Greetings From the New Director

This year marks the third year of operation for the Center for African Studies here at Rutgers. It promises to be an exciting and challenging year with a range of activities and projects that mark the maturation of the Center as an entity within the University and as a resource for the citizens of the state of New Jersey. Many of the programs will feature extensive outreach efforts to bring in the general public and to help the K-12 and business communities. Ultimately, the year is reaping the hard work of the Center’s past director, Richard Schroeder, and the many faculty of Rutgers who have labored to make this one of the most promising centers for African research in the country.
This year’s series of ambitious projects is made more possible because our office now has its full complement of staff. Ms. Sheilah McLean Louis, Esq. joined the Center as the Assistant Director early in the year and has made a tremendous difference for the execution of projects and the coordination of Center activities. In addition we have Ms. Anitra Dickerson, a Rutgers alum who came with Ms. Louis from the alumni office of Rutgers Law School in Newark. As a team they have been responsible for smoothing the rough edges of the Center’s operations and we are extremely grateful for their help.

Secondly, and again under the directorship of Richard Schroeder, the Center has secured another U. S. Department of Education Title VI--Undergraduate International Study and Foreign Language Grant. The grant will be used to support the expansion of African languages, programming and courses, and will permit the Center to focus on two major topics in 2001-2002--‘Science in Africa’ and ‘Lusophone Africa’--and two others in 2002-2003, ‘Representing Africa: the Press and Politics’, and ‘Francophone Africa’. This year’s projects express the dedication and creativity of Rutgers faculty and supporting administrators.

‘Science in Africa’ allows us to challenge the stereotypes so central to the image of Africa in the press and this country’s population. Prevailing views fail to recognize the vibrant scientific community in African countries as well as the contributions of U.S. based African scientists to the development of the United States. Under the theme of ‘Environment, Health and Landscapes of Power’, the program committee has designed an exciting program which brings eminent African scientists to the campus for discussions with colleagues and our students. We have identified ‘African Women in Science’ as an area of interest and will be supporting several presentations involving women based here in the U.S. as well as on the continent. A number of our initiatives involve collaborations with other programs at the University. We join Prof. Keith Wailoo, History and Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Research, in ‘Myth, Memory and ‘Racial Health Policy’: A Workshop on African-American and African History and Health. During the summer, we also co-sponsored a workshop with Cook College and the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology of Nigeria on bio-technical agriculture. Future presentations include a talk on the abusive use of clinical trials in Africa, an issue of particular concern given the AIDS virus; a symposium on ‘Climate Change and Africa: Global Warming’; and a program on ‘Environmental Racism: Empowering the People of South Africa’.

Under the Lusophone Africa theme, which developed from our project on ‘Africanizing European Languages’ funded under the previous Title VI Grant, we are hosting the Mozambican ambassador, a man who played a prominent role in the war of liberation in Mozambique. In addition, the eminent Angola writer Pepetela, another militant in the war in Angola and writer and essayist, will join us in the spring, with the support of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. We will also sponsor a series of discussions about the history of the liberation struggle in Portuguese languages Africa, which will involve film showings and talks. The Portuguese program at Rutgers has grown immensely this year with the addition of a new faculty member, Phillip Rothwell, who joins Cesar Bragga-Pinto, whose visit to Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique, was funded by the Center. We look forward to many exciting courses on African literature in Portuguese.

On the cultural front we are co-sponsoring with the New Jersey Film Coop, the state premier of Raoul Peck’s acclaimed film “Lumumba” and also Sembene’s “Faat Kine.” Programs leading up to the “Lumumba” showing will explore personal accounts of the period.

Some of our major advances will be in African languages, which are taught in the Africana Studies department. As chair of the Language Committee, Akw Akínlábi, Chair of the Department of Linguistics and a comparative linguist, has led the design and initial implementation of the program. Oussienna Alidou, as the Coordinator of African languages, is charged with supervising language offerings and further developing the program. In the Fall,
Among our projects on the slave trade were two conferences: ‘Repercussions of the Atlantic Slave Trade: The Bight of Biafra and the African Diaspora’, held in Enugu, Nigeria (July 2000), and ‘Fighting Back: African Strategies Against the Slave Trade’ at Rutgers in February 2001. Both are part of a broader initiative involving an oral history project in southeastern Nigeria, with the UNESCO/York University Nigerian Hinterland Project, and a document preservation project with the Enugu archives.

The Center is also launching several collaborations with African countries. One, the Tanzania Archive Project developed in collaboration with the Schomburg Center and Columbia University, will bring several Tanzanian archivists to Rutgers over the next ten years for training. The other involves a study of the expatriate African population in New Jersey.

Finally, the Center will also intensify its programs to incorporate undergraduate students. This will involve the scheduling of small group student consultations with all of the visiting scholars who come to the Center. This was used during the Distinguished African Women’s Project, when students met with the women speakers. We will continue this by programming in the dormitories and student centers. Like many scholars, we are concerned to create the next generation of Africanists and feel that the undergraduate experience is crucial for this.

We look forward to working with you this year and invite you to join us in building African studies at Rutgers. Our successes are built on a foundation of administrative support, faculty excellence, and student enthusiasm. Together we can succeed.

Carolyn A. Brown
We also collaborate on an almost daily basis with the African Studies Association secretariat staff located on Douglass Campus, the Department of Africana Studies which shares our building in Beck Hall, and our sister African Studies programs in the greater New York-Philadelphia area. In short, we are now a fully functioning area studies center with a broad scope of activities and interests.

Rick Schroeder

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CAMPUS VISIT BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DONALD PAYNE

A highlight of the 1998 year’s activities was a talk by Rep. Donald Payne, of New Jersey’s 4th Congressional District. Congressman Payne, ranking Democrat on the House Sub-Committee on African Affairs, presented an overview of his tour of Africa with President Clinton which included meetings with heads of state and other officials. He offered a number of suggestions for improving U.S. efforts to support democratic movements on the continent. After his talk, attendees had an opportunity for informal conversation at a reception given by James W. Hughes, Dean of the Bloustein School.

DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN WOMEN SCHOLARS HIGHLIGHT 1999-2000

The Distinguished African Women’s Scholars Series highlighted the 1999-2000 year. Part of the Center’s “Unmapping the Reps” initiative, the series was organized by Professor Abena Busia and Professor Dorothy Hodgson who received a major grant from the Ford Foundation. The purpose of the series was to showcase African women academics, artists, and political activists while facilitating cross-cultural dialogue and understanding on issues of gender, social change and empowerment. Each distinguished visitor stayed on the campus for a week, giving talks, meeting with students and faculty, and spending time with members of the larger community. In connection with their visits, many related events were staged. One element was a set of round-table discussions in New Brunswick around the theme of “Common Family: Connections between Sisters on Both Sides of the Atlantic.” To reinforce the impact during the year two pilot courses were introduced: Dorothy Hodgson taught “Gender and Power in Africa” and Abena Busia offered “African Feminisms.” The grant also provided for the purchase of films for the Rutgers Library collection and the acquisition of other teaching material on African women.

Prof. Fatou Sow, Senegalese sociologist and widely published feminist theorist based at Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, opened the series with a lecture at Douglass College entitled “Challenging the State: African Women’s Rights.” In classroom sessions she shared her expertise on international network building. In December, 1999, Tsisti Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), the renowned novelist, playwright, poet, and film maker showed and commented upon “Everyone’s Child,” which evoked a powerful response from the audience and a rich discussion. She also gave a public lecture on “African Women: Which Way the Winds of Change,” attended several classes, and met with the Model OAU students.

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, the world famous educator, politician, and diplomat, who served as Secretary General of the Fourth United Nations World Conference of Women in Beijing, spoke on “The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Peace Negotiation in Africa” in February, 2000. She attended many classes and other gatherings, where she discussed the importance of African women’s NGOs and trans-national peace-making efforts. Yassine Fall, Senegalese feminist economist and activist who has worked with the UNDP, Women and Development, and other international agencies, provided a fitting conclusion to the series with her public address on “Globalization and Macroeconomic Reforms: Challenges and Prospects for Women’s Economic Empowerment in Africa.” Along with other activities, Dr. Fall held a seminar with members of the French Department and spoke in a class of Prof. Sharon Gramby-Sobukwe on the Camden campus of Rutgers. All of the public lectures were video-taped and Professors Hodgson and Busia conducted video interviews with each visitor. The tapes are available for classroom use.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS FOR 1999-2001

The Spring 1999 speakers series began with Dr. Kassahun Checole, Publisher of Africa World Press, who spoke on “The Possibilities and Perils of Publishing in Africa.” He discussed the difficulties faced by journalists and book publishers: financial shortages, official restrictions, physical attack, imprisonment, and even death. The talk, co-sponsored by the Library’s Committee
on Diversity and the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, was followed by a reception and a book display.

The democracy and human rights theme was continued by Hafsat Abiola, daughter of the late president-elect of Nigeria, Bashir Abiola, and an activist in her own right. In addition to a public lecture at the Douglass College Student Center, Ms. Abiola spoke in three classes and at informal gatherings where she challenged students to understand African societies and politics.

“The Nigerian Constitution: Problems and Prospects” was the focus of a panel discussion in November, 1999. The panel featured six Nigerians, including Ayo Obe, President of the Nigerian Civil Liberties Organization; Professor Peter Ekeh from SUNY Rochester; Professor Ebere Onwudie from Central State University (Ohio); and Dr. Julius Iohnwbere of the Ford Foundation. They explored alternative views of a new constitution, including a Bill of Rights.

Several other speakers featured women’s rights and human rights. Kadi Sesay deeply moved the audience by her account of what women have endured at the hands of the military and rebels in Sierra Leone and of her own and other women’s personal efforts to bring peace to the country. She also reviewed recent legislation and policy changes within Africa that have advanced women’s participation in political processes and widened their legal protections and opportunities. The focus on Sierra Leone continued in the Spring, 2000 with the world premier of the film “Diamonds Guns, and Rice” and a panel of speakers: Prof. Ismail Rashid, Department of History, Vassar College; Jan Haaken, producer of the film; and Jariatu Sesay and Aisa Barry of the Sierra Leone Women’s Peace Movement. In the Spring, 2001, Judy Rogers, Co-Chair, and Dr. Hawthorne Smith, a member of the Executive Committee of NAH WE YONE, INC. spoke on “Sierra Leone War Refugee: Rehabilitation for the Future” and showed a video on the work of the organization and on the conditions of refugees in the U.S. Nah We Yone, Inc. is dedicated to assisting war refugees find housing, jobs, and medical assistance. It has aided a number of amputees obtain appliances and receive rehabilitation and also has arranged for psychological counseling for those in need. Nah We Yone holds gatherings in the New York city area for refugees, organization members, and friends. Information is available at www.nahweyone.org.

Other speakers were concentrated in areas of African culture, social history, and contemporary affairs. Nana Ama Serwaa, Asante Akan Queen Mother for the greater New Jersey-New York area explained to an enthusiastic student group the sacred and secular roles of Queen Mothers in Ghana and in the United States.

Renee Neblett, Director of the Krokobitey School in Ghana, spoke about “New Possibilities for Overseas Studies” and met with faculty and administrators regarding a study abroad program based at her institution. Theresa De La Crus, head of the Center for African Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique, reported on recent developments at the Center; her visit also was linked with the exploration of further ties between Eduardo Mondlane and Rutgers. Dr. Ato Quayson, Director of the Program in African Studies, Cambridge University, discussed his scholarship on the topic of “Nationalism and Disassembled Identities in African Literature.”

The Center also co-sponsored two talks hosted by the Department of Anthropology. Prof. Roderick McIntosh, of Rice University, presented “Cities of the Middle Niger: Civil Society Remembered” and Dr. David B. Coplan, University of Witwatersrand, spoke on “A Border Amidst Our Land: Cultures of Mobility Across the South African/Lesotho Border.” Prof. McIntosh also addressed a conference on international traffic in stolen art organized by Dean Seth Gopin, Director of Global Programs at Rutgers.

Several scholars made presentations during the 2000-2001 academic year. Prof. Jonathan Glassman, Department of History, Northwestern University and a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, gave a paper entitled “Slower than a Massacre: An African Intelligentsia and the Roots of Racial Hatred in Colonial Zanzibar, 1927-1963” and engaged in a lengthy discussion with others about interpreting race and ethnicity in Tanzania, past and present. Dr. Stephen Belcher, Director of the Humphrey Program at Pennsylvania State University and editor of Mande Studies, gave a public lecture on “The Sundiata Epic, Slavery, and Social Change in Ancient Mali,” and also spoke on African epics and myths in the “World Mythologies” course taught by Prof. Steven Walker, Department of Comparative Literature, and a recipient of an Africa Across the Curriculum course development grant from the Center. Prof. Luise White, Department of History, University of Florida, was a Visiting Fellow at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, where she
presented “Race, Place, and Counter-Insurgency: Regiments, Armies and Nations in Zimbabwe’s Liberation War.” Dr. Vigdis Broch-Due spoke on “Revealing and Creating: A Turkana World View.” Dr Broch-Due was a Research Associate at the Center during the Spring term; her talk was co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology.

The Center for African Studies thanks our generous co-sponsors at Rutgers. In addition to those named above, they include: the African Studies Association; the Center for Historical Analysis; the Center for Women’s Global Leadership; the Dean’s Offices at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Douglass College, and Livingston College; the Department of History; the Department of Urban Studies and Community Health; GASA (the Graduate African Studies Association); the Hubert H. Humphrey Program; the Institute for Women’s Leadership at Douglass College; the Office of Student Life at Rutgers College; the Women’s Studies Department; and TWSE (the Association of Africa Students and Friends of Africa).

WOLE SOYINKA
VICTORIA FELLOW AT RUTGERS

Nobel Prize-winning author and social critic Wole Soyinka spent several days at Rutgers in April 1999 as a Victoria Fellow in Contemporary Issues, supported by The Victoria Foundation and co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies. He was first welcomed by a large gathering of Nigerian community leaders resident in the region and other guests at the home of Frances Adelaja and Prof. Adesoji Adelaja, Dean of Research at Cook College. The highlight of his visit was his public lecture “The Open Sore of a Continent” given to a packed auditorium at the Rutgers College Student Center, followed by questions on his views about civil society and the arts. Soyinka met with Francis L. Lawrence, President of Rutgers University and also held seminars and informal sessions with students, faculty, and administrators at Camden College of Arts and Sciences and Newark College of Arts and Sciences. A dinner at the New Brunswick campus was attended by faculty, writers, and theater artists from the area. John Cooney, Executive Assistant for Community Affairs at Rutgers and Administrator of The Center is grateful for the generous backing of The Victoria Fellowship in Contemporary Issues. Officers of the Foundation attended several of the events.

PROGRESSIVE PEDAGOGIES SYMPOSIUM:
New Ways of Teaching about Africa

Under the auspices of its U. S. Department of Education Title VI grant, the Center organized a Symposium on Progressive Pedagogies in April, 2000. The symposium brought together educators with a goal of curriculum change -- raising new and challenging ways of thinking about the teaching of African studies. Faculty members, graduate students, and under-graduates from fifteen disciplines and eighteen different institutions of higher learning in New Jersey and the region participated in the workshop.

Mahmood Mamdani, Director of the Center of African Studies at Columbia University and the keynote speaker Friday evening, set the tone by reviewing the history of African studies as an academic discipline in the United States and calling for it to be freed from older, often racialized interpretations. He pointed to new approaches more relevant to contemporary Africa and shaped by a fuller communication with scholars based on the continent.

Jane Parpart, Professor of History, Women’s Studies, and International Development at Dalhousie University and co-editor with Misty Bastien of Great Ideas for Teaching African Studies, began the Saturday session with a talk that combined theory and hands-on examples of new ways of teaching African Studies. This stimulated many participants to share their experiences in the classroom, including how to incorporate gender issues and use the internet to access materials and facilitate student work in group projects. Dr. Suleiman Baldo, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch, followed by describing his field experiences, particularly in the Kivu region of the Congo, where people were rebuilding institutions while protecting human rights. He prompted a discussion about teaching contemporary African affairs and critical issues of rights and democratic participation. The afternoon session featured Dr. William R. Howard, President of the New York Theological Seminary and long-term civil rights and anti-apartheid leader. He urged students and faculty to commit themselves in their research and teaching to address pressing problems in Africa and the U.S. The symposium ended with a discussion of introductory courses in African Studies at
Rutgers and of cooperative endeavors among faculty and programs in institutions around the region.

CLAUDE AKE/RUTH FIRST STUDENT RESEARCH PRIZE WINNERS

Each year the Center sponsors competition for the best papers on Africa written by students in all disciplines and grants $250.00 awards. For 1999-2000 academic year Jessica Ross won the Claude Ake Undergraduate Research Prize, named in honor of Professor Ake, the well known Nigerian scholar-activist and author of numerous works on democracy. Ms. Ross’ paper was entitled “Women, Gender, and Development: Current Issues in Education,” and was written for “Modern Africa,” taught by Allen Howard. A junior, Jessica Ross majors in Psychology and plans to do a masters in education and become a high school teacher.

David Braun and Briana Probiner were awarded the Ruth First Graduate Research Prize established in recognition of the academic achievements and political commitment of Ruth First, the author of several books and a leader of the African National Congress in exile. Ms. Probiner and Mr. Braun co-authored “Applications of Indigenous Knowledge to East African Holocene Archaeology and Conservation.” Braun and Probiner are graduate students in the Dept. of Anthropology; both hold National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. Their research in Tsavo National Park was under the direction of Dr. Chapurukha M. Kusimba, Curator of African Archaeology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

WOMEN IN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION: A Conference in Johannesburg

Prof. Meredith Turshen, Urban Studies, organized a global conference on the ways that African women respond to the devastation of civil war entitled, “The Aftermath: Women in Post-war Reconstruction.” The conference was held July 20-22 1999 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Activists and academics participated from 16 African countries, national and international NGOs, and United Nations agencies. They heard guest speakers from Croatia, Haiti, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the United States. Conference themes were violence against women, women’s experiences of war as loss and gain, war/postwar shifts in gender relations, the new identities of war, and the relationship of state to society.

The African Global Conference included post-conference activities and a meeting of the African Women’s Anti-War Coalition. These events were funded by the Ford Foundation, the Royal Netherlands Embassy in South Africa, the International Development and Research Center (Canada), the Heinrich Boll Foundation, the University of the Witwatersrand, and Rutgers University.

PAUL ROBESON AND AFRICA: A Conference

In April, 1999, the Graduate African Studies Association (GASA) hosted, “Paul Robeson and Africa: Struggle for an Authentic Vision of Africa in the Diaspora,” on the Livingston College Campus The conference focused on Rutgers University's most distinguished African American alumni’s interest in Africa. This conference also examined the contributions of Eslanda Robeson, Robeson’s wife, herself a scholar involved in Africa.

GASA invited scholars from around the U. S. and abroad to attend. Dr. Hakim Adi, from the School of Humanities and Cultural Studies, Middlesex University in London, opened with "Paul Robeson and the Discovery of Africa." Adi discussed Robeson's meetings with West African students and workers during the time he lived in England. Marika Sherwood, senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, presented a paper on Paul and Eslanda Robeson's lives in London, and explored his interaction with white miners in Cardiff, Wales which has a significant community of Blacks including relatives of Robeson. Dennis Hickey, from Edinburgh University of Pennsylvania, presented a paper on Eslanda Robeson's book "African Journey" and discussed her study with the famous anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski, her travels in South Africa and Uganda, and her writings on this trip. Prof. David Anthony, from the University of California at Santa Cruz, revealed how the United States' intelligence community monitored the activities of Paul Robeson, Max Yergan and other radicals, and raised interesting questions regarding the use of subtle coercion by government agencies against black organizations and activist interested in the liberation of African colonies. Njubi
Nesbitt from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of African-American History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, presented a paper, entitled, "Race Against Apartheid: Black Radicals and Politics of the African Diaspora 1946-55," which explored Robeson’s influence on the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa from the 1930s.

A special feature of the event was a luncheon talk by Prof. Henry Louis Gates Jr., who visited as a Victoria Fellow in Contemporary Issues. Gates, who is the chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, talked about the process that led to the development of the Microsoft product “Encarta Africana, the First Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Black History and Culture.” The CD-Rom and web based searching tool grew out of a project designed by W.E.B. Du Bois as the Encyclopedia Africana. The Graduate African Studies Association sponsored the event in conjunction with the Center for African Studies, Rutgers Graduate Studies Association, Dean’s Offices of Rutgers and Livingston Colleges, Paul Robeson Club, and Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

“A SENSE OF WONDER” AT ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM

A major exhibition of African art entitled “A Sense of Wonder” was held at the Zimmerli Art Museum from September 12 through November 24, 1999, co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies and the Museum. Nearly 7,000 people viewed the exhibition, and more than 2000 attended the symposium, workshops, and other special events.

Included in the show were over 75 distinctive pieces from West Africa, Central Africa, and Ethiopia. “A Sense of Wonder” was first shown at the Phoenix Art Museum. The exhibition pieces were selected from the Faletti Family Collection and the show was originally curated by Prof. Mary Nooter Roberts, Chief Curator, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, and Prof. Allen F. Roberts, Director, UCLA Center for World Arts and Culture, who also authored the accompanying catalogue. The show and text were organized around the themes of “The Fantastic” and “The Sublime,” emphasizing both the ritual importance of the objects in their African settings and their capacity to move viewing audiences in the U. S.

A Symposium “Africa: Societies and Sensibilities” featured talks by Mary Nooter Roberts and Allen Roberts and a slide lecture by the renown artist, scholar, and collector David K. Driskell, Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland. Professor Driskell, whose exhibitions have appeared in many major museums, spoke on “Home Away from Home: Inventing Africa in African-American Art.” Other talks were given by Prof. Philip Peek, Department of Anthropology, Drew University; Dr. Peter Takarimbude, Human Rights Watch, and Professors Carolyn Brown, Department of History, and Karla Jackson-Brewer, Department of African Studies, Rutgers University. Richard Faletti, the collection’s owner, came especially for the conference and participated fully in discussions and social gatherings.

Numerous other public events were staged during the occasion of the exhibit. At an evening opening for Zimmerli subscribers, Phillip Dennis Cate, Director of the Museum, provided a welcome and Prof. Sarah Brett-Smith, Department of Art History, Rutgers, spoke on some of the main qualities of the Faletti collection. Among the additional events were a concert by Nu Tribe Jazz Band that performed contemporary as well as classical jazz and demonstrated linkages between African and African-American music; “Art at Lunch” lectures by Rutgers faculty and others, and a “Family Day” where activities included demonstrations of beading by Shirley Panton Parker, who also instructed children. The exhibition provided the opportunity for numerous outreach activities organized by the Zimmerli Museum staff and members of the Center. Among those reached were students from New Brunswick and other local schools. A high school educators’ workshop was run by Robert J. Koenig, Director of the African Art Museum of the SMA Fathers, Tenafly, NJ and Allen Howard, Department of History.

Generous support for the exhibition was provided by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Graduate African Studies Association, Rutgers College, and the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience. Funding also came from the Center’s U. S. Department of Education Title VI grant and from the Rutgers office of Strategic Resource Opportunities Analysis. The Zimmerli Art Museum made the exhibition possible through their funding, staff expertise, and publicity services. Jeffrey Wechsler, Chief Curator of the Museum, did the on-site curation and Reagan Kiser, Educational Curator, supervised the outreach activities.
International Conference on African Resistance to the Slave Trade, February 2001

The Rutgers Center for African Studies, held an international conference on African resistance to the slave trade, entitled “Fighting Back: African Strategies Against the Slave Trade” February 16-17, 2001. Organized by Sylviane Diouf, research Associate of the Department of History, and Carolyn Brown, Associate Professor of History, the event brought scholars from Africa, Canada and Europe to discuss a seldom researched theme in the African experience during the slave trade: African resistance to the slave trade. Support for the conference came from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, UNESCO Slave Route Project (Paris), UNESCO/York University Nigerian Hinterland Project, the Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Livingston College, Cook College Division of Research, Air Afrique Airlines, U.S. Department of Education Title VI Program, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library, December Ventures, Rutgers Research Council. The project was the second collaboration of Rutgers CAS with the UNESCO/York University Nigerian Hinterland Project, a network of scholars from 12 countries who work on the slave trade from Nigeria, Cameroon and Republic of Benin and its aftermath.

Participants included major scholars from Africa, Europe, and the Americas: Djibril Niane (University of Conakry, Guinea), Paul Lovejoy (York University, Canada), Elisée Soumonni (University of Benin), Martin Klein (University of Toronto), Joseph Inikori (Rochester University), Ismail Rashid (Vasser College), Dennis Cordell (Southern Methodist University), David Richardson (University of Hull, UK) Walter Hawthorne (Ohio State University), Adama Gueye (Chiekh Anta Diop University, Senegal), Ndu Life Njoku (Imo State University, Nigeria), Baldwin Anyasodo (Alvan Ikoku, Nigeria), Ibrahim Hamza, Jose Curto and Olatunji Ojo (York University, Canada), Sylvie Kande (New York University), John Oriji (California Polytechnic Institute), Carolyn Brown and Sylviane Diouf (Rutgers).

Topics ranged from the development of a defensive village architecture to the use of the occult. Many papers focused on the militarization of particular areas as ‘strong men’ became influential protectors of their communities. Others noted that resistance even included shore line attacks on ships by local communities, a process that increased the cost of slaving and led slavers to relocate. One paper expressed the painful struggle of families to recapture lost ones, a struggle that, in one instance, led to the repatriation of an enslaved African from Mississippi 30 years after his sale!

As a group the papers challenged the myth that Africans were either passive victims of the slave trade or willing accomplices. In community after community, those who became participants in the trade were in the minority and confronted angry neighbors and whole communities who never gave up the struggle to remain free.

The conference was an unprecedented opportunity for an interested public to interact with scholars on the cutting edge of research on the subject. The event attracted an informed and interested public with attendance reaching 200. Several auxiliary projects extended the reach of the conference. These included a teacher’s workshop for 10th grade teachers, a graduate student gathering for Rutgers and York University, Canada students and a television presentation on WABC Gil Noble’s “Like it Is,” a celebrated program targeting the Black community. Finally, several publications are being planned. One, in its final production stages, is a guide for the general public on the subject of African resistance to the slave trade by the conference organizers. It is slated for distribution free to conference participants with special attention to school teachers. The other is a scholarly volume to be edited by Sylviane Diouf, research associate, Department of History, a co-organizer of the conference.

Rutgers Co-Sponsors International Conference on the Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade in Enugu, Nigeria, 2000

The conference had several goals: (1) to bring together scholars from within and outside Nigeria who were on the cutting edge of the new studies of slavery which is now experiencing a resurgence in African and diasporic history; (2) to encourage research collaborations between foreign and Nigerian scholars that can rebuild research capacity in Nigerian universities; and (3) to acquaint Nigerian scholars with funding agencies in the U.S. that support research and visiting fellows.

This precedent-setting conference focused only on the trade from southeastern Nigeria and involved a large number of local scholars. It brought together 45 Nigerian, Beninois, European, and North American/Caribbean scholars to probe the local and international dimensions of the slave trade from southeastern Nigeria. A generous grant from the Ford Foundation's West Africa office allowed participation of some 30 Nigerian scholars and post-graduate students from several major universities in Southeastern Nigeria--Nnamdi Azikiwe University at Awka, Imo State University, University of Calabar and Abia State University.

The Bight of Biafra was one of the most important sources of enslaved Africans sent to the Americas in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Indeed, the forced transport of considerable numbers of Igbo-speaking slaves and others from the interior of the Biafra across the Atlantic was a central development in the emergence of relatively cohesive ethnic groups in the African diaspora. Igbo, Moko, Bibi and other ethnic groups have been identified in many parts of the Americas, most especially in Jamaica, the tidewater areas of Maryland and Virginia, and other anglophone colonies. Moreover the repercussions of the trans-Atlantic slave trade on the interior of the Bight of Biafra during the period of heaviest population displacement in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries remain poorly understood.

Many papers were based on oral research recently collected from villages and communities in the area: they contained material that did not exist in written form.

Several papers represented projects that probed the impact of the trade on material culture and popular memory. Several papers focused on the Igbo diaspora. One was on the Ekpe society, a secret society of wealthy slave dealing (and holding) men in the eastern Niger Delta that was reproduced in Cuba as the Abakua society, a religious group that also protected the rights of dock workers. Another gave a literary perspective on Igbo suicide, a frequent occurrence in the New World literature, and a third was on Igbo combat traditions in North America, particularly wrestling styles, an important part of Igbo male identity on the continent.

The conference featured a book fair with a large number of locally owned publishing companies and a workshop on grant writing by representatives of the Ford Foundation and the U.S. Consulate in Lagos.

All papers were distributed at the conference and featured on the web site of York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project: http://www.yorku.ca/nhp. They will be published in hard copy subsequently.

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**CENTER INITIATES LUNCH TIME TALK SERIES**

Spring 2001 saw the initiation of the Center’s Lunch Time talk series. Prof. Adesoji Adelaja, Dean of Research, and Prof. James Simon, both of Cook College, gave a power point presentation on “Biodiversity and New Use Agriculture,” which highlighted many of the College’s recent research and field work projects in Africa. Ngessimo Mutaka, Visiting Research Professor in the Department of Linguistics and a research collaborator with Prof. Akinbiyi Akinlabi, spoke on “What Linguists Expect from African Studies Centers.” Prof. Ousseina Alidou, Department of Africana Studies, talked about “Linguistic Hypotheses and the Quest for Epistemological Renewal in Africa,” and Prof. Lee Cronk, Department of Linguistics, gave a slide lecture on “From ‘True Dorobo’ to ‘Mukogodo Maasai’: Contested Ethnicity and Cultural Change in Kenya.” In the 2001-2002 the Center plans to expand the Brown Bag series with both faculty and graduate student talks.
FORD FOUNDATION GRANT BROUGHT DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN URBAN SCHOLARS

During the 2000-2001 academic year, the Ford Foundation grant to the Center focused on the topic of Urban Africa. This generous grant was directed mainly to bringing academics, artists, and activists from Africa as “Distinguished Scholars in Residence.” Most stayed on the campus for a week, enabling them to meet informally with a wide range of students, faculty, professionals, and community members, as well as to give talks and other presentations.

Véronique Tadjo, the award-winning Ivorian poet, novelist, and critic, opened the series with her well-attended lecture “The African Metropolis in African Literature: Imaginary or Real?” She later read from her works and discussed them in classes in the Africana Studies, Comparative Literature, English, and French Departments. In addition to meeting with faculty, she gave presentations of her literature for children at the New Brunswick Public Library and the Lord Stirling Elementary School in New Brunswick.

In an effort to address urban Africa from many perspectives, the Center brought Prof. Alan Mabin, Research Director of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at the University of Witswatersrand, South Africa. In addition to his main public address entitled “Hope, Fear, and Planning: Official and Informal Life in African Cities,” given at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Mabin spoke in several classrooms. He also met with members of the graduate Planning History Seminar, with officials at the New Jersey Office of State Planning, and with professionals from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Professors Amadina Lihamba (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania), Yomi Oruwari (Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria) and Ibrahima Thioub (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal) were invited in connection with the conference “Contesting African Cities.” (Their conference contributions are described in another article in this newsletter.) They also attended other campus activities, and used the opportunity to give talks at neighboring universities and do research in the region. Professor Thioub gave an additional campus lecture in “Theater Arts and Society,” one of the most popular courses in the university.

These projects were planned by the Urban African Committee consisting of Carolyn A. Brown (History), David M. Hughes (Human Ecology), Donald Krueckeberg (Urban Planning and Policy Development) and Richard Serrano (French and Comparative Literature), chaired by Allen M. Howard (History).

Special thanks go to Sheilah McLean Louis, Assistant Director of the Center; Anitra Dickerson, Administrative Assistant at the Center; and René Douge, from the Bloustein School, for smoothly handling many administrative and technical matters. Over the past two years, the grant from the Ford Foundation has greatly enriched Rutgers University by enabling the students, faculty, and the general public to interact with many leading figures from the continent.

CONFERENCE ON “CONTESTING AFRICAN CITIES: AUTHORITY, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS”

The Center and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University co-sponsored an international conference on “Contesting African Cities” held at the Bloustein School March 29-31, 2001. The interdisciplinary event opened with a presentation by Prof. Yomi Oruwari, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, on “Divergent Perspectives of Officials, Planners, and Women and Children in Low and Middle Income Housing in Eastern Nigeria” which was aimed at urban planners, architects, and housing professionals. James W. Hughes, Dean of the Bloustein School, formally welcomed conference participants and a reception was held. This was followed by a showing of the prize-winning film “Maangamizi—the Ancient One,” and a commentary by its star, the actress-scholar Amandina Lihamba of the University of Dar es Salaam and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles. A full-house audience of students and community members engaged Prof. Lihamba in a lengthy question-and-answer session after the showing. Prof. Ibrahima Thioub, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, gave a public talk with video footage on “Local Modernities and Senegalese Urban Musical Creativity, 1960-2000”; it was attended by a large audience of students, particularly from the arts.
Panels on urban contestation and social movement included “Historical Struggles Over Urban Authority, Power, and Space” with papers by Roger Gocking (Mercy College), François Ngolet (Staten Island College of CUNY), Allen M. Howard, and Ibrahima Thioub; “Where are African Cities Going? Popular Discourse, Culture, and Action in a Transnational World” whose speakers were Barbara Cooper, Martin J. Murray (SUNY Binghamton), and AbdouMaliq Simone (Columbia University and The New School); and Contesting Urban Landscapes: Settler and Post-Colonial Cities” with James Meier (Moravian College), Kinuthia Macharia (American University), Garth A. Myers, (Kansas University) and Kathleen Sheldon (UCLA). The papers ranged from nineteenth century colonial settings to contemporary cities in all areas of the continent. They explored authorities’ efforts to control urban life and space, and the class, race, gender, and other dimensions of residents’ resistance.

Panels on cultural expressions and urban movements involved “Urban Styles, the Market, and the Representation of Self,” which had presentations by Richard M. Shain (Philadelphia University), Janet MacGaffey (Bucknell University), and LaRay Denzer (Northwestern University); “Leisure, Music, and Urban Identity” that featured Peter C. Alegi (Harvard University), Amandina Lihamba, and Michael Veal (Yale University); and “Youth, Gangs, and the Struggle for Urban Existence” with Carolyn A. Brown, Denis Chima Ugwuogu (University of Ibadan and University of Michigan), Matthew J. Christensen (UCLA), and Miriam Grant (University of Calgary).

Many of these papers focused on youth and on public art, as well as the creative work of professionals; most studies were contextualized in national politics and the global economy. The conference was concluded with a two-hour session in which participants summarized their thoughts about the major themes of the conference, the state of contemporary African cities, and the direction of future research and theoretical developments.

In addition to internal funding, segments of the conference were supported by grants from the Ford Foundation and the U. S. Department of Education. Allen M. Howard was the main conference organizer, and was assisted in planning and executing the event by CAS Urban Africa Committee members Carolyn A. Brown, David M. Hughes, Donald Krueckenberg, and Richard Serrano, and by AbdouMaliq Simone (Columbia University and The New School) who served as consultant. It is hoped that many of the papers will be published in thematic collections.

**Rutgers Librarian Attends 2000 Zimbabwe International INDABA and Book Fair**

Dr. Thelma Tate, Global Outreach Services Director, Rutgers University Libraries, was one of seven librarians representing the United States and the American Library Association (ALA) at the Zimbabwe Book Fair, July 28 - August 5, 2000 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dr. Tate is active in the Free Pass Program which brings ALA members to the Book Fair to acquire materials that expand their multicultural collection and allows them to broaden library services for diverse reader communities. The program enables American librarians to strengthen links with African publishers, writers and library professionals as well as familiarize themselves with the continent.

The Book Fair, held annually, plays a vital role in bringing together established and developing writers, publishers, librarians, educators, booksellers, and administrators as well as government and non-governmental officials from all regions of Africa. It is supported by an impressive roster of international sponsors such as NORAD, SIDA, HIVOS, the British Council and the Netherlands Embassy.

The fair whose theme was ‘Celebrating African Books,’ was attended by over 23,000 delegates, with three hundred exhibitors from thirty-one countries. A new project, ‘Africa’s 100 Best Books,’ was launched as part of an initiative, ‘Millennium Marketplace.’ In addition, Ghana was selected as the focus country for the year with a delegation led by the Minister of Education, the Honorable Ekwowo Spio-Garbrah.

Dr. Tate participated in a series of workshops and information sessions that covered a wide range of topics pertaining to writing, publishing, literacy, and libraries. These included sessions on the mechanisms and approaches to the marketing of African books, the challenges of translation, writing in local languages, and ways of assisting teachers to develop libraries. Others focused on the role of technology in writing and publishing, as well as in library, literacy and professional development. Dr. Tate reported on her research on the impact of U.S. librarians’ participation in the 1999 Free Pass Program and gave a paper at the Writers Workshop on “The Information Superhighway.”
Rutgers Study Abroad Programs in Africa

Rutgers is now offering three different programs to the African continent: Kenya, Namibia and South Africa. The programs offer opportunities for study with different emphases. Students interested in paleoanthropology can go to the Rutgers Department of Anthropology/National Museum of Kenya’s Koobi Fora Field School, located in Kenya. There they participate in an actual archeological dig in an area explored by the Leakeys, whose research located the earliest humans in Africa. Others, interested in political transformation can participate in programs in both Namibia and South Africa, two countries who have recently undergone a democratic transformation. The Namibian program is based at the University of Namibia at Windhoek, and South African one is at the University of Pietermaritzburg, Natal. For more information contact the Rutgers Study Abroad Office at (732) 932-7787.

Center Funds Major Library Acquisitions

The Center has supported an ambitious program of Africana acquisitions by the Rutgers New Brunswick Libraries. Funds from a Title VI /Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Grant, and the Ford Foundation have supported the purchase of $53,000 worth of materials over two years. In the first year, the library acquired major Africana primary materials in microfiche and in CD-ROMs. These included:

- Newspapers from Nigeria, 1940's and 50's
- Newspaper collections from the Congo region
- The Methodist Missionary Society Papers
- Women’s Correspondence Archives from West Africa and Africa in general
- Nigerian pamphlets from the University of Ibadan
- The Philip Rappaport Collection, of the Colonial Office Library, Great Britain
- The Simon Ottenberg Collection on Igbo History and Culture

The library has also acquired selected 19th and early 20th century documents from the Inter-Documentation Company Humanities and Ethiopes Collections and more than 400 monographs. The latter included many titles in Lusophone African Literature, an area which has been designed for collection concentration.

Readers are encouraged to take a look at Rutgers University’s Libraries Africana site: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/aficana/aficana.shtml and the Anthropology/Archaeology site: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/anthro/anthro.shtml. These web-research guides and finding aids are a good compendium of the resources available in the library.

Students Participate in the Model OAU

For the past two years the Center for African Studies and Rutgers College have supported students in a simulated experience in pan-African politics. Dean George Suliali, Assistant Dean of Emerging Populations, Rutgers College, had directed the Model Organization of African Unity (OAU), a project through which our student become members of a delegation of a particular African country. For the past two years Rutgers students have represented Senegal. Through an independent study course at Rutgers College students spend two semesters researching political, social, economic, and cultural life of a chosen country and becoming aware of the security issues facing the African continent. The project enables them to understand the patterns of cooperation and conflict between the OAU and the United Nations, generated an understanding of the determinants, capabilities, and constraints shaping foreign policies of African states and the impact of major power policies on Africa.

In the spring semester the Rutgers students joined their counterparts from other colleges and universities at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., where they held several days of simulated sessions representing Senegal. Additionally, they visited the Washington embassy of Senegal where they had briefings by government officials. In November 2000, the Center for African Studies and the African Studies Association (ASA) funded the students’ participation in the annual meeting of the ASA in Philadelphia. For more information contact Dean George Suliali, Bishop House, Rutgers College (732) 932-7610.
The FIELD SCHOOL at KOOBI FORA: A Chance to Discover Human Origins

Faculty and students in Anthropology continue their human origins research and training project at the rich fossil and stone artifact localities on the eastern side of Lake Turkana, Kenya. The research project has two components. First, reconstructing early Pleistocene hominin behavior by studying the distribution and character of raw material sources, stone artifacts and butchery marked fossil bone specimens exposed in deposits within the lake basin. Second, to begin a long term study of the paleoecology, hominin land use and hominin activities in the capping deposits of Holocene age at Koobi Fora. This year two Rutgers graduate students began their doctoral field research. Both lines of research were conducted in the context of the fourth session of the Koobi Fora Field School. Professor Jack Harris serves as Co-Director. It provides undergraduate and graduate students from Rutgers and other North American universities with a unique opportunity to receive basic training in geology, paleontology and prehistoric archaeology. In addition, Rutgers’ undergraduates are able to follow up their fieldwork experiences with further laboratory and analytical studies. Last year four undergraduate students incorporated research from Koobi Fora into their B.A. honors degrees.

OUSSEINA ALIDOU BECOMES AFRICAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

Dr. Ousseina Alidou joined the faculty of Rutgers in the fall of 1999 with an appointment in the Department of Africana Studies with support from The Center for African Studies. Dr. Alidou has a Ph.D. in Linguistics and a M. A. in Applied Linguistics from Indiana University, and a Maîtrise degree in Linguistics from the Université de Naimey, Republic of Niger. She is a specialist in Hausa, a language widely spoken throughout West Africa. She came to Rutgers from Ohio State University, where she served as acting director of the African Languages Program in the Department of Black Studies.

Dr. Alidou is functioning as Coordinator of African Languages for the Department of Africana Studies, the home department of African languages at Rutgers, and the Center for African Studies. In this capacity she is responsible for developing a comprehensive language program that conforms to national standards developed by the African Language Teacher’s Association, a national organization and the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to her responsibilities as coordinator of African languages she is teaching courses on African culture and women’s studies. She has published extensively in the field of linguistics and African literature and in women’s studies, where she has worked on African women and war. Most recently she completed a CD-Rom, funded by a grant from Indiana University, to be used to teach Hausa.

She is a prominent member of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA), the Association of Concerned Africanist Scholars, African Studies Association, Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa, and African Linguistics Association. The University welcomes her and looks forward to benefiting from her expertise.

OUSSIEINA ALIDOU BECOMES AFRICAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

African Languages Offerings Expanded

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Africana Studies, and the Center for African Studies have made a major commitment to the expansion of African Languages offerings. Four core languages–Arabic, Swahili, Yoruba, and Zulu–are the foundation of the program. Yoruba is being introduced in the Fall of 2001 and Zulu instruction will begin in 2002. An additional 19 languages will be offered in small group tutorials using web-based technology and native speakers. The languages are: Akan/Twi, Bambara/Mandingo
Fulfulde/Pulaar, Hausa, Igbo, Krio, Mende, Wolof, Amharic, Tigrinia, Kikuyu, Luganda, Oromo, Chinyarwanda, Chirundi, Lingala, Nyanja/Chewa/Chichewa, Shona, and Xhosa. Swahili was established at Rutgers University by Dr. Ibrahim Noor Shariff in 1970 and has been taught continually for most of the past 30 years in the Department of Africana Studies. The department has provided Elementary Swahili (one year course), Intermediate Swahili (one year course), Advanced Swahili (one year course), and Swahili Literature. For the last ten years Swahili has been taught in Africana Studies by Dr. Olubayi Olubayi a native speaker of Swahili. He has 12 years of formal training in Standard Swahili culminating in the East African Certificate of Education. Dr. Olubayi, Rutgers University Ph.D. in microbiology, also teaches “Introduction to Africana Studies” at Rutgers and Microbiology at Middlesex County College. He has written on the place of science in African studies.

After many years of growing enrolment in several courses taught by Prof. Lillian Farhat, of the Department of African Studies, Arabic offerings at Rutgers will be expanded substantially in the 2001-2002 academic year. In addition to the existing courses, two new courses each will be added at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. We welcome Dr. Sanaa Mounir who obtained her Ph. D. from Zagazig University in Egypt. Dr. Mounir has served as the managing editor of the only theater magazine in the Arab world—"Al Masrah"—and has been a Fulbright Scholar at John Jay College of the City University of New York. She has written extensively in Arabic on the Indian minority in South Africa, civil disobedience, and literary criticism.

Oluwatoyin Ade-Odutola will introduce Elementary Yoruba in the Fall of 2001. The objective of the course will be to build effective communication in the language through listening, speaking and writing. It will integrate cultural and linguistic information. In addition, he will teach a course on Yoruba popular culture that will focus on the history, belief systems, and creative expressions of Yoruba-speakers. Ade-Odutola has a master’s degree in Organizational Communication, Learning, and Design from Ithaca College; he is a published poet, a photographer, and the recipient of the Professor Adeoye Babalola Prize in Yoruba oratory.

All of the language instructors will be involved in the Committee for African Languages chaired by Professor Ousseina Alidou.

Tanzanian Archives Preservation Project

The “International Training Program for Preservation and Public Access to Archival Materials—Tanzania 2001-2004,” is a new project being designed by the Rutgers Focus Group on Tanzania. The group is under the direction of Thelma Tate, Chair of the CAS Outreach Committee, with the assistance of Lourdes Vazquez, Africana Librarian. The program is part of a larger ten-year project with the Rutgers School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies (SCILS) and the Alexander Library in collaboration with Columbia University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library, and New York University.

Concurrently, Professor Marcia Wright (Columbia University) convened several meetings in Tanzania with Peter Mlyansi, Director, Records Management and Archives Management Division, Civil Service Department, Office of the President, and Thomas Manyambula, who is responsible for archives staff training programs; and others. The project planning phase will culminate with a one-day retreat/workshop at Rutgers in November, 2001, to identify the specific needs of the archivists and librarians of the Tanzanian National Archives and Dar es Salaam University Library. At that time staff from Rutgers, Tanzania, and Columbia University will meet to determine the ways in which Rutgers can assist in meeting those needs, design and develop an evaluation mechanism for the program, and explore funding possibilities for the long term. The training phase of the project will last three years. Leaders of the institutions will nominate two interns for spring 2002, 2003, and 2004. The training will be conducted at SCILS in the Spring 2002 semester when the first interns will take courses at Rutgers and participate in activities outside the classroom, including work with the Rutgers archivist or training at other institutions.

CAS Funds Course Development

The Center for Africa Studies initiated a grant program to encourage faculty at all Rutgers campuses – New Brunswick, Camden and Newark - to develop new courses on Africa or course modules on Africa to be inserted within an existing course. The program, ‘Africa Across the Curriculum’ is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant. Awards may be used for course release, travel to Africa or to acquire special materials. They vary in amounts from $500.00 to $5000.00. The program is supervised by the
Curriculum Committee chaired by Prof. Abena Busia, who organized two excellent sessions in which recipients presented an overview of their course development materials. Below are recipients for the 1999-2000 academic term. Those who received funding to develop new courses were:

--Cesar Braga-Pinto (Spanish and Portuguese, New Brunswick) traveled to Mozambique to develop “An Introduction to Lusophone African Literature and Culture”

--Brent Edwards (English, New Brunswick) “African Literature and Decolonization”

--James Gathii (School of Management, Newark) “International Property Law and Policy”

--Arthur Klinghoffer (Chair, Political Science, Camden) “Human Rights and Political Economy in Africa”

--Renee Larrier (French, New Brunswick) “Francophone African Popular Culture: Film, Music and Literature”

--Warren Manspeizer (Geology, Newark) “A Virtual Tour of Africa: the Geology of Africa”

--Susan Martin-Márquez (Spanish and Portuguese, New Brunswick) “Spain in Africa/Africa in Spain: Cultural Representations and Historical Legacy”

--Richard Serrano, (French, New Brunswick) “Multiple Cultures of the Maghreb: Arab, ‘Berber’, European and Jewish Cultures”

Those who were were supported for developing or enhancing African modules in existing courses were:

--G. Alan Tarr (Political Science, Camden) Module on South Africa’s new constitution for a course on ‘Constitutionalism’

--Steven Walker, (Comparative Literature, New Brunswick) Module on African epics and mythology in “World Mythology” course

--Virginia Yans (History, New Brunswick) Module on African music for a course on “Popular Music in American History.”

Newsletter Editors: Carolyn A. Brown, Anita Dickerson, Allen Howard, and Sheilah McLean Louis.

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