African Studies and the Challenge of the ‘Global’ in the 21st Century

What are the challenges and opportunities accompanying the integration of area studies into Global or International Schools and Institutes? What are the implications of this institutional shift for African studies as a field of knowledge production? How do African studies scholars and programs position themselves in this new landscape? What does this new environment mean for the education and professionalization of our students, specifically students pursuing graduate degrees?

These were a few of the questions discussed at the symposium organized by the African Studies Program on April 29, 2016. The symposium grew out of a discussion about ‘critical area studies’ across Indiana University (IU) centers and our recent integration into the School of Global and International Studies with its own new building, where we now interact on a daily basis with our colleagues in other units. Not unique to IU, the creation or reinforcement of Global / International Schools or Institutes as the intellectual and institutional homes of area studies units seems to be a response to the pronouncements and reality that we now live in an era of ‘globalization,’ narrowly understood as a process of the past two decades predicated on the US as a center of global power. While scholars routinely agree that the process of ‘globalization’ has deep historical roots, they also often acknowledge that the particularity of the current era is defined by an intensification of various global political, economic, and technological processes, albeit uneven and shifting over time. These processes further direct scholarly attention to the rising cultural and economic power of the Global South. This has also increasingly required a rethinking of many of the familiar terms, theories, methods, and disciplinary boundaries with which scholars and educators have worked for much of the 20th century. In addition, it is pushing scholars to reconsider globalization as defined by a ‘western’ core and to highlight instead the interactive nature of multi-sited and multivalent processes. For example, in what instances might the global be better conceptualized in terms of borderlands, networks, and processes of circulation rather than boundaries and nation-states? Are there instances in which the nation-state remains a salient category of analysis for the global?

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African Studies and the Challenge of the ‘Global’ in the 21st Century (continued)

Attended by a broad cross-section of the IU African Studies community and others, invited scholars Judith Byfield (Cornell University), James Delehanly (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Mamadou Diouf (Columbia University), and Jamie Monson (Michigan State University) presented their perspectives on the theme. IU faculty members Beth Buggenhagen (Anthropology), Pedro Machado (History), Michelle Moyd (History), and John Hanson (African Studies / History) offered responses, followed by general discussion. Akin Adesokan (Comparative Literature & The Media School) moderated a roundtable composed of African Studies graduate students Meg Arenberg (Comparative Literature), Zachary Baker (Comparative Literature), Cathryn Johnson (Political Science), Samson Ndanyi (History), and Oliver Shao (Folklore and Ethnomusicology).

The revised symposium proceedings have been published in Africa Today 63:2 (Winter 2016), complemented by reflections from Professors Premesh Lalu (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) and Eva Spies & Rüdiger Seesemann (University of Bayreuth, Germany). We will to continue the conversation.
Public Lectures and Special Events

Contemporary Africa Seminar Guest Lectures — Spring 2016
Organized by Professor Beth Buggenhagen (Anthropology)

February 26  "Food, Aid, and Education in East Africa: Repackaging the Conversation"
Amy Stambach, University of Wisconsin-Madison

March 25  “We Work for Our Lives: Revaluing Femininity and Work in a Postabolition Market”
Katherine Wiley, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

April 1  “‘Odd Notions about Race’: Métis, Belonging, and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century Colonial French Equatorial Africa”
Rachel Jean-Baptiste, University of California, Davis

Allen Roberts, University of California, Los Angeles

Co-Sponsored Public Lectures and Film Screenings

February 25  Chanfi Ahmed, Humboldt University, Berlin
“Encounters among ‘ulamā’ from West Africa, Egypt and South Asia in Medina’s Dār al-Ḥadith and in the al-Ḥaramain’s mosques at the beginning of Ibn Saʿūd’s regime”
(Organized by the Islamic Studies Program)

March 22  Terje Østebø, University of Florida
“Islamic Reformism as Network of Meaning: The Intellectualist Movement in Ethiopia”
(Organized by the Islamic Studies Program)

April 13  Seydou Thierno Sall, Independent Poet, Senegal
Reading from his Poetry Collections and Discussion
(Organized by Eileen Julien, Comparative Literature and French & Italian)

August 25  Andreas Eckert, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
“Capitalism and Labor in Africa”
(Organized by the African Studies Program)

September 12-15  20th Annual African Film Festival Traveling Series
Screening of: Head Gone (Nigeria/Sweden, 2014); Red Leaves (Israel, 2014); Afripedia Ghana / Kenya (Ghana/Kenya/Sweden, 2014); The Longest Kiss (Canada, 2013); Cholo (Oman, 2014); Panic Button (South Africa, 2014); The Prophecy (Senegal, 2015)
(Organized by IU Library Media Services)

October 25  Patricia Jabbeh Wesley, Pennsylvania State University Altoona
Poetry Reading and Q&A: “Between Brutal Realities and Lyric Possibilities”
(Organized by the Institute for Advanced Study)

October 28  Will Reno, Northwestern University
“Armed Group Cohesion in the Context of State Failure”
(Organized by the Center on American and Global Security)
Public Lectures and Special Events (continued)

Co-Sponsored Public Lectures and Film Screenings

November 7  Rachel Engmann, Hampshire College
“Selling the Exotic to the Exotic: Religious Objects and Cross-Cultural Consumption in 19th Century Asante, Ghana”
(Organized by the Department of Anthropology)

November 16 Justin Pearce, Cambridge University, United Kingdom
“Political Identity and Conflict in Central Angola, 1975-2002”
(Organized by Marissa Moorman, History)

December 5 Dmitri Holtzman, Founding Director, Equal Education Law Centre, Cape Town, South Africa; Alex Lichtenstein, IU History; Marissa Moorman, IU History
“Crisis at South Africa’s Universities: A Roundtable Discussion”
(Organized by the African Studies Program; moderated by Patrick O’Meara, SGIS)

African Studies Program Colloquium Series

Spring 2016

February 12  “NGOs in Development: Living and Working in the Democratic Republic of Congo – a Case Study”
Ann Marie Thomson, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs

February 19  “Mobilities, Music and Cosmopolitan Ties: Burkinabe Mennonites and the Broader Christian Sphere”
Carinna Friesen, IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

March 4  “Women’s Participation in Community Life and Local Government in Burkina Faso and Mali”
Cathryn Johnson, IU Political Science Department

March 11  “The History of Hratin Muslim Authority and Identity Construction in Twentieth-Century Mauritania”
Khaled Mohamed Esseissah, IU History Department

April 8  “Computational approaches for pitch and scale extraction in Central African music”
Olmo Cornelis, Visiting Scholar, IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

April 15  “Food Systems Governance, Food Security, and Climate Change Adaptation in Zambia and Kenya”
Tom Evans, IU Geography Department

Fall 2016

September 30  "Signs & Wonders: Aesthetics and Uncertainties in 'Pentecostalite' Accra."
Emily Stratton, Religious Studies Department

October 14  “Rethinking the 'Diversity Debit': Ethnicity and Political Incentives in Kenya's Constituency Development Fund.”
Kirk Harris, Political Science Department

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Public Lectures and Special Events (continued)

African Studies Program Colloquium Series

Fall 2016

October 21  "International Migration and Social Mobility among the Sub-Saharan African Middle-Class"
Tristan Ivory, Post-Doctoral Fellow, CRRES & Sociology

October 28  "The Voyage of Socialization in the Transnational Bildungsroman"
Moussa Thiao, Department of Comparative Literature

November 4  "‘Angola: the Firm Trench of the Revolution in Africa!’ Our Anti-Imperialism, Your Cold War - National Radio and Geo-Politics"
Marissa Moorman, Department of History

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African Studies 2016 Fall Reception
Arts of Survival: Recasting Lives in African Cities

Contemporary urban culture and arts in Accra, Lagos, Nairobi, New Orleans, and Port-au-Prince were the focus of a Summer Institute, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and held from July 6-26, 2016, in Bloomington. Co-organized and co-directed by James Ogude (Centre for the Advanced Study of Scholarship, University of Pretoria) and myself, the Institute examined the mutual interactions between art and everyday life in these cities, especially following catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the massive 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

In collaboration with Indiana University faculty colleagues Akin Adesokan (Comparative Literature & Media School), Oana Panaité (French and Italian), and Grace Musila (English, Stellenbosch University), we began with a provocative question: What makes a city African? ... and we were off!

An exceptionally diverse and knowledgeable group of twenty-one university faculty and three graduate students from across the United States participated in the Institute. Our goal was to heighten awareness of the uniqueness of these cities; to examine the various arts and media that are prominent in each of them, such as festivals, film, or music; and to look at how the arts in public spaces can be transformative for cities that have faced severe challenges. Readings and films were wide-ranging and challenging, focusing on marginalized sex workers, life writing and popular music in Nairobi; urban architecture, formal and informal networks and improvisation in Lagos; street life and "illegibility" in Accra; history, neoliberalism, and public culture in post-Katrina New Orleans; and catastrophe, neocolonialism and renewal in Port-au-Prince. Discussions were sometimes difficult and always exhilarating. The Institute enabled us all to experience and explore new approaches to studying and teaching these cities and their identities.

Several events complementing the Institute were open to the Bloomington campus and public: film screenings on Lagosian highlife (Stadium Hotel) and post-earthquake Port au Prince (Murder at Pacot); a conversation between Institute faculty James Ogude and Grace Musila on popular culture; and my reflections centered around an IU Mathers Museum display of Mardi Gras regalia from my family’s collection. Institute participants also embarked on a weekend trip to New Orleans for a moving experience of life in an urban area with deep African roots.

The "Arts of Survival" Institute was made possible with support from IU’s Office of the Provost and exceptional work by staff at IU’s Institute for Advanced Study: Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe, associate director; Kelley Totten, special projects assistant; administrative assistants Sonila Zajmi and Meredith McGriff; graduate assistant Nzingha Kendall and undergraduate intern, Abigail Aylward.

-Eileen Julien, IU Institute of Advanced Study, Departments of Comparative Literature and French & Italian
When I got a call last spring from the Center Stage program, I never imagined that it would lead me to drop (well, postpone) everything I was working on and start a new digital book project. The previous fall, Center Stage had announced a competition to bring music and theater troupes from Algeria and Tanzania to the United States for a month-long tour. I had been working with several Algerian theater troupes since 2007, and I nominated one of them. The upshot: the Istijmam theater company was selected for a tour of the United States in September 2016.

I knew I wanted to make something of this. The opportunity to tour the U.S. with a troupe I had already been working closely with was too good to pass up. I spent 2015 submitting proposals to more funding agencies than I could keep track of, and was delighted to receive generous support. I spent much of the summer working with Istijmam in Algeria during their intensive rehearsal residency. Along with observing and filming their work, I assisted with English translation and pronunciation of the script. On September 2, we flew to the United States to embark on a month of touring. Video camera in hand, I hit the road with the six troupe members and the Center Stage tour manager, starting in Washington, DC, on the Kennedy Center Family Stage and ending at La Mama Theater in New York City, with stops in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and at Indiana University Bloomington.

On September 10, the Wells-Metz Theater was packed for a free performance of Istijmam’s play Apples (Et-Teffah in Arabic). The play, aptly set in a public restroom, tells intimate stories of how people manage their daily lives under authoritarian regimes. The restroom attendant (a former labor union representative trying to eke out a living in neoliberalizing Algeria, played by Mustapha Lakhdari) listens to the woes of two clients: a factory worker (played by Rihab Alloula) whose unsuccessful attempts to obtain apples (a rare luxury item in Algeria) for his pregnant wife epitomize the myriad frustrations of life in the Algerian system, and an actor (played by Moussa Boukraa) seeking space to practice his craft after being marginalized and devalued by the state-run theatrical institution where he worked. In the end, the quest for freedom and democracy, symbolized by apples, brings the characters together. The play also comments on the dangers of political ambition, the value of freedom, and what it means to love one’s country while rejecting its rulers – issues that eerily resonate in the United States.

Playwright Abdelkader Alloula wrote Apples in the aftermath of Algeria’s 1988 uprising (anticipating the Arab Spring by two decades) which toppled 30 years of single-party dictatorship but led to a decade of civil war that pitted Islamist insurgents against a military-backed regime and left some 250,000 dead. As a secular democratic intellectual committed to political pluralism, Alloula was tragically assassinated outside his home in Oran by Islamist terrorists in 1994. Alloula had previously served as director of both the Algerian National Theater and the Regional Theater of Oran. Alloula was the father of one of the Istijmam actors and the uncle of another. Apples was among Alloula’s last works before his untimely death. His nephew Jamil Benhamamouche directed the play; Djalal Hadjel served as stage manager and lighting designer. Lila Tahar Amar is the troupe’s administrator.

When Istijmam tours in Algeria, they typically publicize their performances by going to the town square and playing music like the bards of old. Once they have gathered a crowd, they announce the show. They adapted this

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practice for Indiana University, giving some fortunate passers-by the opportunity to see them drumming and singing traditional Algerian songs as they led a procession from Showalter Fountain to the Sample Gates.

Next on my agenda is to start work on the book *On Tour: Algerian Actors in the United States*, under contract with Indiana University Press as a digitally enhanced e-book with embedded video. This project calls out for lively, colorful videos of the performances, rehearsals, and tour experiences, so I’m going to crawl out of my Luddite shell and make a digital project happen. A website linked to the book will highlight the Indiana University visit, including footage of Istijmam playing traditional Algerian music as well as the entire Wells-Metz performance of *Apples*. (If you know of excellent video editors and website developers, please send them my way! I’m serious.) Istijmam’s visit to Indiana University was made possible by generous funding from the College Arts & Humanities Institute; the College of Arts & Sciences; the School of Global & International Studies; the Hutton Honors College; the Departments of Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Folklore & Ethnomusicology, and Near Eastern Language and Cultures, and Theater, Drama & Contemporary Dance; the Programs of African Studies, Cultural Studies, and Islamic Studies; and the Center for the Study of the Middle East.

The presentation of Istijmam in the United States was part of Center Stage, a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with support from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General management was provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc. My own research was generously supported by Mellon, OVPR, CAHI, New Frontiers, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute for Advanced Study.

-Jane Goodman, Department of Anthropology
Omar Victor Diop at Indiana University

Works by the Dakar based photographer Omar Victor Diop were on view at the Grunwald Gallery of Art exhibition, “Framing Beauty: Intimate Visions” in Fall 2016.* Deborah Willis, University Professor and Chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging in the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, guest curated the exhibition. The show included 20 contemporary artists, including Omar Victor Diop, Bill Gaskins, Kalup Linzy, and JiYep who participated in a discussion moderated by Professor Deborah Willis. Taken together these artists regard the past, recreate portraits and re-stage beauty as a performative act.

Among the many amazing works in this exhibition are six digital photographic prints from Omar Victor Diop. Diop’s Project Diaspora series images are large scale, high resolution, and archival quality digital pigment inkjet prints. In Diop’s studio portraits, he poses as the original sitter, recreates the original clothing styles, and reenacts the original sitter’s pose, gesture, and expression. Diop created this body of work during a residency in Malaga, Spain, in 2014. There he was struck by the lack of attention and space given to images of Africans in western art institutions.

Diop visited Indiana University in September 2016 to participate in a symposium as part of the exhibition of his work and to present another body of work, "Refugee," at the African Studies Program Friday Colloquium. "Refugee" consists of formal portraits of refugees from the Central African Republic living at the Mbile Refugee Site, in Cameroon taken by Diop in 2015. Inspired by African commemorative cloth, Diop frames each of these portraits in African wax print.

Diop’s residency was supported by the Institute for Advanced Study, the Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs, and the Department of Anthropology. The exhibition and events were sponsored in part by IU Themester 2016: “Beauty,” an initiative of the College of Arts and Sciences, and IU’s New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Program. The College Themester (http://themester.indiana.edu/about.shtml) engages the collective knowledge and creativity of faculty and involves undergraduate students in the study of ideas across the disciplines. The goal of this Themester is to reinvigorate considerations of beauty as a core component of the human experience across the span of time and in diverse scholarly, social and cultural settings.

-Beth Buggenhagen, Department of Anthropology

Student Teachers Give, Grow, and Gain in East African Schools and Communities

For more than a decade, Indiana University teacher education majors enjoyed life-transforming experiences in Kenya through the School of Education’s Global Gateway for Teachers (formerly called the Cultural Immersion Projects). Participants in the program spent a minimum of eight weeks in Kabula, located near Bungoma in the Western Province, where they student-taught in local primary and secondary schools, lived with the Lubanga extended family on a sugarcane farm, and immersed themselves in family and community life. More than 100 student teachers were placed in Kenya over the years, forging strong connections with their school pupils, the teachers, members of the Lubanga family, and people in the community with whom they became friends. When Indiana University suspended many programs in Kenya due to security issues, we endeavored to identify another location in East Africa where student teachers could gain practical experience in local schools while engaging in meaningful, shared experiences with host nation children and adults, as rich and rewarding as those we had known in Kenya.

Fortunately for us, Swahili lecturer Dr. Deo Tungaraza and his wife Dr. Frida Tungaraza, whose home country is Tanzania, were ready to assist. A meeting in 2014 lead to many additional conversations and an invitation to visit Dar es Salaam in July of 2015, at a time when Frida Tungaraza was back at home. Frida Tungaraza organized multiple opportunities for me to meet people, visit schools, explore the city, and learn more about what would become the Global Gateway’s newest host country. Matt Hilbrich, our first student teacher was placed there from March to May 2016, and a second one wrapped up a successful experience in fall 2016. Two more student teachers are scheduled to go this coming spring. The students’ experiences have been extraordinary, characterized by full immersion in school, family, and community life. Without the Tungarazas, this incredible opportunity for our teacher education majors would not have been possible, and I extend my deepest appreciation to Frida and Deo for their tireless efforts and enthusiastic collaboration.

-Laura L. Stachowski, School of Education

During the spring of 2016, I lived in beautiful Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where I taught English at Mlimani Primary School, a Kiswahili-medium demonstration school affiliated with the University of Dar es Salaam. In Tanzania, English is a vital resource and tool for students considering that the language of instruction in all schools shifts from Kiswahili to English after seventh grade. Although many of my students had little-to-no prior exposure to the English language, and I had no experience studying or speaking Kiswahili, I utilized my sense of humor and relied on my cooperating teachers to help translate and deliver meaningful lessons. Without my excellent cooperating teachers the Kiswahili-English language barrier would have been nearly impossible to overcome since the students at Mlimani come from a variety of backgrounds and have a range of English language abilities. My teaching (and learning) opportunities stretched beyond the school setting as I frequently interacted with students and their families on city buses, at sporting events and practices, in local markets, and on the university campus where my homestay family lived.

My third and fifth grade students were fearless in their pursuit of English, and their willingness to constantly participate and challenge themselves has inspired me to concentrate my future endeavors on improving education in East Africa. My ultimate goal is to build an English-medium nursery school in Dar es Salaam to help young children establish a solid English foundation at a young age. Dar es Salaam offers a plethora of professional and educational opportunities for future teachers, and I am honored to have been the first Indiana University Global Gateway for Teachers program participant to have ventured there. This magical opportunity was made possible by the Jorgensen family, as their scholarship provided a great head start on the expenses involved with getting vaccinated and traveling so far. I am forever grateful for the teaching experiences I received and the colleagues with whom I connected in Tanzania.

-Matthew Hilbrich
Indiana University Hosts Young African Leaders

Twenty-five Mandela Washington Fellows from eighteen African countries spent one month in Bloomington and two weeks in Indianapolis in June-July 2016. They were in the United States under the Young African Leaders Initiative, a Department of State (Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) program administered by IREX. Begun by President Obama in 2010, the program seeks to assist young African leaders to develop their skills and to increase connections and mutual understanding between Americans and Africans. The program also established a network that encourages fellows to remain in contact after returning to their home countries.

The fellows’ stay at Indiana University was made possible by a successful partnership grant application submitted by Teshome Alemneh, IU Associate Vice President for International Research and Development. Dr. Alemneh developed a rich program of activities centered on civic leadership and engagement that included panel discussions on campus and at Ivy Tech; meetings with the Bloomington mayor and various city departments; visits to local businesses and non-profit organizations; and excursions to Monroe county destinations. African Studies faculty members Alex Lichtenstein (History), Michelle Moyd (History), and Ann Marie Thomson (SPEA) engaged with the fellows in a panel discussion. In a separate session Ph.D. candidates Kirk Harris (Political Science), A’ame Joslin (Education), and Justin Wild (Education) reflected on the role civic engagement played in their lives as they were growing up and fielded questions from the fellows.

About evenly divided between women and men, the young leaders were primarily in professional fields with degrees ranging from the bachelor level to medical and dental school graduates. Everyone who met them was impressed by their accomplishments and commitment to their communities. It was a pleasure to interact them.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Recipients

**Summer 2016**

Atassi, Sami (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) – Arabic I
Johnson, Roman (Georgia State University) – Arabic I
Jordan, Jessica (Ohio State University) – Swahili I
Keogh, Molly (African Studies) – Akan II
Parker, Jenny (Anthropology) – Wolof IV
Ramos, Tania (International Studies; Undergraduate) – Arabic II

**Academic Year 2016-2017**

Dickey, Elisa (Individualized Major; Undergraduate) – Wolof II
Keogh, Molly (African Studies) – Akan III
Ligali, Kehinde (SPEA & African Studies) – Yoruba IV
Rowe, Zawadi (Geography) – Swahili II
Spivey, Kamlyn (Political Science, NELC, Religious Studies; Undergraduate) – Arabic III
Stadeker, Andrew (AAADS) – Akan III
Tafoya, Kathryn (English, Animal Behavior; Undergraduate) – Zulu II
Museum News

Siyazama at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures

Siyazama: Traditional Arts, Education, and AIDS in South Africa, a traveling exhibition from Michigan State University, was featured September 1 through December 18 at Indiana University’s Mathers Museum of World Cultures. The exhibition explored the use of traditional arts and associated concepts of beauty in contemporary South Africa, where the arts are being used to address critical needs in the face of a HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The exhibition showcased the Siyazama (Zulu for “we are trying”) Project, an arts education project based in KwaZulu-Natal, which uses traditional crafts to raise awareness about AIDS and presents the beauty of traditional African art forms and their use as tools for negotiating contemporary cultural, social, and economic change in an area where HIV/AIDS is an urgent issue.

Featuring beadwork, doll making, basketry, and wirework, the show explored how South African artists use their work to educate others as well as to cope with the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in their own lives and communities.

The exhibition grew out of the South African National Cultural Heritage Project, a bi-national project led by Michigan State University Museum and MATRIX: Center for Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online. The exhibition at Indiana University’s Mathers Museum was sponsored by Themester 2016: Beauty, an initiative of the IU College of Arts and Sciences, and the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington.

-Judith Kirk, Assistant Director, Mathers Museum

Library News

Ngũgĩ Wa Thiongo Archive

The Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, is very pleased to announce the acquisition of the extensive literary archive of acclaimed writer, Ngũgĩ Wa Thiongo. The archive includes manuscript and/or typescript notes and/or drafts for all major works including Ngũgĩ’s first play, The Black Hermit (1963); his first novel, Weep Not, Child; A Grain of Wheat (1967); Petals of Blood (1977); the play, which when performed led to his arrest, Ngaahika Ndeenda (I Will Marry When I Want) (1977); the first modern novel in Gikuyu, written while he was imprisoned in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in Kenya, Caitaani mutharaba-ĩn (1980). The archive also includes photographs, publisher’s agreements, and personal artifacts, along with computer floppy disks and other storage media, as well as correspondence, and teaching and research files. The archive is being processed, and it will be available for use by researchers beginning in the summer of 2017.

-Joel Silver, Director, Lilly Library
Margaret Mwingira rejoined the African Studies Program as a Swahili instructor. She completed a master’s degree in African Studies in 2015 and is now pursuing a master of science in Special Education. In addition to her previous experience as an Associate Instructor for Swahili, Ms. Mwingira taught Kiswahili in the summer STARTALK program.

Welcome to the 2016-17 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants:

Yewande Aluko assists with the Yoruba instructor and with the promotion of African Languages at the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC). She graduated from the Department of English and Literary Studies, Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State, Nigeria, and earned her master’s degree at the University of Ibadan. She then taught English at the University of Ibadan until she came to the United States. Her areas of interest are pragmatics, neurolinguistics and language teaching. Ms. Aluko presented a paper titled “One Medium, Several Learnings: The Nexus between Video, Language and Culture” at the Fulbright Mid-Year Conference on December 10, 2016, in Washington DC.

Ashraf Waziri assists with Swahili instruction. Born on Mafia Island, Tanzania, he received his Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Education (major in English language and history) from Tumaini University-Iringa University College in 2013. He taught English and History at Kitomondo secondary school on Mafia Island and served as a Junior Academic Master of the school where he also taught Swahili language and culture to tourists from a number of different countries. Mr. Waziri subsequently worked as the Statistics and Logistics Officer of the Education Department in the Mafia district until he was accepted into the FLTA program.

African language instructors have been hosting a monthly Tea-Time in the School of Global and International Studies atrium to promote the study of African languages. A different language is showcased each time through displays of material culture and informational materials. Here are some examples from fall 2016:
African Languages Festival

The Fall 2016 African Languages Festival delighted with performances by our students and an array of delicious dishes!
Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS)

In February 2016, the student organization Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS) hosted its sixth annual interdisciplinary graduate symposium. Like the preceding years’ symposia, the event was designed to provide IU graduate students from a variety of departmental affiliations an opportunity to showcase some of their research, receive critical feedback on their projects, and network with fellow graduate students and faculty from IU and elsewhere. This year’s theme, “RE-Presenting Africa: Legacies in Global Scholarship and Education,” sought to examine how knowledge about Africa has been produced and disseminated—past and present, and in scholarly as well as popular arenas.

I’m happy to report that the event, as a whole, was a smashing success. The symposium commenced on Friday, February 26 with its first set of panel presentations, followed by a welcome dinner for all symposium participants and attendees. Symposium events resumed the following morning with three more sets of panel presentations, and concluded with a reception following the keynote lecture, “Knowledge and the Politics of Possibility: Africanist Perspectives on Student Futures,” given by Amy Stambach, Research Fellow at the Center for Comparative and International Education at the University of Oxford, Vilas Distinguished Professor of Education Policy Studies, and Professor or Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. All events were well-attended and precipitated lively, productive conversations.

The first panel of the symposium was chaired by Marion Frank-Wilson (Wells Library), and addressed themes on managing knowledge inequities in educational institutions. This panel featured a presentation on research methodologies by Beth Samuelson, G. Yeon Park, and Simon-Pierre Munyaneza, a team of scholars in IU’s School of Education who have been working with the Books & Beyond Project based in Rwanda, as well as a presentation from Samson Ndanyi, from IU’s Department of History, on the place of African oral histories in historical scholarship. Saturday’s events got started in the morning with a panel on the role of the novel in transnational politics, chaired by Akin Adesokan (Comparative Literature & Media School). This panel featured discussions of The Conscript presented by Keith Phethle, from Ohio University, as well as Le ventre de l’Atlantique, as presented by Moustapha N’Dour from IU’s Dept. of Comparative Literature. The next panel of the day, exploring neo-traditional forms of knowledge production, was chaired by Daniel Reed (Folklore & Ethnomusicology). It featured research on oral fiction by Cheikh Tidiane Lo, from IU’s Dept. of Folklore & Ethnomusicology, as well as female high life musicians in Ghana, by Nana Abena Amoah, from IU’s Dept. of African American and African Diaspora Studies.

The last panel of the symposium addressed knowledge dissemination as carried out through creative mediums for political voice. Chaired by the GSAS Faculty Advisor, Vincent Bouchard (French & Italian), this panel featured presentations on the role of social media in Tunisia’s Jasmine Revolution, presented by Fatma Jabbari of Ohio University, African footballers in European teams, by Lassane Ouedraogo of Ohio University, and on Yoruba identity and the Oka Day Festival, presented by Allen Xiao of the University Wisconsin-Madison.

Thank you to all who were involved—whether presenting research, chairing a panel, helping to organize, or showing your support by attending panel presentations and asking questions. The success of this event is because of all of you combined. Special thanks to the 2015-2016 GSAS officers for their excellent work in organizing the event: Cheikh Tidiane Lo (Vice President), Moustapha N’Dour (Treasurer), Cynthia Kanko (Secretary), and Jenny Parker (Student-Faculty Liaison). And special thanks, as well, to the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center and our sponsors, the African Studies Program, IUSA Funding Board, Center for the Study of Global Change, and the departments of Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, Folklore & Ethnomusicology, French & Italian, History, Religious Studies, and Spanish & Portuguese.

-Emily Stratton, Religious Studies
African Students’ Research Award

Congratulations to Samson Ndanyi and Moustapha Ndour, recipients of the 2016 African Student Research Award!

Samson Ndanyi is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department. He completed a master’s thesis titled “On the Whole their Work has Been Very Well: Black Police-men and the Expansion of Capitalism in Kenya, 1895-1923” at Morgan State University before coming to Bloomington. Mr. Ndanyi will be writing his dissertation on colonial ‘educational’ cinema in Kenya from 1922-1963 with a focus on the relationship between film producers and African consumers, especially the child spectators. He used his award to conduct oral interviews with elderly Kenyan men and women in Nairobi County and in several counties of Central and Eastern Provinces to explore their experiences of cinema and the meanings it held for them during their childhood. The interviews constitute an important complement to primary and secondary textual sources.

Moustapha Ndour came to Indiana University with a master’s degree in English and U.S. Literatures and Civilizations from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal, in order to pursue a Ph.D. in the Department of Comparative Literature. His interests in post-colonial African and Caribbean literatures led him to research the work of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Fatou Diome, Jamaica Kincaid, and Edwige Danticat, and he is currently preparing his dissertation on national consciousness and identity in selected writings of these authors. Mr. Ndour examines the multiple subject positions and cultural identifications of their characters and shows that writing for these authors is a way to interrogate the relationship between woman and nation in the post-colonial context.

Carleton T. Hodge Prize

Congratulations to Brittany Sheldon, winner of the 2016 Carleton T. Hodge Prize!

Brittany Sheldon completed her Ph.D. in Art History in May 2016. She conducted extensive research on women’s artistry in northeastern Ghana and southern Burkina Faso with an emphasis on the practice of wall painting and its transformation as a result of socio-cultural, religious, and economic influences. Her dissertation research was funded by a Fulbright-Hays award and her pre-dissertation research was supported by a West African Research Association pre-doctoral fellowship. Brittany used her photographs of artistic processes and products to create an exhibition in Accra and donated it to the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board. She subsequently curated a second exhibition at the IU Mathers Museum of World Cultures. She has also presented her work on campus and at regional and national professional meetings.

Sheldon was a regular participant in African Studies Program activities throughout her graduate career and assisted the Program at various points. She was also actively involved with the Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS) association, including the establishment of the annual GSAS symposium, and served terms as secretary and vice-president. She has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Rochester Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies for the 2016-17 academic year. We wish her well in her future endeavors.
Khaled Esseissah (History)
Between July and August 2016, I carried out exploratory research on the transformation of slavery in post-emancipation Mauritania in Nouakchott, Mauritania. My research project concerns the unfinished process of abolition in Mauritania over the past hundred years through an examination of the arguments of Haratin Muslim scholars and the cultural production of Haratin communities in asserting the respectability and autonomy of former slave populations. More specifically, I seek to understand how narrations and cultural performances at weddings, naming ceremonies, and other festivities allowed Haratin to assert identities as free laborers in colonial and post-colonial Mauritania.

While in Nouakchott, I explored Mauritanian archival collections and built a broad network of contacts with Mauritanian scholars and institutions. I consulted Arabic writings and colonial documentation held at the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches sur l’Ouest Saharien, the Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique, and the Archives Nationales de la Mauritanie. I also obtained a copy of the first anti-slavery fatwa (legal opinion) ever written by a Haratin imam, Mbarck Ould Mahmoud, issued in 2009. The conventional view is that the emergence of Haratin imams and their denunciation of slavery is very recent, but Ould Mahmoud’s fatwa raises new questions and points toward new investigations. My research will try to uncover the Muslim intellectual roots of Haratin Islamic scholars and explore the intellectual and social bases of the emergence of a Haratin Muslim critique of slavery in contemporary Mauritania.

My research was conducted with the help of a travel grant from Indiana University History Department’s Ruth Lilly Research Fellowship; a travel award from Indiana University’s Islamic Studies Program; an award from Carnegie-Saharan Crossroads Fellowship; and an award from the Institute of International Education’s Richard A. Horovitz Fund for Professional Development.

Rebecca Fenton (Art History)
Since September 2016 I have been conducting field research in Dakar, Senegal, as part of my dissertation on the significance of dress and its commerce in Mande diasporas within Africa and in Europe. Highly esteemed artisanal cloth and custom outfits from Mali and Senegal sustain a network of commerce, travel, and skill among these countries and their diasporas. Field research with Mande emigrants in Senegal and France traces the nodes of this transnational network and examines the significance of cloth from the perspectives of traders, artisans, and consumers.

I have been spending my time in three markets that have grown out of the former Marché Malien, as well as rotating/traveling ‘fair’ markets. I have also been working with dyers in Guediawaye (a suburb) and in the Castors neighborhood of Dakar. Through participant observation, formal interviews, and informal conversations, I have learned about the circulation of cloth through social relationships, the importance of self-presentation in everyday life, and about different experiences of migration. In December I visited the small town of Ndiassane, about 80 km east of Dakar, where a market springs up around the annual religious pilgrimage, drawing adherents and strategic traders from other West African countries, especially from Mali. At this unique market, religious community and commercial opportunity converge and reinforce one another. Some important themes that have emerged from interviews are national/regional reputations; the motivations of fashion change and the production of aesthetic value; and the relationship of town to “the village,” the latter serving as a reference or kind of repository for traditional knowledge and skills. For example, urban residents rely on traders or traveling family members to gain access to certain indispensable cloths, like the hand-stitched indigo kɔŋɔfini (wedding cloth) or a medicinal cloth called kɔnɔ wɔlnifila; few urban artisans have the ability or find it financially rewarding to produce these time-consuming textiles in the city. I have found that in Dakar’s globalized fashion world, local reputations and histories of

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cloth remain vital parts of the web of meanings of self-presentation—even as the products for sale are, paradoxically, global commodities. In spring 2017, I will be returning to France to follow up on preliminary research conducted in the spring of 2016. During my previous trip, I identified Malian merchants in the Chateau Rouge market district of Paris, a hub for African products and information that illustrates the importance of commerce to diasporic social activity. Outside the city center, I observed meetings of a Malian association, attended wedding celebrations, and interviewed individuals in suburbs with significant West African populations. In the upcoming phase of field research I will continue to interview African immigrants and travelers about their experiences abroad, the value of cloth in their lives, and the role of dress in negotiating identities. Additionally, I hope to interview Malian fashion designers working in Europe and to visit the home of Getzner, the Austrian manufacturer of the most popular high-end bazin among Malians today.

Dissertation research travel is supported by the College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship, with additional support from the department of Art History. Preliminary research in France was supported by the College Arts and Humanities Institute Research Travel award.

**Cathryn Johnson (Political Science)**

Bɔgɔ kalɔ, the month of mud, is perhaps not the best time to begin a field research project in a rural village in the Malian region of Sikasso. Nevertheless, this is when I began research for my dissertation project, “French Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Associational Life: women’s participation in community life and local government in Mali and Burkina Faso”. Although the rain and mud presented logistical challenges, I can report that all of the rain was welcome; crop yields for the families in my village research site are anticipated to be better than last year.

Through my project I examine women’s organization in associational life and I seek to understand why women in Burkina Faso participate more in local government than women in Mali. I divide my time between a rural village research site in Mali’s Sikasso region and a rural village research site in Burkina Faso’s Hauts Bassins region. I will conduct archival research in Ouagadougou and Dakar in June and July 2017.

In my Malian village field site from mid-August to mid-October, I met with women’s organizations and local government officials. I observed the provision of health care, shopped at the lively weekly market, and discovered how women prepare food products such as peanut paste, shea butter, and soumbala to sell to earn income. I also began a series of interviews to learn more about how women and men view their participation in organized farm labor, associational life, and local government. From mid-October until mid-December I conducted the first phase of my research in Burkina Faso. In my village field site, I met with women’s associations, witnessed the inauguration of the new mayor, helped my host family put the year’s corn harvest into storage, and conducted a series of interviews similar to those I previously conducted in Mali. In 2017, I will return to both of my field sites to continue interviews, ethnographic and participant observation, and to organize focus groups.

My research is supported by an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council.

**A’ame Joslin (Education Policy Studies, International and Comparative Education)**

Supported by the Islamic Studies Program, the Carol A. Ames Fellowship Fund, and the Malloy Travel Fund, I engaged in dissertation research in Mali between October and December 2016. This was the fourth round of data collection in my study of the learning and education that occurs among girls who work for urban women in their homes and workplaces, such as their restaurants, cloth dying spaces, and tailor shops rather than, or in addition to, attending school. My ethnographic research included interviews conducted in Bamanankan and Maninkakan and observations in the homes and workplaces of both the teenage girls who are working, and the female employers for whom they work.
Much of my research took place in the Faladie district of Bamako since Mali’s capital city remains the preferred destination of migration. Working girls and their employers from rural and urban areas throughout the regions of Kayes and Koulikoro were included in this study as well as non-working girls, formally schooled girls, and the parents of each of these girls. In the course of conversations with parents, teenage girls, and female employers, it was reported that girls who would have migrated to Bamako to pursue employment are now fleeing to the gold mines throughout southern Mali in search of employment. To better understand this, I traveled to the gold mines in the Kangaba area to interview and observe the work and educational opportunities available to girls there. I had the opportunity to live with several of the participants in the course of my study, observing and participating in their daily activities, conversations, and educational experiences. The girls themselves used a modified version of Photo Voice and took over 1,500 photographs and videos to provide their perspective for this research. Each participant in the study valued formal education, but felt challenged by the lack of employment opportunities promised after completing both primary and secondary education. Girls and parents alike therefore saw work as an alternative to formal education with promises of earned income, skill building, and social networking.

Molly Keogh (African Studies)

My research examines the small scale production of hand-dyed textiles in Ghana with a focus on how the materiality of the tools and chemicals that dyers use affect their lives, and on the place of dyeing in Ghana’s economy. In Summer 2016 I took an intensive Akan-Twi language course at the University of Ghana, Legon, with Professor Kofi Saah, supported by a summer FLAS fellowship. During this stay I was able to establish contact with a number of persons in the hand dyeing industry in and around Accra, who I interviewed during a return trip in December 2016-January 2017.

On my second research trip I was able to interview people from all aspects of the supply chain, from dye importers to market tie and dye sellers to well established batik artisans and exporters. Through these conversations I began to understand how dyers calculate their profits and how they and their customers define value in their work. This understanding is particularly complex and layered in a part of the world where textiles have long served as both a literal trade currency and a signifier of personal wealth. I also listened to concerns dye workers have for both their personal safety and the health of the industry, observing differences in studio setups designed to combat ergonomic issues and hearing stories about highs and lows in the history of the market for hand dyed textiles.

I am working now to transcribe hours of marketplace interviews with much background noise. Once completed, I will begin to sketch out the history of batik and tie and dye in Ghana, from the pre-colonial uses of tying and dyeing to make old clothes new again, to the advent of wax resists and chemical dyes, and the effects on dyeing of the promotion of cottage industries through political efforts in the 1980s such as the 31st December Women’s Movement and the GRATIS / ITTU training system.

I plan to continue this project by talking in more depth to dye workers in Ghana, and also to initiate conversations about choices with West Africans who consume batik and tie and dye fabric. I hope to ultimately develop a picture of the aesthetic and economic impact that the physical nature of the textiles themselves have in this part of the world.

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Rudo Mudiwa (Communication and Culture)
Between September 2015 and October 2016, I conducted dissertation research on gender, mobility, and policing in Harare, Zimbabwe. The initial idea for this project came when in an African Studies seminar four years ago, I read about a moment in which over 6,000 women were arrested for prostitution in Harare shortly after independence. Subsequent research into this event pointed to a larger post-independence crisis about space, mobility, and women’s sexuality in Zimbabwe. Through the SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship, I was able to spend the year conducting archival and field research on this topic. My research involved ethnographic work in a local “cruising bar” for sex workers, alongside interviews with women who have been subject to police harassment, feminist activists, and politicians. I also conducted research at the National Archive of Zimbabwe, which became my favorite place in the city and the site of so many productive encounters. I was interested in the multiple formations at work in producing an environment of constant policing of women by both the state and the public at large. I found that the policing of sex work and women’s bodies is often triggered during moments of extreme economic insecurity. Women’s bodies, and their unfettered mobilities, become indexes of social disorder and the displacement of traditional values. Thus, I became interested in the broader machinery of policing and surveillance in Zimbabwe. In a stroke of luck, my time in Zimbabwe overlapped with a period of anti-government protests, enabling me to see first-hand how citizens develop tactics to resist policing and state violence.

Samson Ndanyi (History)
My goal to construct a balanced analysis of instructional cinema and child spectators in colonial Kenya largely depends on my success in bringing textual sources and oral data into dialogue. However, supplementing textual sources with oral testimonies required access to African filmgoers residing in Kenya. Therefore, my proposed research location was Kenya, where I conducted oral interviews and collected the data that balances my dissertation’s analysis. I spent seven weeks in Kenya conducting sustained oral interviews with African informants. Fieldwork began in May 2016 and ended in July 2016. Organized in ways that utilized time and resources (financial and physical) responsibly, the research started from Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, and spread outwards, first to nearby counties in the Central Province, and then to Eastern Province. Practically, I carried out two interviews per day—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.

My methods included semi-structured oral interviews with aging African informants about film showings in colonial Kenya. I selected participants using the snowball method. With my informant’s permission, I used an audio recording device to record interviews. In order to keep interviews within manageable timeframes, I asked specific questions from a questionnaire consisting of twenty questions. In addition to interviews, I used a visual/audio method (documentary technique) that assisted informants in recalling past historical events to trigger discussions. Using a portable laptop, I screened excerpts of selected instructional cinema that stimulated memories to recreate and retell childhood cinematic experiences. All interviews were conducted in Swahili.

For the most part, the interviews yielded meaningful results, with informants eager to talk and happy to share their cinematic memories. However, their responses varied. Whereas some hinted their affinity for instructional films and the general experience cinema offered, others characterized the shows as “very boring.” In order to verify these responses, I consulted archival sources at the Kenya National Archives and Macmillan library (see photo), where I read official correspondence, newspaper articles, private papers, and ordinances, among others.
Jenny Parker (Anthropology)
From May to August 2016 I carried out pre-dissertation research in Dakar, Senegal, with the support of a Skomp Feasibility Fellowship from the Department of Anthropology. My research was conducted in a smaller neighborhood of Guédiawaye, a suburb of Dakar with more than 300,000 inhabitants and a socio-economically diverse population. I spent the summer living among women and interviewing them about their experiences with polygyny. I aimed to understand how polygyny affects their interpersonal relationships, with particular focus on polygyny’s influences on relations with their husband, their co-wives, other family members, and with their friends. Although almost half of the women in Senegal are in polygynous marriages, many express a strong dislike for the practice.

Through group interviews, individual interviews, and just hanging out with women in the neighborhood, I was able to begin to develop a more nuanced understanding of the practice of polygyny and sketch out the complex familial and social responsibilities intertwined within it in urban Senegal. My dissertation research will focus on the lived experience of polygyny in the context of the secular legal structures and religious traditions that circumscribe it. My research may also help to answer why this practice persists to such an extent in Senegal while diminishing elsewhere in the world.

Emily Stratton (Religious Studies)
With support from pre-dissertation grants through the West African Research Association, IU’s Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, and the Devonia & Steve Stein Fund, I spent ten weeks this past summer conducting some initial groundwork for longer-term dissertation research on the proliferation of small, independent churches known colloquially as “one mans” in Accra, Ghana. And when I say “groundwork,” I really do mean it in a literal sense: I spent a large portion of my time working on a mapping project.

Although Accra is frequently described as a “pentecostalite” city—a city saturated with street evangelists, “one man” churches, megachurches, gospel music, and billboards, posters, and stickers advertising Pentecostal-Charismatic conferences and special events—there is little quantitative data available to help assess the socio-spatial and economic implications of these relatively new, and often material, additions to the city. Thus, I selected a geographic zone within Accra and designed a mapping survey through a mobile application that allowed me to walk systematically up and down neighborhood streets and footpaths, plotting the coordinates for religious meeting spaces and recording as much descriptive data as possible—venue descriptions, accessibility, services offered, service schedules, and contact information for leaders and participants. While out and about, I also conducted several informal interviews.

Sometimes, these interviews were with “one man” church leaders and participants who happened to be in office as I walked by and spoke with me about how long their church has been in its current location, and stories of the church’s origins. Other times, these interviews were with local residents, who spoke with me about changes in their neighborhood’s religious and economic climate in recent years.

Beyond mapping, I also accepted numerous invitations to attend various “one man” church services, photographed Pentecostal-Charismatic billboards and advertisements, met up with a few other scholars based in Accra, and attended the triennial Ghana Studies Association meeting.

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Masatomo Yonezu (Ethnomusicology)

From May to July 2016, I conducted preliminary dissertation research in Tanga, a northeastern region of Tanzania. My research focused on institutionalization processes of cultural performances and its influence on performers since the National Arts Council has identified cultural performances not only as cultural assets but also as economic resources, and encouraged registration of any expressive art forms via local cultural officers. The purpose of the registration system, according to the latest strategic plan of the council, was to safeguard and revitalize the traditional expressive performances in order to utilize them in regional festivals or any other cultural events. However, I observed a drastic change in the local music scene in Tanga. The number of local concert venues, including bars and discos, have decreased since my last fieldwork in 2013 due to economic difficulties and have left only two active stages at hotels. Local musicians have therefore had to struggle to find performance opportunities. Additionally, there were fewer marriage ceremonies which invited live bands. Unlike in 2013, when I frequently came across live music in marriage ceremonies held in several neighborhoods within Tanga city, in 2016 I only observed speakers playing pre-recorded music. I hypothesize that the current economic situation in Tanga has changed the role of live music performances, and the balance between the supply and demand of them.

When I started reconsidering my research topic, I met Edgar (middle of front row in photo), a local musician who was the leader of a band and performed traditional songs and dances in Tanga. A graduate of the Bagamoyo College of Arts, established in 1981 to provide training in arts within the national education system, he has integrated various performances of different ethnic groups and regions of Tanzania into his own musical performance in order to appeal to broader audiences. He did not find the National Arts Council to be helpful in securing performance opportunities in spite of the fact that group registration was mandated, and instead tried to utilize the alumni networks of the Bagamoyo College of Arts. My research led me to realize how much effort is required of local musicians in order to find performance opportunities in Tanga. I hope to explore the role of institutional training and emerging networks of performers in preserving traditions in future research.
James D. Kelly (Associate Professor of Journalism, The Media School) taught “Reporting HIV/AIDS in Africa” during the summer session of 2016. Students enrolled in the course spent four weeks in Uganda reporting on the epidemic for the country’s leading daily newspaper. The first two weeks of the eight-week course were spent in Bloomington learning about HIV and AIDS, about efforts in Uganda aimed at ending the epidemic, about local cultures and media law, and from presentations by a range of guest speakers including an HIV-positive client of IU Health Bloomington’s Positive Link program. Students then traveled to Kampala, Uganda, where they took classes at the African Centre for Media Excellence, directed by IU journalism alumnus Peter Mwesige (Ph.D. 2004), followed by three weeks interning for the Daily Monitor, the capital city’s largest privately-owned newspaper. Students fanned out across the city to gather interviews, photographs, audio and video recordings that were submitted to newsroom editors for publication in the paper and on its website. Kelly, who teaches the course and leads the trip, draws on his many years of experience abroad, including experience gained from organizing a series of State Department-sponsored workshops in East Africa and South Asia aimed at strengthening working journalists’ ability to report on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He has taken IU classes to Kenya for similar reporting projects three times and once before to Uganda (2014). He will be offering the course again in summer of 2017.

Books & Beyond Receives National Recognition Again

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in Higher Education honored the Books & Beyond project with its 2017 Best Practices in International Education Award in the category Student Affairs Professional Global Partnership. The award recognizes programs that encourage international engagement, cooperation, and collaboration. It will be presented and celebrated at the Association’s March 2017 conference. In 2013 Books & Beyond received the Association of African Studies Programs’ (AASP) François Manchuelle Award at the AASP spring meeting in Washington, DC. Beth Samuelson (Literacy, Culture and Language Education), a founding member, former faculty advisor, and current board member of Books & Beyond, accompanied the students who traveled to Washington to receive the award.
Marion Frank-Wilson (Wells Library) assumed the position of Associate Dean for Collection Development and Archival Collections after 18 years as African Studies librarian, seven of these as head of IU’s Area Studies Librarians. During this time, she worked closely with the African Studies Program as a member of the executive committee and of various sub-committees; taught the African Studies Bibliography course; and served on student committees. Dr. Frank-Wilson also earned the respect of her colleagues at the national level by taking a leading role on the Africana Librarians’ Council and the Africa Title VI librarians. From 2000 to 2007, she was the book review editor for Africa Today.

Dr. Frank-Wilson will continue to participate in African Studies Program activities as an affiliated faculty member and through her research activities.

Mireille Djenno joined us in September 2016 as the African Studies Librarian and is already actively engaged with the African Studies Program. She holds master’s degrees in Comparative Literature (2000) and in Library and Information Studies (2005) from the University of Wisconsin, and a Certificate in Special Collections with a concentration in Rare Books and Manuscript Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2013). Ms. Djenno brings experience as the Librarian for African, African American and Diaspora Studies, and Director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center Library for Black Culture and History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014-16); Assistant Reference Librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago (2010-14); and as Librarian for the First Year Experience (2005-09) and Curator of the Artists’ Book Collection (2005-07) at Drake University in Iowa. These positions entailed instruction in the use of print, Web-based, and special-collections materials and information literacy, among other duties. While at the University of Wisconsin, Ms. Djenno also worked with the African Studies Program in various capacities. We are delighted to have her as our librarian and look forward to many productive years of collaboration.
Welcome to New Faculty Members

Clémence Pinaud joined the International Studies Department as an assistant professor in fall 2016. She obtained a Ph.D. in Contemporary History from the Sorbonne-Paris 1 in 2013 with a dissertation titled “Women, Guns and Cattle: A Social History of the Second Civil War in South Sudan”. In addition to presenting her research at a number of conferences and workshops, she has published in several academic journals such as the Review of African Political Economy (June 2016), the Journal of Eastern African Studies (October 2015), African Affairs (April 2014), and the Journal of Northeast African Studies (February 2014). Professor Pinaud was a Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley from 2011-12, and a Global Post-doctoral Fellow on the New York University campus in Shanghai, China (2013-15). Her professional experience includes work as a Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator for Doctors without Borders in Juba, South Sudan, and consultancies with UNHCR and UNDP.

Michael Wasserman is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Human Biology Program. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (2011) and was a Post-doctoral Fellow at McGill University (2011-13) and an Assistant Professor at St. Edwards University (2013-16) before coming to Indiana University. Professor Wasserman’s research is in the areas of primate ecology and evolution; environmental endocrinology; nutritional anthropology; evolutionary medicine; and conservation biology with an emphasis on eastern Africa, especially Uganda. Professor Wasserman has presented his work internationally and has co-authored numerous publications.

Retirement

Ruth Stone, Laura Boulton Professor of Ethnomusicology, retired in December 2016 from her position in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. The foundation for her productive career was laid during her childhood in Liberia, where she gained fluency in the Kpelle language and developed an early interest in Kpelle music and culture. Beginning with her first book Let the Inside Be Sweet (1982), her ethnographies have become required reading for scholars of African music. She is widely known for her engagement of phenomenological theory, her innovative work on the music event as an analytical unit of study, and her work on temporality in music experience. The Garland Encyclopedia of African Music (1997) and Theory for Ethnomusicology (2007) are among her recent ground-breaking scholarship. All in all, Professor Stone’s prolific record of publications includes eleven books and over eighty articles, book chapters, and other writings – a corpus that is sure to grow during her retirement years.

Beyond her work as a scholar Professor Stone has an impressive record of service. At IU, this ranges from two terms as department chair (1995-99; 2003-05); director of the Archives of Traditional Music (1988-95; 2000-01) as well as the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities (2007-09; 2010-14); and Associate Vice Provost for Research (2007-14). She also found time to serve on the African Studies Program executive committee and the editorial board of Africa Today.

We are honored that we were able to count Professor Stone among the African Studies faculty and wish her the best in her retirement.

In Memoriam

We regret the untimely loss of African Studies affiliate Clara Henderson, Associate Director of the Institute for the Digital Arts and Humanities (IDAH), who passed away on October 2nd, 2016, after a short illness. Dr. Henderson lived and worked in Malawi for a significant part of her life, leading her to pursue a master’s degree (1995) and a PhD (2009) in ethnomusicology at Indiana University. Her dissertation “Dance Discourse in the Music and Lives of Presbyterian Mvano Women in Southern Malawi” earned her the Esther L. Kinsley Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in the Humanities. She was centrally involved in the Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis (EVIA) project with the University of Michigan, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and worked with many faculty members across the arts and humanities in her capacity as associate director of IDAH in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Dr. Henderson’s collegiality and wry sense of humor was appreciated by all who came to know her. We miss her.
Faculty Notes


David Adu-Amankwah (African Studies) published *Tie Ma Mense Wo: Basic Asante-Twi Vocabulary for First-year Learners* (Xlibris Publishers) and *Understanding your Writing Test in English: Titbits for School Candidates* (Pentecost Press). He was appointed to the Bloomington Faculty Council Benefits Committee.

Heather Marie Akou (Apparel Merchandising and Interior Design) was an invited speaker at the “Creating African Fashion Histories” symposium, held in Brighton, England, in November 2016, in conjunction with the United Kingdom’s first-ever exhibit on African fashion. She is co-editing an anthology of the symposium.


Jane Goodman (Anthropology) had two previous journal articles accepted for republication in books: “Acting with One Voice: Producing Unanimism in Algerian Reformist Theater.” In *The Monological Imagination*, Oxford University Press; and “The Man Behind the Curtain: Theatrics of the State.” In *Global and Local in Algeria and Morocco: The world, the state and the village*, James McDougall and Robert Parks, eds., Routledge. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Publication Fellowship for 2017-18 to write the book “On Tour: Algerian Actors in the United States” as well as several Indiana University 2016 research awards (Mellon International Research Short-Term Faculty Fellowship; Collaborative Research and Creative Activities Fellowship; College of Arts and Sciences Workshop-Performance Grant; New Frontiers Exploratory Travel Grant; College of Arts and Sciences Grant-in-Aid; and an Institute for Advanced Study faculty research award).


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Faculty Notes  (continued)


Lauren Mathews Morris MacLean  (Political Science) published “The Construction of Citizenship and the Public Provision of Electricity for the 2014 World Cup in Ghana,”  The Journal of Modern African Studies 54 (4): 555-590; KNUST (Ghana) colleague George Bob-Milliar, IU graduate student Elizabeth Baldwin, and undergraduate Elisa Dickey were co-authors. MacLean received the David Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award at the 2016 American Political Science Association from the APSA Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Organized Section.


Alwiya Omar  (African Studies) participated in the Community College of Philadelphia’s Title VI Summer Seminar on May 17-18, 2016, with presentations on the history, society and culture of Zanzibar, and on language pedagogy with examples from Swahili. She also delivered a presentation on “Integrating Pragmatics in Language Teaching and Learning” at the November 3, 2016, pre-conference workshop of the American Pragmatics Association 3rd International Conference in Bloomington. From June 13-July 18, 2016, Professor Omar directed the Swahili STARTALK program for Bloomington area middle and high school students. The fourteen participants at different levels received pre-college credits. (continued next page)
Faculty Notes (continued)

Daniel Reed (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) published Abidjan USA: Music, Dance and Mobility in the Lives of Four Ivorian Immigrant Performers (Indiana University Press, 2016); and “Drums, Dance, Dreams and Remittance: Transnational Interconnections in Ivorian Immigrant Mask Performance in the USA,” African Arts 49:4 (Winter 2016), 34-47.


Ruth Stone (Folklore and Musicology) returned to Liberia in January and February 2016 to continue her research on the role of music during the Ebola outbreak of 2014-15. Verlon Stone (IU Liberian Collections), provided technical support for audio recording, videography, and photography. He has been phasing out his activities in Liberian Collections, which are now integrated into the IU African Studies Collection in the Wells Library.

Reunion in Cape Coast, Ghana

Professor Emerita Gracia Clark flanked by alumni Nathan Plagemann and Jennifer Hart, and graduate students Molly Keogh (right), Emily Stratton, and Sarah Monson (left) at Ghana Studies conference in Cape Coast, July 7-10, 2016.
Student Notes


**Meg Arenberg** (Comparative Literature) completed her Ph.D. with a dissertation titled “Ulimi Huiba (The Tongue Steals): Genre, Intertextuality, and Identity-Making in Tanzanian Literature.” She received “Honorable Mention” in the competition for the 2016 Horst Frenz Prize for the best presentation by a graduate student at the annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association. She assumed a position as an African Humanities Postdoctoral Associate at Princeton University for the 2016-17 academic year.


**Candice Grant** (Education Policy Studies) received her Ph.D. upon completion of her dissertation “Ndànk-Ndànk Mooy Jáapp Golo Ci Ñaay: A Comparative Case Study of International University Partnerships.” She became Director of the Office of Summer Programs at Beloit College (Wisconsin) in fall 2015.

**Brittany Sheldon** (Art History) completed her Ph.D. with a dissertation on “Visualizing Culture: Women’s Artistry in Northern Ghana.” She accepted a post-doctoral fellowship from the Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies at the University of Rochester for the 2016-17 academic year.

**Emily Stratton** (Religious Studies) was awarded a West African Research Association pre-doctoral fellowship and an Indiana University OVPIA grant for pre-dissertation research in Ghana, summer 2016. In spring 2016 she received a Steve and Devonia Stein fellowship and an Indiana University COAS Travel Award.

**Moussa Thiao** (Comparative Literature) completed his Ph.D. with a dissertation entitled “The Transnational Bildungsroman: New Perspectives on Postcolonial Coming of Age Narratives.” He is teaching at Butler University in Indianapolis, effective spring semester 2017.

Emeriti Notes

**Akwasi Assensoh** (Professor Emeritus, African American Studies) published: *A Matter of Sharing: My Memoir* (Pan-African University Press, 2016); and, with Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh, *Malcolm X and Africa* (Cambria Press, 2016); and *Malcolm X: A Biography* (Greenwood Biographies, 2016). In spring 2016, Assensoh completed a master’s (LL.M.) degree in Environmental and Human Rights Law at the University of Oregon School of Law. He was honored with the University of Texas at Austin’s 2016 *Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award* in “recognition of your sustained and distinguished contributions to Research and the Promotion of African Affairs”.

**Jack Rollins** (Adjunct Faculty, English) has continued his work on a book, tentatively titled *The Wonder of Swahili: How Culture Gives Meaning to Language*.

**Darlene Sadlier** (Professor Emerita, Spanish and Portuguese) published *The Portuguese-Speaking Diaspora: Seven Centuries of Literature and the Arts* (University of Texas Press, 2016) of which a significant part focuses on Lusophone Africa and African descendants in Brazil.
Alumni Notes

We were pleased to see a number of our alumni at the reception we hosted at the Lebanese Taverna on December 1, 2016, in conjunction with the African Studies Association annual meeting in Washington, DC. We thank those who attended and engaged with each other and with current African Studies faculty members and graduate students. We look forward to seeing them and others at future receptions.

Matthew Carotenuto. (Ph.D. African History, 2006), Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of African Studies, St. Lawrence University, co-authored Obama and Kenya: Contested Histories and the Politics of Belonging in Kenya with Katherine Luongo (Ohio University Press, 2016). He was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for Africa Network and encourages IU alumni interested in increasing the presence of African studies in the liberal arts to consider joining the Network, which provides an excellent forum for discussing African studies pedagogy.

Lisa Cliggett (Ph.D. Anthropology, 1997), Professor of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, became chair of her department. She continues her research in Zambia as part of the Gwembe Tonga Research Project.

Christopher Green (Ph.D. Linguistics, 2010) has left his position as Research Scientist at the University of Maryland to accept an assistant professor position in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics at Syracuse University.


Megan Hershey (Ph.D. Political Science, 2007), Associate Professor of Political Science, Whitworth University, published “Understanding the Effects of Faith: A Comparison of Religious and Secular HIV-prevention NGOs in Kenya,” The Journal of International Development 28(2): 161-176. She also co-led a political science study abroad trip to South Africa, visiting eight cities between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Barbara Hoffman (Ph.D. Anthropology, 1990), continues as President of the Mande Studies Association (MANSA), following IU alumnus Kassim Kone. Founded in 1986, MANSA organizes a triennial conference abroad and sponsors panels at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association. To mark its 30th anniversary, MANSA sponsored a Gala Dinner at the Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire on December 2, 2016, to raise travel funds in support of African scholars participating in the 10th International MANSA Conference, scheduled for August 2-6, 2017, at the International University of Grand-Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire.

Doreen Klassen (Ph.D. Folklore, 1999), Associate Professor of Folklore and Anthropology Social / Cultural Studies Programme, Memorial University-Grenfell, Newfoundland, published "'What you intended to say': Howard Dyck reflects on Glen Gould's The Quiet in the Land". In “Sound in the Land: Music and the Environment,” Carol Ann Weaver, Doreen Helen Klassen, and Judith Klassen, eds. Special Issue of The Conrad Grebel Review 33.2 (2015): 176-185.

Ammina Kothari (Ph.D. Journalism, 2012), Assistant Professor of Journalism, Rochester Institute of Technology, received an Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Emerging Scholar Grant to support her research on “UK Media Coverage of the Syrian Humanitarian Crisis.” Her recent publications include “Signifying Aids: How media uses metaphors to define a disease,” African Journalism Studies 37(2), 2016; and “Learning in public: Faculty and student opinions about social media in the classroom,” (co-authored with A. Hickerson), Journalism & Mass Communication Educator, 2016.

Tracy Lassiter (M.A. IU Comparative Literature; Ph.D. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2013) accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of English at the University of New Mexico-Gallup.


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Alumni Notes (continued)

Austin Okigbo (Ph.D. Ethnomusicology, 2010), Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and Affiliate Faculty in Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder, received the Chancellors Equity and Faculty Excellence Award. He published *Music, Culture, and the Politics of Health*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2016; and guest-edited a special issue (4:2, 2015) of *The World of Music* (new series) on “The New African Diaspora in North America”.

Elizabeth Perrill (Ph.D. Art History, 2008), Associate Professor of African Art History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has been the Consulting Curator for African art at the North Carolina Museum of Art. The curatorial position has enabled her to participate in planning the Museum’s new, expanded African Art Gallery, slated to open in summer 2017. Nigerian-born artist Viktor Ekpuk will create a site-specific mural prior to the opening. The new Gallery will feature art from across the continent spanning sixteen centuries.

Elizabeth Pfeiffer (Ph.D. Anthropology, 2013), Instructor of Anthropology, Butler University, received the “An Apple for You” Teaching Award in spring 2016. She published articles based on her research in *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* (March 2016) and *in Global Public Health* (September 2016). In addition to presenting papers at the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Central States Anthropological Society annual meetings, she co-organized the panel “The Gendering of HIV Technologies in Africa” with IU Ph.D. candidate Julie Johnson-Searcy, and delivered "’She told me, I’m HIV negative,’ so I knew I was HIV negative” at the 115th American Anthropological Association annual meeting, November 18, 2016, in Minneapolis.

Adrien Pouille (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2013), Visiting Assistant Professor, Wabash College, co-published (with IU Linguistics Professor Robert Botne) *A Saafi-Saafi (Sébikotane Variety) and English // French Dictionary* (Rüdiger Köppe, 2016).

Victoria Rovine (Ph.D. Art History 1999), Associate Professor of Art History, UNC-Chapel Hill, published her second book “African Fashion Global Style: Histories, Innovations, and Ideas You Can Wear” (IU Press, 2014). She is now working on a new project focused on the history of African textiles during the colonial period in Francophone West Africa, when textiles and clothing were an important commodity and an element of the French representation of their African colonial subjects. Dr. Rovine was a keynote speaker at conferences on dress and the body in Johannesburg and Antwerp in 2016, and serves on the Editorial Board for the UNC node of the consortium of 4 institutions that co-publish *African Arts*.

Fred Smith (Ph.D. Fine Arts, 1979) retired from Kent State University and is working on a new edition of *Visual Arts of Africa* for Oxford University.

Hassan Wahab (Ph.D., Political Science, 2015) accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Ghana, Legon, effective January 2017.


James Wunsch (Ph.D. Political Science, 1974) was appointed the Rev. John P Schlegel S.J. Distinguished Professor of Government and Politics at Creighton University.