

CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2012, VOLUME XIX

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the CAS Director.....	1
Awards and Achievements	
Alou Receives Ph.D.	2
Hodgson and Gender Justice.....	3
Selim's Arabic Translation Award.....	3
Twagira's Melvin Kransberg Fellowship.....	4
Fall 2011 Event Highlights	
U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk.....	4
Pearson's Study of the Indian Ocean.....	6
Aloo on the Re-Imagination of Africa.....	6
Greengagel's Review of <i>Bush League</i>	7
Spring 2012 Upcoming Events.....	8
Undergraduate Spotlight	
TWESE President Olivia Ike's Update.....	9
Tereshonkova's Summer in Ghana.....	9
Engineers Without Borders, Kenya.....	10
Graduate Spotlight	
Addaquay Volunteers in Ghana.....	11
Chapdelaine's Research in Nigeria.....	11
Odugbesan, Global Affairs.....	12
Scott Reports from South Africa.....	12
African Studies Association	
Annual Meeting Highlights.....	13
Fellows Kiguli and Makalela Reflect.....	14
New to the Rutgers CAS Community	
Andrucki and Bajorek.....	16
Black and Johnson.....	18
Lewis and Harmand.....	20
Friends of Africa Contribute	
Goldberg's Photography Burkina Faso.....	22
Hahn on Vanishing Cultures.....	23
Mandara's Girl Child Concerns.....	25
Editor.....	Ousseina Alidou
Content and Design.....	Renée DeLancey

Please check the CAS website at ruafrica.rutgers.edu for programming news and updates!

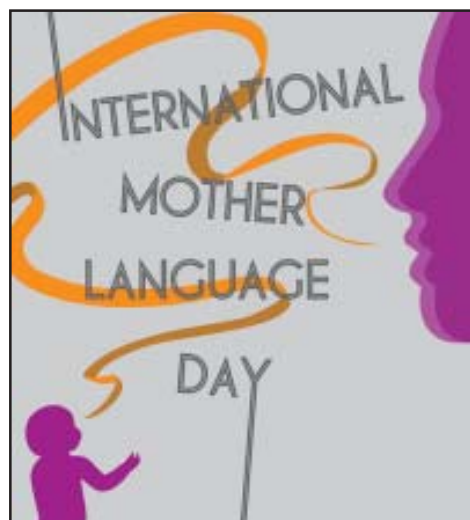
If you would like to be informed by e-mail about Africa-related events and programs at Rutgers please contact Renée DeLancey (rdelance@rci.rutgers.edu) to subscribe to the CAS listserve.

The RU Center for African Studies; the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures; the Office of the Vice President for International and Global Affairs; the Center for Middle Eastern Studies; the Department of Linguistics; the Dean of Humanities; and the Program in South Asian Studies present an

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY PROGRAM

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 21, 2pm-5pm

Place: Alexander Library, 4th Floor



Graphic design by Stéphanie Reis Pilar & Marine Léopold

A PUBLIC LECTURE

Professor Ekkehard Wolff

(Visiting Professor, Adama University, Ethiopia, and Professor Emeritus, Leipzig University, Germany)

“Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Strategies for Education in Africa”

Chair: Professor Ousseina Alidou (Rutgers University)

A PANEL DISCUSSION

“The Politics of Mother Language in Education and Society”

WITH

Dr. Nuran Nabi (Plainsboro Councillor)

Professor Jyotirmoy Datta (Rutgers University)

Professor Charles Haberl (Rutgers University)

Professor Daniel Kaufman (Endangered Languages Alliance)

Chair: Professor Maryam Borjian (Rutgers University)

A POETRY RECITAL

Professor Abena P. A. Busia (Rutgers University)

AND STUDENT PERFORMANCES!

Letter from the Director, Ousseina Alidou

One of the first workshops organized by the Center for African Studies (CAS) when I joined Rutgers in 2000 focused on how to promote the study of Africa across the fields and beyond the humanities and social sciences. CAS used a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to award \$2000 to faculty members in various departments to design courses with substantial content related to Africa. This led to the development of new Africa-related courses across the Rutgers campuses. Colleagues in the Department of Geology at Rutgers Newark, for example, created an engaging program of a virtual tour of African geological sites, while the Department of Political Science offered the course "South Africa's Constitution" as a model of democratic constitution making. These initiatives enhanced the climate of trans-disciplinary collaboration and expanded the presence of Africa at Rutgers.

Complimenting these efforts has been the commitment of Rutgers Africanist scholars to promote trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary bridge building in their scholarship, teaching, and training. This strong orientation is demonstrated by the outstanding national and international recognition of their work which has attracted many graduate students and (national and international) visiting scholars to Rutgers. Similarly the brilliant trans-disciplinary work of our colleagues has won many of them prestigious awards and appointments as chairs or executive board members of internationally renowned peer reviewed journals, scholarly organizations, and research foundations which bring great local, national, and international visibility to Rutgers University.

The success of Africanist training at Rutgers also comes through the fascinating research theses of the graduate students, many of which are supported by prestigious dissertation fellowship awards. Their post-graduation job marketability and the success they have had in publishing their book manuscripts with reputable scholarly presses and peer reviewed journals have been impressive. Furthermore, as mentioned in previous newsletters and in the current issue, both graduate and undergraduate students are making important contributions in enhancing the Rutgers "reach" through internships to work in a number of New Jersey based NGOs dealing with African immigrant communities. Many have also participated in the successful international service learning program in Ghana or in study abroad programs in other African countries. In general, New Jersey NGOs and other NGOs located outside the New Jersey area, which focus on Africa and/or the new immigrant communities, have contributed immensely to the Center for African Studies through the collaborative programming of events. This collaboration partly stimulated the organization of successful K-12 teachers' workshops, jointly co-sponsored by CAS and the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

The Center for African Studies has benefited from the tremendous financial and staff support received from the Offices of the President, the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, Campus Deans, School of Arts and Sciences Deans, Global Initiatives, the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, and the sponsorship from other area studies centers, academic departments and schools, institutes, and student organizations. Our collaborations with the African Studies Association, the Newark Museum, Women in Media-Newark, the Africa-America Institute, and the Africa World Press have brought to Rutgers a number of visiting international scholars thanks to the support of SAS Deans. This wonderful support has been crucial for the planning of the great events which make Rutgers attractive locally, nationally, and internationally. My sincerest gratitude to you!

As the Director of CAS, I have partly seen my mission as one of consolidating and expanding the above gains. The marvelous support of the Rutgers community, our New Jersey Friends of Africa, and our national and international colleagues and friends during the tenure of my directorship has been invaluable. As I conclude my term of office as the Director of the Center for

African Studies, therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful contributors and supporters who have made the experience a rewarding one for me. My utmost gratitude goes to Renée DeLancey for her unfailing support, enthusiasm, and superb dedication to our mission to promote the study of Africa at Rutgers. Renée, it has been wonderful working with you! You and Abena P. A. Busia (Associate Director) have made my term as a Director a joyful team experience! I am truly thankful to both of you. CAS also works because the Director can always rely on the amazing support of the CAS Executive Committee –Abena P. A. Busia, Carolyn Brown, Barbara Cooper, David Hughes, Julie Livingston, Rick Schroeder, and Allen Howard! Sincerest appreciation to each one of you! Best wishes to everybody and welcome to the new Director! Peace. Ousseina



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Enock Aloo, Ph.D., Successfully Defended His Dissertation October 14, 2011

Intertextual Strategies in African and Caribbean Fictions: Discourses of Post-Independence Problem-Space in Sylvia Wynter, George Lamming, Grace Ogot, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o



“Intertextual Strategies in African and Caribbean Fictions” is concerned with modes of narrative emplotment in post-independence writing in Africa and the Caribbean. In the two regions, an anti-colonial narrative has been dominant for some time. The self-determination narratives construct what David Scott calls a “space of experience” where the present has triumphed over the oppression of the past and looks toward a “horizon of expectation” in the post-independence period. This Romance narrative, the work argues along with Scott, has lost its explanatory value. This is because questions that those in the post-liberation period ask have changed, and so the Romance narratives no longer provide answers. The work pays close attention to primary texts and authors. The discussion also includes theoretical and critical texts

from both Africa and the Caribbean. It uses Sylvia Wynter’s *The Hills of Hebron* (1962), George Lamming’s *Water with Berries* (1971), Grace Ogot’s *The Strange Bride* (1989), and Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *Matigari* (1987) to show that the Romance narrative mode of emplotting the movement of history is inconsistent with the issues which concern post-independence problem-space.

In its consideration of these works, it argues that the problem-space of anti-colonial nationalists should not be taken as a monument entrenched in stone that is designed by its creators to have a fixed meaning. Of course, the connection between anti-colonial nationalists and autonomy is vital; but the novels examined here show that the end of colonial rule also produced significant changes in the consideration of historical form and the mode of narrative emplotment. The work argues that the transition from colonial rule to independence demands the emplotment mode of tragedy. It highlights the role of tragedy in historical change at the same time as it demonstrates that the novels discussed here call for a re-imagination in the post-independence problem-space. *Enock Aloo teaches for the Department of English, the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, and for the Program in Comparative Literature.*

CAS Faculty Member Dorothy L. Hodgson: Research Director

Dorothy L. Hodgson, Chair, Department of Anthropology at the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers–New Brunswick, has been selected to serve as research director of a Social Science Research Council dissertation proposal development fellowship workshop on the theme of “Gender Justice in the Era of Human Rights.” Don’t miss her Rutgers symposium entitled, “Gender Justice in Africa: Historical and Comparative Perspectives” from 9am-5pm on Friday, February 24 in the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 162 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick. The symposium brings together some of the most innovative scholars at Rutgers and elsewhere working on gender justice in Africa to consider and compare alternative approaches to framing and seeking justice by, for, and on behalf of women and men. Africa is an especially compelling site for such an analysis, given the rich scholarship on historical and contemporary gender justice regimes and the long term prevalence of alternative legal and extralegal processes and procedures. The panels, presenters, and the titles of their talks are listed below.

Please download the symposium poster from the CAS website: ruafrica.rutgers.edu.

Allen Howard (Professor Emeritus, History) will Chair Panel I, “Colonial Contestations.”

The presenters include: Andrea Cornwall (Anthropology & Development, University of Sussex) “Women’s Empowerment: Tales from 19th Century Southwestern Nigeria;” Dorothy Hodgson (Chair Anthropology) “Colonial Legal Regimes, Customary Law and Gender Justice among Maasai Pastoralists in Tanganyika, 1916-1961;” and Emily Burrill (Women’s Studies, University of North Carolina) “Rule by Decrees: The Mandel and Jacquinet Decrees and Questions of Marital Rights in French Soudan (Mali), 1939-1951.”

Carolyn Brown (History) will Chair Panel II, “Beyond Legal Pluralism?”

The presenters include: Jessica Johnson (Ph.D. Candidate Anthropology, Cambridge University) “Gender Justice? Marital Dispute Resolution in Rural Malawi;” Ousseina Alidou (African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures and CAS Director) “Muslim Women Reshaping the Law: The Constitution and the Khadi’s Court in Kenya;” and Barbara M. Cooper (History) “Reflections at the Intersection of Law and Medicine: Debating the Rights of Babies and Mothers (Real and Potential) in the Sahel.”

Omotayo Jolaosho (Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology) will Chair Panel III, “States of Struggle.”

The presenters include: Abena P. A. Busia (Chair Women’s & Gender Studies, English, and CAS Associate Director) “Gender Justice in Africa: Quotidian Lessons from Women Writing Africa;” Zakia Salime (Sociology and Women’s & Gender Studies) “Where Did all the Women Come From? Before the Arab Spring;” Pamela Scully (Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, African Studies, Emory University) “National Action Plans, Gender Justice, and the Drive to Count;” and Chiseche Salome Mibenge (Political Science, Lehman College/CUNY) “The Scholar-Consultant and the GBV Field Mission in Conflict Africa.”

Rapporteur Susan Hirsch (Conflict Resolution and Anthropology, George Mason University) will lead the final discussion, “Perspectives on Gender Justice.”

Alamin Mazrui, Chair, Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Celebrates Samah Selim’s Arabic Literature Translation Award

I am very delighted to inform you that the University of Arkansas’ Center for Middle East Studies has announced that the “exceptionally talented Samah Selim has won their 2011 Arabic Literature Translation award for her translation of Jurji Zaidan’s *Tree of Pearls*” (Shajarat al-Durr). With over twenty popular historical novels to his credit, Jurji Zaidan (1861-1914) was one of the leaders of the 19th century “Arab renaissance” and founder of Cairo’s *al-Hilal*, one of the earliest, and most successful monthly journals in the Arabic-speaking world. The Arkansas annual award recognizes the best book-length translation of the year of an Arabic literary text in any genre selected by an independent team of judges. This makes “Selim the only person to win both the Banipal and the Arkansas translation awards!” As you will remember, in 2009 Selim was awarded the Saif Ghobash-Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation for her English translation of a collection by the Egyptian writer, Yahya al-Tahir Abdallah, under the title *The Collar and the Bracelet*. Please join me in congratulating Samah for yet another great accomplishment!



History Ph.D. Candidate Laura Ann Twagira's Melvin Kransberg Fellowship

Laura Ann Twagira received the Melvin Kranzberg Fellowship in support of her dissertation "Women and Gender at the Office du Niger (Mali): Technology, Environment, and Food ca. 1900-1985." Her doctoral work explores the connections between women's labor, domestic and industrial technologies, agriculture, and the environment in colonial and post-colonial Mali. Specifically, her dissertation examines how rural women integrated a colonial irrigation project called the Office du Niger into an existing system of food production. She will use funds from the Kranzberg award to conduct research in French National archives in Aix-en-Provence, France. In particular, she will research the colonial market in metal house goods and the importation of industrial agricultural machines to the Office du Niger. This research trip will compliment the twelve months of research she previously conducted in Mali.



FALL 2011 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

United States Trade Adviser Explains Benefits of Foreign Exchange

By Aleksi Tzatzev, Daily Targum Associate News Editor Posted: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Topics of African development and United States foreign trade took center stage yesterday during U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk's visit to the University. President Barack Obama's chief trade adviser and negotiator pointed to last week's passage of bilateral trade agreements between the United States and South Korea, Colombia and Panama as opportunities for job creation and faster economic recovery.

"It's a reality now that 95 percent of consumers live outside of the United States," Kirk said. "We've got to go compete for all of these new customers whether they are in China, India, Asia or Africa."

Congress passed the three free trade agreements Wednesday, countering a highly protectionist attitude taken by the government since 2007. Kirk said the agreements mostly leveled the playing field as the United States had lower tariffs for imports compared to Panama, Colombia and Korea.

"They will create jobs, because agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama, [independent] economists tell us, could [add] up to \$12 billion to our GDP and create almost 70,000 jobs," he said.

The United States has supported developing economies around the world and has rebuilt others by giving them relatively low tariffs, Kirk said. "Most of what we are doing is bringing their tariffs down."

The ambassador said these tariffs on American goods, ranging from 16 percent to 100 percent, previously made it difficult for both small and large businesses to export because of low competition in the recipient countries, where local businesses had the upper hand.

"Most of what comes into the U.S. from Colombia and Panama comes in duty-free," he said. "Ninety percent for Colombia and 98 percent for Panama."

The U.S. International Trade Commission, which analyzed the negotiations in 2007, stated the impact on the growth of the American economy would be minimal because of the small market for American goods in the three countries in question.

The commission also reported the agreements would benefit mostly American farmers because of a demand for beef, dairy and pork, according to a New York Times article.

If predictions are correct, and farmers lose \$5 billion of subsidies as part of the slashing of \$1.2 trillion from future budgets, these agreements could restore some of farmers' profits.

It is a common assumption among economists that free-trade agreements benefit both sides as markets favor more sales and lower tariffs — sometimes zero — but there is also the fear of unprotected businesses losing out to foreign competition.

"Anytime you decide you're going to have a competition, there's going to be winners and losers," he said in regard to Korea. "The numbers that we give you, we believe ... are conservative."

He said it would be foolish to say no one is going to lose their job because of trade, and that is why the federal government has been funding a retraining program for foreign trade-displaced workers.

Kirk also discussed investment and foreign relations with sub-Saharan African states and the difficulties as well as opportunities involved.

He said the United States has begun moving away from a paternal relationship with the African continent, where only aid was distributed and trade only benefited one side.

"My job is to be as dispassionate as possible," he said. "Africa is growing, Africa is transforming as a continent and has huge challenges but again, has every bit as much potential in terms of income growth [and] consumer growth."

He spoke of the needs of businesses when going abroad — mainly the existence of concrete laws protecting business practices, as many African states lack them.

Another difficulty is the basic lack of infrastructure — roads, transport, etc.— which hinder business opportunities in some countries, he said.

"Once you invest capital, it's a huge decision," Kirk said. "You want to know that it is not going to be put in risk because of government corruption."

He said Africa has been on a path of fostering this safety, and a necessary step is foreign investment. The United States will benefit from new markets, and African states benefit from innovation and development.

He said the United States has been working on moving the continent from an agrarian-based economical structure to a more developed world economic model. For example, a recent U.S.-Rwanda bilateral agreement could become a model for other African states in an attempt to diversify exports and open their trade borders.

Kirk mentioned Mauritius, Ghana and the East Africa states as the next targets for economic development.

Following his travels to Spain and other trade partners of the United States, Kirk said he was humbled at the presence of multilingual students.

"Go enroll in a language class," he said to the audience which was mostly made up of Rutgers Business School students and foreign-relations experts.

Alicia Quirolo, a Rutgers Business School first-year student, said the United States seemed to be phasing out domestic manufacturing due to a tendency of going abroad for cheaper production costs.



U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk is pictured with CAS Associate Director Abena P. A. Busia (center) and CAS Director Ousseina Alidou. Image credit: Nick Romanenko

"My question is, why would you go globally if everyone is complaining that we aren't creating enough jobs?" she said.

"Studying the Indian Ocean: Trends and Problems"

Professor Michael Pearson (University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia) visited Rutgers on November 1 and 2 at the invitation of Professor Sumit Guha of the History Department. Pearson spoke to an audience that included both students and faculty studying Africa and India. His talk was entitled, "Studying the Indian Ocean: Trends and Problems." The central theme was that most history writing has been terrestrial, that is it focuses on what people do on land. Maritime activities are usually ignored, or assumed to be unimportant. Using the Indian Ocean as a case study, Pearson showed that important events take place at sea, goods are transported, and passengers used to go from one place to another on ships. An example of this is the *hajj*, or pilgrimage to Mecca. Large numbers of Muslims used to travel by sea to fulfill this obligation. There is also the central question of whether the Indian Ocean is an area which can be studied as a unit, just as we can study cities or states. Pearson claimed that trade, religion, the monsoon winds, and the circulation of people meant that the Indian Ocean did have important connections across its space, and so can be studied as an entity. In conclusion, Pearson claimed that while we must not ignore maritime matters, we cannot write about them in isolation from what happens on land. Ships, goods, and people all come from the land. At best, the sea can add to our history writing, but always in conjunction with what happens on land. His talk was followed by a lively question and answer period, in which there were good comments on piracy, climate change, and the nature of ship board society, among other matters.

Enock Aloo's Talk Summary of "Africa's Re-imagination of a Post-independence Present"

On November 8 I gave a talk entitled, "Africa's Re-imagination of a Post-independence Present." In *The Strange Bride* (1983), Grace Ogot, a Kenyan novelist and one of the first two published women writers in Africa, emphasizes the role of culture in a newly independent country. Ogot uses her community's mythic past to help re-imagine a post-colonial present; her provocative reinterpretation of the myth of *Miaha* brings the pre-colonial past into the present, not merely to engage it as a static point of origins, but in order to uncover and tap its revolutionary potential. Ogot's work thus exemplifies how the questions that have emerged in Kenya's post-independence period differ in subtle but crucial ways from the ones faced by anti-colonial nationalists, and have demanded creative solutions.

Frank Greenagel Reviews the Rutgers Film Screening of *Bush League*

Bush League is a character driven ethnographic survey of a tiny village in Northern Malawi. Intimate dramas unfold in the lives of four villagers who are all members of the local soccer team. Chatwa, the team captain, is an ambitious farmer who is in deep with the local bank and torrential rains are destroying his crops. Jake, an American Peace Corps volunteer who sponsors the team, is pushed to his limits when the politics of the game affect his school construction project. Jacqueline, the head cheerleader, suspects her husband is cheating on her and is concerned he'll give her HIV. Mlawa is a midfielder and an expectant father who's gravely concerned about the infection growing on his leg. Each must face their individual challenges as the team battles to win the local championship.

On November 17, over 50 Rutgers students & staff watched the 72 minute documentary at the Rutgers Student Center. After the viewing the Director, Cy Kuckenbaker, and the Peace Corps volunteer, Jake Wilson, spoke about the film and answered questions about their experiences in Africa for over 90 minutes. Jake Wilson is from Lebanon Township, NJ. He met Cy in Lithuania, where they both served in the Peace Corps for two years. Cy received a master's in film after his tour was up; Jake signed up for a second stint and ended up teaching in Malawi for three years. Jake currently lives in Camden, NJ, where he is a middle school teacher at a Charter School while enrolled in the MPA program at Rutgers-Camden. Cy is a Fulbright Scholar who currently teaches film at a community college in California.

He decided to make the film after visiting Jake in Malawi. He told the audience that, "Outside of a few politicians and dictators, I couldn't name any Africans. There are three narratives about Africa. The first narrative is about the natural beauty, the animals, and the Serengeti. The second narrative is about darkness, disease, death, and despair. The third narrative is a new one; it's about Africa as the good cause. I decided to make the movie because all of those narratives are wrong, in and of themselves."

Jake talked about how his support of a local soccer team made it difficult for him to build a school, and how he did a poor job navigating through the political world of the various town chiefs. He spoke of his friend that lived with him, and how he watched him slowly die from complications relating to AIDS.

Cy wrote in an email two weeks after the event, "The Rutgers students really impressed me. I was blown away by the depth of the students and their questions."

*For more information on the film visit cysfilm.com. The event was sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Education, Center for African Studies, TWESE, and RU-Wanawake. Frank L. Greenagel Jr. (LCSW, LCADC, ACSW, CJC) is a Recovery Counselor, Adjunct Professor for the School of Social Work, an Instructor for the Center of Alcohol Studies, and a Program Coordinator/Health Educator for the School of Communications & Information. The *Bush League* production still images below were taken in Malawi by filmmaker Cy Kuckenbaker.*



SAVE THESE DATES FOR SPRING 2012 PROGRAMS!

Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19

40th Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics
Continuing Studies Conference Center, Douglass Campus

Tuesday, February 21, 2pm-5pm

International Mother Language Day (Africa-related programming included)
Alexander Library, Teleconference Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, College Avenue Campus

Friday, February 24, 9am-5pm

Symposium entitled, "Gender Justice in Africa: Historical and Comparative Perspectives"
Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 1st floor Conference Room, Douglass Campus

Monday, February 27, 4pm-5:30pm Presentation, 5:30pm-6:30pm Reception

"Preventing Human Rights Atrocities through Media: Voices of Rwanda"
Film screening presented by Director/Journalist Taylor Krauss
Alexander Library, Teleconference Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, College Avenue Campus

Friday, March 20, 1pm-7 pm

Annual Conference Center for Cultural Analysis, "Toward a global public sphere?"
Africanist presenters include Brian Larkin (Anthropology, Barnard College, Columbia University)
and Sean Jacobs (International Affairs, The New School)
Alexander Library, Teleconference Lecture Hall, 4th floor, College Avenue Campus

Thursday, March 22, 3:30pm

"African Education in a Digital Age"
Talk by Hamadou Saliah-Hassane (Senior Researcher, LICEF Research Center)
Lucy Stone Hall, Room B205, Livingston Campus

Thursday, April 19, 3:20pm-4:40pm

Seventh Annual African Studies Association Presidential Lecture at Rutgers, by ASA President
Aili Tripp (Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison)
entitled, "The Decline of Conflict in Africa: Causes and Consequences"
Rutgers Student Center, Room 411, College Avenue Campus

Thursday, April 19 and Wednesday, April 25, 7pm-9pm

Two-part panel on "Culture and Tradition Considerations in Agricultural Technology Development
and Transfer in Sub-Saharan Africa"
Foran Hall, Room 138A, Cook Campus

Please visit the Center for African Studies website at ruafrica.rutgers.edu/events/index.html for a complete listing of sponsors and updated program information.

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

TWESE, the Organization of African Students and Friends of Africa

By Olivia Ike, 2011-2012 President

TWESE would like to thank all those who continue to support our programs and have volunteered their time and effort in making our initiatives a success. TWESE aims to provide a haven for students with African interests, and an avenue to educate the larger Rutgers community on African issues in a meaningful way. The word *twese* means “unity” in Kinyarwanda and, like its name, the organization seeks to bring students and staff together within academic and social environments. One of our most successful events this year was our Annual African Pride Banquet, attended by a crowd of over 250 people (our largest banquet thus far), focused on the African Renaissance post-colonial era. Guest speaker Kassahun Checole from Africa World Press elaborated effectively on this issue. “Africa Under the Light” was a week of events where we educated people on certain aspects of African culture. TWESE held its 21st annual fashion show on February 11, 2012 and will continue its goal of creating a platform to exhibit the evolution of African fashion and style through time and through exposure to global culture. We invite you to join our family here at TWESE! We meet every Wednesday at 8pm at the Paul Robeson Center on the Busch Campus. For more information on TWESE and a photo gallery of our past events visit rutwese.weebly.com and find our group on Facebook: TWESE! We are also now on twitter: @RUTwese!



Left to right (rear): Ruvica Tsague, Nana Afrifah, Tofunmi Oni, Olivia Ike, Ikepo Jinadu, Jeanifer Uwaecheie
Left to right (front): Elvira Tsague, Bridgette Wawakima, Grace Adegbola

Alex Tereshonkova’s Ghanaian Service Learning Project

This summer I had the opportunity to work with Point Hope at a Liberian refugee camp in Ghana called Buduburam. Buduburam was sponsored by the government of Ghana and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to accommodate the influx of Liberian refugees during the first civil war in 1990. Initially, over 80,000 people came to the camp which was equipped for a population of 4,000. Following peace agreements and the arrangement for repatriation, a large number of Liberian refugees have refused to repatriate. To date, only 4,818 out of 30,000 recorded refugees have repatriated. Many fear returning home to an unstable country. “I have nothing here and nothing to return home to,” 19-year old Miriam told me. Her story is similar to most of the other people I had the opportunity to speak with. Miriam is a teenage mother to a baby boy suffering from severe malnutrition. She was abandoned at the camp by her family when she was a child and lacks any means to support herself or her son. I interviewed Miriam for a video project I am doing for Point Hope as a part of my international service learning work in Ghana. It was astonishing to meet someone younger than me and in such a terrifying situation. Every stranger that I have met in Ghana has left me with a story I feel compelled to share. I have decided to create a film for Buduburam to help raise awareness about girls like Miriam and to inspire others to pursue volunteering abroad. I am pictured above with Sammy, wearing a Rutgers jersey he bought from a secondhand clothing market. *Students who would like to register for International Service Learning in Ghana may do so through the Study Abroad office.*



Engineers Without Borders - Kolunje, Kenya Water Project Update

Kenya: In The Field

By Colleen Thiersch

With the worst drought in 60 years ravaging the citizens of Kenya and eastern Africa, implementing the water system in Kolunje, Kenya has become more essential than ever for Engineers Without Borders –USA Rutgers. Kolunje is a community of about 7,200 people functioning with no water system. An average person in Kolunje has access to only 6 gallons of water per day, contrasting to the 80 gallons a day used by the average American. Women and children in the community make multiple trips, walking three kilometers to the nearest water source, a shallow, unprotected well filled with contaminated water.



We talked to one school teacher in Kolunje who said that many children who want to be learning in the classroom must instead help provide for their families by retrieving water. An average day for a child living in Kolunje consists of walking the far distances to fetch the well water, tending to the family livestock, and then going to school. This task is made more difficult during the dry season. The villages also lack a proper distribution of latrines, and there is a low level of awareness about basic hygiene and disease prevention. Cholera, typhoid, diarrhea, and other water borne diseases are prevalent in the community.

Currently, our team here at Rutgers is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement outlining the responsibilities and expectations of both EWB USA-Rutgers and the community in Kolunje. We plan to begin implementation in the summer of 2012. This first stage of the project implementation will include the repair of several of their rain water catchment containers, and drilling a 100m bore hole with a hand pump. Unfortunately, this single well will not be enough to provide for the entire population, so we are also making plans for additional wells and potentially a storage and distribution system for the future.

Our project seeks not only to create a more local water source, but also to achieve sustainability by educating the community about the importance of water sanitation and conservation and ways in which they can filter their own water. Here at Rutgers we partnered with public health professors at the Bloustein School of Public Policy as well as members of the Rutgers Swahili Club to develop educational programs that present appropriate water health lessons in a way that is relevant to their culture. For the next trip, we plan to work with the teachers in training at a university nearby Kolunje to begin an educational program.

In the end, our goal is to work together with Kolunje residents to ensure that they have a sustainable solution to this water scarcity issue. And as the current drought turns to famine, this goal becomes even more urgent. For more information about the Engineers Without Borders Kenya Project visit ewb.rutgers.edu/projects/kenya.html.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Araba Addaquay's Clinical and Research Volunteer Work at a Ghanaian Diabetic Clinic

I spent a few months of summer 2011 volunteering at a small diabetes clinic in Accra, Ghana. It typically opened at 6:30am and closed between 1pm-2pm, although patients arrived as early as 4:30am to queue on the sheltered wooden benches situated outside the building. Patients had to leave the clinic early so that they could return home before dark, as theft in Ghana has increased over the years due to the economic difficulty worldwide. I started my first week by working in the lab, where patient blood and urine analysis is done. At the lab, we separated the patients with high blood sugar and excess glucose in urine from those with normal glucose levels. Ghana has made national health care insurance available to its citizens at an initial cost of 24 GH, and a subsequent maintenance fee of 1 GH annually. One of the most difficult parts of the job was standing while performing tasks. For my second week I assisted in some of the research already underway at the center. I met a young, brilliant master's student in physiology. He taught me how to search for the pulse in the dorsalis pedis artery, posterior tibial artery, and also to check whether the patients showed a response to vibrations in the toe, since a lot of diabetics seem to face this problem. He collects data on a twenty year old Doppler, but he is so happy that his research is currently underway after so many hurdles. After five hours, I noticed I was feeling faint from the endless standing while taking blood pressure, but, embarrassed to divulge this, I excused myself from the room to find a seat outside. The following day, while waiting for a patient who had volunteered to participate in his research, I asked my friend how he managed to sustain his pace throughout the day. He laughed and confessed that he had lost over ten pounds since he started his research due to the physical strain from standing. I felt a little relieved that I could safely put away the concern that I was not as fit as I thought I was. The following week I contributed two bar stools to the center. I felt inspired; we really don't need all that much to do great things. *Araba Addaquay is a master's candidate in the cell and developmental biology program, researching stress, aging, and molecular chaperones. She is originally from Ghana.*

Hisotry Ph.D. Candidate Robin Chapdelaine Conducted Research During Nigeria's Crisis

I recently returned from a research trip to Ibadan, Nigeria. My research focused on child pawning and child dealing from the 1920s until the 1940s. The archival material proved fruitful, and I look forward to incorporating the new found sources into my dissertation, "The Social Economy of Children in Southeastern Nigeria: Child Pawnship, 1920s-1940s." I had the privilege of working with Mr. Joseph Ayodokun from Tope Consultium (<https://sites.google.com/site/nigeriaresearch/home>), and Mr. Olayemi Abraham, the head archivist, at the National Archive at Ibadan. Both individuals provided invaluable assistance in locating pertinent files. Unfortunately, many documents are in various states of disintegration. It is only a matter of time before the majority of the archive material no longer exists. I am hopeful that the archive will be awarded a grant to better preserve the precious documents that remain within its holdings.

The recent civil unrest in Nigeria forced me to return to the United States prematurely. On January 1st, 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan put an end to the fuel subsidies, driving up the cost of gas by nearly 300 percent. By January 2nd, two of the major labor unions threatened a nationwide strike. The increased sectarian violence in the north and the growing protests against the removal of the fuel subsidies became legitimate causes for concern and prompted my immediate return. Many politicians and scholars are comparing today's civil unrest to that of the 1960s. Most Nigerians are hoping for a peaceful resolution. I hope to return and continue my research in the near future, but for now I am thankful for the time that I was able to spend in the country. The trip itself afforded me a cultural experience like none other. I enjoyed eating pounded yam, amala, and ewedu. Moreover, I thoroughly enjoyed making new friends in such a dynamic country.

Introducing Global Affairs Ph.D. Candidate Yetunde Odugbesan

Yetunde A. Odugbesan is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Rutgers Division of Global Affairs, where she is working towards obtaining her doctoral degree in Global Affairs. She is a graduate of the United Nations Worldview Institute and Eagleton Institute of Politics. She received her master's degree in Global Affairs from Rutgers University and her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media Studies and a double minor in Organizational Leadership and Africana Studies in 2009. Yetunde's doctoral research focuses on political corruption and its effects on governmental trust and performance in both local and state government in Nigeria, West Africa. Specifically, her research hones in on the effects that high levels of corruption have on governmental performance and the existence or non-existence of social services being delivered on the local level. Her research interests include government transparency, ethics, and human rights.

Deborah Scott Reports from South Africa

Greetings from South Africa! I recently made a short (3 week) trip to Johannesburg and Durban with the generous support of the Rutgers National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program on "Renewable and Sustainable Fuel Solutions for the 21st Century." I used this trip to set up dissertation research on the role of scientific knowledge about biofuels in shaping emerging global governance mechanisms for biofuels.

This is my first year within the "Fuels" IGERT; as a Geography Ph.D. student, I am one of the few social scientists in this IGERT. When Rutgers won this grant from the National Science Foundation, they included work with international institutional partners, including the Centre of Material and Process Synthesis (COMPS) at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. My visit to COMPS was a great opportunity to speak with chemical engineers and biochemical scientists about their projects on algae and Biomass-to-Liquids. Their work responds to the unique challenges of opportunities of South Africa, and is in part focused on small-scale and rural Southern African possibilities for bioenergy solutions.

I then went to Durban for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the U.N. Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC), from November 28 – December 9, 2011. Although biofuels were not directly on the COP agenda, they were brought in to the negotiations for a sectoral approach to agriculture (these discussions primarily revolved around creating a carbon market for soils) and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

I worked in Nairobi from 2006 through 2008, and during that time African states were just starting to consider biofuel crop production, and foreign investors were just starting to explore Africa's potential to produce biofuel feedstock for an export market. Global protests triggered by rising food prices pointed out the danger of biofuel crop production competing with land for growing food ("food vs. fuels"). Since then, it has come out that large corporations, investors, and even other States have been involved in "land grabs" – in which domestic governments have leased, sold, or just given large tracts of often inhabited or worked upon land for the purposes of biofuel crop production. Some of this land is in biodiversity-rich and ecologically vulnerable land such as the Tana River Delta in Kenya.

Perhaps because of these demonstrated dangers to local communities and ecosystems to such unsustainable models of production of biofuel feedstock, the viability of biofuels as a tool today for climate change mitigation was not raised often at this COP. Biofuels are still clearly planned for as a mitigation tool, but it seems as though the understanding is that this will have to come largely from "next generation" biofuels, with improved technologies and engineered feedstocks. It is currently unclear what role the continent of Africa will play in producing next generation fuels.

THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ASA Annual Meeting Highlights

By Cailyn Kimmick

The African Studies Association would like to send sincere thanks to all participants of the 54th Annual Meeting, “50 Years of African Liberation.” The hard work and commitment of the ASA membership has resulted in a number of new programs and activities, including the Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola Lecture which was presented as a luncheon, Pre-Conference Workshops, Student Day, and the Past Presidents’ Dinner. The inclusion of a luncheon in the Abiola Lecture event was a huge success, due in large part to the stimulating and inspiring talk given by Sylvia Tamale of Makerere University, entitled, “Whose Democracy are we Talking About? Non-Conforming Sexualities as a Metaphor for African Dictatorships.” Pre-Conference workshops have allowed both members and non-members to explore topics such as governance and development in Africa, resources employed by the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African Art, as well as issues of public health in Africa. New programs geared towards students have enabled them to engage and network with senior academics and professionals. The Past Presidents’ Dinner was an occasion for the former and current leadership of the association to renew their acquaintances.



Additional highlights of the 54th Annual Meeting include the presentation of the six-volume series, *Dictionary of African Biography*, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. to the Ambassador of Zambia to the U.S., H.E. Sheila Siwela. Museum Day was an opportunity for members and non-members to participate in exhibitions, workshops, book award ceremonies, and more. The presentation of the ASA Herskovits Award for the best scholarly work in African Studies published in English went to both Neil Kodesh and Ugo G. Nwokeji.

In addition to these new and exciting activities, ASA has once again collaborated with Rutgers University’s Center for African Studies and School of Arts and Sciences, and with the American Council for Learned Societies, to organize the ASA Presidential Fellows Program. The 2011 fellows are Dr. Susan Nalugwa Kiguli of Makerere University, Uganda and Dr. Leketi Makalela of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. (In the photo above, I am pictured on the left, with Susan in the middle and Leketi on the right.) The program provides African scholars with the opportunity to come to the United States, be resident at Rutgers, visit nearby institutions, engage with local Africanists and students, visit classes, and attend the ASA Annual Meeting. The 2011 scholars also had the opportunity to visit the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. to meet with curators from the Africa collections. Dr. Makalela had the opportunity to give a lecture at the Library of Congress on his research on language policy in South Africa, while Dr. Nalugwa Kiguli gave a poetry reading and participated in the Library of Congress’ new program, “Conversations with African Poets and Writers.” Each fellow spent time researching his or her disciplinary interests and composed a narrative of their experience at the Kluge Center. The reports will be distributed in order to encourage more African scholars to pursue fellowships with the Kluge Center. *Cailyn Kimmick is a cultural anthropology major who will graduate in spring 2012. She is the Executive Assistant to Karen Jenkins, the Executive Director of the African Studies Association. For information on the African Studies Association please visit www.africanstudies.org.*

Susan Kiguli's (Makerere University, Uganda) Report as an ASA Presidential Fellow

Being an African Studies Association Presidential Fellow has been a truly rewarding and thrilling opportunity. It was an incredible experience for me and even though we arrived at Rutgers University during winter, the sun seemed to have heard that two Africans from the continent were around and it indulged us quite a bit. I could not be happier since we were told that the week before our arrival it had snowed heavily and even caused power blackouts in some parts!

I arrived at Rutgers University at the invitation of the African Studies Association in collaboration with the American Council of Learned Societies, Rutgers University, and the Library of Congress. I teamed up with Leketi Makalela (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa), who was also selected as an African Studies Association Presidential Fellow. We attended most of the scheduled activities together. I found that arrangement really pleasant because it gave us a chance to consult each other, exchange experiences, and travel around together. The traveling around together on the metro was wonderful, as I find extreme difficulties reading maps and Leketi could have been a cartographer! I am convinced that he could read a map upside down and still get it right. Being the two of us was for me like having two pairs of eyes and two minds, and my experiences were so much deeper and more enlightening as a result.

We spent our first four days from the 6th of November, 2011 at Rutgers University and we visited all the campuses, including Camden, which was some distance away from the main campuses. We were scheduled to talk to different undergraduate students on topics related to the research we had carried out as part of our African Humanities – American Council of Learned Societies Fellows Program. We also met some graduate students at the Camden campus. I greatly enjoyed the discussions with the different classes. The classes where I presented included Dr. April Grier's africana studies class, "Afromusicology," about my recent research on Ugandan music festivals; Dr. Barbara Cooper's history class, "Ancient Africa," on the diverse epic traditions of Africa and how my own writing relates to these traditions; Dr. Enock Aloo's African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian languages and literatures class, "Introduction to the Literature of Africa," on issues of identity, cultural concerns, and the postcolonial debate in African literature; Dr. Rafey Habib's English class, "Modern World Literatures," on two major East African writers, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Okot p' Bitek, focusing on the interaction between their creative work and critical essays; and Dr. Yana Rodgers's women's and gender studies class, "Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Women, Culture, and Society," on the position of African women writers in African literature.

My most striking memory in these presentations was the question and answer sessions and the remarkable enthusiasm with which different classes interacted with me. It was refreshing to hear about African literature and orature from students living away from Africa. It was also an edifying experience to observe how the different professors whose classes I talked to conducted their classes. I found the professor –student rapport very inspiring and I also picked up a number of ideas on how to motivate students.

I was also very encouraged by the warm reception for my poetry readings both at the Camden campus and at the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress organized a reading for me under their series entitled, "Conversations with African Writers and Poets." What was most wonderful about that was that the event was recorded and was going to be part of the library's archives.

The ASA meeting was another highlight for both Leketi and I. (We are pictured, to the right.) It was such a mind stimulating experience to have so many people interested in African studies in one place and to turn and see and listen to Henry Louis Gates Jr. and to turn again and see Ali Mazrui and to turn yet again and see Abiola Irele; the list is endless. At the meeting I participated in a round table discussion in which I discussed my ongoing research project. This study focuses on the process and practice of contemporary oral performance in post-apartheid South Africa and post-civil war Uganda and particularly explores the practice of oral poetry and popular song as it is understood by performers. The research is strongly informed by the premise that the field of oral arts in Africa is influential, versatile, and dynamic. At the same time there is still a lack of a strong base of developed criticism in the specific field of African oral literature and popular culture due to the marginal position of the main bearers of this literature, as well as the nature of the literary approaches used to study and evaluate it. The study assesses oral performance from within its situation of production and consumption. The performers have argued that oral poetry and popular song are dynamic manifestations of culture that intimately interact with their sources of origin. Therefore they reflect and project people's perception of their societies at the particular moment of production, and are viewed as accessible tools of education for large numbers of people in Africa and, for this reason, it is essential to recognize the multifarious nature of oral arts in Africa.



I have to say that the African Studies Association and the Center for African Studies team were magnificent and I remember them with such gratitude. I also was very glad to meet all the staff at the ACLS office in New York that work together to make the ACLS –AHP program a success. The staff at the John W. Kluge Center and the African Middle East Section at the Library of Congress were amazing. It was heartwarming to learn that Eve Ferguson, who was directly in charge of organizing my poetry reading, had lived in Uganda as a child. This program has highly motivated me and I am confident it will do the same for those who will be ASA Presidential Fellows after us.

Leketi Makalela (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) Reflects on the ASA Presidential Fellow Experience

I was privileged to receive an African Studies Association Presidential Fellowship for 2011, which entailed visits to Rutgers University and the Kluge Centre at the Library of Congress, and attendance at the 54th African Studies Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Throughout the tenure of the fellowship I refined my academic mantra: linguistic and literacy interface. The concept of interface blends different modes (multimodality), different languages (multilingualism), and skills (multiliteracy) and interrogates fluidity of their meeting points. There are three basic questions defining my agenda: What happens when African children juggle between two systems to develop reading and/or multimodal literacy? What happens when they are taught in languages they do not understand? What happens when African languages take an agentive role in localizing English?

I carried with myself these defining questions as I visited classes at Rutgers University to do guest lectures. The first talk was for Professor Maryam Borjian's class, "Language and Society in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia," which focused on language politics, allowing me space to relate the story of South Africa's bold language policy that recognized eleven official languages and how this policy should be interpreted with a series of larger socio-political processes that gave birth to it: Dutchification (1652), Anglicization (1795), Afrikanerization (1948),

the Soweto student uprising (1976), and democratisation (1994). My lecture showed that there are historically ordained ideological issues that limit utilization of indigenous African languages, such as negative attitudes and mythical economic reasons about costs. Constitutional emphasis on the need to utilize previously marginalized languages, however, remains a positive story so far in the modern history of African languages.

My next talk was for Professor Patrick Cox's "Children's Literacies" class, where I argued that visual mode and other neglected modes of communication have proliferated children's lives, but the schools and parents seem to be "old" in keeping up with the trends and therefore failing the children who are otherwise intelligent. Using reading images as a theoretical construct, I presented on the grammar of the visual design, which needs to be interpreted with verbal grammar as we read multimodal texts. I further presented results of an empirical study I conducted in South Africa, showing a commonsense, but deep reality of the need to rethink literacy and prepare our 21st century children.

The Library of the Congress offered a unique opportunity to research language development over time, especially language cognition, language in education, and the missionary "misinventions" and "disinventions" of African language orthographies and their Tower of the Babel misconceptions that exaggerated multilingualism in Africa. My public lecture entitled, "Challenges and Prospects of 11 Official Languages Policy in South Africa" was well received by the audience at the Library and the questions raised deepened my drive to do further research on the historical accounts of language policy development.

The fellowship ended with a special session on New English in South Africa at the ASA Annual Meeting. I debunked the myth that African languages are passive recipients of English's bully blows. Instead, they are catalysts of change in taming the shrew in the new African sociolinguistic milieu. Overall, a fruitful fellowship tenure!

NEW TO THE RUTGERS CAS COMMUNITY

Geography Recruit Max Andrucki

I was appointed as an assistant instructor in the department of geography in July 2011, immediately after receiving my Ph.D. in geography from the University of Leeds in the U.K. A native of Maine, I received my B.A. at Columbia and did my master's in geography at the University of Vermont. My doctoral research used a transnational approach to examine white, English-speaking South African (WESSA) identities and practices in the post-apartheid moment, with a particular focus on WESSAs who have lived abroad but have, at least temporarily, returned to South Africa. My dissertation asked how, in contemporary South Africa, imaginative and performative geographies inform WESSA identities and practices, how transnational mobility and motility materially constitutes and produces experiences of whiteness, and how transnational cultures and subjectivities are articulated through embodied practices of everyday life.



I carried out my research in Durban between 2006 and 2009. I used textual analysis and participant observation, but the heart of my research was a series of semi-structured interviews with over 40 transnational individuals in the Durban area. In my dissertation I argue that conceptualiz-

ing WESSA migration practices as circuits allows for an understanding of how whiteness in South Africa is much more than simply an epistemology of power; discourse and materiality are inseparable in the analysis of whiteness. I show how WESSAs deploy imaginative meta-geographies to narrate how white bodies do and do not belong in South Africa. However, using a positioned and relational understanding of uneven global economic space, quite often WESSAs find privileged everyday life in South Africa economically and emotionally preferable to living overseas. Thus I demonstrate how attending to the body as a transnational space is central to understanding the relationship between whiteness and mobility in contemporary South Africa. I also see my work as a contribution to the understanding of post-apartheid society, and in particular I argue against the predominant “white flight” narrative that has become hegemonic in post-apartheid South Africa.

I have been invited to present my work in the U.K., U.S., and South Africa, and publications have appeared in *Social & Cultural Geography*, *ACME*, *Ethnicities*, and the edited collection *Geographies of Privilege*, forthcoming from Routledge. I am thrilled to be at Rutgers and, in addition to introductory courses in human and environmental geography, I am getting ready to teach a 200-level course on geographies of Africa. I will be presenting my current manuscript, tentatively titled, “Transnational Topophilia in Contemporary South Africa” at a geography department seminar on March 9, 2012. In my spare time I sing in an indiepop band, love vegetarian cooking, and have just adopted my first cat, Pinky. In the photograph I am at the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Jennifer Bajorek’s Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Cultural Analysis, 2011-2012

During my fellowship year at Rutgers, I have the luxury of finishing a book and starting a new project, which will link up a series of ongoing collaborative research projects on image archives and media platforms in Africa.

My book project explores the history of photography in four west African cities in the years leading up to and immediately following independence. Drawing on fieldwork and archival research carried out in Saint-Louis (Ndar) and Dakar, Senegal, in 2007 and 2008, and in Porto-Novo and Cotonou, Benin, in 2009, my book examines the broader cultural and political significance of photography in this part of Africa mid century. Broadly speaking, I am interested in photography as a space of social, and not only technical, innovation. Senegal and Benin boast rich histories of local cultures of reproduction, where photographic circulation and preservation became linked to particular techniques of reproduction, and where photographs were nonetheless rarely produced as multiples. A good example can be seen in the case of a photographic portrait of Soukenya Konaré, a prestigious and powerful Saint-Louisian who is remembered for her involvement in early anti-colonial and anti-French politics. A cropped and enlarged version of her portrait circulated widely and can be found in many family homes in Saint-Louis today, as well as in the city museum. Konaré’s appears to have been the first portrait made by a local photographer in Senegal of which there are multiple prints dating from the same period, and it is very likely the first to have been reproduced for political reasons. I look at historical examples such as this one against the backdrop of broader theoretical questions about both photography and social change in an urban African context in this period. I am interested in the development of popular photographic practices and in official and state-sponsored practices of the image. For example, I also examine photography’s power to foster investments by non-state actors in official and state-sponsored photography in this period. I pay special attention to official and political photography produced in the post-WWII period (generally, it was not possible for African photographers to shoot in the street or in other public places until after 1956, but there are some exceptions to the rule) and to state-sponsored ID card production. I am also very

interested in cultural and political dimensions of memory regimes, and in the consequences of working with photographic archives in non-European space.

These interests have led me to a series of more activist research collaborations with scholars, practitioners (photographers, artists, and curators), and policymakers in Africa. Whereas my book is focused on historical material, my new project engages directly with the situation of African archives in the present, and with what I call the geopolitics of the archive. I believe that we, as scholars based in the intellectual North, must grapple in a more activist vein with the situation of African archives today: when photographers, families, and public institutions connected with African states are compelled to sell their archives to collectors overseas, in the absence of suitable local structures for their preservation, digitization, and dissemination on global markets. My new project explores diverse frameworks for transforming and building new public institutions for photographic patrimony in Africa, often in the radical absence of state support. I am trying to reflect on the existing frameworks more systematically and also to contribute to conversations about new frameworks for transnational resource-sharing and collaboration on a regional scale. For example, we need to tackle the issue of progressive rights management before we can update thinking about local ownership. We are working within existing structures: fundraising to support preservation and digitization initiatives and the development of related cultural policy (including with partners at l'ÉPA in Porto-Novo, which I only recently found out has formal ties to Rutgers). But we are also seeking to invent new structures, and we are experimenting with everything from NGO-ization to corporate sponsorship and the use of social networking platforms. The photograph above is from my field research in Senegal. It is a portrait of a woman named Oumou Khady Guèye, from a private collection in Dakar, Senegal. The photographer is unknown and the date is approximate, ca. mid 1930s. It is an example of reproduction of a vintage print by serial rephotography over time.



HIV/AIDS, Language, and Music in South Africa

By Steven P. Black

The study of HIV, and of HIV stigma, in South Africa has largely focused on issues such as the socioeconomic trajectory of colonialism, apartheid, globalization and neoliberalism, the behavioral patterns and attitudes about sex that lead to infection, and the psychological/social impact of illness and stigma—and rightly so. Such research is often based on one-on-one interviews, surveys, and questionnaires. In depth ethnography with infected individuals remains difficult, largely because of intense and pervasive stigma.

My research is grounded in ethnographic fieldwork with a Zulu gospel choir in Durban, South Africa, in which all group members are living with HIV/AIDS. This was supplemented with two months of pilot work and two years prior study of Zulu language, culture, and society. The research is also informed by my lifelong passion for music and extensive training as a jazz saxophone player. My musical expertise and enthusiasm allowed me to connect with a unique choir in which all group members are living with HIV/AIDS, thereby providing access to a larger, usually insular, stigmatized community. My presence could be explained as that of a visiting American jazz saxophonist interested in Zulu gospel music. My research complements other scholarship about HIV/AIDS in South Africa, focusing especially on the linguistic construction of

HIV stigma in *isiZulu* and English, the verbal art of facing stigma (through song, storytelling, and joking), and the unequal relationships of black South Africans living with HIV and European and American aid groups. In this research I draw upon the concepts of exception, abjection and liminality, terms from distinct scholarly traditions that are used to describe the phenomenon of extreme social exclusion.

One goal of this work is to offer a perspective on how the local South African support groups navigated the uneven socioeconomic terrain of globalized aid, working to document the perspectives of marginalized black South Africans living with HIV in their activist and support projects. I am also interested in how the creative linguistic practices of the choir I worked with were connected to the cultural patterning of race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as how these patterns articulate with the ways that people living with HIV/AIDS draw upon traditional Zulu religious belief, Christian faith healing, and medical treatment to navigate their illness.



Through this research I hope to contribute to theoretical perspectives on language and culture, and also to impact the epidemic. For instance, other research suggests that individuals “confront” or “overcome” stigma. This is grounded in the idea that disclosure primarily occurs within dyadic interactions. My analysis suggests that stigma is constituted in multiparty interactions in which participants take up various roles as addressees, overhearers, and eavesdroppers. My work with people living with HIV in South Africa, including with vocal disclosers of their HIV positive status, leads me to suggest that individuals cannot truly overcome stigma when a cultural pattern of stigma persists. Rather they must learn ways to *face* stigma in daily life and to understand when to disclose and when to withhold disclosure in the complex multiparty flow of everyday life. The picture above is of a choir member dancing at a wedding; I am in the background. The faces of a research participant and her son are blurred to protect their anonymity. *Steven Black is an annual instructor for the anthropology department.*

Jessica Johnson’s Serendipitous Kin: a Tale from Malawi

I am thrilled to be here at Rutgers for the fall semester, working with Dorothy Hodgson at the anthropology department and participating at the Institute for Research on Women as a Global Scholar. By a stroke of luck, I arrived just in time to attend the CAS Welcome Back Party where I met many members of Rutgers’ vibrant African Studies community. Thank you all for making me so welcome here.

I conducted my doctoral fieldwork in rural southern Malawi, 2009-2010. My main focus was on issues of gender and law. Spending time at the village court, police Victim Support Unit and magistrates’ courts, I studied the complex entanglements of human rights, customary law, and a progressive constitution in processes of marital dispute resolution.

It is a truism of anthropological research that ‘the field’ is full of surprises. Anthropology graduate students are trained to expect the unexpected and to embrace the challenges posed by the vicissitudes of ethnographic research. But it is not only theoretical frameworks and ontological assumptions that can be overturned by field encounters. A few months into my research, I discovered that serendipity also operates at a more personal level, shaping the relationships that we form with the people among whom we live.

I first realised the power of serendipity in this regard during a ceremonial event at which the women and children of the village were all eating together. The women I was sitting with noticed me encouraging a three-year-old boy to eat more of the nutritious meat relish. They quickly (and correctly) identified my favouritism and, following a period of intense teasing, it was decided that little Kondwani was my ‘husband’! Not only did I gain a loyal ‘spouse’ that day, I also became a daughter-in-law and was soon initiated into the art of treating my new mother-in-law with respect. In addition, I was embraced by a plethora of brothers- and sisters-in-law, with whom I was placed in a joking relationship; some of these siblings in-law went on to become close friends.

As these relationships developed, my understanding of Malawian kinship became more nuanced. I came to recognise norms of interaction and ways of relating that I may never have discerned had it not been for that serendipitous exchange over shared bowls of *nsima* and chicken. That deepened understanding fed back into my research, helping me to grasp the subtleties of the extended kin relationships that suffused the marital disputes I was observing.

Above and beyond the impact on my research, however, I earned a colossal debt of gratitude to my various in-laws who so generously made me a part of their lives. It is a debt I look forward to honouring for many years to come. *Jessica Johnson is a Rutgers Visiting Scholar in the anthropology department, and a Ph.D. candidate in social anthropology at the University of Cambridge.*



Left: Kondwani and family featuring Jessica’s “husband”

Center: Jessica with members of her Malawian extended family; the women are shelling maize

Right: Women preparing *nsima* for an initiation feast

Anthropology’s Jason Lewis Describes His Work

I am a researcher who studies physical anthropology, archaeology, and human evolution, particularly in Africa. I am originally from Pennsylvania and attended the now infamous Dover Area High School, which in 2005-2006 was embroiled in a very important intelligent design/evolution court case. I went on to receive my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004 and my Ph.D. in anthropological sciences from Stanford University in 2011. I began working here at Rutgers last fall as an Assistant Instructor in the anthropology department, where I teach “Introduction to Archaeology, Survey of Old World Prehistory, and Zooarchaeology.” My research program focuses on fieldwork and taphonomic and zooarchaeological studies of Plio-Pleistocene sites in Africa in order to test hypotheses about the evolution, ecology, and behavior of fossil humans.

I have been working in Africa for nearly ten years, and my first trip there was actually with Rutgers’ Koobi Fora Field School (run by Dr. Jack Harris in anthropology). I have performed

archaeological and paleontological fieldwork in Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and South Africa (please see website for more information www.rci.rutgers.edu/~jel102). This year I joined an international team, lead by Drs. H el ene Roche and Sonia Harmand (both CNRS, France), devoted to finding archaeological sites from the first two million years of human stone tool use along the western shore of Lake Turkana in Northern Kenya. The team has discovered over two dozen sites from all along this time period, including the oldest Acheulean in the world (Kokiselei 4 at 1.76 million years ago [mya]), and the oldest site in Kenya (Lokalalei 2C at 2.34 mya). I work on the team as a paleoanthropologist (with Dr. Sandrine Prat) and paleontologist/zooarchaeologist (with Dr. Jean-Philip Brugal; both CNRS). I have worked in the field using satellite imagery to direct a new survey and found many early archaeological sites. I have excavated and performed zooarchaeological analyses on fossil remains at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi.



In addition to my research in Africa, I am also co-director (with Dr. Ludovic Slimak of the CNRS, France) of excavations at the Middle Pleistocene site of Orgnac 3 and the Late Pleistocene site of Le Grand Abri aux Puces (both in Southeastern France). My doctoral thesis analyzed the animal remains from the ~400,000 year old cave site of Orgnac 3 (in the Ard che department of southeastern France), in order to characterize the hunting and/or scavenging behaviors of the Orgnac 3 humans and test hypotheses about how human subsistence patterns may have changed throughout the last half million years. I have also published papers on how to identify what types of sword were used in ancient conflicts from marks on bone, and on resolving the historical debate between Stephen J. Gould and Samuel G. Morton on skulls, race, and bias.

In my spare time, I compete in endurance horse riding competitions and train in historically accurate European medieval martial arts, jousting, and bulls eye pistol shooting. In the picture above I am plotting finds in the field in West Turkana, Kenya.

Sonia Harmand's Work in East Africa

I am a French researcher focusing on the archaeology of human evolution in Africa. I am originally from Paris and received my Ph.D. from the Universit  de Paris X - Nanterre in 2005. I am currently a charg  de recherche at the *Laboratoire de Pr histoire et Technologie* of the CNRS in Nanterre. I have taught courses on African archaeology and the study of stone tools at Stanford University, the Universit  de Djibouti, and at the Turkana Basin Institute in Kenya. My research centers around the emergence of material culture and the behavioral characteristics of Early Stone Age hominins inhabiting the East African Rift Valley with particular interest in adaptive technological strategies, cultural features, and settlement dynamics during African Early Stone Age.



I am interested in characterizing patterns of land-use and exploitation of resources in time and space by studying site locations, spatial distribution of lithic raw materials, and techno-economic organization during the Oldowan and Acheulean, the two oldest known manifestations of material culture (2.5 - 0.5 million years ago). My research is driven by the question of the cognitive status of early humans as reflected in their technologies and the evolution of human adaptation from an evolutionary perspective, trying to understand the relationships between stone tool

technology, environmental conditions, hominin species, and cognitive evolution during the Oldowan and Acheulean. My geographic perspective is global with an emphasis on some of the earliest occurrences of stone artifacts found in East Africa (for more information please see my webpage: www.mae.u-paris10.fr/prehistoire/spip.php?article19).

I have been working in Africa for approximately 15 years and my fieldwork has focused on major Oldowan and Acheulean localities on the western shores of Lake Turkana in Kenya recently excavated by the West Turkana Archaeological project, a joint research program between the National Museums of Kenya and the *Mission Préhistorique au Kenya* (formerly led by Dr. Hélène Roche, CNRS, France), of which I am this year becoming the director. I have also expanded my fieldwork and study of large collections of prehistoric stone tools with projects in the Republic of Djibouti and Ethiopia, to document the emergence, development and spread of early human technologies from an inter-regional comparison with East African localities. The picture is of me preparing to lead the day's expedition in West Turkana, Kenya.

CAS congratulates Sonia Harmand and Jason Lewis on their engagement!

FRIENDS OF AFRICA CONTRIBUTE

Three Families in Burkina Faso By Beryl Goldberg

In October I presented a slide show to the Rutgers student organization "RU Wanawake" of three African families whom I photographed from 1972 to 2004. This body of work is my tribute to the founding generations of three families in Burkina Faso, West Africa. The parents all left their rural villages and migrated to urban centers following the same path as millions of others throughout the modern world. In three generations, the members of these families have gone from being subsistence farmers to becoming sophisticated dwellers in the wired, urban environment. They are real people working, playing, and being together. They have cell phones, televisions, and use computers. The photos from the 1970's function as a historic record of family life: work, clothing, hair styles, and travel. This is another Africa, not the Africa of famine, poverty, and warfare we see too often in the media. My goal is to portray the Africa that exists for many, that is real, vibrant, and alive.

When I met them, two of the families lived very simply with a minimal possessions. I lived with one of these families for a few weeks. An innate grace, kindness, and strength radiated from them. I was impressed by how carefully they used all their resources. They had enough to eat and had basic adequate shelter. The children played, creating toys from bike wheels or wire. The women sometimes sat together and braided each others' hair. Water used for cooking was used again to water trees in the yard.

In those years, they were truly far away from my home in New York with minimal connection to Europe or the United States. I visited them a few times in the seventies and although I always intended to return it wasn't until 1998 that I finally did. One family was easy to locate, one was more challenging as the city of Bobo Dioulasso had grown in the intervening 19 years. The third family I was only able to locate before my next trip in 2001. The young children I knew are now parents with young children.

Some of the next generations have become very successful, studying and working in Europe and the United States, becoming doctors, newscasters, fashion designers, businessmen, and teachers. Now they are fully wired and connected while they are also very close to their families. Family values and religion are central to their lives. Whereas some of the mothers of the founding generation had little formal education, if any, their children all attend school and speak fluent French.

When I return to Burkina Faso I always bring photos for the families so they also have a record of their history. I have photographed and sometimes written about major projects focusing on health, women's issues, and economic development around the world. I've contributed to the work of U.N. agencies, many non-governmental organizations and educational publishers as well as magazines and newspapers. Please visit my website for more information on my work: www.berylgoldberg.com.



Clockwise, from top left: Maiga family group portrait 1972; Maiga mothers Habe child 1972; Maiga Traore family on bikes; Mr. Maiga and his two wives, Ouaga, 1972

Vanishing Cultures in Ethiopia and Kenya: Art Exhibition by Gaby Hahn

I was honored to be asked by Professor Jack Harris to exhibit my paintings on the Douglass campus at Rutgers in March of 2011. I showed an extended version, including 82 portrait paintings, this summer at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi for three months and was able to introduce a public not familiar with Africa to a fascinating, rich, and ancient culture, to a strange and colorful world which appeals to all senses. Sadly this world is under attack.

We are Swiss and own vineyards and a winery in California (www.Hahnfamilywines.com). My husband and I traveled extensively through Africa and owned a small farm in South Africa in the 1970s. In 1997 we acquired Mugie (www.Mugieranch.com), a 50 000 acre ranch in Kenya on the high plateau of Laikipia, approximately 180 miles north of Nairobi. The live stock coexists with wildlife and has become a major center for predator studies. Fully half of the farm is dedicated to a wild life sanctuary, protecting black rhinos, lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, and many other species. We fund a k-8 school with over 200 children, and 15 handicapped girls.

Prior to becoming a painter I was a docent at the Tate Gallery. Training at the local art schools gave me the tools to develop my artistry. I am fascinated by the African landscape, by the animals and by the various tribes. I sketch and write daily during my visits to Africa and develop my paintings from these sketches. I attempt to bring to life Africa's light, atmosphere, its tribal customs, the hard work of its people, their deep connection with nature, their dignity, and evident joy of life. In addition to the images below, please view more of my work on my website at www.gabyhahn.org.

A recent trip to Lake Turkana in the north of Kenya got me in contact with the amazing lake and its people of the Turkana, Rendili, and El Molo tribes who live in the extreme conditions of a barren landscape, in sweltering heat, dependent on fishing. My family and I traveled to Southern Ethiopia to the shores of the Omo river and met members of the Hamar, Karo, Surmi, Mursi, Dassanech, Nyangatom, and other tribes who eke out a meager existence through flood retreat cultivation and fishing. I painted portraits of tribal people for the exhibitions to preserve their amazing faces, bodies, and hair decorations.

The very existence of these people around the Omo river and Lake Turkana into which it flows is threatened by the construction of several huge hydro electric power dams (Gibe I-IV or V)– all for the production of electricity, on the Omo River. No proper environmental studies preceded the funding of the dam. The flood cycle will be altered dramatically, affecting ecosystems and the livelihoods of more than 500,000 people. River banks will collapse and the water level of Lake Turkana will drop by up to thirty feet. The water will become so saline that the fish will die. The very rare riparian forests and their shy animals and flora will disappear forever. Thus, my art has acquired a political nature. I wish to make the world aware of this huge impending disaster. It will result in the loss of many animals and the life line and culture of so many tribal peoples.

Omo 018
Hahn Oil 18"x18"



Five Pokot Women
Hahn Acrylic 36"x48"



Red Samburus
Hahn Acrylic 30"x40"



Two Dancing Samburu Morans
Hahn Oil 36"x48"

Hope for the Youth: Girl Child Concerns By Mairo Mandara

Girl Child Concerns is a registered non-governmental organization devoted to improving the lives of all young people in Nigeria regardless of class or gender. GCC aims to give young people, especially girls, the opportunity to attain their highest potential. The main activities of GCC include: Female Students Scholarship Scheme; Give Back Project; Youth Development and Mentor Training Project; Legislative Education Campaign; and Strategic Research. The aim of these projects is to offer the less privileged children in public schools educational opportunities and to also instill in them a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to helping others. The beneficiaries of the Female Students Scholarship Scheme must demonstrate a commitment to and proof of assisting at least five other younger children in their academic pursuits. At least three of these children should be girls. The scholarship scheme also requires that the beneficiaries participate in an annual beneficiaries mentoring retreat where all beneficiaries are brought together for a weekend with female role models. They gather at these weekend summer camps when the schools close during the long vacation to share experiences and challenges of growing up, goal setting, reflecting on a career, and working towards and envisioning a future they want to see for themselves and their communities. I have participated at these annual mentoring retreats where we invited female achievers in various fields as role models who made presentations about their work and also interacted with the beneficiaries. Among those we had invited as guests to the mentoring projects were a medical doctor, a business woman, a journalist, the first female registrar of a Nigerian university, an accomplished Principal of a Girls Secondary School who studied and got her Ph.D. on the job, a police officer, and a celebrated lawyer. The adapted version of these encounters is replicated in the Youth Development Programme designed by GCC.

The Youth Development Program (YDP) aims to develop the confidence and awareness of boys and girls, empower them to become active members in their communities, and gain a sense of social responsibility. The goal of the YDP is to create a generation of confident and responsible young adults who can set examples and mentor their peers. YDP works to achieve these goals by hosting annual empowerment and mentor training workshops. At these workshops the participants learn about the options they have for the future, the importance of education, and the need for them to be active in their community. In small groups, the children have the opportunity to complete volunteer projects in their local communities. For synergy, this Youth Development Programme is linked to other GCC projects such as the Legislative Education campaign. Together with the Legislative Education Campaign, these young adults will have the opportunity to make an effective impact in their communities. The YDP will ensure the voices of these young adults are heard and make a difference. The Give Back Project solicits important members of society who had benefitted from public schools to give back to the schools in their communities by improving the educational standards through buying books for libraries, mending broken doors and windows, and both supplying books and retraining teachers.

On July 24, 2011 several girls out of the over two thousand beneficiaries of the FSSS organized an awareness programme on the deplorable condition of Nigeria's public schools that the children of the poor attend. In the poems read by the young pupils of Jabi Public School, aged eight to 10 years old, they reminded policy makers about their responsibility to arrest the deteriorating standard of education by rehabilitating the schools and providing them with adequate funding. They recalled that not too long ago all children in Nigeria attended public schools which provided quality education, and that most current leaders of the country in all fields were products of these schools. These leaders excelled and later attended the best schools in other parts of the world. They could stand on their own anywhere, competing favourably with students at Harvard and Oxford. They returned to the country to become leaders. The sound education they received was possible because the post independence leaders of the country invested in edu-

cation. Our leaders were taught high standards in public schools. They were therefore given the ticket to make the best use of life. Today the pupils are being denied that opportunity and the unhappy and deprived children are asking the policy makers why they are being deprived of a quality education which would make them excel as leaders and ensure social mobility. The pupils underscored the fact that as leaders of tomorrow they cannot dream of having the same quality education in a country that has the resources. They warned that neglecting the education of the youth is setting up a ticking time bomb, a powerful one that will consume all of us because no one is safe if a large portion of youth have no quality education and a focused life.



To get the messages from our youth to the policy makers, GCC has designed the Legislative Education Campaign which is an advocacy initiative aimed at addressing the need for urgent educational reform in the country and particularly in Northern Nigeria where educational indices from the zone are the worst in the country. Unless this is addressed, the country cannot achieve the Millennium Development Goals which expects all countries to provide universal primary education by 2015. Time is running out and there is a need for urgent action. The LEC will therefore bring young children from both private and public schools to address members of the national and state legislatures on the appalling situation of education in the country. The children will challenge the conscience of leaders and bring out vividly the implication of continuous neglect of public education within our individual lives and in the nation as a whole. GCC expects this advocacy initiative to stir the conscience of leaders and make issues of education a priority in the scheme of our national development.

In addition to raising funds for its Female Students Scholarship Scheme which supports poor intelligent girls to study from grade seven to at least grade 12 at a cost of \$600 per annum (tuition, books, boarding fees, and meals) GCC also works on its “Give Back Project” which is an initiative aimed at getting well established members of the society who have benefited directly from the public education system of the country to contribute directly to raising the standards of the schools they attended. A participant in the project is expected to donate or give part of his/her *zakat* or offerings to the primary or secondary school he/she attended specifically for the purpose of promotion of quality education in the school or a donor may choose any other school. The donations from this initiative are used for academic purposes only. These include: renovation of school buildings excluding painting, furnishing classrooms, purchasing text books, renovating staff rooms, purchasing of teaching aids, in-house summer retraining of school teachers, or any other academic purpose that is identified in the school. The project participants are also expected to introduce the project to five others potential donors. This part of the initiative is very crucial in creating the required critical mass effect for the project to be successful.

In the 2011 academic year, GCC plans to offer 100 new scholarships to girls. Donors could either contribute to the pool of the scholarship fund or adopt a student from the Female Students Scholarship Scheme and fund her education completely. Details of GCC are available at www.girlchildconcerns.org or we can be contacted at girlchildconcerns@yahoo.co.uk.

Dr. Mandara, pictured above delivering a GCC speech, is an obstetrician/gynaecologist with extensive knowledge and experience in managing maternal and child health programs and a focus on managing at the national, state, and health facility level. Dr. Mandara is most known for her involvement with various advocacy initiatives to promote maternal and reproductive health, family planning, and girls education in Nigeria, as well as social justice initiatives. Dr. Mandara has many publications in both national and international journals.

FROM:

Center for African Studies
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue
Lucy Stone Hall A-346
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

New Brunswick, NJ

Permit No. 157

TO:



PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO CAS!

Checks should be made payable to the Rutgers University Foundation, with "Center for African Studies" indicated on the memo line.

Please mail your check to the CAS address above.

For online donations please visit ruafrica.rutgers.edu.

For more information contact CAS: 848-445-6638.