ASP DIRECTOR TRANSITION

John Hanson - After eight years leading IU’s African Studies Program, John Hanson stepped down as director on June 30th, 2007 to resume his position as associate professor of history on a full-time basis.

IU’s African Studies Program is one of the top-ranked programs in the country, and John has been an effective leader who combined a democratic and inclusive leadership style with diplomatic and strategic acumen. During his tenure as director the Program enjoyed a period of stability and vitality, reflected in an unparalleled and strong national and international profile.

The African Studies Program has been a recipient of the prestigious and highly competitive U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center and FLAS grant for more than forty years. As director, John Hanson led the application process and strategically and creatively wrote three successful Title VI proposals, garnering the Program top levels of funding and thus confirming the national reputation of our program.

Samuel Obeng - As a teenager in Ghana, he was his father’s orator. As a linguist, he studies conversational phonetics and political discourse, among other topics. He also writes political satire (under various pen names) and poetry, has co-founded two journals (Issues in Political Discourse and Issues in Intercultural Communication) and “A Genuine Case Is Argued in Brief” flashes at the top of his web page. Clearly, Samuel Gyasi Obeng, the new Director of IU’s African Studies Program, understands words, and, as he moves into this leadership position, he plans to use them to further the reputation the Program has enjoyed since its founding over forty years ago.

Born in Asom, Ghana, Samuel Obeng received a B.A. with honors in 1981 from the University of Ghana, where he wrote an honors thesis about the nominalization of nouns in Akan and also studied classical history and civilization, Swahili, and African Studies, particularly African dance and technology and culture in Africa. He began graduate training at the University of Ghana and recounts that “there were only
During his eight years as director, John was instrumental in developing numerous new initiatives which will shape the Program for years to come. On campus, he was a strong advocate for the ASP and strengthened our presence with new hires and collaborative activities. Exciting junior faculty members engaged in cutting edge research and scholarship have joined our nationally renowned senior faculty as a result. Under his leadership, the African Studies Program continued to increase its programmatic strengths by adding an African Languages Minor and Africa Study Abroad Options at the undergraduate level, a Master’s Degree in African Studies, and a dual M.A. with the School of Library and Information Science. As editor-in-chief of Africa Today, Hanson has also played an important role in influencing the journal’s move from a publication focused exclusively on political science to one that spans the spectrum of social sciences and humanities. Africa Today’s readership has increased as a result, and the journal certainly adds visibility to the ASP.

Recognizing that a strong African languages program is a vital element of an African Studies Program, John Hanson vigorously supported IU’s African languages. For example, the recruitment of Dr. Alwiya Omar, a nationally renowned language pedagogue, increased the profile of our already outstanding program. Similarly, hosting the Summer Cooperative Language Institute (SCALI) for two consecutive years (2005 and 2006) points to the strength of our program. IU’s African languages program today is known for its innovative use of technology in the classroom as well as for its high-quality language instruction by teachers who are well-trained and up-to-date on latest pedagogical methods and teaching tools.

While being the Director of the African Studies Program amounts to a full-time job, John Hanson was also actively teaching and mentoring during the past eight years. He supervised a steady stream of graduate students in African history, served on other doctoral committees, and continued to teach, revise, and develop new classes for the History Department.

At the same time, John maintained an active and productive research program. He is recognized as a specialist on Islam in West Africa and conducts pioneering research on the Ahmadiyya movement in Ghana. This research has already attracted international attention. In 2004, for example, he was invited to lecture before members of the Ahmadiyya movement in Chicago, with the lecture being broadcast worldwide on the movement’s satellite channel. For his 2004-05 sabbatical, he received a Rockefeller Humanities Residency Fellowship at the Library of Congress, and a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Grant which enabled him to conduct research in London and in Ghana. Noteworthy among his recent publications are an article in the prestigious New Cambridge History of Islam and a forthcoming co-edited volume on Religious Modernities in West Africa. He has also has a contract with Cambridge University Press for a book in their New Approaches to African History series and another with Indiana University Press for his book on the Ahmadiyya Muslim Movement. Free of the responsibilities of the directorship, Hanson will now devote himself once again fully to teaching and scholarship.

John Hanson is leaving a strong and flourishing Program – a Program which he helped shape and nurture for eight years and which is characterized by an atmosphere of inclusiveness and collegiality. The students, faculty, and staff of the African Studies Program extend a heartfelt “thank you” to him for his leadership, dedication and hard work. And while we will miss him as Director, we wish him well in his future endeavors.
three faculty left in linguistics, so the department tried to help us get grants out of the country. I received offers from the University of Alberta and from the University of Bergen in Norway, but then the British government gave me an Association of Commonwealth Universities grant—these were some of the biggest grants ever in the commonwealth. I was matched with John Local and John Kelly at the University of York. My dissertation was “Conversational Strategies: Towards a Phonological Description of Projection in Akan (Akyem-Twi).”

After completing his Ph.D. in 1988, Samuel returned to the University of Ghana, where he became a senior lecturer in the Department of Linguistics in 1994. Later that same year, though, he moved from Ghana to Bloomington to accept a position in linguistics at Indiana University. In 2000 he received tenure and became an associate professor; and in 2006 he became a full professor.

As Director of IU’s African Studies Program, Samuel wants to build on the achievements made by the Program under John Hanson as well as establish new initiatives. “I want us to be number one, not only in terms of the Title VI awards, but beyond,” he says. Recognizing the opportunities that a secure financial base can bring, he plans to lead a search for endowment funds, noting “I’d like to see if we can find someone to give us a massive endowment, significant enough to name the Program.”

Obtaining support for hiring additional faculty is a high priority. Boosting enrollments in African languages courses and in the newly established African Studies M.A. program are additional goals, as well as exploring the possibility of offering B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in African Studies. Samuel Obeng plans to promote “spur-of-the-moment” eight-week courses dealing with African topics of current interest, and he would like to explore the possibility of the African languages program offering African culture courses in English.

As he considers the field of African Studies, Samuel sees changes, challenges, and opportunities. Unlike when he first came to the United States, faculty are no longer overwhelmingly white male Americans. Instead, there are many more Africans teaching in the U.S., and, as a result, courses are being taught from indigenous perspectives. “Now we have emic and etic perspectives, and we can build on both and give them equal attention,” he notes. Funding has become more challenging. “In the past it was very easy for the ASP to apply for grants, but now collaboration with a partner in Africa is frequently expected and the process is much more competitive.”

In Africa, changing political, economic, and social situations present African Studies programs with new opportunities for working with people on the continent to make meaningful contributions there, and Samuel looks forward to exploring how IU’s African Studies Program can do this. “We as a Program can do more, by applying for grants that we ask our African counterparts to be part of,” he suggests. Pointing to the teaching and HIV/AIDS research being done by IU faculty member Michael Reece at Kenya’s Moi University, he notes that here at IU, public health is an area in which some collaboration is already taking place. “We should encourage IU to do more of it,” he says.

Samuel Obeng encourages members of the ASP to propose ideas and suggestions for programs and initiatives, and he looks forward to a broad participation in the Program’s activities in the coming years. ♦
SEMIBARS


Commemorating Birago Diop And Léopold Sédar Senghor

The Project on African Expressive Traditions (POAET), directed by Eileen Julien (Comparative Literature, French, and African American and African Diaspora Studies), sponsored an international symposium on “Literature and the Arts in Senegal I: Birago Diop and Léopold Sédar Senghor, Then and Now,” March 29-31, 2007. Following the centennial birthdays of these two major figures in the cultural life of Senegal and West Africa in 2006, the symposium sought to honor them, to situate their creative practice, and to assess their legacies for contemporary “francophone” and Senegalese literature and culture. The rich program included not only stimulating panel presentations by noted scholars from both sides of the Atlantic, but also poetry readings, music, discussions with participating writers Cheikh Aliou Ndao and Boubacar Boris Diop, and film screenings in the presence of directors Ben Diogaye Beye, Amadou Guèye Ngom, Joseph Gaï Ramaka, Khady Sylla, and Esther Baker-Tarpaga – all resulting in lively and intense exchanges. IU’s Lilly Library displayed correspondence and manuscripts by Birago Diop and first editions of poetry anthologies by Léopold Senghor. Co-conveners with Eileen Julien were Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Northwestern U.) and Oumar Ndao (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal). The symposium received generous support from numerous academic units at IU.
**SPECIAL GUEST LECTURES**

Sogbety Diomande, Independent Artist from Côte d’Ivoire, gave a special lecture at the Archives of Traditional Music on October 6, 2006, on traditions of the stilt mask, the roles masks play in Mahou life, and the place of music in mask performance. He and his group also performed in downtown Bloomington during the annual World Music Festival.


Getie Gelaye of the Asia-Africa Institute, Hamburg University, Germany, was a Visiting Scholar on the IU-Hamburg exchange during October-September 2006. Drawing on his extensive research on Amharic oral literature, he presented a Tuesday Noon Talk on “Qererto and Fukkera: Two Favorite Poetic Forms for the Rural People of Ethiopia.”

Karen Tranberg Hansen, Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University, lectured on “Youth and New Regimes of Spatial Regulation of Lusaka’s Informal Economy” on March 23, 2007. She was a guest scholar on invitation of the Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS).

Maxi Schoeman, Chair of Political Science at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, presented “South Africa in Africa: Hegemon, Partner or Just Another Kid on the Block” in the Tuesday Noon Talk series on February 13, 2007. Professor Schoeman was in Bloomington as part of the IU-University of Pretoria exchange program, supported by the Vice President for International Affairs.

Herman Wasserman, Professor of Journalism at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, spent fall 2006 at Indiana University with the support of a Senior Fulbright fellowship. He gave three guest lectures: “The Search for a Global Media Ethic: A View from the South” (in Telecommunications); “Shifts in the Landscape: South African Media after Apartheid” (in African Studies); and “Have Ethics, Will Travel: South African Journalism and the Search for a Global Code of Ethics” (in Journalism).

**Liberian Studies Association Meets In Bloomington**

Indiana University hosted the 39th conference of the Liberian Studies Association on Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, 2007. Organized by Ruth Stone (Ethnomusicology) and Verlon Stone (Liberia Collections Project) with the assistance of graduate student Stanton Doyle, the conference theme was “Performing Symbols of the Past, Re-inventing Symbols for the Future.” The highlight of the conference was a Saturday morning video link with Monrovia that enabled Liberian colleagues to participate in proceedings, including panels on “Symbols of the Past and Present” and on “Reconstruction and Development.” A third panel was streamed to Liberia via the internet. Several exhibits opened in connection with the conference:

“Recording Liberia,” at the Archives of Traditional Music, documented 50 years of recording musical practices of Liberians.

“On Liberia,” at the Art Museum Focus Gallery through July 1, 2007, displayed masks and other objects showing the diversity of Liberian cultures.

“The Liberian Collections Project: Preserving the Past for Building the Future,” at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures through December 21, includes historical documents, newspapers, audio and video tapes and endangered government documents from Liberia.
AFRICAN CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE IU ART MUSEUM

The Art Museum featured two special exhibitions in spring 2007. “Traces and Echoes: Mixed Media Paintings by Kalidou Sy” was a tribute to the late artist, who passed away in Dakar in September 2005. Co-curated by Joanna Grabski (Denison University) and Diane Pelrine (IU Art Museum), the exhibition showcased work created while Sy lived in the United States from 1997 to 2005. Kalidou Sy became a practicing artist in his native Senegal in the early 1970s and served as director of the National School of Fine Arts and the National School of Art Education of Senegal from 1986-1996. Sy once explained that his art changed after he moved to the United States. Calling it his Bogolan series, he used clay, water, iron, vegetable extracts and other natural materials to create unique patterns on cloth. He saw himself as an “artiste-chercheur,” someone whose attitude towards exploration and experimentation drove both his creative process and artistic style. Grabski, an associate professor of art history and IU alumna, gave a well-attended guest lecture that placed Sy’s work in the context of Senegalese art and outlined its transformation over time. The lecture brought out lively memories from members of the audience who had known the artist during his time in Bloomington.

“Mopti à la Mode: Portrait Photographs by Tijani Sitou” was guest-curated by IU art history Ph.D. candidate, Candace Keller, in cooperation with Malick Sitou, the artist’s son. Museum Curator Diane Pelrine supervised the project. Keller encountered Sitou’s work during her dissertation research on the history of photography in Mali and spoke about it during a stimulating lecture. Born in Saki, western Nigeria, Sitou became interested in photography during a stay in Gao (Mali) and learned the craft from local photographer Mahaman Awani in the late 1960s. Photography became not only a livelihood for him but also a form of artistic expression after he opened Photo Kodak in the bustling trading center of Mopti in 1971. His studio became the most popular in all of Mopti. People sought him out to commemorate special occasions, preserve their latest fashions and trends on film, and capture themselves looking their best – all richly evident in the exhibit. Sitou’s sons Malick and Ibrahim carry on their father’s legacy and have kept his studio open after his death in 1999. They generously donated the exhibition photographs to the Art Museum. The Art Museum and the African Studies Program thank them for this wonderful gift.

INDIANAPOLIS SPEAKERS’ SERIES

The IUPUI African American and African Studies Committee, chaired by Una Okonkwo Osili (Economics), hosted several guest speakers during the 2006-07 academic year: Markus Goldstein (World Bank) “The Economic Impact of IADS Treatment: Labor Supply in Western Kenya”; Eunice Kamaara (Moi University, Kenya) “Globalization, Gender and Youth Sexuality in Kenya”; and Zine Magubane (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) “Globalization and Hip Hop in Contemporary South Africa.”

LUSO-AFRICAN FILM SERIES

The IU Portuguese Program sponsored a series of four films in February 2007 to highlight the cinematic production in Lusophone Africa: O testamento do senhor Napumoceno / Napumoceno’s Will by Francisco Manso (Cape Verde/Portugal/Brasil); A costa dos murmúrios / Murmuring Coast by Margarida Cardoso (Mozambique); O herói / The Hero by Zeze Gamboa (Angola); and Na cidade vazia / Hollow City by Maria João Ganga (Angola). All films were in Portuguese with English subtitles.
ASP ADDS MASTER OF ARTS DEGREES

The Indiana Commission of Higher Education approved a M.A. in African Studies at its September 2006 meeting. Students pursuing the M.A. take twelve to fifteen credits of required courses, and 15-18 credits of elective courses organized around a topical or regional concentration culminating in a thesis. Study of an African language for at least four semesters is also required.

In spring 2007, ASP also had a dual M.A./M.L.S. degree approved in cooperation with the School of Library and Information Science. We plan to add joint degrees with other professional schools in the future.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Professor John William Johnson retired at the end of spring semester 2007 from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology after a teaching career spanning thirty years. Professor Johnson obtained his M.Phil. degree in Somali oral literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and his Ph.D. in Folklore at the Folklore Institute, Indiana University. He taught for two years at Michigan State University before returning to IU for the remainder of his teaching career.

Dr. Johnson is internationally known for his research and writings on Somali oral poetry and the Mande epic. Heeloooy Heel-leellooy: The Development of the Genre Heello in Modern Somali Poetry was first published in 1974 and appeared in a second revised edition in 1996. His acclaimed The Epic of Son-Jara: A West African Tradition was published in two editions (1986 and 1992) and as Son-Jara, The Mande Epic: English/Mandekan Edition with Notes and Commentary in a third, revised edition (2003). The latter is accompanied by an original recording of the epic. His Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from a Vast Continent (1997), published with Thomas Hale and Steven Belcher, received the Choice “Outstanding Academic Book” award. Professor Johnson’s passion for praise poetry was evident in his teaching and in the numerous lectures he gave on the topic in a variety of fora.

Dr. Johnson’s retirement will allow him to devote himself more fully to his current writing projects. He will also continue to teach one course annually for his department.

LIBRARY NEWS

The African Studies Program has a site within IU Scholarworks, the IU institutional repository, designed to electronically archive and make publications by our faculty more widely accessible. The first twenty-nine publications have already been submitted. To access IU Scholarworks, go to https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/index.jsp. If you are interested in submitting an article and need information on a particular journal’s copyright policies, you may find it at http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageld=5322. A link to this site has also been added to the African Studies Collection web site.

In addition, the African Studies Collection web site (http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageld=322) now has a link to full-text electronic resources (including, among others, the SOAS eprints library repository, publications by the Nordic Africa Institute) as well as an annotated list that highlights our Libraries’ impressive collection of African Studies microfilm collections (http://www.libraries.iub.edu/index.php?pageld=5381).
In February 2007, African language instructors participated in a two day workshop entitled “Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Familiarization and Implications for Language Teaching.” Sponsored jointly by the African Studies Program and four other IU Title VI National Resource Centers, the workshop familiarized instructors with American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines, the oral proficiency interview and its integration into language teaching. It was led by Dr. Karl Otto (University of Pennsylvania), an ACTFL trainer who has conducted numerous workshops on the oral proficiency interview.

Linguistics Professor Samuel Obeng and African Languages Coordinator Alwiya Omar attended the Foreign Language Standards workshop at the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The workshop focused on development of Standards for Akan/Twi, Wolof, Hausa, and Afrikaans. Alwiya Omar, Abdulwahid Mazrui (Kiswahili Instructor) and Boubacar Diakite (Bamana Instructor) presented papers at the joint conferences of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) and the Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, in March 2007.

NEW STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The African Studies Program has developed an exchange with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in Tanzania to expand existing study abroad options in Legon (Ghana), Capetown (South Africa), and Dakar (Senegal). Students who have completed at least two semesters of Kiswahili are now able to take courses for a semester or academic year at UDSM. Accumulated tuition payments will allow UDSM faculty to spend time at IU. Four IU students are availing themselves of this new opportunity in fall 2007.

Kwa Heri Khalfan Mohammed, Karibuni Nasra Ahmed and Fabienne Diouf. Khalfan Mohammed is leaving his position as Kiswahili language instructor to complete his Ph.D. in Political Science. Khalfan taught Kiswahili for seven years and will be missed by his students and by everyone in African Studies. We thank him for his dedication and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The African Studies Program extends a warm welcome to Nasra Ahmed, who will replace Khalfan as Kiswahili instructor. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in Linguistics as well as a diploma in Education from the Mtwara Teachers Training College in Tanzania. She was a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant for Kiswahili at William Paterson University in New Jersey (2004-05) and completed language pedagogy training at the National African Language Resource Center in May 2007.

We also welcome Fabienne Diouf from Dakar, Senegal, who joined us as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant for Wolof in August.

NEW AFRICAN LANGUAGES CLUB

Linguistics graduate students Christopher Green and Abbie Hantgen formed the African Languages Club in fall 2006 to promote African languages on campus and in the community, and to provide students a forum of exchange about African languages and culture. With over 70 members, the club was very active during the past academic year: it hosted a coffee hour at the IU International Center and participated in the annual Africana Festival, the African Languages Festival, and the Batchelor Middle School multi-cultural festival. The club is co-sponsored by the African Studies Program and the Linguistics Department.

LANGUAGE FESTIVALS

African language students and their instructors shared their language and cultural knowledge during a get-together in fall 2006 and a language festival in spring 2007 at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center.
Foreign Language & Area Studies
Fellowship Recipients

Academic Year 2006-07
Lindsey Badger, Comparative Literature (Bamana I)
Meghann Beer, Public and Environmental Affairs (Kiswahili II)
Sarah Cluff, Anthropology (Bamana II)
Christopher Green, Linguistics (Bamana I)
Abbie Hantgen, Linguistics (Bamana I)
Jennifer Hart, History (Akan/Twi III)
Megan Hershey, Political Science (Kiswahili IV)
Arwen Kimmel, Anthropology (Akan/Twi V)
Vaughn Love, History (Zulu IV)
Baqie Muhammad, Art History (Kiswahili III)
Angela Scharfenberger, Ethnomusicology (Akan/Twi IV)
Summer Tritt, Library and Information Science (Akan/Twi I)
Lorian Wyzinski, Public and Environmental Affairs (Kiswahili V)

Summer 2007
Lindsey Badger, Comparative Literature (Wolof II at SCALI)
Jennifer Hart, History (Akan/Twi IV in Ghana)
Jessica Hurd, Art History (Dogon I in Mali)
Yanikka Lemons, Public and Environmental Affairs (Kiswahili I at IU)
Summer Tritt, Library and Information Science (Akan/Twi II at SCALI)

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

In 2006-07, ASP began partnering with the IU School of Education’s Center for Social Studies and International Education (CSSIE) and other IU area studies programs to conduct teacher workshops across Indiana. The workshops seek to assist teachers with curriculum development by providing relevant content for a newly instituted history and geography of the world course. This new initiative complements the annual week-long workshop on Africa organized by Outreach Director Osita Afoaku and ASP’s participation in the International Social Studies Institute hosted by the Center for Global Change.

Zulu instructor Mziwandle Hadebe offered workshops on gum-boot dancing for a number of high school classes in Indianapolis as a way of introducing them to South Africa. His gumboot dance group performs at numerous cultural events on campus, in Bloomington, and beyond.


The African American and African Studies Committee at IUPUI organized a successful film series at the Indiana Art Museum in Indianapolis during February 2007: Favela Rising (Brazil, 2005); Rize (USA, 2005); African Blood (Mexico, 2004). Each film was followed by discussion led by a faculty member.

Carleton T. Hodge Prize

The recipients of the 2007 Carleton T. Hodge Prize (awarded to “outstanding graduate students in African Studies”) were: Atieno A. Adala and Dawn Whitehead (both in Education). Clara Henderson (Ethnomusicology) was noted as an honorable mention by the selection committee. This is the first time two Carleton T. Hodge Prizes have been made in one year, thanks to the generosity and agreement of the donor, Mrs. Patricia Hodge, to allow for this expansion.
Akinwumi Adesokan (Comparative Literature) received the 2007 IU Trustee’s Teaching Award. He was in Portugal during spring semester 2007, teaching a graduate course on “Cultural Translations and Literary Departures” in the Program of Comparative Studies at the University of Lisbon.

A. B. Assensoh (African American and African Diaspora Studies) and Yvette Alex-Assensoh (Political Science) were invited to the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) to present research papers at the “Ghana at 50” conference and celebration. Yvette’s paper was titled “African American Contributions to Post-Independent Ghana, 1057-1960s.” A.B.’s paper focused on “Ghana’s History: from Independence to the 1970s.”

Gracia Clark (Anthropology) was at the KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam during October 2006. On invitation of the Institute, she participated in the planning for a collaborative “writershop” with African traders called Traders Talk, to be held in Kenya. In April 2007 she presented an invited paper entitled “Loyalties and Scapegoats: Relations Between Market Traders in Kumasi, Ghana, and Their Governments in Historical Perspective,” at a conference at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden. She traveled to England in May to examine the multidisciplinary Ashanti Social Survey of 1945-56 for data relating to Kumasi Central Market.


Eileen Julien (Comparative Literature, French, AADS) became chair of the Comparative Literature Department in 2007.

Murray McGibbon (Theatre and Drama) received the 2006 Naledi Award, South Africa’s Premier Theatre Award for “Best Production of a Revue” at a nationally televised ceremony in Johannesburg on February 19, 2007. The award was for Black Mamba, which he directed in Durban.

Patrick McNaughton (Art History) became chair of the Art History Department in July 2007.

Marissa Moorman (History) received an IU New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grant for her new project: “Tuning in to Nation: Radio Technology and Politics in Angola, 1961-2002.”

Emilio Moran (Anthropology) was promoted to “Distinguished Professor” in recognition of his prodigious internationally acclaimed scholarship on human-environment relationships. He founded and directs the Anthropological Center for Training and Research on Global Environmental Change and co-directs the Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change. He has been “James H. Rudy Professor of Anthropology” since 1996.


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Cyprian Adupa (History) received his Ph.D. in December 2006. He has returned to his position at Kyambogo University in Uganda.

Fagdeba Bakoyema (Library & Information Science) took up a library position at Middle Tennessee State University in April 2007.

Ama Boakyewa (Anthropology) received a 2007-08 Fulbright-Hays award for dissertation research in Ghana.

Meghann Beer (SPEA) worked for the NGO Global Routes in summer 2007, taking eighteen high school students to Kenya for five weeks. The group constructed a classroom for a secondary school and worked on several other volunteer projects. In-country travel included a visit of the IU-Kenya AMPATH program.

Kathryn Boswell (Anthropology) presented “The Ivorian Civil War and the Loss of BurkinaFaso” at the 2006 African Studies Association meeting in San Francisco. She was awarded an IU Future Faculty teaching fellowship and will be teaching at IU-East in Richmond, IN in 2007-08.

Ginger Elliott-Teague (SPEA) completed her Ph.D. and has taken up a tenure-line position at the University of Oklahoma.


Christopher Green (Linguistics) became managing editor of publications for the IU Linguistics Club.

Muziwandile Hadebe (History) was the recipient of a Won-Joon Yoon Memorial Scholarship for the 2006-07 academic year.

Jennifer Hart (History) received an Office of International Programs Pre-Dissertation Award, a Project on African Expressive Traditions (POAET) Award, and a History Department Paul Stoler Award for pre-dissertation research on her project “Jehovah’s Blessing Makes it Rich: Religion, Commerce, and Public Culture in Madina, Ghana” during the summer of 2007.

Megan Hershey (Political Science) was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to study HIV/AIDS NGOs in Kenya during the 2007-08 academic year.

Kitty Johnson (Art History) presented “Negotiating Gender Identities with Hip Hop Imagery in Matatu Art” at the 2006 African Studies Association meeting in San Francisco.

Jeremy Kenyon (SLIS & African Studies) received a 2007 West African Research Association grant to spend six weeks in Dakar, Senegal, as an intern at the West African Research Center library in June-July.

Arwen Kimmell (Anthropology) was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to do dissertation work in Ghana in 2007-08, but declined to pursue other opportunities.

Hannington Ochwada (History) accepted a one-year teaching position at Centre College in Kentucky.


Donna Patterson (History) has accepted an assistant professor position at Wellesley College.

Fileve Palmer (Anthropology) participated in the 2007 Zulu Group Projects Abroad in South Africa.

Angela Stone-McDonald (Education) spent the summer in Tanzania studying Kiswahili in the Kiswahili Group Projects Abroad Program and conducting exploratory research at Irente Rainbow School in Lushoto.

Paul Schauert (Ethnomusicology) received a 2007-08 Fulbright-Hays dissertation research award but declined to pursue other opportunities.

Kate Schroeder (History) was appointed Visiting Librarian for African Studies at IU-B effective August 1, 2007, to replace Marion Frank-Wilson, who is on sabbatical in 2007-08. Kate holds a Master of Library Science (2004) and is completing a Ph.D. in African history.

Cullen Strawn (Ethnomusicology) received the 2006-07 Laura Boulton Junior Fellowship and the 2007-08 College of Arts and Sciences Louise McNutt Graduate Fellowship in support of dissertation writing.

Craig Waite (History) was awarded an IIE Fulbright grant for dissertation research in Ghana in 2007-08.

ALUMNI NOTES

Paul Kaiser (Political Science) and Rose Kadende (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) left the University of Pennsylvania to assume positions in Lilongwe, Malawi, in fall 2006.

Elisabeth McMahon (History) has moved to New Orleans for a tenure-line position at Tulane University.

We encourage our alumni to send us news about their activities and achievements.
African Studies Program

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