male and three female heads flank the quote "change moi la lame" (change the blade for me), which articulates the effort of this barber to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS through using a new razor for each client.

braided onto the scalp in low-relief, then offset with raised, threaded sections of hair.

Although hairdressing techniques are handed down from generation to generation, the introduction of Western hairdressing tools, techniques, and materials at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the influence of mass media has encouraged the adoption of foreign styles which now co-exist with centuries-strong traditional hairstyles. Another contemporary phenomenon in la coiffure is the "Beauty School" which is an educational option for young women. After formal training and apprenticeship, the student is awarded a diploma at an official graduation ceremony, whereupon, she commissions a new hair sign and starts her own hair salon, often in the courtyard of her family compound.

The hair signs on display in the Krannert Art Museum's featured Works gallery were all

collected along coastal Bénin and Togo during the 1990s. The signs were painted between the 1970s and the turn of the current century. Although the hair signs on display were made in a small geographic area, they encompass a wide range of diverse styles.

Among the many on display, there is a portable hair sign that was very likely made in Ghana, however it was collected just over the Ghana/Togo border in Lomé, Togo. The fact that the hairstyles are named in English is a clue to its origin in Anglophone Ghana. Once in Francophone Togo, the English names were painted over, but they were never renamed. Popular Ghanaian hairstyle names such as "Mike Tyson," "Baby Face," "Police," and "Soldier Cut" can still be deciphered under the paint. On the outside of this folding sign is a barber cutting his client's hair encircled by a red outline of

what appears to be an abstracted delineation of the continent of Africa.

Two-sided hair signs represent a newer trend in hairstyle advertisement. An example on display has one large, heart-shaped face painted on the front of the sign, which alerts a client that other designs will be available on the reverse side of the sign. In this example, the reverse side has "high fashion" hairstyles cut from magazines, usually printed in Nigeria. The client would then choose a style from the selection of contemporary photographed hairstyles. Currently, some hand-painted hair signs are being replaced by mass-produced posters, which reveal the most current styles. These posters are often glued on top of a hand-painted sign. As styles change, a new poster would be glued over last season's poster.

To complement the hair signs on display, there are a

handful of African masks and figures with intricately carved hairstyles from the Krannert Art Museum's permanent collection. Also from the permanent collection is a piece on display by internationally renowned contemporary artist, Carrie Mae Weems, titled "Went Looking for Africa and found it tightly woven in a woman's hair." Carrie Mae Weems produces art that addresses issues regarding African-American culture, which focus on the persuasive power of the visual image to identify and define perceptions of race, gender, and class. She often uses words in her work to give them a specific context and meaning. Here, in a concise statement, Weems transcends and unites any transatlantic cultural difference between Africa and African America through "hair."

The Sixth Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture: Dr. Bernard Magubane

By Adrienne Pickett

The Sixth Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture/ CAS/ Millercom Lecture, held on February 11, 2003, featured renowned scholar Dr. Bernard Magubane as guest speaker. His presentation, the "Role of the African States in the Struggle Against White Majority Rule In South Africa," addressed the role of the African Diaspora in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The annual lecture was jointly sponsored by the Center for Afro-American Studies & Research Program and the Center for African Studies.

Dr. Magubane, a sociologist, was a professor at the University of Connecticut at Hartford, in the department of Anthropology, from 1970 until 1997. He is the author of such books as *The Making of a Racist State: British Imperialism and the Union of South Africa, 1875-1910* (1996), and *The Ties That Bind: African American Consciousness of Africa* (1987). Presently, Dr. Magubane is a chief research specialist of the Human Sciences Council of South Africa.

Influence of Social Darwinism

From the start of Dr. Magubane's presentation, he established that 19th century pseudo-scientific theories of race, coupled with religious ideology, were causes that justified the colonization, domina-

tion, and subjugation of blacks in South Africa in the minds of Europeans. Theories related to Social Darwinism lay at the foundation of brutal treatment of Africans, in general, from the mid-19th century onward until very recent times. Religious ideology played a role in the colonization of Africans, in general, and South Africans, in particular, as white Christians asserted their presence on the "dark Continent." In Dr. Magubane's words, "no system of oppression insulted and offended black people of the world over than white minority rule and the oppression of South Africa under the name of apartheid."

Linking the struggles of black South Africans with those of African-Americans, Dr. Magubane explored the similarities between the two groups. The affinities between South African struggles and those of African-Americans is rooted in the idea of racial inequality, which manifested in post-slavery laws that led to the disenfranchisement of blacks in the United States.

Segregation and Apartheid

Central to Dr. Magubane's lecture was a discussion of the impact that U.S. segregation laws had on South African policies towards blacks. Dr. Magubane built upon the point that British and American inter-

ests, being one in the same of profiting off of South African minerals and diamond production, were similar. As South Africans were denied rights to their own land, experiencing genocidal wars, African-Americans in the southern United States lived under Jim Crow laws and were essentially denied their rights to the same civil privileges that white Americans enjoyed.

A specific example of which Dr. Magubane spoke clarified the similarity of interests between England and America, revealed in the selection of Rhodes scholars in 1907. The African-American philosophy student from Harvard, Alain Locke, was selected and later invited to a banquet held in Washington D.C. in honor of the recipients. Locke was later uninvited to this very Rhodes scholars dinner. The logic supporting this decision was that white Americans, from the southern United States, would be offended. Meanwhile, Oxford University received news of Locke's award and were, themselves, offended. Locke received the funds abstracted from the gold and diamond mines.

Movements Towards Liberation

The Pan-Africanist movement was, "the first challenge to global Anglo Saxon white supremacy," in Dr. Magubane's

words. Writers, ranging from W.E.B. DuBois and Edward Blyden, spearheaded the movement, challenging white ideas and policies on Africans and African-Americans. Dr. Magubane traced the political events leading up to the Civil Rights movements in the United States as well as the events that have lead up to the founding of liberation movements in South Africa. He noted that by the end of apartheid and the establishment of black rule, people of the world applauded the courage, endurance, resistance, and spirit of the South African masses.

At his conclusion, Dr. Magubane remarked that Freedom Park and Museum in Pretoria, South Africa will commemorate the Freedom Fighters, who died in their struggle against white minority rule in South Africa. Stones from every country, in which Freedom Fighters died, will be collected and preserved at the site. His discussion ended with an affirmation that Africans and African Americans are tied together by their similar struggles with European powers; they were able to organize and facilitate change in their respective countries.



left: Prof. Magubane and Prof. Daria Roithmayr

right: Prof. Daria Roithmayr, Prof. Magubane, Prof. Dianne Pinderhughes and Prof. Ken Salo (standing)



gale
gale

Center for African Studies 2003 Spring Symposium Nature as Local Heritage in Africa

By Tom Bassett

The 2003 spring symposium brought together an interdisciplinary group of North American, European, and African scholars to address a set of questions linking natural heritage, territory, and identity in Africa.

Natural heritage refers to the ecosystems, landscapes, species, and natural products that are subject to multiple forms of conservation, protection, and transmission. Common forms of nature conservation are national parks, World Heritage Sites, and biosphere reserves. These spaces of conservation and protection are frequently imposed upon and resisted by farmers and herders whose livelihoods depend on access to the resources now placed off limits. Conference participants explored alternative bases of resource conservation, particu-

larly local interests and initiatives that join natural patrimony, territory, and identity in potentially innovative ways. Four research questions structured the paper presentations and discussions. What elements of biodiversity are privileged in the term heritage? What actors, processes, and strategies are involved in constructing natural heritage and the spaces of conservation? What are the social and environmental effects of these processes? What innovations in the preservation of biodiversity have emerged in Africa?

Symposium participants had the opportunity to reflect on a local example of natural heritage making during a field trip to Paxton and Loda where prairie remnants found in pioneer cemeteries are protected within the Illinois Nature



Above: Symposium participants visiting Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve in Paxton, IL. Left: Prof. Sara Berry of Johns Hopkins University, presenting a paper at the 29th annual spring symposium.

Presentations focused on these research questions:

- What elements of biodiversity are privileged in the term heritage?
- What actors, processes, and strategies are involved in constructing natural heritage and the spaces of conservation?
- What are the social and environmental effects of these processes?
- What innovations in the preservation of biodiversity have emerged in Africa?

Preserve system. One African participant asked if Native Americans were consulted on prairie restoration and was disappointed with the response. After a copious country lunch in Gilman at which our French quests spoke eloquently on the sweetness of Bud Light (!), we traveled to the Fisher Farmer Grain and Coal Cooperative to meet with cooperative members. In the shadow of towering grain elevators, we posed many questions on the political ecological forces driving the transformation of the Grand Prairie into the Corn Belt. One cooperative member joked that the reason why the brims of farmers' caps are curved is from

looking into their mail boxes for government subsidy checks.

The symposium was jointly sponsored by the Center for African Studies at UIUC and the Development Research Institute (IRD) based in Paris, France. Symposium co-sponsors included the Environmental Council, International Programs and Studies, the United States Department of Education, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and the Department of Geography. Conference organizers Tom Bassett (UIUC) and Marie-Christine Cormier-Salem (IRD) are currently editing a volume of selected papers presented at the meetings.

st speaker ants 2-04

Art History
Guest: Okwui Enwezor

Evelyne Accad, French Department
Guest: Theresa Kuoh-Moukoury,
"Francophone women's writing"

David O'Brien, Art History
Guest: Professor John McCall,
Southern Illinois University, "The rise
of popular cinema in Nigeria"

Michael Goldman, Sociology
Guest: Elaine Salo, "(Un)wrapping the
transition: Racial and gendered identities
amongst 'coloured' township
youth in post-apartheid South Africa"

Dana Rush and Jonathan Fineberg, Art
History
Guest: Robert Farris Thompson,
"Contemporary art in the Black
Diaspora"

Eyamba G. Bokamba, Department of
Linguistics
Guest: Dr. Salikoko S. Mufwene

Illinois

fellowships

2002-2004

The following faculty members and graduate students were awarded travel grants and research support during 2002-2004. Congratulations to them all!

Faculty Conference Grants

Jean Allman, History department/Center for African Studies

Panel chair, "Gendering African Modernities" at the African Studies Association Meeting

Stanley Ambrose, Department of Anthropology

"Influence of trophic level on bone oxygen isotope ratios" at the Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Tom Bassett, Department of Geography
"Containing the Donzow: The politics of scale in Cote d'Ivoire" at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association

Merle L. Bowen, Department of Political Science
"Global discourses, local communities and land rights in the global south" at the International Political Science Association World Congress

Donald Crummey, Department of History
"Environmental stress and famine vulnerability in Ethiopia: The case study of Kefu Qan, 1888-1893" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History

Ezekiel Kalipeni, Geography Department
"Teaching environmental education about Africa to advanced undergraduate students in geography at the University of Illinois" at the Annual Conference of the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education

Dana Rush, Department of Art History
"Transatlantica: Haiti's Ezili Freda in Benin, West Africa" at the 5th Colloquium of KOSNABA and "Eternal Potential: Popular Culture in Vodun Art and Thought" at the Popular Culture in Africa Conference organized by the Stanford-Berkeley Joint Center for African Studies

Ken Salo, Department of NRES
"Reproducing racial inequalities: global rights discourses and local peasant struggles for distributional justice during South Africa's transition from white minority rule" at the Law and Society Annual Meeting and "Contested legalities during South Africa's

transition from white minority rule: law, race and peasant struggles for distributional justice in its marine fisheries production process" at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting

Summer International Travel and Research Grants

Abbas Benmamoun, Department of Linguistics

Title: Language diversity and language policy: the case of Morocco; *Country visited*: Morocco

Ezekiel Kalipeni, Department of Geography
Title: HIV/AIDS in Malawi: a gendered and vulnerability analysis; *Country visited*: Malawi

Ibulatimu Kakoma, College of Veterinary Studies in collaboration with Dr U. Minga at the Sokoine University at Morogoro
Title: A microbiological study on the food safety and security-situation in Tanzania with special emphasis on maternal and child health; *Country visited*: Tanzania

Faranak MirafTAB, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning
Title: Grassroots women's strategies to access shelter and services in Cape Town, South Africa; *Country visited*: South Africa

Helen Neville, Educational Psychology/Afro-American Studies and Research Program
Title: Cultural aspects of the post-rape recovery process of Black women in the United States to Black women in the Diaspora; *Country visited*: Ghana

Kathy A. Perkins, Department of Theatre
Title: The Middle Passage: Exploring Slavery through Theatre from an African Perspective; *Country visited*: South Africa

Daria Roithmayr, College of Law
Title: Globalization and Inequality; *Country visited*: South Africa

Ken Salo, Department of NRES
Title: Public power and privilege in a polarizing polity: How does the regulation of fisheries extraction matter for South Africa's transition?; *Country visited*: South Africa

Summer Collaborative Fellowship

Merle Bowen, Department of Political Science and *Monica M. White*, Department of Sociology, Southern Illinois University
Title: New social movements and gender in Africa in the era of globalization; *Country visited*: South Africa

Ezekiel Kalipeni, Department of Geography and *Njeri Mbugu*, Department of Sociology, Illinois Wesleyan University
Title: A critical review of prevention efforts in the fight against HIV in Africa; *Country visited*: Malawi

Course Development Grants

Faranak MirafTAB, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Course: Seminar in international development planning: Urban infrastructure development and urban livelihoods

Ken Salo and Andrea Bohn, College of ACES
Course: Social inequality and food security in polarized South African communities

Graduate Student Travel Grants

Maurice Amutabi, Department of History
"Fiction, imagination and colonial history: Revisiting the debate on the writing of colonial history and the rise of "posts" in Africa" at the SORAC International Conference

Sylvia Bruinders, School of Music
"Performance as Place: How musical practices in Cape Town recreate a displaced community" at the Annual Conference for the Society of Ethnomusicology

Vivian Dzokoto, Department of Psychology

Ibrahim Ndoye, Department of French

Mustafa Mughazy, Department of Linguistics

Adrienne Pickett, Center for African Studies/Department of Art History
"De-primitivizing African art in the modern context" at the Cultures in Motion: The African Connection Conference

Nicole Tami, Department of Anthropology



Okwui Enwezor, Visiting Professor, Art History Program

The Art History Program is delighted to announce the appointment

Okwui Enwezor as Visiting Professor. Enwezor was a curator at the Art Institute of Chicago and is currently a member of the Curatorial Board of the PS1 Center for Contemporary Art, New York, and Visiting Professor of Art History at the University of Pittsburgh. He served as the Artistic Director of Documenta XI, perhaps the most influential exhibition of contemporary art today, in 2002, and as Artistic Director of 2nd Johannesburg Biennale in 1997. He has curated such major exhibitions as *In/sight: African Photographers, 1940-Present* (Guggenheim Museum, New York) and *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994* (Museum Villa Stuck, Munich; Gropius Bau/Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; PS1 Center for Contemporary Art/Museum of Modern Art, New York).

Enwezor was born and grew up in Nigeria before moving to the United States to study political science at Jersey City State

College in 1982. During the 1990s he emerged as one of the most perceptive and original critics of new art, devoting his attention especially to African and African diasporic art. His articles have appeared in *Flash Art*, *Grand Street*, *Atlantica*, *Cream: Contemporary Art and Culture*, *Third Text*, *The International Review of African*

American Art and numerous edited volumes and exhibition catalogues. With Olu Oguibe he edited *Reading the Contemporary: African Art from Theory to the Market Place* (London: INIVA and Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999).

In 1994 founded *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, the first major

scholarly journal devoted to the study and exposure of contemporary art by Africans and people of African descent. *Nka* has not only devoted articles to well-known artists, but has also introduced young artists who have since gone on to become leading figures. Enwezor has also achieved recognition for his poetry.

welcome



Magloire Somé: Fulbright Scholar

The Center is delighted to co-host visiting Fulbright

scholar, Magloire Somé. Dr. Somé is faculty at the University of Ouagadougou and is the author of a book in print on the history of the Catholic Church in Burkina Faso. He is currently working during his Fulbright Fellowship on a parallel history of Protestant churches in Burkina Faso and their relationship to Islam.

Dr. Somé received his Doctorate in History from the University of Paris-Sorbonne in 1993. Since then has presented and published widely on religion and culture in Africa. His most recent publication *The Christianization of Western Upper Volta: Missionary Action versus African Reactions, from 1927 to 1960* is described by Dr. Somé as not only a survey of christianization in west Burkina Faso, as performed by the congregation of the White Fathers founded by cardinal Lavignerie,

but also as an analysis of missionary action in Africa.

Through this most recent research, he demonstrates that evangelization, in a context of oppressive colonial rule, constituted a subversion of the colonial order and gave rise to confrontations between colonial authorities and missionaries. Dr. Somé's primary focus is the religious rivalry between Catholics and Anglo-Saxon Protestants that led to the rise of French nationalism, as well as the Christian-Muslim rivalry that gave rise to the political awakening of Islam. He posits that the social and moral changes brought by the White Fathers offended Muslims sensibilities, on the one hand and, on the other, created cultural conflicts when those who followed ancestral traditions reacted violently against missionary action that created new values while playing a major role in destabilizing the social system.

Beginning in 1935, France, who had previously maintained

a neutral posture towards various religious faiths, began to take the religious question into account in a serious way, culminating in the development of a positive religious policy in the wake of World War II. During the decolonization period, the White Fathers, in response to the political awakening of Islam, the rise of several Communist-inspired emancipation movements, and social changes that were often harmful for evangelization, were forced to rethink the apostolate by emphasizing its educational aspects.

Dr. Somé's work is an important contribution to African Studies in general and more specifically, to the debate concerning the idea of actual collaboration between colonial administrators and missionaries. Dr. Somé presented his research in a roundtable organized by the Center for African studies on April 21st, 2004.

From the Bookshelf

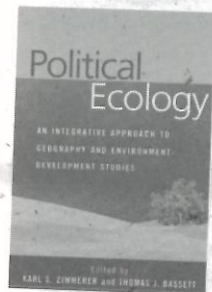
African Studies proudly boasts of the caliber and productivity of its core and affiliate faculty, students and alumni. The following publications certainly demonstrate these strengths.

Political Ecology: An Integrative Approach to Geography and Environment-Development Studies

edited by Karl S. Zimmerer and Thomas J. Bassett, Publisher??

This volume offers a unique, integrative perspective on the political and ecological

processes shaping landscapes and resource use across the global North and South. Twelve carefully selected case studies demonstrate



how contemporary geographical theories and methods can contribute to understanding key environment-and-development issues and working toward effective policies. Topics addressed include water and biodiversity resources, urban and national resource planning, scientific concepts of resource management, and ideas of nature and conservation in the context of globalization. Giving particular attention to evolving conceptions of nature-society interaction and geographical scale, an introduction and conclusion by the editors provide a clear analytical focus for the volume and summarize important developments and debates in the field.

The After Life is Where We Come From. Chicago

Alma Gottlieb, University of Chicago Press

When a new baby arrives among the Beng people of West Africa, they see it not as being born, but as being reincarnated after a rich life in a previous world. Far from being a *tabula rasa*, a Beng infant is thought to begin its life filled with spiritual knowledge. How do these beliefs affect the way the Beng rear their children? In this unique and engaging ethnography of babies, Alma Gottlieb explores how religious ideology affects every aspect of Beng childrearing practices—from bathing infants to protecting them from



disease to teaching them how to crawl and walk—and how widespread poverty limits these practices. A mother of two, Gottlieb includes moving discussions of how her experiences among the Beng changed the way she saw her own parenting. Throughout the book she also draws telling comparisons between Beng and Euro-American parenting, bringing home just how deeply culture matters to the way we all rear our children.

Science and Technology in Africa

Ibulaimu Kakoma & Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, African World Press

Africa has been grappling with the question of modernity and modernization for a long time. This quest for modernity, one



that is at once global and distinctly African, intensified during the twentieth century, a period that was marked by colonialism,

decolonization, and independence, and has become more urgent in the new millennium.

Modernity is a profoundly intellectual, cultural, political and economic process and project. It entails, among other things, the ascendancy of science and technology for the productive mobilization and management of resources. In an increasingly knowledge-based global economy, the power of scientific and technological skills is more important than ever.

HIV and AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology

Ezekiel Kalipeni (Ed) et. al, Blackwell Publishers

HIV and AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology seeks to shift the predominant under-

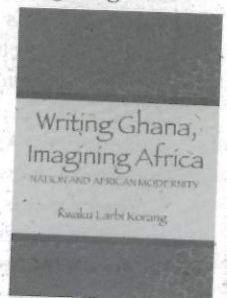


standings generated by biomedical and epidemiological research, recognizing that HIV transmission in Africa is a complex and regionally-specific phenomenon rooted in local economies, deepening poverty, migration, gender, war, global economies, and cultural politics. International contributors from across the social sciences further our understanding of AIDS by looking at the epidemic from angles often inadequately explored. Ultimately, the underlying message of every contributor to this book is that AIDS is not going to diminish in Africa until social, gender, and economic inequities are addressed in meaningful ways.

Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa: Nation and African Modernity

Kwaku Larbi Korang, Rochester University of Rochester Press

Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa changes dominant ideas about Africa's relations with modernity and the global history of nationalism by recovering, and bringing fresh interpretations to, a modern genealogy of African nationalist theory. This is done by examining the writing of intellectuals from preindependence Ghana from the latter half of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth, writers who operated self-consciously in a



Pan-African ideological framework. By confronting the concept of "the African Nation" under the colonial order, the book argues, these writer-intellectuals were also confronting modernity in ways that would be important to the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. *Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa* is affiliated with recent revisionary works that have demonstrated the conceptual and existential validity of "alternative modernities."

Bringing the Empire Home

Zine Magubane, Chicago: University of Chicago Press

How did South Africans become black? How did the idea of blackness influence conceptions

of disadvantaged groups in England such as women and the poor, and vice versa? *Bringing the Empire Home* tracks colonial images of blackness

from South Africa to England and back again to answer questions such as these. Before the mid-1800s, black Africans were considered savage to the extent that their plight mirrored England's internal Others—women, the poor, and the Irish. By the 1900s, England's minority groups were being defined in relation to stereotypes of black South Africans. These stereotypes, in turn, were used to justify both new capitalist class and gender hierarchies in

England and the subhuman treatment of blacks in South Africa. Bearing this in mind, Zine Magubane considers how marginalized groups in both countries responded to these racialized representations. Revealing the often overlooked links among ideologies of race, class, and gender, *Bringing the Empire Home* demonstrates how much black Africans taught the English about what it meant to be white, poor, or female.

Globalization and Culture

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, Rowman & Littlefield

Is there cultural life after the clash of civilizations and global McDonaldization? Pieterse argues that what is taking place is the formation of a global melange, a culture of hybridization. From this perspective on globalization, conflict may be mitigated and identity preserved if transformed. The book offers a comprehensive treatment of hybridization through a series of 14 conceptual tables embellished by textual analysis laced with tantalizing examples from around the world. This historically deep and geographically wide approach to globalization is just what is needed on the brink of more war bred by cultural misunderstanding.



Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, Fall 2002 – December 2003

An asterisk designates instructors ranked as outstanding by their students.

- Evelyn Accad FR 210, 443
- Jonathan Allen POL S 296, 396
- Jean Allman HIST 493
- Nicole Anderson HIST 152
- Elabbas Benmamoun LING 403
- Merle Bowen POL S 345
- Steven Brechin SOC 482
- Fatoumata Coulibaly AFRST 202
- Donald Crummey HIST 386, 201
- Leon Dash, JOUR 380
- Roberto Docampo VET 413
- Hadi Esfahani ECON 328, 427
- Alain Fresco FR 400
- Brent Henderson AFRST 314, 333
- Tholani Hlongwa LING 251, 252
- Jose Hualde LING 416
- Kwaku Korang ENG 285, 355, 370
- Jane Kuntz FR 336
- Laura Lawson LA 370
- Isidore Lobnibe AFRO 100
- Wembo Lombela AFRST 313
- Zine Magubane SOC 400
- Mustafa Mughazy LING 210, 211
- Kareem Muhammad SOC 100
- Ngamboko Muzinga* AFRST 211, 313, 314
- Margaret Njeru LING 231, 232
- David O'Brien ART 340
- Cynthia Oliver DANCE 260, 360, 451
- Dana Rush ART 210
- Ken Salo NRES 399
- Mouna Sari* LING 201, 202
- Sarina Singhi LING 303
- Alain Lawo Sukam PORT 214, 220
- Zoreh Sullivan, ENG 247, 361
- Burton Swanson ACE 199
- Nicole Tami ANTRHO 230
- Alex Winter-Nelson ACE 311
- Abderrahmane Zouhir* LING 201

FACULTY NEWS

Evelyne Accad attended the "Gender in the Mediterranean: Emerging Discourses and Practices" in Cyprus, organized by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies and the British council, from the 5th to the 7th of March, Intercollege, Nicosia, Cyprus, where she gave a paper on "Excision: Practices, Discourses and Feminist Commitment," for a panel on "Body Politics."

In addition to his book *Political Ecology* (featured in the New Books section), **Tom Bassett** (Geography) had two new publications in 2003: "Nord Musulum and Sud Chrétien: Les moules médiatiques de la crise ivoirienne," [The Muslim North and the Christian South: Geographical Templates in Newspaper Reports of the Côte d'Ivoire's Political Crisis] *Afrique Contemporaine* No. 206 (Summer 2003), pp. 13-28, and "Dangerous Pursuits: Hunter Associations (donzo ton) and National Politics in Côte d'Ivoire," *Africa*, 73:1: 1-30.

Ezekiel Kalipeni (Geography) together with Dr. Njeri Mbugu (Sociology, Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington) received \$2000 for their Collaborative Research Project titled "A Critical Review of Prevention Efforts in the Fight Against HIV in Africa." From this research, several presentations and publications have emerged. Susan Craddock (University of Minnesota), Njeri Mbugu (Wesleyan University) and Ezekiel Kalipeni (University of Illinois) "Dying for Dollars: Critical Perspectives on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment in Eastern and Southern Africa." *Norwegian Journal of Geography* (forthcoming, June 2004). This

paper will also be published by invitation in the special issue on HIV/AIDS in Africa of the *Norwegian Journal of Geography*.

Alfred Kagan, published "The Transformation of South African Librarianship" in *Innovation: A Journal for Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa* no. 25 (December 2002) and was also the editor for that issue. "The Transformation of South African Librarianship: Survey Results and Analysis of Current Opinions" was also published simultaneously in *Progressive Librarian*, no. 22 (Summer 2003): 1-37. In addition he also published "The U. S. Peace Movement: Lessons from a Local Case" *ACAS Bulletin*, no. 66 (Winter 2003/2004): 25-28. [ACAS is the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars].

David O'Brien was co-curator, Beyond East and West: Seven Transnational Artists (Krannert Art Museum, Jan 23-Mar 28, 2004; traveling to Williams College, Dartmouth College, Louisiana State University) and co-organizer, Beyond East and West: Art in a Transnational World (Feb 6-7, 2004). O'Brien was also co-author of *Beyond East and West: Seven Transnational Artists* (Urbana:

Tom Bassett was promoted to Full Professor at the Department of Geography.

Zine Magubane was promoted to Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology.

Congratulations to them both!

Krannert Art Museum, and Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004).

In addition to *Globalization and Culture* (featured in the New Books section), published in August 2003, **Jan Nederveen Pieterse's** book *Globalization or Empire?* New York, Routledge was published this year. In addition, he also had several articles published, including "Neoliberal Empire" in *Theory Culture & Society*, 21, 3, 2004, "Can the United States correct itself?" *Cultural Studies—Critical Methodologies*, 4, 2, 2004, "The trouble with hegemony: Hegemonic destabilization theory" *Asian Review* 2004, special issue "The Question of Hegemony and Modernities South: What's new?" *American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, 2004.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Aimee Johansen Alnet and her husband Stéphane Alnet have a new baby son, Paul Johansen Alnet, born June 13, 2003. In 2003, Aimee also had her paper "A History of Comorian Linguistics," published in *Trends in African Linguistics: Linguistic Typology and Representation of African Languages*. At the end of June Aimee, together with Stéphane and Paul, will be travel to Mayotte for a year for her dissertation research, which will be a grammar of the Bantu language spoken there (the Shimaore dialect of Comorian). Mayotte is one of the Comoro islands and is a French departmental collectivity.

Maimouna Barro, her husband Bechir and their daughter Deffa Mariam, welcomed a baby girl, Khadija, to their family in May 2003.

Patricia Clark (history, PhD '02) was a visiting assistant professor at Cornell University in 2002-03, where she taught courses in African history and popular culture. In 2003, she received Cornell's Knight Award for Writing Exercises for excellence in designing assignments aimed at improving student writing. Beginning in 2004-05, she will be an assistant professor of history at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, where she will be teaching courses in African and European history.

Nicolas Cook (African studies '98, Library Information Sciences '00) traveled to Sierra Leone in August to look at socio-political progress and

security as the UN peacekeeping mission (UNAMSIL) draws down. He also visited Liberian refugee camps, talked to UNAMSIL officials, including Daniel Opande, who now leads the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and recently put out a new report on Liberia's transition to peace.

In 2003, **Kevin Etienne-Cummings** (African Studies) successfully defended his master's thesis, titled "Discoveries and Realizations: Race and the Meaning of Home" and is currently working in the Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of Delaware.

Laurie Goering (journalism/African studies '86) the *Chicago Tribune's* Africa correspondent, and a former African languages fellow at the U of I, has a new daughter, Grace Isabella Goering Robinson, born Dec. 2, 2003.

Amanda Gouws' book *Overcoming Intolerance in South Africa: Experiments in Democratic Persuasion* Cambridge University Press, 2003, co-authored book with Jim Gibson was awarded the Alexander George award from the International Society of Political Psychology for the best book in Political Psychology.

Bertin Kouadio (African Studies, '00) carried out dissertation research in Côte d'Ivoire through a grant received from the West African Research Center. His fellowship with the Florida/West Africa Linkage Institute has also been renewed

for the second academic year. This summer Bertin will teach two courses: "Critical issues in African development" and "Introduction to INR" for new majors and electives. Bertin recently got engaged to Dr. Monya Ruffin.

Anita Keller (African Studies) finished her degree in 2003 and working with the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation on their Sports for Life program.

Jenny Murphy (minor, African Studies) is now a graduate student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Maxim Matusevich (history, Ph.D. '01; African Studies AM'95) is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Drury University. In Fall Matusevich received the 2004 received Drury Faculty Award for Scholarship and Leadership. His most recent publications include *No Easy Row for a Russian Hoe: Ideology and Pragmatism in Nigerian-Soviet relations, 1960-1991*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2003, "Globalization in the Atlantic: Reparation and Repair," in Toyin Falola, ed., *History of the Atlantic World*, Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2004 "The Biafran War and Nigerian Response to the Soviet Union," *Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 28, nos. 1-2 (2002), and *Africa in Russia, Russia in Africa: 300 Years of Encounters*, vols. 1 and 2, Trenton NJ: Africa World Press (forthcoming).

Mwenda Ntarangwi, (anthropology Ph.D. '98) is a new faculty member at the Department

Send Us Your News!

We would love to hear from you. Please send the following information to kumis@uiuc.edu or send by snail mail to: Editor, Habari, Center for African Studies, 210 International Studies Building, University of Illinois, 910 S. Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820, USA.

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of Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work at Augustana College, Illinois.

Shana Wills finished her studies in 2003, and is the Policy and Program Liaison for Policy and immigrant and refugee issues at Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights in Chicago.

Mattito Watson (African Studies, Community Health '00) is continuing working with refugee youth in the Republic of Guinea through Save the Children. In May 2003, Mattito presented a paper using his project in Guinea as a case study for possible responses to issues of children in conflict at the "Children in the Crossfire: Prevention and Rehabilitation of Child Soldiers" conference sponsored by the Department of Labor.

Stephen Wooten (1997, Anthropology) recently published: "Where Is My Mate? The Importance of

Complementary in Bamana Art" in *See the Music, Hear the Dance*, "All For One, One For All: Household Economy on the Mande Plateau (Mali)" in an edited volume on history, society and economy in the Mande region of West Africa, and "A Local Graft Takes Hold: The Political Ecology of Commercial Horticultural Production in Rural Mali" in *African Environment and Development: Rhetoric, Programs, Realities*. In September 2003 he was an invited speaker in Indiana University's "African Expressive Culture Now!" lecture series and in February 2004 he was an invited presenter at the "Movement R/Evolution Dialogues: Contemporary Performance In and Of Africa" symposium at the University of Florida.



Center for African Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Champaign, IL 61820

Letter From Former Director Paul T. Zeleza

I wish to thank all of you for the wonderful eight years that I have spent on this great campus and in the twin cities of Urbana-Champaign. This has been a period of tremendous professional and personal growth for me. When I was recruited from Canada in 1995 I had little familiarity with or understanding of area, international, or interdisciplinary studies. Over the past eight years I have come to appreciate more keenly the intellectual, institutional and even ideological possibilities and perils of international and interdisciplinary scholarship in the American academy.



Collectively, we embarked on several new programs and activities, building on the excellent assets and traditions established since the Center was founded in 1970. Particularly exciting are the various extra-curricula programs, including those organized solely by the Center—Fall Colloquium, Annual Graduate Student Conference, Interdisciplinary Seminar Series, African Film Series—or those organized jointly with other programs—Joint Area Centers' Symposium (with the other UIUC area cen-

ters) and the Annual W.E.B. Dubois Lecture Series (with the Afro-American Studies and Research Program)—and those organized with Chicago-based universities and institutions—the annual African Business Conference and the annual African Media Workshop. It was in this spirit of expanding the intellectual and institutional boundaries of African studies that we transformed the Center's flagship conference, the Annual Spring Symposium, into a collaborative venture with different colleges at UIUC (e.g. Life and Applied Life Studies, Law, Engineering, and Education) and continental and regional scholarly and professional associations in Africa (e.g. African Academy of Sciences, Association of African

Universities, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, etc).

I have no doubt that the Center will continue to face the structural and episodic challenges critically and creatively and seize the opportunities of international studies in the post-9/11 era and maintain its reputation as one of the finest African and area studies programs in the nation. I feel privileged for having had the rare opportunity to serve as director of the Center from 1995. I will always cherish your cooperation, support, and friendship. Thank you for having made the past eight years among the most memorable in my professional and personal life. I wish you all the best.