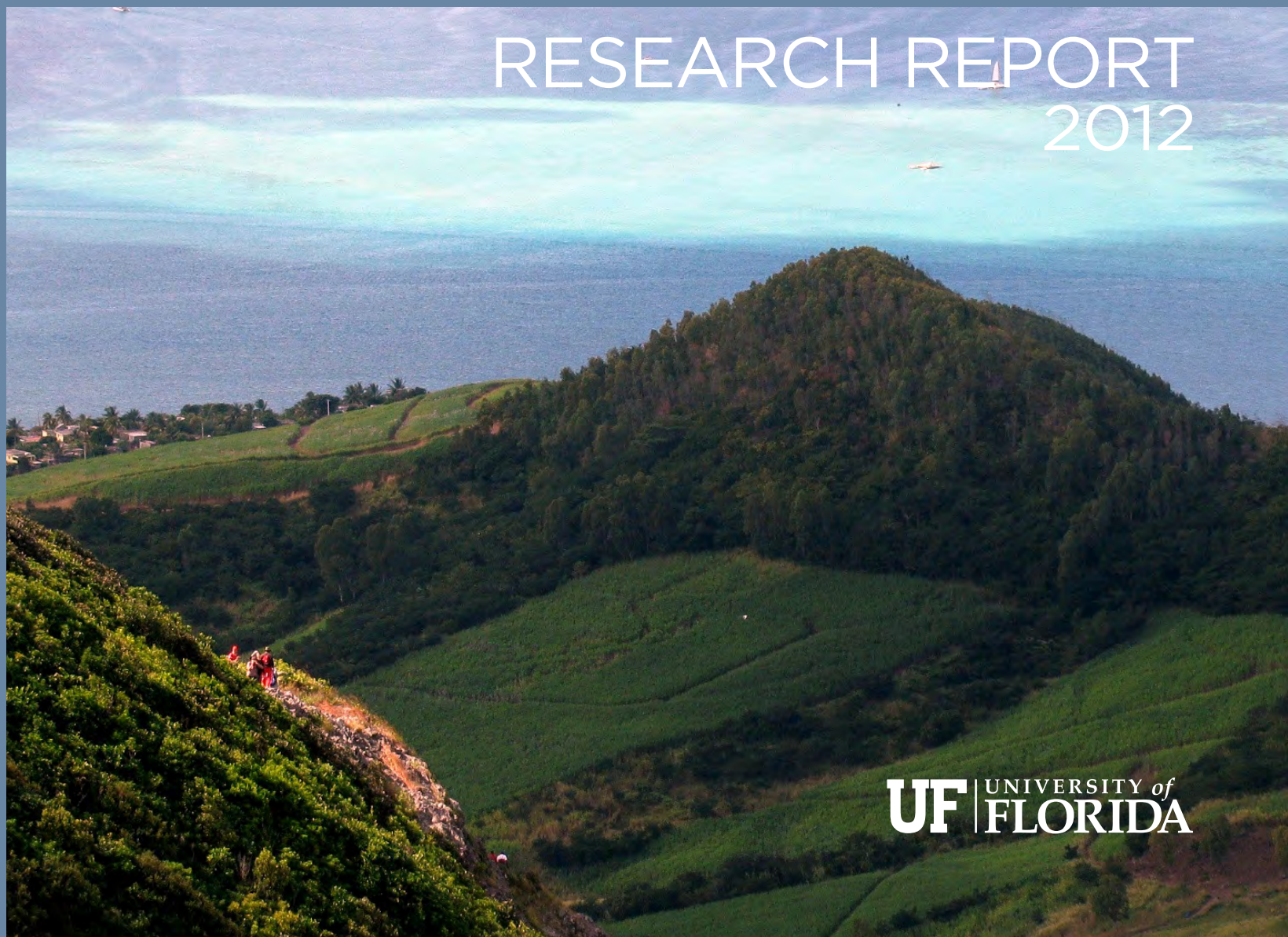




Center for

AFRICAN STUDIES

RESEARCH REPORT
2012



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

ABOUT THE CENTER

ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER INSTITUTIONS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ABOUT AFRICA

Founded in 1965, the Center for African Studies at UF has been continuously designated a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Africa for 30 years. It is currently one of only 12 such centers nationally, and the only Africa NRC located in a sub-tropical zone. Title VI funding to CAS supports research, teaching, outreach, and the development of international linkages in Africa.

The Center has over 100 affiliated teaching and research faculty in all of the core disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in agriculture, business, engineering, education, fine arts, natural resources and environment, journalism and mass communications, law, tourism, and natural sciences. Graduate study on African issues may be pursued in any of these fields. Center faculty maintain ties with universities across the African continent, including institutions in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Center's innovative and influential on-line journal, the African Studies Quarterly, is the first fully peer-reviewed electronic journal devoted to the field. ASQ plays an important and largely unique role in facilitating the publication of research on and from Africa, and offers invaluable professional training for UF graduate students who serve on its editorial board.

GRADUATE STUDY OF AFRICA AT UF

Graduate study with a focus on Africa can be carried out in virtually every graduate or professional program across the university. Prospective students are encouraged to consult the websites of the individual programs for admissions procedures and criteria. Students in any graduate program at UF have the option of pursuing a Graduate Certificate in African Studies. We also encourage them to consult the Center's website and to contact us when they submit their applications.

Complementing formal coursework, a regular and dynamic series of lectures, conferences and other activities open to all interested graduate students provide rich opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange and discussion about Africa. Most significantly, a number of dynamic CAS-sponsored interdisciplinary working groups organize speakers and events that bring together faculty and graduate students with shared interests, providing students with unique opportunities for research and professional development.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

ABE GOLDMAN



It is a great pleasure to present the University of Florida's Center for African Studies (CAS) 2012-13 Research Report. These research summaries represent a sample of some of the diversity of work on Africa being carried out at the University of Florida. Our faculty and graduate students as well as visiting scholars are involved in research that spans the continent geographically and ranges in focus from multiple areas of the humanities (including history, music, dance, literature, and the arts) to natural sciences and wildlife conservation, and from diverse aspects of political, social, and economic change to the human and environmental impacts in Africa of disease, climate change, and globalization.

In addition to work by individuals and smaller groups of researchers, several larger collaborative projects included in this report help illustrate the range of interdisciplinary work at UF and CAS. Our affiliated faculty at the Harn Museum and the School of Art & Art History are in the second year of preparation for a major exhibit of Central African Kongo art in collaboration with the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium.

In addition to numerous interactions with other museums and art institutions,

they have investigated important cultural links between Kongo culture and African American groups and areas. Following its time at the Harn Museum at UF, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to Princeton and New Orleans in 2014-15.

In a continuing collaboration between CAS and the Center for International Business Research and Education (CIBER) at UF, the second edition of the Sub-Saharan Business Environment Report (SABER) was published in 2012. The report, which is available both in print and online, provides valuable information to economic and business researchers and practitioners in the US, Africa, and elsewhere. CIBER also provided travel and research support to two UF social science faculty and their graduate and undergraduate students who were able to undertake research projects with significant business and economic implications in Africa. One involved a study of offshore oil development in Ghana and its impacts, and the other dealt with the economic and social impacts of cell phone diffusion in Zambia. Both are included in the summaries that follow.

The Trans-Saharan Elections Project (TSEP), funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has involved a two-year series of exchanges and seminars among elections specialists from six Sahelian countries and a wide range of American academics and professionals. The project held a three-week seminar in the US in May 2012, in the midst of the US election year, for 16 participants from the six countries.

In addition, CAS continued its strong involvement in the new Masters in Development Practice (MDP) degree, jointly

offered with the Center for Latin American Studies. MDP admitted its third class in 2012, and many of the MDP students have been or plan to be involved in development projects and efforts in Africa.

Finally, UF's Program in African Languages, which is closely linked to CAS as well as UF's Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC), organized and hosted a second summer of intensive African language instruction through the African Languages Initiative. Graduate and undergraduate students from UF and numerous other American universities received classroom and other innovative instruction in five African languages.

We are very pleased also to acknowledge the support we receive from various sources. Most notably, CAS was again granted funding as a Title VI National Resource Center for African Studies in 2010, one of only 12 in the country. Despite substantial budget cuts to the Title VI programs nationwide in 2011 and 2012, this grant helps us continue our work and supports many of our students through Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. We are also grateful for continuing support from several sources at the University of Florida, especially the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Numerous individual donors, listed later in the report continue to support our activities and students and help us to prepare skilled and knowledgeable scholars and researchers who have deep understanding of and commitment to African peoples, societies, and environments.

For more information about CAS, and our various activities and opportunities, please visit our website at www.africa.ufl.edu.

Gender, Health, and Emergencies: Humanitarian Intervention in Africa in Perspective

SHARON AMBRAMOWITZ

Having spent the last 10 years researching my forthcoming book, *Healing the World: Trauma, Humanitarian Intervention, and Post-Conflict Recovery in Liberia 2004-2008*, in which I examine how healing the trauma of the Liberian Civil War has become a proxy for an array of human rights and humanitarian interventions, I've had the privilege this past year of moving into new areas of inquiry. Currently, with Catherine Panter-Brick of Yale University, I am co-editing a book on anthropology and medical humanitarianism – *Red Cross, Red Crescent, Blue Helmets: Medical Humanitarianism in States of Emergency* – that brings together fifteen anthropologists with research and practitioner experience in humanitarian emergencies to reflect upon the nature of medical humanitarian intervention. The cases we are considering include: the post-Tsunami reconstruction of Banda Aceh, Indonesia; the 2004 famine in Niger; the post-conflict recovery in Liberia; the reconstruction of Afghanistan; mobile medical clinics in the West Bank; and post-earthquake housing displacement in Haiti, among others. Our research seeks to engage humanitarian practitioners and anthropologists in a global dialogue around effects and efficacy in medical humanitarian practice.

As an additional dimension of our research into culture and medical humanitarianism, I have also led an initiative with Dr. Panter-Brick and an advisory board of 15 leaders in anthropology, global health, global mental health, and medical humanitarian practice to survey nearly 200 practicing anthropologists working in conflict zones. Our goal is to bring together anthropology and humanitarian practitioners in a global dialogue about how humanitarian intervention happens, in practice, and what its strengths, limitations, opportunities, and aporias are in the emerging global environment of crisis intervention and management. We have recently concluded the online survey component of our research, and look forward to publishing our findings in the next 18 months.

Additionally, with the support of the Univer-



sity of Florida, I have also had the opportunity this past year to pursue research on a new book project that examines local ethno-histories of gender-based violence in Liberia, and reconsiders the international application of human rights standards regarding gender-based violence in African contexts. My research in archives across the continental United States has indicated that gender-based violence involves a far more varied and complex array of practices and social relations than contemporary legal or global human rights framings allow. The consequences of holding a limited view of gender-based violence becomes fully apparent in places like post-conflict Liberia, where global definitions are mapped onto local realities and experiences in a way that creates substantial legal, social, and historical disjunctures. This book, which I have

tentatively entitled *Crypto-Histories of Gender Violence: Sex, Culture and Power in Liberia*, also uses missionary records, ethnographic fieldnotes, and colonial records from the last 150 years to uncover culturally encoded forms of gender-protection and gender-vulnerability in conditions that are currently dominated by violence and conflict. Through it, I hope to challenge global conventions regarding the role of “culture” and “tradition” in gender-based violence interventions in order to advance a different way of thinking about how gender-based violence is patterned in culture, cultural history, and cultural memory.

Sharon Abramowitz is assistant professor of anthropology and African studies.

Supporting Traditional Leaders to Mitigate Community-Level Conflict

KATE BALDWIN



My current research analyzes politics in contexts where the state has a limited role in the provision of basic public goods. Can community leaders in a highly politicized environment be encouraged to administer power neutrally? In such a setting, can actions by local leaders alone significantly reduce community tensions and levels of violence? I am the principal investigator for a randomized evaluation funded by USAID that examines the effects of training programs for traditional leaders in Zimbabwe on their level of professionalism and the amount of division within their communities. Recent UF PhD (SNRE) Shylock Muyengwa has been collaborating with me on this project.

Traditional leaders in Zimbabwe have often been implicated in the electoral violence and intimidation that has

taken place before recent elections. They have been accused of denying food aid to opposition supporters and making partisan judicial decisions. As a result, a NGO based in Zimbabwe has initiated a training program for traditional leaders to remind them of their responsibilities under the law, and the basic standards of professionalism. Approximately 600 villages are involved in the study, one half of which will receive a training program in 2012-2013, and the other half of which will not receive training until 2013-2014 and can therefore serve as the control group during the first year of the program. The study will examine both whether bureaucratic training for local leaders can depoliticize their administrations, and whether bringing together diverse community leaders to participate in training sessions can help reduce political tensions.

This research project involves track-

ing community governance and levels of political polarization across the 600 study villages before and after the training sessions. The data collection involves surveying households and community leaders in each of the 600 villages, and conducting ethnographic research and open-ended interviews in two dozen villages. It has been uniquely challenging to develop and implement a survey on these topics in this sensitive environment, but the project is employing a range of techniques to protect the identities of respondents and measure sensitive phenomena, including survey codes, list experiments, and endorsement experiments.

Kate Baldwin is assistant professor of political science and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

The 2012 Field Season at Mochena Boraga Rock Shelter, Wolaita, SW Ethiopia

STEVEN A. BRANDT



Excavations at Mochena Boraga (formerly Moche Borago), a large ~70m wide rock shelter situated high on the slopes of dormant Mt. Damote volcano in S.W. Ethiopia, continued during the Spring 2012 semester under the joint directorship of Dr. Steven A. Brandt and Dr. Ralf Vogelsang of the University of Cologne (UC) Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology. As in the previous two field seasons, the German Science Foundation provided the bulk of funding, with additional funds coming from the UF International Center's Study Abroad Program. This year the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia also provided funds as part of a seed grant to develop a partnership between UF and Wolaita Sodo University (WSU) in the establishment of an archaeology and cultural heritage program at WSU.

Like previous years, the 2012 field season focused upon obtaining data that could help test the hypothesis that the SW Ethiopian Highlands were

a major environmental and cultural refugium for anatomically modern hunter-gatherers dealing with the cold, arid climates of the Late Pleistocene prior to and after human migrations across and out of Africa ~ 60-50,000 years ago. Under the direction of Dr. Vogelsang, graduate students from UC and UF concentrated on excavating the shelter's oldest known deposits in order to obtain more charcoal samples dating to >50,000 years ago. Additional stone artifacts and animal bones were also recovered, allowing us to reconstruct hunter-gatherer technological capabilities and subsistence patterns of this time period.

Under the direction of field supervisor Clement Menard of the University of Toulouse and Steve Brandt, seven UF undergradu-

ate students participating in UF's Study Abroad program as well as eight students and staff from WSU, undertook excavations at two other areas of the shelter in undated deposits suspected of dating to the final stages of the Pleistocene or even the early Holocene. UF alumnus Dr. Erich Fisher of Arizona State University and Dr. Oliver Bodeker of UC conducted geomorphological and geoarchaeological studies of the excavated deposits in order to elucidate information on the shelter's past climates, environments and formation processes.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of our project was our successful attempt to go completely paperless! Instead of using paper forms to record data and create catalogs, we used Android Tablets to digitally record all field information. Although initially challenging, we took to this new technology quickly, making field information easy to enter, retrieve and access.

Near the end of the field season we had the honor of a visit from then Deputy Prime Minister and now Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, pictured wearing a dark sport coat surrounded by project and security personnel (photo by Hannah Parow-Souchon). This was surely a very fitting ending to a very successful field season!

Steven A. Brandt is associate professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty in The Center for African Studies.

Continuing to Develop A Roadmap for Emergency Services in Africa

ELIZABETH DeVOS

The past year saw several achievements in the development of the specialty of emergency medicine in Africa. The continent faces the dual burden of increasing rates of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. Furthermore, Africans suffer a disproportionate morbidity and mortality due to traumatic injuries—especially due to road traffic accidents. The African Federation for Emergency Medicine invited experts in international emergency medicine to a roundtable in November, 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa. The group convened as a satellite to the EM Society of South Africa’s “Emergency Medicine in the Developing World” conference. Participants discussed a framework for continuing the development of the specialty-- to address acute medical illness and traumatic injuries, as well as the training of its practitioners. I was fortunate to participate in the roundtable focusing on pre-hospital emergency care and hope that our shared experience will provide foundations for relevant, timely systems creation and strengthening in addition to multi-center research for quality improvement.

While in Cape Town, I met a particularly motivated young emergency physician practicing in Khartoum, Sudan who was eager to share with



me her clinical experiences. I had the privilege of mentoring her through her first abstract submission and international poster presentation. She presented “Mass Methanol Intoxication: The Sudanese Experience” at the International Congress on Emergency Medicine in Dublin, Ireland in June, 2012. Dr. Rhaman and I are currently completing



a manuscript detailing her unique experiences with mass casualty intoxications in Khartoum.

During the summer of 2012, I was honored to be invited as a guest lecturer and emergency consultant physician in the emergency department for Ethiopia’s first emergency medicine residency training program. For two weeks, I gave daily lectures, supervised bedside care and worked alongside the graduates and new trainees at the Tikkur Anbessa Specialty Hospital in Addis Ababa. Currently, the Ethiopians are celebrating the graduation of the first class of Master’s Emergency Nurses and specialist pediatric emergency medicine fellows. Meanwhile, the emergency medicine residents (physicians with specialty focused training) are entering their final year of the three year training program. These achievements, as well as the approval of the Ethiopian Society of Emergency Medicine Specialists, will be honored this fall at the first national emergency medicine congress and continuing professional development event.

Finally, I have had the privilege to work with colleagues in the African Federation for Emergency Medicine throughout the last year

to shape the agenda of the African Congress on Emergency Medicine in Accra, Ghana in October, 2012. As a member of the local organizing committee and scientific committees I have had the opportunity to work alongside the pioneers in emergency medicine across the continent. I participated as faculty for the pre-hospital skills workshop as well as the trauma track in the main congress. As Africa continues to place more emphasis on the treatment of acute medical conditions and traumatic injuries by specifically trained practitioners, the UF COM-Jacksonville Department of Emergency Medicine plans to continue to partner with African institutions to improve education and management while together measuring and reporting the outcomes of our work.

Elizabeth DeVos is director of international emergency medicine education, assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for these activities is from the West African Research Association and the American International Health Alliance.

Developing an Online African Language Course

JAMES ESSEGBEY



Is it possible to develop an online course for African language learners? With financial support from the Center for International Business and Research (CIBER) and the Center for African Studies (CAS) I spent the past year developing an online Beginning Akan course which aims to develop cultural competence by immersing students in the various facets of rural and urban Akan life through multimedia and interactive online activities. For such an enterprise we faced the challenge of getting authentic video material. I therefore traveled through some major Akan areas such as Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti Region and seat of the Asante King, and towns like Nkawkaw, Kokofu, Bosomtwe, and Cape Coast. I went to these places with Obenewa Nkansah and Marian Abbey, both graduates of the School of Performing Arts at the University of Ghana, Kofi Amo Ofori, our current Akan teaching assistant who is from Kumasi, and Chris Tagbor, a videographer. Obenewa played the role of Kelli, an American student studying Akan at the University of Florida who was visiting her friend Yaa, a student at the University of Ghana. Kofi Amo played the role of their Akan professor. This gave us the opportunity to cover a lot of topics from such simple issues as greetings and giving directions to more complex ones like the prepara-

tion of different kinds of foods and the discussion of conservation at the Kakum National Park in the Central Region. In all these scenarios, our three performers had instructions to speak carefully such that the material would be useable for language learners. However, in order to make it authentic, they were not given any scripts to learn and recite. Moreover, the people with whom they interacted at the various places were allowed to speak naturally. Our scenarios included Obenewa and Marian getting a tourist guide at Bosomtwe to tell them the story of Lake Bosomtwe and why it is considered sacred among the Asante people, as well as having a health superintendant and a senior nurse treat Obenewa who fell ill with malaria fever.

The videos were edited into short clips after which lessons were prepared to cover them. The lessons for Beginning Akan I were narrated by advanced Akan student Maia Bass and TA Kofi Amo, while those of Beginning Akan II are narrated

by undergraduate student Marilyn Okine and Amo. Considering that Akan is a tonal language and students are expected to learn the pronunciation of the words by themselves, I worked with Bash Choudhry at the UF Center of Instructional Technology and Training (CITT) to develop a tone game. Syllables in Akan have a high, low or a down-stepped tone. We represented the high tone with red, the low tone with green and the downstepped tone with orange. We recorded the careful pronunciation of the words in the various lessons by Kofi, which were then played on the piano and drums by Elikem Nyamuame (UF ethnomusicology doctoral student). After listening to the pronunciation of the word and its rendition on the piano and drums, a student is required to color the tones. The game can be found at: <http://game.africa.ufl.edu/app/index.php>

Currently the course is being taught as a hybrid course. The eventual aim is to make it a fully online course with minimal input from the instructor. The lessons have been compiled into an electronic textbook which is given to students free of charge. Also, with the help of Fred Meyler, another undergraduate student, we have put together an electronic dictionary which is based on Christaller's dictionary of the Twi language.

James Essegbey is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for this project was provided by the UF Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and CAS through grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

Voices of Strength

JOAN D. FROSCH



Contemporary visual and performing arts have surged alongside Africa's economic expansion in the last decade. Not unlike their contemporaries in commerce, African artists live and work in the possibilities and the paradoxes of the present. Notably, in the late 1990's, a number of African women artists—particularly those in dance and the visual arts—stepped forth to interrogate the disillusioning confines of women's post-independence/post-apartheid lives. Ivorian choreographer Béatrice Kombé (1973-2007) proved a harbinger of African women who would build art not only by women but also about women's lives. The intensity of the work inspired awe and blew open a choreographic space previously dominated by men.

In the fall of 2012, audiences across the United States had the opportunity to engage with five female contemporary theater makers/choreographers and cultural leaders—Nelisiwe Xaba (South Africa), Kettly Noël (Haiti/Mali), Gbahihonon Nadia Beugré (Côte d'Ivoire), Maria Helena Pinto (Mozambique), and Bouchra Ouizguen (Morocco). These artists unpacked the interrogations of their artistic journeys in a six-city American tour, curated and produced by MAPP International Productions in partnership with the Africa Contemporary Arts

Consortium (TACAC), founded by the Center for World Arts of the University of Florida in concert with celebrated national arts entities such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Bates Dance Festival, among others.

Entitled "Voices of Strength: Contemporary Dance and Theater by Women from Africa," the U.S. tour of African women choreographers was prepared at the KVS Theatre in Brussels in June 2012. Supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and KVS, I conducted a series of meetings and one-on-one interviews with the choreographers in residence at KVS. The artists generously shared insights into artistic creative processes, personal and professional stories, and concerns about the dynamic situations in Africa that often strike women first. Based on these discussions, I formed a set of *Voices of Strength* visual and written contextual materials to introduce American audiences, critics, and presenters to their work. The visual materials were further used to fuel a fundraising campaign to support the success of the tour. The materials now comprise part of a larger book/technology project entitled "*Movement (R)Evolution Africa*," after my documentary feature film (2009). The performances and community events of "*Voices of Strength*" engaged American

audiences in vivid, real-time, spaces of encounter with five extraordinary choreographers and eight exquisite performers. The artists broadly shared their art and ideas, and primarily with those who would rarely reciprocate the visit. Thus the artists not only sharpened audiences' ability to perceive, but to imagine Africa anew. Indeed, the decolonization of perceptions, practices, institutions, and histories is pedagogy far from finished. The works of Nelisiwe Xaba, Kettly Noël, Gbahihonon Nadia Beugré, Maria Helena Pinto, and Bouchra Ouizguen collectively shift victim to agent, two-dimensional perceptions to three, and stasis to transformation. Thanks to each of the artists of *Voices of Strength*, American audiences have experienced a profound conceptual shift—where African women's points of view dislodge themselves from "the back" of Americans' concerns to front and center on the stages of our imaginations.



Joan D. Frosch is professor in the School of Theater & Dance and Director of the Center for World Arts.

Modeling Elephant/Vegetation Dynamics for Adaptive Management in Southern African Ecosystems

GREG KIKER



Biological systems at all levels of organization, from cells to ecosystems, are highly complex in that their behavior arises from numerous and heterogeneous interacting parts linked in detailed networks. A fundamental question for managers of these complex systems is: What ecosystem elements contribute to resilience in biological systems? With this complexity in mind, elephant and vegetation management in southern Africa has been described as a “wicked” problem where solutions defy simplistic notions and problem contexts continually shift with evolving social expectations and adaptive learning.

For the past year, I have been on a Fulbright Scholarship in South Africa working with the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal (UKZN) and South African National Parks (SANParks) to apply coupled elephant-vegetation models to ecosystems within the Kruger National Park (KNP) and Addo Elephant National Park (AENP). The objectives of this research include the following: (1) develop benchmark data sets for model experiments in the KNP and AENP; (2) apply to these ecosystems, two elephant/veg-

etation models of different complexity; (3) conduct model and decision analysis using each elephant/vegetation model to explore outputs with respect to different elephant management scenarios.

A primary goal of this research is to test the robustness of model predictions when different assumptions are made about what is ecologically important. A key dynamic of the KNP ecosystem that is of great concern for park management is the exploration of elephant effects that cause the vegetation to ‘flip’ from one state dominated by woodlands, to a state dominated by shrubs and grasses. Within the AENP, managers and scientists are concerned about high biodiversity areas newly opened to elephant populations and potential fragmentation of the succulent thicket ecosystem. Both of these issues relate to ecosystem resilience where abrupt transitions can have cascading effects on biodiversity and human welfare. We use the two different modeling approaches to help determine the degree of agreement among the two models in where these transitions are expected to occur, and use subsequent statistical analysis techniques to tease out key differences in model assumptions that may account for any evident divergence

in projections.

Another fundamental aspect of my model analysis is in the simulation of human-elephant interactions via management-advised scenarios. These modeling scenarios have been designed with the direct input of SANParks managers to focus on different human-elephant interactions such as non-consumptive tourism, consumptive uses and critical resource conflicts (local water/human/elephant interactions). We are conducting different scenario simulations for the KNP and AENP which have quite different elephant management challenges in terms of elephant populations, ecosystems and the amount space available for expansion. Many of these management plans have a spatial focus towards critical and limiting resources (e.g. water availability in the dry season) as well as options for multiple proactive and reactive management responses towards water access, fire timing and elephant population/reproductive controls.

The results of our elephant/vegetation simulations show that managing these systems is a complex and challenging job, with no easy answers. There is a great and continuing need for adaptive learning at the ecosystem and institutional scales. Our models can play a useful role in this process to strengthen and protect these critical ecosystems.



Gregory A Kiker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering.

Protected Areas and Oil Development in Equatorial Guinea

ANDREW JAY NOSS

Between March and June 2012 I was based in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, to support the country's national park agency (Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal y Manejo del Sistema de Áreas Protegidas or INDEFOR-AP) in reviewing the draft management plan for the Río Campo Natural Reserve (33,000 ha), and in preparing draft management plans for three more protected areas in continental Equatorial Guinea: the Punta Ilende (5,455 ha) and Montes Temelón (23,000 ha) Natural Reserves and the Playa Nendyi Scientific Reserve (500 ha). These areas, together with the other ten in the national system, were formally created in 2000, but lack management plans and field staff. INDEFOR-AP was created in 2002, but without an operating budget for many years. Lodged within the Ministry of Agriculture, the agency has been allocated a rising budget in the past two years, and is promoting alliances with international conservation organizations including WCS, Conservation International, and World Resources Institute.

The oil boom since 1995 has flooded government coffers, with spending most visible in new infrastructure expansion: roads, bridges, airports, ports, public and private offices, hydroelectric dams and power grids. All oil is offshore, extracted from platforms in the Gulf of Guinea, with no pipelines but with gas flares lighting up the shoreline. Infrastructure development is taking place within protected areas, while new roads greatly facilitate the extraction and transport of bushmeat and timber. Forestry concessions that border all protected areas are being renewed, in some cases for the third cycle of extraction of the plywood species Okume (*Aucomea klaineana*). Unregistered chainsaw operators are active in all protected areas, while road construction companies also take timber. Mining also takes place within protected areas, though for now it is limited to earth, sand and rock extraction for roads, ports, and buildings. Rural to urban migration may reduce pressure on some natural resources, but also debilitates social structures capable of managing the same resources for local long-term economic benefits. Three en-



dangered ethnic groups reside within these protected areas: the Bagyeli and Balengue in Río Campo, and the Basek in Punta Ilende.

In addition to the rising budget and INDEFOR-AP staff based in Bata, the agency has prepared several management plans for ministerial review and approval, has stepped up its field visits, and is training local representatives in communities within protected areas. Park infrastructure including offices and vehicles is essential to facilitate a permanent INDEFOR-AP presence on the ground. The greatest opportunities lie in establishing co-management agreements with government authorities (military, police, municipal) and private companies (oil, logging, construction) whose activities overlap or border the protected areas.

This case study addresses several difficult themes that cut across

disciplines: conservation governance, corporate social responsibility, sustainable development, conservation and human livelihoods, and cultural survival. The project was directed by Michael Painter (Director-Conservation and the Quality of Human Life Program-WCS; UF alumnus - anthropology), and implemented also by Kantuta Lara (socio-economic expert, WCS-Bolivia) and Dennis Hellebrandt (fisheries expert, University of East Anglia).

Andrew Noss is courtesy assistant professor in the Department of Geography. This project was funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Noble Energy.

Sustainable Building Systems for Low Income Communities

ESTHER OBONYO



In 2011-12, I continued research into sustainable building systems for low income communities in collaboration with the built environment professional from the Tanzanian National Housing Building Research Agency and the University of Nairobi. Outcomes of the work include 3 papers in a special issue on “Engineering Sustainable Building Materials: Advancing the Structural Performance of Earth-based Technologies” in the *Journal of Sustainability*. Based on work in Kenya and Tanzania, I participated as an invited exhibitor during the twenty-third session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council Exhibition in Nairobi. I was also part of the US delegation that participated in Penn a NSF-ASCE workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria.

The work that I have been doing in East Africa is being scaled up through working with researchers in globally-dispersed, teams. I am also the UF PI on an NSF grant, “Collaborative Research:

Resilient and Sustainable Engineered Fiber-Reinforced Earthen Masonry for High Wind Regions.” This project seeks to transform conventional but brittle earthen masonry into an equally sustainable and locally appropriate but radically more damage-tolerant material system. Engineered Fiber-Reinforced Earthen Masonry (EFREM) consists of compressed and stabilized earth blocks and earth mortar, both reinforced with natural or recycled plastic fibers. This goal is being pursued through collaborative and complementary research at the University of South Carolina, University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Florida, aimed at: 1) engineering and prototyping stabilized earth blocks and soil mortar, both of which are enhanced through the addition of natural or recycled and non-biodegradable plastic fiber reinforcement; 2) quantifying the enhancement in damage resilience (strength, toughness) for EFREM materials as a result of cement stabilization and fiber reinforcement, and; 3) verifying the structural response of

full-scale walls under in-plane, out-of-plane and projectile loads (simulating the impact energy of representative flying debris, which typically cause most of human deaths and injuries). EFREM is envisioned as a novel, affordable and energy efficient system that is engineered for low-income dwellings in rural and remote areas subjected to extreme wind loads.

Other notable efforts including scaling up research in low cost building technologies through a Northwestern University-led proposal “NSF SRN: Sustainable and Resilient (SURE) Infrastructure Materials – Science, Engineering, Education and Society,” which was invited by the NSF for reverse visit. In both NSF proposals, my scope of work focused on investigating hazard resilience of earth-based materials in Tanzania working in collaboration with the National Housing Building Research Association.

Conference papers based on the work have been accepted for presentation in several conferences including the 4th International Network for Tropical Architecture Conference (Singapore), the CIB World Building Congress 2013: Built Environment Research Focused on Social Outcomes (Brisbane, Australia), and the 7th International Structural Engineering and Construction Conference (Honolulu, Hawaii).

The funded research supports three graduate students: Peter Donkor (doctoral student in Design, Planning and Construction); Felicity Amezugbe (pursuing an MSc degree in Building Construction) and Malar Baskaran (MSc student with an expertise in geotechnical engineering).

Esther Obonyo is associate professor in the Rinker School of Building Construction and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Islam, Ethnicity and Reformism in the Horn of Africa and Africa

TERJE ØSTEBØ

Much of my research has in 2012 been devoted to a project on religion and ethnicity in the Horn of Africa. Spring 2012 was largely spent on analyzing data and writing. The project is (so far) focusing on the so-called Somali and Oromo liberation movements struggling for various forms of autonomy for Ethiopian Somalis and Oromo. The aim of the research is to provide much-needed empirical knowledge and new perspectives on the nature and developments of the Somali and Oromo ethno-nationalist movements in the southeastern parts of Ethiopia. As they emerged in Muslim-dominated areas, a major thesis of the project is that religion (i.e. Islam) has played a more important role than generally assumed. The project will also provide a more nuanced understanding of inter-religious relations in Ethiopia/Horn of Africa. In particular, I challenge the assumption that Ethiopia is a model for peaceful inter-religious co-existence, and demonstrate how the historical dominance of Christianity as a political culture and state-ideology has produced a lasting asymmetric relationship and consequently antagonistic attitudes between Christians and Muslims. The more general and theoretical objective is to apply the empirical findings to generate new perspectives on how to conceptualize the relationship between religion and ethnicity, particularly with regard to inter-group conflicts.

Another project has been to map out some of the particular features of Salafism in Africa. Based on my own research and review of relevant literature, I have investigated the historical trajectories, some major ideological features, and how Salafism in Africa in a disparate manner relates to politics and political power. The objective is to demonstrate how Salafism at the outset is a religious movement, devoted to securing religious purity, and how developments over the last decades have produced an increasingly heteroge-

neous movement. Much of the material has been presented at different international conferences, and the planned output will be 2-3 journal articles.

In addition, I have, together with Marit Østebø, been working on a project on the role of religious (Muslim) leaders in combating female genital mutilation (FGM) in Ethiopia. The project problematizes NGOs' somewhat uncritical use of religious leaders, and argues that their potential positive role is intrinsically related to historical trajectories, where local discourses have made their authority more fluctuating than generally assumed. The output here will be a journal article, ready for publication in 2013.

I have also, together with Patrick

Desplat (Cologne University), completed the publication process of the edited volume *Muslim Ethiopia: The Christian Legacy, Identity Politics and Islamic Reformism*. This book focuses on changes with regard to Muslim communities in post-1991 Ethiopia, including intra-religious dynamics within the Muslim communities, Islam intersecting with Ethiopian public and political spheres, and Islam in Ethiopia in relation to the geo-political discourses in the wider Horn of Africa. The book will be published in 2013.

Terje Østebø is assistant professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Religion.



Gators in Gabon

FRANCIS E. PUTZ



The government of Gabon, a mostly forested country in Central Africa, sees forest in its future. The large areas set aside as protected areas are the cornerstone of efforts to maintain the country's phenomenal biodiversity, from great apes to massive trees. Efforts are underway to see that these attractions will draw eco-tourists to a region that formerly was off the beaten track. The even larger areas of forest allocated by the government for multiple-use forestry are also expected to contribute to Gabon's conservation and development goals through producing high-quality timber while providing habitat for wildlife, storing carbon, and delivering the many other goods and ecosystem services on which society depends. Building the human capacity to manage these forests is the goal of a new graduate program at the Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (ENEF).

The on-the-ground team of research faculty on the ENEF campus on Cap de Estérias outside of Libreville includes three recent UF Biology PhDs -- Connie Clark, John Poulsen, and Vincent Medjibe. In June 2012, Jack Putz, joined the team to teach a field course in tropical forestry. The 12 students in the course, 9 from Gabon and 3 from the Republic of Congo, were all working towards their MSc in environmental management. This was

Jack's first visit to Central Africa, but team-teaching with Vincent, who hails from the Central African Republic and did his dissertation research in Gabon, more than compensated for any deficiencies in his understanding. In addition, the students were all mid-career professionals and all very willing to share their extensive experiences.

The course began in and around the ENEF campus but then went further into the forests. The group travelled to Makokou near the Cameroonian border and then worked their way back to Libreville, stopping at logging concessions and sawmills along the way. The focus of the course was on logging methods and impacts, but plenty of brain-power was expended on issues related to the many tradeoffs that need to be considered when making management decisions. For example, while logging went on around them, the group considered ways to optimize timber production, biodiversity protection,

carbon sequestration, and water provision. Although they arrived at no clear solution, these sorts of decisions are exactly like those that each of the students will face when they return to their jobs as park directors, logging supervisors, and climate change mitigation treaty negotiators. One outcome of the course is that most of the students have decided to conduct their master's project on environmental impact assessment in logging concessions, industrial zones, petroleum concession, and buffer zones around national parks.

In addition to making first-hand observations of the impacts of conventional and reduced-impact logging, course participants each carried out individual field research projects. Topics addressed ranged from logging road impacts on adjacent vegetation to post-logging regeneration on log landings. The results of these one-day projects and summaries of other activities were compiled in a course book that is available upon request from Jack (fep@ufl.edu) or Vincent (medjibe@gmail.com). Although most of the course participants do not intend to pursue careers in scientific research, they appreciated the opportunity to carry out a project from hypothesis formulation and experimental design to manuscript preparation and oral presentation. Recognizing that they will all soon be back in jobs for which they will have to commission and evaluate research, they valued the first-hand experience doing science.

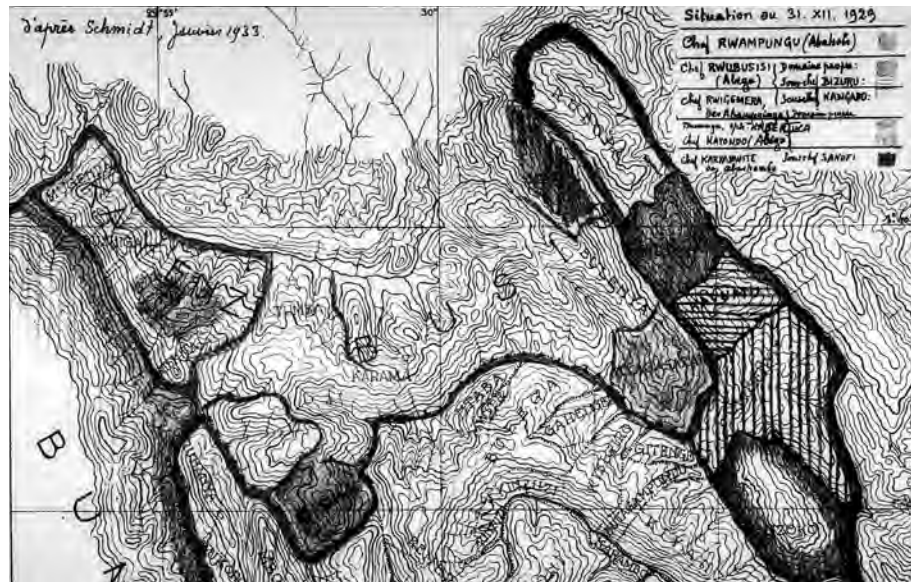
Francis E. Putz is professor of biology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Search Engine Optimization Supports Research Access Online

DANIEL A. REBOUSSIN

“If it’s not online, it doesn’t exist.” Even if it is, can it be discovered by the scholars who need it? In 2012, the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries digitized J.M. Derscheid’s Rwandan history collection. These 800-plus items on 2,021 microfilm frames were primary sources for the research of René Lemarchand, Catharine Newbury, and the late Alison Des Forges, among others. It was the definition of arcane: obscure and esoteric. Most of the contents were in French, copies were scarce, and items had to be identified from carbon copies of a typescript inventory passed from hand to hand, compiled by Des Forges in 1967 as a graduate student.

Simply uploading scholarly works, research materials, or data to a website does not assure they can be retrieved by search engines if an information seeker is unaware of the resource, or doesn’t know the title or other descriptive information. Search engines use crawling and indexing to gather metadata (much like the information in catalog records and scholarly citations) and to decide what a webpage is about. The website itself influences how Google determines value and ranks results: technical features are important, including compliant code, but .edu and .org domains are also factors supporting legitimacy, value, and relevance (Wikipedia.org is an excellent example, as it is also among the most visited Web sites). Rich content, dense contextual information within a site, and links to the material from other highly ranked sites are key factors in how a site will appear in search results. Library best practices include providing public metadata for curated materials and, for manuscripts and archives, collection context (finding aids convey a collector’s background, describe the scope, physical extent, contents, arrangement and also point to related works). Could these practices be adapted



to ensure that the Derscheid Collection is discoverable online by the researchers who will benefit most from using it?

Laurie N. Taylor (Digital Humanities Librarian) and I combined our technical and curatorial efforts in 2011-2012 to collaborate on an award winning project (CRL Primary Source Award for Access, see: <http://www.crl.edu/focus/article/8132>) to enhance access to the Derscheid Collection using Search Engine Optimization (SEO) techniques. When employed as a public service, SEO promotes the discoverability of resources so that the researchers who need them can find them online, displayed prominently within search results. Library and archival curatorial practices serve as the foundation for applying SEO, helping researchers to find the materials they need online. Briefly, our activities included providing an item by item index online, uploading a translated biography of the collector, writing an extended Wikipedia biography on Derscheid, and securing permission to digitize Lemarchand’s 1970 *Rwanda and Burundi* to include on the Derscheid Collection landing page (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/derscheid>).

Together, the information in these sources provides an exceptionally rich scholarly context to orient readers and excellent data for search engines to crawl. We promoted the new online availability through social media, blogs, and a brief announcement at the African Studies Association roundtable on David Newbury’s 2011 edition of Des Forges’ dissertation. We also promoted our work through local workshops, a conference presentation on the theme “Dis/connects: African Studies in the Digital Age” at Oxford (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00011385>), and a forthcoming chapter to be published by its organizers, the Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (<http://scolma.org/>).

Daniel A. Reboussin is head of African Studies Collections at the Smathers Libraries and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Digitization of African Studies Collections is supported by the CAS Title VI grant in collaboration with the UF Libraries.

Indigenous/International: African Style in Global Fashion

VICTORIA ROVINE



I was very fortunate to have been awarded a sabbatical for Fall 2011-Spring 2012, in order to complete my second book, *Indigenous/International: African Style in Global Fashion*. I submitted the book manuscript in July, and I am now beginning the initial stages of a new research project. By the time I write my next research report, I hope to be able to describe that new project, and to have a firm publication date for my book on fashion.

My book will, I hope, make an important contribution to the field of African art history, as it is the first sustained analysis of African fashion design, as well as the first academic study of Africa's influence on Western fashion. It may also interest readers from a range of fields with an interest in contemporary Africa, visual culture, and popular culture. Rather than a survey of the continent's fashion designers, *African Style in Global Fashion* uses fashion as the point of entry into an exploration of broad themes, from the uses of forms associated with tradition to construct personal identity, to the production of local expressive forms out of global

networks of images. The book is based on several years of research in Mali, South Africa, Senegal, Ghana, Niger, and France. The designers whose work and careers I address are from these countries, as well as from Tunisia, Comoros, and Nigeria. I also draw from my documentation of fashion shows and other fashion events, archival materials, and analysis of fashion media such as magazines.

Early in my sabbatical year, I completed some elements of the research for my book. I spent a month in Mali during fall 2011, following up with several designers and artists in Bamako who I have interviewed and worked with over the years. I also had the opportunity to bring a new artist into this research, whose work offers a fascinating twist on my study of Malian embroidery (the subject of one chapter of my book). Mama "Harber" Maïga, who is from the northern city Niafunké, has been based in Bamako since 1975. While he creates embroidered garments in a range of popular styles, he also specializes in a very specific, more rarified style that is associated with status and piety in Mali's northern regions, including the famed city of Timbuktu. My research in Timbuktu focused on this work, which is very labor-intensive--a single garment may require several years to complete, made by hand using intricate techniques. M. Maïga creates the same garments using a sewing machine, transforming the process and the style of these large, flowing gowns. Still labor intensive, M. Maïga creates these garments only on commission, yet their lower price makes them accessible to a wider audience. While the hand-embroidered gowns retain their high status, these machine-produced versions offer an opportunity

to consider the interactions between technology, style, and innovation in a centuries-old garment style. This indigenous fashion design, which does not intersect with the global fashion system, along with that of designers who fit the more conventional profile of fashion design, drives my curiosity about the power of innovation in one of Africa's most visible art forms: clothing.

I must also note that I very much hope to continue my research in Mali during the coming year, as I move into a new project. The country is currently struggling to restore order and sovereignty in its northern regions, and several of the artists I have worked with in Timbuktu and Djenné have been forced to leave, uprooting their lives to settle in Bamako. Their circumstances represent just a small window onto the transformation of the country, an astounding turn of events that we all hope will be resolved in coming months.



Victoria Rovine is associate professor in the School of Art and Art History and the Center for African Studies. Funding for this research provided by a Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Grant.

Language Documentation of Nalu in Guinea, West Africa

FRANK SEIDEL

For the past two years, from October 2010 to September 2012, I have worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for African Studies. The goal of this fellowship was to document Nalu, an endangered Atlantic language of Guinea, West Africa and create a multipurpose digital archive of natural language events combined with cultural audio-visual material.

During the fellowship I travelled to Guinea two times for field research of five and four months respectively and approached the linguistic documentation of Nalu in 'documentary linguistics' fashion. This was combined with an immersive approach in which I lived as a guest with families in the principal research area during data collection. Different from language description, which aims at documenting the grammatical structure of a language, the goal in documentary linguistics (sometimes also called language documentation) is to create a record of natural language in the form of an extensively annotated audio-visual corpus of transcribed, translated, annotated and contextualized audio and audio-visual data that contains recordings of various language events from descriptive monologues over free ranging conversations to cultural activities. Since Nalu is a little known and under-described language, the resulting digital language archive also contains items known from 'traditional' language documentation, such as a dictionary, a grammatical sketch, and an orthography.

The archive will be accompanied by an extensive web of cross-references between transcribed recordings, supportive linguistic analysis, and commentary all of which is targeted at making the corpus accessible and usable for a variety of users, be it academics -- such as cultural anthropologist, linguists, historians -- or non-academics such as community members, interested laypeople, or policy makers. The material will be submitted to the Endangered Languages Archives (ELAR) at SOAS by the end of January 2014.

I invite anybody who is interested to register as a user with ELAR and access the archive once it is uploaded. It contains a set of interesting data that I believe to be useful for a variety of disciplines. Amongst other things it features interviews in which the 'Jihad' by Asekou Sayon in 1956 aimed at



destroying animistic shrines and ritual objects is remembered and commented upon, clan histories recorded by the local research team, a dictionary with over 2000 entries, picture series on economic activities (e.g. palm oil production, fishing) as well as cultural topics (e.g. architecture) etc. In addition, it contains four short ethnographic documentaries on different economic activities and cultural contact narrated by Nalu speakers as well as one full length film on the death ritual of the 'Mnyaando' secret society which were produced in collaboration with visual anthropologist Martin Gruber from the University of Bremen, Germany.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my mentors, James Essegbey and Fiona McLaughlin, for supporting this project at the University of Florida. Equally, I am thankful to the administrative team at the Center for African Studies for

helping me navigate through all the administrative necessities. Without them this project would not have run so successfully.



Frank Seidel is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Center for African Studies. This project is funded by the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

The Challenges of Cotton Sector Reforms in West and Central Africa

RENATA SERRA



The challenges facing African agriculture are well known: they include stagnant or declining yields, reduced access to markets, low returns and environmental degradation. The remedies, however, are less self-evident, continuing to generate heated debate among policy-makers, especially when it comes to major commercial crops such as cotton.

With recent literature demonstrating the pitfalls of conventional approaches that advocate liberalization of agricultural markets and privatization of state-owned marketing boards, many have argued, both in academic and policy circles, for the need to pay more attention to the instances of market imperfections, and the role of institutional and non-price factors. While welcoming these more nuanced perspectives, major donors, such as the World Bank, have found it difficult to translate them into alternative policy recommendations. One reason is the persistence of two main tenets: that state companies are always wasteful and pay farmers lower-than-market prices, and that greater efficiency can be achieved only by aligning actors' incentives with price signals. In practice, this has meant that pressures for governments to priva-

tize agricultural parastatals and liberalize markets have hardly relented. The outcomes have been varied, but always very different from those predicted, with countries' resisting donor recommendations (Mali and Cameroon), transforming them (Burkina Faso), or adhering at first, but then thwarting them during implementation (Benin). This is due not only because of self-serving opposition from domestic actors, as argued by much of the political economy literature, but also because these policies hardly fit the prevailing combination of market, institutional and policy failures.

This is one of the main findings of the Africa Power and Politics (APPP) Cotton Sector Research Project, which I have been coordinating since 2008, and which officially closed in June. As fieldwork was completed in summer 2011, I used most of the past academic year, especially during a spring semester of leave, to write the research outputs.

By examining cotton sector reform experiences in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali, our project participates in current debates about the state of economic, specifically agricultural, policies in Africa today. We highlight the dire need for new policy paradigms, which not only make more valid use of insights from the

current literature, but also better reflect local realities. Thus, in our examined contexts, we show that the main issue is not the parastatal's monopoly power per se, but the type of institutional arrangements that give bureaucrats the incentives to perform and to coordinate market operations. Similarly, we show that the excessive focus on price liberalization is misplaced, since price incentives are not very effective in transmitting incentives to farmers, given the social realities of cotton production in the region. By adhering to entrenched practices and long-standing myths, prevailing policy approaches miss the opportunity to build on the many positives that agricultural systems already display, and to leverage on local resources to get around real constraints.

The end life of a research project surely always encompasses a sense of accomplishment and relief, mixed with nostalgia and sadness. This is especially true when coordinating a project has entailed the privilege of directly collaborating with, and regularly interacting with, valuable in-country researchers. On the bright side, research never ends despite the finite nature of funding cycles, nor do the network ties and personal relationships that one has carefully cultivated. Parts of the data that my collaborators and I have been collected have not yet been exploited, and so I plan to continue working on this fascinating topic in the years ahead. The project website will remain active. You can read our existing and forthcoming publications at http://www.institutions-africa.org/publications/research_stream/cotton-sector-reforms.

Renata Serra is lecturer in the Center for African Studies. This research project is part of the Africa Power and Politics Programme (www.institutions-africa.org), with funding from the UK Department for International Development and the Advisory Board of Irish Aid.

Memory, Memoirs and Narratives in Mali

ALIOUNE SOW

During the past academic year, I have pursued my research on memory, memoirs and narratives in Mali. In addition to examining memory practices and discourses, which have developed since the democratization of the country, I have looked at how major political changes have radically transformed Malian literary production. Paying attention to the particular role played by autobiographies and memoirs, I investigate the new literary patterns and unexpected generic tendencies which have emerged since the political transition of 1991. At issue are the new reading demands and habits in contemporary Mali, which demonstrate a strong preference for memoirs and autobiographies. The aim of the study is also to describe and understand better the specific conditions of the revival of memoirs and autobiographical writings which, in the Malian context, were repressed and regulated by the multiple restrictions imposed by the military regime after it took power in 1968. With close reading of selected narratives, the research describes newly developed local literary practices. It examines the distinct motivations of writing and analyses the ambivalent forms and modes of writing used by authors as diverse as former political prisoners, military officers, civil servants and journalists. Ultimately, the narratives - their reception and circulation - signal imperatives, obligations and admissions about the past and demonstrate that the proliferation of memoirs not only responds to the national discourse on memory but very often challenges the consensual approach noticed in other local memory discourses and practices since democratization.

This year, I have presented papers on memoirs in Mali at international conferences (such as the African Literature Association), co-organized a workshop with Professor Luise White on African memoirs after 1980, and published a



paper on the question of military power and cinematographic production in Mali. The paper appeared in the journal *Critical Intervention*.

In addition to my research on memoirs, I have also pursued my work on Malian popular theatre, both within Mali as well as its reception in France. Focusing on the work of the theatre company Blonba, I examine how migration is informing and shaping Malian theatrical practices and analyze how theatre practitioners are responding to French dominant discourses on Malian migration. At the same time, I look at how theatre practitioners engage with the strategies

adopted by social movements in France to address the question of Malian migration. I have presented a paper on this topic at the annual African Theatre Association meeting in Swansea (UK).

Alioune Sow is associate professor of French and African Studies.

Political Reform, Social Change, and Stability in the African Sahel

LEONARDO VILLALÓN



A three-year grant from the highly selective Minerva Research Initiative program will help establish the University of Florida as a key academic institution for research and training on the countries of the Francophone Sahel. The Minerva Initiative is a university-based social science research program intended to increase understanding of countries and topics of importance to U.S. national interests. It is funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In the 2012 competition some ten projects were selected for funding from the initial submission of 330 proposals. Over the three years, the grant to UF will sponsor talks, conferences, visiting scholars from the region, and other activities, as well as support field research by UF faculty and graduate students in six Sahelian countries: Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

The overarching goal of the research project is to study the factors affecting the political stability of the countries that stretch across the arid Sahel region. Collectively they are among the least developed countries—and present some of the most significant governance challenges—in the world. At the same time, several have been in many ways “laboratories” for democracy in the Muslim

world, and all have experimented in recent years with reforming institutions in the name of democracy. Unfortunately, recent developments in the region, including the actions of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and especially the consequences of the collapse of the Qaddafi regime in Libya, have placed significant pressures on these states. Indeed, in the time between the submission of our proposal and the funding of the grant, these pressures led directly to a coup and the effective collapse of Mali, with tragic and still unfolding consequences for the peoples of the region.

The research will be guided by an analytic framework that examines the interactive and reciprocal effects of institutional reform on social change, in an iterative process of “micro-transitions” that cumulatively build to potentially more substantial transformations in state capacity, and hence shape the prospects for stability or instability. As with virtu-

ally all of Africa, the Sahelian states were directly affected by the intense pressures for political reform in the name of “democracy” of the early 1990s. While their initial responses were quite varied, all were obliged to undertake significant liberalization, reflected primarily in reduced state capacity to shape and control social forces. As a result, in all six countries significant social transformations were set in motion, and their political systems today are still being shaped by those forces.

The project will involve a variety of activities, to be undertaken by the members of our newly formed Sahel Research Group. Throughout these activities we seek to work closely and collaboratively with scholars from the region. In Spring 2013 we will hold a conference/workshop on “The Politics of Institutional Reform in the Sahel,” at which a distinguished academic from each of the six countries will present analyses of their respective cases. The core of the project will be intensive field-based research in each of the six countries, and which will be carried out primarily by three UF PhD student members of our Sahel Research Group.

This project will thus contribute to research for several individual dissertations, and collectively we trust it will allow us to institutionalize an ongoing center for understanding the challenges and the potential of the countries of the Sahelian region.

Leonardo Villalón is associate professor of political science and former director of the Center for African Studies. He serves as principle investigator on the Minerva Initiative grant and coordinator of the Sahel Research Group.

What Does It Mean to Hold a Free and Fair Election?

JENNIFER BOYLAN

My current research analyzes the election process in developing nations and how countries ensure the free and fair nature of their electoral procedures. Developing nations experience incentives to democratize from both domestic and international sources. The international community, however, has a history of placing great emphasis on whether democratizing nations hold elections that meet internationally-defined 'free and fair' standards, as compared to other democratic aspects of governance. As such, my research investigates the processes by which countries produce free and fair elections, and to what extent these standards are tailored to domestic and/or international audiences. I utilize a case-study methodology by investigating how these questions pertain to Ghana.

Ghana is a newly democratized state that has received much attention for its democratic progress. Having transitioned



to democracy in 1992, Ghana has since experienced five peaceful democratic elections at the national level, three of which have seen alternations of power. In the context of an election in December 2012, the focus of this on-going research endeavor is the analysis of the ways in which Ghana continuously guarantees that their elections are free and fair. Ghana's Electoral Commission has intro-



duced a number of measures to guarantee elections are free and fair, including certification of election observer groups, provisions that members of each party (Ghana largely operates as a two-party system at the national level) sign final tally sheets, and has secured mechanisms by which final tallies are communicated to the center of command in Accra. However, having previously experienced criticism for a severely bloated voter registration list, this year the Electoral Commission assumed the great undertaking of re-registering the entire population and generating new voter identification cards for every registrant. Additionally, the Commission has invested a great amount of time and money in to the adoption of new election technologies which will be used in the upcoming election. Registered voters' fingerprints were collected by new biometric identification machines, and these fingerprints cross-referenced against the voter identification cards on election day.

During my summer research trip, I conducted interviews, and made numerous contacts at the Electoral Commission, the two major political party headquarters, and local NGO and think tank groups. I also analyzed newspapers and generally kept abreast of election-related developments. The purpose of this research trip was two-fold. First, I

want to analyze the political and logistical ramifications of strategies adopted by the Electoral Commission in the production of a free and fair election. I am especially interested in the new technologies adopted by the Commission as well as the general public's reaction to the overall election standards. As such, it was necessary for me to generate critical contacts at the national level of politics, and to gain top official's opinions about the election process. In addition to gaining access to official's thought processes as they made decisions about the upcoming election, I was also interested in developing specific areas of interest which would be targeted during future research trips. As a fourth-year political science PhD candidate, the results of this summer research endeavor are greatly helping in the planning and preparation of my overall dissertation research. I will be traveling to Ghana for the national elections in December, and I will also be back in the country as a Boren Fellow in 2013.

Jennifer Boylan is a PhD candidate in political science. This research was supported by the Jeanne & Hunt Davis Travel Fund, the Center for African Studies, the Office of Research, the Department of Political Science, and the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).

Smallholder Farmers in Global Value Chains: Spice Market Participation in Tanzania

RENEE BULLOCK



The promise that markets would generate economic growth gave rise to the market-led paradigm of agricultural development during the 1980s. Market liberalization policies were widely promoted throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Following withdrawal of state control, informal market institutions and private contracting arrangements emerged. Market access is critical for 80% of Tanzania's population, for whom agriculture is the primary source of income. Price differences between informal and formal markets can affect important household economic decisions, such as how to meet food security needs, or whether to send a child on to secondary school, for example. The purpose of my research is to identify how social, economic, and geographical factors impact decisions to participate in informal spot markets and formal smallholder organic contracting. More broadly, what are the development outcomes of participating in these different types of markets?

My field site is in the eastern Usambaras, a mountainous, tropical and biodiverse region in northeast Tanzania. I completed my master's research about governance of community owned forest reserves in the uplands in 2010. I chose to continue to work in this region for my PhD studies and expanded my research to include the lowlands to compare agricultural markets in both areas. The uplands and lowlands differ agro-ecologically, nonetheless horticulture is the primary source of income for the majority of smallholders. People around the world use black pepper and carda-

mom spices to flavor their dishes, both of which are grown in the east Usambaras. However, market challenges and high costs limit the export potential of spices and most of the trade remains confined to East Africa. A complex network of brokers and traders dominate the informal spice trade. Buyers wander through villages from household to household in search of products and competition runs high. While this type of spot market behavior lowers costs to producers, since they don't have to travel to distant markets and search for buyers, the informal trade is beset by high transaction costs, a common feature in African agricultural markets. High costs of doing business depress prices paid to farmers, which leads to lower annual incomes and overall lower quality produce that does not meet export standards. Formal certification of organic spices is a recent local effort that seeks to integrate smallholder farmers in global value chains in an effort to improve prices, farming and harvesting practices. Higher quality standards are necessary to meet demands of overseas niche markets. But debate exists over whether this market initiative is an inclusive or exclusive growth strategy. Some argue that smallholders, particularly relatively poorer households, are unable to meet costs associated with the more remunerative global value chains. Others posit that contracting promotes efficiency and facilitates equitable development. I chose to investigate this debate from different social, economic and geographical perspectives.

In summer 2012, I explored topics such as the roles of gender, wealth, and distance in shaping household marketing strategies. My

preliminary findings are that men largely control selling and income from spices. Secondly, farmers with larger plots do appear to participate in contracting more often. Lastly, based on previous observations, I investigated how distance affects trust between buyers and sellers. Since the contracting company is based in the lowlands, their close proximity to producers appears to generate higher levels of trust, and consequently higher rates of certification. Following analysis, the implications of how these factors affect livelihoods and development will become clearer. I am fascinated by these complex interactions that characterize local trade dynamics. My ongoing research into understanding the causes and consequences of market participation has taken me to a remarkable part of



the world.

Renee Bullock is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2008-10). Funding for this research was provided by the Madelyn M. Lockhart Fund, the Center for African Studies, and the Office of Research.

Migration and Development in the Upper Senegal River Valley

BENJAMIN BURGEN

In Summer 2012, I travelled to eight small Soninke towns in the upper Senegal River Valley in both Senegal and Mauritania. In these communities I performed ethnographic interviews with a variety of local people and visited community development projects to understand how life is changing and how a variety of actors are involved in improving these towns. I looked at infrastructural developments and also asked about peoples' attitudes concerning economic change, development, and their hopes for the future.

These rural communities share many aspects of life despite being located in different nation-states. Their traditional economic activities center on the annual agricultural cycle. Farming is a central aspect of life and its practice remains largely unchanged over recent years. However, families have come to rely more and more upon circular labor migration to large cities domestically and international destinations (primarily France) for the economic maintenance of their households.



Economic migrants from these towns play key roles in raising money and promoting a wide variety of local development projects. Hometown migrant associations can be seen as engines of development which respond directly to community needs. Often these associations are more responsive



and flexible than the state or NGOs in delivering projects to their towns. Migrant associations in the towns I visited were behind a wide variety of projects ranging from building community health care facilities to the maintenance of small dams for agricultural use. In each case, community members were proud of the work undertaken by their migrant associations and touted their successes. In contrast, people often lamented that state participation in local development was comparatively slow and that NGO involvement could be uneven.

In looking at similar communities in Mauritania and Senegal it becomes possible to compare the dynamics of the state responses to the development goals of small towns between these two nation-states. While infrastructural developments from improved roads to electrification are advancing quickly in both nation-states one difference was that access to public education is much more advanced in Senegal. More generally,

Senegalese towns were more connected to the broader nation-state through the full spectrum of state institutions and were involved with a wider range of NGOs. I am just beginning to map how these differences affect the perspectives and expectations for local development and economic opportunities among community members.

I look forward to continuing to map the changing realities in Soninke communities between both Mauritania and Senegal to improve our understanding of how migrant-driven development and state involvement influence the lives and livelihoods rural Soninke people over time.

Benjamin Burgen is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology and FLAS fellow (Wolof, 2012-13). Support provided by the Jeanne & Hunt Davis Fund, CAS, and the Office of Research.

Capturing Impact: Monitoring and Evaluating a Sanitation Program in Ethiopia

STEPHENIE CHATFIELD

As a student in the Masters in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) Program, I had the opportunity this past summer to complete my field practicum in southern Ethiopia. While there, I partnered with Water Is Life International, a nongovernmental organization that provides access to safe and sufficient water sources, and also provides sanitation education and training to community members. Water and sanitation are crucial elements of development initiatives globally, and are key areas that can bring transformation to the lives of people worldwide.

My project this summer was to conduct an evaluation of part of Water Is Life's program in Ethiopia, and to begin the process of institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation within the organization's structure and culture. Water Is Life utilizes sustainable livelihood groups (SLGs) as a mechanism to transfer sanitation knowledge and training to women living in the communities in which they work. SLGs are based on the model of self help groups, and are generally composed of 15 to 20 women who meet weekly to save money together, discuss their lives, and present new ideas to each other. SLGs have been found to increase individual women's levels of self-efficacy, and give women a strong belief in their own agency. Water Is Life aims to use SLGs as an avenue to affect positive sanitation behavior change in the lives of individual women.

It is important to understand the local context in order to appreciate the need for further sanitation interventions. Sanitation, specifically the idea of handwashing with soap, is not a new concept in this area. From focus group discussions and conversations with community members that I had, it is obvious that the knowledge is present, and that community members have received the message of the importance of good



sanitation behaviors. Local health workers have visited the communities, and public service announcements are often shown on the television stressing the importance of these behaviors. And yet, there is an obvious lack of action and adoption of sanitation behaviors. The hope is that by introducing sanitation education through the social structure of SLGs, the change in women's self-efficacy and agency will spill over into the area of sanitation, motivating them to actually change their behaviors.

For my evaluation I conducted four focus groups with members of SLGs, and also administered over one hundred surveys to both SLG members and non-members. The purpose of the focus group discussions was to understand the impact of SLGs on the lives of the members, to assess the amount of sanitation knowledge that individuals had, and also to identify the barriers to sanitation behavior change. The surveys drew a comparison between members and non-members, identifying key behaviors and barriers and linking the relationship between them.

Preliminary analysis from the focus groups and surveys shows that members of SLGs benefit from membership by receiving increased levels of social support, greater mobility outside of their homes, and also increased levels of self-efficacy; all of which will support positive sanitation behaviors. As I continue my analysis of the data that I gathered this summer I have the unparalleled opportunity of learning from my field practicum experience, while also generating new knowledge and findings about the sanitation situation in southern Ethiopia. These findings will be used to further improve the effectiveness of SLGs, and also to advance the discourse on sanitation behavior change. It is thrilling as a development practitioner to be involved with social research that makes a significant contribution to the development field.

Stephenie Chatfield is a second-year MDP (Masters in Sustainable Development Practice) student. Funding provided by a MacArthur Foundation MDP Summer Practicum Grant.

Impacts of a Growing Elephant Population in Southern Africa

TIM FULLMAN

My research investigates the impacts of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) on vegetation and large herbivores of southern Africa. Elephants are one of the main drivers of landscape change in southern Africa and there is increasing concern about the possibility of negative effects on biodiversity caused by increasing elephant populations. I am investigating this topic by considering spatial patterns of elephant habitat use and impacts. In previous field seasons, my work has concentrated on collecting animal location data to create species distribution models for elephants and other large herbivores in protected areas of Botswana and Namibia. By evaluating how habitat use changes for different species across a gradient of elephant densities I hope to improve understanding of how increases in elephant numbers will influence other wildlife.

In the 2012 field season, I had the opportunity to initiate two new projects, one in Chobe National Park, Botswana, where much of my previous work has focused, and the other in Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa. The Botswana project uses satellite imagery to detect vegetation modified by elephants. Being able to assess elephant impacts on trees is an important step in promoting effective management strategies. The Moving Standard Deviation Index (MSDI) uses the standard deviation of satellite image values to assess degradation of vegetation. Used predominantly for assessing impacts of livestock on rangelands, it has been suggested as an effective means of identifying elephant-modified landscapes. Working with a local research assistant, I evaluated the status of vegetation at 270 sites within the Chobe riverfront, a heavily elephant-impacted landscape. By linking these data with MSDI values, we will be able to use other satellite images to investigate how elephant modification of vegetation compares between Chobe and other parks with lower densities of elephants. We



can also look back in time using older imagery to see how modification of vegetation has changed as the elephant population has increased in Chobe. Furthermore, we will be able to create maps of modified versus unmodified habitat, which will allow us to assess how other large herbivore species utilize or avoid elephant-impacted areas, informing the distribution modeling conducted in past field seasons. In addition to the plots in the park, we conducted 17 plots in the nearby Chobe Enclave, a collection of five villages that border the park. We will use these to assess whether the MSDI may also be useful for highlighting areas heavily modified by people, providing an exciting opportunity to compare patterns of vegetation degradation between areas dominated by human versus wildlife drivers.

In Addo, I am working with Greg Kiker (UF Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering), and Jessica Steele (PhD student in the UF Geography Department) to investigate how elephant movement patterns relate to vegetation change. Using GPS collar data from seven elephants, we will examine how elephant movement both influences and is influenced by seasonal and long-term shifts

in vegetation. This information will help managers better understand elephant habitat preferences to predict future impacts on vegetation as well as the effects of management efforts such as artificial waterhole provision and park expansion. This is extremely important as the Addo ecosystem is home to a number of rare and endemic plant and animal species. We met with park managers, a local university research team, and members of the South African National Parks research division to discuss our plans and seek out avenues of collaboration. I look forward to continuing to work with these groups to promote management efforts that balance the needs of a growing elephant population with those of the diverse flora and fauna of South African succulent thicket.



Tim Fullman is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and a former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2007-09). Funding was provided by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Zoological Society, the QSE3 IGERT program at UF, and IDEA WILD.

Boxing in Colonial and Post-Colonial Nigeria, 1920-1970

MICHAEL J. GENNARO

In summer 2012, thanks to a pre-dissertation travel grant from the Center for African Studies, I was able to travel to Lagos and Ibadan for two weeks to begin researching the social history of boxing as it developed in Nigeria from the 1920s to the end of the Biafran War in 1970. As Nigeria's largest city and economic capital, Lagos attracted intense male labor migration after World War I: in 1931 Lagos' population was 126,000, and by 1963, it was over 675,000 people. Dick Tiger, later to become world middleweight champion, was part of this movement, as he migrated, like many Igbos, from Aba to Lagos in his late teens. At first Dick Tiger was a trader, but he later took up boxing in search of upward social mobility and fame in a city rampant with unemployment and poverty.

Boxing also provided an avenue for many boxers of considerable skill to branch onto the Atlantic circuit. These boxers travelled, lived, and fought in matches from Liverpool to Paris to New York from the late 1940s through the early years of independence. My doctoral thesis explores how boxing shaped and gave rise to new ideas of masculinity and of ethnic and national consciousness. During interviews with me last summer in Lagos, several former boxers claimed that it was through boxing, and the lessons learned both during training and competing inside the ring that prepared them for manhood. For example, "Keep Right," a boxer from Edo state, saw boxing as an extension of the Edo wrestling tradition and initiation where boys challenged one another, on the beach known as "no man's land," to prove their toughness and manliness: a setting "where great men are born." My research will examine how colonial sporting regimes transformed masculine ideals and gender relations in a dynamic urban context in which many Igbos, Hausas and Yorubas mixed in



expanding cities like Lagos. Thus, my research will use boxing as a critical entry point into understanding key historical developments in colonial and early post-colonial Nigeria: the development of new forms of ethnic and nationalist consciousness; the effects of urban and Atlantic migration; and constructions of masculinity.

Many boxers who travelled abroad to fight for money, championships, and prestige also were able to learn trades or earn enough money to start businesses once they returned to Nigeria. One thing that surprised me when interviewing many of the current Nigerian National Boxing coaches was that, although several had learned a trade, they were forced to be coaches by various governments. For example, one informant lamented that although he learned how to be an engineer while fighting in England in the 1950s, he was forced to coach boxing on his return from England and to be one ever since. The government would not allow him to use his engineering skills and forced him into a meager salary as a national coach, which he feels has kept him in abject poverty. Why and how they were coerced into coaching is something I plan to look into

further on my next visit to Nigeria.

In all, I was able to conduct ten interviews in Lagos and Ibadan this past summer and made vital connections and contacts with current and former boxers. In Ibadan, I was able to begin preliminary archival research at the National Archives. This solid study base will allow for fruitful further research on my return to Nigeria next summer and beyond.



Michael Gennaro is a PhD student in the Department of History. This research was supported by the Center for African Studies, the Office of Research, and a History Graduate Society Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant.

Africa's Place in Global Food Security

RYAN Z. GOOD



As an economic and environmental geographer, I am concerned with the linkages between and relationships amongst economic development, natural resource use, and environmental justice. My dissertation research looks at how these far-reaching ideas intersect in the urban fishery systems of Mwanza, Tanzania.

Working in fisheries, a significant component of the problem manifests in the form of food insecurities. Food security is in itself a topic of immense complexity. As preparation for addressing this multifaceted topic and in advance of my upcoming primary fieldwork in Tanzania, I was lucky to be able to attend the 2012 Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The Summer Institute included numerous speakers from multiple universities and agencies. As part of this workshop, I was able to meet and discuss my ideas about my research with several

prominent scholars, including World Food Prize Laureate Gebisa Ejeta, Director of the USAID Office of Agricultural Research and Policy Rob Bertram, and Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Shenggen Fan. We also took a day trip to Chicago to visit the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The opportunity to meet and interact with so many significant scholars of food security afforded me the chance to discuss my project in terms of policy, social action, political economy, climate change, trade, conservation, environmental degradation, and land tenure.

Coming out of this workshop, I now have a better understanding of where my research fits in the larger body of food security work, and

what its potential significance can be. This work promises to shed light on the evolution of Tanzania's political economy as that country has opened its borders to international investment, especially in terms of foreign fishing firms in Lake Victoria. As foreign fishing firms have become dominant, urban poverty and malaise have increased. As a result of the growing inequalities there, Mwanza is experiencing a surge in urban social movements to demand response from local and national governments. These types of social movements are not unique to Tanzania; indeed they are ubiquitous as the majority of people in the Global South now live in cities. Recent events in North Africa and Southwest Asia highlight the importance of understanding how economic and environmental inequalities threaten internal stability and the health and well-being of urban dwellers. This work is particularly relevant as states in the Global South race toward majority urban populations.

Ryan Z. Good is a PhD student in geography and former FLAS fellow (Swahili, summer 2010). His research was funded by the USAID Borlaug Fellows Program, the Purdue University Center for Global Food Security, and the UF Department of Geography.

Land-based Imagery in Contemporary South African Photography

MEGHAN KIRKWOOD



My research looks at the uses of land-based imagery by contemporary South African photographers, and the connections between works of this genre and the prominent documentary tradition of the 1980s and early 1990s in South Africa. Young photographers are now using land-based subject matter to address a range of social, economic, and environmental issues played out on the landscape, and that represent a new front in the struggle for social equity in democratic South Africa.

Prior to the end of apartheid in 1994, documentary photographs dominated photographic practice in South Africa. During this time so called ‘struggle photographers’ emphasized the social role of the photographer, and promoted photography as a tool of public awareness. This history has made photography a powerful medium in South Africa today, even as documentary images remain closely associated with a particular era. Indeed, few contemporary photographers work in a documentary style, but the distinctive social ethic struggle photographers brought to their practice has continued to influence arts institutions and contemporary

photographers in South Africa.

This influence is most closely observed among a new generation of South African photographers who work with land-based imagery. These photographers work primarily in color, avoid explicit narratives in their photographs, and make use of pictorial strategies more closely aligned with fine art photographs. Nonetheless, their intended audience, and methods of documenting urban and rural spaces links their practice to that of their documentary predecessors, as does the selection of land-based content, which draws attention to the visual legacies of apartheid, economic inequality, and the social effects of environmental degradation.

In summer 2012, I spent six weeks in South Africa conducting preliminary research for my dissertation project. During this time I visited a number of photographers, archives, galleries, and arts institutions

in six different cities. I spent most of this period in Johannesburg and Cape Town, where I interviewed a number of prominent South African photographers, such as Jo Ractliffe, Lien Botha, and Paul Weinberg, as well as others who are at the beginning stages of their careers, such as Daniel Naudé, Thabiso Sekgala, and Vincent Bezeidenhout. I benefited greatly from meetings with art historians and curators such as with Michael Godby and Rory Bester. I also spent time working with archival materials at the Centre for Curating the Archive at the University of Cape Town, which contains over 50,000 print and digital images from prominent South African photographers from the past century.

I hope to return to South Africa next year to continue my research, and learn more about how and why contemporary photographers are working with land-based imagery. I plan to spend more time at the archives I visited to establish a broader context for the link between documentary photography and the new landscape tradition in South Africa. I also plan to spend time at art institutions and workshops, such as the Market Photography Workshop, so that I may become familiar with work by photographers whose work may not be circulating in a gallery context.

Meghan Kirkwood is a PhD student in art history and a FLAS fellow (Portuguese, 2012-2013). Funding for this research was provided by the Jeanne and Hunt Davis Fund, the Center for African Studies, and the Office of Research.

Trajectories of Democracy in Africa and the Legacies of Democratic Experiments

NICHOLAS KNOWLTON

The period following the end of the Cold War witnessed a significant shift in regime-change on the African continent. With the combination of factors including the decline of great-power rivalry on the continent, rising economic problems, and increased conditionality to foreign assistance, many African governments found themselves in positions where their non-democratic status-quo would no longer suffice. Between 1990 and 1994 approximately twenty-eight African states undertook efforts at democratization, including the holding of inaugural elections. By 1994, the formal one-party state had all but ceased to exist on the continent. And yet, with the benefit of hindsight we know that such democratic optimism would be dashed by occurrences of government coups, collapses, and democratic breakdown. By 2009, only half of the twenty-eight states that previously held democratic elections between 1990 and 1994 could still be nominally considered democratic, while only about half of those could be confidently considered as liberal democratic. Why is it that some of these countries succeeded in consolidating democratic institutions and principles of governance, while others did not?

Seeking to better understand the regime “trajectories” of states that engaged in democratic reform in the period following the end of the Cold War, my research investigates the institutional paths that each of the twenty-eight abovementioned countries have taken in the past two decades since their initial democratic opening. By identifying the salient factors and events occurring in these states during their initial efforts at democratization, and furthermore assessing for similarities and differences associated between the cases under scrutiny, this project builds upon the contributions of previous research in this area by constructing a typology of regime trajectories that serves to assist with understanding how this group of countries—that similarly experienced the “wave” of democracy in Africa in the early 1990s—came to acquire their contemporary democratic and non-democratic regimes.

Through preliminary research on this issue, the case of Ghana stands out as a country following a steadfast trajectory of democracy, despite



experiencing what could be reasonably considered inauspicious initial conditions. As Ghana’s political history points to a legacy of military rule, a dominant executive, and other incumbent advantages within the media and elsewhere, it is striking that nearly two decades after holding what were considered by many to have been a problematic inaugural election, Ghana has since become a role model for democratization on the African continent. By obtaining a pre-dissertation research grant from the Center for African Studies, I was fortunate enough to travel to Ghana during summer 2012 to inquire into how Ghana’s regime status evolved between 1990 and 2012.

Through meeting with a variety of in-country experts, as well as accessing academic resources available only in-person, I was able to obtain information and data that not only aided my research concerning factors associated with Ghana’s

particular trajectory of democracy, but additionally supplied avenues for comparing Ghana’s experience with that of other countries within the scope of this study. In other words, although the research obtained this past summer constitutes only one step in what will be considered a much larger project, the information, resources, and experiences obtained serve to advance the project by not only identifying the factors applicable to one state’s experience with democracy, but also highlighting how such factors may be compared with respect to the experiences of other African states.

Nicholas Knowlton is a doctoral student in political science. Funding for his preliminary fieldwork in Ghana during summer 2012 was provided by the Center for African Studies, the Department of Political Science, and the Office of Research.

Religious Motivation for Political Engagement in Kenya

STEVEN LICHTY

Linda Ochola-Adolwa, the executive pastor at Mavuno Church in Nairobi, states “Should we just leave politics to the politicians? Should a few individuals dictate how our lives in the city are lived? We cannot afford to be passive observers while all hell breaks loose around us. Nairobi is not neutral; you must influence or be influenced.” This church’s motto—turning ordinary people into fearless influencers of society—suggests a different strategy for engaging with the political, economic and social forces in Kenya. My dissertation project examines Mavuno and other churches and builds a foundation for better understanding the dynamics and interplay of religion and politics in Kenya. By specifically examining Christianity and what types of direct and indirect influence churches and pastors have on the formation of political beliefs and behavior within Kenya, my study contributes insight into how churches continue to play an important role in Kenya’s political development. However, literature on good governance and democratization in Africa marginalize these institutions—despite a wealth of studies on religion and politics in the United States demonstrating the importance of clergy and churches influencing political belief and behavior. Religious institutions and ecclesiastical elite remain powerful sources of influence for many Africans, but are little understood politically.

In surveying this relationship, my study makes a distinction between the public and external communications of churches with the more private and nuanced aspects of inner church life. This internal perspective reveals the nature and impact of church governing structures and ensuing effect on political engagement. In using four Nairobi churches as case studies, the project is structured



around five domains, each designating a specific realm of influence where religion intersects politics. When woven together, these domains provide a systematic account of Christian churches and leaders’ influence on laity political belief and behavior. These five domains are labeled as: 1) pastor to pulpit, 2) pulpit to pew, 3) pew to pew, 4) pew to politics, and 5) politics to power.

Preliminary conclusions are oriented around four arguments. First, Africa’s “Big Man” syndrome often describes the political elite, but it may also apply to ecclesiastical leadership, whose churches are not necessarily model “schools of democracy.” Second, the concept of “vicarious satisfaction” is applicable beyond the perpetual elevation of corrupt political leadership and is particularly relevant to “prosperity gospel” oriented churches where toxic leaders produce toxic followers. Third, new breeds of churches, including Mavuno, are distancing themselves from previous trends of religious reticence and apolitical approaches and

are instead engaging the political realm in constructive dialogue and private initiatives that bring together local people to provide local solutions to local problems. These types of churches also demonstrate greater accountability and transparency and effectively model and develop the types of leaders needed to bring good governance to African political systems. Finally, I use the Kenyan 2010 constitution referendum as a macro case study to demonstrate the influence of religion on a major political event and posit that local understandings of power will pose several challenges to the new constitution’s devolution process.

Steven Lichty is a PhD candidate in political science and a former FLAS fellow (Kiswahili and Arabic, 2006-08). His research in Kenya was funded by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award.

Human Livelihoods Assessment in the Republic of Congo

GERMAIN AIME MAVAH



I conducted a pre-dissertation field research in the periphery of the future Ntokou-Pikounda national park (NPNP) and Odzala-Kokoua national park (OKNP) in northern ROC during the summer 2012. My research seeks to understand the current status of livelihoods of people who have traditional access to natural resources in the future protected area (NPNP) and those who live nearby existing protected area (OKNP). I want also to determine whether rural livelihoods differ between these two communities. This will allow monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the relationship between local livelihoods and the park practices by adding research evidence to the continuing debate on the impacts of protected areas on local livelihoods. This study is part of a larger collaborative program regarding forest resources management plans which seeks to promote community-based organizations as a way to increase local control on forest resources -- especially wildlife

-- in ROC. It is also a part of my dissertation's topic: "Can Rural People Participate in Natural Resources Management? An Analysis of Wildlife Governance Institutions, Local Capacity, and Human Livelihoods in Tropical Forests."

To collect data, I conducted a cross-sectional study to measure current conditions of livelihoods and to compare their variation between the two categories of villages in the periphery of OKNP and in the border of the future NPNP. These two types of villages are respectively located at the West and the South of the forest concession of Ngombé (1,159,643 ha). As activities, I started to carry out dialogues with many actors interested in conservation of natural resources such as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Congo national program) and project of the management of ecosystems adjacent to OKNP. WCS-Congo national program currently provides technical assistance to the creation of Ntokou-Pikounda national park. These dialogues aim to investigate and take into account local needs

in my research. I conducted a survey of 90 household heads in 15 rural villages of both categories by using questionnaires.

Results of this study show that livelihoods between forest dwellers living around NPNP and OKNP are different. Several factors influence this variation such as their proximity to markets and roads. In addition, this field research allows me to improve my dissertation's research question and hypotheses appropriate to my study context. During my dissertation research I need to better understand these factors to bridge conservation and development objectives necessary for human livelihoods and ecosystem health in the ROC by incorporating social responsibility.

This research would not have been possible without the active support of the Center for African studies and the Tropical Conservation and Development program of University of Florida, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. I enthusiastically appreciate the value of these institutions not only in funding my research, but in being a unique learning space for me.



Germain A. Mavah is a PhD student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. This research was funded in part through the WCS, TCD Program, and the Center for African Studies.

Biodiversity, Climate, and Carbon: The Forests of the Congo Basin

VINCENT MEDJIBE



Forests of the Congo Basin are precious as storehouses of biodiversity and carbon, for their moderating influences on regional climates, and for their contributions of raw materials to local people and extractive industries. Given their value and the unnecessary damage that they often suffer at the hands of unscrupulous and untrained loggers, it is crucial to investigate the extent to which improvements in forest management practices can serve to reduce carbon emissions, maintain biodiversity, and increase future timber yields in the region. To contribute to this objective, I conducted field research on the impacts of logging on forest biomass carbon in Gabon as part of my doctoral program in the Department of Biology and the School of Natural Resources and Environment (2007 - 2012).

Gabon is the most forested country in central Africa and about 35% of its land area is allocated as logging concessions for the production of timber. To capture some of the variability in the ways the forests are treated, I assessed the impacts

of logging in a forest logged with reduced-impact logging methods managed by Tropical Forest Foundation, a Forest Stewardship Council-certified forest concession, and a conventionally logged forest concession. The results are all published or in press, and reprints are available upon request. Throughout this project, I supervised several students from the Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts as part of an effort to build human capacity in conservation and management in the region.

The results of my doctoral study fed directly into the deliberations of the Gabonese Climate Council regarding carbon emissions from logged forests and were included in the country's Climate Plan presented at the UNFCCC in Durban, South Africa. After completion of my PhD, I commenced working for the Gabon

Forest Carbon Assessment (GFCA) project based in Libreville. As the scientist responsible for this project, I supervise the establishment of 100 one-ha plots country-wide, which includes training of field assistants in forest sampling methods. The project also involves high-density LiDAR data and digital imagery coverage for the entire country. The President has asked us to finish this project by the end of the year so that its results can be included in the country's updated Climate Plan and in the creation of the country's first systematic land-use plan. Although the National Climate Council oversees all climate-related work, my scientific team within the National Parks Agency (ANPN) carries the technical responsibility.

Our forest carbon assessment work is a critical element in the country's low emissions development strategy, and the results of the program will help Gabon meet its international commitments. Within Central Africa, this is the first such assessment with country-wide LiDAR and field data. The National Climate Council expects us to publish the results from the assessment in scientific journals, but they will also be presented at the UNFCCC conference so that other countries, agencies, and research groups can learn from the Gabon experience. Our project also contributes to capacity-building in the region by making its field methodologies available to other central African countries that are endeavoring to develop their own forest carbon monitoring systems.

Vincent Medjibe earned his PhD in interdisciplinary ecology from the School of Natural Resources and Environment in May, 2012.

The Scramble for Nigeria: The View from Kano

XAVIER MONROE

The end of 2011 offered an opportunity to build upon ongoing research for my honor's thesis in History, travel to Africa for the first time, and meet new people from a historically rich culture. The history of Nigeria, in particular northern Nigeria, includes the extensive reach of local markets in regional and international trade. For that reason, the industrial manufacturing and trade economy of Kano has become a focal point for the influx of Chinese products, workers, and investment. During the 2011-12 winter break I spent two weeks in Kano with my history honor's thesis advisor and CAS joint faculty Dr. Susan O'Brien, using funds from my University Scholar Award to conduct oral history and ethnographic research about the impact of the Chinese presence on the local economy.

For over six decades, China has established and developed a strong economic and diplomatic presence on the African continent. What began as a mutual relationship framed under the pretense of shared history and values, bolstered with developmental aid by the Chinese, has developed into trade imbalances with an influx of Chinese products that flood local markets. Herein lies the dilemma, and thus the motive for this research. While some scholars argue that the Chinese are providing products and aid necessary for economic growth on the continent, others see the increasing Chinese presence as a 'New Scramble' for African resources.

Northern Nigeria provided an ideal location to explore the impact of the increasing Chinese presence. Due to Dr. O'Brien's extensive connections in Kano, I had the opportunity to interview individuals from academia, business, the marketplace, and government, and to gain their perspectives on the impact of Chinese trade and manufacturing. Their viewpoints, although diverse, echoed a common theme: the people of Kano desire economic development and welcome foreign trade. However, the illegal reproduction of local products, the influx of cheap manufactured goods, and the lack of enforceable government policies against Chinese economic improprieties (such as smuggling and the sale of counterfeit goods) have contributed to rampant unemployment and the decline of a once vibrant manufacturing industry.

While local business owners and marketers



believe trade with China can benefit their community, they still long for policies that encourage local entrepreneurship and mutually beneficial trade with Chinese companies. The Chinese are not to blame for all of Kano and Nigeria's economic woes - as many of my interviewees made clear, the Nigerian government needs to implement structural changes: providing basic infrastructure (such as a reliable source of electricity) and developing sound economic and financial policies. Yet the Chinese presence has contributed, some believe, to the economic woes of the nation.

This trip provided me an opportunity to expand my international viewpoint. The incredible hospitality of the citizens of Kano, in particular the staff at the University Guest House of Bayero University, proved that the future of this great land remains bright, as long as the right leaders can implement effective policies. This research also opened the door for potential partnerships between Bayero University, Kano and the UF Center for African Studies. Fortunately, on the day we walked through the office door of business professor Dr. Murtala S. Sagagi, he was actively looking for an appropriate American university to partner

with in promoting social entrepreneurship in Kano. When we handed him the CIBER-generated Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (co-written by Dr. Anita Spring), he felt that fate had arranged our meeting! Subsequently we enjoyed an exciting two hours of dialogue about the Chinese presence in Nigeria, the differences between the Chinese and the much older community of Lebanese traders and manufacturers in Kano, and the future of economic development in northern Nigeria. Funded by the US Embassy in Abuja, Dr. Sagagi visited UF for a week in April, 2012, presenting a public lecture at CAS, visiting several African history classes as a guest speaker, and meeting with faculty across a wide spectrum of disciplines to imagine and begin to design possible collaborations between the two institutions.

Xavier Monroe is a senior double-majoring in civil engineering & history. He is recipient of a University Scholar Award and a Ronald E. McNair Scholarship. He has presented his research at a number of venues in 2012, including the UF History Honors Conference and the McNair Scholars Research Conference in Atlanta.

Woven Livelihoods: Women Crafters and Protected Areas in KwaZulu-Natal

AMY PANIKOWSKI

During May 2012, I started my pre-dissertation work on the east coast of South Africa to get a sense about whether or not access to and control of crafting materials supports conservation. Every May, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Umlalazi Nature Reserve allow women to harvest *Juncus kraussii*, a high quality reed mainly used for crafting bridal sleeping mats and traditional beer strainers. These items are valued in Zulu culture for their utilitarian properties as well as their cultural heritage. I focused on individual crafters and crafting groups, most of which were women, and their harvesting and use of *J. kraussii*. Gaining insight into this economic opportunity for a vulnerable population contributes to the limited social research in and around these protected areas.

In South Africa, women head almost half of all households because of historical patterns of patriarchy, apartheid, macro-economic conditions, and HIV/AIDS. Economic opportunities for women are often limited and there is constant



turnover in small business enterprises because of HIV/AIDS and a reduced number of younger women with adequate skill sets. Further, older women tend to be the primary caregivers for the sick and for their orphaned grandchildren or take on other orphans in the community. Female-headed households are more likely to take on the financial, emotional, and physical responsibilities of sustaining those in the household unit. As a result, the need to find alternative economic opportunities is greater in this population and can compromise their ability to support conservation of protected areas.

First, I traveled to Umlalazi Nature Reserve at Mtunzini where I had the opportunity to work



with a female park ranger, Mbyui, who assisted in meeting harvesters in the reserve. I saw firsthand how this annual harvest was organized. A temporary “tent city” was set up just outside the reserve for women who come from all parts of the province. The women pay a fee of R10 per day to enter the reserve and harvest as much *Juncus* as they can carry. Some women will stay for weeks before returning home. The fee to collect in this reserve is less than at iSimangaliso but the size of the *Juncus* is smaller so the women can only make small and medium-size mats.

Next, I traveled to St. Lucia, the tourist town and entry point into the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa’s first World Heritage Site. Here, the organization of the harvest is much more rigid. The tent city for the women was farther away and out of sight of the main road leading to the town. Women will pay R55/day to enter and harvest as much as they can carry. The harvesting areas are much bigger here and the size of the reeds enables women to make the large mats for wedding ceremonies.

My final stop was to meet with a crafting group in Eshowe that is mentored by Duncan Hay (former

visiting scholar at UF). From them I learned about the different products the group creates including the traditional Zulu crafts and contemporary creations for international exports. For many of these women, crafting is a major source of income.

After spending time in these areas, I have a better grasp of the interactions between the protected areas and community members. My dissertation will uncover issues relevant to protected areas managers, policymakers and practitioners who intend to work with crafter groups to improve their capacity. The experience of meeting these crafters reinforced my desire to work with people living around and/or utilizing resources in protected areas. I appreciate the support from the Center for African Studies and my committee as I had an incredible experience and am even more excited about my dissertation.

Amy Panikowski is a PhD candidate in geography. This research was sponsored by a pre-dissertation summer travel award from the Center for African Studies and the Office of Research.

“We Have Always Been Fashionable”- The Significance of Fashion in Accra

CHRISTOPHER L. RICHARDS



As a 2011-2012 FLAS fellow, I had the opportunity to complete my final semester of advanced Twi in Accra, Ghana. In addition to lessons with a Twi instructor, my temporary residence in Accra allowed me to speak Twi on a daily basis. I engaged countless Ghanaians in conversation, quickly recognizing the significance of speaking Twi. Many Ghanaian fashion designers viewed my linguistic abilities as a novelty, which inadvertently made me more approachable and aided my integration into the fashion community. By the end of my six month stay, I was able to negotiate a cheaper cab fare than my eighty-two year old Ghanaian “Auntie.” At that moment, I knew my FLAS experience abroad was a success!

My experience abroad also permitted the continuation of my dissertation research on Ghanaian fashion, which I began investigating in the summers of 2009 and 2010. I re-established connections with several designers from previous trips, including Bee Arthur, Ben Nonterah, and Kofi Ansah. I expanded the scope of my research to

include emerging fashion designers, including Brigitte Merki, Ajepomaa Mensah (Ajepomaa Design Gallery), Aisha Obuobi (Christie Brown), Aya Morrison, Nelly Aboagye (Duaba Serwa), and the design team known as PISTIS. I spent considerable time with these individuals, accompanying them on trips to buy fabric and other materials, as well as spending time in their boutiques, observing and interviewing their clientele. Through these experiences and my active participation in Accra’s broader fashion scene, I was able to understand the current significance of fashion in Accra and how Ghana’s younger generation of fashion designers are striving to reinterpret factory printed cloth into garments that reflect their own multicultural, globalized identities.

With the assistance of several contemporary fashion designers, I began exploring the historical significance of fashion in Accra. I interviewed the family of Parisian-trained Chez Julie, arguably Ghana’s first fashion designer following independence. I spent a considerable amount of time at the Daily Graphic archives, one of Accra’s oldest newspapers, researching how fashion was presented and discussed from 1953 to the early 21st century. Both the newspaper archives and Chez Julie’s family attested to the continued importance of fashion to Accra’s citizens, suggesting Ghanaians have actively engaged in both global and local fashion for decades.

I established an informal partnership with the fashion design program at Accra Polytechnic to gain perspective on how fashion is taught in technical schools. The lecturers allowed me to participate in students’ critiques and attend their final fashion show at the National Theater.

Through these interactions, I observed how students were influenced by local designers and how a career in fashion design is viewed as a means of obtaining success in Ghana, with many youth dreaming of obtaining celebrity status via their fashionable creations.

One of the highlights of my experiences in Ghana was having the honor of interviewing former First Lady Nana Konadu. We discussed the types of garments she wore during her husband’s presidency and why she favored wearing local styles and materials over Western attire, suggesting the power of her dress in relation to her and her husband’s political identities.

Prior to my study abroad in Ghana, I published a chapter in the Samuel P. Harn’s exhibition catalog *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*. Last summer, I was selected to participate in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History’s Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology (SIMA), where I researched Ghanaian textiles from the Venice and Alastair Lamb collection.

Christopher Richards is a PhD candidate in the School of Art & Art History and a former FLAS fellow (2010-2012). He is currently funded by a School of Art & Art History Alumni Fellowship.

The Global Reach of a Fashionable Commodity: Kanga Textiles in Dar es Salaam

MACKENZIE MOON RYAN

My doctoral research explores the global manufacturing and design history of industrially printed kanga textiles. Prima facie considered East African, kanga textiles developed through nineteenth-century global networks and have been imported since at least the 1870s, with industrial domestic production beginning only in the late 1960s. Various imported by Dutch, British, Indian, Japanese, and Chinese manufacturers, kanga textiles have maintained local significance for over a century as staple items of East African women's attire. Kanga textiles travel full circle in their more recent use as raw material for tailored garments, made for sale to fashion-conscious consumers the world over. My research seeks to document the history of these textiles by focusing on the international nature of their design and manufacture, their presence in historical and contemporary Dar es Salaam, and their subsequent journey to a global audience.

This past year, I completed dissertation research in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where I interviewed fashion designers, local women, textile designers, manufacturers, and sellers of kanga. I visited factories that manufacture cotton cloth and print kanga textiles, interviewed their designers, and explored samples of their textile production. I analyzed archival sources, including governmental, manufacturing, and import records, to ascertain the network of players involved in the textile trade over the past century and a half.

I collected mid-twentieth century kanga textile designs from one especial interviewee: Mr. K. G. Peera. Known locally as "Miwani Mdogo" (Swahili for "Little Spectacles"), he was just two months' shy of 100 when I spoke with him. Mr. Peera communicated much about the mid-century textile trade in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar and is responsible for a crucial shift in my research. Sadly, he passed away shortly after I interviewed him, but his son gifted me some of Mr. Peera's most prized possessions: his kanga designs, a suitcase full of which was the only thing he brought to Dar es Salaam when fleeing revolutionary violence in Zanzibar in 1964. I donated some of these designs to the British Museum and contributed Mr. Peera's life story, with photographs of both Mr. Peera and his designs, for inclusion in curator Christopher



Spring's most recent publication, *African Textiles Today*, released in October, 2012.

I continued my dissertation research in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands in spring 2012. I accessed manufacturers' business records and extant design pattern books in the Manchester area and throughout London. I consulted the unmatched collection and company archives of Vlisco, a Dutch textile printer, which possesses over 5,000 historical kanga, dating between 1895 and 1974, as well as priceless sample pattern books from the turn of the twentieth century.

In addition to dissertation research, I co-authored a paper with Dr. Sarah Fee (associate curator at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto)

on East African fashion for the first conference on non-Western fashion in Rabat, Morocco. I presented new research at the international conference on textile trades and consumption in the Indian Ocean world in Montreal, Canada. I have spent the remainder of my year writing my dissertation!

MacKenzie Moon Ryan is a PhD candidate in art history and a former FLAS fellow (Swahili, 2009-2011). This project was supported by the American Association of University Women, the Pasold Research Fund for Textile History, the UF School of Art and Art History, the Association for Academic Women, and the Madelyn L. Lockhart dissertation fellowship fund.

Social Capital, Climate, and Agrarian Change in South Africa

SAM SCHRAMSKI

I recently returned from a year in South Africa, where I explored issues of social capital and climate and agrarian change. As I previously reported, the annual UN climate change conference (COP17) produced nothing of real consequence in the realm of climate change adaptation, the buzz phrase that incorporates everything from the future of food security, safe housing, and infectious diseases in (most prominently) the developing world. And yet I still persist in studying the phenomena, because the research and NGO communities are fully onboard with the idea that the stage must be set even if the big international players refuse to perform.

My own research focuses on a regional scale in asking how resilient are households in South Africa's rural Eastern Cape to the effects of climate change as demonstrated by their level of social capital and assets. I particularly focus on natural resources. The agrarian change question is huge, because I'm finding that decreased reliance upon natural resources appears to intervene, a fact that has dramatic policy implications, as well as consequences for the social composition

of families and communities.

The Eastern Cape of South Africa starkly epitomizes the country's inequality: it is home to many of the former "homelands," or Bantustans, of the apartheid era. Degraded land, high rates of HIV/AIDS, and vertiginous unemployment are all key features here. Most households in even the most rural parts of the Eastern Cape, where one might imagine subsistence agriculture to be the norm, survive off of government welfare grants or old-age pensions and very occasional remittance transfers. Clearly, how communities respond to stressors is no simple research subject.

I have been working in two parts of the Eastern Cape, in an area known as the Wild Coast and inland communities in the Baviaanskloof. My study has focused on measuring the number and diversity of rural livelihood assets, as well as social network capital, and whether those predict aspects of resilience to ongoing ecological and social change. I argue that resilient households will demonstrate a high number and diversity of livelihood assets in response to recurrent and non-linear changes (like climate-related events

or disease occurrence) and that they will exhibit very tight, or cohesive, social networks—bonds that are important whether individuals are trading information, goods or services.

My methods have included oral history interviews, participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and action research, and most prominently social network analysis (SNA). These three approaches are meant to unpack the temporal dimensions of resilience: my oral histories focus on livelihood changes in the past, SNA on current developments in household exchanges, and PRA on possible future indicators for resilience (or lack thereof).

I have found that conditions in the study areas are shifting. No matter how poor a household may appear, it is almost universally dependent upon a government subsidy and fewer natural resources (including livestock and crops) than one might imagine for rural populations on other parts of the continent. New kinds of interdependencies, especially in the form of debt and money-lending, are also apparent. To be sure, this is basic and not applied research science, but I believe that my dissertation will continue to uncover issues strongly relevant to natural resource and regional economic managers and policymakers, who have had the tendency of stereotyping the rural poor.

Lastly, I am spending the 2012-13 academic year as a visiting scholar at Indiana University's Anthropological Center for Training and Research on Global Environmental Change (ACT). I look forward to cross-fertilizing knowledge with IU's scholars and will report back with lessons learnt upon my return to Gainesville.

Sam Schramski is a PhD candidate in the School of Environment and Natural Resources.



Hydrological Processes, Climate, and Land Cover in Mauritius

CAROLINE STAUB

Policy-relevant scientific evidence is minimal, yet critical for the sustainable management and use of natural resources on small islands, where the effects of natural disasters and anthropogenic pressure tend to be exacerbated due to size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets. Being more sensitive than mainlands, islands can also serve as early warning systems for understanding the effects of environmental changes on mainlands.

My dissertation research aims to quantify the relative effects of human activity and climate variability on freshwater recharge on the small island country of Mauritius. The first component of the project seeks to 1) characterize rainfall patterns across the island at inter annual and inter decadal time-scales over the past 80 years, 2) identify the major linkages between large-scale climate processes and rainfall variability, and 3) investigate the role of geography in modulating the response of rainfall to climate variability on the island. Characterizing long term rainfall patterns across space and time and further understanding the effect of climate on rainfall variability in Mauritius are important prerequisites for the second part of my research, in which I will explore how the mechanisms and extent of land cover and land-use have shaped surface water recharge in selected catchments. Land cover is known to alter hydrologic processes through altered vegetation retention, soil water infiltration and evapotranspiration. In watersheds where forested landscapes have been cleared and or paved with impervious material, the amount and speed of streamflow water increases, with resulting consequences on a number of processes including stream capacity to carry storm flow, flood risks and underground water recharge. Although linkages between land



cover, hydrologic processes and water quality are well established in the scientific literature, the relative effects of climate and land cover on hydrologic processes are poorly understood, especially on islands, and represent an important avenue for future research.

Water managers face enormous complexity in their effort to predict changes in water resources, demand and cost. Ultimately, I hope to facilitate the decision making process by providing managers with regional scale information on changes in rainfall and streamflow over time, and their linkages to changes in climate and land cover. This study represents the foundation of a long term research project on climate, water resources, and human activity on Mauritius and surrounding small islands in the Indian Ocean.

Caroline Staub is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography. The 2012 field component of this study was funded by the UF Tropical Conservation and Development Program and a pre-dissertation summer travel award through the Center for African Studies and the Office of Research.

Governing Ghana's Maritime Domain: Monitoring, Mapping, and Surveillance

DONALD UNDERWOOD



During summer 2012, I was very fortunate to spend nine weeks in Ghana both as a summer FLAS Fellow and as a research assistant to Dr. Brenda Chalfin. Two other PhD students and I accompanied Dr. Chalfin to Ghana as part of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) Research Tutorial Abroad program. The RTA project focused on issues of risk, threat and vulnerability in Ghana's emerging offshore oil and gas sector. As a research assistant, I was given the opportunity to interview and interact with a number of stakeholders involved in the offshore oil sector. The RTA project was an incredible learning experience in terms of fieldwork methods, collaborative research and knowledge production. Not only did I come away from the project with a better understanding of offshore oil production in Ghana, but I also learned a great deal about the challenges and rewards of studying contemporary anthropological problems.

In addition to the RTA project, I was able to spend six weeks studying Fante at the University of Cape Coast. While

staying in Cape Coast, I was able to meet with fishermen and representatives from government and NGOs working on issues related to marine resources. These discussions, combined with experiences from the RTA project, have inspired me to look further into issues of marine resource management and the deployment of various techniques and technologies of governance such as sensitivity mapping and the development of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems for the littoral zone.

Ghana has a large swath of maritime territory that plays an important role in the country's economy and the day-to-day lives of many Ghanaians. Ghana's maritime domain includes rich fishing grounds, valuable minerals, attractive beaches, habitat for endangered species, oil and gas reserves and busy shipping routes. Given these manifold activities and the increasing significance of Ghana's offshore resources to the national economy and international supply chains, there is increasing domestic and international pressure to monitor, map and establish systems of surveillance in Ghana's littoral zone. My proposed dissertation research

builds off of my earlier research on community-based fisheries management in Ghana and is focused on particular technologies and techniques designed to know and to govern Ghana's maritime domain. In particular, I am interested in how the country's new offshore oil and gas sector has spurred national and international interests in governing this maritime territory. What technologies are being employed or developed, and what are the goals and anticipated outcomes behind their use? When and where were these technologies developed and how will they be deployed, modified or adapted to the Ghanaian context?

Now in my second year at UF, I am working to develop a dissertation proposal that will allow me to build off of the CIBER RTA project and continue exploring my interests in technologies of governance in maritime jurisdictions, especially as they relate to marine resources such as fisheries and offshore oil and gas. These technologies include the development of regulatory frameworks, identification schemes for small-scale fishermen, mapping sensitive and vulnerable socio-environmental systems and developing vessel-monitoring systems. Through an analysis of these efforts to map and govern Ghana's maritime space, I hope to explore the relationship between modern state systems, international organizations and global flows of technology and standards of practice. I am very grateful for the support that the Center for African Studies has given me since I came to UF and for the opportunity to participate in the CIBER RTA project. These experiences will serve as a strong foundation as I continue my research.

Donald Underwood is a PhD student in anthropology and a FLAS Fellow (Akan, 2011-2013 and summer 2012).

Livelihood Hunting and Attitudes in Southeastern Nigeria

CARRIE L. VATH

My research focuses on the relationship between conservation behaviors and natural resource management. I am particularly interested in how different stakeholders (hunters, women, and children) perceive natural resource conservation and how their behavior aligns with their conservation ethic. I spent 9 months in 2011 conducting interviews (in the local languages of Iko and Agoi) and collecting ecological census data on species off-take in three communities in Cross River State, Nigeria. Nigeria was an ideal location for my dissertation because it has endangered monkeys (including the drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*, considered by International Union for Conservation of Nature as the highest conservation priority of all African primates), high human density (as many as 863 individuals per km² in the southern half of the nation alone), and limited natural resources (the clearing of forest for farmland and plantations combined with logging activities in this area threaten the remaining 10% of tropical moist forests).

The aim of my study was to document general patterns of hunter harvest in relation to spatial, temporal, and economic variation, assess if sustainable livelihood projects and employment with the local NGO -- the Center for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature (CERCOPAN) -- is alleviating poverty in this area. Does participation with an NGO influence support for wildlife and resource conservation? To what extent are hunter's game selection influenced by consumer preferences and/or local conservation laws?

Understanding the ecological and social ramifications of unsustainable resource use is a critical issue for wildlife conservation and human well-being. Determining local people's conservation attitudes and values is important because if the needs of a community are not met, then conservation goals are unlikely to succeed over the long term. My research on the bushmeat trade is unique because although many studies document quantity of bushmeat being sold in city markets or consumed by families these studies do not report the catchment area from which these animals are taken. Thus, we can infer the scale of bushmeat consumption from these studies, but we are unable to address the issues of sustainability because we do not know



if the bushmeat sold in an urban or rural market came from 1,000 ha or 1,000km² of forest.

My work in 2009 found a disconnect between hunters vocabulary and the local NGO's "don't shoot monkeys" campaign, resulting in the continued hunting of the endangered drill. In their language, drills were not "monkeys"—they are "drills." This situation highlights how lack of communication between stakeholders can result in ineffective conservation efforts. Preliminary results indicate that 79 individual primates were killed during the nine month study, including 19 drill, that people are mainly concerned about the ability to convert forests to agricultural lands, and that community members want local employment opportunities.

My research would not have been possible without the support

I received from the chiefs councils, volunteer hunters who would meet with me every week, my dedicated Nigerian research assistants, school officials, and CERCOPAN. As I work on writing my dissertation I look forward to traveling back to Nigeria to share my results with the communities.

Carrie L. Vath is a PhD candidate in the School of Natural Resources & Environment. Funding for this research was provided by the Ordway Endowment Fund.

Elections in Africa: Opposition Parties, Electoral Integrity, and Women's Representation

KEITH WEGHORST

Incumbent parties have been re-elected in 80% of multi-party elections in sub-Saharan Africa.

My dissertation research investigates how opposition parties manage to win elections in semi-democratic regimes, where the ruling party impedes competition from political opponents. Specifically, with what motives are opposition parties founded? After founding, how are citizens recruited to join and run as candidates? Lastly, what tactics can opposition candidates use to effectively court voters during election time, given that ruling parties can punish rivals?

Building on research I conducted in 2010 and 2011 with voters in mainland Tanzania and the Zanzibar archipelago, I set out to prepare for my final stage of dissertation research. In this stage, I will undertake a first-of-its-kind survey of winning and losing candidates of the three major parties in Tanzania and to conduct elite interviews with opposition party founders and leaders. During the 2011-2012 academic year, I presented this research plan at the Midwest Political Science Association and CAPERS, an African political economy working group formed between New York University and Columbia University. I have received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant to support this research and will be in the field carrying out the survey during 2012-13.

During the past year, I also have progressed on a number of co-authored projects central to topics of democratization and representation in Africa. One of these (with Eric J. Kramon, UCLA/Stanford) looks towards factors that damage electoral integrity—violence, fraud, and vote-buying. We aim to find ways to better ask individuals about these topics, given reasons they have to be dishonest about them in public opinion surveys. Utilizing a survey technique called the list experiment, we have found in Kenya and

Tanzania that using visual aids (cartoons) encourages respondents to be more honest about these topics. Our paper has been presented in multiple venues throughout the year.

In a second project, Michael H. Bernhard (UF) and I provide insight on the current state of party system institutionalization in Africa. We develop an empirical model of what explains the level of party system volatility in Africa that accommodates both Africa specific



explanations of party system patterns and more conventional drivers found in other regions of the world. Our paper offers the most comprehensive dataset on African party system volatility to date and finds that many patterns of worldwide party system institutionalization hold true for Africa as well. We presented this paper at the International Studies Association in Spring 2012.

In a final project with Kristin G. Michelitch (Notre Dame), we tackle the drivers of low demand for female political leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, relative to other regions in the world. In one phase

of this project, we conducted a survey experiment in Tanzania and found positive information about women's performance in parliament increases willingness to vote for female MP candidates. Positive messages about women's performance also had a strong impact on views towards expanding women's public and household rights.

Each of these projects has benefited tremendously from support from the Center for African Studies. The strong relationships between the Center and the University of Dar es Salaam, invaluable faculty support throughout my projects, and the environment of intellectual exchange fostered amongst Africanist graduate students at UF have been critical to my research. Many of the working projects benefitted directly from funding by the Center of African Studies and financial support from the CAS has allowed me to present the research widely at conferences.

Keith R. Weghorst is a PhD candidate in political science. Funding for his research is through a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant (2012-2013), the Center for African Studies, and the Office of Research.

Pious Performances: Musiqa Ruhiyya and Islamic Popular Music in Fez

CHRISTOPHER WITULSKI



From July of 2012 to June of 2013, I am continuing my dissertation field research in Fez, Morocco. This is my fifth visit to the country and my sixth to North Africa. While here, I am progressing in my study of the Moroccan dialect of Arabic before engaging intensive ethnographic research with musicians from across the spectrum of *musiqa ruhiyya*, loosely translated as ‘spiritual music.’ I focus on professional musicians and ritual leaders of various popular music genres, including those from Sufi and Gnawa paths. In each case, I question how these professional musicians constantly negotiate the space between “popular” and “religious,” always adapting to the competing economic and spiritual demands of their public positions. These strategies highlight the how the concepts of sacred and secular, popular, even entertainment or ritual, escape simple categorization. Furthermore, each of these members of Fez’s *musiqa ruhiyya* community is firmly a part of the incessant process of defining and redefining how Islam is, and should be, practiced in everyday life. Through the presentation of specific religious practices on stage and the dissemination of these

performed ideologies through the recording industry and festival circuits, they use their artistry, creativity, spirituality, leadership, and practicality to create and support an idea of what a publicly manifested Islam looks like.

My previous research centered on the Gnawa, once a population of enslaved sub-Saharan Africans forcibly brought to Morocco through the trans-Saharan slave trade. The ritual activity that comprises the focal point of Gnawa practice involves a spirit possession ceremony, an event led by a group of ritual musicians. After years of marginalization as social, economic, and religious outcasts, their music gained the attention of the parade of American and European artists who came to Morocco (especially Tangier) after World War II and during the civil rights movement in search of oriental or African inspiration (the Rolling Stones,

Led Zeppelin, Bryon Gysin, Randy Weston, Ornette Coleman, etc.). Their music, often described in terms of its bluesy grooves, is now featured across the country in major music festivals and on innumerable world music releases.

Additionally, while in Fez I accepted various invitations to perform on the violin and banjo with malhun, ‘issawa, and hamadsha ensembles, genres that straddle this divide between the pious and entertainment, in concerts ranging from private parties to the stages of the Fez Festival of Sacred Music. I contribute coverage and photography on the Morocco’s musical traditions and contemporary activities for the View From Fez, a prominent English language news blog, and Afropop Worldwide. Currently, I am writing my dissertation and teaching courses in American Popular Music.

Christopher Witulski is a PhD candidate in musicology/ethnomusicology. He is a former FLAS fellow (Arabic, Summer 2007) and recipient of a Fulbright IIE student fellowship.

African Languages Initiative

AKINTUNDE AKINYEMI, CHARLES BWENGE & JAMES ESSEGBEY

The Program in African Languages at the University of Florida with the support of the Center for African Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures successfully hosted the second African Languages Initiative (AFLI) Domestic Intensive Summer Program from 3 June – 27 July 2012 in 5 languages (Akan, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu) at beginning and intermediate levels. The program is designed by the University of Florida to assist American students in acquiring high proficiency in critical languages of Africa in order to strengthen the United States' intellectual and economic competitiveness and enhance international cooperation for economic, humanitarian, and national security. The 8-week intensive language program offers select students, funded by the Boren Scholarship or Boren Fellowship programs as well as the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) fellowship program, an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and experience with African languages and cultures.



AFLI is a pilot program designed to increase the number of Boren Scholars, Fellows, and alumni engaged in the study of critical languages of Africa. Its purpose is to help meet the critical need for specialists in a range of academic and professional fields who are able to oper-



ate effectively in major African languages. An initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), AFLI builds off the resources of the NSEP-sponsored Boren Scholarships and Fellowships, and The Language Flagship.

The University of Florida has now successfully hosted the AFLI domestic programs for two consecutive years. The 2011 program offered only two languages, Swahili and Yoruba, and was hosted alongside the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI) on behalf of the 12 Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa and the Association of African Studies Programs. The 2012 program consisted of five languages (Akan/Twi, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu) and was open to both Boren-funded participants and FLAS fellows. Hausa will be added to our offerings in 2013, making a total of 6 languages.

A total of 43 students from 37 colleges/universities across the United States participated in the 2012 program - 34 at the beginning level and 9 at the intermediate level. 29 of the participants were Boren-funded students while the remaining 14 were FLAS-funded. At the beginning level: 19 in Swahili, 5 in Yoruba, 4

in Akan, 3 in Wolof and 3 in Zulu. At the intermediate level: 3 in Wolof, 2 in Swahili, 2 in Yoruba, 1 in Akan and 1 in Zulu.

Akintunde Akinyemi and James Essegbey are associate professors in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC). Charles Bwenge is senior lecturer in LLC and the Center for African Studies, and coordinates the UF Program in African Languages (PAL). Funding for AFLI is through a grant from NSEP administered by the International Institute of Education (IIE).

Cell Phone Usage and Its Impact on Zambian Economy and Society

AGNES NGOMA LESLIE, JACOB PARKER & KALYN WYCKOFF



During summer 2012, I embarked on a study of the impact of mobile phones on the Zambian economy and society. The research was prompted by the dramatic rise in cell phone usage in the last ten years, with almost every household now having a cell phone or access to one. The use of cell phones has risen exponentially among all sectors of the population, including the lowest in income. In 2000, there were 0.97 cell phone subscribers per 100 inhabitants; by 2011 there were 60 subscribers per 100 inhabitants.

Two University of Florida students - Kalyn Wyckoff and Jacob Parker - and I gathered primary data on cell phone usage in the Zambian capital city, Lusaka and its tourism capital, Livingstone. We conducted in-depth interviews with officials managing cell phone companies, government officials and telecommunications policy makers. In addition we conducted surveys of cell phone users, conducted interviews at the three main newspapers (*Times of Zambia*, *Daily Mail* and *The Post*), interviewed University of Zambia professors and students, and surveyed small, medium and large scale business owners and administrators. Our study found that while cell phone usage has grown land phone usage has

decreased, although most businesses still rely on land lines for their businesses. About 75% of the general population and students surveyed had access to the Internet on their cell phones compared to 50% of business people. This is partly because business people use land phones as well as computers in their offices. About 60% of the general population and students owned a computer, while 80% had access to computers. A significant proportion of the population uses the Internet for social networking: cell phones have helped bring about a sense of community and people use cell phones to communicate more frequently with others who may live in distant areas.

The study also found that the most significant use of the cell phones is for the transfer of money among individuals and from companies to individuals. As a result of a partnership between cell phone companies and commercial banks, cell phone subscribers can use their cell phones to pay their loans, bills and salaries. Farmers can also sell their produce at competitive prices using their cell phones. In addition, subscribers seeking specific information such as employment, training health or farming information can have it sent daily to their cell phones for as little as 20 cents a day.

Cell phones have also made it easier for reporters to follow up on stories and provide background details, our study found. According to the media personnel surveyed, the use of cell phones has lessened corruption. In reporting the elections, for example, results were published as soon as they become available, making it difficult for government officials to manipulate them.

One negative impact of the growth of the cell phone industry in Zambia is the proliferation of transmitters across the country. Many people are concerned that cellular radiation emitted from phone towers and antennas represents a health and environmental risk to the human and animal population as well as the environment. Initially each cell phone company placed its own towers everywhere. They now build joint transmitters in order to lessen the impact.

On the individual level, people spend more money on cell phones than they can afford. We found that the daily average amount students spend on cell phone usage was K10,000 (\$2) which was quite high considering the average student income. Adults surveyed spent about K20,000 a day, which was about 20 percent of their daily income. Since young people use texting to cut cell phone communication costs, their writing and spelling has been negatively impacted, since they have to abbreviate or use non-standard language. Overall, the study findings indicate that cell phones and the Internet have great potential to facilitate Zambian development.

Agnes Ngoma Leslie is senior lecturer and outreach director at the Center for African Studies. Jacob Parker and Kalyn Wyckoff both minored in African Studies. This research was funded by a UF Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) Research Tutorial Abroad Grant.

In and Out of Africa: African Memoirs after 1980

ALIOUNE SOW & LUISE WHITE

Over the last fifteen or so years there has been an explosion in the publication of memoirs by Africans, white and black, about growing up there, about going to war there, about being in jail there. Fifteen years ago, it would have been hard to imagine that the self-absorbed recollections of white children growing up in settler societies would be marketable. Starting in the mid-1990s the writings of Kwame Anthony Appiah, Alexandra Fuller, Peter Godwin, Wendy Kann, Douglas Rogers, Gillian Slovo, and Lauren St. John have been published by commercial publishing houses in London and New York. At the same time, a new body of highly successful memoirs written by authors such as Ishmael Beah, Aminatta Forna, and Helene Cooper, signaled a new phase in the history both of writing about the self in Africa and writings about Africa that became popular. Alexandra Fuller's books were reviewed in the *New York Times*, for example, while Ishmael Beah's account of being a child soldier in Sierra Leone, *A Long Way Gone*, became a talk show phenomenon, nominated several times for the best book of the year, with an Australian newspaper sending reporters to Sierra Leone to challenge the veracity of his narrative.

This recent iteration of African memoirs, both as writing and publishing, as well as their circulation and reception had not yet been fully interrogated. Viewed from North America, these many publications and their commercial success looked like something brand new, a new way of 'explaining' Africa to audiences and ultimately a new way to relate to the continent. But the writing of memoirs and autobiographies by Africans for readers outside of Africa is not new, and the motives and the intentions of the writing are complex and sometimes ambivalent. For instance, in the 1950s, memoirs and autobiographies were as much about

the experience of growing up in Africa explained to Europeans and Africans as they were about the triumph of nationalist ideals. The best examples of which are Camara Laye's *L'Enfant Noir* (1953), Peter Abrahams' *Tell Freedom*, (1954) and *The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah* (1957).

The workshop "In and Out of Africa: African Memoirs after 1980" was inter-disciplinary in scope, inter-regional in content, and examined the memoirs that have been published locally, in Africa,

examined memoirs as crucial contributions to African ideas about memory but also as a specific mode of writing, which has become so critical to Western ways of understanding Africa, ways that often elide the complexities of contemporary Africa with the authority of personal memory. We studied these narratives as a literary and commercial movement that reveals its own historical construction; looking at how memory and writing about oneself reveal new and local modes of 'explaining' Africa, of mediating the complexities of being in Africa through a circulation of textual practices in and out of Africa.

To look at the transformations, reception and circulation of memoirs and autobiographies, the workshop included participants who have approached memoirs from different perspectives. Papers were presented by scholars who have written about memoirs or edited memoirs, scholars, journalists and novelists who had written their own memoirs. The workshop was held September 13-14 2012 and featured a keynote by Zakes Mda, papers by Douglas Rogers, Stephen Davis (UF 2010), Gary Burgess, Leonard Wantchekon, Gregory Mann, Leonard V. Smith, and the organizers Alioune Sow and Luise White.

OUT OF AFRICA:
THE WORK OF MEMOIRS IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICA
SEPTEMBER 14-15

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 14
404 Grinter Hall
10:00am-5pm

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 15
05 Keene-Flint Hall
9:00am-4:30pm

Participants include:
Gary Burgess, Stephen Davis, Gregory Mann, Douglas Rogers, Leonard Smith,
Alioune Sow, Leonard Wantchekon, Luise White

Keynote by Zakes Mda

UF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

and those which are now sold at Starbucks or reviewed on NPR. The aim was to explore the relationship between the two, and the ways in which the success of commercial publishing in North America stimulates local publishing in Africa, and the extent to which the reverse is true. We argued that memoirs are deeply political, texts written in specific and critical contexts, and while they are local in their production they are distinctly transnational in their circulation. The workshop

Alioune Sow is associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the Center for African Studies. Luise White is professor of history and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for this workshop provided by the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, the Center for African Studies, the Florida-France Research Institute, and the Department of History.

Kongo Across the Waters: Publication and Exhibition Research

SUSAN COOKSEY & ROBIN POYNOR



In the second year of preparation for the project “Kongo across the Waters,” a collaboration between the Harn Museum of Art and the Royal Museum for Central Africa, co-curators Robin Poynor, Hein Vanhee (researcher, RMCA) and Susan Cooksey, worked steadily on research and organization for the exhibition and publication. They consulted with some thirty scholars who specialize in Kongo and the Central Africa Diaspora who have also contributed chapters for the publication.

In February 2012, Poynor and Cooksey traveled to Washington, DC to view collections and meet with scholars at George Washington University, University of Maryland, and museum staff at the Smithsonian Museums of African Art, The American Indian, American Art, American History, African American History and Culture, and the Anacostia. In early March 2012, all three curators traveled to New Orleans where they met with artists, scholars, museum professionals, and bearers of culture to discuss the Kongo roots of music, dance, voodoo and other aspects of visual culture. Later that month, Poynor and Cooksey ex-

plored archives, museums, artists’ studios, historical sites and African American cemeteries in north Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. These investigations yielded fascinating links between Low-country African American culture and Kongo culture, including the production of coiled baskets, carved walking sticks, ceramic vessels, music and dance, and conjuration. In April, Poynor and Cooksey visited Fort Valley State University to seek more information about Phyllis Biggs, who was brought from the Congo to the US in the 1800s. They also viewed objects in the collection of the Tubman Museum in Macon, Georgia.

From May to June, Vanhee visited Gainesville to work with co-curators and Harn staff to assist with planning the exhibition and book. In July, Carlee Forbes, an art history graduate research assistant, traveled to Belgium to conduct research on the RMCA’s holdings of Kongo textiles, and view the current selection of objects for the exhibition. In August, the curators, assisted by Harn Director Rebecca Nagy, submitted an NEH proposal that would allow for enhanced programming and interpretation for the exhibition. The Harn also secured two travel venues for the exhibition at the Princeton

University Museum of Art (2014) and the New Orleans Museum of Art (2015). In September 2012, Poynor and Cooksey traveled to Miami to see the exhibition of José Bedia’s work, “Transcultural Pilgrim” at the Miami Museum of Art. They met with the artist and discussed his practice of Palo Mayombe and his experience in Zambia and Angola as inspiration for his art. They also visited The Little Haiti Cultural Center, founded by Haitian artist Edouard Duval Carrié, and viewed works in his studio. Both Duval Carrié and Bedia’s art will be featured in the exhibition. Nearby in Little Haiti, the curators explored botanicas and acquired paquets Congo and other materials for the exhibition.

The curators will be finalizing their research, conducting artist interviews in the U.S., and completing the manuscript in early 2013.



Susan Cooksey is curator of African Art at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. Robin Poynor is professor of art history. Both are affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for exhibition research and travel was provided by the Harn Museum and a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant.

Risk, Threat and Vulnerability in Ghana's Off-Shore Oil Sector

BRENDA CHALFIN, MAIA BASS, DONALD UNDERWOOD & JENNIFER BOYLAN

Following the 2006 discovery of oil reserves in deep water off Ghana's west coast, an array of petroleum firms and offshore service providers have come to Ghana, and a host of Ghanaian firms have been founded or expanded to include the offshore sector. Oil exports began in 2010 and the country's main field produced about 85,000 barrels a day by the end of 2011. As part of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) Research Tutorial Abroad (RTA) program, our research team sought to better understand Ghana's response to this budding industry. In particular, the RTA pilot project served as an opportunity to explore issues related to risk, threat and vulnerability in the offshore sector. In three short weeks the team was able to undertake a broad survey of "risk" from numerous stakeholders engaged in the offshore sector. By utilizing a multi-sited methodology and the support of contacts at the University of Ghana, Regional Maritime University, and the Center for Democratic Development, the team was able to interview a diverse field of players, including government regulatory agencies, petroleum companies, not-for-profit organizations, training and educational institutions, and off-shore service providers.

The team first spent time in Accra interviewing individuals in high power positions, such as oil company executives, safety training operators, and governmental regulatory organizations. We sought to look at the oil industry from the regulatory perspective, as well as from individuals charged with overseeing broader oil operations. Ghana's regulatory branches played a very intensive catch-up game after the initial discovery of oil. By 2012, the laws and regulatory bodies seem to be finally solidifying and authority domains have largely been settled. A training institute has been created, allowing international and Ghanaian oil workers to take the industry-standard requirements on home turf. Visits to educational and training institutions introduced a variety of certification requirements for those working offshore. Safety and emergency preparedness training is one important way the industry seeks to minimize risk, threat and vulnerability. Observation of these training programs and reviews of safety procedures and protocols offered



an early entry point into an understanding of risk in the offshore sector.

In traveling to "The Oil City" of Takoradi, the team gained up close exposure to daily operations of on-shore oil contractors and security firms. We interviewed rig workers as they came on shore before heading home, either in Ghana or abroad. Rig workers were asked about policies and protocols in place to address and mitigate risk, threat and vulnerability. We learned that there are very strict policies in place regarding personal safety while offshore, and there are clear protocols for reporting any safety risks. Responses were mixed, however, when rig workers were asked about the effectiveness of such protocols. We interviewed local employment agencies to better understand the training experience required and how agencies went about certifying their employees' abilities. We visited the Takoradi harbor and spoke with individuals involved with maintaining the security of the oil rigs as well as the docking stations. We visited the coast west of Takoradi to observe the impacts of off-shore natural gas processing on fishing communities.

Our analysis of Ghana's oil in-

dustry demonstrates the convergence of infrastructural and institutional mechanisms to operationalize the industry. Complexity abounds as oil companies, training institutes, and regulatory agencies attempt to ensure security for this new industry. Our exploratory research on risk, threat and vulnerability in the sector yielded a number of avenues for future research. The preeminence of safety and of fostering a culture of safety on offshore rigs became apparent and is one potential avenue available for additional research. Equally interesting is the joint role of corporate and state actors in securing the rig operating environment and the challenges this poses for local fishers.

Brenda Chalfin is associate professor of anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Maia Bass and Donald Underwood are PhD Students in anthropology, Jennifer Boylan is a PhD student in political science. This research was funded by a Research Tutorial Abroad Grant from the UF Center for International Business and Education (CIBER) and the Center for African Studies.

Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER) Project

ANITA SPRING, ROBERT ROLFE & LEVY ODERA



SABER 2012 will be the second of a series of annual reports produced by the SABER Project. It provides up-to-date business environment information on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This is accomplished by giving country, regional, and sub-continent summaries and evaluations based on print and on-line sources, the world's databases, and field research on current business climate and trends, domestic/foreign investments and trade deals, and socio-political conditions and events. An extensive statistical appendix constructed by SABER provides additional data for SABER's assessments.

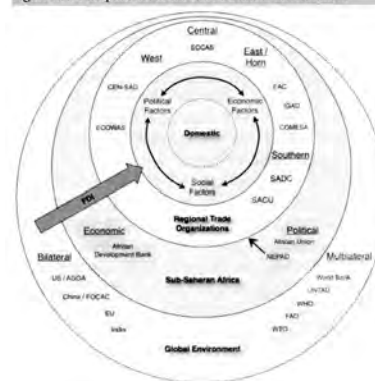
We began by studying the GDPs of SSA countries to determine the twenty largest economies. Those that made the current cut were grouped into four sub-regions based on regional trade memberships and agreements—West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal); Central Africa (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo); East Africa and the Horn (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan/South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda); and Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia).

SABER 2012 then presents current data for each country and sub-region on: (1) political stability; (2) economic growth and trade; (3) foreign direct investment (FDI); (4) infrastructure, transportation, utilities, and telecommunication; (5) business climate, stock exchanges, and microfinance; and (6) health and social aspects. Influences on countries and sub-regions from domestic and international entities, companies, investors, and governments are evaluated. Appendix A provides quantitative and qualitative tables on FDI and trade, political and legal aspects, agricultural and commodity production and sales, ease of doing business rankings, financial markets, and social, gender, health, and education variables. These data help to discern and evaluate the implications of busi-

ness makers, as well as to those researching the business environment of a country or sub-region. The electronic versions have allowed African, American, Chinese, and European business leaders, academics, and policy makers to utilize the report. SABER 2011 is already being used in U.S. and African business schools and African Studies programs. The report is printed annually with updates being posted on the websites. <http://warrington.ufl.edu/ciber/publications/saber.asp> and <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/>

Dr. Anita Spring is Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology and Center for African Studies, University of Florida. Dr. Robert Rolfe is Professor of International Business, Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina. Levy Odera is a PhD candidate in political science at the University of Florida. Funding for this project is from USED Title VI grants to the UF Center for African Studies (CAS) and the Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at Warrington College of Business (UF) and the Moore School of Business (USC).

Figure M1: Components of the SSA Business Environment



ness deals, FDI, imports and exports, business enablers and constraints, and political machinations, as well as the presence of Chinese, North America, European, and African development assistance and business people and their investments.

The information and analyses are useful to academics (faculty and students), business people, policy

The Trans-Saharan Elections Project (TSEP)

LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN & DANIEL A. SMITH



In 2012 the Trans-Saharan Elections Project (TSEP) completed a highly successful second round of exchanges with elections specialists from the six Sahelian countries involved in the project: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. TSEP is funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and has involved a two-year series of exchanges and seminars bringing together elections specialists from the six countries with a wide range of American academics and professionals also involved in elections. The goals of the project, co-directed by Leonardo A. Villalón and Daniel A. Smith, are to comparatively examine the challenges and issues involved in ensuring electoral freedom, fairness, and transparency; to develop a network of scholars and practitioners across the six countries and with the University of Florida; and to develop a research resource on elections in the Sahel.

Key to accomplishing these goals has been our collaborative partnerships in each of those coun-

tries. Our partners have been key in helping us select and invite participants, sharing information on their own work on elections, and hosting and organizing seminars and meetings in our visits to each country.

Our partners include:

- CGD, Centre Pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (Burkina Faso)
- EISA-Chad (Chad)
- APEM, Réseau Appui au Processus Electoral au Mali (Mali)
- Université de Nouakchott, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Economiques (Mauritania)
- LASDEL, Laboratoire E'Etudes et Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (Niger)
- Mouvement Citoyen (Senegal)
- WARC, West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal.

Since the early 1990s the ma-

jority of countries in Africa have instituted systems of regular elections. While the results of the past two decades have been highly mixed, in virtually every country elections have been accepted as the "normal" mode of acceding to public office. The reiterated processes of elections has, however, also produced intense debates about their conduct, and over the years there has been an increased awareness that the need is not just to avoid cheating on election day but to consider much broader issues such as the impact of varying electoral systems, the importance of the larger institutional infrastructure and the rules of game, the role of social and political organizations, and the management of the mechanics of electoral processes. Importantly, these very issues also preoccupy many intense American political debates about electoral reform. A key goal of the TSEP project is thus to share experiences, and to stimulate discussions that will have real and substantive impact on our understanding of elections.

Our May 2012 seminar in the US for our African visitors, involving 16 participants representing all six countries. The three week seminar thus took place in an American presidential election year, and in a context in which there was much intense debate in the United States about key aspects of elections—redistricting, voter identification, voting procedures and provisions for early and absentee voting—that some argued would have an impact on voter turnout. In the Sahel, the seminar followed some highly significant events as well: In Senegal, extremely successful and well-executed presidential elections had been held in April, happily proving wrong expectations of problems

in a context of high political tensions. In Mali, by contrast, elections planned for May had been swept aside by the coup of 22nd March, which ended twenty years of democracy in the country and ushered in a politically catastrophic crisis. In this context there was much to discuss, and throughout the seminar our exchanges were rich and intense.

Again in 2012 the May program began in Gainesville, at the University of Florida, where the group took part in a series of talks and seminars on the UF campus, met numerous municipal elected officials, and visited institutions involved in managing local elections, including the offices of Alachua County Commissioner of Elections Pam Carpenter. A highlight of the visit was the opportunity for participants to “vote,” using sample ballots and vote scanning machines, as well as to witness the counting and verification procedures.

Moving on to the state level, the group traveled to Florida’s capital in Tallahassee, where they were received by numerous state officials and agencies. The opportunity to engage with key actors involved in the debate about a controversial law that modified Florida’s electoral procedures provided a particularly interesting perspective on elections for the African participants. A highlight of the visit to Tallahassee was the day-long series of events organized by Judge Nikki Clark, of the First District Court of Appeals and a participant in the TSEP sponsored trip across the Sahel of June-July 2011. This included a discussion panel of the lessons learned from the problematic 2000 elections in Florida—in which Judge Clark had played a role during the period of legal challenges to the vote count—as well as an opportunity to witness oral arguments and discuss with a panel of judges from the Court of Appeal. Judge Clark also graciously hosted the entire delegation for a typically Florida fish fry

dinner at her home that evening!

From Florida the group traveled to Washington DC, where they had the opportunity to again meet with key institutions involved in US election management at the Federal level. The three weeks culminated with a day-long seminar at the US Department of State, during which participants were able to meet a number of American officials as well as exchange ideas and experiences with two other delegations visiting the US.

the final stage of the TSEP project. In 2012-13 we are thus working on the development of a website which will serve as a comprehensive resource for scholars as well as for policy makers, journalists, and others interested in the question of elections across the Sahel. This will involve a workshop with one TSEP alumnus for each country, planned for Dakar in March 2013, in which we will discuss and finalize the content of the website. We are confident that this final stage will



The uncertain situation in the Sahel given the crisis in Mali and the effects on its neighbors required us to change the initial plans to lead a second delegation of American visitors to each country in summer 2012. Nevertheless, Leonardo Villalón undertook a return visit to Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, and was joined by Daniel Smith in Senegal for a final stage of discussions with the US embassy and local partners. This trip provided an opportunity for further meetings with electoral specialists, and for some lectures and seminars with academic groups.

Most importantly, it allowed us to plan for

allow us to meet our goals of creating a permanent resource for understanding of the Sahel, and of institutionalizing a professional network across the region with links to our UF colleagues and graduate students with interests in the countries of the Sahel.

Leonardo Villalón is associate professor of political science and former director of the Center for African Studies. Daniel Smith is professor of political science and an affiliate with the Center for African Studies.

AFRICAN STUDIES QUARTERLY



FOUNDATION

The Center for African Studies founded the African Studies Quarterly (ASQ) to promote research on Africa beyond that undertaken by University of Florida faculty and graduate students. It is an interdisciplinary, fully refereed, online open access journal dedicated to publishing the finest scholarship relating to the African continent. ASQ invites the submission of original manuscripts on a full range of topics related to Africa in all areas. To qualify for consideration, submissions must meet the scholarship standards within the appropriate discipline and be of interest to an interdisciplinary readership. As an electronic journal, we welcome submissions that are of a time-sensitive nature.

The ASQ undertakes two kinds of publications. Most issues contain articles from a wide range of authors on diverse topics, as in Volume 13, Issue 3:

- Becoming Local Citizens: Senegalese Female Migrants and Agrarian Clientelism in The Gambia
- Hip Hop as Social Commentary in Accra and Dar es Salaam
- The Nation State, Resource Conflict, and the Challenges of “Former-Sovereignties” in Nigeria

The ASQ also publishes Special Issues that focus on a specific theme, as with 11/2&3 guest edited by Ilda Lindell of Stockholm University and titled “Between Exit and Voice: Informality and the Spaces of Popular Agency.”

REVIEW PROCESS

An editorial committee composed of graduate students in African Studies who hail from Africa and the U.S. as well as other countries and from a wide range of disciplines conducts the internal review of submitted manuscripts. Those accepted for consideration are then sent to two external reviewers. ASQ expects all manuscripts to be original and not to have been submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere. Final publication depends on the quality of the manuscript and the associated peer review process. The journal will attempt to publish manuscripts no later than six months after submission. For submission guidelines, matters related to the ASQ style, how to contact the ASQ, and other issues, potential authors should consult the ASQ website: www.africa.ufl.edu/asq or email africanstudiesquarterly@gmail.com

FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

ACADEMIC YEAR & SUMMER FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Florida's Center for African Studies anticipates awarding Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for the academic year. These fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) under Title VI of the U.S. Higher Education Act and are awarded to students combining graduate work in any academic discipline with African area and language studies.

Fellowships are offered for any one of the regularly taught languages (**Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, Xhosa, and Yoruba**) as well as for other African languages for which instruction can be arranged.

Academic year fellowships provide a stipend of \$15,000 and cover the cost of tuition and fees (12 credits per semester). Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and be admitted to a graduate program at the University of Florida.

Summer fellowships provide students with an opportunity to undertake intensive African language study in any USED approved program. Summer fellowships cover tuition at the host institution and provide a stipend of \$2,500.

For more information, including application deadlines, please visit www.africa.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/flas.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

MADELYN M. LOCKHART

Graduate Research Award



In 2004, Dr. Madelyn Lockhart, professor emeritus of economics and a former Dean of the Graduate School, established an endowment to support an annual award for graduate students doing pre-dissertation research in Africa.

JEANNE & HUNT DAVIS

Graduate Research Award



In 2004, Dr. R. Hunt Davis, professor emeritus in History and a former director of the Center for African Studies, and his wife, Jeanne, established an endowment to support graduate students doing pre-dissertation research in Africa.

African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award

The generous contributions from Jeanne & Hunt Davis and Dr. Lockhart has made it possible for the Center to provide support for graduate students each summer doing fieldwork in Africa. In an effort to expand our capability for supporting graduate students, Dr. Davis has taken the lead in helping CAS work toward establishing an additional endowment.

The African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award now has over \$20,000 in commitments and is moving toward the goal of \$30,000, which will provide more support for graduate students. Please see the following page for more information about this fund and how you can contribute.

The Center would like to thank the following individuals who have contributed to our various funds in the past year (with an extra special thanks to those who are working to build the Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Fund).

Anonymous

Dr. Joe K. Amoako

Dr. Flordeliz T. Bugarin

Dr. Charles Bwenge

Dr. Paul A. Chadik

Dr. William Conwill

Dr. Susan Cooksey

Dr. Mark Davidheiser

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CONTRIBUTE TO GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ON AFRICA AT UF

Funds for graduate students to travel and carry out research in Africa are in very short supply, especially in these trying economic times!

Beyond their training at UF, field research in Africa is absolutely essential for students to write the kinds of dissertations on which they will be able to base successful careers, whether in academia, government, NGOs, or the private sector. The major dissertation research awards for Africa are limited in number and increasingly competitive. In order for Ph.D. candidates to be competitive for these awards they must demonstrate a strong familiarity with the proposed field site and the capability to carry out the proposed work.


As a result, preliminary summer research trips to lay the groundwork for dissertation fieldwork are invaluable for making students competitive for national awards for dissertation funding. Helping our students launch their professional careers in this way is one of our top priorities at the Center for African Studies.

The Center for African Studies has recently established a fund with the goal of creating an endowment of at least \$30,000, so as to generate the revenue for an annual award to help a student carry out pre-dissertation research in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, we (and future generations of UF Africanist students!) would be very grateful. The form below can be

used for this purpose.

If you are a UF employee and would like to contribute via payroll deduction, please contact CAS for assistance.

If you have any questions or would like more information—please contact Abraham Goldman (CAS director) at agoldmn@ufl.edu or 352-392-2183

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THE CENTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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