



# Center for African Studies

## Graduate Student Research 2008



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

### Center for African Studies

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# From the Director

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At the beginning of each fall semester, the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida buzzes with greetings and story-swapping among colleagues and graduate students who have spent much of the summer carrying out research in Africa—a sort of impromptu *kgotla* or a *baraza* on the fourth floor of Grinter Hall.

Struck by the diversity of topics, geographic sites, and disciplinary perspectives of the work being carried out by UF graduate students in Africa, it occurred to us that this was something worth celebrating. We are proud of the wealth of knowledge about the continent that our students are helping to create, and of the training and mentorship they are receiving from the Africanist faculty across the university.

This brochure highlights some of the research being carried out by UF graduate students in 2008. It includes accounts of work from a broad array of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives, and in all regions of the continent. While the short descriptions cannot always do justice to the richness of the work, we trust that taken as a group they help support our claim that UF is a premier institution for the study of Africa.

For more information about African Studies at UF, and about the faculty resources and the working groups that make this all possible, visit our website at [www.africa.ufl.edu](http://www.africa.ufl.edu), or contact us at the addresses you will find on the final page.

—Leonardo A. Villalón  
Director, Center for African Studies

# The Center for African Studies at the University of Florida

## ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE GRADUATE STUDY OF AFRICA

The University of Florida is the state's oldest, largest and most comprehensive university, and among the nation's most academically diverse public universities. It is one of only 17 land-grant universities that belong to the prestigious Association of American Universities. UF has a long history of established programs in international education, research and service.

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 over two decades. It is currently one of only eleven 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 active 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.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

Prestigious FLAS fellowships are offered by the Center for African Studies, with funds provided by the US Department of Education through Title VI of the Higher Education Act. FLAS fellows combine the study of an African language with African area studies in any discipline. Students admitted to any graduate program at the University of Florida are eligible for these fellowships. Language instruction is regularly

available in the following languages: Akan, Amharic, Arabic, Swahili, Wolof, Xhosa, and Yoruba. Other language instruction may be arranged on demand.

Summer FLAS fellowships for intensive language study are also available. For more information and application procedures and deadlines for both academic year and summer awards, please visit [www.africa.ufl.edu](http://www.africa.ufl.edu).

## 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 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. Among the active groups are those in: African Natural Resource Management; Cultural Heritage Management in Africa; Governance and the African State; Dynamics of Muslim Societies in Africa; African Urban Languages; Health and Society in Africa; African Material Cultures; and the Development Studies Reading Group.

## GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

The Center helps support graduate student travel to conferences for presenting their research, and holds an annual competition for graduate student summer travel awards, which are intended to help provide support for students doing pre-dissertation fieldwork in Africa. The Center is also able to support a limited number of graduate assistants for work with Center initiatives, including the *African Studies Quarterly*.

# Student Reports

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## Uncertainty Analysis for Strategic Monitoring in Complex Transboundary Ecological Systems

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**ANNA CATHEY**

The Okavango Basin is a large transboundary watershed located in southern Africa that is shared between three countries: Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. River flow in the basin originates in the Angolan headwaters, then continues through a sliver of land in arid Namibia, and finally empties into the Okavango Delta, located in Botswana. This water never finds the sea but instead spreads out over the flat alluvial fan that is the Okavango Delta and is evaporated on the border of the Kalahari desert. The Okavango Basin is one of the most pristine watersheds in southern Africa.

The transboundary nature of the basin complicates the management of the resource. This work involves a study within the framework of the adaptive management of complex transboundary hydrologic systems to identify gaps in knowledge that are important for the management of the system and then communicate this uncertainty through a participatory process. We believe that this technique will encourage management to develop strategic monitoring plans to decrease the uncertainty in the system. First, we will conduct an uncertainty analysis on the hydrologic models in the Okavango system. Second, we will involve participants throughout this process to communicate these issues of uncertainty. We have partnerships with both scientists at the University

of Botswana and with managers in the Okavango system that will facilitate these participant interactions. Finally, we will evaluate the success of the study by tracking perceptions about acknowledging uncertainty among managers and behavioral intent to develop strategic monitoring programs that decrease gaps in knowledge.

The work will produce both immediate impacts for the Okavango Basin as well as broadly applicable knowledge in the fields of uncertainty analysis and adaptive management. Theoretically adaptive management is an attractive concept. However, operationally a great deal of apprehension persists about acknowledging the uncertainty that adaptive management embraces. This research involves the development



and testing of a conceptual design that couples uncertainty analysis with a participatory process to both strategically close gaps in knowledge and promote the acceptance of uncertainty within management. The outcome of this research may extend beyond the Okavango Basin to provide a theoretically persuasive and operationally functional method for incorporating uncertainty analysis into an adaptive decision framework.

*Anna Cathey is a doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. She received funding from the NSF-funded Adaptive Management: Wise Use of Waters, Wetlands, and Watersheds (AM-W3) IGERT program.*

## Rural Communities and Tourism Development in Toubkal National Park, Morocco

**SARAH CERVONE**

While living in a mud and stone structure at nearly 2000 meters in altitude, I conducted 16 months of dissertation research with the Ait Mizane Amazighe (Berber) community in the village of Aremd in the High Atlas Mountains in Toubkal National Park, Morocco. Aremd has recently become a 'boom town' due to state-motivated tourism development policies that aim to alleviate poverty in rural communities and reduce pressure on natural resources. My dissertation in Anthropology examines the community's transition from a primarily agricultural subsistence economy to a predominantly cash and capital based tourism market economy. I assess how the global tourism economy articulates with non-tourism production strategies and previous socio-economic arrangements. My ultimate goal is to determine how specialization in a single tourism-based production strategy affects community resilience and vulnerability to disaster, whether natural or artificial.

Since participant-observation is the hallmark of cultural anthropology, I spent many days joining the women in agricultural and domestic chores. Within a short while I learned to cut barley with a scythe, gather and deflesh walnuts, and haul fodder on my back, leaving my hands blistered and calloused. However, a good deal of my time was spent in the kitchen, clutching a glass of Moroccan tea, or *atay*, and dipping a piece of bread into a tajine while talking with household members about their life in Morocco and my life in America. To penetrate the world of men and tourists in the nearby market place, I used a notebook and a pen to conduct interviews and collect data.

My research experience helped me

to develop a better understanding of the complexities involved with tourism development in rural communities in Morocco. Most tourism development policies rest on the expectation that increased cash and capital will elevate the standard of living and improve the quality of life for residents by increasing the availability of goods and services to residents. In Aremd however, tourism development is informed by pre-existing social and economic arrangements that are rooted in demographic variables such as age and gender. Such arrangements affect the flow of goods and services, and may limit or enhance a resident's ability to participate and benefit from tourism development. My research found that in some ways, tourism development



created, exacerbated and rearranged social inequalities in the mountain community. Therefore, within a single community, tourism policies may succeed for some and fail for others.

This research project would not have been possible without the Tachelhit language training I received as a U.S. Fulbright Fellow in 2007–2008, as well as the Arabic language training I received at the University of Florida and the Arabic Language Institute in Fez (supported by the Center of African Studies) in 2005–2007 and at the American Institute for Maghrib Studies Arabic Language Program in Tangier in 2006.

*Sarah Cervone is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Her research was made possible by a Fulbright Fellowship in 2007–2008 and a Polly and Paul Doughty Fellowship Summer 2007. She was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow for the study of Arabic during Summer 2005, as well as Academic Year 2005-06 and 2006-07.*

## Tourism's Impact on Human Wellbeing in Caprivi (Namibia)

**JEAN-GAEL COLLOMB**

"We liked what you did because you are giving us information. And you gave us lifts," a local chief from Ngonga village told me. What he meant was that after conducting research there for 6 months, I did not just leave without a trace after getting the data: I organized sessions with villagers to present preliminary results. It seems simple and obvious, but sadly happens much less often than it should. And the second part of his statement? Well, I had a car to do my research and when I had free space, I would give rides to people. It was the least I could do to start giving something back to the communities, and still seemed insufficient. However, I've seen many cars simply zoom by leaving sand clouds behind. So, my little contribution was very much appreciated. It was good to hear that because, at times, I get frustrated being "just" a Ph.D. researcher witnessing the challenges of life in the Caprivi. Indeed, that's part of my research focus.

I am trying to understand how nature-based tourism impacts the wellbeing of local residents living around national parks in the Caprivi province of Namibia. Namibia gained its independence in 1990, and is home to 2 million people unevenly distributed over the country's 824,000 km<sup>2</sup> (almost 6 times the size of Florida). It has abundant mineral resources but a harsh climate, which represents a challenge for people living from the land. This has contributed to extreme income disparity, and most rural people struggle

to make a living. In the mid-1990s, communities were granted rights to benefit from wildlife within communal lands. Improving the lives of rural people entails finding a balance between use and conservation of natural resources. Such strategies often incorporate tourism activities to spur local economic development, because tourism success depends on intact natural resources. However, does tourism actually improve local residents' lives?

Most assessments of tourism impacts rely on relatively easily



measured, but limited indicators, such as income or employment. I wanted to consider the issue more holistically. Following focus group discussions and a pilot survey in 2007, I designed a study focused on human wellbeing to capture multidimensional socioeconomic impacts. It provides a more accurate, albeit complex, representation of how tourism impacts people's lives. With the help of local research assistants, I conducted 468 interviews in 5 communal areas between March and July 2008. Preliminary results suggest that while tourism may improve the wellbeing of individuals directly involved in the industry, community-wide impacts seem fairly limited. However, it is possible that differences exist between real and perceived impacts. Tourism is unlikely to be the silver bullet to reduce poverty in the region, but it does have a role to play. After completing the data analysis, I hope to return to Namibia to share final results with the communities, NGOs and government agencies in order to strengthen tourism's contribution to local people.

*Jean-Gael Collomb is a doctoral candidate in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment. His research was supported by NSF, the University of Florida (SNRE, the Center for African Studies, the Tropical Conservation and Development, the Working Forests in the Tropics and the Adaptive Management: Wise Use of Water, Wetlands and Watersheds programs), WWF-LIFE, Integrated Rural Development and Conservation, and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism.*



## Daily Life in the Exile Camps of the African National Congress (South Africa)

**STEPHEN R. DAVIS**

I spent the past year in Cape Town on an IIE Fulbright Fellowship where I conducted oral histories of members of Umkhonto we Sizwe; the former armed wing of the African National Congress. This research will form the basis of my dissertation, "Cosmopolitanism in Close Quarters; Everyday Life in the Exile Camps of the African National Congress." My research is primarily concerned with reconstructing the habitus of ex-combatants over a thirty year period, roughly from 1961 to 1989.

During this time, the African National Congress reconstituted itself as an exiled political party while it directed the armed struggle against apartheid. This effort included opening training camps in a number of southern African countries, recruiting youths leaving South Africa, and then infiltrating trained combatants into South Africa. As consequence of exile, many of these combatants also saw combat in conflicts in Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Over the last twelve months, I located several ex-combatants and recorded their myriad experiences in a series of extended interviews. Interviewees discussed topics as diverse as training and combat, food and eating, discipline and indiscipline, and theatrical performance and athletics in the camps. In addition, many interviewees contributed their perspectives on the multiple wars that plagued southern Africa during this

period. These interviews, combined with newly released archival holdings, present episodes in the liberation struggle not often seen in more celebratory accounts.

My research attempts to achieve two related goals. First, I will structure this material along the lines of new military histories, which place a greater emphasis on the social dimensions of soldiering and warfare. Beneath the surface trappings of hierarchy, discipline and uniformity lies a lively field of social relations in constant flux. A major concern of this project is explaining these relations within the context of conflicts in southern Africa over the latter half of the twentieth century. Second, I hope that a detailed historical rendering of the memories of ex-combatants will contribute fresh perspectives on the liberation struggle. The vast literature on the struggle against apartheid shares two unifying



characteristics, one, it is largely a history derived from the autobiographies of prominent figures, two, it is fixated on over-determined narratives that marginalize more unwieldy accounts.

While in South Africa, I debuted portions of this research at a colloquium entitled "Radio and Its Publics," held at the Witwatersrand Institute for Social and Economic Research, and at meeting of the Human Sciences Research Council. Both presentations proved to be highly enriching experiences. I had the opportunity of presenting new research to a learned audience of South African scholars, while in the process gaining many valuable insights and critiques.

*Stephen Davis is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History.*



## Development Difficulties among the Basubiya: Community-Based Natural Resource Management

**JOHN LANDON DENKLER**

This summer I travelled to Botswana in Southern Africa to conduct anthropological research among the Basubiya (Vekuhane) people and a development project that has been ongoing since the early 1990s. The Basubiya occupy northern Botswana along the Chobe river and Namibian Caprivi Strip. They are members of a group of villages known as the Chobe Enclave. The Chobe Enclave is composed of five villages spread out along a pot-holed and dusty dirt road that stretches south through the territory of Savuti on its way to Maun and the Okavango Delta. The Enclave villages, traveling north to south, include Mabele, Kavimba, Kachikau, Satau, and Parakarungu. The project itself falls under a development paradigm known as Community- Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).

The residents of the Chobe Enclave live near the Chobe National Park (Botswana's largest) in an area that includes impressive populations of elephants, hippos, lions, hyenas, and crocodiles among other wildlife. The effects of this living arrangement have many repercussions, including the loss of crops and livestock. Because of risks that have accumulated from living near this wild environment, poaching and poverty became significant issues within the Enclave villages. The idea of CBNRM was to resolve this problem of opposing forces by granting the local communities a measure of control over the wildlife populations nearest them. This control is achieved through the

allotment of hunting quotas provided by Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The authority over these hunting quotas is devolved to a trust committee that represents all five villages. The Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust (CECT) is made up of officers and voting members from all five villages. Their headquarters are located in the village of Kavimba, and CECT is responsible for negotiating the sale of this hunting quota to a nearby commercial safari operator. The funds are then distributed among the five villages, each with its own village trust committee.

After traveling around the region with Professor Brian Child's research



team of UF students and young African professionals, I settled in the village of Kavimba because of its status as the headquarters of CECT. Kavimba is a village of about six hundred inhabitants nestled into the sloping side of the Botswana plateau as it descends into the Chobe River valley that stretches out for miles into the Namibian wetland. In Kavimba, I rented living quarters from Dickson Sinka, the uncle of Lucksom Masule, who is the Basubiya historian. Much of my time was spent working with Masule, making contacts and learning the history of the Basubiya.

My methods included informal interviews and participant observation. From my findings, it appears that CBNRM in the area is struggling. The hunting quotas bring in profits, but much is spent on administration and projects that are not self-sustaining, such as a hut they transformed into a public internet booth through the use of a satellite dish. Projects such as this do not cover their own expenses and require continued funding from future quota profits. From my interviews, I discovered that what people want the most is better education for their children and more opportunities. There is a plan in the works for a partnership with a lodge operator to co-finance another lodge, which could provide more opportunities for the youth of the villages. This could take years to develop, however, and it is uncertain how much success it might sustain. These challenges make CBNRM an unpredictable development program in the Chobe Enclave, even though it has seen some of the greatest success in the country. Further research is needed to fully understand the complexities of the socio-political structure within the development program and its connections with the DWNP before suggestions can be made to improve the success of the program.

*John Landon Denkler is a master's student in the Department of Anthropology.*



## Political Institutions and HIV/AIDS Associations in Mozambique

**KENLY GREER FENIO**

I spent the year (2007) in Mozambique working on my dissertation research titled “Between Bedrooms And Ballots: The Politics of HIV’s ‘Economy of Infection’ In Mozambique.” Working from six research sites throughout the country, I collaborated with a number of HIV based and human rights based civil society associations to determine (via focus groups, interviews and 350 surveys) how volunteers are bringing what has traditionally been a private topic into the public and political realms in a relatively new, yet aid dependent, African democracy. The research was conducted with fellowship funding from Rotary International under the in-country project title of *Conhecimento é Alimentação* (Knowledge is Food), a community project designed to offer association members two kilos of food in exchange for information, thus highlighting trade rather than aid in this impoverished country.

My research has found that members are more likely than non-members (those who are not volunteers of any HIV or human rights associations) to: have better relationships at home, discuss political topics, and engage in civic activities (such as debates, political meetings, letter writing, etc). I also found that

volunteers are using theatre in the public arena to change community institutions and that associations have members from different ethnic, religious and political groups (thus illustrating cross cutting ties of a civic nature). Yet many of the associations have been co-opted by government through their corporatist reliance on the National AIDS Council



for funding, which restricts their freedom to critique government’s handling of the disease. My research illustrates how new space for citizenship is opening up, albeit slowly, particularly for women who often struggle under the weight of informal patriarchal institutions in the country.

In 2008, I returned to Mozambique to work on a “Democratic Linkages” project with Duke University whereby I conducted surveys with 20 journalists, academics, and others in the fields of electoral politics and democracy. While in Maputo, I presented “The Politics of Theatre for Development (TFD) in Combating HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” at the SACHES conference on Education and Regional Development in Southern Africa (to be published later this year in a book of conference proceedings). These were funded by Duke University and travel grants from UF’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the Department of Political Science. In addition, I wrote and distributed to several Mozambican organizations five research reports in 2008 based on my dissertation research.

*Kenly Greer Fenio is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. She is currently teaching at Virginia Tech and serving as a consultant on Africa and Mozambique for several projects.*



## Qua Masquerade in Calabar, Nigeria

**JORDAN A. FENTON**

As a summer FLAS recipient, I had the privilege of traveling to Calabar, the capital of the Cross River State of Nigeria in order to study the Ejagham language. The experience exceeded my expectations as I developed conversational skills, and acceptance among Qua (an Ejagham sub-group) communities. With the language training, I was able to communicate—using Ejagham—my interest in learning about their culture and art. In showing my enthusiasm to learn about Qua culture, and as a result of chiefs and elders becoming interested in my research on masquerade, they initiated me into their Mgbe society, historically known as the leopard secret society. The opportunity granted me a firm foundational understanding to Qua masquerade.

In the urban city of Calabar, the Qua face problems of cultural preservation due to historical and contemporary circumstances. Colonization and the slave and palm oil trades has greatly impacted the peoples of Calabar, especially the Qua, who have recently become mindful of the problem of preserving their cultural identity. Qua cultural identity is embedded in visual expression, chiefly their culture is rooted in masquerade. My research

explores how the Qua use masquerade in an effort to redefine and preserve their cultural identity as the postcolonial landscape of Calabar has challenged such safeguarding. My initial findings have led me to pursue research on contemporary Qua masquerade societies and examine the social workings of masquerade in urban settings. This research will move towards an historical construction to Qua masquerade. To this end, my research will investigate the



processes of change and adaptability of visual culture by interpreting the visual, ideological, and functional transformations reflected in Qua masquerade.

*Jordan Fenton is a doctoral student in the School of Art and Art History. He received a summer 2008 Center for African Studies FLAS fellowship to study Ejagham.*



# Spatial Dynamics of Elephant Impact on Trees in Chobe National Park, Botswana

**TIMOTHY FULLMAN**

This summer I spent about three months in Botswana conducting research inside Chobe National Park in the northeast corner of the county. The project consisted of two main components, one looking at vegetation status and the other wildlife distribution. The bulk of the project focused on spatial dynamics of elephant impact on trees. Elephants are known to exert a great influence on trees, breaking branches while foraging and sometimes stripping bark off the trees in a process known as “ringbarking.” Some trees are completely knocked over. I looked at patterns of elephant use correlated with distance from the Chobe River, the permanent water source in the area. Previous studies have demonstrated high levels of elephant use around the river, tapering off as one heads further inland. These studies all stop, however, about 9km into the park. I wanted to go much farther than this to see if elephants were drinking and foraging around the river and then moving inland to feed. This might result in two peaks in tree damage, with important ramifications for ecosystem stability.

Working with two other UF students, as well as individuals from the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the University of Botswana, I completed vegetation transects stretching from the Chobe River to the southern border of the park. Thirty-four transects were systematically conducted every 2.5km along a dirt road that runs roughly north-south through the park. Trees within a certain area were identified to species and spatially

located using a GPS unit. We then assessed their current health and damage from elephants and fire. I am currently analyzing this data in preparation for presentations and publication Spring 2009.

The other part of the project looked at how wildlife use the landscape around the Chobe River. It was primarily preliminary work to test out methods that may be used in future studies. Roads along the riverfront were



driven following routes used in previous ecological studies. Large mammals were identified, counted, and spatially located using a GPS unit, a laser rangefinder, and a compass. This information, when combined with remote sensing data being utilized by other graduate students in our research group, will be used to create a predictive habitat map for dry season riverfront use by mammals. This information will be paired with our group’s remote sensing work to show how predicted changes in the environment around Chobe National Park may influence the wildlife species that live there.

This summer also helped to prepare me for my future work and provided incredible networking opportunities. I met with the leaders of Elephants Without Borders, a group that collars and tracks elephants as they move between countries in southern Africa. They hope to use information about elephant movements to stimulate the development of trans-frontier conservation areas that will protect elephants, as well as other wildlife, and provide places for them to disperse to reduce pressure on overburdened areas such as Chobe National Park. They have offered to work with our team, offering their data on elephant movements and we are currently discussing how we can collaborate to publish papers about elephant movements both within and outside of protected areas of southern Africa.

*Timothy Fullman is a master's student in Interdisciplinary Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. He holds an academic year CAS FLAS fellowship (2008-09) and was also a recipient in 2007-08. He received support for his summer work from an Africa Seed Grant (Cleveland Metroparks Zoo), a UF Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant, and an IDEA WILD grant.*



# An Elusive Peace: State Building and Reconstruction in Angola

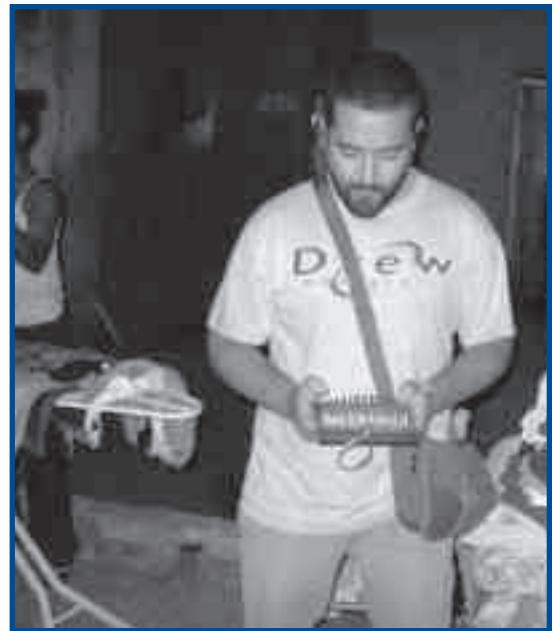
**RAMON GALIÑANES**

After several failed attempts to reach a peace settlement, Angolan political elites and non-state combatants negotiated a fragile ceasefire in 2002. This elusive peace and transition from civil war draws attention to a perplexing puzzle: (1) When do powerful political actors sit at the bargaining table to negotiate a peace settlement in a divided society? And (2) why are some divided societies able to establish a successful and durable democratic pact as a resolution to civil strife while others are not? I started to investigate this puzzle by conducting pre-dissertation fieldwork in Angola this past summer. The Angolan civil war remains largely understudied in the field of political science and it is an important case study to understand successful peace settlements in divided societies.

Previous studies on successful peace settlements in divided societies have largely focused on the importance of: (1) the costs of war; (2) the balance of power; (3) the divisibility of stakes; (4) the establishment of power-sharing institutions; (5) the salience of ethnic identity; and (6) the role of mediation. As a way of testing these competing theories of successful/unsuccessful peace

settlements, I conducted interviews in the Angolan cities of Luanda and Huambo.

In Luanda and Huambo, I was able to conduct interviews in Portuguese with former UNITA (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola) combatants and FAPLA (Forças Armadas Populares de Libertação de Angola) military officers that had



participated in combat during the civil war. I attempted to include a range of different ranking military officers and combatants – including, colonels, majors, and foot soldiers – who had participated in the civil war. The interviews were used as a pilot study and as a way to collect data on the motivations for participating in the civil conflict as well as the perceptions that ex-combatants and military officers had of the transition period (including the role of mediation and elections). What was most interesting about these interviews was the different perceptions of the civil war and transition period according to the level of military rank and place of origin. I will be presenting my preliminary findings during the SASA lunch (sponsored by the Center for African Studies) in December.

Besides gathering preliminary data on the perceptions of the civil war and the motivations for fighting, conducting field research in Angola this summer was a great opportunity to refine my research methods and I'm excited to return to Angola next year during their presidential elections to conduct my dissertation field research.

*Ramon Galiñanes is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. He was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in 2006-07 and 2007-08. His summer 2008 research was supported by a CAS pre-dissertation travel award.*



## Are Livelihood Security and Attitudes Towards Wildlife, the National Park and the Conservancy/CBNRM Interlinked?

**JUANITA GARCIA-SAQUI**

Community-based natural resources management programs (CBNRM), their benefits and influence in conservation attitudes, needs further study. Positive attitudes towards community based programs have been correlated to favorable attitudes towards conservation which are also correlated with good livelihood. However, some studies also show that local attitudes can be negative towards conservation, wildlife and the national parks. Here I present and comment on the findings of a study carried out in three villages in 2007 which make up the Wuparo Conservancy, as well as the preliminary results of the summer 2008 field season in Northern Botswana.

The objective of this study was to evaluate attitudes towards wildlife conservation, the national park and the conservancy after an intervention such as the establishment of a CBNRM program in the Wuparo Community in the Caprivi Strip, Namibia, and in Sankuyo, Mababe, Khwai and villages of the Okavango Community Trust (OCT) in Botswana. A proportionate-to-size sample households was randomly selected and interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire in each village within the conservancy boundaries.

Results indicate that in Wuparo household income is predominantly from cash crops (55%), followed by a

variety of natural resources collected and sold (20%). It was noted that a significant portion of household expenses go to food (43%). However, households appear to spend little on education (4%) and health (2%), relative to electronic purchases (17%). The study also showed respondents' satisfaction with the conservancy or CBNRM. A large percentage (78%) of the sample reported being either happy or very happy with the conservancy. A similar percentage was seen regarding livelihood improvement and trust towards the conservancy. Finally, the study also documented people's attitude towards wildlife and the Mamilli



National Park. Most people were neutral about the park (51%), but among the remaining 49%, the vast majority had either positive or very positive attitudes towards the national park. People's attitudes towards wildlife were also found to be positive (56%).

In Sankuyo, household income is predominantly from wage employment with the CBNRM. 75% of the respondents had one member of their household employed in the CBNRM, while 12 % had two members employed by the CBNRM. Respondent's satisfaction with the CBNRM was found to be very positive. 98% of the respondents reported being either very happy or happy with the CBNRM while 2% were unsatisfied because they felt discriminated upon. Attitudes towards wildlife were found to be very positive. 98% of the respondents reported being very happy or happy and having positive attitudes towards wildlife, in spite of the fact that they are unable to cultivate their crops anymore because of wildlife intrusion. They attributed this positive attitude to wildlife because they felt that even though they can't farm they now have a job (from wildlife) which allows them to be able to supply the necessities for their family's survival. The results for Mababe were similar to those of Sankuyo where most households (90) have a family member working with the CBNRM and their attitudes were also found to be positive towards wildlife and the national park.

The situation of the communities in the OCT was found to be different. The CBNRM is not seemed as supportive of the community. Only a selected few benefit from the CBNRM (personal communication) and benefits are not seen to be reaching the individual households. However, their attitudes towards wildlife and the protected area was predominantly positive ~70% were happy with and liked wildlife while 20% were neutral about wildlife.

*Juanita Garcia-Saqui is a doctoral student in Geography.*



## Landscape Dynamics in Caprivi, Namibia

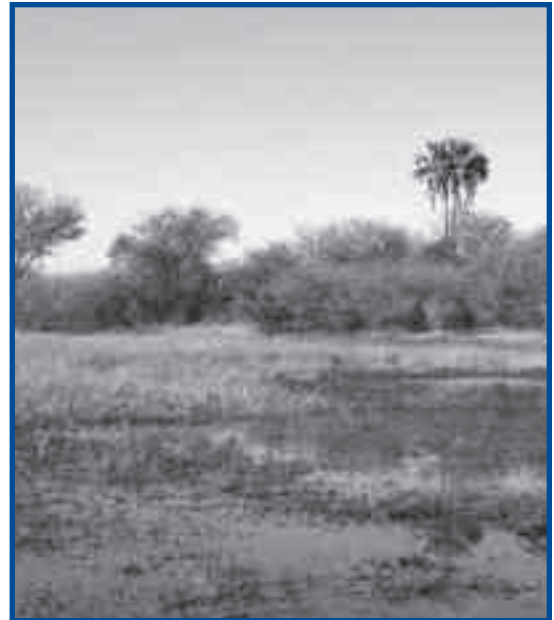
**ANDREA E. GAUGHAN**

Over the summer I spent another field season in Caprivi, Namibia, with a focus on understanding how and why different land-use decisions are made, what the most important natural resources are for communities, and how these resources are spatially distributed across communal lands. The region is a semi-arid savanna with average rainfall between 600-800 mm annually and is the most undeveloped part of Namibia due to history of regional conflict, warfare, and isolation from the rest of country.

My dissertation research takes an interdisciplinary approach by combining oral land-use histories with a more quantitative examination of landscape patterns using satellite images and precipitation datasets. This summer I focused on collecting additional environmental history data (through interviews and focus group discussions) and land-cover data that will facilitate the identification and quantification of different spatial and temporal patterns on the satellite imagery.

The work from this summer feeds into a larger, collaborative effort that involves other UF graduate students and professors, partners at African universities, and within

local communities. The collaborative spirit emanated through the efforts of the UF graduate students based in Caprivi sharing a vehicle, time, and space to work with local communities, collect data, and also provide feedback products. The most important data collection for my own research involved firstly the focus group discussions and key informant interviews to gather perceptions on different land-uses and how different areas have changed over time. The other component demanded treks through the thorniest, densest woody vegetation that could be found in the communal lands. After strenuous debate and consideration we were able to narrow down a very scientific



definition of what constitutes dense shrub cover which I strongly believe would hold up under peer review.

Like all field seasons uncertainties existed, time was of the essence, and the speed of things moved at its own pace. But productiveness prevailed, experiences were gained, friendships strengthened and I hope to find myself back in the region next year.

*Andrea Gaughan is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography and a recipient of funding from the NSF-funded IGERT program on Adaptive Management, Water, Watersheds, and Wetlands. Her research was supported by a summer 2008 CAS pre-dissertation travel award and a WFT travel award.*

# Understanding Landscape Patterns in the Four Corners Area of Southern Africa: An Investigation of the Role of Resource Management Decisions in Determining Landscape Change and Fragmentation

**CERIAN GIBBES**

My research examines the impact of protected areas as a strategy for limiting environmental change in southern African savanna ecosystems. To study the impact of protected area designation on the environment, I am examining the changes in land cover composition and patterns within and around two protected areas. Although changes in land cover do not encapsulate all environmental changes, land cover composition often provides the resource base for terrestrial ecosystems and directly impacts ecological functioning. This study's objective is to identify the causes of land cover change in southern African savannas, assess the usefulness of protected areas in limiting this landscape change and test the overarching hypothesis that protected area designation decreases land cover change and landscape fragmentation.

This research incorporates the combined use of field collected and remotely sensed land cover data coupled with interviews with local land managers to examine how management decisions affect landscape change. Landscape change can be qualitatively

and quantitatively explained using a combination of field collected data, remotely sensed data and social data. This work aims to use the triangulation of a variety of data sources (and methodologies) to assess the impact of human land management decisions on



landscape level changes.

The results of my research will present findings that enable improved decisions regarding environmental management and an increased understanding of how human decisions affect landscape changes, which in turn affect human systems. To successfully manage landscapes, measurements of change in composition and configurations are essential to understanding how management decisions affect landscape patterns. By first investigating the causes of change in this region and then examining how land management decisions influence the spatial composition and configuration of land cover, I hope to contribute to the understanding of human environment interactions in southern African savannas and more specifically the impact of protected area designation on the landscape. This study focuses locally on changes in the Caprivi, Nambia and in the north eastern region of Botswana.

*Cerian Gibbes is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography. She received support for her work from the Social Sciences Research Council – Dissertation Proposal Development program, a CAS summer pre-dissertation travel grant, and an NSF grant and UF Incentive Seed grant to faculty in the Department of Geography.*





## Township Tourism in Cape Town, South Africa

**RACHEL HARVEY**

In 2008, I completed nine months of fieldwork in South Africa for my dissertation, *Township Tours: Restructuring People, Place and Cultural-Heritage in Cape Town*. This was my third visit to the post-apartheid nation to study the implications of cultural tourism in a city which boasts over 1.7 million international arrivals for 2007. My current research examines how members of post-apartheid society are addressing understandings of African urban spaces, history, and culture, as well as the structuring of contemporary social inequality specifically through township based tourism.

Townships are sprawling residential enclaves at the city's edges. They were produced by decades of economic, racial, and ethnic segregation to contain an underclass, labor pool. In the last 10 years, township tours emerged as a premier cultural activity for visitors to Cape Town. This parallels a global trend of "pro-poor" or "alternative" tourism featuring environments offering distinctive experiences that benefit local communities. In Cape Town, tour operators claim to offer an excursion into the "real" South Africa. They visit impoverished shantytowns and other developing areas in dire contrast to the European urbanism and natural beauty

of the central city bowl. Township tourism further draws on post-apartheid discourses of multiculturalism, reconciliation, and economic restructuring.

My fieldwork is based primarily in the townships of Langa, Gugulethu, and Khayelitsha. Here, I assess local residents' roles in and reactions to tourism practices including their view of risks, benefits, and responsibilities that come with involvement in township tourism. For example, I worked with many bed and breakfast owners, primarily entrepreneurial women. Much of my participant observation took place from community arts and craft centers



frequented by foreign visitors. I spent significant time with tour operators, guides, and tourists. And I was invited to be a member of the City of Cape Town Department of Tourism's Task Team on Cultural Tourism. While much of my research with tourists was conducted in English, in the townships I was able to draw on my language training in Xhosa. Through the FLAS fellowship program, I was fortunate to study Xhosa at UF for three years with a native speaker.

Building on pre-dissertation research carried out in Summer 2002 and 2006, I am also investigating how members of the tourism industry shape the production of place, history, and culture and generate new social practices. In this component of my project, for instance, I examine the design, construction and competing narrative descriptions of several anti-apartheid monuments in Cape Town's townships which have become popular tourist sites. Finally, I probe the paradoxical situation tourism creates between the integration of townships into Cape Town's wider urban landscape and continued differentiation of townships from the city through culture, class, and spatial organization. The project seeks to add to our understandings of the factors that direct, sustain, and complicate heritage tourism.

*Rachel Harvey is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research in 2007-08 was made possible by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. She also conducted fieldwork in Cape Town in Summer 2006 with support from the Center for African Studies Madelyn M. Lockhart Summer Research Travel Award and a Lewis and Clark Grant for Exploration and Field Research from the American Philosophical Society. She was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow during Academic Year 2005-06 and 2006-07.*



## Prospects for Peace and Transition in Post-Conflict Burundi

### CARA HAUCK

As a doctoral student in comparative political science, I have been studying the region of the Great Lakes in Central Africa for the past five years. Through the generous support of the Center for African Studies, in the summer of 2008 I was finally able to carry out a pre-dissertation research trip to the region, and specifically to the very understudied country of Burundi, where I plan to carry out my dissertation research.

I was in Burundi in May-June, coinciding with a number of exciting and important developments in the post-conflict political situation of the country. While Burundi's history has received less attention than that of neighboring Rwanda, where genocide killed perhaps one million people in 1994, Burundi in fact is also just emerging from a prolonged conflict along ethnic lines. My research trip gave me the opportunity to participate in meetings with several high-ranking opposition party leaders, helping me to better understand the challenges

facing ethnically divided societies and the difficult political solutions to these problems. I was also able, in this initial trip, to interview leading members of the government, including various ministers and even the president of the country! These connections were facilitated by the support of both the Center and the numerous faculty affiliates from many departments connected to the Center, most notably my dissertation advisors Rene Lemarchand, Leonardo Villalón and Benjamin Smith (Political Science), who tirelessly support students in time, effort, contacts and information.



I was grateful for the experience of being able to go into the field so early in my Ph.D. studies and to utilize the language training I received as a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in Kiswahili so as to increase my speaking and comprehension capabilities. This previous language training also gave me a distinct advantage over other expatriate researchers whom I met there, as Kiswahili is more widely used in the impoverished areas of the capital city of Bujumbura, as well as in the communities of returned refugees who once lived in Tanzania or the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all groups that have been underrepresented in scholarship on political violence in Burundi.

This summer research helped to solidify my interest in studying Burundi, focused my attention on specific ground-level situations and current contexts that will be crucial to understand in carrying out dissertation-level research, and provided me with the knowledge needed to better prepare myself for sharpening the focus of my dissertation in writing a prospectus and applying for grants to support dissertation fieldwork.

*Cara Hauck is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. She was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Her summer 2008 research was supported by a CAS pre-dissertation travel award. Following her research in Burundi, she was also a fellow in the Fulbright-Hays Groups Project Abroad (GPA) Advanced Intensive Swahili program in Tanzania in summer 2008.*



## Undocumented Immigrants in Nigerian Cinema.

### CLAUDIA HOFFMANN

I participated in the Yoruba Group Project Abroad during the summer of 2008 to improve my Yoruba language skills, learn about Yoruba culture, and to assess potential dissertation research on Nigerian film and migration. This opportunity was made possible by Dr. Akinyemi who is the director of the YGPA and under whom I have been studying Yoruba for one year. My dissertation research is concerned with undocumented West African migrants in Europe and the US as they appear in international cinema and the influence that these films might or might not have on viewers. Part of this topic is the analysis of Nigerian movies.

My stay in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, lasted seven weeks during which I, along with the other GPA participants, attended intensive language courses at Obafemi Awolowo University as well as cultural performances and lectures on campus and in town. The program also included travel within Yorubaland, for example to Ibadan and Abeokuta. While most of my time was dedicated to meeting the program requirements and studying Yoruba language and culture, I was able

to dedicate some time to my dissertation research with the kind assistance of the program directors.

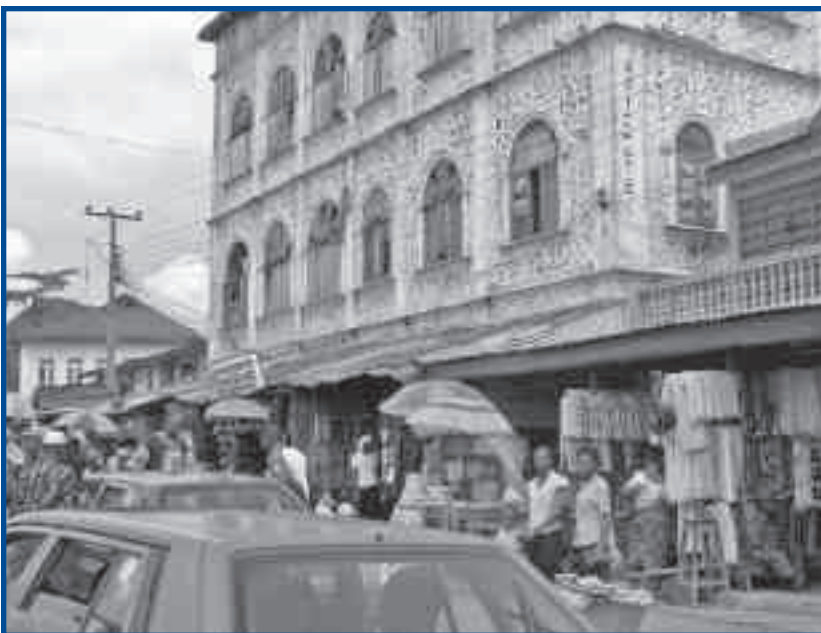
I was placed with my host father's family because he is involved in broadcasting technology at Obafemi Awolowo and was able to share with me his vast experience in local radio and television broadcast and its influence on viewers and show me the studio and equipment at the university where I was also able to witness a live



broadcast. Apart from this, my research was largely concerned with Nigerian cinema, more specifically Nollywood, and its appeal to a mass audience in Nigeria and beyond. I was able to find information on the history and development of Nigerian cinema, meet film makers, and investigate audience expectations, especially among students.

I am planning on returning to Nigeria to study the attitudes of Nigerians towards leaving Nigeria for Europe or the US as well as general expectations and experiences. Preliminary conversations during my stay in Ile-Ife serve as a basis for more extensive research on the subject matter I wish to conduct in Nigeria in the year of 2009 to explore how the representation of undocumented migration in cinema affects, if at all, Nigerian westbound migration. The GPA has advanced my research tremendously and the close collaboration of Obafemi Awolowo University and the University of Florida has been extremely helpful in planning further research in Nigeria.

*Claudia Hoffmann is a doctoral candidate in the Department English. In summer 2008, she participated in the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Intensive Yoruba program in Nigeria.*



# Ideology and Governance: Islam and Liberalism in Niger

**ABDOURAHMANE IDRISSE**

My research asks the question of whether the interaction of two ideologies—Islamism and Liberalism—that grew out of Niger’s regime democratization in the early 1990s are creating a functioning political culture, one which would be productive of successful governing policies. To test the hypotheses that arose from this research question, I decided to look at issue areas that are actually or potentially divisive in Niger’s current context: the nature of the political regime (Islamic or secular?), education (should it train subjects of God or citizens of the Republic?) and the gender question (the legal status of women). Key assumptions hold that Niger’s Islamism is strongly influenced by evolutions in neighboring Northern Nigeria (where Shari’a had become a source of law in the late 1990s) while its Liberalism is marked by French “*esprit républicain*,” strongly in favor of political secularism (*laïcité*).

My field research was based on a combination of various qualitative methods, ranging from interviews to archival research, document analysis and participant observation. Over a one year period, I had the opportunity to see many aspects of the issues I was researching evolve and resolve themselves in a variety of ways. I was also able to work in a number of different sites: the capital (Niamey), a provincial

town at the border with Nigeria (Maradi), trips to the countryside with members of both liberal and Islamist groups, and trips to Northern Nigeria.

My findings point toward the emergence of a new political culture in Niger, one that is still hard to define. Certainly, there is very little agreement between Islamists and “*républicains*” in Niger on any of the three issue areas I researched. However, by “functioning

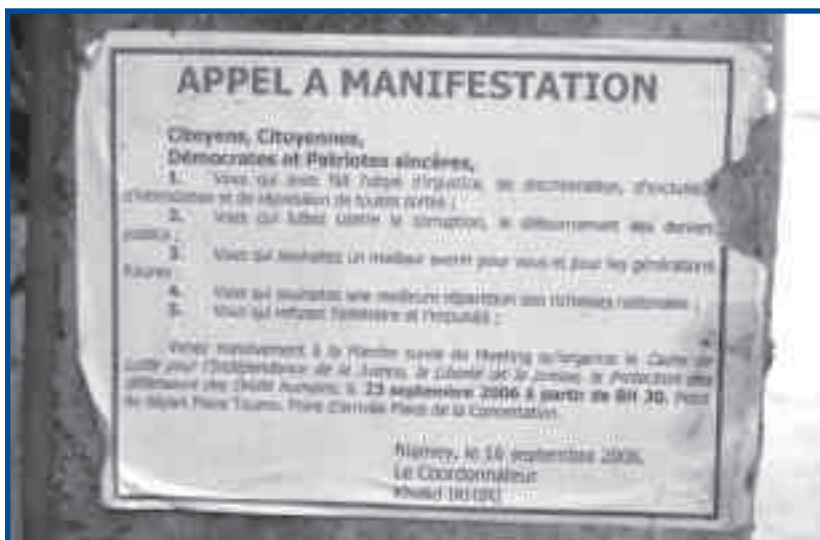


political culture” I do not mean to suggest there is consensus. During the authoritarian era, which largely continued the practice of the colonial government, state policies relied very little, if at all, on inputs from society, viewed essentially as amorphous and devoid of legitimate opinions. Repression made these perspectives a form of self-fulfilling prophecy.

Since the early 1990s, by contrast, regime democratization has permitted society to organize itself on public platforms and express ideals around specific issues. The construction of state legitimacy now rests on social organizations and depends on a flourishing and sophisticated political culture. The dissertation in progress examines the historical, theoretical and current conditions of this evolution. It suggests that the character and stridence of disagreements between Islamists and “*républicains*” might be productive as well as stunting with regards to political culture, but also that other parameters must be considered, including the fact that Islamists are just one key actor in a larger religious civil society, not completely opposable to “*républicains*.”

Following fieldwork in 2006-2007, on-site writing during part of the Spring and the entire Summer of 2008 proved to be a highly rewarding experience. Active research provides the bulk of pertinent data, but settling into a meditative mindset in the course of writing better opens up the mind to incorporating quieter, unobtrusive information. When it comes to culture, such kind of information is invaluable.

*Abdourahmane Idrissa is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. His fieldwork was carried out with the support of an SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship in 2006-2007. In Spring 2008, he held a UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissertation Writing Award.*



## Chinese Entrepreneurial Networks in Ghana

**YANG JIAO**

This past summer, I did pre-dissertation fieldwork in Ghana to investigate four sets of related issues about the Chinese entrepreneurship. Most of my data was collected in Accra and Tema.

First, I investigated the types of current Chinese businesses that are based in Accra and Tema. These include general trade, fishing, manufacturing, food services, construction, mining and various others. Recent years of stable economic and political conditions have drawn an increasing number of Chinese to seek business ventures in Ghana. However, not all Chinese businesses have success stories to tell. The most common concerns are the formal regulations for setting up businesses and adapting to Ghanaian culture and society.

The variations in Chinese

entrepreneurs' knowledge of African history and culture, experience with formal businesses procedures, language skills, and interaction with Ghanaian networks have different effects on their businesses. Some were able to blend in to some extent, but many more found it extremely hard to rely on themselves to cope with the economic, cultural, legal, religious, and political aspects of a society that are quite different from China's.

This points to another objective of my work, which is to identify networks among Chinese entrepreneurs. Specifically, I paid close attention to the



interactions among members of the Ghana Central China Chamber of Commerce. Established by five Chinese entrepreneurs, this Accra-based organization is the most active informal business organization of Chinese entrepreneurs in Ghana. Through online interactions and regular activities, many members were facilitated in overcoming difficulties to some extent. The website and instant messenger discussion group serves as an online platform where Chinese entrepreneurs can find up-to-date information about specific policies and share their own experiences of dealing with relevant officials. The organization also holds lecture series on immigration policies, tax regulations, and so on.

The third part concerns the influences of Chinese investments on Ghana's social and economic spheres. On one side, Chinese businesses have made many manufactured goods more affordable to Ghanaians and contributed to technology diffusion in some sectors. From the Ghanaian side, some entrepreneurs have called for more government regulation of Chinese counterparts in the retail sector to stem competition. From the point of view of network analysis, I am interested in how Chinese entrepreneurs have contributed to Ghana's development through interactions with their Ghanaian counterparts.

Many Chinese entrepreneurs are not familiar with Ghanaian culture and society at all. This has resulted in misunderstandings and even prejudices. Some Chinese entrepreneurs I have interviewed have expressed a negative view on some Ghanaian employees. I am also interested in how Chinese entrepreneurs perceive Ghanaian culture and behavior during their direct contact with ordinary Ghanaians along with the impressions of Ghanaians about the Chinese. I hope to collect more data about this on my next research trip.

*Yang Jiao is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology.*



# The Effects of Elephant Management on Rural Livelihoods and Conservation Attitudes around Chobe National Park, Botswana

**BOTHEPHA KGABUNG**

The overall goal of this study is to investigate the impact of the evolution, operation, and uses of Chobe National Park generally, and elephant management more specifically, on both rural development and biodiversity conservation. The focus is examining the influence of these conservation strategies on rural livelihoods and socio-political systems, and subsequently on conservation attitudes and behavior. Particular attention is paid to elephants, which though a significant resource of the park, pose a 'big issue' emanating from the high growth of their population to levels that are detrimental to the environment and conflicting with human uses within and beyond the park. The question therefore arises: how to manage 130,000 elephants (doubling every thirteen years), which support a large tourism industry but cause substantial on-farm conflict? In broader terms: does Chobe National Park foster improvement in rural livelihoods, equitable distribution of the local-national trade-offs and conservation attitudes and practices?

The study will advance the understanding of the effects of parks on the environment in its totality and enable decision makers to develop more balanced conservation measures and effectively address the prevalent resource use issues. The study will also inform some of the contested issues which center on the elephant-habitat-human interface. Overall, the study

will not only benefit Botswana but all the elephant range states, the savanna environments, and the world at large. As the study hinges on the frameworks of integrated environmental management and sustainable rural livelihoods it will give insights about more holistic approaches in order to promote sustainability within and beyond park boundaries.



The study area is Chobe National Park and its broader hinterland (northern Botswana). The preliminary work I undertook in summer 2008 was exploratory and focused on establishing collaboration and rapport with local communities, and undertaking in-depth interviews on the evolution and designation processes of the park, as well on getting the historical perspective of the relationship between natural resources, livelihoods and conservation attitudes/practices. Preliminary findings show that the years leading to the designation of the park witnessed a lot of unusual activities and changes in the broader landscape (ecology, political economy, and socio-cultural spheres). Overhunting was rampant, including the killing of elephants for ivory trade by white hunters. Also, the colonial state started to exert control over natural resources through the introduction of taxes, hunting decrees and the designation of some areas as crown-land. This initiated the phasing-off of the traditional (utilitarian/people-based) resource governance and tenure systems. These changes are noted to have led to a lot of population displacements and relocations to various places within and outside of the Chobe District.



*Bothepha Kgabung is a doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her summer research was funded by UF's Tropical Conservation and Development Program and the NSF Parks Project (Dr. Child).*

# The Politics of “Corporate Social Responsibility” in Equatorial Guinea

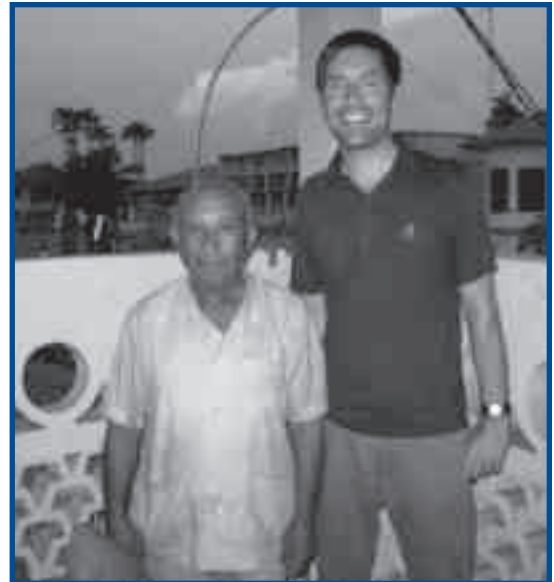
**JOSEPH KRAUS**

My research in Equatorial Guinea focuses on an increasingly popular type of international development: public-private partnerships between multinational corporations and host governments. Equatorial Guinea, the 3rd largest producer of oil in Sub-Saharan Africa, provides an interesting context to study the joint efforts of governments and businesses to eradicate poverty. Before the discovery of oil 15 years ago, Equatorial Guinea was one of the poorest countries in the world; today, average per capita income is more than \$10,000. The government’s ability to translate this wealth into societal improvements, however, has been marred by corruption and ineffective government institutions, and the government’s provision of basic social services like health and education lags far behind most other African countries.

Multinational oil companies are attempting to bridge the gap in social services while simultaneously working to increase the government’s ability to provide social services in the near future. With this in mind, oil companies have initiated social development (officially known as Corporate Social Responsibility – or “CSR”) projects that seek to improve the country’s health and education programs. One set of oil companies is working with

several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to decrease the infection rates of malaria, while another oil company is working with the government to overhaul the national education system.

A summer research trip to Equatorial Guinea allowed numerous insights into the promises and challenges of these types of public-private development partnerships. Interviews with oil company representatives revealed that the companies, accustomed



to efficiency and a results-oriented focus, are sometimes frustrated by lackluster government involvement with and support for the projects. At the same time, however, several interviewees expressed optimism that government capacity will increase incrementally, albeit slowly and non-linearly, and stressed the companies’ commitment to ensuring government involvement.

Despite the early frustrations and growing pains associated with these projects, real improvements are already noticeable. Interviews with oil company and NGO representatives revealed that in just four years the anti-malaria project has managed to decrease the incidence of malaria in children by 26%. On the education front, in the past two years more than 1000 teachers have been trained and, by the end of next year, 40 schools will be refurbished.

Thus, there is hope that partnerships between the public and private sectors can lead to sustainable development outcomes that improve the wellbeing of some of the world’s most impoverished people. Such optimism, however, must be tethered by a healthy dose of caution. Given their nascent nature, very few empirical studies have analyzed the outcomes of public-private development partnerships. I will be returning to Equatorial Guinea to build on the research enabled by the Center for African Studies, to more closely analyze the projects and assess whether they can, in fact, lead to the improvements in government capacity necessary to make these projects sustainable in the long-term.

*Joseph Kraus is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. His pre-dissertation research in Equatorial Guinea was made possible with help from a CAS summer pre-dissertation travel award and a Department of Political Science summer travel award.*



## Muslim Organizations in the Democratic Republic of Congo

**ASHLEY LEINWEBER**

Building on years of study and interest in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this summer I was thrilled to finally be able to travel there. I was primarily located in the eastern province of Maniema, where I spent two months conducting pre-dissertation research on the role of Islamic organizations in providing public services to the local population. Many Western political scientists classify the Congo as a "failed state" because the central government is unable to perform many of the tasks that the modern state is supposed to be able to carry out. However, in the post-conflict reconstruction phase of the Congo, these tasks are in fact largely being carried out by a burgeoning civil society.

During the months of June and July 2008 I was able to conduct numerous interviews with local, regional, national, and international organizations in the towns of Kindu and Kasongo. These interviews were in large part possible because of the three years of training in Swahili that I received as a FLAS fellow through the Center for African Studies at UF. What was most striking about these discussions was the extent to which they showed a high level of social mobilization among the population to undertake activities promoting development and reconstruction.

Even though the central government is still struggling to carry out its duties, ordinary people are forming non-governmental organizations to provide public services that the population desperately needs, such as schools, health care, orphanages, and facilities for the rehabilitation of both victims and perpetrators of the civil war.

The primary focus of my dissertation, and thus my trip this summer to Maniema, is on the role of Islamic organizations in the provision of education. The Congo has a long history of religious affiliation with the



education sector, notably by the Catholic Church, which has been in charge of schools for over a century. However, in the post-conflict reconstruction phase, the Muslim community, which constitutes a majority in this particular province of the Congo, has realized that for their own well-being they must become actively involved in activities that beforehand were seen as outside the realm of religion. As such, in order to improve conditions for the community, Muslims have seen a need to engage in development activities in addition to spiritual matters. Evidence of this can be seen all over the Maniema province as Islamic non-governmental organizations spring up by the dozens and the Congolese state officially recognizes Muslim schools that teach children the state curriculum.

My research demonstrates the vibrancy of Congolese civil society, even in the face of devastating civil wars and a malfunctioning central government. In addition, it highlights the expanding political activities of this minority Muslim community, a society that has received virtually no scholarly attention since the Congo was granted independence in the early 1960s. The summer provided exceptional preliminary information for my research, and I very much look forward to returning to the Congo next year to gain more nuanced information about the work and aspirations of Islamic organizations.



*Ashley Leinweber is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. Her research in summer 2008 was made possible by a Pre-dissertation Research Stipend from the African Power and Politics (APP) Program. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member. She was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow during academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07, as well as summer 2006.*



## Religious Beliefs and Political Behavior in Kenya

**STEVE LICHTY**

After working in various regions of Africa for three years with two different humanitarian aid organizations, I experienced my first foray into Africa as a researcher in the summer of 2008. During my previous exposure to the continent, I became curious about the underlying issues that have an impact on its economic and political development. Along with this I was fascinated with the different religious dynamics I witnessed, and intrigued by their influence on development processes. It is with these interests that I began a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Florida. In the last two years I have taken courses that have provided a historical context and a sense of the methodological approaches that might be employed to study religion and politics in Africa. Thanks to several Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, I was able to study both Swahili and Arabic, invaluable tools for understanding the cultural aspects of my region of interest, East Africa and more specifically Kenya.

The highlight of my Ph.D. experience thus far, was the opportunity to conduct pre-dissertation research in the summer of 2008. Generous funding from the Center for African Studies and the Department of Political Science enabled me to spend five weeks in Nairobi, Kenya. During this time I accomplished three major tasks related to my dissertation, which will examine how religious beliefs and practices impact political behaviour in Kenya.

The first was making contact with different academic institutions, including the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Nairobi, where I have been accepted as a research affiliate when I return for dissertation research. The IDS and other institutions will be vital sources of secondary literature as well as scholarly

feedback, advice and support. Secondly, I was able to get a more nuanced sense of the impact of Kenyan cultural dynamics on the feasibility of my research project. This will be important as I begin to determine the specific scope of my dissertation fieldwork. Finally, I conducted numerous in-depth interviews with both religious and civil society leaders. These men and women were found in churches, seminaries, parachurch and human rights organizations. The outcome of these meetings was a more profound understanding of the underlying issues related to religion and politics in Kenya, thus enabling me to better define important variables that have been unconsidered or marginalized.

I came away from this initial research with two significant



impressions. The first relates to the friendly reception I received among scholars and religious leaders. These men and women expressed enthusiasm and interest for my research topic and agenda. Having their support and cooperation during my future dissertation research will be crucial, and it is reassuring to know that I will be able to build on these good relationships. The second is more personal in nature. The first few years of a Ph.D. program in political science is dominated by coursework, but because my primary focus in comparative politics requires fieldwork, it was immensely encouraging to have this positive preliminary experience. It provides a basis for my research prospectus, and has laid the groundwork for dissertation fieldwork beginning in fall 2009.

*Steve Lichty is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. He was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in 2006-07, 2007-08 and in summer 2007. His summer 2008 research was supported by a CAS pre-dissertation travel award and a Department of Political Science summer travel award.*

# Post Migration Experience of Somali Female Refugees in the United States: A Case Study of Atlanta, Georgia

**BETTY LININGER**

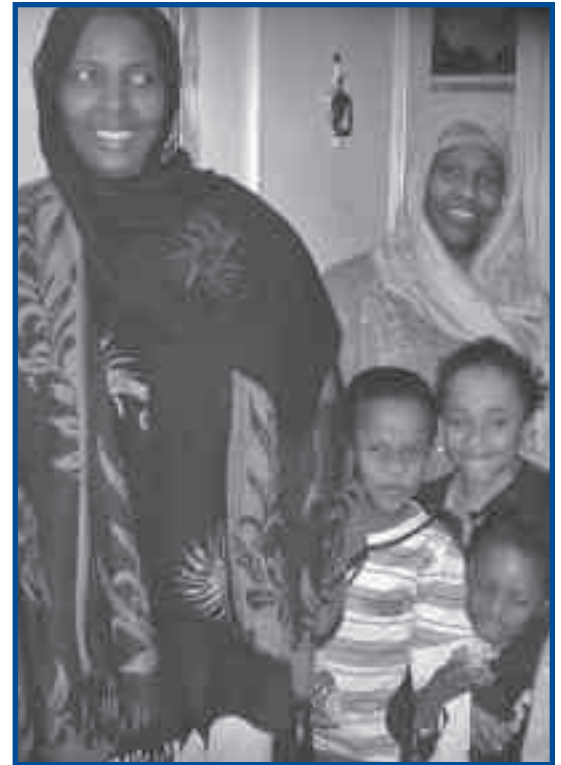
In America today, there are many thriving Somali communities located in both large diverse metropolitan areas and smaller mono-ethnic cities. The United States, which did not have a previously significant migration history with Somalia, became a destination that was likely, in part, a result of military involvement in 1992. In recent years, Somalis were identified by the United States Homeland Security Department as representing the largest refugee group (25%) being resettled in the United States. This population is primarily Muslim, arriving from a region of the world that has alleged links with Islamic terrorist groups.

My research involves examining the post migration experience from a woman's perspective. This study illuminates specific economic and social challenges faced by Somali female refugees as they attempt to adapt and integrate into American society.

Often Muslim women are more "visible" in the predominately Anglo-Christian American society due to their attire, thus making their adaptation/assimilation process potentially even more complex. Wearing either a head scarf or Islamic dress, women can be quickly identified as "outsiders." This can lead to such problems as an inability to gain employment, exclusion from mainstream society due to perceived "differences," or to becoming the recipient of outright hostility in the public sphere. Adding to these challenges in America, is the potential for Somali women to also suffer racial discrimination due to their dark skin color.

Notably, refugee women face many obstacles in their integration process that differ significantly from their male counterparts. This includes such concerns as employment, childcare responsibilities, and health care issues. Many female refugees lack English fluency, are accompanied by several dependents, and have a myriad of both physical and mental health problems. Their journey to America has often occurred under extreme duress, frequently these women have endured significant war traumas, such as rape, food shortages, separation from loved ones, as well as having witnessed brutal killings and attacks. Importantly, these women have the strength and fortitude to take charge of their families and attempt to rebuild their lives abroad when given the chance.

After visiting several different Somali communities located in various cities in the United States for three summers (2005-07), the



Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area was selected as a representative field site because it has a significant, stable Somali population (approximately 5,000) as well as having been in existence for approximately twenty years. I found Somali community leaders, all of whom were male, eager to assist me in this research project, however gaining access to conduct a survey questionnaire with female respondents presented a challenge. Finally, I was put into contact with female community leaders and access to this group was established. Using data collected from survey questionnaires during early 2008, both qualitative and quantitative analysis was conducted, resulting in a comprehensive study of this group's adjustment and adaptation to life in America.

*Betty Lininger is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography.*

# Art and Architecture of Anomabo, Ghana: A Case Study in Cultural Flow

**COURTNEY MICOTS**

My research has been supplemented by two pre-dissertation trips to southern Ghana. Contacts initially made in the historically-significant town of Anomabo in the summer of 2007 revealed the potential for dissertation study. I returned this summer to conduct interviews with scholars at the University of Ghana in Legon and the University of Cape Coast as well as several of the leaders and townspeople of Anomabo. Although English is spoken widely throughout Ghana, I am pursuing formal Akan Twi training at the University of Florida. I also picked up a few Fante words on location in Anomabo.

Anomabo provides an example of long-term cultural contact, the flow of visual forms and cultural ideas, and the resulting choices that cultures make in appropriating, transforming and recontextualizing visual forms in art and architecture. The coastal city of Anomabo, the primary commercial hub along the Gold Coast during the late-seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, exemplifies the impact of globalization. The filter of art and architecture will allow my research to make visible these influences which may otherwise be overlooked. Today, Anomabo's port is closed and much of its historic grandeur

lies in ruins, resulting in an erroneous first impression of a sleepy, rural town unaffected by global concerns.

Numerous pre-colonial African cities, such as the Edo urban center of Benin in Nigeria, experienced similar urbanization, attracting and combining cultures. The absorption of ideas and their translation into visual forms however, is not always documented or evident in the contemporary setting. My research in Anomabo will add to the understanding of both pre-colonial and contemporary urban Africa by providing an example drawing from numerous historical documents and an active



contemporary art scene. My approach will bring to the fore the enduring influence of cultural and artistic behaviors that developed during the pre-colonial period. Anomabo's historic cosmopolitanism continues to influence current art forms evidencing the openness of artists to new influences, motifs, experimentations, and cultural blending.

Visual forms of primary importance are textiles, architecture, posuban or cement shrines, performance, sculpture and painting, and in many instances, these media are combined. Of particular relevance to this study are the many Fante constructs that blend visual forms from seemingly-unrelated sources to create something entirely new. One contemporary example is a group of paintings found on the façade of a building entitled Holy Land. The paintings blend Christian, Fante and Hindi religious ideas and motifs. Study of these appropriations and recontextualizations will aid in understanding how contemporary forms display artistic syncretism and the way current artistic expressions reflect Anomabo's cosmopolitan heritage.

My research will place globalization of an African city and culture in a historical perspective. Anomabo's worldliness does not stem from its position as a satellite to Accra, Cape Coast or any western urban center, nor its positioning at the periphery of global flows, but in reference to its past position at the center of a vast cultural and commercial network.

*Courtney Micots is a doctoral student in the School of Art & Art History.*



# Democratic Governance and Its Effect On Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM): Botswana and Zambia

**PATRICIA MUPETA**

My doctoral research focuses on examining how democratic governance affects the performance of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), a conservation and rural development initiative that has been practiced over the past two decades in Southern Africa.

As part of developing this doctoral research, preliminary research was conducted during summer 2008 in Botswana and Zambia with the following objectives: to undertake a governance assessment of four CBNRM villages in the Okavango Delta and build collaborative linkages with Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Community Institutions and the University of Botswana and to assess, the status of CBNRM in Zambia.

In Botswana, I worked as part of a larger group of both University of Florida faculty and graduate students and Young African Professionals who are broadly studying social and ecological systems in Southern Africa. One main focus of the team has been

to develop standardized systems for measuring the effectiveness, legitimacy and performance of community governance. The areas of study were Mababe, Sankuyu, Khwai and the Okavango Community Trust (OCT). Using a survey instrument termed the “Community Dashboard” household interviews were conducted. This included a total of 32 surveys in Mababe; 33 in Khwai; 41 in Sankuyu and 167 in OCT. Household heads were interviewed on their perceptions of how CBNRM was performing in their areas. The survey gathered information on demographics; community structures and functions; participation in CBNRM meetings; elections; community resource rights; information



dissemination; trust in leadership; and an overall rating of the CBNRM program.

In addition to the household surveys, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods were undertaken in all four communities. Using PRA tools, focus groups were organized that included young, middle and old-aged members of the community. Information gathered included environmental, institutional, and major historical events that had occurred in each community. At the completion of research in each community, feedback meetings were organized to present the results to the general assembly. This process is both an auditing system for the data gathered, and is important in ensuring research done is not extractive but beneficial to communities.

In Zambia, research was conducted for a period of three weeks. Zambia has one of the oldest CBNRM programs in Southern Africa, however it has recently slacked in its implementation and government support. This preliminary research was to determine the current status of CBNRM in Zambia, and examine whether it could be used as a comparative site in the doctoral research. A total of nine in-depth interviews were conducted with practitioners in the field of CBNRM. These interviews reveal that CBNRM in Zambia faces three major challenges: donor support for natural resource management has greatly reduced; community institutions are focusing on more ownership of natural resource areas; and government, particularly the Zambia Wildlife Authority, is investing into measures that would increase good governance at the community level.



*Patricia Mupeta is a doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her research in summer 2008 was made possible by a Pre-dissertation Research Stipend from the African Power and Politics (APP) Program. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.*

# Citizen-Politician Linkages in the Formal and Informal Sector in Kenya

**LEVY ODERA**

I landed in Kenya to undertake pre-dissertation research in May 2008, just two months after the end of the post-election crisis that was marked by the signing of a power sharing agreement between the two main political parties in Kenya, namely: Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and Party of National Unity (PNU). In spite of the politically unstable situation I was able to conduct my research from May to August.

Initially, the objective that I set out for the pre-dissertation research was to find out how the nexus between power relations and informal institutions affect business performance in the informal sector by 1) conducting three focus group discussions in three different cities; 2) conducting 60 in-depth interviews, and 3) carrying out an exploratory survey based on the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Before starting my research I recruited three research assistants who I trained for one week. The training sessions also included fieldwork, where we did mapping in the nine markets where I conducted the research. After training was over, we started by conducting the focus group discussions. Following the focus group discussions, and based on the information we gathered from them, we then conducted 20 semi-structured interviews in each of

the three cities. All these interviews were tape recorded and notes taken. Upon completing the interviews we spent two weeks transcribing. I then went through each transcribed interview looking for common themes. The analysis of the interviews revealed that a more urgent problem in the informal sector seemed to be the very weak linkages between citizens and politicians. To confirm that the citizen-politician linkages are indeed very weak in the informal sector, I then conducted 360 surveys in the three cities.

In the final stage I decided to descriptively analyze some of the key variables from the data. The preliminary findings from the surveys confirmed that the linkages between citizens and politicians in this sector are very weak. With respect to these findings, I used the last week in the field to conduct three key informant interviews on



the nature of citizen-politician linkages in the formal sector. The three key informants whom I interviewed were a politician and scholar who contested for a parliamentary seat but lost, a personal assistant for the Deputy Prime Minister of Kenya, and a journalist who is a communications officer for the ODM party. From these interviews I tentatively learned that the citizen-politician linkages in the formal sector are stronger than those in the informal sector, but this is yet to be confirmed through future research. These findings have subsequently led to a refinement of the issue that I intend to study for my dissertation. I now intend to focus on whether citizen-politician linkages are stronger in the formal sector, whether formal institutions play any role in establishing the linkages, and whether these linkages contribute to state building in Kenya.

*Levy Odera is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. His research in Kenya in summer 2008 was supported by an African Politics and Power (APP) program pre-dissertation award from the UF Center for African Studies. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.*

## The Unraveling of John Okello

**ANN LEE GRIMSTAD OMONDI**

I find that sometimes the most relevant insights, information, and leads in research come from unexpected circumstances and opportunities. I have been preparing to conduct my dissertation research on the Zanzibar Revolution, but I had not yet found the specific focus of my inquiry. This summer I was teaching undergraduates about conflict and reconciliation through an SIT Study Abroad program called Peace and Conflict Studies in the Lake Victoria Basin, when I unexpectedly ran into my dissertation topic. The two conflicts we were teaching about were the situation in Northern Uganda and the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda.

During the preparation for an educational excursion to former camps for “internally-displaced persons” (IDPs) outside of Lira, Uganda, I was discussing the Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony, with the Vice Chairman (a local government official) of Lira District. I made a comparison between the rhetoric of Kony and that of ‘Field Marshall’ John Okello, the leader of the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution. The Vice Chairman informed me that Field Marshall Okello was actually born in a village some 25 km from Lira. He also offered to connect me with an elder

from the area whom I could interview. I spoke with two other people in the following days who were willing to give me more information on the life and death of John Okello, and take me to his birthplace. Since I was only in Lira for a few days of work, I knew that I did not have time to investigate these leads this year, but that indeed, I would have to return for research to follow up on this information.

In 1964, there had been much speculation by journalists, politicians, and government intelligence operatives about the identity and background of

the revolutionary leader John Okello. However, once the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar firming its own footing without him and he was declared *persona non grata* in Zanzibar, Tanganyika, and Kenya, the speculation seemed to die down. Okello, with the help of at least one writer, authored his own account of his life and role in the revolution, which many scholars seem to take almost at face value. Although this non-Zanzibari, primary-school educated, painter-mason-builder led a revolution that, in only a matter of hours, was able to overthrow a constitutional monarchy set up by the British, Okello’s life and role in Zanzibar has not to date been thoroughly investigated.

When I reached Zanzibar in July for pre-dissertation research, I interviewed several people who were on the islands at the time of the revolution and I was able to undertake some initial consultation of relevant documents in the National Archives. The questions that will guide me in my next steps of dissertation research are: How did this man accomplish what he seems to have accomplished? Why was there so much speculation and so many contradictory stories about him? And how are those two paths of inquiry linked?

*Ann Lee Grimstad Omondi is a doctoral student in the Department of History.*



## Informal Institutions and Public Goods in Ghanaian Bureaucracies

**WINIFRED PANKANI**

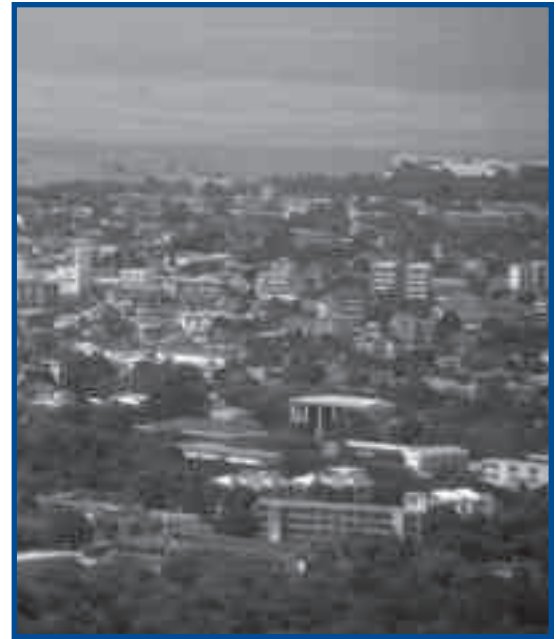
Why do some government ministries, department and agencies perform better than others? Some scholars contend robust and responsive governmental performance is driven in part by increasing levels of wealth. Others posit formal institutions like bureaucratic performance reviews are positively correlated with increased governmental performance, due to increased supervision and monitoring by high-level officials of their lower-level colleagues. Yet an increasing number of scholars, however, argue for the inclusion of informal institutions in our analysis of bureaucratic performance because informal institutions, though not officially authorized or intended to enable citizens to hold government officials accountable, may do so nonetheless by providing a set of standards for awarding moral standing.

Nevertheless, the consensus in the literature on governance in a clientelistic context, especially within public institutions, is that informal institutions undermine governance systems, which in turn impedes economic growth. Clientelistic behavior is theorized to be more prevalent in societies with great social and status inequalities, and where there are incongruities between formal and informal rules. During a six week pre-dissertation research trip in summer 2008, I tested these hypotheses in Ghana by collecting data in four government bureaucracies: The ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources, and of Works and Housing,

the Accra Metropolitan Authority, and the Parliamentary Services Corps.

I used a multipronged approach combining qualitative data with quantitative data. First, I focused on developing an understanding of everyday office politics and governance issues and norm use by collecting information through extensive observation and interviews with both lower and upper-level bureaucrats. My selection of interviewees in each ministry where it was possible was randomized, including as many departments as I could.

The most often quoted informal norm during my interviews was: “do no



harm to those who help you,” a belief that included not shaming the person(s) who helped you get your job or the boss who has been sticking up for you. The belief that one had to help one’s own/group (though this did not necessarily mean ethnic group) was also widely shared, as was the norm of “chopping” from one’s work or place of work. Finally, the belief that wealth can often be fleeting was a broadly shared norm that undergirded many people’s behavior and choices.

*Winifred Pankani is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. Her research in Ghana in summer 2008 was made possible by a Pre-dissertation Research Stipend from the African Power and Politics (APP) Program. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.*

# An Economic Analysis on the Viability of Wildlife Hunting and Viewing Tourism as a Conservation and Rural Development Tool in Namibia

**GREGORY PARENT**

The lack of sustainability and developmental potential of cattle and agricultural systems has been a stimulus for many southern African countries move towards a focus on wildlife utilization as a development and conservation tool. While countries have taken different strategies, the ultimate goal of the various policy approaches is to capture wildlife's biophysical and economic advantage to generate a steady stream of benefits to local communities, thereby incentivizing the conservation of wildlife and the ecosystems they are present in. While studies have demonstrated wildlife's economic advantage at the national and regional level, there is a gap in the wildlife economic research for the understanding of benefit attainment at the community level. If wildlife viewing and hunting tourism is to be a sustainable source of revenue and continue to produce incentives towards conservation of wildlife and biomes in which they live, understanding how institutional factors effect local benefit attainment is key, as it is the local inhabitant who will ultimately make the decision to plant another row of crops, pasture more cattle, poach another animal, or conserve for future benefit.



The purpose of the summer 2008 round of research was threefold. First, it was a preliminary investigation to gain an increased understanding into structure of the rural southern African economy in order to improve the econometric models to be utilized in my Ph.D. research. Secondly, it was used to pilot question design, specifically methods to minimize participant recall errors to survey questions. Finally, as much of the southern African region is characterized by recurrent droughts and a lack of water infrastructure, water is potentially a serious input constraint to households. As such, this study investigated the importance of water access to a household's ability to participate in the market economy by integrating spatial classes of households differentiated by their distance to potable water so as to analyze the distributional impact on household income using the Foster-Greer-Thorbecke P2 measure.

The study was conducted in four villages within the Choi village area located in the Mayuni Conservancy in the Caprivi Strip, Namibia. Participants from 100 households were interviewed as part of the study. While final data analysis has yet to be completed, some interesting patterns have emerged. Of note, all four villages have little internal commerce. Households rely on traveling to distant urban centers (2 hours) to conduct the majority of their purchases. The lack of internal commerce reduces the possible multiplier affect that any tourism enterprise may produce through direct or indirect income impacts. As such, much of the potential benefit is leaked to urban centers in the form of expenditure for goods.

*Gregory Parent is a doctoral student in Geography and is an NSF IGERT Fellow (Adaptive Management: Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds). He was awarded a preliminary summer research grant from the Working Forest in the Tropics IGERT program at the University of Florida.*



# The Use of Client Focused Technology by Microfinance Organizations in Tanzania: A Case Study

## TORREY PEACE

Although I was originally going to graduate in May 2008 with a UF MBA, I changed my plans when I was informed of a \$2,000 CIBER grant available to conduct research on microfinance in Africa. I had taken an interest in microfinance since my service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala (2004-06), and did not have a chance to study it in depth during my MBA career. I initially decided as my proposal to do research on how technology affects microfinance, however later changed the subject to be a case study on client focused technology and how it is used by microfinance organizations in Tanzania. I decided to change the proposal to a case study because it would be difficult to measure the impact in a short period of time and also because most of the technologies being used were only recently introduced and therefore the impact could not be assessed.

I was fortunate enough to choose Tanzania as my destination for my research. Tanzania has a solid history in microfinance, and Dr. Todd Leedy, Associate Director of the Center for African Studies, assisted me in contacting the Faculty of Commerce and Management at the University of Dar es Salaam. Another fortunate event was that this year the International Academy of African Business and Development Conference was hosted in Gainesville and so I was able to meet some of the faculty from UDSM before even going to Tanzania!

Using these contacts enabled me to find a list of alumni that worked at microfinance organizations. I then sent these alumni emails about my research and requested interviews. I received a response from three commercial banks and one nonprofit organization. I also was able to interview the financial trust (Financial Sector Deepening Trust) that conducted a survey regarding the financial sector of Tanzania in 2006. Between the interviews as well as literature reviews, I was able to form a well-rounded perspective of how client-focused technology (Automated Teller



Machines, Point of Sale Devices, etc) were being used by these organizations.

Apart from working on my research, Tobias Swai asked me to assist in the organization of the second Business in Development business plan competition, an activity conducted by the UDSM Entrepreneurship Centre along with a Dutch nonprofit organization, the Business in Development Network ([www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)). I assisted them with updating their website, talking to entrepreneurs at the annual “Saba Saba” business tradeshow and visiting entrepreneurs from last year’s competition. It was a very enlightening experience and the business plan competition is an innovative way to stimulate local creativity along with the economy by assisting small businesses in developing business plans and obtaining funding.

While in Tanzania I had several opportunities to travel and see other parts of the country aside from Dar es Salaam. I was able to visit Morogoro, Bagamoyo, Arusha and Zanzibar. I was also able to participate in cultural events such as weddings, birthdays, local concerts and soccer matches. I took a few Kiswahili classes as well. All of these activities gave me a better understanding of the Tanzanian culture and people.

Overall, my experience in Tanzania was a fantastic one. Not only was I able to complete my MBA by doing research in a field I was interested in, I was also able to experience a different culture and make friends on a different continent. I would certainly recommend it to future students as a way to obtain a better understanding of business development in other countries.

*Torrey Peace is an MBA candidate in the Warrington College of Business Administration. She received funding for her summer research from the Center for International Business Research (CIBER) and the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.*



## The Efficacy of Community-Based Monitoring in Namibia: The Event Book System

**LUKE VICTOR ROSTANT**

A novel monitoring system developed in Namibia is the Event Book System (EBS). This community based monitoring system was created to inform management decisions in communal conservancies throughout Namibia. While the system has been in operation for almost a decade, to date, no examination of the EBS in terms of its ability to enhance the adaptive capacity of conservancies has been performed. Community-based monitoring is also often criticised based on concerns about communities lacking the capacity, sustained interest, and resources needed for effective monitoring. To this end, the main objective of my research is to understand the EBS in the context of how information is being created, accumulated, and transmitted in the communal conservancies of Namibia. Three conservancies along the Kwando River will be the focus of this research, the Kwandu, Mashi, and Mayuni conservancies.

Information about the EBS was gathered through semi-structured interviews with the communal conservancy management, as well as conservancy membership and key informants in the associated NGO's and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. These interviews will allow me to assess the way that information is collected, where this information is stored, whether or not this information is shared, and what decisions are made based on the information gathered. Preliminary findings indicate that there appears to be some elite capture

of information from the EBS by the management committees within the communal conservancies, with little information getting down to the household level. I also observed that though the information is being stored within the conservancy offices, the full potential of this information was not being capitalized upon, perhaps because the communities lack the capacity and resources (for example, the spatial aspect of the data is largely ignored).

To assess some of the EBS's potential, I collected all of the EBS data from these three focal conservancies,



and will analyze this information using GIS and remote sensing to determine whether or not the community-based datasets might be enhanced using more “scientific” methods. Ultimately, this will test whether or not so called scientific and community monitoring systems can be complementary, and, if so, how can scientists and communities work together to enhance community-based datasets to aid communities in terms of their adaptive capacity.

While these methods contribute towards an understanding of the EBS, previous interviews conducted in the 2007 field season revealed that information about the vegetation dynamics of the region was being omitted from the EBS. To this end, a comparison of the vegetation in these three focal conservancies and the Bwabwata National park on the Western side of the Kwando River will be conducted. Thirty transects on either side of the river were established in 2007 and 2008. Analysis of this data will not only allow me to examine how different land use strategies have affected the vegetation within and outside of the communal conservancies, but will also provide the communities with valuable vegetation baseline data which can be re-sampled in the future to see whether or not ecosystem management strategies need to be adjusted.



*Luke Rostant is a doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Ecology in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. His research was funded in part by a Fulbright Faculty Improvement grant and a grant from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).*

## Weapons and Refuse as Media: The Potency and Politics of Recycling in Contemporary Mozambican Urban Arts

**AMY SCHWARTZOTT**

My research focuses on contemporary Mozambican urban artists that use recycled materials in the creation of their art, which illustrates the intersection between art and life. Mozambican artists involved with the Christian Aid funded program, "Transforming Arms into Tools," utilize decommissioned weapons for assemblage art pieces to engage the viewer and urge them to remember the violence and destruction in Mozambique's struggle toward liberation. Mozambican artists also utilize natural and urban refuse in the creation of their contemporary artworks, which underscores recycling as a way of life throughout the continent of Africa

These artists working in urban Mozambique today are linked in their connection to major themes related to the environment of Mozambique in particular, and Africa in general. Within a broader framework, the use of recycled materials by these contemporary artists reflects a nexus of environmental, economic and culturally related issues that creates an expanding discourse surrounding the identity and materiality of objects. These theoretical ideas frame the pre-dissertation research I completed this summer in the Mozambican capital city of Maputo, where I spent time interviewing many artists, arts

administrators, and museum officials in order to develop a greater understanding of the contemporary arts environment within Mozambique. Through these interviews, I learned of the strength, vitality, and overarching sense of community within their contemporary arts network.

I spent time visiting artists in their studios, homes and exhibition spaces where I could directly engage in discussions with them about their art processes, techniques and theoretical concerns surrounding their use of recycled materials in their artworks. There is a great diversity in the different



types of recycled materials that are used, the forms that are created, as well as in the age and background of the many artists I interviewed. The striking link between all of the artists I spoke with is their understanding and belief in the power of art.

The transformative power of art in Mozambique became widely apparent to me not only in the emotionally engaging artworks made from traded decommissioned weapons, collected urban detritus, and natural landscape elements, but also from the intense personal commitment of the artists I spoke with. Many artists expressed their need to create art as a continuation of their cultural traditions in a contemporary context by using discarded materials that they recycled into artworks. Several of the artists I spoke to carried on the power of the visual arts by teaching Mozambican orphans and youth in arts education programs that they designed, facilitated, and in most cases, financed themselves.

To create connections within the arts community on a larger scale, I also met with directors, managers and curators of organizations such as the National Museum of Mozambique, the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Center, Nucleo de Arte, MovArte, MozArte, ENAV (National School of Visual Arts) and the Christian Council. Through these discussions, I have gained a greater understanding of the transformative power of art and its impact as a force within Mozambican society and culture. Since my return to the US, I have received word that a projected weapons monument that I discussed with several of the artists and administrators while I was in Maputo is indeed underway.

*Amy Schwartzott is a doctoral student in the School of Art and Art History.*



## Hospitals as a Window into Global Flows and Local Articulations in Tanzania

**NOELLE SULLIVAN**

Since December 2007, I have been on the outskirts of Arusha, Tanzania, conducting dissertation field research investigating the ways that privatization of medicine has affected medical practice. In particular, I have been exploring how global, multi-national, and national organizations have influenced the opportunities and constraints experienced by health care workers at the micro level—within a Tanzanian hospital. This research investigates how global agencies (such as WHO and the World Bank), various donors (such as USAID or DANIDA), and various volunteer organizations (such as Work the World and Students for International Change) have affected the ways that medicine is practiced within Tanzania, and what kinds of opportunities and constraints health care workers experience as a result of the rapid changes that have been effected within the health sector.



An important aspect of this research has been to consider the ways that multiple forces come to bear on the hospital and the ways that power operates on the local scale within the hospital. I am using participant observation, archival research, and individual and group interviews with hospital workers, local government officials, officers within the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, and representatives within various aid and volunteer organizations to investigate the ways that global and state forces articulate on the micro scale (within one hospital), the politics of these interactions, and what this context means for the people who work within this system and for those who use it in order to achieve better health for themselves and their relatives.

*Noelle Sullivan is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. She is a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad awardee (2007-08) and was a CAS FLAS fellow in 2003-04, 2004-05, as well as summer 2005.*

## Religion and Politics in Morocco

### ANN WAINSCOTT

I was very fortunate to be awarded a summer FLAS grant to study Arabic during the summer of 2008 in Fez, Morocco. As a student of Moroccan politics, with an interest in the role of various Sufi groups in Moroccan political discourse, language skills are absolutely essential. In addition to the four hours of classroom instruction that I received each day, I lived with a family in the new city of Fez, attended a number of cultural events and also traveled throughout the country. Most importantly, this period allowed me to begin to refine the research I plan to carry out for my dissertation topic.

Fez, as the spiritual and cultural capital of Morocco, is an excellent location to live and study. During the month of June, the city hosts a sacred music festival that highlights spiritual music from around the world as well as showcasing the different Sufi groups and their rituals from within the country. Many other cities within the country also host festivals including the Gnawa music festival in Essaouira. Attending these events afforded me a glimpse of youth culture, government development strategies and the complicated role of tourism in the Moroccan economy.

By far, living with a Moroccan family was the most important cultural experience of my summer. My Moroccan mom, upon learning of my recent engagement, showered me with cooking tips and her favorite recipes. She also

served as a sort of cultural interpreter as she had excellent French and English skills and was willing to discuss a myriad of issues, from political parties to the role of Sufis in Moroccan society to her concerns about unemployment. Further, her daughter provided an interesting window into Moroccan teenage life and while I was shocked at how many Bollywood movies she could fit into a day, she was appalled at how little I knew of American pop culture! I am sure that the cultural nuances I was able to learn from living with a family will prove invaluable as I continue with my research.

Thanks to an introduction by CAS director Leo Villalón, the academic highlight of my summer was meeting the scholar Mâati Monjib, from the Institute of African Studies in Rabat, and a one-



time visiting professor at the University of Florida. I was privileged to enjoy his hospitality and his advice on Moroccan scholarship. I was particularly interested in his opinion because of his broad knowledge of nearly every piece of scholarship on Moroccan politics in multiple languages. At one point he actually began listing the dissertation topics that have yet to be done in Arabic, French or English! Professor Monjib's advice will certainly prove invaluable as I work to define the precise focus of my dissertation research.

By studying within my country of interest, I was able to gain a broad understanding of the issues relevant in Moroccan society and establish a network of close contacts while I continued to develop the language skills necessary for my research. Truly, the summer of 2008 was an important step in my development as a political scientist and a student of Moroccan politics.

*Ann Waincott is a doctoral student in Political Science. She has held Center for African Studies FLAS fellowships in 2007-08 and 2008-09. Her 2008 summer stay in Morocco was made possible by a CAS Summer FLAS Award to the Arabic Language Institute of Fez (ALIF).*

## Perceptions and Misperceptions of the Gnawa and their Music in Morocco

**CHRISTOPHER WITULSKI**

Pre-dissertation fieldwork this summer allowed me to witness more thoroughly the complex relationship between people, their religion, and their music in Fez, Morocco. While living with a devout Tijaniyya family in Blida, a region of the old medina, I learned more concretely the place and meaning of *dhikr* (a prayerful act of remembrance) in this tailor's home and in the nearby *zawiya*, one of the most famous in the Arab world.

Simultaneously I had the opportunity to study the *hajbuj* (the primary Gnawa musical instrument), with Abd ar-Rzaq, a professional Gnawa *maalem* who has led *layla* possession ceremonies and "folkloric" performances in houses and on stages from the Congo to France. We sat in his small "office," decorated with pictures, certificates, and letters celebrating his musical and spiritual career. The Gnawa are a population in Morocco commonly presented as black ex-slaves whose

religion involves trance and possession by various spirits, personifications of significant Muslim figures. Examples include *shurfa* (from *sharif*, descendent of the Prophet), *Sidi Musa* (Moses), and *Lalla Aisha*. Religious debate surrounds the Gnawa centers on the ontology of these spirits: are they truly saints, or are they *jnun* (demons, evil spirits)?

While assembling activities for a short visit by a study abroad group from the University of Florida, I forged a close relationship with Adil, *muqaddem*



of a local Aissawa Sufi brotherhood. The Aissawas are renowned for their music, their own *layla* ceremonies, and more recently, for performing exorcisms.

The differences between these faiths and their accompanying musical traditions are not surprising, but the ease with which they participated in each others musical and ceremonial activities demonstrates much regarding the frequently cited "hybridity" in Moroccan religion and culture. This is despite the perceived marginalization of the Gnawa and heated intellectual debate regarding Sufism. The time in Morocco helped me to better comprehend the interesting ways in which these groups are interrelated and how they claim religious authenticity and validity.

*Christopher Witulski is a doctoral student in the School of Music (Ethnomusicology). He received a CAS FLAS fellowship in summer 2006 and is also a UF Alumni fellowship recipient.*



## Building Capacity for Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Southern Africa

### DEBORAH WOJCIK

I spent summer 2008 conducting exploratory and pre-dissertation research in the Okavango Delta region of Botswana and the Caprivi region of Namibia. Learning as much as I could about the place and building relationships critical to my future research success, I had the opportunity to be a part of Dr. Brian Child's cross-cultural, interdisciplinary research team in Botswana for five weeks of my two month trip. The group was comprised of faculty, doctoral, masters and undergraduate students from the University of Florida, young African professionals from throughout southern Africa, and undergraduate students from the University of Botswana. Academic research within the group ranged widely, including studies of economics, ecology, political science, psychology and anthropology. While the students brought knowledge of research methods and academic disciplines, the young professionals brought experience in natural resource management from their home countries and the practitioner perspective. I worked with a subset of the group who in turn worked with local community members to collect survey data from various rural communities involved with Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), looking at everything from governance and financial accounting to natural resource management. Called "the Dashboard" for its application as monitoring and research tool to provide quick and simple views of what's happening in a community, much like the dashboard of a car provides an overview of the car's functionality, a large team conducted surveys in a number of rural communities.



The interdisciplinary and cross-cultural character of the combined group of young African professionals and academicians created a dynamic and unique learning experience. Interested in how this type of research may help to build capacity for members of the group as well as the communities in which we worked, I conducted interviews and observations that will feed into my overall research plan and dissertation. I will continue studying this research process throughout the year, as students continue to work on their own research and collaborate with one another through Dr. Child's facilitation. I will also follow up with the young African professionals remotely, assessing how they are or are not applying their new techniques and research methods in their home countries. I will continue this line of research in my dissertation, looking beyond conventional capacity building methods, which are dominated by supply-driven training programs, to see how other approaches may serve to build the capacity of community members involved with CBNRM.

After working with Dr. Child's group, I moved from Botswana to Namibia for three weeks to join other University of Florida students conducting their dissertation research there. Though involvement in projects as diverse as conducting ecological transects to an economic study, I built a foundational understanding of the place, people and concerns related to CBNRM in the Caprivi region of Namibia. Beyond providing an opportunity to help with their work, fellow University of Florida students were invaluable contacts, introducing me to the key people and organizations with whom I hope to work again in the near future.

*Deborah Wojcik is a doctoral student in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Her research was supported by a Working Forests in the Tropics NSF IGERT Summer Research Grant. She is also the recipient of funding from the NSF-funded IGERT Adaptive Management: Wise Use of Water, Wetlands and Watersheds 2007–2008.*



# Collaborative Projects

## UF Law Summer Program in Cape Town, South Africa

Increasingly, United States and international legal employers are looking for individuals with an understanding of today's complex legal environment. As South Africa emerges as a leading political and economic force, opportunities for business, trade and cultural exchanges increase significantly within the region. Its progressive constitution has become a model for developing democracies.

Recognizing the importance of providing students with an education that transcends national boundaries, the University of Florida's Levin College of Law jointly sponsors the only U.S.-based summer program approved by the American Bar Association with the University of Cape Town Faculty of Law in South Africa's most beautiful, cosmopolitan and diverse city. The program celebrated its 10th anniversary during summer 2008.

During summer 2008, 19 UF law students, 7 students from other ABA law schools and 9 University of Cape Town students (representing



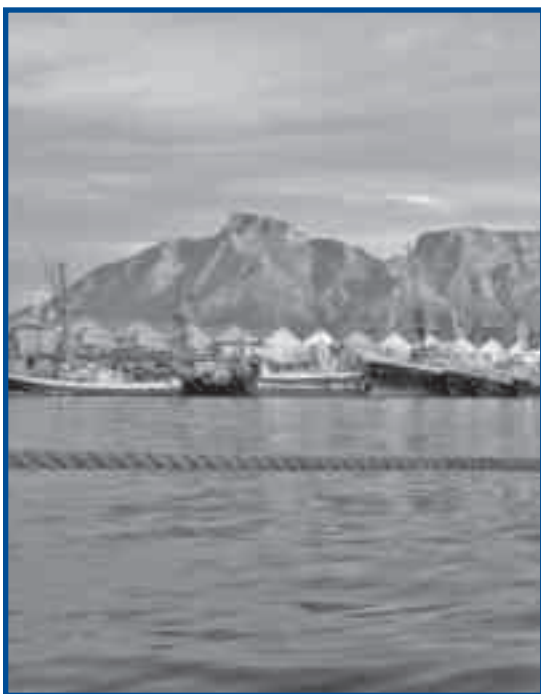
South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) participated in the 5 1/2 week UF/University of Cape Town Study Abroad Program. Students studying in the program benefited from a dual focus on comparative and international law. South African professors presented an introduction to the South African legal system. In addition, U.S. and South African students analyzed how race and race relations have influenced U.S. and South African legal systems in a comparative constitutional law course. In the comparative cultural property, students supplemented readings by visiting cultural sites, including Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned, and the District Six Museum, commemorating the removal of a mixed race community to single race townships outside of the city, and UNESCO heritage sites.

The Florida/Cape Town program allowed students and faculty to live in and enjoy a rich culture, while studying law amidst the historic legal, political and social changes occurring in South

Africa. Students visited Parliament, courts, and museums. In addition, several student groups took trips to Kruger National Park, the Garden Route, and Namibia before and after the program.

As part of a service component to the program, the students volunteered at Kalksteentfontein Primary School (KPS), which is located in the Cape Flats outside of Cape Town. Many of its residents were forced from Cape Town when District Six became a whites only area under apartheid. The UF students, along with the High Springs Community School, also sponsored a pen pal project that raised \$3,400 to benefit KPS. The money raised paid 136 KPS students' tuition.

For further information, [http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/abroad/summer\\_africa.shtml](http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/abroad/summer_africa.shtml) or contact Kathleen Price [pricek@law.ufl.edu](mailto:pricek@law.ufl.edu), Faculty Director of the Cape Town program, or Michelle Ocepek [ocepek@law.ufl.edu](mailto:ocepek@law.ufl.edu), Director of Student Programs.





# AIM For Africa: Medicine, Arts and Health Care in the Gambia

Since 2006, UF's innovative Center for Arts in Healthcare Research and Education (CAHRE) has launched a series of new initiatives intended to create cultural bridges between the arts and healthcare in the US and African nations. The "AIM for Africa" program is committed to cross-cultural collaborations that fill needs in African communities and provide meaningful learning opportunities for UF students.

In addition to initiatives in Kenya and Rwanda, CAHRE and the College of Medicine are working to establish a permanent research and training program in the Gambia. This program will include clinical work and reciprocal training, arts in medicine projects and programs and research projects focused on the delivery of health care to citizens of the Gambia. The program began in 2008 with several trips to the Gambia, including a March trip led by CAHRE's director, Jill Sonke-Henderson, accompanied by labor and delivery nurse Cindy Nelly. Sonke-Henderson is also a faculty member in UF's department of Theater and Dance, and artist-in-residence in the Shands Arts in Medicine program. The group of UF College of Fine Arts students and nurses spent a two-week residency



together in the Gambia. They brought 1,100 pounds of medical supplies and provided medical and arts in healthcare services at the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital, Brikama Hospital, Kubuneh Health Center, and in rural villages and schools in the Gambia.

In June of 2008, Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, director of medical humanities for UF's College of Medicine, led a group that included a 4th year UF medical student, Raj Mehta, Nghi Lam, an undergraduate interested in medicine and arts-in-medicine interventions, and a group of students who put together a project researching emergency medical care and triage systems in place in the Gambia.

These students researched and developed the project that was then funded through the Medical Sciences Research Program at the UF College of Medicine. This project began with a survey that provides the capacity to determine strengths and weaknesses of Gambian emergency healthcare

system. The students generated a survey tool and worked with the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital in Banjul, at the Brikama Clinic in Brikama, and a small clinic in Kubunehóa village in south east Gambia to gather data.

The data acquired through this first survey will be supplemented through continuing visits to the Gambia by UF medical students, in an effort to put together a report that can be used by the Gambian government and public health service to evaluate their emergency treatment system. The students who designed the study (Janeen Alidina, Archana Eniasivam, Komal Gandhi, Ryan Gerrity, Menna Haider, Mariana Khawand, and John Martino) will continue to work with incoming medical students and faculty to continue the project.

More information on the AIM for Africa Gambia initiative, including some slides shows of these trips, can be found at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/CAHRE/aimgambia.asp>.



# NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates: Studying Ecology in Ghana

I really began to get excited when we all met in Gainesville for the first time. Carmen had flown in from UC Fullerton, Angela from James Madison University and Jon from the College of the Atlantic. These were the students I would be working with for the next six weeks on various research projects at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. We were all selected for the highly competitive National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates through the University of Florida, or UF-UCC REU for short. Although there are literally dozens of NSF REUs to choose from, this particular program in Ghana is tailored towards research in ecology, environmental science and conservation biology. I was about to start my last year in Environmental Engineering Sciences and was eager for some international research experience.

We flew out in late May and arrived in Accra to see our new home for the next few weeks. We stayed in the Sasakawa chalets, an on-campus guesthouse with AC, refrigerator and a hot water heater. On our second day in Cape Coast we met our project mentors, a team of professors in the school of biological sciences who take an REU student each year and help them conceive and follow through on a research topic of their interest.

I was assigned to a veteran professor who had graduated from the same department years ago and spent his life researching aquatic ecology in the area.

Carmen studied pollination efficiency in the cocoa plant, a project of direct application, as the cocoa bean is one of Ghana's primary exports. Jon studied egg-laying behavior of a local butterfly, trying to discern any preference in the plant



species that this butterfly lays eggs on. Angela studied traditional medicine, interviewing local herbalists and patients about common ailments and their respective treatments. I studied algal populations and associated epifauna ecology on a nearby section of rocky shore.

Everyday, we woke up, ate breakfast, went to the lab, met up for lunch and returned to the lab before going back home to our humble chalets. On the weekends we would go into town and browse through the various markets, occasionally trying to bargain with a merchant for some uniquely Ghanaian product. On one occasion we made it to Accra for a World Cup qualifier match, Ghana vs. Gabon, that Ghana won 2-0. Throughout our stay in Ghana we made wonderful friends who brought us into their homes and offered their help with all of our acclimating needs. They made us kenkey, fufu, jolof rice and yams. In the end, we presented our work to fellow students and professors and said goodbye to all of the friends we had made throughout campus. It was an extremely rewarding experience that I will continue to benefit from for years to come.

—Benjamin Lee Branoff



# IGERT Field Course: Managing Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds in Southern Africa

A multidisciplinary team from the University of Florida's Integrative Graduate Education, Research and Traineeship in Adaptive Management (IGERT-AM) spent the summer of 2008 in Southern Africa participating in a field course designed to examine adaptive management of water, wetlands and watersheds. The course is part of a National Science Foundation (NSF) IGERT Program grant at UF. Designed as an integral part of the IGERT-AM program, each summer for the past three years a new cohort of Ph.D. students has spent 6 weeks in southern Africa studying the biophysical, social, legal and political issues involved in the management of major watersheds in Botswana, South Africa, and Swaziland. This year's team was composed of ten students, a post-doctoral fellow, three faculty, and one staff member.

The course began in Durban, South Africa, where the team met with students and faculty from the University of KwaZulu Natal to share experiences and understandings of water management issues in their respective areas. The Florida team presented a synthesis of the management issues of the Florida Everglades, a system they had studied as part of the summer field course prior to traveling to Africa. Students and faculty from UKZN presented an overview of management issues and research related to the St. Lucia estuary on the east coast of South Africa. The UF team then traveled from Durban to St. Lucia to further examine the unique hydrological system and its management issues.

Following the St. Lucia experience, the team traveled to Swaziland and explored the Lower Usuthua Smallholder Irrigation Project, a poverty alleviation initiative situated in the lowveld of Swaziland. The dam project will ultimately provide irrigation to over 11,000 hectares of land, transforming the local economy from subsistence farming into sustainable commercial agriculture. The team visited the project site and participated in round table discussions with community leaders about capacity building, farm managed institutions, water management institutional frameworks and participatory planning, and monitoring/evaluation processes.

Next, the team traveled to Kruger National Park where they participated in several days of discussion sessions with biologists, hydrologists, planners, and managers concerning initiatives to adaptively manage park resources. Kruger has a very robust research program with over 200 research projects spread

throughout its 2 million hectares of land and across all spheres of its operation. Important areas of research include the role of fire (frequency, timing, and intensity) in the Kruger ecosystem and programs regarding elephant dynamics, the most controversial of which involves testing contraception as a means of controlling their population growth. The Kruger system was an important juxtaposition to the park system of Botswana, visited next by the UF team.

The bulk of the overseas course (about four weeks) was spent in and around the Okavango Delta. The UF team heard lectures from faculty at the University of Botswana's Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Center (HOORC) in Maun and had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with HOORC scientists working in their areas of interest. The UF team traveled to multiple sites throughout the Delta and its surrounding area, learning the general ecology as well as details about the unique geology, chemistry, hydrology, and management of the area. Of particular interest to the team was meeting with members of a local Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) project. Students were able to see and hear first hand how CBNRM projects function and are impacting the well-being of these communities. Students participated in ongoing research efforts of UF and HOORC joint projects through data collection to assess the impact of elephant damage, hydrologic data collection, and ecological transects in the Delta to assess characteristics of vegetative cover in floodplains.

While objectives of the summer



included increasing students' understanding of the factors affecting the management of various watersheds as well as introducing students to basic physical and ecological data collection, one of the overarching goals was to create an interdisciplinary team through which students are asked to perform and deliver as a collective. Throughout the summer, students were organized into teams and worked on assignments that revolved around the science and management issues of each of the watershed systems visited. Overall, a major objective IGERT-AM program is to develop a sense of camaraderie and respect for fellow students that will ultimately enable each student to become skilled in collaborative, cross-discipline, integrative science that will inform management of complex systems. The summer Africa field course is the first step in that process for each cohort of students entering the program.

## Participants:

Carol Binello, *IGERT Program Manager*

Susanna Blair, *Geology, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Mark Brown, *Ph.D., Director of the Center for Environmental Policy*

Megan Brown, *SNRE, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Lisa Gardner, *Water and Soil Sciences, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Robin Globus, *Religion, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Hollie Hall, *Water and Soil Sciences, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Richard Hamann, *JD, Assistant Director, Center for Governmental Responsibility*

Jillian Jensen, *SNRE, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Marie Kurz, *Geology, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Dina Liebowitz, *SNRE, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Sarah McKune, *SNRE, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

David Pfahler, *Environmental Engineering Sciences, IGERT Ph.D. Student*

Sandra Russo, *Ph.D., Director of Program Development, International Center*

Lynn Saunders, *H.T. Odum Center for Wetlands, Postdoctoral Research Associate*

# NSF International Research Experiences for Students (IRES): Engineering Sustainable Building Systems in East Africa

This is a 3-year program supported by an NSF award to Drs. Esther Obonyo and Robert Ries in collaboration with University of Nairobi. It creates International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) in the East Africa Region. The focus of the project is giving undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to acquire a global perspective on developing innovations that can make construction processes, products and services more sustainable using East Africa as the deployment context. The first year of the project focused on selected sites from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The students spent 9 weeks in Tanzania working closely with East African professors. The motivation for the research was creating a construction engineering education platform that would prime construction engineers for the challenges associated with globalization by improving their understanding of contextual issues through international experiences, facilitating problem-focused and team-based learning, and developing new educational materials based on the student's research.

Several students carried out research in five different areas. Glenn Darling investigated the use of clay-fired brick within the Tanzanian context. His research focused on assessing the use and availability of natural resources used in the mix of brick as well as the fuel sources for the firing process. He also assessed the availability of the necessary infrastructure or equipment to facilitate construction, and perceptions and stigmas associated with brick construction. He studied the linear manufacturing progression of fired clay bricks from the first extraction of the raw materials through to the mixing, forming, drying, and firing. He also studied the manufacturing of burned or fired clay brick in small scale local production and analyzed the potential for large scale factory production of brick and the various efforts to revitalize that industry once existed.

Iris Zielske and Andrew Wehle investigated how technologies in low-income housing areas are developed, disseminated and used by various small-scale contractors including how practical physical sustainability knowledge in terms of materials, construction styles, and building design could be infused in the work of small-scale builders. They assessed the current level of knowledge and support of engineering sustainable construction systems within stakeholder groups (informal construction labor), and how groups access various housing resources, namely: finance; land; building materials; technology; labor

and resources. The students identified key players in the construction sector focusing on their operations in the social marketplace. The investigative tools used by the students included literature reviews, library research, on-site surveys of housing communities, consultations with local university researchers, interviews with members of various government agencies, interviews with administrators of participating local NGO's and members of community based organizations (CBO's). They also spoke with various members of the housing construction community such as architects, quantity surveyors, urban planners and construction laborers. The resulting social network developed by the students defines a knowledge map that can be used for the dissemination of knowledge on sustainable construction engineering practices.

Dereck Winning focused on identifying and analyzing passive design strategies used in openings to achieve thermal comfort. He assessed this issue at multiple scales of residences, which use a variety shading and screening techniques and materials. He also studied how the different buildings exploited orientation, location of openings and daylighting strategies to control thermal gain. He developed a checklist for passive design strategies for residential projects in East Africa, which he used to compare and contrast the passive design strategies used for openings in traditional houses and historical buildings in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, and

modern and recent residential projects in Dar es Salaam. His primary focus was identifying construction-engineering strategies that can be used to achieve thermal comfort without the use of mechanical conditioning systems for thermal comfort.

Jessica Laushine focused on performing a life cycle assessment of sand-cement blocks using selected case studies of commercial and residential construction from Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo. The scope of her research was restricted to studying the extraction of raw materials considering cost, time, transportation, labor, environmental impact, transportation and their location. She also studied the production process, which involved assessing things such as the cost of materials, labor and fuel as well as the efficiency of the forming and curing process. For the construction phase, she investigated the craftsmanship and quality control in the use of sand-cement blocks. She also considered the differences in approaches to using blocks depending on the type of construction. The final aspect of her analysis was assessing the potential for extracting value from the blocks used in Dar es Salaam during the demolition phase.

Stephanie Sims analyzed the potential for rainwater harvesting in Tanzania using selected case studies from Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo. Her analysis included considering the gaps in the supply of water and the extent to which rainwater harvesting can be used to meet this gap. She was able to identify a number of case studies for her study and assess the materials and technologies used for rainwater harvesting in the existing applications. She identified some key challenges that would have to be overcome before rainwater harvesting can make a significant impact on the water supply needs for the people in developing countries. In addition to the technical challenges of developing technologies that are affordable, she also identified some social barriers that have prevented the widespread adoption of rainwater harvesting in Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam.

# Selected Theses & Dissertations on Africa Since 2000

- Ajani, Timothy Temilola. Aspect in Yoruba and Nigerian English. Linguistics Ph.D.
- Altman, Danielle. Feminist activism in post-apartheid South Africa: the politics of postnatal depression. Anthropology M.A.
- Anderson, Andrea Snyder. Smallholder farmers in Malosa, Malawi: food security and household composition. Agricultural Education and Communication M.S.
- Apodaca, Christine K. Damselflies in extreme environments: Distribution and ecophysiology of *Proishnura subfurcatum*. Zoology M.S.
- Arthur, John W. Ceramic ethnoarchaeology among the Gamo of southwestern Ethiopia. Anthropology, Ph.D.
- Balcomb, Sophia Robb. Patterns of seed dispersal at a variety of scales in a tropical forest system: do post-dispersal processes disrupt patterns established by frugivores? Zoology Ph.D.
- Baird, Ann Brisbane. The sign of the leopard: Leopard imagery in the kingdoms of the Yoruba, the kingdom of Benin, and the kingdom of Dahomey. Art and Art History M.A.
- Baird, Jaime. Looking at Ethiopia: history, photography, and power. Art and Art History M.A.
- Barham, James G. Linking farmers to markets assessing planned change initiatives to improve the marketing performance of smallholder farmer groups in northern Tanzania. Interdisciplinary Ecology Ph.D.
- Barkey, Nanette Louise. Intracultural variation in blood pressure in Beira, Mozambique. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Bostick, Welch McNair. Soil carbon dynamics in West African cropping systems. Agricultural and Biological Engineering Ph.D.
- Breeyen, Alana Den. Biological control of *Imperata cylindrica* in West Africa using fungal pathogens. Plant Pathology Ph.D.
- Brookman-Amissah, Mark. A GIS decision support system for siting high voltage electric transmission lines in Ghana, West Africa. Civil and Coastal Engineering M.S.
- Bugarin, Flordeliz T. Trade and interaction on the Eastern Cape frontier: an historical archaeological study of the Xhosa and the British during the early nineteenth century. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Cassidy, Lin. Anthropogenic burning in the Okavango panhandle of Botswana: Livelihoods and spatial dimensions. Interdisciplinary Ecology M.S.
- Choudar, Lakhdar. Poétique du désert: parcours narratifs dans l'oeuvre de Le Clézio et Malika Mokeddem. French M.A.
- Cohen, Leah A. J. The impact of illness on livelihoods in rural western Kenya: The influence of livelihood type, gender, and seasonality. Geography M.S.
- Cohen, Matthew J. Systems evaluation of erosion and erosion control in a tropical watershed. Environmental Engineering Sciences thesis, Ph.D.
- Curtis, Matthew Chad. Archaeological investigations in the greater Asmara area: a regional approach in the central highlands of Eritrea. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Davidheiser, Mark Frederick. The role of culture in conflict mediation: Toubabs and Gambians cannot be the same. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Davis, Kristin Elizabeth. Technology dissemination among small-scale farmers in Meru Central District of Kenya: Impact of group participation. Agricultural Education and Communication Ph.D.
- Donkor, Augustine Kwame. Biochemistry of mercury in an impacted gold mining tropical aquatic system: the Pra River Basin in Southwestern Ghana. Environmental Engineering Sciences Ph. D.
- Dorn, Nicholas Carlton. Mapping the contours of imperium: an analysis of geographical representation in nineteenth-century European exploration of Africa. History M.A.
- Downs, Maxine. Microcredit and empowerment among women cloth dyers of Bamako, Mali. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Duncan, Robert Scot. Tropical forest succession: integrating theory and application in forest restoration. Zoology Ph.D.
- Dzotsi, Kofikuma Adzewoda. Comparison of measured and simulated responses of maize to phosphorus levels in Ghana. Agricultural and Biological Engineering M.S.
- Edwards, Tahra. "Nao bate-me!" (Don't beat me!): domestic violence in Mozambique. Anthropology, M.A.
- Efitre, Jackson. Life history variation in tilapia populations within the crater

- lakes of western Uganda the role of size-selective predation. Zoology Ph.D.
- El-Shall, Maryam Hassan. Modern interpretations of gender in Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy. English M.A.
- Evans, Meredith Morgan. Land use and prey density changes in the Nakuru Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya: Implications for cheetah conservation. Interdisciplinary Ecology M.S.
- Feleke, Shiferaw Tesfaye. Determinants of food security in southern Ethiopia at the household level. Food and Resource Economics M.S.
- Fisher, Erich Christopher. A complex systems theory of technological change: a case study involving a morphometrics analysis of Stone Age Flake Debitage from the Horn of Africa. Anthropology M.A.
- Fridy, Kevin S. "We only vote but do not know" The social foundations of partisanship in Ghana. Political Science Ph.D.
- Gates, James F. The structural and cultural construction of race in the handline fishing industry on South Africa's western Cape coast. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Gebre, Yntiso Deko. Population displacement and food insecurity in Ethiopia: resettlement, settlers, and hosts. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Grier, Christina E. Potential impact of improved fallows on small farm livelihoods, Eastern Province, Zambia. Food and Resource Economics M.S.
- Gough, Amy Elizabeth. The Starter Pack Program in Malawi: implications for household food security. Agricultural Education and Communication M.S.
- Gwata, Eastonce Tendayi. Inheritance of promiscuous nodulation in soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] and the evaluation of potential RAPD markers for the trait. Agronomy Ph.D.
- Hamilton, Jacqueline Marie. Telecommunications reform in Africa and the United States. Economics Ph.D.
- Harbison, Justin Eric. Development of a practical technique for sampling the afro-tropical malaria vectors *Anopheles gambiae* S.L. and *An. funestus*. Entomology and Nematology M.S.
- Hartter, Joel Nathan. Landscape change around Kibale National Park, Uganda impacts on land cover, land use, and livelihoods. Geography Ph.D.
- Haslerig, Janet Miliyah. People and wildlife conservation in Tanzania: three case studies of shifting paradigms from the colonial to independence eras. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Ph.D.
- Hoon, Parakh. Between exchange and reciprocity: the politics of wildlife conservation in Botswana and agricultural diversification in Zambia. Political Science Ph.D.
- Hundie, Girma. The emergence of prehistoric pastoralism in Southern Ethiopia. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Hussey, Robert Scott-Pailos. Construction of the top of the Egyptian pyramids: an experimental test of a levering device. Anthropology M.A.
- Jin, Sungwon. The "Self-Reliance Strategy" of the Imvepi Sudanese refugee settlement in northern Uganda. Anthropology M.A.
- Jones-Nelson, Alice C. Castles in their midst: world heritage sites in Ghana. History M.A.
- Kasozi, Gabriel Nuffield. Characterization of sorption and degradation of pesticides in carbonatic and associated soils from south Florida and Puerto Rico, and oxisols from Uganda. Soil and Water Sciences Ph.D.
- Kaya, Bocary. Soil fertility regeneration through improved fallow systems in southern Mali. Forest Resources and Conservation Ph.D.
- Keifer, Dorion A. Last lumbar facet and pedicle orientation in orthograde primates. Anthropology M.A.
- Kiel, Michelle Lea. Boundaries and bureaucrats: higher education reform in Madagascar. Anthropology M.A.
- Kimura, Birgitta K. An archaeological investigation into the history and socio-political organization of Konso, Southern Ethiopia. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Kis, Adam Daniel. Labor migration, gold mining, and low HIV prevalence in Guinea. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Klein, Rebecca A. "We do not eat meat with the Christians" Interaction and integration between the Beta Israel and Amhara Christians of Gonder, Ethiopia. Anthropology Ph.D.
- Koo, Jawoo. Estimating soil carbon sequestration in Ghana. Agricultural and Biological Engineering Ph.D.
- Lau, Yoke Fong. A comparative analysis of temperament-based learning styles of United States of America, Singapore, and Zimbabwe students. Educational Psychology M.A.E.
- Ledermann, Samuel Thomas. Agriculture, GDP and inequality in sub-Saharan Africa cross-country analysis of the impact of agricultural production and exports on income inequality by. Geography M.A.
- Leedy, Todd Holzgreffe. The soil of salvation: African agriculture and American methodism in colonial Zimbabwe, 1939-1962. History Ph.D.
- Lehmensiek, May. Evaluation of tourism in the Okavango Delta in Botswana using environmental accounting. Environmental Engineering Sciences M.S.
- Leong, Kirsten Mya. The reproductive context of low-frequency vocalizations for a group of captive African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). Wildlife Ecology and Conservation M.S.
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- Magembe, Lucy. Transformation of valley-bottom cultivation and its effects on Tanzanian wetlands a case study of Ndembera wetland area in Iringa region. Geography M.S.
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- Takimoto, Asako. Carbon sequestration potential of agroforestry systems in the West African Sahel an assessment of biological and socioeconomic feasibility. Forest Resources and Conservation Ph.D.
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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, Swahili, Wolof, Xhosa, and Yoruba**) as well as for other African languages for which instruction can be arranged.

Fellowships provide a stipend of \$15,000 per academic year 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.

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