A Contested Resource: Oil in Africa

Oil and mineral production in Africa has continued to grow in the past decade and still attracts the largest share of foreign direct investment. Oil and mineral exports account for the remarkable rates of growth in Gross Domestic Product some African countries have experienced in recent years. The importance of this sector and the social, legal, policy, and health issues that accompany resource extraction have gained the attention of an increasing number of researchers from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. To showcase some of the current work on this vast topic, the African Studies Program hosted a symposium on March 22, 2013, titled “A Contested Resource: Oil in Africa,” in cooperation with the Indiana Consortium for International Programs.

The symposium brought together three scholars who have conducted extensive research on various facets of the oil industry: Dr. Omolade Adunbi of the Department of Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan; Dr. Lori Leonard of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Dr. Kwamina Panford of Northeastern University’s Department of African-American Studies. Moderated by Professor Beth Buggenhagen (IU Anthropology), Professors Adunbi and Leonard made complementary presentations based on chapters from their respective books in progress. Dr. Adunbi discussed “Mythic Oil: Corporations, Protests and the Politics of Claim-Making in Nigeria” while Dr. Leonard addressed “Dead letters: Grievances and the domestication of disputes in the oilfield region of Chad.”

Professor Osita Afoaku (IU Public & Environmental Affairs) moderated and offered comments in the second session where Professor Kwamina Panford presented “Banishing the Resource Curse: What Ghana Needs for its New Petroleum Sector,” drawing on his research and on his involvement in drafting Ghana’s Petroleum Revenue Management Act and other legislation relating to the oil and gas industry.

The presentations and the subsequent discussions were videotaped and are available via the African Studies Program website or via IU ScholarWorks at https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/16713/browse?type=title.
Public Lectures 2012-2013

Wednesday Seminars

Fall 2012: African Histories of Technology
Dr. Marissa Moorman (History)
17 October: Clapperton Mavhungu, MIT
"Regarding 'Engineering,' 'Technology,' 'Designers' and 'Users' as Seen through Chimurenga, Zimbabwe's Liberation War"
7 November: George Osodi, Independent Photographer
"Oil Rich Niger Delta"
14 November: Karin Klieman, University of Houston
"Oilpacity as the Source of the Oil Curse? A Discussion of its Manifestations in the African Context, 1939-1971"
5 December: Joyce Nyairo, Independent Researcher
"Cultural Creativity as Technology: Mobile Telephony, Innovation and Shifts in African Associational Life"

Spring 2013: Ethnography & Social Theory in Africa
Dr. Jane Goodman (Communication and Culture)
20 February: Jean Lave, University of California-Berkeley
"Rising to the Concrete: Critical Ethnographic Practice in West Africa"
20 March: Judith Irvine, University of Michigan
"Bakhtin and Beyond, Senegal and Beyond"
18 April: Anne-Maria Makhulu, Duke University
"'After Work': Precarity and Contingency in Post-Transition South Africa"

Tuesday Noon Talks

Our 2012-13 Noon Talk series highlighted research by African Studies Program faculty, Ph.D. students, and Master's degree students, as well as the work of visiting professionals. Presenters came from disciplines including anthropology, art history, ethnomusicology, folklore, and political science. Details can be found on the ASP website at http://www.indiana.edu/~afrist/events/noontalk.shtml.

Visiting Scholars and Artists

Joyce Nyairo, an independent scholar based in Eldoret, Kenya spent a week at Indiana University in December 2012. Marissa Moorman (History) served as her faculty host. During her stay, Dr. Nyairo interacted with faculty and students and lectured on the contemporary history of music and politics in Dr. Moorman's undergraduate class Abacosts, Afropop, and the African City: African Pop Culture History; she also presented "Cultural Creativity as Technology: Mobile Telephony, Innovation and Shifts in African Associational Life,” in the African Studies Wednesday Graduate Seminar. Dr. Nyairo resided at the Foster Global Village Living-Learning Center where she engaged with LLC students.

George Osodi, Nigerian photographer and photojournalist, visited Indiana University in November 2012. His faculty host was Dr. Beth Buggenhagen (Anthropology). A photographer based in Lagos, Mr. Osodi led a gallery discussion of his work at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures Curatorial Seminar, “An Evening with George Osodi.” Like many African artists who work in the medium of photography, Mr. Osodi has also worked as a photojournalist, and during his one-week residency at IU, he explored the relationship between art and journalism. Mr. Osodi visited classes, met with students, and presented his work on “Oil Rich Niger Delta” in the African Studies Wednesday Graduate Seminar.
New Media and Literary Initiatives in Africa (NEMLIA) Website Launch

Hosted by the Wells Library/African Studies Collection, the NEMLIA database is an interactive resource on new media, literary and artistic initiatives across the African continent. The database documents activities and events related to the NEMLIA project which is a multi-year initiative led by five IU African Studies faculty – Akin Adesokan (Comparative Literature), Beth Buggenhagen (Anthropology), Marin Frank-Wilson (Library), Maria Grosz-Ngaté (African Studies & Anthropology), and Marissa Moorman (History). Dedicated to exploring relationships between different modes of literary and media production in literature, film, photography, art, and music and issues of intellectual property, copyright, piracy and access, the project held its first seminar on “African Cultural Production and the Challenges of Digital Technology” in April 2012. During the one-day event, invited guests and IU faculty engaged in a series of provocations, reactions, and presentations which can now be accessed on the NEMLIA website at http://nemlia.org/projects/african-cultural-production-and-the-challenges-of-digital-technology/. The seminar was recorded, and parts of the recording will be added to the website in the fall 2013. In November 2012, the NEMLIA Collective hosted Nigerian photographer George Osodi for a one-week residency which is also described on the NEMLIA website at http://nemlia.org/projects/george-osodi-series/. (See Visiting Scholars on page 2 for additional information.)

In addition to featuring presentations and seminar proceedings, the NEMLIA website also includes the NEMLIA Web Archive which is dedicated to preserving otherwise ephemeral websites representative of new media and literary initiatives in Africa. As the archive grows over time, it will be a fully searchable tool to access and locate websites with innovative, yet ephemeral, content.

IU Liberian Collections

In addition to hosting scholars from Australia, Canada, England, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and major US universities, the Indiana University Liberian Collections (IULC) completed two major projects during the 2012-2013 academic year. The first was a project supported in part by funding from the Cooperative Africana Materials Project (CAMP), the Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa, and the IU African Studies Program to digitize documents from the Svend E. Holsoe Collection. Under the coordination of IU Liberian Collections Archivist Megan MacDonald, IULC staff, including African studies librarian graduate student Sarah Keil, completed the digitization of documents from the Liberian Government Archives contained in the Collection. The digitized copies of these documents, which date from 1828 to 1981, are available on the IU Archives Online website.

The IULC also completed a $100,000 World Bank-funded project to design, install, and configure a digitization facility at the Liberian National Archives that will be used to preserve and make publicly accessible Liberian land deed registers dating from 1830. IULC staff produced training materials, trained Liberian technicians in document preservation and digitization, and monitored the quality of the National Archives’ digital output as part of the project. The IULC funded graduate student involvement in the project with support from the African Studies Program.

In May 2013, Dr. Verlon Stone, director of the IULC, participated in the organizing conference of the Liberian National History Project in Monrovia. Dr. Stone helped to coordinate the conference convened by the Liberian Governance Commission and the Ministry of Education as part of Liberia’s Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation, and Vision 2030. The IULC will play a key role in the Project’s mission to produce a comprehensive, four-volume scholarly history of the Liberian nation and peoples over the next five years, and, with Liberia’s Center for National Documents and Records Agency, will serve as a resource center for the Project. In addition to providing researchers with materials from the Collection, the IULC will search out materials from other archives, museums, and libraries in Africa, the United States, and Europe for the Project.

The Liberian Collections, previously hosted by the Archives of Traditional Music, were merged with the IU Libraries African Studies Collection effective August 15, 2013.
2012-13 was another busy year for the African Languages Program. The African Languages and Culture Club sponsored African language festivals in the fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters with the support of the IU Student Association. The events showcased performances by African language students from the Akan, Bamana, IsiZulu, Kiswahili, and Wolof classes who shared their experiences learning African languages with each other as well as with their families, friends, and other members of the campus community in attendance.

In February, African language instructors and volunteer students participated in 'Discover Languages Month' by hosting a day-long exhibit at Ballantine Hall. It was a great occasion to engage with students and share information about the African languages we teach at Indiana University. African language instructors also participated in several professional development opportunities this year. During the fall 2012 semester, instructors attended a workshop titled 'Introduction to Standards Development for Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)' conducted by Dr. Antonia Schleicher, director of the National African Language Resource Center at IU. In the spring, African language instructors attended a follow-up workshop on 'Implications of Standards in the LCTL Classroom' and also participated in the 'Oral Proficiency Interview Familiarization Workshop' held at the African Language Teachers' Association annual conference in Chicago during the month of April.

This summer, the African Languages Program hosted 16 middle and high school students from Bloomington and Bedford at STARTALK, a 4-week, non-residential Swahili language and culture program. Program participants, including 10 new and 6 returning students, were immersed in Swahili language and culture from 9AM to 3:15PM every day; the lunch break allowed them the opportunity to interact with other Swahili speakers to reinforce their language skills.

Swahili Flagship

The first cohort of Swahili Flagship students returned to the US this summer after spending a full year in Tanzania. The Swahili Flagship Program would like to congratulate each of the students in the first cohort for achieving a superior level on their final oral proficiency exams! The first cohort of Swahili Flagship students are: Chris Parr (Biochemistry); Christa Kumming (Fine Arts); Karlie Query (Psychology); and Tim Höffelder (Linguistics). Tim was one of two students at IU to receive a Boren Scholarship.

Over the summer, six students participated in an 8-week summer program in Zanzibar through the Flagship Program. They will return to IU this fall and spend their 2014-15 academic year in Tanzania.
Outreach Highlights

2012-13 was another active year for the Outreach Program. Activities during the academic year included on-request videoconference presentations to schools around the country, teacher workshops in different parts of Indiana, and an after-school program that introduced K-6 students to Zulu.

This year’s African Studies Summer Institute for Indiana K-12 teachers was held from June 10-12. IU graduate students and faculty presented on a variety of topics ranging from art and fashion to daily life in the Democratic Republic of Congo to sports for development. The African Studies Program also organized a Drumming and Dance Workshop from June 17-28. Coordinated by Nana Amoah and taught by her in cooperation with Kwesi Brown and Joyce Bekorye, participants learned Kpanlogo and Kpatsa songs and two dance and drum pieces. Participants showcased what they had learned in a concert on the final day.

The Wells Library African Studies Collection hosted the recipients of the African Studies Program’s summer 2013 library residency awards. The awards are intended to facilitate the use of our rich collections by faculty whose institutions have more limited library and archival resources. Our awards committee selected two fellows from another strong group of applicants.

Quito Swan (Howard University) was in residence in early May 2013 to conduct research for two chapters of his proposed book on the global experiences of the late Dr. Pauulu Kamarakafego (1932-2007), a Bermudian ecological engineer and Black Power advocate. Specifically, Dr. Swan used resources from the Liberian Collections and the African Pamphlet Collection as well as the Liberation Movement in Africa and the African America collections to contextualize Dr. Kamarakafego’s political activities in Liberia, Kenya, and Tanzania between 1959 and 1974.

Fodei Batty (Quinnipiac University) spent two weeks in residence during the month of June. He conducted research for his proposed book on ethnic politics in post-conflict Liberia and Sierra Leone. Dr. Batty worked with documents from the Liberian Collections to document the historical background of political development in Liberia. He was also able to access major works on political behavior in sub-Saharan Africa since the end of the colonial period as well as primary sources on public life in Liberia and Sierra Leone over the last fifty years.

Adama Diouf, librarian at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal, was in residence in late October 2012. Her stay was supported by the West African Research Association (WARA) and in-kind contributions from Indiana University. It followed African Studies and Library Science master's student Adam Clemmons' internship at WARC in the summer of 2012. Ms. Diouf spent time in the African Studies and the Liberian Collections, visited Library Science and Wolof classes, attended lectures, and met with African Studies Program faculty and students.

Library Residencies

In November 2012, Dr. Eileen Julien (Comparative Literature) led a delegation of IUB faculty and students in American Studies, Comparative Literature, English, and French to participate in the “Locations, Epistemologies, and Pedagogies” workshop at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (WITS). The travel was partially funded with support from the College of Arts and Humanities Institute and the final portion of a seed grant from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. This was the second of two workshops organized between the Department of Comparative Literature at IU and the Department of African Literatures at WITS. The first workshop was held in Bloomington in 2010. A volume of collected essays from the workshop is currently being prepared for publication.
Mathers Museum of World Cultures News

**Photos in Black and White:**

**Margaret Bourke-White and the Dawn of Apartheid in South Africa**

In 1949, Margaret Bourke-White, one of the most famous photojournalists in America, travelled to South Africa on an assignment for Life magazine. Some of her rarely-seen images from that period are featured in a new exhibition—*Photos in Black and White: Margaret Bourke-White and the Dawn of Apartheid in South Africa*—during the fall semester at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures (MMWC). Curated by Alex Lichtenstein, Associate Professor of History at Indiana University, with support from a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grant, the exhibition offers a comprehensive look at Bourke-White’s photojournalistic portrayal of South Africa in 1949 and 1950. Bourke-White’s trip coincided with the consolidation of white minority rule in South Africa, known as “apartheid.”

The exhibit opened on September 6, 2013 and will be at the MMWC through December 20, 2013. With funding from a Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching and Collaboration (MiRT) grant the exhibit will travel to the Bensusan Museum of Photography, Museum Africa, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in January 2014 with the support of chief curator at the Bensusan, Dudu Madonsela. In April 2014 the exhibit will open at the Michaelis Galleries, at the University of Cape Town, in Cape Town, South Africa. An accompanying online exhibition is available at [www.bourkewhite.wordpress.com](http://www.bourkewhite.wordpress.com).

Professor Lichtenstein is happy to offer guided tours of the exhibition for your class; contact him at lichtens@indiana.edu.

An accompanying symposium on “Documentary Photography and the South African Experience” will be held on October 31, 9 AM to Noon at the MMWC. The symposium will bring together Santu Mofokeng, a major contemporary South African photographer; John Edwin Mason, a historian of South African and U.S. photography at the University of Virginia; and Claude Cookman from the IU School of Journalism who has written about Bourke-White, to discuss Bourke-White, South Africa, photojournalism, and their transnational intersections with Life magazine. Beth Buggenhagen, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Faculty Research Curator at the Mathers Museum will chair the symposium, which will be free and open to the public.

In addition, an IU Cinema film series—“South Africa: Apartheid and After”—will be presented in conjunction with exhibition, and will consist of three films, two made during the years of apartheid and one after, that offer a wide range of visual and narrative treatments of the problems of political repression, racial discrimination, the peculiarities of life under apartheid, and the persistent links between the U.S. and South Africa. The films will be free and open to the public and include:

"Cry, the Beloved Country"-- Tuesday, October 22, 7 p.m.
"Come Back, Africa"-- Saturday, November 2, 7 p.m.
"Searching for Sugar Man" --Sunday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

Programming support comes from IU’s Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Journalism, the Black Film Center/Archive, the Indiana University Art Museum, the IU Cinema, the Department of American Studies, the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and the Department of History.

For more information, please email mathers@indiana.edu, phone 812-855-6873, or visit the museum website at [www.mathers.indiana.edu](http://www.mathers.indiana.edu).
Exhibit on Ghanaian Bambɔlse Traveling to Ghana

Brittany Sheldon, a doctoral student in the Department of the History of Art and the African Studies Program, has been working with the Mathers Museum to create the exhibition, *State of an Art: Contemporary Ghanaian Bambɔlse*, for the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board. The exhibition, which travels to Ghana this fall, features Brittany’s photographs documenting the red, black, and white designs (*bambɔlse*) that adorn the walls of houses in the Upper East Region in Ghana.

Scholars captivated by these vivid paintings have published a wealth of information about their creation and meaning. Historically, the Frafra people of the Upper East Region lived in compound-style homes, which were constructed and repaired by their male occupants. Once the newly built or repaired walls were complete, the women of the home would join together to cover them in plaster, which they would then embellish with designs.

The photographs included in the exhibit were taken by Sheldon during two research trips to three rural communities in the Upper East Region—Sirigu, Bongo, and Zuarungu-Moshi—undertaken between July 2012 and March 2013. The exhibition illustrates some of the ways in which these processes have changed over time, providing a glimpse at the state of traditional architectural embellishment in 21st century northern Ghana.

Sheldon will spend the 2013-2014 academic year in Ghana where she will continue to research and document the designs and practice of *bambɔlse*. She is sharing her experiences online at [http://stateofanart.wordpress.com/](http://stateofanart.wordpress.com/). In fall 2014, Sheldon will curate a second exhibition on Ghanaian *bambɔlse* for the MMWC.

MMWC Faculty Research Curator Explores Photography of Senegalese Women

Beth Buggenhagen (Anthropology) was recently selected as a Faculty Research Curator at the Mathers Museum. The position provides her time to focus on her own research, and reinvigorates the museum’s role as a research institution.

Buggenhagen’s most recent work focuses on the photography of Senegalese women, who often create elaborate photo albums that do not represent their actual lives. Rather, images are used to create an illustrative life.

“Instead of their album being dedicated to their family history, it’s more forward looking,” Buggenhagen said. “It’s more about creating a representation or an idea of themselves. Often, they’re better looking than in their real lives, something very much like those ‘glamour shots’ that were popular here in America in the ‘80s, and there are no babies, no husbands, no parents included.”

What prompts Senegalese women to create such albums? It’s their response to a deeply fractured society, a community that is scattered overseas due to, among other reasons, the West African country’s economic crisis.

“These pictures circulate along migratory networks,” she said. “It’s how people continue their community, and how women come into their adulthood.”

Buggenhagen will continue her research this fall.
Books & Beyond Receives Association of African Studies Programs (AASP) Award

Books & Beyond, a service project of the Global Village Living-Learning Center at IU received the AASP François Manchuelle Award at the Association’s 2013 spring meeting in Washington, DC. The award is given annually to recognize innovative outreach in African Studies.

The Books & Beyond project was established in 2008 and connects IU undergraduate students with students at TEAM charter schools in Newark, New Jersey, and students at the Kabwende Primary Center in Kinigi, Rwanda. Students at each of these locations cooperate in writing and illustrating stories published in the anthology, *The World is Our Home*. Books & Beyond has produced five volumes since its inception and has distributed more than 10,000 books to Rwandan students. A delegation from IU and TEAM schools travel to Rwanda each summer to deliver the completed books to the Kabwende Primary Center and hold writing and conversation workshops.

This summer, eight students and three faculty and staff members from IU visited Rwanda with representatives from TEAM charter schools. Ellie Berry says of this year’s trip:

> After four years of being involved in Books & Beyond, I was excited to finally have the chance to travel to Rwanda. We spent the first week getting acquainted with the country. We visited the Genocide Memorial in Kigali, hiked in Nyungwe Forest National Park, and toured the National University in Huye. After a week, we moved into our more permanent home in Musanze in the Northern Province to start training to lead the English Holiday Camp at Kabwende Primary School. We spent three days developing our lesson plans for the three sections we would be teaching: writing, reading, and kinesthetic learning. This year, the camp lasted 12 days and served approximately 200 students. By the end of the camp, the students had each written and illustrated their own stories, practiced their English comprehension a speaking skills by learning to perform a short readers’ theatre script, and shared lots of laughs playing “Simon Says” and other games.

> Teaching at the camp was both exhausting and rewarding. We tried our hand at learning Kinyarwanda with lessons during our lunch break and even performed the script from reader’s theatre in Kinyarwanda at the celebration on the last day of camp. I left Rwanda with a greater understanding of the challenges that the students and teachers face because of the government’s policy on English instruction in schools along with a more comprehensive view of Rwandan history and culture and a desire to learn more.

Ms. Berry has served in multiple capacities for Books & Beyond since she joined the project as a freshman in 2009. She graduated from IU with a B.A. in French and International Studies in May 2013. She will be teaching English in Guadeloupe beginning in October.

To read more about Books & Beyond, Dr. Beth Samuelson (School of Education), an advisor to the Books & Beyond project, co-authored an article in *[Talking Stick: The Authoritative Source for Campus Housing]*, titled “All the world’s a page: Living-learning program puts students’ skills to good use as it improves student retention as well as the lives of children on the other side of the globe,” available at [http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/acuho/talkingstick_20130102/#/40](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/acuho/talkingstick_20130102/#/40).

**Doomi Golo -- Boubacar Boris Diop’s Acclaimed Novel as Audio Book**

In February 2013, the audio recording of *Doomi Golo* [The Monkey’s Kids], the first Wolof-language novel by Senegalese journalist and novelist Boubacar Boris Diop, was presented at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. The audio book, which features Diop reading his novel, was recorded by Senegalese filmmaker Joseph Gai Ramaka at Indiana University and is available from Ebook-Africa ([www.ebook-africa.org](http://www.ebook-africa.org)), an organization created by Ramaka to offer a range of audio recordings to Wolof and Pulaar speakers who are not able to read in their mother tongues. The project was supported by the African Studies Program, the African Language Materials Archive (ALMA) and the Project on African Expressive Tradition (POAET) directed by Dr. Eileen Julien (Comparative Literature). Wolof language students will be able to access the recording via the African Studies Program website.
African Students’ Research Award

We congratulate Hannah Essien (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) and Susan Nyawade (Public Health) on their selection as recipients of the 2013 African Students’ Research Award!

Hannah Essien is working on a dissertation focused on Arabic morphology that critically examines the fundamental and principal features which were formulated and established by medieval Arab grammarians. The award allows her to consult primary sources and manuscripts in US university libraries. Ms. Essien has been teaching Akan/Twi in the IU African Languages Program since 2006. Prior to coming to IU, she obtained BA and MA degrees at the University of Ghana and Higher Diplomas in Arabic and French Language Proficiency in Cairo and Dakar, respectively. She has accepted a position as lecturer with the Program in African Studies and the Arabic Language Program at Princeton University.

Susan Nyawade has completed her MS degree in Applied Health Science and is now preparing her Ph.D. in Health Behavior, both at IU. She is interested in the psychosocial factors that are predictive of health professionals’ intention to support exclusive breast-feeding and in the environmental factors associated with it. The award provides partial support for a pilot study among health professionals in Nairobi, Kenya, that will help her refine the methodology for her dissertation research. Ms. Nyawade holds a BA in Education from Kenyatta University and a MS in Applied Human Nutrition from the University of Nairobi. She has worked on a Child Nutrition Project in Embu, Kenya, and as a nutritionist and department head responsible for health promotion in the Kenya Ministry of Health.

Carleton T. Hodge Prize

Congratulations to Elizabeth (Libby) Pfeiffer (Anthropology), winner of the 2013 Carleton T. Hodge Prize for excellence in African Studies!

Libby Pfeiffer conducted community-based ethnographic research in western Kenya and is completing her Ph.D. dissertation on "Viral Stories: HIV/AIDS, Stigma, and Global Connections in Kenya." Her research was funded with several grants, including a NIH Predoctoral Training Fellowship Award in Translational Research. She has presented her work at several national conferences, at the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Retreats, as well as in various IU campus venues. As a member of the AMPATH Social Science Research Network, she has also shared her research with Kenyan, Canadian, and US scholars doing social science research in East Africa. Ms. Pfeiffer studied Kiswahili to the upper advanced level with the support of FLAS fellowships prior to commencing her dissertation research. Her research in Kenya grew out of her participation in research projects on sexual health among African American youth in Indianapolis and from summer research and service among youth in rural and urban Jamaica. Ms. Pfeiffer has been offered a two-year NIH-funded HIV/STD Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Division of Infectious Disease at the IU School of Medicine that will allow her to continue her research in Kenya. She was actively involved in organizing the first annual Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS) symposium in 2011.
Student Research in Africa & Internships

Kristopher Ebarb (Linguistics)

During the 2012-13 academic year, I lived in Mahanga Village in Kenya’s Western Province in order to carry out linguistic fieldwork on several eastern and south-eastern dialects of the Luhya language group: Idakho, Isukha, Nyore, Kabras, Marama, and Nyala-East. Mahanga Village is near several educational institutions which attract teaching professionals from nearby Luhya dialect areas. I lived with the family of a state-side friend who comes from the village. The possibility of an affordable homestay arrangement in addition to providing access to speakers of several yet undocumented Luhya dialects made Mahanga Village an ideal location from which to conduct my dissertation fieldwork.

In my nine months there, I carried out extensive studies of the verbal tone systems of each of the six dialects. One of the primary research goals is to further documentation of the rich diversity of Luhya verbal tone systems. Such documentation will make possible gains in the understanding of what gave rise to such diversity. In addition, I collected a modest vocabulary (600-800 words) and a number of short narratives written in and translated from several of the same dialects to document aspects of the culture unique to each dialect group. During my trip, I also had the opportunity to present some results of the project and a brief lecture on the methodology I used in carrying out my study at Moi University’s main campus in Eldoret.

Norihide Furukawa (Anthropology)

With the support of a Skomp summer feasibility study award and a graduate student research award from the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, I traveled to Malawi to conduct six weeks of fieldwork for my dissertation project. Since 2009 I have been working to examine the intersections of the state, its education policies and university students’ lived experiences in Malawi. This summer was a continuation of the preliminary phase of my research.

Malawi’s current enrollment rate in higher education is less than one percent, making university a highly prestigious and elitist space. Since 2002, the government has increased enrollment from historically under-represented ethnic groups, regions and districts, resulting in an increasingly diverse student body in terms of ethnicity, socioeconomic status and educational achievement levels. As the traditional value of academic merit and success for the selected few intersects with the new discourse and practice of equity and collective success, I want to understand how students negotiate individual and collective development, and how academic credentialism may provide another source of identity beyond ethnic and regional differences.

I spent most of my time as a visiting researcher at a public university. I collected a wide variety of materials such as students’ poems and short stories, hip-hop songs and legal documents that tell me a great deal about university student peer culture in Malawi. I enjoyed reuniting with old friends and eating nshima with them as well.
Carolyn Holmes (Political Science)

From June 2012-June 2013, I conducted dissertation fieldwork in South Africa, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Institute for International Education. While there, I split my time between living in Bloemfontein, Free State and Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and conducted interviews with primary language Afrikaans-speakers in the former, and primary language Zulu-speakers in the latter. My dissertation project looks at the dynamics of nationalist sentiments in post-conflict countries. Getting the opportunity to speak first-hand to people who lived through the South African transition to majority rule and record their experiences with the process of reconciliation was an incredibly valuable experience. I also took the opportunity to attend cultural events, like Umkhosi Womhlanga (the Reed Dance, sponsored by the Zulu royal house to celebrate the young women of the Zulu Nation) and Gelofedag (the Day of the Vow, a celebration of Afrikaans history and the Voortrekkers).

South Africa is a fascinating country socially, politically and ecologically. With increasing pressure on the government to deliver vital services and to economically uplift the historically disadvantaged majority, the country is facing tremendous challenges. The 2012-2013 year was a tumultuous one for South Africans, and my time there influenced both my research and me, personally. The "Rainbow Nation," as South Africa is often called, is a place that still inspires awe, and it is once again re-defining itself.

Landon Jones (African Studies)

This summer I worked as a Research Intern for the exhibition, *Slavery and Freedom*, opening in 2015 at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington. With this position, I learned about the process of constructing an exhibition through content and development meetings and daily interactions with the exhibition’s curators. I learned about relationships between Native Americans, black and white people in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries and the cultural transition of Africans to Negros during the era of slavery and after. From sketches by Benjamin Henry Latrobe of musical instruments used by slaves in Congo Square in colonial New Orleans to Civil War-era belt buckles and bullets, I have been able to read about and see the history of slavery in the United States and how the staff at the National Museum of African American History and Culture want to respectfully and properly present this era to the public.

The skills I learned in the Interdisciplinary Research Methods and Bibliography of Sub-Saharan Africa seminars last semester proved useful throughout this internship and helped inform how I conducted research and gathered information on this period. The best part of this process has been how I look at the history of slavery in the United States and how it is an important piece of appreciating Africans and the social ramifications of slavery that remain today. Instead of looking at historical events of black people worldwide in finite sections, this experience has broadened my view of the infinite human experience.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Recipients

**Academic Year 2012-2013**
- Apiyo Goodwill (Public Health), Arabic I
- Samantha Ball (African Studies), Swahili III
- Lewis Bradford (Anthropology), Arabic V
- Jonathan Clemons (SLIS/African Studies), Swahili III
- Kirk Harris (Political Science), Swahili IV
- Sarah Monson (Anthropology), Akan-Twi I
- Elizabeth Pollard (SPEA/African Studies), Bamana III
- Nichole Richards (Education), Akan-Twi III
- Logan Whalen (African Studies), Swahili I
- Gregory Yeich (SPEA), Akan-Twi II

**Summer 2013**
- Alexander Acosta (Biology), Swahili IV
- Samantha Ball (African Studies), Swahili IV
- Natalie Gwishiri (History), Zulu III
- Stephanie Johnson (SPEA/African Studies), Swahili II
- Thomas Leonard (SPEA/ W. European Studies), Bamana II
- Sarah Monson (Anthropology), Akan-Twi II
- Sarah Neterer (Ethnomusicology), Zulu II
- Logan Whalen (African Studies), Swahili II
Thomas Leonard (School of Public and Environmental Affairs & European Studies)

I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger before beginning my studies at Indiana University. This summer I returned to West Africa to study Malinké (Maninkakan) in Kankan, Guinea, with the support of a FLAS award. After completing an intensive seven weeks of language study in Guinea, I spent the remainder of the summer conducting field work for my MA thesis. I first traveled to neighboring countries that straddle the geographic subregions known as the Sudan and Sahel, and then to the Benelux countries of Western Europe.

My thesis will examine the economic ties immigrants from the Sudano-Sahelian zone living in Belgium and the Netherlands have with their home countries. Through semi-structured interviews with returned immigrants, families of immigrants, and various governmental and nongovernmental organizations, I was able to better understand the impact of immigrants on entrepreneurship and development in Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. In Belgium and the Netherlands, I met with immigrants and diasporic associations of West Africans to learn about the ways they invest their money to help each other, plan for the future, and support families and friends back home.

Oliver Y. Shao (Ethnomusicology)

In July 2013, I returned to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya with the support of a pre-dissertation research award from Indiana University. Originally established in 1992 to provide protection for people fleeing Sudan, Kakuma camp has since expanded to include over 120,000 individuals from across East Africa and the Horn of Africa. During the last twenty years, the camp has transformed from a relatively unplanned space to one with highly regulated systems, policies and institutional structures that have significantly impacted the cultural life-ways of camp inhabitants. Over the course of six weeks, I conducted a preliminary baseline assessment of the historical transformation of Dinka affiliated song and dance practices from 1992 to the present by interviewing cultural leaders and young adults from a Dinka-Bor community in Kakuma. My preliminary research indicates that their song and dance practices have changed significantly as a result of restrictions on the ownership of land and cattle, sedentary ways of living, and regular instances of armed banditry and inter-ethnic conflict that have led to official policies that impose nightly curfews and restrictions on movement within the camp. For my doctoral dissertation, I seek to expand upon this research by conducting a historical and ethnographic study of Dinka affiliated song and dance practices in Kakuma to understand how and why these changes have occurred and what these changes mean for Dinka peoples in the camp.

Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS)

Over the 2012-13 school year, GSAS hosted a welcome picnic and several social hours for graduate students and organized the 3rd annual graduate student symposium, held on March 23, 2013. Participants in the symposium, “Intersections: Global Encounters on the African Continent,” included students from Northwestern University, Michigan State University, George Mason University, and the University of Iowa, as well as IU. Dr. Bruce Whitehouse, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Lehigh University, gave this year’s keynote address.

The symposium would not have been possible without generous support from individual faculty, university programs, and departments. In particular, GSAS would like to thank the IU Student Association, the African Studies Program, the Center for the Study of Global Change, the Department of History, the Department of Political Science, the IU Art Museum, SLIS, and SPEA for their financial support.

The upcoming school year looks to be another busy one for GSAS. The new executive committee organized a welcome picnic for returning and new students on August 24, 2013 at Bryan Park and has many other activities planned.
Brittany Sheldon (History of Art)

I was able to conduct three months of field research in Ghana between January and April of 2013, thanks to funding from a WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. I spent the first part of my trip in Accra and Tamale, where I began my research in the National and Regional Archives and met with contacts at the National Museum. I then proceeded to the Upper East Region, where I conducted field research on the distinctive red, black, and white designs, known as bambɔlse, painted by Frafra women on the walls of their earthen compound-style homes that have long been a highly celebrated aspect of this region’s indigenous artistic culture. My dissertation research examines how this tradition is being practiced today and how it has changed over time.

The primary objective of my pre-doctoral research trip was to gain a broad understanding of current wall painting practices in the Upper East Region, mainly through interviews with elderly female artists. I was able to begin conducting a broad survey, focusing on seven rural communities spread across the area, in order to examine the variation in styles and the range of degrees to which wall painting is still being practiced. I was also able to begin exploring several related topics, including the impact of various institutions—like NGOs, governmental organizations, and individual supporters—and of religion—particularly Islam and Catholicism—on the preservation and promotion of traditional cultural practices. I was able to gather a wealth of data through interviews, house tours, observations of plastering and painting processes, and extensive material documentation. I will follow up on this preliminary work during nine months of dissertation field research starting in August of 2013, thanks to a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award.

Reynolds Whalen (African Studies)

This summer, I spent five weeks in Kenya doing research for my Master’s thesis on Theatre for Development (TfD). I have been working with a TfD group in Nairobi since 2006 and captured many hours of footage and hundreds of photos. On this trip, I conducted over 40 in-depth interviews on camera, filmed performances, rehearsals, and outreach activities, led a focus group, administered a survey, and completed a feedback interview about several dance pieces that incorporate movements from a wide variety of ethnic groups in Kenya. I also attended a workshop conference for the Kenya Network of Educative Theatre (K-NET) in Nakuru and was able to film the entire event for use in my thesis, in exchange for putting the footage on DVD and providing it to K-NET for its archives.

I went into my thesis research hoping to better understand the changes that have taken place in TfD in Nairobi over the past decade. I discovered that the role of donors has greatly expanded in recent years, especially after the post-election violence of 2008 when there was a great demand for the promotion of co-existence between rival ethnic groups. The focus has now shifted to civic education on the devolution of power from the national government to counties, which is a new system in Kenya under the constitution ratified in 2010. I expect my thesis to focus on how donors impact the creative functioning of TfD groups in Kenya, and to what extent both parties share ownership of the development process.
Akin Adesokan (Comparative Literature) published the chapters “Anticipating Nollywood: Lagos circa 1996” in Rogue Urbanism, co-edited by Edgar Pieterse and Abdoumaliq Simone, and “A Lagosian Original: Preliminary Notes on the Speech of the Street,” in Art, Parody and Politics, co-edited by Aderonke Adesanya and Toyin Falola. As a member of the Fagunwa Study Group, he also co-organized the commemorative International Conference on Fagunwa (the pioneer Yoruba writer), held in Akure, Ondo, Nigeria, August 8-10, 2013.


Jennifer Brass (School of Public & Environmental Affairs) co-authored “Power for Development: A Review of Distributed Generation Projects in the Developing World” in Annual Review of Environment and Resources (37) with colleagues Sanya Carley and Lauren M. MacLean and IU SPEA PhD student Elizabeth Baldwin. Dr. Brass was invited to “Update on Kenya: What Might the Elections Bring?,” a conference organized by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the National Intelligence Council in February 2013, where she presented “Civil Society and the Role of NGOs.” Over the summer 2013, she conducted field research in Uganda with SPEA PhD student Elizabeth Baldwin, supported with a grant from the IU Faculty Research Support Program awarded to professors Brass, Carley, and MacLean on “Power for Development: Sustaining Small-Scale Electricity Implementation in Africa.”


Hasan El-Shamy (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) published Beyond Oedipus: The Brother-Sister Syndrome ad Depicted by Tale-Type 872*: A Cognitive Behavioristic, Demographically Oriented, Text Analysis of an Arab Okotype (The Trickster Press, 2013); his Motif Constituents of Arabic-Islamic Folk Traditions: A Cognitive Systemic Approach is forthcoming. He also published “Job the Afflicted (Ayyûb al-mubtalâ)” in Biblical Theology Bulletin 43(4):200-211. Dr. El-Shamy offered the keynote address titled “Folkloric Data Banks (Indexes), Development, and Culture Integration” at the International Conference on Folklore and National Integration and Development in Kano, Nigeria, on April 4, 2013. In addition, he presented “‘Martyrdom’ and the Revolutionary Crisis in Egypt” at the IU Mapping the Landscape of Islamic Studies conference on October 7, 2012.

Shinga Alifina Feresu (School of Public Health- Epidemiology and Biostatistics) published “Knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about HIV/AIDS of Sudanese and Bantu Somali immigrant women living in Omaha, Nebraska” in the Open Journal of Preventative Medicine. In 2012 she joined the editorial team for the Online Journal of Social Sciences Research and the Nigerian Medical Journal and became a reviewer for the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association Conference. She also reviewed three grants for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Feresu visited the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe in summer 2013 to begin talks on proposals to review their MPH program curriculum.

John Hanson (History) continues to serve as one of the editors of History in Africa, now published by Cambridge University Press. He had two articles appear in 2012: “Ahmadiyya in West Africa,” in Oxford Islamic Studies Online, and “Jihad,” in the Wiley-Blackwell Companion to African Religions, edited by Elias Bongmba. Hanson was an invited panelist for a discussion on the Mali crisis at the University of Toronto in April 2013. He also discussed the history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Ghana on-camera for “Real Talk Africa” and “Press Point,” programs broadcast on Muslim Television-Ahmadiyya in 2012 and 2013, respectively. He received a Research Scholarship from the Gerda Henkel Foundation (Germany) to take leave in 2013-14 to work on his book manuscript concerning the history of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Ghana (see: http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/23883.html).
Faculty Notes (cont.)

Douglas Horner (Optometry) spent the fall semester 2012 at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. In addition to teaching in the Department of Optometry, he assisted the university in establishing a Human Subjects Office. He also helped the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUT) in Kumasi develop its curriculum on vision science and capacity development. His support in this area allowed a KNUT junior optometrist to be funded for a Ph.D. program in Vision Science and a Minor in Neurology in the IU School of Optometry.

Eileen Julien (Comparative Literature) has been named Director of Indiana University’s Institute for Advanced Study. She co-edited The Locations and Dislocations of African Literature: A Dialogue Between Humanists and Social Scientists with Biodun Jeyifo. The collection is forthcoming with Africa World Press. In spring 2013, Dr. Julien taught a graduate seminar focused on twentieth century artists and intellectuals in “Black Paris” at the University of Lisbon as part of an exchange between her home department and Lisbon’s Program in Comparative Studies.

Lauren MacLean (Political Science) authored “The Power of the Interviewer” in Interview Research in Political Science, edited by Layna Mosely (Cornell U Press). She co-authored “Power for Development: A Review of Distributed Generation Projects in the Developing World” in Annual Review of Environment and Resources (37) with IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) colleagues Jennifer Brass and Sanya Carley and IU SPEA PhD student, Elizabeth Baldwin. With Brass and Carley, she was awarded a grant from the IU Faculty Research Support Program for “Power for Development: Sustaining Small-Scale Electricity Implementation in Africa.”

Michael Martin (Communication and Culture) co-authored “The Politics of Cine-Memory: Signifying Slavery in the History of Black Film” in A Companion to the Historical Film, edited by Robert Rosenstone and Constantin Parvulescu (Wiley-Blackwell) and “Close-up: Nothing But a Man” in Black Camera 23(2) with D. Wall. He also published “Filmmaking is my Life, Politics my Mistress: donnie betts” in Black Camera 3(2).

Marissa Moorman (History) helped organize the exhibit, “Axe of Vengeance: Ghanaian Film Posters and Film Viewing Culture,” at the IU Grunwald Gallery. The show was curated by the Director of the Grunwald Gallery, Betsy Stirrat, and Associate Director, Jeremy Sweet. The exhibit opened in late August 2012 and featured hand-painted Ghanaian film posters made by Ghanaian artists in the late 1980s to mid-1990s to advertise the Hollywood, Kung Fu, Bollywood, Nollywood, and Ghanaian films shown at urban film houses.

Samuel Obeng (Linguistics & African Studies) co-authored “Impact of Internalized Stigma on HIV Prevention Behaviors among HIV Infected Individuals Seeking HIV Care in Kenya” (2012) and “Psychometric evaluation of cross-culturally adapted felt stigma questionnaire among people living with HIV in Kenya” published in the journal Aids Patient Care and STDs 26(12) and 26(13). He offered the keynote address at Kennesaw State University’s Year of Ghana Series titled “What do Ghanaian Names Tell Us about Ghanaian Culture,” and led a workshop on academic publishing at the University of Cape Coast in July 2013. He also presented a paper titled “On the ethnolinguistics and etymology of Akan Toponyms” at the 25th Annual Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference. Over the summer, he conducted field work in Ghana on the Efutu-Awutu-Senya language.

Daniel Reed (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) published “Promises of the Chameleon: Reggae Artist Tiken Jah Fakoly’s Intertextual Contestation of Power in Côte D’Ivoire” in Hip Hop Africa and Other Stories of New African Music in a Globalized World, edited by Eric Charry (Indiana U Press). He gave an invited lecture, “Gue Pelou,” as part of Ayoka Productions’ “Côte D’Ivoire Exposed” at the Atlanta Ballet-Theatre and served as a research consultant for field video and photos added to exhibits of Dan masks at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and Übersee-Museum in Bremen, Germany.

Beth Samuelson (School of Education) published “Rwanda Switches to English” in Language Policies in Education: Critical Issues, edited by J.W. Tollefson (Routledge) and “Education and Post-Conflict Transitional Justice” in The Encyclopedia of Transitional Justice, edited by L. Stan and N. Nedelsky (Cambridge U Press). She also coauthored a chapter on Rwanda with S-P Munyaneza for SAGE Sociology of Education: An A-Z Guide. She developed a syllabus for a Literacy Leadership Service Learning Trip with Lauren Cal- dera, Assistant Director of the IU Global Living-Learning Center, and Ali Nagle, publicly available on the Campus Contact website at http://www.compact.org/syllabi/literacy-leadership-service-learning-trip/24308/ and was awarded the IU Provost’s Mentor Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity in the professional inquiry category.
**Student Notes**

**Jennie Demille** (African Studies and School of Public & Environmental Affairs) completed her master’s degree with a thesis titled “In Search of Nation: The Political Identity and Social Mobilization of Kenya’s Maasai.”

**Carinna Friesen** (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) won the 2013 Canadian Society for Traditional Music Student Paper Prize in English for her paper, "Mobile Musics, Mobile Technologies: Engaging the Cell Phone in a West African Context," that she presented at their annual conference in May.

**Abbie Hantgan** (Linguistics) completed her PhD with a dissertation titled “Aspects of Phonology, Morphology, and Morphosyntax in Bangime.” She returned to western Burkina Faso to continue research on the Dogon Languages Project.

**Genevieve Hill-Thomas** (Art History) completed her PhD with a dissertation titled “Faso Dan Fani: Marka Textiles in Burkina Faso.” She holds a position in the Development Department in the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

**Steffan Horowitz** (African Studies) completed his master’s degree with a thesis titled “Drifting Boundaries: Performances of Cosmopolitan Selfhood among Contemporary Johannesburg Youth.”

**Kitty Johnson** (Art History) completed her dissertation on “Matatu Art in Nairobi: Aesthetics in Action”. She is working at the Migrant Education Program at the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center.

**Sarah Keil** (African Studies and Information & Library Science) completed her master’s degree with a thesis titled, “Archiving Africa in the West: An Analysis of the Indiana University Liberian Collections.” She will be the Instruction and Serials Librarian at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN, effective October 1st.

**Adrien Pouille** (Comparative Literature) completed his PhD with a dissertation titled “Catalysts of Change: Foreignness and Supernaturalism in African Literature.” He is a visiting assistant professor of French at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana.


**Frederic Pratt IV** (History) completed his PhD with a dissertation titled “‘Ghana Muntie!’ Broadcasting, Nation-Building, and Social Difference in the Gold Coast and Ghana, 1935-1985.”

**Brittany Sheldon** (Art History) was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant and the IU College of Arts and Sciences Friends of Art Research Subsidy for her doctoral research in Ghana during the 2013-2014 academic year.

**Katherine Wiley** (Anthropology) completed her PhD with a dissertation titled “Being Haratin? Meanings of Gendered Social Status in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.” In August, she began a two-year Post-Doctoral Residential Research and Teaching Fellowship at the University of Virginia's Carter G. Woodson Institute in Charlottesville, VA.

**Alumni Notes**

**Casey Bushman** (M.A. African Studies, 2012) accepted a position in the Liberal Arts Student Division at the University of Texas, Austin, beginning in January 2013.

**Summer Durrant** (M.L.S. and M.A. African Studies) accepted a position as Data and Geographical Information Librarian at the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia.

**Joanna Grabski** (Ph.D., Art History, 2001) was promoted to full professor at Dennison University as the John and Christine Warner Professor. She also produced and directed the documentary, *Market Imaginary*, on Marché Colobane in Dakar, Senegal. The film premiered at the Dak’Art Biennale in Dakar in June 2012.
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