

2005-2006

## Conference Sets its Sights on Collaboration and Information Gap

By Courtney Scheskie

This year's fall colloquium, *African Architectural History Today*, offered not only a venue for conversation, but also the exciting prospect of a published work. From the collaboration at the colloquium and continued correspondence, the participants have set their sights on a volume devoted solely to African architecture.

The idea for this colloquium actually began in February 2005 when conference participants discussed the lack of a textbook strictly devoted to African architecture. Though the world's oldest architecture is in Africa, the continent is excluded in research that is entrenched in a Eurocentric view.

"It really is shameful," remarks Dr. Rebecca Ginsburg, editor of the proposed volume and assistant professor in landscape architecture. "I can pull together sources on African architecture for classes because I know where to look, but other professors without that knowledge have a hard time including it in their classes without a text." Consequently,



Conference coordinator Rebecca Ginsburg and speaker Hannah le Roux.

there was a decision to fill the gap and work to write such a textbook.

The participants in the fall colloquium represent some of the contributors to the volume, though Dr. Ginsburg hopes for participation from almost all scholars who research architecture and Africa. The goal with the

## Human Rights for People with HIV/AIDS in South Africa: Zackie Achmat Speaks on Campus

By Jamie McGowan



Zackie Achmat talks to students about about HIV/AIDS and TAC's work.

The human rights, activism, and struggles of people with HIV/AIDS were the focus of Zackie Achmat's visit to Champaign-Urbana this spring. Zackie, the chairperson and founder of South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), visited the campus to deliver a CAS/MillerComm lecture. His stop also included class exchanges, engagement with the media, area youth, the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual Concerns, and community members involved in local AIDS organizations. Throughout his visit, he acknowledged the people "who used their bodies, their voices, their lives to stand up and be counted as citizens" in the struggle for the rights to AIDS treatment and HIV prevention.

Zackie began his campuswide lecture by asking the audience to think about our future as one that embraces a pro-freedom, pro-working class, pro-poor agenda. We would then benefit from first looking at our traditions, such as those traced in Adam Hochschild's recent book, *Bury the Chains*. Zackie explained that this examination of the abolitionist movement in England was one that

...brought together Quakers, workers, students, women, society ladies, business people, members of parliament, and above all former slaves. And he [Hochschild] says about this group, 'This small group of people not only helped to end one of the worst injustices in the most power empires of its times; they also forged virtually every important tool used by citizens' movements today.' ... So when I speak to you today about access to health care and access to AIDS drugs, that is the tradition that we in the Treatment Action Campaign base ourselves on. ... A tradition that says that people's lives are valuable wherever they are.

Zackie traced the key obstacles to AIDS treatment. One of the greatest obstacles, he noted, is the global pharmaceutical industry that reaps extraordinary profits, and uses patenting laws to protect its rights to this extreme level of profiteering while benefiting from public funds. To get the drug companies to lower its prices, TAC members testified before Parliament, imported bioequivalent drugs from Thailand that were 1.7 Rand versus the 120 Rand that Pfizer



Jean Allman

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

In common with many of our colleagues, not only at U. of I. but also across the country, fall semester was devoted to preparing our proposal for the U.S. Department of Education Title VI competition for National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies funding. For those of you who have gone through the process, you know that it requires the amassing of an incredible amount of data related to our combined missions of teaching, research, and outreach. Of course, one of the benefits of these sorts of exercises in quantification is that you end up with a much clearer idea of your strengths. We were delighted to see, for example, that at the end of our 35<sup>th</sup> year as a National Resource Center, we have a talented faculty and professional staff of 92 (including 41 whose research and/or teaching on Africa exceeds 50 percent) that is housed in more than 34 academic units. In the last Title VI cycle, faculty obtained over \$13 million in external research funds and published more than 40 books. In addition, U. of I. is now offering more than 200 non-language African studies courses every year, of which nearly one-third are devoted entirely to Africa, and our Program in African Languages is offering an average of 46 courses per year in Arabic, Bamana, Lingala, Swahili, Wolof, and Zulu. It remains one of the largest in the country, with 2004-2005 enrollments nearing 750! As *Habari* goes to press, we have just learned that our strengths in African language teaching have again been confirmed. The foreign language area studies component of our Title VI proposal has received full funding and we expect to be able to award up to 16 FLAS fellowships for the upcoming academic year, as well as five summer fellowships in 2007.

Despite the heavy pressures of proposal preparation in the fall, we were able to offer a wonderful selection of events through our regular weekly programming and to host a terrific fall colloquium on "African Architectural History." Organized by Rebecca Ginsburg, the colloquium brought together leading scholars from North America and Africa

working on Africa's architectural past to share their work and to prepare for the publication of a new edited collection. In addition, the University of Illinois was well-presented by a large number of our faculty and several of our students who made their way from Champaign-Urbana to Rio de Janeiro in October for the 2005 conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. In spring semester, we moved into high gear with a number of important events, the most exciting of which included Bill Fletcher's 2006 DuBois lecture and the weeklong visit of South African HIV/AIDS activist Zackie Achmat, who has played such a dynamic role in the Treatment Action Campaign. As the semester comes to a close, we mark the third and final year of our three-year Rockefeller Humanities Institute on Education and African Modernities with a two-day conference featuring the work of our current post-doctoral fellows—Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia (Montclair State University) and Oanda Ogachi (Kenyatta University)—as well as that of our four previous fellows, who will be joining us from Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe for this final plenary event.

This year, more so than most, has been marked by welcoming new members to our community and saying goodbye to others. Our MA program welcomed four new students (from Illinois, Gambia, Kenya, and Burkina Faso), but will be bidding farewell to eight who will have completed their degrees by August 2006 and are moving on to exciting new positions and educational opportunities. We are so proud of each and every one and wish them the very best.

In the Center office, many of the faces look the same, though titles have changed. We are delighted that Jamie McGowan will now assume her position as Assistant Director on a permanent basis and Michele Crump is our permanent Center Secretary. In addition, Maimouna Barro (PhD, U. of I. and one of our former MA students) has joined us as Coordinator of Special Programs. Her energy and her expertise in curriculum development have already had a tremendous impact on the Center's undergraduate and graduate programs. Meanwhile, we were delighted to welcome to the College of Education, Bekisizwe Ndimande, who has joined the faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. His presence further strengthens the Center's connections to Education and the training of pre- and in-service teachers in Illinois.

Finally, as we welcome these new faces, we also bid farewell to two of the Center's foundational pillars—Donald Crummey and Charles Stewart—both of whom are retiring this year. Don and Charles each served as Center director, Don for 10 years and Charles for three. Much of what the Center is today is a result of their hard work, dedication, and passion over many, many years. We say goodbye with mixed emotions—sadness at their departure and the loss it means for African studies at U. of I., joy in celebration of the new lives upon which they are embarking, and profound gratitude for the powerful legacy they have left us.

## habari

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*Conference, continued from page 1*

volume is to produce an undergraduate text that uses innovative methods to work beyond the Western perspective and engage the reader. Contributors are already involved in conversation with each other, which will lead to dialogue within the text.

"Authors will reference each others' work so as to make the production of knowledge more transparent," Dr. Ginsburg notes. The textbook will also include African voices among the multiple contributors. The historical view of the text will not place African architecture in a static, timeless framework that privileges colonization as the catalyst for change on the continent.

This year's conference was a great success, with the standing-room-only crowd of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Participants included independent scholar Labelle Prussin, Ikem Okoye (University of Delaware), Peter Mark (Wesleyan University), Hannah le Roux (University of Witwatersrand), Monica Visona (University of Kentucky), Mark Hinchman (University of Nebraska), Gemma Rodrigues (Harvard University), George Intsiful



Conference participants Monica Visona and Nnamdi Elleh.

(KNUST, Ghana), Nnamdi Elleh (University of Cincinnati), Walter Peters (University of KwaZulu-Natal), and Dr. Ginsburg herself.

The scholars discussed architectural practices, case studies on specific locations such as Harare and Goree Island, and the significance of African architecture.

From the success of this colloquium comes the next step for Dr. Ginsburg and her collaborators. A conference has been organized for January 2007 in Kumasi, Ghana, hosted by George Intsiful who participated in the fall colloquium. One of the first of its kind to be held in Africa, this conference will focus on environments and architecture historically and today so as to create a focus on problem-solving as well as history. This conference is open for students and researchers across disciplines and looks to be an exciting segment in the development of the written work. ■

*HIV/AIDS, continued from page 1*

charged. TAC members successfully brought down the cost of some medications, but many other essential medications remain out of reach for the average person in South Africa, as well as Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

AIDS denialism is another major and surprising obstacle in the fight against the spread of HIV and in AIDS treatment in South Africa. Zackie explained that AIDS denialism in South Africa is especially pernicious because it is state-sponsored. President Mbeki has denied the connection between HIV and AIDS, as well as the extent of the AIDS crisis, resulting in a limitation of treatment programs. These limitations have resulted in what Zackie referred to as "a holocaust against poor people," whereby poor- and working-class South Africans who lack access to anti-retrovirals have died and continue to die—with approximately 900 deaths and 1,500 new infections daily. The TAC successfully campaigned to get the government to expand its treatment programs from the original 18 sites to 1,500 facilities across South Africa. Zackie reported this success but remains critical because so many people remain underserved or unserved.

To support AIDS treatment and prevention in the years ahead, Zackie suggested women's equality and economic independence must be achieved within South Africa and globally. For economically and socially alienated communities worldwide—be they African Americans in the U.S., Pakistani youth in Great Britain, or rural women in South Africa—economic independence, job creation, and social security are fundamental. Returning to his introductory remarks, Zackie called on the audience to help build solidarities that cross various social categories and identities, and asked them to identify as global citizens. He further asked that we follow the UN General Assembly this summer as it reviews what progress is being made in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

To listen to Zackie Achmat's WILL-AM 580 interview, visit <http://www.will.uiuc.edu/am/focus/archives/06/060327.htm>. To learn more about the work of the Treatment Action Campaign, visit [www.tac.org.za](http://www.tac.org.za). ■

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF ZACKIE ACHMAT

Zackie Achmat lives with HIV/AIDS. Born in 1962, he joined the anti-apartheid movement



in South Africa during the 1976 uprisings. He was detained and imprisoned on more than five occasions as a youth activist. Zackie was a community activist who assisted with the organization of youth, labor, health, and community organizations between 1977 and 1990.

He also campaigned for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality and was a founding member of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality. The coalition campaigned for the equality clause in the Constitution, the decriminalization of same-sex practices, and the equal right of lesbian and gay relationships. Zackie was also director of the AIDS Law Project from 1994 to 1997.

In December 1998, together with 10 other activists, he launched TAC. Since then, TAC has become one of the leading HIV/AIDS activist voices in South Africa.

Zackie Achmat has researched, written, and directed numerous TV documentaries. He holds a BA Hons (cum laude) from the University of Western Cape and is currently studying to complete an M.Phil in law at the University of Cape Town. He was awarded an honorary master's degree at the University of Cape Town in 2002 and an honorary doctorate from the University of Natal in 2003. In addition to receiving the first Desmond Tutu Fellowship in 2002, he has been awarded the Jonathan Mann Award, the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, and the Newsmaker of the Year Award. Most recently he was nominated along with the TAC for the Nobel Peace Prize 2004.

# STUDENTS TAKE ACTION FOR DARFUR

By **Brian Schwartz** President, Action Darfur

October 2005 marked the founding of the registered student organization Action Darfur. Started because of a pressing need to address the atrocities occurring in Darfur, Sudan, the organization is dedicated to raising awareness, taking political action, and raising funds to end genocide in Darfur. Awareness was a primary concern to the 200 members of Action Darfur and "teach-ins" were conducted to members of various groups resulting in a coalition of 12 student and community organizations committed to Action Darfur's mission.

With the aid of its newly formed co-sponsors, Action Darfur created a Week of Awareness in February. To help conceptualize the slaughter of 400,000 and the displacement of 2.5 million, organizers created an exhibit of photos, statistics, and quotes from refugees from Darfur that lined the length of the main Quad. Pedestrians were able to become familiar with the horrors of Darfur just by walking on the Quad. Members distributed information, fundraised, and collected signatures for various petitions. Simon Deng, a survivor of child slavery in Sudan and a leading activist against the genocide in Sudan, was the keynote speaker for the week of events. Students were extremely receptive and Deng lectured to a standing-room-only crowd, which he described as the largest college audi-

ence that he has ever addressed. Encouraged by the warm response received from the U. of I. community Simon asked the organizers: "What next? What are you going to do now that you have an auditorium full of impassioned students?"



Simon Deng talks with an audience member.

Action Darfur used the newfound support to start a divestment campaign at the University. Foreign investment has been critical to the funding of the Sudanese government's genocidal apparatus and the student body is demanding that U. of I. follow the growing trend across the nation to divest in companies operating in Sudan that are complicit to genocide. A resolution demanding divestment unanimously passed through the Student Senate in April 2006 and the campaign will continue into the next school year. In addition, a group of 25 students will join 800 others from across the nation in D.C. for a weekend of conferences concerning Darfur, meetings with their congressional representatives, and to take part in a nationwide rally against the genocide in Sudan on Capital Hill.

We have the unique opportunity to respond to a genocide that is well documented and currently unfolding in slow-motion before our eyes, and yet the world is again knowingly acquiescing in genocide. Action Darfur will continue its efforts to replace "never again" with "not now, not ever."

## Local Student Organization Making Links

By **Katie Smoucha**

Students involved in Link Community Development, an emerging organization on the University of Illinois campus, work to promote education and HIV/AIDS awareness both in Africa and in Champaign-Urbana. Founded in 1989 by students at Cambridge University, Link has since expanded throughout Africa and the United Kingdom, and now to the University of Illinois, which is home to the first United States chapter. Link works with more than 600 schools in South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, and Malawi to create a link between an African school and a United Kingdom school to foster cultural exchange. In addition, Link organizes several fundraisers, which provide money to African schools for training teachers and school administrators, as well as programs to promote community involvement in the school system. Link also focuses significant energy on improving HIV/AIDS education.

Link began at the University of Illinois after alumnus Judd Holzman studied abroad at Oxford, where he learned about the program. His enthusiasm for the program led him to schedule a meeting at the executive office, where he proposed bringing Link to the United States. When he returned to U. of I. in the fall of 2003, he recruited his friends, including current co-presidents Josh Morrel and Annie Reckitt, to help him establish the group as an RSO. Presently, Holzman is working to establish a base office in Chicago, which will help expand the United States branch of the program.

Through U. of I.'s chapter, four different classrooms in two Champaign-Urbana elementary schools are linked with Barkley West Elementary School in the Northern Cape of South Africa. Student members of Link create lesson

plans on topics such as South African animals and music, which they teach in local Champaign-Urbana classrooms to familiarize students with the culture of their linked school. The students also participate in a pen-pal letter exchange with Barkley West students to promote cultural awareness and understanding.

U. of I.'s Link members organize fundraisers throughout the year, with proceeds helping to improve education, including HIV/AIDS awareness, at Barkley West. Past fundraisers have included a fall bags tournament and the group's best-known event, the annual Walk for Africa, held each spring. Previously, the Walk has featured a performance by a campus music group, and a speaker addressing health issues in Africa. The 2005 walk featured Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who worked with Nelson Mandela on recovery efforts after Apartheid in South Africa. During the event, participants walk throughout the campus to create a visual impact, demonstrating their belief in the importance of education and cultural understanding. The participation fee helps support Link's work at Barkley West Elementary School.

Reckitt, co-president of Link, is proud of the accomplishments of the organization thus far. "It's been amazing to see how far the program has grown in these past three years. I really think that it's important to bring this type of cultural opportunity to children in the Champaign-Urbana area," she states. In addition, "It's really cool that we as students, and as members of the community, can get involved in this way."

# RE-VISIONING AFRICA

## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIASA CONFERENCE

By Courtney Scheskie

On March 10, 2005, the Africa-in-Academics Student Association (AIASA) presented the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Conference, titled "Re-visioning Africa: Knowledge, Culture and Empowerment." The conference was originally organized as a way for



African studies MA students to gain experience in organizing such events and to start discussions among their peers and mentors about Africa and the Diaspora. This year's conference was successful in drawing participation from scholars and intellectuals around the country as well as the University of Illinois campus.

"Re-visioning Africa" focused on examining the method for studying Africa and the Diaspora and exploring alternative frameworks from which to view the African experience. One goal of the conference was to step outside of the boundaries of disciplinary studies and examine the continent from an African indigenous system of thought.

Presenters at the conference included University of Illinois students Amira Davis, Eliza Johannes and Jeffery Ahlman covering the topics

of education and Pan-Africanism. Elinami Veraeli Swai traveled from the University of Pennsylvania to speak on oral traditions in Tanzania. A faculty panel included University of Illinois professors Alma Gottlieb from the Department of Anthropology, Eyamba G. Bokamba from the Department of Linguistics, and Ibulaimu Kakoma from the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, with Abdulai Iddrisu of the Department of History moderating.

An exciting part of the day was the cultural programming featuring Omnimov and Amira Davis and Company. Conference participants gathered at the Courtyard in the Illini Union and were entertained with dancing and singing. The crowd became part of the show with Davis enticing the audience to sing along. The show attracted a large crowd of would-be studiers and passers-by in the Courtyard, as well as a great showing from the conference participants.

The highlight of the conference was, without a doubt, keynote speaker Prexy Nesbitt's presentation, "Long-Distance Runner Scholarship: The Lasting Contribution of the Dar es Salaam School," which was dedicated to the late Dr. Susan Geiger. The speech brought together the many themes that had been brought



up throughout the day and inspired an active question-and-answer period afterward.

This conference was a great success and the AIASA organization is greatly in debt to the many people across campus and within the Center who helped to make it run as smoothly as it did. A special thanks to Jamie McGowan for patiently helping AIASA navigate the process of organizing and putting on the conference. ■

Top: Amira Davis and Company.

Bottom: Keynote speaker Prexy Nesbitt.



# Rockefeller Scholars

The Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia and Dr. Oanda Ogachi to the University of Illinois as the 2005-2006 Rockefeller Scholars.

## Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia

Dr. Brizuela-Garcia came to U. of I. from Montclair University where she is an assistant professor of history. She received her PhD in 2001 from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Her current work includes preparing a manuscript for the book *Africa's Past, History's Future: African Historiography and the Rewriting of World Histories*. Dr. Brizuela-Garcia comments on her transition to U. of I. and her work here:



"My transition to Illinois was probably simpler than other fellows since I was only coming from New Jersey/Pennsylvania and I have lived in the United States for five years now. Still it was a bit of a challenge because I came with my one-year-old daughter while my husband was left back home.

"Everybody at the Center of African Studies was incredible with helping me make the adjustment, and I am really grateful to them. Being here has been a great opportunity for me. I have been able to write and discuss my work with great colleagues, use a wonderful library and be constantly stimulated by seminars and other intellectual gatherings. This experience has had a very positive effect on me and my career and I will always be grateful for having been here. I came to Illinois trying to get a good head start on a book manuscript on the development of African historiography during the past 50 years. I wanted to write a few articles that would help me clarify some ideas and revise my data. As soon as I arrived I was able to get to work and it was amazing to see how productive I could be when I had a good library, great feedback, no teaching, and reliable childcare. I am actually starting the revision of my manuscript and I am confident I will be able to write this book over the summer. Without

the support and the great intellectual environment I have had here, it would have taken me much longer to get to this point.

"My experience has been enhanced by the wonderful people I have met here in Champaign-Urbana. I have made good friends and reconnected with some old ones. My daughter loves her daycare and we have found some nice parks and public libraries that have been a good source of entertainment for the two of us. We have made some great memories and, although we look forward to being back home, we will always keep fond memories of our time in Champaign-Urbana."

## Oanda Ogachi

Dr. Ogachi arrived in the United States from Nairobi, Kenya, where he did his undergraduate and graduate work at Kenyatta University, completing his PhD in 2002. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Ogachi was a lecturer in sociology and philosophy of education in the Educational Foundations Department at Kenyatta University. He is the research coordinator for a CODESRIA-funded project on the implications for privatization of higher education on access, equity and knowledge production in Kenya. Here are his comments on his experience here at U. of I. and his work:



"The Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellowship has accorded me the 'rare' opportunity to be here in an environment that allowed me to develop new insights in an area so dear to my scholarship. One also has to reflect on what an opportunity like this means for a scholar from a developing country, where global and other conditions internal to the countries have made universities different 'things' from what they are supposed to be. Research and publications

long ceased to engage scholars from these institutions and academic discourse through seminars has become a luxury that serious human minds in scholarship try to avoid as it is seen as an experiment with poverty. It is in this respect that an occasional fellowship, a research award, or an externally funded opportunity to travel and share with other like minds is always sought and heartily cherished. It is a cherished opportunity for the individual scholar, her/his students, and the institution. I view the opportunity the Rockefeller Fellowship provided me in this respect, and acknowledge the vision of the Center in this regard. In launching such programs, you remain so dear and relevant to African universities in more ways than you can immediately count.

"My work for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship focuses on interrogating the teaching of women and gender studies in East African universities. This is one of the important emerging academic areas in African universities and my concern has been that it should not mark a 'false start,' as so many other initiatives in African universities do. I should emphasize that, at a personal level, I attach to the issues of women and gender relations in Africa. I believe that empowering women, in the intellectual, economic, and political sense, is an act that most of Africa needs to cause the social transformations that have eluded these nations for decades. The age-old reluctance to do these reflects the decay that characterizes most aspects in African life.

"I believe I have built bridges that are going to enrich my scholarship for some time. So any time in the future you get to the Internet and stumble upon my name in a positive way you can be sure that part of that credit goes to the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. On my part, and as African presidents often remind their subjects, I will try to be a good ambassador of the Center and the staff." ■

# DISSERTATIONS ON AFRICA

Completed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2002-2005

**The relationship between business strategy types and training emphasis in selected companies in Kenya.**

*Mbithe Anzaya, PhD  
human resource education*

**'We are Tagwa, but my mother is a Smith': Ethnicity and identity transformations among the Sena-Tagwa of Burkina Faso.**

*Lamissa Bangali, PhD  
anthropology*

**The role of literacy in enhancing women's agency and well-being: A qualitative inquiry of the effects of the Tostan Educational Program on the lives of women in a rural community in Senegal.**

*Maimouna Abdoulaye Barro, PhD  
curriculum and instruction*

**Choices to save the suffering: What prompts humanitarian military intervention? (Somalia, Sudan)**

*Justin Noel Bumgardner, PhD  
political science*

**Social capital effects on poverty and technical efficiency in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.**

*Pia Mwanza Chuzu, PhD  
agricultural and consumer economics*

**Children's playground music as cultural expressions in Ghanaian schools.**

*Mary Priscilla Dzansi-McPalm, PhD  
music*

**The contested space of black female sexuality: Communal norms and female sexual agency in Sub-Saharan Francophone novels (Daniel Biyaoula, Congo, Calixthe Beyala, Delphine Zanga-Tsogo, Cameroon, Ken Bugul, Senegal, Monique Ilboudo, Burkina Faso).**

*Stacy Ellen Fifer, PhD  
French*

**Unwanted in the 'white highlands': The politics of civil society and the making of a refugee in Kenya, 1902-2002.**

*Peter Mwangi Kagwanja, PhD  
history*

**The education of young girls: The case of Fouta Toro, Senegal.**

*Rakhmatou Kane, PhD  
curriculum and instruction*

**Self-perceptions of leadership styles of ex-military entrepreneurs and civilian entrepreneurs in Kenya.**

*Henry Muthee Kathurima, PhD  
education*

**Factors that influence transfer of management training in small and medium enterprises in Kenya.**

*Margaret K. Kobia, PhD  
human resource education*

**Assia Djebbar and 'La Ville Blanche': Writing in and on the city (Algeria).**

*Jane Theresa Kuntz, PhD  
French*

**Subatomic semantics and the active participle in Egyptian Arabic.**

*Mustafa Mughazy, PhD  
linguistics*

**Factors that affect direct and indirect transfer of training in micro and small enterprises in Kenya.**

*Elegwa Mukulu, PhD  
human resource education*

**Linking competencies with strategies: The case of small and medium-sized exporting firms in Kenya.**

*Mary Jabeya Namusonge, PhD  
human resource education*

**Long-term impact of a graduate program in entrepreneurship in Kenya on program participants.**

*Joseph Wangombe Ngatiah, PhD  
human resource education*

**The context of HIV/AIDS-related health and preventive behaviors: An analysis of Kisumu District, Kenya (Immune deficiency).**

*Veronica Akinyi Ouma, PhD  
geography*

**Factors influencing transfer of learning in micro and small enterprises in the garment-making industry in Kenya.**

*Damary Anyona Sikalieh, PhD  
human resource education*

**Highland farmers and the 'modernizing' state in Ethiopia: Conjunctures and disjunctures.**

*Tesfaye Wolde-Medhin, PhD  
anthropology*

## 2005 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

## GPA Tanzania: Courtney Scheskie

I wasn't sure what I was more nervous about: spending the next seven weeks with 12 other people who I had never met, the possibility of my language skills flopping completely, or the multiple 12-hour plane rides. Luckily for me, I



Courtney Scheskie cooking with her host sister, Rachel.

met some of the friendliest people I have ever known, my Kiswahili actually came around in the end, and international flights serve free liquor. I left for Arusha, Tanzania, in June to participate in the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad in Kiswahili, spending seven weeks in a highly-intensive language and cultural immersion program. Though Kiswahili was what brought me to Tanzania in the first place, it was the people whom I met who make me want to return again. And that really is why we travel, whether for academic or social reasons. Even if we never know their names, the people who we encounter away from home can make it all worthwhile.

What I learned from Rehema, one of my teachers, was dedication. Throughout the experience, our instructors handled our craziness, our stupidity, and our brilliance with equal patience. We thought for sure we had Rehema figured out. She was the sweetest and most patient teacher who could make any subject

fun and interesting—she was a born teacher. One day, a couple weeks into our program, we learned about sports in Tanzania and read all about the famous soccer star, “The King.” What we didn’t know until later that night while chatting with some locals over dinner was that “The King” was actually Rehema’s husband. Later, we learned that she is also the daughter of Rashid Kawawa, a former Prime Minister

under Julius Nyerere, and met her husband while playing professional sports in Tanzania. Our lovely, modest teacher was a nationally known figure by birth, by marriage, and by her own talents. Her dedication to the language and teaching was an absolute gift to all of us and she spent time with us because of her love of teaching.

I learned business from a group of Zanzibari women. Part of our cul-

tural experience in the program was traveling to Dar es Salaam for a week and then taking the ferry to Zanzibar. Staying in Stonetown, Zanzibar, was a bit of an interesting situation for those of us wanting to learn the culture and language. Stonetown is very touristy and our section of town was set up for selling products to tourists, which allowed for some great discussions. My favorite place in Stonetown was under a tree with a group of women who sold cloth and painted henna on tourists. The women were very gracious and talked with me about the town. They helped me decipher the sayings on the kanga cloth, which are tricky because they are not always written in textbook Kiswahili. In this way they created a relationship with me in a matter of minutes. I enjoyed watching them convince passers-by to get the henna tattoos, just as they had done with me earlier that day. When I told them I was in town with a group, they gave me a great deal on cloth and told me to come back with my friends, which I of course did. I

realized just how calculated and business-savvy these women were. Despite the appearance of their cloth stand as “traditional” and “make-shift” these women knew exactly what they were doing and I wouldn’t be surprised if they knew English much better than they let on. But they understood their market and what the tourist was looking for, which is exactly what they gave them.

Overall, the experience of traveling through Tanzania and learning Kiswahili from amazing teachers, both formal and informal, was a rich one that continues to flourish in my mind and my career. The point of taking students to Tanzania to learn Kiswahili is to foster learning beyond just language; the physical classroom was not the main place for our education. And when I think back on the most memorable lessons I learned, none of them really took place in the classroom or even when I was expecting it. And that is the best part.

## GPA South Africa: Elizabeth Corr



Elizabeth Corr visiting local Sangoma.

Last summer I was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship to study isiZulu in South Africa. I spent eight weeks with 10 other students from the U.S. who were also studying Zulu language and culture. In June we landed in the Durban airport where we were warmly welcomed by



## OUTREACH

the GPA program director, Zandile Nkabinde. After a weekend orientation, we left Durban and traveled to the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg. For five weeks the students and I lived on this campus, attending six hours of intensive language class every day, supplemented by weekly guest lectures from faculty members about Zulu culture and history. On weekends we visited historical sites, museums, and markets, and interacted with other Zulu students whom we had met.

Our time at the University was split between two home stays, one in the urban setting of Imbali and the other in the rural setting of Maqongqo. These visits provided us with the opportunity to test our conversational skills, and also the opportunity to experience everyday life with a Zulu family. Both of my families expected me to help with chores, cooking, herding livestock, and running errands. They treated me as if I were a member of their family, which was quite refreshing. Together we attended family functions, traditional ceremonies, and church gatherings. For those weeks, I was completely immersed in Zulu culture and life.

During our home stays our teachers expected us to conduct mini-research projects. For my project I interviewed Zulu people from different ages and socio-economic backgrounds, asking questions relating to changing practices surrounding facial markings. Once all of our projects were completed, we presented them in Zulu to our teachers, peers, and other faculty members from the University.

The Zulu GPA program went by so quickly, but it was definitely the busiest eight weeks of my life. The amount of work we were assigned, combined with the vigorous schedule of activities, made for exhausting days. Nonetheless, I never could have learned so much about Zulu life, language, and culture if it were not for the experience and for the generosity of my families and teachers. ■

## Working with the Champaign County Youth Detention Center

By Tage Biswalo



It is that time of the year again, and I'm proud to say our community outreach activities have grown to include a number of new partners and institutions showing very promising results for us and for the community. As most of you know, last year I reported on one particular program that I am very proud of, namely the Champaign County Youth Detention Center.

This program was started two years ago when I approached the superintendent of the institution, Connie Kaiser, to organize an ongoing program. She agreed, and shortly thereafter I began the program. My intention was to interact with the youth in the greater Champaign-Urbana community by presenting issues and cultural aspects relating to the continent of Africa and the Diaspora. My belief is that this interaction and these topics need to reach all youth, no matter where the audience is.

I designed the program with three components: guest speakers, documentary-film showings and informal discussions. Then I facilitated discussions with the youth after every session, allowing the youth to lead and direct the conversation. Speakers at the center have included scholars from South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana, who are film directors, musicians, and activists. The program has also sought the services of African and non-African graduate students working and researching Africa to present at the detention center.

In the last two years, I have brought several remarkable individuals to the detention center. This year's guests included Banning Eyre and Abdoulaye Diabate, participants and performers in the Wall to Wall Guitar Festival at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts who were kind enough to make time to visit with the detention center and perform their music for the youth.

Another exciting guest was Darrell James Roodt. Roodt was in town screening his latest movie, the Academy Award-nominated film *Yesterday*. Roodt agreed to visit the youth and engaged in a lively conversation about his latest movie and others. The youth were particularly engaged by his discussion of his working relationship with actor/rapper/director Ice Cube, with whom he had worked in the film *On Dangerous Ground*.

Documentary film showings and informal African language instruction also continue to be a hit with outreach activities. The success of film showings has resulted in a tremendous interest in the continent of Africa and the African Diaspora. When the program began, most featured documentaries were Africa-centered films, with programming based on the continent and people there. As the program continued to grow, I felt the need to feature more Diasporic films, tackling issues close to the youth and relating their experiences to those of the continent. *The N-Word*, *The Murder of Emmett Till*, *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*, *The Promised Ship*, and *Afro Argentines* are some of the Diasporic-focused films I have featured.

Currently, and for the coming year, I am working on a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, the Colombia Center Alternative School, as well as the King and Barkstall elementary schools. The programming at the two elementary schools will be slightly different in format from the others, with a more interactive spirit, with things like African dance instruction and games. This particular project is ambitious, but I am excited to take on the challenge. It is ambitious because it's going to need more people involved: namely, volunteers. So, I am ending this report today by posing a challenge to you "mighty" people to support this initiative by donating your time. My thanks to all the guests and those who donated their time to the outreach program this year, and until next time, *Amani na Upendo* (peace and love) and as always, *A luta continua!* (The struggle continues!) ■

## OUTREACH

## Outreach Shorts

The following photos offer a small glimpse of some on- and off-campus programming supported by the Center during the past year. Congratulations to the many students, student groups, staff, and faculty who coordinated and organized these events!





Photo by Dan Merlo

**A.** Her Excellency Josefina Perpétua Pitra Diakite, Ambassador of Angola, visited the U. of I. campus in January 2006. Invited to campus as part of the Ambassador Series, Ambassador Diakite's lecture reached legislators, business people, and faculty and was aired on WSEC-TV, as well.

**B.** Temba Tana, musician, and Peter Davis, documentary filmmaker, visited the U. of I. during March 2006. Tana visited two elementary schools and a high school to perform and to discuss music and culture in South Africa. Davis made two presentations on campus, including showing the silent film "Siliva the Zulu" with live accompaniment by Tana.

**C.** Following the success of their first forum in 2004, the African Students Organization made the event an annual one. In 2005, the program addressed "Governance and Development in Africa" and in 2006, "Africa's Development in the Global Encounter." Also during the 2005-06, ASO worked with the Cosmopolitan Club to offer sessions that celebrated the histories, cultures, and foods of many ASO members' home countries. The events have attracted upwards of 150 people.

**D.** In September 2005, Nawal, a Comoran singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, performed with Idriss Mlanao (contrabass) and Melissa Cara Rigoli (mbira and percussion) at the campus YMCA. Their performance and music interwove Indo-Arabian-Persian music with Bantu polyphonies and the syncopated rhythms and Sufi trance of the Indian Ocean.

**E.** On February 27, 2006, Bill Fletcher, president and chief executive of the TransAfrica Forum, spoke as a part of the eighth annual W.E.B. DuBois lecture at the Levis Faculty Center. His lecture on the challenge of pan-Africanism dealt with the evolution of the color line and its intersectionality with class in the twenty-first century.

**F.** GlobalFest 2006, held at Urbana High School, offered four African languages this year: Swahili, Twi, Wolof, and Zulu. Josephine Yambi, Tholani Hlongwa, and Bala Saho were among the language teachers, and Batamaka Some taught students several dances from Burkina Faso. More than 1,000 high school students came from across the state to take part in the festivities.

**G.** Chris Abani visited the U. of I. as part of the Carr Visiting Authors Reading Series, an event of the MFA Creative Writing Program. Among other things, he gave a reading and interviewed on WILL-AM Focus 580. Abani is a novelist, poet, and author of *GraceLand*, *Master of the Board*, and *Becoming Abigail*, among other novels. His poetry collections are *Hands Washing Water*, *Dog Woman*, *Daphne's Lot*, and *Kalakuta Republic*.

**H.** Banning Eyre and Abdoulaye Diabate performed at the Krannert Center as a part of the Wall to Wall Guitar Festival last fall. In between the intensive program, both found time to perform at the Champaign County Youth Detention Center and at the Douglass Branch Library.

**I.** The 2005 International Summer Institute for Pre-Collegiate Teachers addressed "The Lives of Kids Around the World" and attracted both experienced and pre-service teachers. The theme of the 2006 institute is "People, Places, and Patterns: World Geography and Cultures."

**J.** The Center for African Studies worked with Wiley Elementary to coordinate multiple classroom visits on African daily life and culture. Graduate students at the U. of I. introduced the elementary students to a range of topics including day names in Akan culture, school life in Kenya, children's games in Burkina Faso, and writing their names in Amharic, to name a few. Many thanks to Awa Sarr, Batamaka Some, Kwame Essien, Tesfaye Wolde-Medhin, Rosemary Onyango, and Leo Zulu for their time, talent, and energies and to Ms. Barbara Gillespie-Washington, a distinguished educator, who has found creative ways to touch her students' hearts and minds.

**K.** Collaborating with the Office of Women's Affairs at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the Center offered a workshop on "Domestic Conflict in the Context of African Families." Aimed at dispelling myths, stereotypes, and "cultural" explanations for crisis and violence, the workshop delivered broader information about social services and family support in various African countries while examining some of the barriers and constraints families might face in a U.S. context. Dr. Maghi Rukuni and Dr. Helen Neville both delivered presentations, and a panel discussion followed. Panel participants included Maimouna Barro, Rose Korang-Okrah, Wembo Lombela, Dumisile Mkhize, Maghi Rukuni, and Euna Oh (moderator).



## RETIREMENTS

# DR. DONALD CRUMMEY: *A Leader Through Example*

By Courtney Scheskie

You get the feeling that Dr. Donald Crummey has done it all.

It sure seemed that way when I sat down to talk with him recently about his retirement this spring. A successful career, exciting travel, and rewarding experiences seem the norm for him.

After graduating from the School of Oriental and African Studies from the University of London, Dr. Crummey taught at Haile Sellassie I University from 1967 to 1973. There, he was able to make the lifelong

connections that have shaped his research and goals. He came to the University of Illinois in 1973 and that was the start of a fascinating career and an influential life.

It's clear that with Dr. Crummey, individual connections are most important. For example, he's more likely to comment on a colleague than a published work, and he remembers those he worked with more than his own accomplishments. And this attitude is reflected in the direction his career has taken. Soon after he left Ethiopia in 1973 the revolution began, making it very difficult for him to even contact those still living there. But in 1980 he was able to return and was thrilled to not only find a great environment for research, but also to renew old friendships and get in touch with old colleagues and former students.

In 1984 he became the third director of the Center for African Studies, succeeding Dr. Charles Stewart. While serving as director, Dr. Crummey was able to continue doing research work through a collaborative research grant

with Addis Ababa University. This research materialized into the 2000 publishing of *Land and Society in the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia: From the Thirteenth to the Twentieth Century*. This work examines written sources

dealing with granting and holding of land in order to examine power systems in the Ethiopian Kingdom.

In Dr. Crummey's final term as director of the Center, he remembers an external review of the Center that pointed out one weakness in particular: "The thing that sort of stung was that our linkages with African institutions were

very weak. It was absolutely right," he remarked. So, he set out to increase collaboration. While there were some grants and other arrangements set up to connect the University to African institutions, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Collaborative Research grant that Dr. Crummey helped bring to the Center was a true catalyst for change. This grant allowed the Center to bring in African collaborators every year for an annual meeting on campus, and fostered increased collaboration of faculty on campus. "The real challenge was to try

to bridge to the physical sciences," he recalls. "Here on campus we had pedologist and a climatologist, and in the African teams we had some biologists. It was these meetings that were really important." From this collabora-

tion, Dr. Crummey and Dr. Thomas Bassett edited the book *African Savannas: Global Narratives and Local Knowledge of Environmental Change*, which examines human connections to the environment outside of a dominant Western framework in order to privilege local knowledge.

Looking back, Dr. Crummey identifies many important parts of his career: being director of the Center, the major research grants that he helped bring to the University—especially the MacArthur Foundation grant—and the collaboration that he helped foster by creating linkages across the University and to Africa. As for his time with the Center, he is very happy that he was able to help make the Center a permanent part of the University. A major part of the paperwork that needed to be completed for the Board of Education and Board of Trustees to designate the Center with official "center" status was done by Dr.

Crummey, a thankless job that I'm sure not many would like to duplicate.

When I asked Dr. Crummey about how the Center has changed in his years here, he immediately recognized the people involved here. Dr. Crummey originally wrote the proposal to start the Master's program and now

positively looks at the changes it has brought to the Center. "What have changed the Center hugely are the MA program and the MA students. My intention was to create a group of



**"The real challenge was to try to bridge to the physical sciences.... Here on campus we had pedologist and a climatologist, and in the African teams we had some biologists. It was these meetings that were really important."**



# DR. CHARLES STEWART: *The Last of the Original Seven Makes His Exit*

By Courtney Scheskie

And then there were none.

Dr. Charles Stewart is the last employed faculty member of the “original seven” who founded the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois, and with his retirement comes the end of an era.

He was a driving force behind the creation of the Center and its influence on campus. His commitment to making African studies a permanent part of this University is legend, as is his involvement in the Center throughout his time in Champaign-Urbana.

The Center was originally created with seven core faculty members from various disciplines. Dr. Stewart represented history, and the others were Dr. Dean McHenry (political science), Dr. Victor Uchendu (anthropology), Dr. Chuck Kissaberth (linguistics), Dr. Yvette Scheven (library science), Dr. Andrew Sofranko (rural sociology), and Dr. Anita Glaze (art history). Today, the Center boasts more than 90 affiliated faculty members across almost all disciplines within the University.

Dr. Stewart came to the University in 1971 with an appointment in the history department. He previously studied at the University of Legon, Ghana, which was in its

transition year from the University College of London, and earned a PhD from Oxford University in 1970. He was named director of the Center for African Studies in 1981, succeeding Dr. Uchendu, and relinquished the position to Dr. Donald Crummey in 1984.

During his time as director of the Center, Dr. Stewart says his main goal was “keeping the Center alive and kicking.” Though many of us now see African studies and the Center as an integral part of the campus, this was not always the case. With many of the original core faculty gone by the start of Dr. Stewart’s tenure as director, some questioned the continued existence of an African studies center.

“I inherited the Center at a time when there was serious doubt whether we, as an institution, ought to continue with this commitment,” he recalls. His role then became internally focused, making sure those around

him understood the importance of African studies in both undergraduate and graduate studies. “A lot of that activity was pretty low-profile, trench warfare, but it’s the kind of thing that got the program institutionalized to the point that no one can pull the plug,” he says.

“Good leadership in any position is getting people who are better than yourself,” Dr. Stewart commented, and it is this philosophy that guided him as he worked to bring some of the most

influential scholars to this campus. Many of them are still affiliated faculty with the Center for African Studies: Dr. Crummey, Dr. Valerie Hoffman, Dr. Tom Bassett, and Dr. Alma

Gottlieb all found great support from Dr. Stewart in their hires at U. of I.

Dr. Stewart’s dedication to the spirit of education and freedom of knowledge stayed true despite the rocky state of the Center when he was director. When Allister Sparks began touring in the United States speaking on apartheid in South Africa, Stewart jumped at

the opportunity to bring him to campus. But when he found out that Sparks was requesting five figures for his appearance, Dr. Stewart quickly cooled to the idea. “I was put off by the notion that the social revolution was being promoted by such high-priced folks and determined to use our scarce resources on programming needed by our departments,” he said. In contrast, he cites the remarkable story of Kenneth Kaunda who spoke at the Center and then asked that his honorarium be donated to an AIDS organization in Africa.

Dr. Stewart also discussed the place of African studies, as well as Africanists, in a University setting. Over the years he has seen a movement from strict disciplinary boundaries to more fluid lines as to what type of research works within a discipline. “When I was chairing the history department I was able to make the case, point-blank, to the department, that what we needed was to hire an anthropologist in history. That was talk that would have



From the 1984-85 African Studies Newsletter.

Continued on page 19

## NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

**WELCOME DR. MAIMOUNA BARRO**

Maimouna Barro currently serves as the special programs coordinator at the Center for African Studies. Dr. Barro completed her PhD in education at the



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2005. She also holds an MA in African studies and a graduate certificate

in Gender Roles in International

Development. She began her work at the Center in August 2005.

Dr. Barro is a specialist in curriculum and instruction with a focus on language and literacy acquisition and development. She promises to bring renewal and growth in the coming years in Center programming, particularly in areas such as curriculum development and training of pre-and in-service teacher training. In her position at the Center, Dr. Barro directs the MA program, from the admissions phase, through advising, and thesis review.

With her background in educational curricula and learning, Dr. Barro's ongoing research engages the issues of women, language and literacy in Senegal and West Africa, and continues to have strong interests in qualitative and participatory methodologies.

**A CHAT WITH NEW FACULTY MEMBER****Bekisizwe S. Ndimande, PhD**

*What types of opportunities has the Center given you this first year?*



Let me first say that I am absolutely honored to be part of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty. When I was interviewing here last year I was struck by the kinds of conversations I had with different people and it was apparent to me then that this place was great in many ways. So far, I haven't had a chance to use any of the Center's faculty grants, for instance travel grants to conferences, but I continue to work closely with the director, Dr. Jean Allman, on a number of possibilities that would help further develop my teaching and research areas. The important goal for me is to work with faculty at the Center and help recruit more students to African studies. I believe that providing support and opportunities for students is crucial to retaining students in the Center.

*Have you encountered any unexpected challenges on this University of Illinois campus?*

I am one person who refuses to look at challenges in a one-dimensional way as if all challenges are negative. I arrived here already expecting positive things. Let me just say that I received my PhD from a rigorous curriculum theory and research program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My Friday seminar in curriculum and instruction and my Wednesday brownbag in African studies were all challenging in different ways, yet I am glad that I participated in these because it helped me gain different insights. I am just glad that the Center for African Studies here continues to indulge me in these Wednesday seminar discussions that began back in my graduate school days in Wisconsin. I am also excited that the Center occasionally invites distinguished speakers to campus. This is really a privilege of being at a great university like this.

*How have you taken on the task of teaching the AFST 522 required graduate course at the Center?*

Dr. Allman has helped me a great deal in the structuring of the syllabus of this course and I am grateful for her mentoring role since I joined the Center. I am absolutely thrilled by the course. I have good students who really engage in the issues that we discuss in the course. My students come from different departments and their varying perspectives enrich our seminar discussions. I appreciate learning from what they contribute and believe that this is how university learning should be.

*What are your future plans?*

For me, the most important thing is to work together with faculty and develop new courses that would attract more students to the Center. Our focus should be on student recruitment and retention and I know the Center is doing this already. I would like to work with the Center on initiatives that increase student cultural diversity and most importantly support them in attaining educational success.

## NEWLY DEVELOPED COURSES

### Urban Africa and Popular Culture

Dr. Sasha Alexander Newell, Fall 2006

This course will explore the cultural transformations and continuities produced by the emergence of African cities during and after colonialism. Tracing anthropological debates around African urban centers from the 1940s until the present, the course will explore the efflorescence of new cultural forms of music, art, film, and literature, in conjunction with new sources of identity such as slang, nationality, religion, ethnicity, consumption, and migration. Attention will be given to local efforts at attaining 'modernity' as well as perceived 'loss of culture' and movements to preserve 'tradition.' The course will also look at the theoretical issues of mimesis, modernity and 'hybrid' identities; urban social integration and the production of ethnicity; colonialism, class, and resistance; capitalism and economy; transformations in kinship, gender, and sexuality.

### Women in Theatre from Africa

Dr. Kathy A. Perkins, Fall 2006

This course will utilize theatre to highlight the experiences of both urban and rural women throughout Africa. Using published and unpublished material, audio and video sources of various productions and interviews, we will explore the themes and aesthetics of these works within their social and historical context. Through this course, you will gain an understanding of the diverse African cultures, and learn how theatre is used as a tool for effecting social change as well as a medium for eradicating stereotypes.

### Art and Life in Bénin:

### The Modern, the Sacred, and the Performative

Dr. Dana Rush, Winter Break 2006-2007

This course will explore the extraordinarily vibrant art and culture of the West African country of Bénin. We will be based in the coastal city of Ouidah; a bustling seventeenth-century port for European slave traders, the coastal outpost of the formidable eighteenth-century Dahomey state, a former French colonial city punctuated with Brazilian architecture, and the contemporary global center of Vodun practice. From Ouidah we will visit royal palaces, historic museums, and bustling markets, and be guests at masquerade performances and ceremonies in the cities of Abomey, Porto-Novo, and Cotonou. In Ouidah itself, we will participate in the annual January 10th National Vodun Day festivities, including the commemorative walk along the "Slave Route" from the former auction site of the de Souza compound to the "Door of No Return" monument on the Ouidah beach. Throughout the travel experience, we will be inundated by the intersections of "the traditional" and "the modern" in both art and life. We will visit artists who work in both traditional (wood carving, weaving, pottery making) and modern (paint, plastics, recycled goods, technology) media, as a case in point. We will visit the sites, walk the streets, hear the music, see the ceremonies, and taste the food that fully informs art and life in Bénin.

## TEACHERS RANKED AS EXCELLENT

African studies faculty and affiliates ranked as excellent by their students in spring, summer, and fall semesters, 2005.

Richard Akresh	ECON 551
Elabbas Benmamoun	LING 516
Merle Bowen	AFRO 598
Donald Crummey	HIST 200
Leon Dash	JOUR 415, 480
Zachary Elkins	POLS 499
Hadi Esfahani	ECON 103, 551, 552, 568
Alain Fresco	FR 500
Tony Goldberg	VETPATH 554, 640
Alma Gottlieb	ANTH 262, 414, 480
Wail Hassan	CWL 551
Kevin Hinders	ARCH 571, 576
Jane Kuntz	FR 134
Erik McDuffie	GWS 380, 490, AFRO 224, 298
Helen Neville	EDPSY 551
David O'Brien	ART 440
Cynthia Oliver	DANCE 264, 360, 460
Carl Parsons	ANSC 404, 524
Dana Rush	ART 391
Zohreh T. Sullivan	ENG 274
Alex Winter-Nelson	ACE 522
Assata Zerai	AFRO 490

## Faculty And Staff News

**Tom Bassett** (Professor, geography) published "Card-carrying Hunters, Rural Poverty, and the Wildlife Decline in Northern Côte d'Ivoire," in 2005 and "Containing the *Donzow*: The Politics of Scale in Côte d'Ivoire" in 2004. He also received a Rockefeller Foundation residency at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy for January and February 2006 for work on *An Atlas of World Hunger* with Center affiliate faculty member Alex Winter-Nelson.

**Elabbas Benmamoun** (Professor and Head of the Department of Linguistics) was the keynote speaker at the Arabic Linguistics Symposium at Western Michigan University in March 2006. He has also co-edited a book with Mohammad Al-Hawary entitled *Perspectives on Arabic Linguistics XVII-XVIII*. New articles include "The Syntax of Arabic Tense," "Featureless Expressions: When Morpho-phonological Markers are Absent," and "Licensing Options: The Puzzle of Head Negative Polarity Items."

**Rubby Dhunpath** (Rockefeller Scholar, 2004-2005) has accepted a position as the policy director for the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa. "Shakila and I want to once again thank you for the blissful and rewarding 10 months with you. It was a turning point in our lives, which we will cherish forever."

**Alma Gottlieb** (Professor, anthropology) has received three grants and fellowships to begin a new research project next year among Cape Verdeans living in Lisbon, Portugal: a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Faculty Award, the William and Flora Hewlett Summer International Research Grant, and the Arnold O. Beckman Research Award. Her book, *The Afterlife is Where We Come From*, has been designated honorable mention for the Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology from the Royal Anthropological Institute.

**Alfred Kagan** (Professor and Africana bibliographer, library) recently published the second edition of the *Reference Guide to Africa: A Bibliography of Sources*, as well as a chapter in *Libraries, National Security, Freedom of Information Laws and Social Responsibilities: IFLA/FAIFE World Report*, and *Africanist Librarianship in an Era of Change*. He has also been appointed to the International Relations Committee of the American Library Association started in June 2006.

**Ezekiel Kalipeni** (Associate Professor, geography) published the article "The Geography of Landmines and Implications for Health and Disease in Africa: A Political Ecology Approach," and "Women in Chinsapo, Malawi: Vulnerability and Risk to HIV/AIDS," both in 2005. He also presented "Gender Differences in Perception of Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS: The Case of Men and Women in Lilongwe, Malawi" at the Cornell University conference on "Power, Gender and Social Change in Africa and the Diaspora" in 2006.

**Wendy Mathewson** (former staff member) has been the associate pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care at the Northminster Presbyterian Church for more than a year.

**Kathy Perkins** (Professor, theatre, chair of lighting and design) was a participant in "The Venus Project: African Diaspora Performance and African American Theatre" symposium at Arizona State University in Phoenix during February 2006. She spoke, as well as presented a video on her work throughout Africa, focusing on women in contemporary theatre.

**Maghi Rukuni** (Rockefeller Scholar, 2004-2005) is the Institutional Research Director for the Zimbabwe Open University and is looking forward to the opportunities the position will allow her in building and strengthening a relationship between the Zimbabwe Open University and the U. of I.

**Mahir Saul** (Associate Professor, anthropology) was an associate with the Center for Advanced Study for the fall 2005 semester working on a project entitled "The Bobo Village from Heterarchy to Modern State Politics." This project analyzes the political organization of the farming population in the Volta region the influence of the colonial period, and the contribution of this knowledge to understanding political participation in the nation state.

**Chika Sehoole** (Rockefeller Scholar, 2003-2004) was awarded the Fulbright New Century Scholars Grant for the 2005-2006 academic year. He is also pleased to announce that he was married on June 4, 2005.

**M. Mobin Shorish** (Emeritus, education policy studies) presented a paper, "Madrasah as Dystopia," at the Comparative and International Education Society meeting, March 14-18, 2006, in Honolulu, Hawaii.



## New MA Students

*This year the Center welcomed four new students, though governmental red tape kept most of them out of the country for the first semester. Jessica was our only new student for the fall 2005 semester and she was joined by Peter, Esther, and Bala in the spring. We want to welcome all of you to the Champaign-Urbana and the Center for African Studies at the U. of I.*

**Jessica Horn** joined us from Bourbonnais, Ill., already a University of Illinois alumnus. She is interested in poverty reduction through formal and informal employment and microfinance for women and families in South Africa. Her language studies will be in Zulu and she will be working on a GRID minor in addition to her M.A. requirements.

**Peter Muhati Mukhutsi** arrived in Champaign from Kenya in time for the spring semester. He is interested in linguistic research in African languages and communications research. "I am glad to be associated with the Center and hope to benefit quite a lot here," he says.

**Bala SK. Saho** from The Gambia came to U. of I. in January. He previously worked in The Gambia as Director of Research and Documentation Division of the National Council For Arts and Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Culture. He is interested in looking at Islam in West Africa and issues surrounding conflict at local levels, as well as culture and development.

**Wen-Yam Esther Some/Guiebre** from Burkina Faso also started the MA program at the Center this spring. Her research interests involve child fostering practices in Burkina Faso, especially female foster students. Her focus will be on examining the pattern of choice in host families, the interplay in school activities, and how this impacts school performance.

## WHAT WILL THEY DO NEXT?

The Center is pleased to congratulate a large graduating class for the 2006 academic year. Graduates for the 2006 spring and summer convocation include: Suzana Palaska-Nicholson, Michael Stewart, Kwadwo Gyase, Elizabeth Corr, Esailama Gedo Artry-Diouf, Esther Mukewa, Courtney Scheskie, Erica Hill, and Kwame Essien. Many of the graduates have yet to finalize their plans for the immediate future, but we wanted to share some of the exciting news of those who have committed to their next steps in life.

### Esailama Gedo Artry-Diouf

I will be graduating from U. of I. this summer. I have accepted a four-year fellowship for my PhD work at Northwestern University and will be attending there in the fall.

### Kwame Essien

My wife and I are expecting a baby in August. The other good news is that I have been accepted into the history PhD program at the University of Texas at Austin. My focus will be on Africa and the African Diaspora. This will be a good forum for me to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Jean Allman, Dr. Merle Bowen, and several faculty members who made my MA transitions from African studies—Latin American and Caribbean studies to my final destination at the University of Texas possible.

### Erica Hill

My plans after graduating include traveling to Tanzania this summer and then beginning the doctoral program in sociology here at U. of I. in the fall.

### Suzana Palaska-Nicholson

Suzana will be graduating this summer after finishing both her thesis and Lingala language studies. This is all secondary to the very exciting news that she and her husband Brian will be welcoming a new addition to their family at the end of the summer! Congrats and best wishes to you all!

### Courtney Scheskie

This summer I am taking a break from international travel after all the excitement of last summer (see section on summer activities). In July I will be packing up my things and moving to Clemson, South Carolina, where I have recently been accepted into a PhD program in Parks, Recreation, Sport and Tourism at Clemson University.

Class of 2006

## Student Alumni News

**Denise Roth Allen** (PhD, anthropology, 1996) accepted a permanent position as an anthropologist/behavioral scientist in CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, after completing a two-year epidemiology training program at CDC in July 2003.

**Aimee Johansen Alnet** (PhD, linguistics) welcomed her son Marc on February 2. She has presented at the Michigan Linguistics Society presentations at Michigan State University on "Terms of Address in Boondei Families," and at the Texas Linguistic Society on "Tense, Negation and Singular Agreement in Comorian (Bantu)." At the Annual Conference on African Linguistics she also presented on "Mayotte: Island at a Crossroads, Geographical and Linguistic, Past and Present."

**Maurice Amutabi** (PhD, history, 2005) has published many things in the past year. Some of the highlights include *African Urban Spaces in Historical Perspectives: Foundations of Adult Education in Africa* (with Frederick Nafukho and Ruth Otunga) in 2005 and *The NGO Factor in Africa: The Case of Arrested Development in Kenya* forthcoming in July 2006.

**Dorothea Bedigian** (PhD, agronomy, 1984) is in Windhoek, Namibia, where she has spent nearly two months collecting species in the plant family *Pedaliaceae* and is supported by a National Geographic Society grant for research and exploration. This will help in preparation of a monographic revision of the genus *Sesamum*, and for a book she is presently editing, *Sesame, the genus Sesamum*.

**Nicolas Cook** (PhD, 2000) continues to work as an African affairs analyst for Congress. He undertook a research trip last July to Ghana and Liberia to learn more about the perspectives of government officials, NGOs, and others on issues. He returned to Liberia in October 2005 as an election observer, where he observed a very well-run and peaceful (or, as Liberians might say, "fine, fine") vote in Bomi County.

**Stephen David** (PhD, English, 2001) has been appointed assistant dean, international, at the College of Education, Purdue University.

**Nadine Dolby** (PhD, curriculum and instruction, 1998) has been promoted to associate professor of curriculum studies at Purdue University.

**Frida Domatob Fokum** (PhD, animal sciences, 1993) former president of the Africa/African Related Women Association (AARWA, 1997-1999) co-authored an article for the *International Journal of Cancer* called "Vitamin E succinate suppresses prostate tumor growth by inducing apoptosis."

**Amanda Gouws** (PhD, political science, 1992) edited a book on feminist perspectives in South Africa entitled *(Un)Thinking Citizenship: Feminist Debates in South Africa*, and published in 2005. The book is a view on citizenship from the South and an attempt to look at the limits of law reform as it impacts gender equality in South Africa.

**Leslie Gray** (PhD, geography, 1997) has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at Santa Clara University. She also received an African Regional Research Fulbright for research on cotton, poverty, and the environment in Burkina Faso.

**Nicki Hawkes** (AM, 2000) is excited to announce her engagement and marriage in May. She will then be moving to Los Angeles. Until then, she is working in the Fellows Program at the MacArthur Foundation.

**Brent Henderson** (PhD, linguistics) recently defended his PhD dissertation under the advisement of Elabbas Benmamoun and will begin a position in the linguistics program at the University of Florida. The position will also allow him to be affiliated with the African Studies Center and Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures. He currently teaches Swahili and Bantu Syntax at the University of Chicago.

**Michelle C. Johnson** (PhD, anthropology, 2002) recently published an article entitled "The Proof Is on My Palm": Debating Ethnicity, Islam and Ritual in a New African Diaspora." She is currently an assistant professor of anthropology at Bucknell University.

**Maxim Matusevich** (AM, 1995) has moved to a new tenure-track position at Seton Hall University. He also has edited a volume entitled *Africa in Russia, Russia in Africa: Three Centuries of Encounters* (2006) and published a chapter in Olayiwola Abegunrin and Olusoji Akomolafe's *Nigeria in Global Politics: Twentieth Century and Beyond* entitled "An Elusive Friendship: Nigerian-Soviet/Russian Relations."

**Fallou Ngom** (PhD, French, 2002) participated in the "Turning Points" faculty lecture series at Western Washington University on "Language Analysis in Asylum Cases: A Recent Development in Forensic Linguistics." At the conference on Movements, Migrations and Displacements in Africa at the University of Texas at Austin he presented on "Forensic language analysis in asylum applications of African refugees: challenges and promises."

**Mwenda Ntarangwi** (PhD, anthropology, 1998) will soon be publishing an edited volume with David Mills and Mustafa Babiker entitled *African Anthropologies: History, Practice and Critique*. He also directed a foreign term in Ghana for 36 Augustana college students from March 5 to May 13, 2006.

**Tammy Paul** (AM, African studies, 2000) lives in the Washington, D.C., area and works for personnel management with the federal government.

**Ahmed Salem** (PhD, political science, 2006) successfully defended his PhD thesis and is now working as the assistant director of the Ford-funded African Regional Integration Support Project at Cairo University, Egypt.

**Amber Stott** (AM, African studies, 1999) is manager for volunteer and event services at an international development nonprofit called Freedom from Hunger. The organization provides micro-loans coupled with health and nutritional education to women living on less than a dollar a day around the world with programs in West Africa, Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere.

**Frances Vavrus** (AM, D.E.I.L., 1991) has been selected as a Fulbright scholar to Tanzania for the 2006-07 academic year. She will be teaching at Mwenje University College of Education in Moshi and completing a book manuscript based on her longitudinal education and health research in the region. She has also been selected as the recipient of the 2006 Joyce Cain Award from the Comparative and International Education Society for her “distinguished research on African descendents.”

**Mattito Watson** (AM, African studies; MS, community health, 2001) was awarded the Young Humanitarian Award for the University of Illinois. He is currently living in Sudan as the deputy director for the Save the Children Foundation in the Sudan Field Office and will be unable to make it back to Champaign-Urbana for the award ceremony.

**Stephen Wooten** (PhD, anthropology, 1997) edited and contributed a chapter to *Wari Matters: Ethnographic Explorations of Money in the Mande World*. He has also been named to the editorial board of a new book series called “Mande Worlds.” On the family front, he and Tracy welcomed their son August George to the world on September 6, 2005.

*Crummey, continued from page 12*

people in and around the Center so the Center had students as well as faculty dropping in, and that has happened,” he says.

But what he still finds the most rewarding are his time in Ethiopia and the friends he made there. It’s been a rewarding experience he wants his students to share. I asked his advice for the graduate students who are just starting their careers: “The single most important thing for people in African studies is relationships with institutions and people in Africa,” he remarked. “I think everything we are doing should be trying to help Africans develop their own institutions. And also there is a central importance of African colleagues in your career. Those things have been so important to me that I like to think that they are worth continuing to work for.”

What’s next for Dr. Crummey? He admitted to wanting some time off. “I want to do nothing for a while. My wife and I just got a camper and we’re going to hit the road and goof off.”

Well, he’s definitely earned it, but knowing Dr. Crummey, it probably won’t last too long. And sure enough, the very next sentence out of his mouth was about his work: “...and then there are a couple of research projects that I will pick up that are ongoing.”

Though his time at U. of I. is officially over, we probably haven’t seen the last of him.

Thanks for making the Center what it is today, Dr. Crummey! ■

*Stewart, continued from page 13*

been unthinkable even 15 years earlier,” he said. In terms of African studies, Dr. Stewart feels “the disciplines have moved toward an awareness of a need to work on the edges in an interdisciplinary mode, and the Africanists have come to recognize that they need to make their mark within disciplinary constructs.”

Dr. Stewart’s research focused on a rebuttal to British historian Hugh Trevor-Roper’s comment that Africa has no history because it has no written record. The repercussions of this controversial statement are still being felt, and the ignorance behind it has sparked many to pursue research to contradict Trevor-Roper’s sentiments. Dr. Stewart was moved as well, and focused his research on following the trail of Islam and the Arabic script through West Africa. Starting with tracking silsilas, a written record of religious teachers in Sufism, Dr. Stewart began documenting and cataloging written documents in Arabic. From this came the West African Arabic Manuscript Database, which catalogues more than 20,000 citations of Arabic manuscripts from private and public libraries, as well as government documents, from across West Africa. It features a search engine in both Arabic and English—one of the first Arabic-English bilingual search engines on the Internet. This remarkable resource is available at [www.arabic.uiuc.edu](http://www.arabic.uiuc.edu).

That Dr. Stewart played a pivotal role in the success of the Center for African Studies is without question. Without his persistence in making sure the administration recognized the importance of African studies, we would not have a presence here. While the look and role of the Center has changed dramatically since he was director in the 1980s, his legacy remains through the faculty he believed in, the integrity he has shown his successors, and the research in which he has excelled. And, hey, Dr. Stewart even initiated the first newsletter for the Center—we can thank him for *Habari*.

Thanks so much, Dr. Stewart—we wouldn’t be here without you. ■

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