LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of our readers this past year gently pointed out that we might rechristen this publication, since its usual appearance in the summer months for the previous calendar year means that there is little real "news" in the letter. Our solution to the problem has been not to change our name but rather to change our reporting periods; with this number we will begin passing along events of the past academic year (inclusive this issue of the spring of 1983 as well) in hopes that we'll actually be passing along news in the future.

At the time I took on this post, I requested that my appointment be for a three-year period, since by August 1984 my "acting" and actual administrative time would come to a total of five years as director of the program. It is important for a program like this to be exposed to new ideas and plans at intervals, and thus it is with pleasure that I pass on news of the incoming director of the program Professor Donald E. Cruickshank. Professor Cruickshank joined the Illinois faculty as a visiting assistant professor in 1973 from a position he had held at the University of Addis Ababa since he received his Ph.D. from the University of London in 1967 at the School of Oriental and African Studies. At Illinois he was made an associate professor in 1979 and was named a full professor in 1983. His research and publications deal with Ethiopian history with particular reference to relationships between state, land, and society from the mid-eighteenth through later nineteenth centuries. He has served as associate director of the African Studies Program, and he has been an active part of our advisory committee since 1975. It is with enthusiasm that I welcome Donald's directorship.

Three years ago we began an annual competition for the selection of the outstanding student paper submitted in an African studies course during the previous two semesters, and I have failed to note the annual winners in past newsletter issues. The very stiff competition this year was one indication that this modest award and recognition has "taken hold," and you may be interested in being kept informed of the winners of this competition, for they do fairly reflect the breadth of Africanist research among our students. The 1982 winner was Carla Heath (communications) for her paper "The Female Factor in Hausa Economy, 1800-1930"; in 1983 Dorothea Bedigian (agronomy) took the prize for "Nuba Agriculture and Ethnobotany," since published; and this year's award went to Daniel Kempton (political science) for his study "The Soviet Union's Strategy for South Africa."

Each year we try to highlight one aspect of our program's ongoing activities in this newsletter; this issue will focus on our African language teaching, which is under the able direction of Professor Emmanuel Bokamba, African language coordinator in the Department of Linguistics. Our other activities—round table, symposium, outreach work, and institutional linkages with Africa—have made very considerable contributions to the campus during the past eighteen months and are summarized below.

If our alumni news section is smaller this year, it is because we have heard less from all of you than normal. Please do take a minute to drop a line so that we may update your fellow alumni on your accomplishments.

C. C. Stewart
Director

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Lecture Series. Sponsored and cosponsored events during the spring semester 1983 included A. M. Babu, former minister of economic affairs in the government of Zanzibar; F. Odun Balogun, University of Benin, Nigeria, who delivered our annual alumni lecture; John Peel, Charles Booth Professor of Sociology, University of Liverpool; Samuel S. Wangwe, dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Dar es Salaam; Hinyaferwa Asheke, SWAPO observer mission to the U.N.; C. J. Nyon, University of Dar es Salaam. In addition women from five countries in Africa were hosted during the campus conference on "Common Differences: Third World Women and Feminist Perspectives," including Phemuel Egejuru (Nigeria), Motalelupha Chabaku (South Africa), Valentia Malima (Tanzania), Nawal El Saadawi (Egypt), and Djamilah Olivesi (Morocco). The program also sponsored a show by the South African photographer George Hallott during the ALA conference and cosponsored Hallott's return to campus in the fall as an artist-in-residence at Unit One. Other events during the 1983-84 year included a Midwest premiere of the Nadine Gordimer film series on South Africa; the annual alumni lecture delivered by Professor Robert Gordon on "The Protestantization of the Bushmen"; Klaus Mohrhepa, ANC; Professor E. J. Alagno, Nigerian historian and former vice-chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt; and Ann Seidman, Oxford, Boston. In our weekly Wednesday noon lecture series we have managed to include most of our visiting colleagues from Africa as well as faculty and graduate students' research reports; overseas lecturers in this series during 1983-84 included George Hallott, Pratap Koter (George A. Miller Visiting Scholar in African Studies, India's former ambassador to Tunisia, who also served in his country's missions in Ghana and Kenya at the time of independence); Dr. Victor Teyo, graduate assistant in outreach, geographer; Benson Nindi, sociology, University of Dar es Salaam; Donal Cruise O'Brien and Louis Brenner, University of London; Dumisani Khumalo, exiled South African journalist. Spring Symposium. The tenth annual symposium was celebrated in April 1983 in conjunction with our sponsorship of the annual African Literature Association national meetings under the direction of Evelyn Accad, convenor; twenty-six panels were structured around the theme "Freedom Voices: African Literature in its Social and Political Dimensions," bringing participants from across the country. International visitors, in addition to those brought for the meeting on Third World women which followed, were Jean-Claude Vatin, social historian and Maghribi literary critic, Nouredinne Afa, Algerian poet, and Zakhe Metse, Lesotho playwright.

Our focus in April 1984 was "Popular Islam in Twentieth-Century Africa," which convened participants from thirty-four institutions in this country, the U.K., the Middle East, and Africa. Ioan Lewis opened the conference, and sessions were devoted to "Popular Islam and the Arts" with Rene Bravmann, Thomas Hale, Louis Brenner, Murray Last, Myebe Chan (and Alma Gottlieb, discussant); "Popular Islam and Political Radicalism" with Allan Christelow, Paul Lukeo, Lidwine Kapothema, Mohammed Benkheira (and Valerie Hoffman, discussant); "Popular Islam and Secular Structures" with Donal Cruise O'Brien, Beverly Brown, Jean Boyd, James Thayer, Gabriel Warburg (with Nehemia Levitzon, discussant); and "Muslim Minorities in Christianized Societies" with Deborah
Pellow, Simone Ottenberg, Abdussamad Ahmad (and Martin Njeuma, discussant). Chris Waterman added an evening lecture/performance on Islamic influences in Yoruba music.


Fall Round Table. In 1983 "African Studies in K-12 Curriculum Priorities" brought together a working group of teachers, administrators, and media specialists to examine "The Place of International Studies in K-12 Curricula," "International Studies and African Studies," and "African Studies Outreach at UIUC." Louise Crane, outreach coordinator, chaired the one-day session that convened area teachers and our own staff and gave form to an outreach advisory council appointed this past year. We welcome the help of this group of educators, which includes Robert Bailey, UIUC Film Center; Julia Brady, UIUC Faculty of Education; Tom Ferguson, Oak Park and River Forest High School; Mary Fritz, King School, Urbana; Karen McKenzie, Champaign teacher; Clarence Seckel, Lincoln Senior High School, East St. Louis; and Hester Suggs, Washington Elementary School, Champaign. Consultants contributing to the round table included James Anderson, College of Education, UIUC; Paul Griffith, Illinois State Board of Education; and Jean Sindab, Washington Office on Africa.

In 1984 the round table will focus on "Literacy, and Communications in Africa" under the chairmanship of Professor E. G. Bokamba.

Outreach. The series added its third and fourth handbook to the list of titles during the 1983-84 year: Good Tastes in Africa (over 70 recipes from around the continent) contributed by members of the African Women's Association, including background information, menus, recipes, riddles) and Religious in Africa (traditional beliefs, Islam, Christianity, African contributions to Christianity and Islam, the black diaspora, biographical sketches, prayers, calendars, festivals, symbols). In addition to the round table conference on African studies in K-12 teaching, outreach coordinator Louise Crane has served as chair of the African Studies Association outreach committee, and she has represented Illinois at more than a dozen teachers' workshops and regional and national conferences on education. Other activities in the community that have involved our faculty and graduate students include church and radio programs on Africa and the Third World. The major spring 1984 project has been the joint publication with the UIUC Film Center of Film and Video Resources: Africa, Guide and Catalog due out in the summer 1984. The UIUC Film Center now holds one of the largest rental libraries of African films for teaching purposes available nationally, and we hope that this free guide/catalog will make it accessible to a national audience.

A new outreach activity begun this year has been the distribution of the quarterly newsletter of the African Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association. The newsletter, edited by Africanist bibliographer Yvette Scheven, now links together more than 400 research libraries and specialists world-wide, including (we hope) most of the continental African research libraries. Newsletter issues regularly contain minutes of relevant meetings, details of acquisition trips, information on certain published and mimeographed items (especially those not readily available through regular trade channels), and other news.

African Students' Groups. The African Women's Association met monthly throughout the year; Joanna Tenneh Hoff succeeded Maio Kidda (president 1982-83) as leader of the group. Highlight of the year was participation in the annual Africa Week banquet in April when their invited speaker, Professor Wede S. Jones, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, University of Liberia, spoke at very great length on "The African Woman's Role in Nation-building and Economic Development." The African Students' Organization sponsored a forum series throughout the year under the direction of Mamadou Bamba and Cephas Maipa, as well as films, social events, and visiting lectures. The president for 1982-83 was Emmanuel Kamgnia and for 1983-84, Taubahdi Mohammed Belo.

Illinois Linkages in Africa. In our last newsletter nine ongoing linkage arrangements between Illinois and African institutions were summarized; during the past eighteen months we hosted delegations from over a dozen other universities and research institutes that were exploring reciprocal exchange programs. Specific new developments during this period include: Ivory Coast. The program received a grant from the USIA for a three-year linkage between the University of Illinois and the National University of the Ivory Coast which provides travel subsidies for twenty-four faculty to visit at the counterpart campus during the 1983-86 period. Tansania. A formal memorandum of understanding has been negotiated and signed by the officials of this university and the University of Dar es Salaam; meanwhile the first Tanzanian students have arrived on this campus as part of a student "barter" arrangement, and one Illinois student has been hosted in Dar during the 1983-84 year. Rwanda. UIUC is collaborating with the University of Arkansas and three other institutions in a cropping systems improvement project which may lead to long-term collaborative work under a USAID contract.

AFRICAN LANGUAGE STUDY

The teaching of African languages at the University of Illinois at Urbana has witnessed a phenomenal growth in recent years that places the program in a leading position among peer institutions in the United States. A brief review of the program will highlight not only its potential but also areas in which our alumni might be able to assist us in the future.

The program in African languages at Illinois is a cooperative endeavor of the African Studies Program and the Department of Linguistics. Instruction in African languages began in the fall of 1968 with the introduction of Swahili, and the following year Professor Herbert Stahlke, a specialist in phonology and Yoruba, introduced the first course in Yoruba. These two languages formed the core of our teaching up to 1974, supplemented by tutorial courses in Igbo and Twi.

Enrollments in the program were small initially but steadily grew during the first six years, then leaped to 84 and 92 in 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively, thanks to increased interest in Swahili, then viewed by black students as the language of Africa. For a period Swahili dominated our language teaching until three new languages were introduced: Wolof in the fall of 1975, Hausa in the spring of 1976, and Lingala in the fall of 1976. This expansion was under the direction of Professor Eyabma G. Bokamba, a Zairian and specialist in syntax and African linguistics who joined the Department of Linguistics in 1974. These additions increased our regularly offered languages to four at the introductory and intermediate levels plus tutorials on demand which included Amharic, Luhya, and Shona. Arabic was also incorporated into the African languages during this "expansion period," and a third year of Swahili was added. Enrollments increased to 155 students in 1978-79 when Swahili remained the most popular language in the program. During the past five years our clientele has continued to climb rapidly, reaching 307 students in 1983-84. First year Swahili and Wolof classes have each been averaging 35 students per year, and enrollments in Arabic, Hausa, and Lingala have also shown significant recent increases.

While the program caters largely to undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who are required to do two years of a foreign language for graduation, it is also serving an increasing number of graduate students throughout the university who wish to study an African language for research or professional purposes. A number of Ph.D. dissertations have directly resulted from language facility acquired at Illinois in such fields as linguistics, political science, history, education, comparative literature, and musicology.

The acquisition of teaching materials and teachers for African language instruction presents special difficulties. Under Professor Bokamba's supervision an introductory Swahili program was completed in 1976 on the university's computer-based teaching equip-
ment, PLATO, which has since then been used in teaching. Also text books were written by our teachers: Dr. Mbye Cham developed Wolof materials which were further expanded by Dr. Malafa’ Drame; a Lingala manual was developed by Professor Bokamba; and Swahili materials were produced by Professor Albert Scheven. Our library has also been active in acquiring a basic collection of African language teaching materials; at present we have adequate resources to teach some thirty-five African languages. A new teaching aid now under development is a computer-based introductory year of Wolof and Swahili which will have audio and video components. The three-year project is under the direction of Professor Bokamba and is the first of its kind in the country. The audience we are seeking to reach with this project extends beyond university students and includes businessmen, diplomats, and tourists. The language offered in the program represent a good spread in the continent, but we have no Southern African language offered on a regular basis. It is our hope to add a major language from that region in the future.

We encourage alumni in Africa to recommend to us qualified graduate students who can teach any of the languages in our program. We also appeal to you to inform us of any publications on any African language that you may come across. The African languages coordinator, Professor E. G. Bokamba, can be reached at 2135 Foreign Languages Building, 707 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801.
study hypertension and preventive cardiology. BENSON C. NINDI, head, Department of Sociology, University of Dar es Salaam, joined the faculty for a four-month senior Fulbright program in the fall semester. DANIEL B. OKAI, University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, joined the faculty of veterinary medicine for a four-month Fulbright research program. MAHRI SAUL (anthropology), "Work Parties, Wages, and Accumulation in a Voltaic Village," American Ethnologist 10, 1, Feb. 1983; he received a NSF grant to work on studies of agricultural income and investment in Upper Volta for the 1983-84 year. ALBERT SCHEVEN concluded a decade of Swahili language instruction this spring and in recognition of his services was presented with a plaque by the African language teaching staff. YVETTE SCHEVEN (library) was on sabbatical during the fall and early spring 1983-84 working on a computerized listing of Africana bibliographies; she visited London, Paris, and Amsterdam in connection with library acquisition activities. ROBERT SCHOEN (sociology) served as acting head of his department during the 1984-85 year. DEMITRI SHIMKIN (anthropology) was in Dar es Salaam in January 1983 for talks with university and ministry of health personnel about collaborative work, and he hosted Tanzanian Fulbright visitors Benson Nindi and William Makene. CHARLES STEWART (African studies, history) coauthored Religions in Africa (African Outreach Series no. 4, 1984); JOHN STEWART (anthropology) joined the core faculty in 1983 and was elected to the program's advisory committee during the 1983-84 year. BARBARA YATES (educational policy studies) was installed as president of the Comparative and International Education Society; she served on the design team for a USAID cropping systems project in Rwanda in January 1984. GEORGE YU (political science) hosted a delegation of Chinese Africanists from the Institute of African and Asian Studies who visited the campus during the spring 1983 and took part in a U.S. delegation of Africanists who returned the visit to Pekin in 1984.

Resource Faculty. BURT SWANSON (international programs and vocational and technical education) was in Rome in the spring and fall of 1983 working on an African agricultural education study with FAO. J. B. CLAAR (INTERPAKS) was at Njala University College, Sierra Leone, during the summer of 1983 and in January on a consultancy project for AID. DAVID PROCHASKA (history) presented a paper on the economy of colonial Algeria at the French Colonial Historical Society in May and was in France and Algeria conducting research during the summer 1983. JOSEPH JACKOBS (agronomy) was in Nigeria in October to discuss soybean production. FRANCIS A. BOYLE (law) organized a conference on International Third World Legal Studies at the Harvard Law School in December. JAMES SINGEL (plant pathology) visited Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Zambia in February pursuing research work on soybean leafspot. J. RONAYNE COWAN, (DESL/linguistics) published "Literacy in the Southern Sudan: A Case Study," Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, 4, 1983, which details a four-year evaluation of the local languages literacy project in the Southern Region.

New Additions to Our Resource Faculty. BRUCE BRODIE, WILLIAM WOLF in veterinary clinical medicine with extensive research and publications on tropical veterinary medicine in Kenya. RICHARD HAY (geology) joined the faculty in the fall when he accepted the Ralph E. Grim Chair of Geology; Professor Hay has done extensive stratigraphy studies on Olduvai Gorge material with the Leaky since 1962. Another faculty member to join us has been our alumnus IBULAIMU KAKOMA (Ph.D. 1977) in veterinary pathology, EBERE NDUKA, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan joined the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the spring 1984 during a sabbatical leave for one year. ALICE DECK (English and Afro-American studies) joined the faculty in the fall; she has published and taught in African literature and has studied at the University of Liberia and University of Ife. ROBERT E. NELSON (vocational and technical education) has been working with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees on training programs for entrepreneurial skills in Kenya.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.