Third Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture
"Ralph Bunche: A World View of Race"

This year, Charles Henry, professor of African American Studies at University of California, Berkeley, delivered the Third Annual W.E.B. DuBois Lecture, sponsored by the Afro-American Studies and Research Program and the Center for African Studies. This lecture was also the closing lecture of the annual King Symposium and a CAS/MillerComm2000 lecture.

The topic of his Henry’s lecture was “Ralph Bunche: A World View of Race.” As the title suggests, he examined race by focusing largely on the life and work of Ralph Bunche, a political scientist, diplomat, Nobel Laureate, UN Undersecretary, and scholar of the middle of the 20th Century. Additionally, Henry placed Bunche in the tradition of African-American public intellectuals, between W.E.B. DuBois and Henry Louis Gates, also Harvard scholars whose works and activities generated considerable debate and discussion on race, scholarship, and social activism.

His lecture began quoting W.E.B. DuBois on African Americans’ experience of “double-consciousness,” DuBois pointed to a person’s sense of “twoness,—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unaccustomed strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder;” but Henry detailed the ways in which Bunche transcended race rather than experiencing this “double-consciousness.” Repeatedly, Henry showed that despite the culture that predominated and power structure that existed during Bunche’s life, he was not seen as the “other.” Instead, he was embraced by the dominant American society as someone who had transcended race.

Henry argued that Bunche himself viewed race as a social construction, a view that DuBois later came to support, although the latter still believed that the pervasive reality of racism in American society made race ‘real’.

Henry went on to examine Henry Louis Gates and the debates that surround some of his recent works, including his film series, “Wonders of the African World.” Henry noted Gates’ attempts to build an African-American literary canon that combines African and African American aesthetics. Quoting various scholars, Henry noted that Gates’ work has attracted both praise and condemnation.

Henry closed by noting the irony that in a time where cultural studies and identity politics pervade so many debates—Ralph Bunche is largely a forgotten man. Perhaps if the axes of analysis involved race, class, and gender, another rich study of Ralph Bunche’s life would be uncovered.

Drummers Maintain Cultural Inheritance of West Africa

Fally Ngnam

This February the U of I community was able to beat the winter doldrums by enjoying an exciting drumming performance by the Drummers of West Africa, known as Le groupe de Doudou Ndiaye Kumba Rose in their home country, Senegal. The group combines West African rhythms with lyrics in classical Arabic and Wolof, drawn from the roots of the Murid Sufi Islamic brotherhood of Senegal.

Doudou Ndiaye is the master drummer, who leads the 35-piece orchestra. He is a Gwear (Wolof: griot) and is considered a Kelifa (Wolof: wise and honorable person), as the founder and director of the drumming group. As a Gwear, he is safeguarding the oral knowledge of Senegalese society, and he also is enriching the drumming skills of the group by bringing together different musical beats and west African cultures such as the Mandinka, Joola, Pulaar, and See.ere.

Thus, the Drummers of West Africa proudly represent the successful integration of west African artistic and musical excellence.

For a 72-year-old person with over 30 children (many of whom are drummers in the group), Doudou Ndiaye Kumba Rose, or to speak more reverently Kelifa gi, stands as the typical griot of the Wolof society whose pride and honor was measured by the size of his family. Despite Senegal’s hybrid culture with the multidimensional Western influence in the country, the group is one of the rarest Senegalese artistic groups (if not the only one) in that is succeeds in maintaining their cultural inheritance while being open to the West. For this reason, the group represents a shining example of what an African griot and drummer should be and it represents one of the prides of Africa.
Letter from the Director

Paul Tryambe Zeleza

It is always a pleasant task to report on good news about the Center’s successes in accessing external grants, especially when it is the highly competitive Title VI grant which is critical to our programming. We were thrilled to learn that our application to the US Department Title VI FLAS Fellowships for the 2000-2002 cycle was successful. In fact, we did extremely well. We were awarded 8 academic year FLAS fellowships, the maximum number of academic year fellowships, and an additional 6 summer FLAS fellowships. In dollar terms, our FLAS fellowships for the next three years has increased by 29% from $158,000 per annum in the 1997-2000 cycle to $204,000 per annum in the 2000-2003 cycle. This is an achievement we can all be proud of. We are still awaiting news on the second portion of our grant application as a National Resource Center, which funds some of our instructional and extra-curricular programs.

At the end of this academic year I will be completing my five-year appointment as director of the Center. It has been an incredible five years for me in personal and professional terms. I feel proud to have been involved in the growth and development of one of the premier African studies programs in the nation, to have expanded my appreciation of interdisciplinary scholarship, and deepened my understanding of the challenges and possibilities that African studies face at the end of the twentieth century and beginning of the twenty-first. I have been quite lucky to work with such a group of efficient, diligent, and friendly people in the Center office and with dynamic, productive, and collegial Africanist faculty from diverse disciplines. Together we have introduced many new programs and activities. Together we have faced and met the various intellectual, institutional, and ideological challenges that face African studies. And together we have tried to promote a better understanding of, and engagement with, our beloved, but often misunderstood continent, Africa. That has been a source of deep satisfaction for me. Thank you.

Habari

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A Note from the Assistant Director

Romanus Ejiaga

I am pleased to be the new Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator of the Center at a time when the study of Africa is taking a new dimension. Developments on the continent and around the world are now challenging established ways of thinking about the continent. While the African Studies MA program continues to be one of the largest and most dynamic in the country, outreach, a key component of the Center, continues to provide schools, media, business, local community, and the general public with the programs, services, and resources they need and request.

We are proud to inform you that the Center has introduced a new seminar series “African Studies Interdisciplinary Seminar” this spring in addition to the numerous activities at the Center. The Center strongly believes that interdisciplinary discourse is indispensable for African Studies inquiry. Our programs continue to be well received by many constituents.

Let me congratulate the African Studies MA students for organizing the very successful 4th annual U of I conference on African and African Diaspora Issues. The conference included more than 25 presentations by graduate students with a shared academic interest in Africa. Special thanks to Amber Stott, Shannon McCafferty, Jason Schultz, Li Bing, Nicole Beatty, and Ahmed Salem for their dedication and hard work in organizing the conference. The presentations were intellectually stimulating and inspiring, and we were honored to have Prexy Nesbitt, a scholar and activist, present the keynote address.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the contributions and support given to the Center by many of our faculty, and we are delighted to note the effort of Professor Zine Magubane in organizing the Fall Colloquium on “Postmodernity and Postcoloniality” held in November 1999.

The Center extends congratulations to Tammy Paul for completing her master’s degree in African Studies in December 1999. We are thankful to Tammy for her time in hosting the Center’s radio program on Africa. Two of our graduate students, Nicole Beatty and Shannon McCafferty who took over for her, benefited from her experience. We wish Tammy success in her future endeavors, and also thank Nicole and Shannon who recently completed the Airshifter Training at the community radio (WEFT) for their new role as hosts for the show. The radio program mainly features African music, news and announcements, and we plan to expand the radio program in Fall 2000 to include discussion and interviews with Africans and Africanist scholars and students on Africa-related subjects, as well as radio documentary on aspects of African culture and society.

We wish to say to the MA students—Amanuel Bereket, Nicole Hawkes, and Koudedji Koita—who will be graduating this spring that we are proud of you and that you deserve our warm congratulations. Some have applied for PhD programs at various universities, and others are seeking jobs with various international and national organizations. We wish you all more fulfilling realizations in the years ahead.

African Studies assistant director, Dr. Romanus Ejiaga, holds degrees from the University of Lagos and Stockholm University Sweden. Before joining the Center in 1999, he worked as a research professor at the University of British Columbia, Canada.
Africa’s Road to the Millennium: Challenges and Changes

Amber K. Stott

Africa’s road to the Millennium merged through the U of I on Saturday, February 19, bringing it in contact with a host of aspiring Africanists, community members, professors, students, and activists. The diverse crowd represented the Africa-in-Academics Student Association’s (AIASA) goal of uniting professional academics with community-level activists. The conference opened dialogues amongst these two divergent groups by offering a variety of interdisciplinary paper presentations as well as round table discussions in hopes of narrowing the unnecessary gap between the academy and the community.

This daylong event was initiated by AIASA, a student organization consisting of first-year master’s degree students of the Center for African Studies. The central developers included Shannon McCafferty (President), Amber K. Stott (Vice President), Bing Li (Treasurer), Jason Schultz (Secretary), Nicole Beatty, and Ahmed Salem.

Highlights of the conference included a panel discussion on the political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal, which focused on the issue of direct political action. Another central round table discussion focused on business workshops by African studies centers, including our own. In the context of controversies about African-US trade policies, the National Summit on Africa, and the riot-ridden WTO conference in Seattle, concerns were raised about discussing African trade issues without including labor-level voices from African countries. Additionally, thought-provoking papers were presented by students in various disciplines, which included topics such as Health Changes in African Societies, The Culture of Art History, Environmental Challenges, and much more.

The travelers on Africa’s Road to the Millennium came together at the end of the conference to hear the inspiring and dynamic keynote speaker, Prexy Nesbitt. Prexy acts as Dean of Students at Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, but is most well noted for his efforts in the anti-apartheid struggle in southern Africa. Prexy was selected by AIASA because of his dual participation in community-level activism and his academic success.

During his address, Prexy spoke about the role of academics in the study of Africa. Prexy addressed the need to involve more African American students in African Studies, as well as working with Black community members. Prexy challenged African Studies programs across the nation to begin more intensive outreach programs on the community level. He suggested that students go to churches and prisons to conduct study sessions about Africa. Yet, most importantly, Prexy urged the students to unite, to make comrades of one another, to take responsibility for one another, and to work together to make changes within and challenge the existing structure of the Western academy.

Although the challenges addressed at the conference provided networks for participants with similar interests, the symposium also highlighted the need to initiate change. Although the lights of the conference are dimming in the past, many of the travelers have maintained their courses to challenge or to aid in changing Africa’s road to the Millenium.

Postmodernism, Postcoloniality and African Studies

Zine Magubane

The Fall Colloquium on ‘Postmodernism, Postcoloniality, and African Studies’ brought together Africanists from diverse intellectual orientations and fields of academic study in order to intervene in current intellectual debates that, although they impact Africa and Africanist scholarship, do not always take Africa seriously.

Africanist academics from the fields of literature, history, political science, philosophy, women’s studies, and sociology presented work that looked at how postmodern and postcolonial studies had impacted the epistemological debates in their fields. Scholars also presented critical analyses of the impact of postcolonial and postmodern theory in specific locales such as Ghana, South Africa, and Nigeria.

The presenters ranged very widely in their views on the benefits and pitfalls of postcolonial and postmodern scholarship on the Continent. Some were very critical, noting the potential of both postmodernism and postcolonial studies to de-politicize and de-historicize Africanist scholarship. Others noted the potential of both “faddish” fields of study to further marginalize the voices and concerns of ordinary African people. However, a significant number of presenters, while noting the obvious pitfalls in postmodern and postcolonial scholarship, also celebrated the potential of both to add complexity and depth to Africanist scholarship while opening up new areas of scholarship and problematizing the dominant intellectual orthodoxy.

An edited volume of the same name will be published by Africa World Press in the fall of 2000.
New Seminar Series Advances Dialogue Across Disciplinary Boundaries

This spring, the Center for African Studies launched an interdisciplinary seminar series that is off to an exhilarating beginning. The series’ success is due, in part, to a format that is based on dialogue. After having read a text, students, faculty and staff are gathering once a month to discuss it. The author of the paper is part of the seminar and makes introductory comments. But he or she remains silent during discussion of the work, only responding at the end of the session to concerns and questions raised.

Africarist faculty members from a discipline other than that of the “presenter,” serve as discussants and have provided meaningful directions for the discussion. The audience is also key by extending the dialogue not only with the author and discussant but between one another.

A brief outline of the series follows. If you are interested in reading more, you can access the full manuscripts via the Center’s website: www.afrst.uiuc.edu/SeminarSeries.html.

“African Labor and Intellectual Migrations to the North: Building New Transatlantic Bridges”
By Paul Tiambwe Zeleza

The paper examines the dynamics and dimensions of African labor and intellectual migrations to Europe and North America especially since the Second World. It interrogates various theoretical and popular perspectives on international migrations, the "brain drain," and transnationalism by exploring the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that generate, reproduce, and sustain African skilled migrations in both African and the Northern countries. The paper concludes by suggesting specific ways in which African intellectual migrants in the North can assist in building new linkages with universities and research institutions in Africa in the spheres of teaching, research, and public service in order to turn the liabilities of migration into assets for development.

Zeleza is a professor of history and African studies and director of the Center for African Studies at the U of I. Previously he taught at universities in Malawi, the Caribbean, Kenya, and Canada where he was professor of history and principal of Eaton College at Trent University. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and books, including A Modern Economic History of Africa, Vol.I The Nineteenth Century (1983) which was awarded the Noma Award in 1994, Africa’s most prestigious book award, and Manufacturing African Studies and Crises (1997) which won the Noma Award Special Commendation in 1998. He is also the author of three books of fiction.

“France’s African Policy in Transition: Disengagement and Reproductive Policy”
By Guy Martin

This paper examines the changing contexts and components of French-African relations. Professor Martin argues that France’s African policy was characterized by exclusivity, stability, and continuity. He examines the changing direction of French policies in the context of six events that have helped reshape French policy towards Africa in recent years, namely: the deaths of Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny and Jacques Foccart, the influential architect of African policy in the Fifth Republic; the struggles for democratization in Africa; the adoption of the Abidjan doctrine (making French aid conditional on acceptance of IMF and World Bank policies) and devaluation of the CFA Franc by the French government; setbacks in the Great Lakes region following the Rwanda genocide; the emergence of post-apartheid South Africa; and the implementation of restrictive immigration policies in France.

Martin is visiting associate professor at the Woodrow Wilson Department of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He has taught in universities in Botswana, Cameroon, the United States, and South Africa. His research interests include political change and democratization in Africa, conflict and conflict resolution in Africa, regional African integration, and Franco-African relations. His recent publications include works in the Journal of Modern African Studies; International Journal of Refugee Law; Ufahamu, and AFRICA 2000, and Political Parties of Sub-Saharan Africa (Greenwood Press).

“Nationalism in Guinea: Issues in Gender, Ethnicity, and Class, 1939-58”
By Elizabeth Schmidt

Professor Schmidt demonstrates that the Rassemblement Démocratique Africain was not simply an anti-colonial movement but rather a nation-building one. In doing so, she examines Benedict Anderson’s work on “imagined communities” and Miroslav Hroch’s three-staged schema for nationalist organizing. She begins to unravel part of Guinea’s complex history and this extraordinary movement in which a shared history (precolonial and colonial), religious heterogeneity, and the deliberate effort of unifying people across ethnic, class, and gender lines led to creating a national identity. This paper is the introduction to a larger manuscript exploring the nationalist movement in Guinea from 1939-1958.

Schmidt is associate professor of history at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland, but also has held positions at Macalester College, University of Minnesota, and University of Conakry. In addition to her current work on Guinea, she has worked in Zambabwe. Her book Peasants, Traders, and Wives: Slaves Women in the History of Zimbabwe, 1870-1939 (Heinemann 1992) was a finalist for the Herskovits Award, 1993; received the Choice commendation as an "Outstanding Academic Book for 1994"; and special mention in the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Competition in 1993. She also authored Dividing Corporate Canouflage: U.S. Business Support for Apartheid (Institute for Policy Studies, 1980).

“The Presentation and Consumption of African Arts in the US and Europe: Contrasts, Challenges and Impacts of africa55, UK and African Odyssey at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, DC”
By Helen Denniston

As the African Odyssey Festival of the Kennedy Center draws to a close, how can we evaluate it in presenting (a) the diversity of African art and (b) the African contribution to American culture? In Europe, how can a government-supported African Festival, lighten the burden of colonial histories, and represent contemporary African genius? National centers of excellence, dependent on state funds or mandates fulfill educational objectives for the arts. So the presentation and consumption of African arts should stimulate reflection, reconsideration of African and diaspora philosophies, and their meaningful place (or absence) in contemporary cultural discourse. Presentations of African and Diaspora work in high profile galleries, concert halls, museums and television broadcasts, achieve all of the above goals. But serious challenges and dilemmas arise from presenting African-derived performance and art in institutions designed to support Euro-American ‘canons’ and values of cultural excellence.

Denniston was trained in music and completed her Masters in Art and Education at the University of Sussex. Since establishing her consultancy in 1988, Denniston has directed projects for the South Bank Centre, London University, The Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, British Council London, Berlin and Harare. In the U.S., Denniston serves on The Africa Exchange, Advisory Panel and for four years, has consulted for the African Odyssey Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington DC.
Don Crumme, Faculty Member

Don Crumme's early interests were in Ethiopia's modern engagement with Europe, the processes of Ethiopian state reconstruction in the late nineteenth century and in the role of Christian religious institutions. These concerns led to his first book—Priests and Politicians: Protestant and Catholic Missions in Orthodox Ethiopia, 1830-1868 (Clarendon, 1972).

Don then taught for six years in the History Department of Addis Ababa University and joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1973. From 1984 to 1994 he served as Director of the Center.

On coming to Illinois, Don embarked on a long-term research project, a social history of Christian Ethiopia, drawing on a rich body of land documents as marginal notes in the Ethiopian manuscript collection of the British Library. In 1984 he visited Gondar with Shumet Sishagne, and out of that visit came, in 1988, an NEH collaborative research grant for "A History of Ethiopian Land Tenure and its Social Context," which, with renewal, ran to 1993. Shumet served as a research assistant on the project completing his PhD in 1991. Serving at the same time was Daniel Ayana (see next profile). They were later joined by Tesfaye W. Medhin, now completing his dissertation in anthropology, and Abebe Fissihia, currently finishing a PhD in education.

The NEH grant made possible the microfilming of land documents still held in Ethiopian churches and monasteries. This research, in turn, led to Don's monograph, Land and Society in the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia: From the Thirteenth to the Twentieth Century, which will be published later this year by the University of Illinois Press in association with James Currey Publisher of Oxford and Addis Ababa University Press.

As the land tenure project was winding down, Don became very involved with a collaborative research project funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation directed to an understanding of the environment and social change in four African countries from the 1930s to the 1990s. Other Illinois faculty participating in this project, which ran from 1993 to 1997, were Tom Bassett, Merle Bowen, Don Johnson, Mahir Saul and Alex Winter-Nelson. Tom and Don are working on a collected book arising from that project. The project got Don very involved in environmental history. Meanwhile, his research interests have come full circle and he is now exploring issues of religion, politics and national identity in Ethiopia since 1941.

Daniel Ayana, Alumnus

Daniel Ayana began his academic career at Addis Ababa University, where he did his undergraduate studies, a master's, and then later served as a lecturer. Carrying out original fieldwork for both theses, his BA thesis examined the Italian occupation of Ethiopia during World War II, and his master's thesis was on protestant missionaries in Ethiopia. From 1984-87, Daniel was lecturer in the Department of History at Addis Ababa University, following which he came to the US for further graduate studies.

Daniel joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for his PhD in history with a focus on Africa. He was also connected to the Center for African Studies, where he was a Research Assistant on a project studying the "History of Ethiopian Land Tenure," a project he headed by his mentor, Professor Donald Crumme. Daniel conducted fieldwork in Ethiopia twice for this project, and another time he went to Ethiopia for his own thesis on land tenure and agriculture. In addition to this research experience, he also taught for two years at Illinois State University, Normal, while he was writing his dissertation.

After graduating with the PhD, Youngstown State University offered Daniel a tenure track position, where he currently teaches history. In 1998, he was named "Master Teacher" of YSU, but his impact extends beyond the classroom. As a result of his courses, many students have developed interests in Africa. Two of his students visited Ethiopia. One is currently teaching English in Malawi, and the other former student plans to teach clinical psychology in an eastern or southern African country. Additionally, he has assisted history teachers in local schools and community colleges by identifying useful resources and through his teachings.

Daniel also organizes annual academic conferences and has two publications coming out soon: one on sedentarization and the other on democracy and African institutions.

Nicole Hawkes, Student

Nicole Hawkes is a second-year Master's student in African Studies with a focus on African Visual Arts. Nicole came to the University of Illinois with a BA in History from Mount Holyoke College. Her subsequent work as the manager of Hurst Gallery in Cambridge, an art gallery dealing primarily in the arts of Africa and the Pacific Islands, solidified her interest in African arts, their collection and exhibition, and in issues of cultural property protection and legislation.

During her studies at the U of I, Nicole has taken advantage of the interdisciplinary opportunities available through the MA program combining courses in art history, anthropology,
Faculty News

Abbas Benmamoun (linguistics) attended the Annual Conference on African Linguistics, where he co-chaired a panel on Afro-asiatic linguistics. He was recently appointed to the editorial board of Linguist. His recent publications include: "The Feature Structure of Functional Categories: A Comparative Study of Arabic Dialects" (Oxford University Press) and "The Syntax of Quantifiers and Quantifier Floats" (Linguistic Inquiry); "Further Remarks on First Conjunct Agreement" (with Joseph Aoun and Dominique Sportiche) in Linguistic Inquiry; and "Arabic Morphology: The Central Role of the Imperfective" in Lingua.

Eyamba Bokamba (linguistics) received a research grant from the U of I to study multilingualism in Africa. His project will involve research in the US and in Africa.

Merle Bowen (political science) book, The State against the Peasantry: Rural Struggles in Colonial and Postcolonial Mozambique, (University of Virginia, 2000) has recently been published.

Jean Due (agricultural and consumer economics) and Andrew and Anna Temu (agricultural and consumer economics '99) are preparing a report on their study of privatization of former government-owned enterprises in Tanzania.


Alma Gottlieb (anthropology) and J.S. DeLoache have co-edited a book, A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies, which will be out in May with Cambridge Univ. Press. Her article, "Luring Your Child Into this Life: A Beng Path for Infant Care," appears in that volume. She also has two other articles: "Où sont partis tous les bébés? Pour une anthropologie du nourrison" (Where Have All the Babies Gone?) Toward an Anthropology of Infants] in En substances: Systèmes, pratiques et symboliques—Textes pour François Héritier, ed. E. Terray et al.; co-authored with Philip Graham (English) in "Revising the Text, Revising the Field: Reciprocity over the Long Term," in Anthropology and Humanism. In January, she presented "Stranger Anxiety or Stranger Love? Social Behaviour of Beng Babies (Côte d’Ivoire)" to a joint meeting of the interdisciplinary Workshop in African Studies and the interdisciplinary Workshop in Human Development at the University of Chicago.

Al Kagan (library and information science) and Yvette Scheven (library and information science) book, Reference Guide to Africa: A Bibliography of Sources. (Scarecrow Press, 1999) was listed by Choice magazine as one of the best 18 "Outstanding Academic Titles" in the category of General Reference for 1999. Al has also edited The Growing Gap between the Information Rich and the Information Poor: Both Within Countries and Between Countries: A Composite Policy Paper (65th IFLA Council and General Conference, 1999) also presented for the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group. IFLA Paper #126-72-E; available at www.ifla.org/VII/digisrg/srg7.htm. He was also invited to join the editorial board of Frontiers of Information and Library Science (Nigeria); was elected to represent the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table on the governing Council of the American Library Association; chaired a panel, "Searching for the Enemy: Alternative Sources for U.S. Foreign Policy" at the ALA Annual Meeting, 1999; and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars.


Adlai Murdock (French) presented two papers in April: one at the African Literature Association Conference and one at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. He also presented a paper at the 25th Annual Conference on Literature & Film at Florida State University.

Alex Winter-Nelson (African studies, agricultural and consumer economics) received a Hewlett International Research Grant to work with colleagues at Sokone University, Tanzania.

He will be working with Andrew Temu and Anna Temu (agricultural and consumer economics) '99. He also traveled to South Africa to further develop an institutional link between University of the Free State and the U of I's College of ACES and to visit U of I exchange students. He visited University of Natal, Durban to work on developing a study abroad program there.

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (African studies, history) was invited to the following: International Conference on Constitutionalism in Africa, in Kampala, Uganda; 2000 Africana Congress, McGill University; 2nd Steering Meeting/Regional Meeting of the CODESRIA/UNDP Programme for Civil Society Empowerment for Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa, Kampala, Uganda; and has been invited to a conference on Higher Education in Africa, Johannesburg; and as keynote speaker at a conference on "Historical and Social Science Research in Africa," in Zomba, Malawi. He also gave a public lecture at Delaware University, "Why Africa Matters: Globalization and African Development." He has a forthcoming book (co-edited with Cassandra R. Veney), Women in African Studies Scholarly Publishing and was recently listed in the 17th ed. Marquis Who's Who in the World. He was recently invited to join the Editorial Board of the International Journal of African Historical Studies and signed a contract with Routledge as the editor of the Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century African History. His short story "Foggy Seasons," was published in a new edition of Fire, Spirits and Voices: Canadian Writers of African Descent (Harper Perennial). Tiyambe was appointed to the board of AID Transparency, an independent Dakar-based African organization devoted to the monitoring of all forms of international development assistance, from and by governments, aid agencies, NGOs, and CSOs, in order to contribute to the observance of transparency, fairness and the principles and ideals of democratic and people centered development in Africa.

Idella Anderson (sociology, African studies minor) continues to be active in mentoring young people. She works for America Read and America Counts, tutoring children in reading and math; she mentors children at Edison Middle School and Durban Court Boys and Girls Club. She also works with Project Youth, in which she visited high schools over Christmas break to talk to the children about college, and they are having a conference this spring for selected students to visit the campus for a weekend. Idella is active in Men of Impact and is preparing for their spring conference. She is also a part of the National Honors of Collegiate Scholars.

Rev. Fortunatus S. Bijura (Educational Organization and Leadership) has arrived from Tanzania to pursue graduate studies with a focus on higher education. After completing his degree, he looks forward to working in Catholic University in Tanzania.

Patricia Clark (history) presented "Gender, Race, and Librarianship in South Africa, 1920s-1960s" at the First Annual Graduate Symposium in Women's and Gender History, sponsored by the U of I History Department.

Nicolette Hawkes (African studies) was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society this fall. She also attended the ASA, where she presented "Confronting the 'Group' and Challenging Paradigms: Suggesting for Finding the Individual in African Contemporary Art.

Michelle Johnson (anthropology) recently finished her dissertation research with Mbanda immigrants from Guinea-Bissau living in Portugal. She is writing her dissertation in Quebec City, Canada where her husband is a postdoctoral fellow at Universite Laval. She presented "A Passport to Aljana (the Next World): Raising Mbanda Children in Lisbon, Portugal" at the Association for Research on Mothering's international conference.

Peter Kagwanja (history) published a review of Tony Evans's Human rights Fifty Years On: A Reappraisal in the Human Rights Quarterly.

Bertin Kouadio (African studies) is presenting, "The Use of Indigenous Africans in the French Colonial Administration" at the UCLA Graduate Conference in African Studies.

This January, Flora Lucas Makundi (agricultural and consumer economics) passed her preliminary exam in Family and Consumer Economics.


Veronica Ouma (geography) presented "The Spatial Context of HIV/AIDS-Related Health and Preventive Behaviors: An Analysis of Kimbo District, Kenya" at the American Association of Geographers this spring. While at the conference, she also made presentations on Kenya to a 10th grade class at Oliver High School in Pittsburgh.

Ahmed Salem (African studies) was invited to present, "The Historiography of the Arab Rule of the Zanzibar, 1832-1964" at the Conference on Egypt and Fourteen Centuries of Islam in Africa at Cairo University.

Jason Schultz (African studies) is presenting, "Oguri Resistance: The Search for Solidarity: Within A Triple Initiative" at the UCLA Graduate Conference in African Studies.

Fred Walumwa (labor and industrial relations) presented, "Gender Stereotype and Instructors' Leadership behavior: Transformational and Transactional Leadership" at the Midwest Academy of Management Annual Meeting this spring. He also traveled to Kenya for the burial of his only brother.

Mattito Watson (African studies) is presenting, "Medical Pluralism: An Introduction to African Systems of Healing and Health" at the Indiana University Graduate Student Conference in African Studies.
Alumni News

Komla Amoaku (music ’71) is the Acting Director of Ghana’s National Symphony Orchestra and is the Executive Director of the National Theatre of Ghana. After completing his master’s at the U of I under the supervision of Bruno Nettl (music), he completed a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh; became a full professor at Central State University, Ohio; and was a professor at California State University, San Marcos.

Eric Beck (African studies ’96) is working to develop the Africana curriculum at Parkland College. He proposed and Parkland Curriculum Committee approved offering 4 semesters of Kiswahili.

Brian Bunyan (African studies ’98) traveled to Kenya last fall and is expecting to pursue a PhD in Canada.

Nadine Dolby’s (curriculum and instruction ’98) article, “White Fright: The Politics of White Youth Identity in South Africa” has been accepted by the British Journal of Sociology of Education. Recently she had articles published in the European Journal of Cultural Studies and Race, Ethnicity and Education.

Laura J. Downing (linguistics ’90) is continuing with her research on Bantu phonology and morphology. She is travelling to Harare and is collaborating with Carolyn Harford on her work on Hwesa and also pursuing her own research on reduplication. Laura’s article, “Morphological and prosodic constraints on kinande verbal reduplication” is in Phonology, and “Morphological constraints on Bantu reduplication” appears in Linguistic Analysis: Special Issue on African Linguistics, 1999. Laura received an NSF POWRE grant last year and received an International Grant for travel to Zimbabwe during summer 2000.

Leslie Gray (geography ’97) was appointed as an assistant professor at Santa Clara University. She is in the Departments of Environmental Studies and Political Science.

Peter Jones (African studies, ’99) enrolled at the University of Illinois, Chicago doctoral program in History. He is doing research on cultural policy under Nkrumah. In addition, he is teaching at Columbia College, Chicago (U.S. History from 1877). You can contact him at pjones4@uic.edu.

This year, Stephen Wooten (anthropology ’97) served as a member of the National Review Panel for Africa-related proposals submitted to the US Department of Education’s International Education and Graduate Programs. He gave an invited lecture on Banana expressive culture at the Oregon Humanities Center. He was interviewed on UO Today, the University of Oregon’s outreach television program. Stephen discussed his research on antelope headaddresses and champion farmers in rural Mali and presented video clips from his ethnographic fieldwork.