



Center for African Studies

Research Report
2009



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Center for African Studies

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FLORIDA

About the Center

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

Founded in 1965, the Center for African Studies at UF has been continuously designated a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Africa for 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.

GRADUATE STUDY OF AFRICA AT UF

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

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

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From the Director

We are delighted to present the 2009 Research Report of the University of Florida's Center for African Studies (CAS). We hope this report will give a sense of the extraordinary diversity and the academic caliber of the work on Africa carried out by UF faculty members and graduate students, as well as reflect the depth of our engagement with the continent. The research covered in this report represents work in over 30 countries on the continent from the perspective of nearly twenty disciplines and incorporates a high degree of interdisciplinarity.

UF work in Africa this year has been supported from a variety of prestigious sources. In addition to the many grants received by individual faculty members, we are particularly proud of our collaborative projects. Among some of the highlights you will read about in this report are major initiatives funded by Higher Education for Development (HED) to collaborate with universities in southern Africa to develop curriculum and training capacity in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and CAS's ongoing participation as a consortium member of the Africa Power and Politics Program (APPP), which is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid. We are also continuing to expand our outreach efforts with a documentary film on Islam in West Africa, a project funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC).



And a crowning highlight for the year: In a joint initiative between CAS and the UF Center for Latin American Studies, UF is one of only two US universities selected by the MacArthur foundation to receive nearly \$1 million dollars to initiate a new Master's in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) degree. We are proud to join the emerging worldwide network

of MDP programs, dedicated to the idea of training a new generation of development practitioners.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the exciting work reported on here. For more information on African Studies at UF, please consult our website at www.africa.ufl.edu or contact us at 352.392.2183.

—Leonardo A. Villalón
Director, Center for African Studies

Faculty Reports

Contemporary African Dramatists and the Question of Orality

AKINTUNDE AKINYEMI

This summer I began field research in Nigeria and Ghana on a new project in which I am examining the role of oral traditions in African dramaturgy, film, and cinema.

The thrust of this project is to argue that there has been an increasing tendency on the part of many African writers to identify with the literary tradition of their people. Writers, especially playwrights, demonstrate this commitment by incorporating materials from oral traditions into their works to sustain the functions performed by such materials in oral society in modern literary production. However, the project is not just about preservation and survival of African oral traditions, but more about the ways oral traditions have been adjusted by African playwrights and film script writers to address contemporary interests and concerns. On several occasions, these folkloric materials also become instruments that African writers manipulate easily to raise social consciousness in the minds of their readers and audiences. Therefore, African playwrights and film scriptwriters convert various genres of their oral traditions to a complex set of symbols that are only partly indigenous, thereby freeing them from impediments of a fixed cultural perspective.

It is essential after the initial conception of a project like this to interact with colleagues in Africa working on the same problems and period. Therefore, during my trip to Africa this past summer, I interviewed several African writers, literary scholars, scriptwriters, and film producers based in Nigeria and Ghana. I also attended two international conferences where I made presentations and shared my thoughts on the project with colleagues.

The preliminary results of my investigation reveal that integration of oral literary materials into the works of contemporary African dramatists manifests at two levels: that of documentation and manipulation. By documentation, I mean a writer's adoption of specific samples of literary materials from oral genres, which he or she lifts verbatim, transcribes,



and inserts in appropriate places in his or her writing with little or no addition or subtraction. As for manipulation, however, African playwrights carefully make only selective use of elements of oral traditions, which they exploit to advance their political opinion. What appeals to this category of playwrights in their recourse to oral traditions is not just the preservation of the material itself but the ideas contained in it, which are seen as having an enduring relevance. At this level, playwrights turn oral traditions into metaphorical or symbolic use to articulate political vision.

As I progress on this project, I hope to discuss further how contemporary African playwrights

borrow specific traditional literary materials for the construction of characters and situations in their works. I also think this research will benefit my undergraduate African literature and culture course, which is structured to expand the humanities offerings of the Center for African Studies and the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Akintunde Akinyemi is an associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. His summer research trip was funded by a 2009 award from the CLAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund.

Out of SW Ethiopia? The Spread of Homo sapiens Across and Out of Africa During the Late Pleistocene

STEVEN BRANDT

Sometime between 60,000 to 50,000 years ago, one of the most significant events in human evolution occurred, according to recent fossil, archaeological, and genetic data. This happened when anatomically and behaviorally modern hunter-gatherers migrated out of Africa into Arabia to successfully colonize western Asia. Thus began a process that would lead over the next 20,000 years to the extinction of all non-modern humans, including the Neanderthals, and the spread of Homo sapiens and “modern” cultural behavior across Asia, Australia, and Europe into the Americas.

One of the major gaps in our understanding of this Great Diaspora, as it is sometimes referred to, is an understanding of its African roots: Where in Africa did these colonizing hunter-gatherer populations come from? Why and where did they leave Africa and what were their routes? How were they able to adapt so successfully to the new worlds they encountered?

In 2006, Dr. Elisabeth A. Hildebrand of Stony Brook University and I received a grant from the National Science Foundation to begin archaeological research in Ethiopia aimed at answering these questions. We wanted to test the hypothesis that the tropical highlands of southwestern Ethiopia (where annual rainfall today can be more than 110 inches), served as an environmental refugium for hunter-gatherer populations from what are now Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Somalia, as they learned to cope with the extremely arid climatic conditions that characterized much

of Africa between approximately 70,000 to 60,000 years ago. We further hypothesized that those hunter-gatherer groups that learned the technological, economic and social skills necessary to survive this period of major environmental stress, would also have been the founder populations that adapted rapidly to the new environments they encountered as they migrated out of the refugium and out of Africa during the period of climatic amelioration that followed soon after approximately 60,000 years ago.

In order to test this hypothesis, my colleagues and students from Ethiopia, France, Belgium, and the United States conducted excavations over the last three years at Moche Borago, a large cave situated on the slopes of a dormant volcano in SW Ethiopia. Our goal was to find evidence for human occupation and abandonment correlating with periods of major environmental change during the critical period of 70,000 to 50,000 years ago, and to recover



archaeological evidence for how populations adapted culturally to these changes.

While we were successful in recovering some of the information we were searching for, we also quickly realized that considerably more data from many more sites, and from many different SW Ethiopian environments over many more years of research, would be needed to truly test our hypothesis! Therefore, we decided to join forces with archaeologists from the University of Cologne and other German universities on a proposal to the German Science Foundation to establish a Center for Research Cooperation (CRC), based in Cologne, that would allow for long term research on how, why, where and when Homo sapiens, originating of course in Africa, got to Europe by about 40,000 years ago.

The proposal was successful and along with support from UF's Department of Anthropology, Center for African Studies, and the International Center, the grant will provide partial to full funding for 3 graduate and 3 undergraduate students from UF to collaborate with fellow Ethiopian and German students in field research in Ethiopia.

Steven A. Brandt is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies.

Language Contact and Communicative Innovations: The African Experience

CHARLES BWENGE

My research focuses on the contact and interaction between Swahili and English languages and the resultant linguistic culture in Swahili-speaking east Africa, notably in Kenya and Tanzania. The coexistence between the two languages in the public space is not only a fascinating phenomenon, but also an insightful one in terms of sociolinguistic explorations.

Particularly, my interest has been in parliamentary discourse (debates and campaigns) and billboard advertisement discourse in which language use patterns are not just viewed as motivated and constrained by the linguistic culture of the speech community, but also they may constitute distinct varieties in their own right. In this regard, this exploration does not only entail language use pattern between Swahili and English, but also between varieties of the same language, especially Swahili, which has been a source of enormous communicative innovations.

While working on my book manuscript on the rise of ‘elite Swahili’ (Swahili as spoken by the educated/globalized elites as opposed to standard Swahili and popular Swahili) and its related dynamics in the Tanzanian parliamentary debating chamber, I am exploring patterns of language use in business signs and billboard ads in Dar es Salaam. One of my current projects explores how global business operators make use of local linguistic culture for successful business. Barclays Bank billboards in Dar es Salaam are a case in point – clearly illustrating the intersection between global



business and local linguistic culture, a testimony to the generally acknowledged claim that culture can be as important to multinational success as capital. Reflected in this representative sample of billboards is one of the common officially practiced use patterns that keep the two languages apart, that is, “Swahili or English.” In other domains such as the media one finds English or Swahili medium newspapers. Similarly in education, the medium is either Swahili or English. But in other formal communicative interactions such as the parliamentary debates, the ‘Swahili or English’ policy does strictly separate them in actual communicative practice.

Charles Bwenge is an assistant professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures and the Center for African Studies, where he coordinates the Program in African Languages (PAL).



Ghana's Modernist Metropolis: National Ideals and Urban Imperatives in the Port City of Tema

BRENDA CHALFIN

I spent June 2009 engaged in a new research project on the port city of Tema. A sprawling industrial, commercial, and residential complex, Tema was built and conceived in tandem with the staking out of Ghanaian independence in the 1950s and early 1960s. Designed with an eye to both productive enterprise and domestic life, nation-building and international engagement, Tema at its founding provided an urban example of high-modernist infrastructural development, among the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa. Though subject to new forms of global interdependence, the expansion of population and premises, and a sometimes unsteady state, some 50 years hence Tema continues to thrive with its original plan largely in-tact. While other cities across Africa straddle the knife's edge of chaos and creativity brought about by inadequate infrastructure, migration and mismanagement, Tema is the sight of remarkable order and prosperity.

Tema's realization was driven by the socialist-inspired nationalist vision of Kwame Nkrumah and the input of a Greek urban planner, Constantinos Dioxiadis, whose firm authored the designs for a host of new cities in South Asia and the Middle East. Reflecting a totalizing conception of public and private life, Tema remains organized around separate residential zones for workers, a middle managerial class, and high-level bureaucrats and industrialists. Marked by a sleek form-equals-function aesthetic, each neighborhood is equipped with schools, sports facilities, and places of worship.

At the city's coastal edge, Tema Harbor, once the largest and most technically sophisticated ports in West Africa, was built by African laborers and expatriate technicians to facilitate the country's engagement in the world market. Hosting a mix of state-owned and foreign industries, an extensive industrial zone was sited next to the port. After two decades of decline, the harbor is once again among the most active on the continent, but defying

the original nationalizing impulse, it's functioning now depends on partnerships with global shipping and logistics firms.

As a preliminary foray, this summer I sought to explore the on-going impact of the nationalist imperatives and modernist ideals shaping Tema's founding on the life of the metropolis. I spoke with the management of the Tema Development Corporation (TDC), the city's first governing body, and conducted preliminary interviews with members of the original planning division. I also met with representatives of the Tema Municipal Assembly (TMA), the current governing authority, along with the leaders from the Ga House of Chiefs. The terms of power sharing between TDC and TMA, it soon became clear, are still unsettled, and the traditional authorities, largely eclipsed. Beneath the aura of urban provisioning I learned of the 'planned' exile of the city's indigenes and underclass into under-serviced locals at the port periphery. In the midst



of these inequities however, across the city there is a strong local identity, tinged with national pride and cosmopolitan consciousness. For "Temanians" of this ilk, the reproduction of urban order is less about the efforts of governing authorities than the force of self-monitoring driven by suburban ideals of homesteading and the lingering promise of upward mobility.

Brenda Chalfin is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. Dr. Chalfin's research on Tema was supported in part by a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award.



Designing for the African Context: Integrating the Study of Architecture in Africa into the Curriculum

DONNA L. COHEN

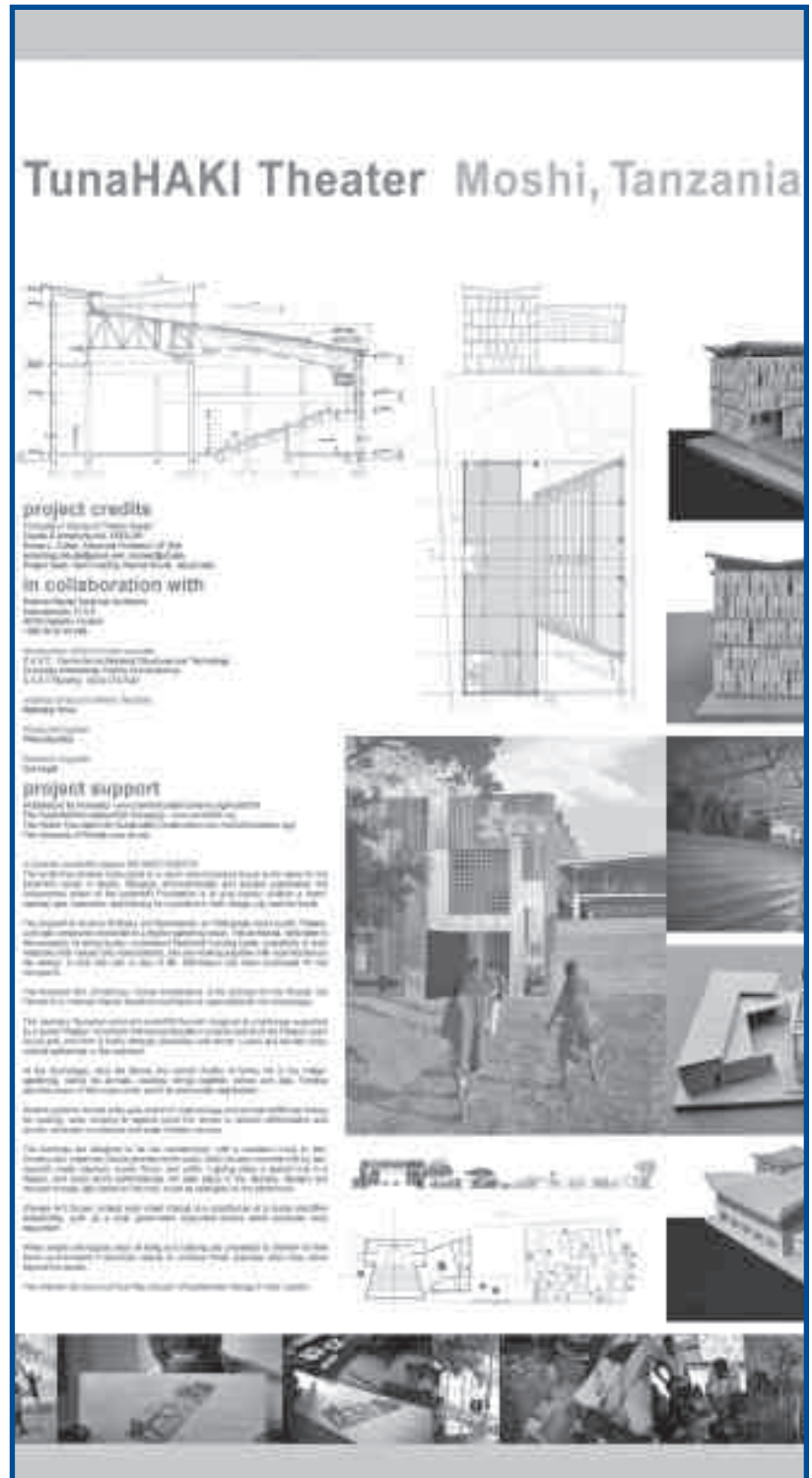
American schools of architecture have historically relied on Western tradition and assumptions that the constructed infrastructure of the developed world was sustainable. As universities across the United States expand their global reach, interest in study of African architectural history, cultural interactions, and the design of contemporary buildings in the African context of limited resources has become essential to the education of this generation of architects.

As a teacher and practitioner, support from the Center for African Studies has allowed me to offer an annual graduate seminar which focuses on historic and contemporary architecture in East Africa, to travel to Moshi, Tanzania for my work on the tunaHAKI Center, and to begin the collaborative effort of the Architecture| Africa Initiative at the University of Florida.

Over the past year, several celebrated architects practicing across Africa visited and presented to architecture students and the campus community. Students were inspired and informed, and both faculty and students have formed partnerships that are resulting in new collaborative efforts. Architect Francis Kere, winner of the Aga Khan Award for the design of a primary school in Gando, Burkina Faso, presented his work and reviewed our student's designs for a clinic in East Africa. Architect Fasil Ghiorghis, from Ethiopia, lectured about his contemporary projects and his efforts to preserve the cultural heritage site of Axum, and architect Joe Addo of Accra, Ghana, lectured and led a design workshop on housing in developing countries.

I have a particular interest in the design of contemporary architecture in cultural heritage sites, and am currently collaborating with architects from Finland, Tanzania, and Ethiopia who share this interest.

Donna L. Cohen is an associate professor in the School of Architecture and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. She is a principal in Armstrong & Cohen Architecture, with her partner Claude E. Armstrong, AIA. They are co-directors of the Architecture | Africa Initiative, which is supported by the Center for African Studies and the Ivan Smith Endowment of the School of Architecture.



African Beadwork at the Harn Museum: Developing Interpretative Materials Through Cross –Disciplinary Collaboration

SUSAN COOKSEY

In October of 2008, an exhibition I curated, “Between the Beads: Reading African Beadwork,” opened at the Harn Museum of Art. The exhibition was a collaborative effort between the museum, faculty and students from the Center for African Studies, School of Art and Art History, UF Special Collections, and the Digital Library Center, in addition to collectors and scholars outside the university.

The Harn invited Professor Frank Jolles, of Natal University to the Museum as a consultant on South African objects in the collection in 2007. Later that year, the Harn acquired a portion of Jolles’ collection of Zulu beadwork panels and photographs of individuals wearing beadwork that shows a progression from symbolic imagery in the 1940s to use of text in the 1960s, and the decline of beaded personal adornment in the late 20th century. Jolles’ fascination with transformations of Zulu beadwork is reflected in his collection of prints and negatives from the commercial portrait photographer Richard Ndimande, whose studio in Greytown was active until the late 1990s. Ndimande’s portraits are primarily of women dressed in beadwork that he supplied as props in his studio, as many women no longer owned beadwork but still recognized its value in communicating social and marital status. The Zulu beaded panels and photographs of Zulu women from Jolles’ collection formed a key thematic section of the exhibition. The exhibition included 107 beaded objects—garments, masks, jewelry and other items for personal adornment—from the Harn collection and private collections in the US.

Dr. Victoria Rovine, assistant professor of African Art History & African Studies, incorporated research for the exhibition into the curriculum for her course on African Textiles and Clothing in Fall 2007. Students produced interpretive labels for the exhibition which were incorporated into the didactics in the gallery and also were featured on a website linked to the exhibition. The Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Faculty Exhibition Endowment supported this collaborative component of the exhibition. Dr. Jonathan Walz, a recent Ph.D. from UF’s Department



of Anthropology, provided further historical contextualization by lending excavated and surface samples of beads from his fieldwork in northeastern Tanzania.

Developing a website in conjunction with the exhibition was the brainchild of Dwight Bailey, Director of Museum Technology at the Harn, and Eric Kesse, the former Director of the Digital Library Center (DLC). DLC staff took digital images of 86 objects in the Harn’s collection, many of which were included in the exhibition. Three-dimensional beaded objects were photographed from 108 angles as they were rotated, and the images were then processed into a video file to replicate the experience of viewing them in the round. The images were loaded onto the University of Florida’s Digital Collections website, and then onto the *Between the Beads: Reading African Beadwork* website which was designed by Katherine McGonigle (M.A. 2008), a student of Digital Media Professor

Katerie Gladdys. The exhibition website is an interactive and dynamic resource instigated by the exhibition that has exposed the Harn collections to wider audiences while linking it to other scholarly materials housed in the University’s Special Collections Library. It is the first time an interactive website has accompanied an exhibition at the Harn, and participants at the Florida Association of Museums conference in 2008 hailed it as a highly innovative project for a state art museum.

Although the exhibition will close in October 2009, the website will continue as a resource and will encourage scholarship on African beadwork well into the future. The exhibition website address is <http://www.harn.ufl.edu/beadwork/index.php>.

Susan Cooksey is Curator of African Art at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies.

The Nyagbo Documentation Project

JAMES ESSEGBEY

For the past three years I have been working on a multimedia ethnographic documentation of Nyagbo, one of fourteen languages classified as Togo Remnant, Central Togo, or Ghana-Togo Mountain (GTM) languages. Nyagbo has been without a detailed description, which is unfortunate because its lexicon and structure are being eroded by Ewe, the dominant regional language. My documentation project, which is funded by the NSF, involves collecting audio-visual recordings of different communicative events, most importantly the ones that depict the culture of the Nyagbo.

The recordings include funeral practices, durbar of chiefs, child-naming ceremonies and story telling. As evidence of cultural erosion, child-naming ceremonies among the Nyagbo has become a completely Christian affair where, instead of family and friends gathering at dawn to perform traditional rites on the seventh day after the birth of a child, they are rather led in prayers and worship by a catechist in Ewe.

I also recorded Nyagbo economic activities such as rice and maize cultivation, palm wine tapping, preparation of palm oil and gari (a type of flour). The recordings have been transcribed and annotated and sent for archiving to the DOBES program for the documentation of endangered languages at the Max-Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, where they can be accessed from all over the world. Part of the texts was used to create a primer for the speakers to learn to read and write the language. This primer was presented to the chiefs and people at a durbar organized at Odumasi, one of the townships. Copies of the cultural events have been put on VCDs for presentation to the community.

Another aspect of the documentation project involves writing a reference grammar of the language as well as producing a tri-lingual dictionary. Nyagbo has an intricate tonal system and resolving that in the field hasn't been easy. Fortunately for me I was able this summer, with the help of a Humanities Scholars Enhancement grant, to invite Madam Judith Glover, my principal language assistant to Gainesville.



With the help of Dr. Ratee Wayland (Linguistics), we have worked to resolve this problem using PRATT, a program for phonetic analysis. Also assisting in the work was Dr. Felix Ameka, an expert on GTM languages from Leiden University, the Netherlands, who also joined me over the summer, with the support of the NSF grant, to work on the typological profile of the GTM languages. Lee Ballard, a graduate student from Linguistics who is interested in the investigation of tones took part in some of the sessions. The synergism produced by us meeting together at this place has been tremendous.

James Essegbey is an assistant professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. His research was made possible through an NSF grant and a UF Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Grant.

Focusing a Choreographic Lens on Fresh Practices of the Imagination

JOAN FROSCH

The films “Movement (R)Evolution Africa” and “Nora” have shared their myth-busting stories of African experimental dance artists with approximately 200,000 audience members worldwide to date. The films have been awarded 30 top prizes in over 100 official selections throughout the world, including Toronto Film Festival, New York African Film Festival, Cannes African Film Festival, Ann Arbor, Oberhausen, and Clermont Ferrand, to name just a few, highlighted by a rousing reception at the official selection screening of both films at FESPACO in February 2009 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The riveting work of the late Béatrice Kombé (1971-2007), Ivorian artistic director of the women’s dance company TchÉTché, planted the seed of African contemporary dance in my imagination. The more I learned about this extraordinary movement, the more it grew. Ms Kombé was later featured in the Center for African Studies’ inaugural arts-based Gwendolen M. Carter Conference “Movement (R)evolution Dialogues: Contemporary Performance in and of Africa,” on which my film “Movement (R)Evolution Africa” was based. In the film, experimental choreographers personalize an emergent art form by sharing their diverse viewpoints and stunning choreography: their works challenge stale stereotypes of “traditional Africa” and reveal soul-shaking choreographic responses to incidents of beauty and tales of tragedy.

Along with Ms. Kombé, the film features the choreographic signatures and philosophies of Germaine Acogny and Pape Ibrahim N’Diaye (Jant Bi, Senegal), Faustin Linyekula (Studios Kabako, DRC), Souleymane Badolo and Lacina Coulibaly (Kongo Ba Teria, Burkina Faso), Sello Pesa (South Africa), Ariry Andriamoaitsiresy (Ariry, Madagascar), Nora Chipaumire (Zimbabwe), and Rosy Timas and Rosy Fernandes (Raiz de Polon, Cape Verde), among others.

“Nora” was shot in Mozambique in fall of 2007 and features Nora Chipaumire, directed by



Alla Kovgan and David Hinton, in a choreographic recollection of her youth in Zimbabwe with original music by Zimbabwean legend, Va Thomas Mapfumo. “Nora” was commissioned by EMPAC Dance MOViES, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in association with the University for Florida Center for World Arts, with additional funding by the University of Florida Center for African Studies, Office of Research, Fine Arts Scholarship Enhancement Fund, and France Florida Research Institute, and funding from Capture, and Movement Revolution Productions.

The films were also selected by AFRI-Doc, an organization dedicated to disseminating fresh stories about Africa to distributors and broadcasters across the Continent and the Diaspora, helping to create new paradigms of thought, expression and social action for the twenty-first century. “Movement (R)Evolution Africa”

and “Nora” will soon join forces in a broadcast initiative by the National Black Programming Consortium, the principal provider of African American programming to PBS, who is taking the lead in a rapidly changing digital media environment with initiatives designed to maximize the potential of multiplatform delivery systems, in order to foster black public engagement and enrich mainstream public interest media.

Both “Movement (R)Evolution Africa” and “Nora” will be screened at the Reitz Union at the University of Florida in February 2010.

Joan Frosch is a professor of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance and Co-Director of the Center for World Arts in the College of Fine Arts. She is also an affiliate faculty member with the Center for African Studies.

Documentation of Chimiini, a Bantu Language of Somalia

BRENT HENDERSON

Chimiini is the language of the port city of Brava on the coast of southern Somalia. It is the northernmost and perhaps the most isolated and divergent of the Swahili 'dialects.' Though spoken in Brava for a millennium, the majority of Chimiini speakers fled their home during the early years of the Somali civil war. Most of them now live in refugee communities in the US, UK, and Kenya with little hope of returning to Somalia. As a result, the unique language and culture of the Bravanese is in quick decline. In a three-year project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the NSF/NEH Documenting Endangered Languages program, I am working with the Bravanese communities in Columbus, Atlanta, London, and Mombasa to further document their language.

This includes writing a reference grammar of Chimiini, archiving digital recordings of the language, publishing traditional stories, personal narratives, and other ethno-linguistic material, and developing web-based materials useful to the community and heritage speakers. It also includes exploring the language from a scientific perspective and bringing out insights that might be interesting for theoretical linguistics.

I spent five weeks in the Clarkston suburb of



Atlanta, GA this summer meeting many of the 2,000 or so Bravanese who live there and working closely with a few of them to gather enough linguistic data to begin writing a draft of the grammar. In addition, I interviewed several elders who shared their memories of life in Brava, their stories about the origins of the city and its people, and their experiences during the war and their flight from it. I also collected several *stenzi*, very long (some nearly an hour) rhythmic religious or historical poems that are recited from memory. Sadly, I also confirmed fears that the language is not being adequately passed on to young adults and children, despite the best efforts of the community. Together with the continuing war that plagues those few who remain in Brava, this

suggests that Chimiini's decline may be rapid and permanent.

Next summer I will conduct fieldwork in London where the largest Bravanese community (more than 5,000 people, about a third of the original population of Brava) now resides. While there I hope to collect more linguistic data, but also to support local efforts of the community to encourage their language's continued use through literacy development and online content.

Brent Henderson is assistant professor in Linguistics and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. His research was supported by a three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the NSF/NEH joint program for Documenting Endangered Languages.



The Zambia-China Relationship: State Accommodation and Public Disaffection

AGNES NGOMA LESLIE

My research focuses on the Zambian leadership and its relationship to the Chinese government and private companies during the first government of Kenneth Kaunda (the 1970s through the 1980s), from the 1990s with Frederick Chiluba, during the third government of Levy Mwanawasa (2002-2008), and during the current period under Rupiah Banda. The objective of the research is to assess the strength of the Zambian state by examining how a weak economy, a fragile political climate and the leadership collaborate with international economic partnerships and the resulting impact on society and human rights.

There has been much controversy regarding the role of China in Africa. At present, China is Zambia's third largest investor, after South Africa and the United Kingdom. The number and scope of economic partnerships between the two countries continues to expand. Chinese private investments have also grown. I went to Lusaka, Zambia to investigate the impact of these developments on the society and Zambian views regarding the impacts of this expansion. I used various methods to collect the data including archival documents research, interviews, surveys and field visits to various Zambia-China business enterprises. I surveyed members of parliament (MPs) to examine their views regarding Chinese investments in the country and MPs' roles in enacting laws, which promote economic conditions that benefit the country and workers. I also surveyed and interviewed faculty from the University of Zambia, personnel from major newspapers, business professionals and government authorities in various ministries, including the Ministry of Labor and Social Services.

Part of my study investigated the nature of Chinese business operations and the conditions and benefits of the workers in these enterprises. I toured Chinese businesses including a steelmaking company to study working conditions and worker safety concerns, health and compensation. My findings indicate government weakness in defining the roles of foreign investors in development and implementing laws and policies that adequately benefit the country and safeguard the health, security and economic rights



of Zambian workers. The majority of the people interviewed believe there is a role for Chinese investment in Zambia in large-scale developments such as schools, roads, and stadia where most Zambian companies cannot compete. However, Chinese competition in small-scale enterprises has provoked the ire of local business people. While there is a strong relationship between the two countries at the top leadership, there is unease in the general population regarding the uncontrolled growth of Chinese private investment in Zambia.

Agnes Ngoma Leslie is Senior Lecturer and Outreach Director for the Center for African Studies.

Interrogating Accountability

STAFFAN LINDBERG

As the principal investigator (PI) for the research project “MPs, Citizens, Accountability, and Collective Goods”, I spent a good portion of the summer working with Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Goran Hyden, and a team of junior professionals under the leadership Professor Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi at the Center for Democratic Development, (CDD) Ghana. The project is concerned with investigating the various accountability pressures Members of Parliament (MPs) face, and how these pressures shape politicians’ behavior.

Much of the literature on African politics, as well as ‘common wisdom’ hold that politicians engage in clientelistic relationships mainly with various constituencies to attain and hold onto power. This current project builds off my earlier research interrogating, and putting question marks to some of these claims. The present project is designed to provide more definitive answers based on rigorous data collection and analysis.

This summer Dr. Hyden and I jointly conducted over 35 elite interviews with MPs and Ministers of State in Ghana (one of whom Ms. Samia Nkrumah, the daughter of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana’s first post-independence leader). Ghana held general elections in December 2008 that resulted in both an alternation in the presidency as well as a large turnover in the legislature. The interviews were used both to measure the types of accountability pressures during and after the elections, as well as to understand how MPs handled and/or coped with such pressures. While my previous series of interviews in Ghana have uncovered a high prevalence of informal pressures compelling legislators to expend lots of energy and resources on providing private goods through clientelistic relationships, this recent round of interviews seems to indicate that a new crop of MPs is emerging who view the provision of collective and public goods for the larger good as more important.

I followed these interviews up with a self-



administered elite survey with all the MPs on pre- and post-election finance, strategies, and accountability pressures. In order to enable analysis of congruence between citizens and their representatives, I also carried out a survey with citizens in collaboration with CDD. Thirteen strategically selected constituencies were sampled (N=1,720) through a two-staged randomization procedure based on standard household survey methodology. Thirty-five research assistants were recruited, trained and deployed in June through July. The results from the surveys and

the integrated, nested analysis are forthcoming.

Staffan Lindberg is assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and the Center for African Studies. The research described is part of the African Power and Politics Program (APPP), funded by a grant from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a consortium of which CAS is a member. For more information, go to the APPP website, www.institutions-africa.org.

Dakar Wolof: The Language of an African City

FIONA MCLAUGHLIN

I have long been interested in the urban variety of Wolof spoken in Senegal's capital city, Dakar, which is distinguishable from its rural counterparts by its liberal incorporation of French borrowings – even in the speech of those who do not otherwise speak French. I spent the 2008–2009 academic year on research leave, thanks to a sabbatical from the University of Florida and a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, and I am currently finishing up a book, tentatively entitled *Dakar Wolof: The Language of an African City*. My research for this book is based on extensive fieldwork that I have carried out over the course of several years in Dakar, and most centrally on a database of natural speech that I recorded in the summer of 2005.

My research revolves around three interrelated questions, the first of which is how the grammars of two unrelated and typologically different languages, Wolof and French, come together in the minds of speakers of Dakar Wolof. Here I have focused primarily on the ways that Wolof has borrowed verbs from various lexical and syntactic categories such as adjectives, nouns, and prepositional phrases in French and how this is having a very subtle effect on the use



of verbal extensions in Wolof. Wolof is a language that does not have an infinitival marker, yet French verbs are borrowed in their infinitival form. I argue that the French infinitival marker, /-er/, has been reanalyzed by Wolof speakers as a verbal extension that encodes the applicative, locative, and detransitive, as well as a host of other functions.

The second question addresses the history of urban Wolof and why it is the way it is as opposed to, say, a creole, given the possible outcomes of language contact. Based primarily on historical linguistic data from the mid 19th century I have been able to trace a social history of urban Wolof from its origins in the island city of Saint-Louis du Sénégal. I argue that the nature of early contact between African and European populations in the 18th century and the later role played by the métis or mixed-race population of the island as linguistic brokers were not

conducive to the formation of a creole, but led instead to the maintenance of Wolof, albeit a Wolof with French borrowings which subsequently became a prestigious urban way of speaking.

The third question considers the ways in which Dakar Wolof shapes and is shaped by the social environment in which it spoken. Here I trace the way in which Dakar Wolof, as an urban vernacular and national lingua franca, has contributed to the emergence of a post-ethnic urban identity that fundamentally reconfigures the ways in which people identify themselves.

Fiona Mc Laughlin is an associate professor of African Linguistics in the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures and the Linguistics program and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. The research for this project was funded by a Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (2007) and an SSRC/NEH/ACLS International and Area Studies Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (2008–2009).



African Wildlife and Range Management Collection from Drs. Graham & Brian Child

PETER MALANCHUK

I curated this impressive wildlife/ecology gift resource collection for southern Africa. The Child family has made a valuable donation of their personal papers and library to the University of Florida Libraries Africana Collection. The organizational preparation and research work has been ongoing for the last two years and the collection will become accessible during the fall of 2009. Doctoral student Theron Morgan Brown assisted me throughout.

Dr. Brian Child is an associate professor in Geography & African Studies. He trained at Oxford University and has worked in various official Zimbabwean governmental and non-governmental wildlife capacities prior to his arrival at the University of Florida. Graham Child, his father, received his doctorate from the University of Cape Town and served as Zimbabwe's initial governmental wildlife ecologist and subsequently as FAO forestry officer for the Botswana government advising on wildlife and land use. He then became Director of National Parks and Wild Life Management in Zimbabwe from 1971-1986.

Their collection includes more than three hundred rare books, periodicals, government and NGO reports, many of which are sole source items within the U.S. There are another two thousand monographs, government and NGO research reports and grey literatures concerned with wildlife and game management for Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Maps, field notes, and interviews with other prominent African wildlife and biodiversity scholars are significant components as well. Of special note is that the collection includes nearly 25 masters and doctoral theses from African institutions. The combined collection includes resources from the mid-1960s through 2005.

There are seventy cubic feet of manuscript archives related to game ranching, CAMPFIRE, Luangwa Valley (Zambia), protection areas and conservation strategies. Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), sustainable wildlife use, tourism, and the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife (1971-1986) are also



principal components. The books and journals will be available for use by December 2009. The papers will become available in Spring 2010 and selected items may be scanned with permission from the Child family.

Peter Malanchuk M.A., M.L.S., is the University Librarian for the Africana Collection and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. Funding for the curation of this collection was provided by the Center for African Studies through its Department of Education Title VI grant & the University of Florida Libraries.

Restoration: On the Trail of the Artist Behind An Ethiopian Painting of the Holy Trinity

REBECCA MARTIN NAGY

The Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida has significant holdings of religious art from the tradition of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC), including processional and hand crosses, illustrated manuscripts and healing scrolls, icons and mural paintings. In recent months I have worked to resolve some questions surrounding one of the Ethiopian mural paintings in the museum's collection, which is so heavily damaged that it cannot presently be exhibited at the museum. Like most EOC mural paintings, it was painted on cotton cloth that was then pasted to the walls of a church. The painting measures 7 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 11 in. and portrays the Holy Trinity as three identical haloed, robed men with white hair and beards. These figures are surrounded by the four beasts that support the throne of God and 24 crowned and winged bust-length figures representing the elders of the Apocalypse (Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelations 4:4-7).

All elements of the design are rendered in bright, saturated colors and heavily outlined in black. In 2005, Karen French, a painting conservator at Baltimore's Walters Art Museum, conducted an initial analysis of the painting and made a preliminary proposal for treatment. In 2008, conservator Rustin Levenson, who like French has expertise in restoring mural paintings, prepared a proposal for treatment based on her examination of the painting at the Harn in the context of a workshop for graduate students in the university's Museum Studies program.

Prior to this year I had concluded that the painting dates to the mid-twentieth century and had tentatively narrowed the region of its production to the northern highlands of Ethiopia. Among those I consulted about the painting were older Ethiopian artists trained in the EOC, but until recently no helpful leads developed. A turning point came when Curator of African Art Susan Cooksey and I were working with a young Washington DC-based artist, Daniel

Berhanemeskel, on the acquisition of one of his icon paintings for the museum's collection.

Daniel comes from a distinguished lineage of church painters in Aksum in northern Ethiopia, which includes his great grandfather Aleqa Yohannes Teklu (c. 1883-1978) and his father Berhanemeskel Fisseha (b. 1947). Daniel kindly agreed to send photographs of our Trinity mural to his father in hopes that he might help us to identify the artist. When Daniel saw the photographs he remarked with surprise that the style of the mural resembles early works by his father. Indeed, when Berhanemeskel Fisseha received the photographs he confirmed that the Harn's Trinity mural is his own work from around 40 years ago. Although he does not recall the specific church for which he painted the mural, he says it was probably in or near the city of Adigrat, east of Aksum in the old Agame region, now part of Tigray. My work on the Trinity mural will now focus on interviewing the artist to learn more about its origins, technique, style and iconography, and on securing the resources for its restoration.



Rebecca Martin Nagy is director of the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida and affiliate with the Center for African Studies. Since 2001 she has been conducting research in Ethiopia, primarily on the work of contemporary artists based in Addis Ababa. Her research culminated in the exhibition "Continuity and Change: Three Generations of Ethiopian Artists," which she co-curated with Professor Achamyelch Debelo of North Carolina Central University. The exhibition, accompanied by a publication of the same name, opened at the Harn and traveled to the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina in 2007.

Optimizing Building Performance Parameters: The East African Context

ESTHER OBONYO

My current research portfolio includes projects focusing on optimizing building performance parameters using selected examples from the East African context. The major initiatives supported by various National Science Foundation (NSF) grants include a workshop held in on May 20-21, 2009, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on advancing the structural use of earth-based brick, ongoing investigations of adaptations that can be made to existing earth bricks to improve their hygrothermal performance in hot and humid climates, and a continuing program for graduate and undergraduate students to carry out research in construction engineering technologies.

The workshop in Dar es Salaam provided both a national and international forum for researchers in earth-based technologies and experts from closely aligned disciplines to discuss the fundamental structural and durability performance parameters of earth-based bricks. The workshop was held in collaboration with Tanzania's National Housing Building Research Association, AQE Associates, the National Environmental Management Council and Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam.

The NSF Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER) program provided funding for a two-week field trip to Tanzania in February 2009, for development of a project on optimizing the hygrothermal performance of earth bricks in hot and humid climates.

Finally, the NSF: IRES project on global perspectives on engineering sustainable building systems once again provided opportunities for student research in construction engineering technologies in partnership with professors from the University of Nairobi at selected sites in Kenya and Tanzania. There were six student participants in 2008 and four in 2009. The themes that have been investigated so far include ecological building materials and water purification strategies.

Esther Obonyo is an assistant professor in UF's M.E. Rinker School of Building Construction and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. She is the principal investigator (PI) for the three NSF grants supporting the projects described in this article. Her co-PIs on the NSF workshop grant are Derreck Tate and Lakshmi Reddi. Her co-PI on the NSF-IRES grant is Robert Ries.



Youth Culture, Islam and Democracy in West Africa

SUSAN O'BRIEN

In July, I spent an exciting three weeks in northern Nigeria with Saman Piracha and Alexander Johnson, who are master's students in UF's Documentary Film Institute. It was my first taste of life as a film producer as I was helping to create a documentary on youth culture, Islam and democracy in West Africa that will be submitted as an MA thesis by Piracha and Johnson in May 2010.

The film profiles two very different Muslim West African contexts, northern Nigeria and Senegal, to give viewers a sense of the diversity of Islam and democracy within the region. The project draws on the scholarly strengths of its three CAS faculty 'producers' (O'Brien on the politics of shari'a implementation in Nigeria; Villalón on democratization in Francophone West Africa; and African linguistics professor Fiona McLaughlin on popular culture and Islam), but was

also shaped by the research, interests, and story ideas of the young filmmakers Piracha and Johnson.

In Nigeria, the filmmakers' focused on the recent emergence of hip hop music and the continued growth of the Hausa film industry in the northern city of Kano. Young musicians and film actors face government censorship and popular ambivalence about Western and Hindi cultural influences in a society where conservative interpretations of Islam

are dominant. As part of its broader effort to 'sanitize' society in line with shari'a implementation, the Kano state government has censored song lyrics, arrested musicians and film stars, and insisted on Muslim Hausa authenticity in the arts. In the courts and in their artistic production, musicians and filmmakers have resisted these measures and in so doing they are shaping public debate about what it means to retain Islamic identity and values in a modern democracy.

Johnson and Piracha followed their time in Nigeria with a week in Senegal with UF professor Fiona McLaughlin where they interviewed and filmed several musicians and artists.

It is our hope that the final product will be a resource and tool for educators, students, and the general public in understanding the many facets of Islam in West Africa.

Susan O'Brien is an assistant professor in the Department of History and the Center for African Studies. Support for this project was provided by an Social Science Research Council (SSRC) "Academia in the Public Sphere" grant to CAS and the Documentary Institute at the University of Florida.



Collaborations with Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

JACK PUTZ & CLAUDIA ROMERO

Claudia and Jack spent most of July to August 2009 as visiting professors in the Department of Environmental Science at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. While they were teaching and interacting with researchers, their 11-year-old son, Antonio, attended Graeme College where, instead of playing soccer and goofing around, he ended up studying Xhosa and playing wing for the school's rugby team.

Encouragement to apply for the visiting professorship regularly offered by Rhodes University came from research collaborations with Sheona Shackleton and James Gambiza that she established 10 years ago when the couple spent a sabbatical year in Zimbabwe. During their recent stay in Grahamstown, their network of research partners was expanded by their frequent interactions with other faculty and students in Environmental Science and other departments including Botany, Environmental Education, Geography, and Economics. Claudia coordinated a Journal Club discussion with Honors and graduate students on the topic of evaluation of conservation projects. Jack's interactions with honor students in Botany and his public lectures focused on the ecological/social/economic tradeoffs inherent in conservation interventions. They found both the university (6000 students) and Grahamstown as a whole (population 125,000) to be extremely accessible and friendly.

Most of Claudia and Jack's activities centered on the topic of global climate change as it relates to South Africa, especially the spectacular Eastern Cape Province. One module they ran with Environmental Science students was a prototype of the "Carbon Clinic" on which they have been working for the past year. Although neither Claudia nor Jack have much experience in semi-arid ecosystems and were entirely new to South Africa, their hosts appreciated



their insights and curiosity. Of particular interest in the Eastern Cape region is the fate of "thicket", a nearly impenetrable endemic ecosystem dominated by succulent trees and spinescent lianas except where decimated by wild elephants or domestic goats. Their visit culminated with two keynote presentations at the Thicket Forum, a regional meeting of researchers, property managers, and governmental officials concerned about thicket conservation and restoration.

Although the visit of the Romero-Putz family was relatively short, they were in residence long enough to build some strong ties and fully expect

to continue working in the region. Claudia and Jack already serve on several M.S. and Ph.D. committees and are writing a policy brief on climate change mitigation options for a series published by the Department of Environmental Science. Reciprocal visits to UF by Rhodes faculty and students are already planned and a formal exchange agreement is in the works.

Claudia Romero and Francis E. "Jack" Putz are courtesy professor of biology and professor of biology, respectively, as well as affiliates of the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida.

The Martin Rikli Photo Albums: A Snapshot of Ethiopia Circa 1935

DANIEL REBOUSSIN

I worked with the George A. Smathers Libraries Digital Library Center staff this summer to digitize and provide contextual metadata for about 900 photographic prints relating to Ethiopia (coinciding with the Second Italo-Abyssinian War of 1935-36) in the Martin Rikli Photographs collection. Our partner in the cooperative effort to acquire this unique collection has been the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. Harn Director Dr. Rebecca Nagy originally viewed these albums in Munich in 2004, and after consulting colleagues at the Museum für Völkerkunde there, contributed Harn funds to jointly purchase them along with the Libraries' Africana Collection.

These albums may have been a gift to members of an official German delegation whose voyage it documents. Germany was one of only a few countries to assist and arm Ethiopia against the impending attack by Mussolini's forces in 1935, despite their membership in the League of Nations. The photographs depict a passenger ship voyage from Marseilles through the Suez Canal to Aden and Djibouti, followed by a railway trip to Addis Ababa. The cultural and physical settings of rural and urban areas of Ethiopia are documented, including images of Emperor Haile Selassie I, his family and court, state ceremonies, dinners at the Gibbi palace, a number of government and religious assemblies, diplomats and their families. Schools, shops, market and street activities, rural villages and landscapes (including aerial images of a variety of locales) and Ethiopians in a wide variety of situations are included.

The official opening of a military training school (the *École de Guerre Haile Selassie I* at Gannat) in April 1935 is documented, along with the general mobilization of soldiers and other preparations for war. Later prints depict the consequences of war: refugees, looters, burning buildings, corpses in the streets of Addis Ababa, a withdrawal of European expatriates to temporary camps outside of the city, followed by images of the Italian occupation including officers and troops both working and in repose after a long campaign as well as in formal parades and official ceremonies. A few posted signs, announcements, general orders and otherwise distributed official



communications from the Italian military are also reproduced.

The quality, subject matter and historical moment of the creation of these images combine to make their potential use extremely broad and their value in any number of academic projects high. Dr. Martin Rikli was among the best known instructional and documentary filmmakers in Germany during the 1920s through the 1940s. He worked for Zeiss Ikon as well as Ufa and "Gorch Fock" (Kriegsmarine) from 1934 is probably his best-known film. A detailed finding aid with additional contextual information is available online at: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/manuscript/guides/rikli.htm>

The original still photographic albums are located in the Libraries'

Manuscripts collection (Special and Area Studies Collections). Digital surrogates of the entire contents of four albums and accompanying manuscripts and ephemera are now available online to the public in UF Digital Collections (Photographs of Africa).

Daniel A. Reboussin, Ph.D., is assistant librarian for African Studies and Anthropology at the University of Florida. Funding for this project was provided by the Center for African Studies through its U.S. Department of Education NRC Title VI grant.

African Fashion: Innovation, Social Status, and Tradition in Mali

VICTORIA ROVINE

This summer I spent a month in Mali, where I pursued my research on African fashion. I worked in three cities: Bamako, the capital, and Timbuktu and Djenne, cities famous for their rich histories as centers of trade and Islamic scholarship. I investigated two embroidery traditions as part of my research on the country's art and fashion markets. Each of these styles of embroidery is associated with a specific garment and a specific form of male status. One style, used to make large robes called *tilbi*, is closely linked to the status of piety and elderhood in the Sahel. *Tilbi* have been adorned with the same symbolic abstract motifs for over a century, yet skilled embroiderers still innovate within the restrictions of longstanding custom.

The other type of embroidery, called Ghana Boy or Bambara embroidery, is completely different in its appearance and intention. Tunics embroidered in this style date to the 1960s and '70s, when they were created by young men who traveled to Ghana as labor migrants. They are adorned with fanciful figures, airplanes, motorcycles, and bold colorful patterns, and they are associated with the special status of young male adventurers who return home with exotic goods and stories. These two styles of dress provide insights into creativity, conceptions of status, and the ways in which artists and consumers negotiate the balance between precedent and innovation.

In Timbuktu, I interviewed embroiderers and, on behalf of UF's Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, I negotiated the commission of a *tilbi* that exemplifies the city's classic embroidery style from the important embroiderer Baba Djitteye. The robe will be featured in a 2010 exhibition, along with documentation from my work with Djitteye. In Djenne, I interviewed and documented the work of two embroiderers who still make garments in the Ghana Boy style, which has largely fallen out of use. In both cities, I also spoke with authorities on local culture and history.



In Bamako, the country's capital and home to a small network of professional fashion designers, I pursued my research on a fashion market that intersects with Western fashion (unlike the *tilbi* and Ghana Boy embroidery, which don't share the same market as Bamako's professional designers). I met with and interviewed designers, artists, consumers, and experts on Mali's clothing traditions. I also made use of the country's national archives, viewed collections, and presented a lecture on my embroidery research to an audience of Malians and expatriates under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Office.



This research is one element of a larger project focused on clothing as an art form that moves—garments, dress styles, and images readily cross cultural boundaries and conceptual categories. As they move, clothing styles are often transformed as artists and consumers adapt them to new functions in new markets. I have conducted research on fashion produced by Africans, and on Africa's influence on Western fashion in both historical and contemporary contexts. I have found that clothing, whether in Timbuktu or in Paris, provides significant insights into shifting identities and conceptions of distant cultures.

Victoria L. Rovine is an associate professor in the School of Art and Art History and the Center for African Studies. Her research was made possible by funding from a UF Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Award and the Pasold Research Fund.

Heritage Tourism: Sustainability and Capacity Building in Northwestern Tanzania

PETER SCHMIDT

During August of 2009, I traveled to northwestern Tanzania with two students, Rachel Iannelli and Malia Billman, to conduct preliminary research into the capacity of institutions in Kagera Region to sustain heritage tourism. This research had four primary components: 1) investigation into local capacity to undertake and sustain heritage tourism in partnership with American tour companies; 2) inquiry into the attitudes and receptivity of American tour companies to expand their vision and itineraries to include a well designed and organized heritage tourism in northwestern Tanzania; 3) perspective on the attitudes of foreign tourists, mostly Americans and Europeans, about heritage themes and destinations of interest, including those visited in Kagera Region; and 4) development of local capacity to sustain heritage destinations of significant global interest, regardless of local infrastructural development in the local tour industry.

These multiple objectives were funded by a CIBER grant from the Business School at the University of Florida. Rachel Iannelli and Malia Billman constructed a survey instrument to plumb the interests of American companies in heritage destinations that differ from the trite Masai village experience or the Spice Tour in Zanzibar. Their chief finding was that American company representatives are very suspicious of any inquiries, rebuffing most discussions, and preferring to operate within the limitations that have constrained the development of a more robust heritage tourism in East Africa. While in Bukoba, Malia Billman worked inside the only significant local tour company in the region, to better understand the connections that this company had with American counterparts and other international connections. In addition, Rachel and Malia participated in a number of cultural and heritage tours conducted by this local company to assess tourists'



reactions to the effectiveness of the tours as well as assess the historical accuracy of information discussed by guides during the tours.

The results of these investigations were both informative and provide clear guideposts for future development of heritage tours by foreign companies into the region. Our preliminary findings suggest that the local tour company pays relatively little attention to the evaluations that its clients complete after each tour, contributing to repeated mistakes and numerous, easily rectified complaints. This finding suggests that mechanisms for self-assessment and improvement do not meet international standards for handling high-end boutique tourism with well-educated clients holding high expectations for good value in destinations. Another important finding is that the managerial capacity for interaction with and delivery of services to international clients, e.g., American and European owned tour

companies, is not adequate to meet international standards in terms of local transport, timely organization, and sufficient background information. This suggests that opportunities exist for other tour companies—local and foreign—to enter into partnerships to fill a special need in this sector.

Peter Schmidt is a professor in the Department of Anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. His research was made possible by funding from UF's Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER).

Institutions, Power and Norms in African Cotton Reforms

RENATA SERRA

The objective of this research is to identify “governance that works” within African productive sectors, by examining the potential role of hybrid institutional arrangements and unconventional reform paradigms as a valuable and recognizable resource for development. It does so by undertaking a comparative study of recent and/or ongoing reforms taking place in the cotton sectors of Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali and examining the complex relationship between reform policies, the dynamics of social norms and institutions, and developmental outcomes.

This project represents one of the research streams undertaken by the African Power and Politics Program (APPP), a research consortium funded between several research institutions and individuals spread across three continents, and of which the Center for African Studies is the only US-based institutional partner. The main objective of the APPP is to produce research that contributes to a better understanding of how formal and informal institutions work and interact in African societies; examines how local norms, practices, and beliefs may positively shape development policies and outcomes; and, ultimately, change perceptions about modalities of good governance in Africa.

I chose to focus on this particular productive sector for several reasons. First, having done research in Mali for several years, I am aware not only that cotton is a main economic export for this and neighboring countries, sustaining millions of small-holders and their families’ livelihoods, but also that it shapes much of rural life, defining collective identity, pride and beliefs. The distinctive know-how and the established practices around cotton production and allied activities, which are found both within rural villages and in the relationship with extension agents and decentralized government authorities, represent a set of collective resources that merit to be closely examined. Second, cotton reforms are still current or very recent events in the three chosen countries, thus providing an excellent opportunity to witness in real time how various powers and interests play into these countries’



main economic sector.

Finally, cotton sector reforms raise some very fundamental questions about the balance of responsibilities between the state, the private sector and cotton farmers’ associations; about the trade-off between market competition and coordination; and about the type of rural development envisaged for the vast areas concerned. Given the high and multiple stakes in these delicate decisions, the study of cotton sectors in these three African countries is expected to yield invaluable insights into the role of collective values, informal institutions and local political realities in supporting (or alternatively contrasting) different solutions and arrangements for the sector.

As a research coordinator for this project, I spent a considerable amount of time in the last months to identify research teams in the three countries, think about the most appropriate methodology for pursuing our research questions, and start fieldwork. I am very pleased I can rely now on a solid network of cotton experts, almost all of whom are West African nationals. Other key collaborators for the project are: Bouréma Kone in Mali (*Institut d’Economie Rural*, Bamako, Mali), for the Burkina Faso team: Dr. Jonathan Kaminski (Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) and Dr. Yiriyibin Bambio (Department of Economics, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso); and for the Benin team: Dr. Borgui Yerima (*Laboratoire d’Analyse Régionale et d’Expertise Sociale*, LARES, Cotonou) and Fabien Affo (*Laboratoire d’Etudes et de Recherches sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local*, LASDEL, Parakou, and Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Université d’Abomey-Calavi).

In order to foster collaboration within and across teams and give more visibility to the project locally, I organized a workshop in Bamako, Mali, on May 18-19, to which I invited my collaborators from the three countries, as well as a number of key stakeholders in the Malian cotton sector. This was an excellent opportunity not only for us researchers to exchange information on research progress and decide on the next steps, but also to participate in, and witness, some hot debates on policies, reform principles and underlying ideologies.

Besides organizing and attending the workshop, I spent the rest of my time in Mali this year conducting

.....continued on page 26.



some fieldwork, which was then continued by my Malian team, locally coordinated by a researcher based at the Institut d'Economie Rural. At the village level, we conducted both focus group discussions with cotton farmer cooperatives, and individual interviews with farmers, extension agents, and other key local actors. We found there is a surprising variety across villages in the types of issues farmer cooperatives face, such as high debt, a collapse of trust and cooperation, and inadequate access to extension and training. The set of resources available to each village to surmount these difficulties seem also to vary, yielding a more complex picture of the actual situation in cotton areas than that often portrayed in the capital.

We also conducted fieldwork in Bamako, where we interviewed key stakeholders in the government, producer organizations and civil society, heard their positions in the reform debate and their views about cotton sector directions and prospects, and discussed political realities and influences, social norms and values. There are definitely positive forces for change in the Malian landscape

that are not properly harnessed by those who seem to make most of the decisions. The next objective for the project will be not only to continue to observe how things evolve in Mali in the immediate future, when a number of important steps will be taken, but also to compare the situation in Mali with that in Burkina Faso and Benin, in order to learn about other countries' experiences of dealing with similar issues, and ways in which solutions may, or may not, emerge from within existing collective resources and values.

Veronique Theriault, a doctoral student in UF's Food and Resource Economics Department, is assisting with this project and came with me to Mali last May. If you want to know what she thinks about this experience, check out her description in the student section of this report!

Renata Serra is a Lecturer in the Center for African Studies. The research described is part of a larger project on African Power and Politics (APP), which is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a consortium of which CAS is an institutional member. For more information, go to the APPP website, www.institutions-africa.org.

Nature-Based Tourism as a Rural Development Strategy in Southern Africa

JULIE SILVA

As an economic geographer, I look at the effects of trade on poverty and inequality and my main current project examines nature-based tourism as a rural development strategy in southern Africa.

Many African countries have tried to boost their economies by emphasizing agricultural exports. Because this has had limited success, governments are looking increasingly to tourism as a source of growth. My study looks at Namibia and Mozambique, which have tried to emphasize nature tourism: tourists coming to see wildlife and the natural environment, and some others coming to hunt large animals such as lions and elephants. Namibia is a pioneer of using community-based nature tourism as a development strategy, while Mozambique has more recently embarked on this.

This study asks how nature tourism affects poverty and inequality in Namibia and Mozambique at the regional, community, and household levels, while also accounting for environmental, economic, and cultural diversity between and within countries. The study involves collaboration between the University of Florida, the University of Namibia (UNAM), and the Pedagogical University of Mozambique (UP). From February to August 2009, working with professors and students from UNAM and UP, I conducted four case studies: two in Namibia and two in Mozambique.

In each case study area, my research teams



and I interviewed the heads of local households, asking about their economic wellbeing and how it was affected by the emphasis on tourism. Positive effects include employment by hotels and other businesses that serve tourists. But there are also negative effects, often involving interactions with protected wildlife. Elephants can destroy crops, while other animals attack livestock, and even sometimes humans. The research teams collected

data on such conflicts between humans and wildlife, as well as conducted about 1,300 detailed household surveys.

The study makes four key contributions to our understanding of rural economies in southern Africa. It investigates how well trade theory explains the effects of tourism on poverty and inequality in rural regions, assesses the effects of nature tourism on poverty and inequality, investigates how experiences of rural development strategies are influenced by community organization and empowerment, and uses an iterative, mixed methodology to explore the impacts of export-led rural development strategies at multiple scales. The project will thus enhance our understanding of the dynamics driving rural development in countries such as Namibia and Mozambique. Research results will also be integrated into teaching at all three universities. For more information, see the project website (www.clas.ufl.edu/users/jasilva/project/index.html).

Julie A. Silva is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and the Center for African Studies. Her research was funded by an NSF CAREER grant, a program that supports faculty in early career development.



AIM for Africa: Rwanda

JILL SONKE

The UF Center for the Arts in Healthcare's AIM for Africa initiatives create cultural bridges between the arts and healthcare in the U.S. and African nations. In March of 2009, UF students and faculty spent two weeks in Rwanda implementing programs in a government-built genocide survivor village and in two regional health clinics.

The primary goals of the initiative were: 1) to provide relevant education to healthcare professionals and lay healthcare providers in the Rugerero Survivor Village and surrounding region; 2) to use theatre and the visual arts to enhance health literacy and community engagement in the Rugerero region; 3) to use the arts to enhance familiarity with and utilization of health services in the Rugerero region; and 4) to create and present to Florida audiences a theatre production utilizing international exchange and dialogue, and exploring relevant social issues.

Two CAHRE faculty members, along with four student members of the College of Fine Arts' International Fine Arts for Healing (IFAH) organization, four UF School of Theatre & Dance theatre majors, and two UF College of Nursing graduate students, traveled to Rwanda to implement the projects in partnership with the Red Cross of the Western Region of Rwanda, the Barefoot Artists, Engineers without Borders, Jefferson Health, and the Rwandan Village Concept Project. While the actors used playback and improvisational theatre techniques to help residents tell their stories of survival, loss and healing, the art and nursing students collaborated with local partners to undertake significant health education projects, such as murals, in two primary clinics and several health outposts, several area schools,



and in the village. The health and health education projects focused on nutrition, hygiene, HIV prevention, and women's empowerment.

Upon their return, the actors were joined by other theatre students and, working under the direction of Dr. Mikell Pinkney, created a full-evening work reflecting the cross-cultural collaboration and learning that took place in Rwanda. The performance piece reflected the students' experiences in Rwanda and related them to cultural issues of violence and healing in Rwanda as well as in the United States. The piece was presented in a variety of venues in the Gainesville community, including the Alachua Juvenile Detention Center, Shands Hospital, and a 6-day run at the McGuire Blackbox Theatre, to spur awareness of the potential for violence and for

healing in any society.

The AIM for Africa Rwanda project will continue through 2010 with extended residencies in Rugerero by healthcare providers, artists, and faculty and students from the UF School of Architecture who will lead the building of a health clinic in Rugerero Village. For more information, see www.arts.ufl.edu/CAHRE/aimrwanda.asp.

Jill Sonke is Director of the Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education (CAHRE) as well as Assistant Director of Shands Arts in Medicine program. The AIM for Africa Rwanda project was supported through funding from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the UF Center for World Arts, and undertaken in partnership with Barefoot Artists, the UF School of Theatre and Dance, Shands Arts in Medicine, Jefferson Health, Engineers without Borders, and the Rwandan Village Concept Project.



African Entrepreneurs: From Micro to Global

ANITA SPRING

Dr. Anita Spring has been researching African entrepreneurs from micro to global and now has carried out research in ten countries on the subject, adding countries annually but analyzing data already collected. For the study, she went once each to Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania; twice to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda; and three times to South Africa. She also interviewed global entrepreneurs from Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe outside their countries. She mapped out the entrepreneurial landscape in the formal and informal sectors in a variety of publications. The landscape consists of micro to large informal-sector vendors and traders; formal-sector small to medium to large companies; and global businesspersons who refer to themselves as the “new generation of African entrepreneurs (NGAEs).”

Some of her findings are: (1) informal sector and more traditional formal-sector entrepreneurs have more enterprise diversification than NGAEs to protect against risk; (2) women in both the informal and formal sectors have more kin than men in their business networks, but also utilize business associations effectively; (3) there is upward mobility between sector categories for men and women

entrepreneurs due to the requirements of education, capital, and networks to move upward; (4) there are few gender differences for the globalists who have similar education, formal-sector work experience, types of enterprises, and association memberships; and (5) entrepreneurial women and men differ from salaried personnel because they have taken risks and created businesses while others “only dream of doing so.”



In one case study, Spring detailed two-fold data from South Africa to show an end-point of success for the inclusion of female and black entrepreneurs and businesspersons in the formal sector in decision-making capacities. The Business Women’s Association became multi-racial and gained support from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, major corporations, Business Partners, Inc., banks, and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Its annual census of women in the work force (especially managers and company board members and directors) has become a powerful indicator in the country (“what gets measured gets done”). The South African government’s Black Economic Empowerment program requires and measures advances for blacks and women in formal-sector private companies and SOEs, and results show widespread compliance and inclusion.

Starting in 2007, Spring also began researching Chinese entrepreneurs in Africa focusing on Ghana, Mozambique, and Tanzania, while considering trends in other countries in terms of Chinese central-government funded development assistance projects, Chinese provincial contracts and for-profit endeavors, and individual/family Chinese private-sector entrepreneurs (many of whom believe “the continent presents opportunities”). China’s non-interference in African politics, construction of large and small infrastructures (railways, roads, dams, government buildings, stadium, hospitals), and exports of inexpensive manufactured products have found favor with governments and local people. However, Chinese entrepreneurial activities generate direct competition with African businesses and entrepreneurs, and Spring’s current research focuses on the reality of Chinese-African business interactions, competition strategies, and outcomes.

Dr. Spring is Professor Emerita in the Department of Anthropology and affiliate faculty in the Center for African Studies. Funding for these activities came from an Opportunity Research Grant, UF’s Center for International Business & Education Research, the Center for African Studies, and USAID.

HIV Spread in Central and East Africa

ANDREW TATEM & MARCO SALEMI

(ADAPTED FROM ORIGINAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY JOHN D. PASTOR)

Scientists studying biology and geography may seem worlds apart, but together they have answered a question that has defied explanation about the spread of the HIV-1 epidemic in Africa.

Writing in the September issue of *AIDS*, a research team led by scientists at the University of Florida explained why two subtypes of HIV-1—the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS—held steady at relatively low levels for more than 50 years in west central Africa before erupting as an epidemic in east Africa in the 1970s.

Essentially, the explanation for the HIV explosion—obscured until now—involves the relative ease with which people can travel from city to city in east Africa as opposed to the difficulties faced by people living in the population centers of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the point where HIV emerged from west central Africa in its spread to the east.

“We live in a world that is more interconnected every day, and we have all seen how pathogens such as HIV or the swine flu virus can arise in a remote area of the planet and quickly become a global threat,” said Marco Salemi, an assistant professor of pathology, immunology, and laboratory medicine at the UF College of Medicine and senior author of the study. “Understanding the factors that can lead to a full-scale pandemic is essential to protect our species from emerging dangers.”

Investigators used databases, including GenBank from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, as well as actual DNA samples, including samples recently collected in Uganda—the vicinity where HIV entered east Africa—to follow the virus’ molecular footprints since its emergence in the 1920s. Researchers wanted to know why, the virus smoldered during the 1950s and 1960s, before spreading like wildfire through east Africa in the 1970s.

A fateful piece of the puzzle came in the form of geographic information system data, which uses satellite imagery and painstakingly takes into account the availability and navigability of roads between population centers, transportation modes, elevation, climate, terrain and other factors that influence travel.

“We were able to use geographic data to interpret the genetic data,” said Andrew J. Tatem, an assistant

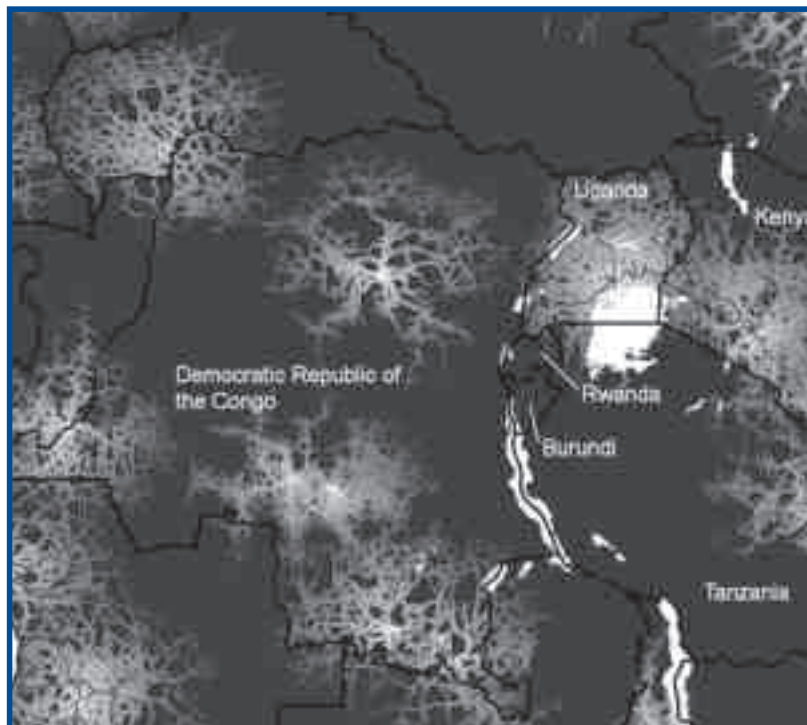
professor of geography in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute. “Genetic data showed once HIV moved out of the Democratic Republic of Congo, it expanded fast and moved rapidly across Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, all while staying at low levels in the DRC. What was happening was the virus was circulating at stable levels in the urban centers of the DRC, but these centers were isolated. Once it hit east Africa, connectivity between population centers combined with better quality transportation networks, and higher rates of human movement caused HIV to spread exponentially.”

“If we can predict the specific routes of an epidemic, we can find the geographic regions more at risk and target these areas with medical intervention and strategies for prevention,” Salemi said. “In terms

of health-care applications, coupling genetic analysis with geographic information systems can give us a powerful tool to understand the spread of pathogens and contain emerging epidemics.”

Working with Maureen M. Goodenow, the Stephany W. Holloway university chair for AIDS research at the UF College of Medicine, UF researchers collaborated with an array of scientists hailing from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Rakai Health Sciences Program and Makerere University of Uganda, and the Johns Hopkins University.

Andrew Tatem is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and a member of the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute. Marco Salemi is an assistant professor of pathology, immunology, and laboratory medicine in the College of Medicine at UF.



Formalizing School: Religion and the Education Sector in the Sahel

LEONARDO A. VILLALÓN

In much of Africa (and perhaps especially in Francophone Africa), the educational systems that were inherited from colonialism and largely maintained since then have been a very poor fit with societal demands and cultural realities, and this is at least part of the reason for the widespread failure of educational policies, as measured by such things as literacy and school enrollment rates. For many parents, sending children to the official state schools carries significant risks of uprooting them culturally and morally from their society, while presenting rather minimal advantages (the chances of having a child make it all the way through to a diploma and a job are very small).

Across the Muslim majority countries of the Sahel, one response to this bad fit between the provision of public education and social and parental expectations was the development of a vast parallel system of informal religiously-based education, outside the official state system, and created largely in explicit response to the limitations of the state educational system. These unofficial schools are widely varied, ranging from very basic Qur'anic schools to quite sophisticated "Franco-Arabic schools."

Strikingly, a number of factors in recent years have prompted several countries in the region to embark on experiments in reforming education, both by attempting to bring the informal religious schools more squarely into the state system and at times by reforming the formal state system to borrow characteristics from the informal, such as the introduction of religious education.

In collaboration with Mahaman Tidjani Alou of the Université Abdou Moumouni and the Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL) in Niger, and with the additional participation of recent UF Ph.D. Abdourahmane Idrissa, we are engaged in a comparative examination of the reform processes in three countries—Niger, Mali and Senegal—all of which are fairly well advanced in the implementation of reforms. These reform processes are largely driven by the argument that bringing educational institutions more into line with local social realities and



expectations will help to make things work better by creating systems that will work with social and cultural realities rather than against them.

The research project is organized around three basic questions: 1) Why have these reform processes been undertaken at this historical juncture? 2) How has reform proceeded? And, 3) What are the emerging or likely outcomes of these reforms? The fieldwork, carried out with the help of research assistants in each country, involves documenting official state actions, as well as interviews with a wide range of actors: state officials involved in the process; social groups both in favor and against these reforms, including religious and secular NGOs; officials in the ministries of education and in the state education bureaucracy, and school principals and teachers involved in the process. We are also interviewing a sample of parents of students in schools in each country, and carrying out ethnographic observation

in the new reformed schools.

This collaborative project grows out of my broader research project on how aspects of democracy are being negotiated in the Muslim social contexts of the three countries. The educational reform projects represent one aspect of the more significant and profound long term transformations that have been sparked by the ongoing experimentation with democracy in these African Muslim countries.

Leonardo A. Villalón is director of the Center for African Studies and associate professor of Political Science. In 2007, he was named a Carnegie Fellow by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for research on a project entitled "Negotiating Democracy in Muslim Contexts: Political Liberalization and Religious Mobilization in the West African Sahel." The collaboration with Mahaman Tidjani Alou on educational reform is part of the African Power and Politics program, which is funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid as part of a consortium project of which both CAS and LASDEL are members.

Unpopular Sovereignty: Rhodesian Independence and African Decolonization

LUISE WHITE

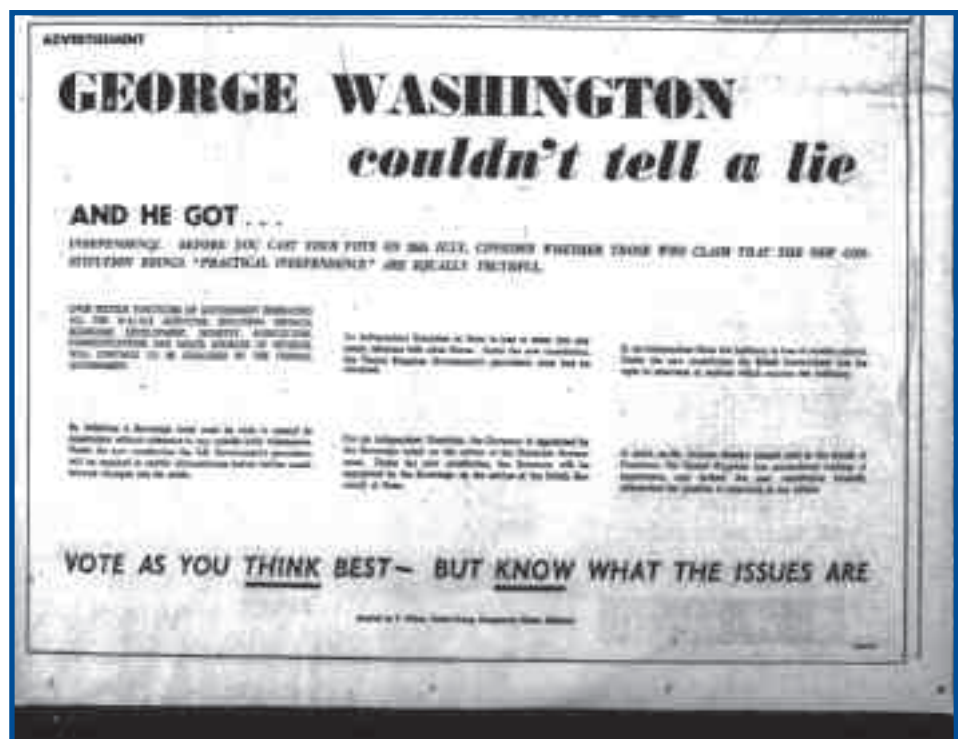
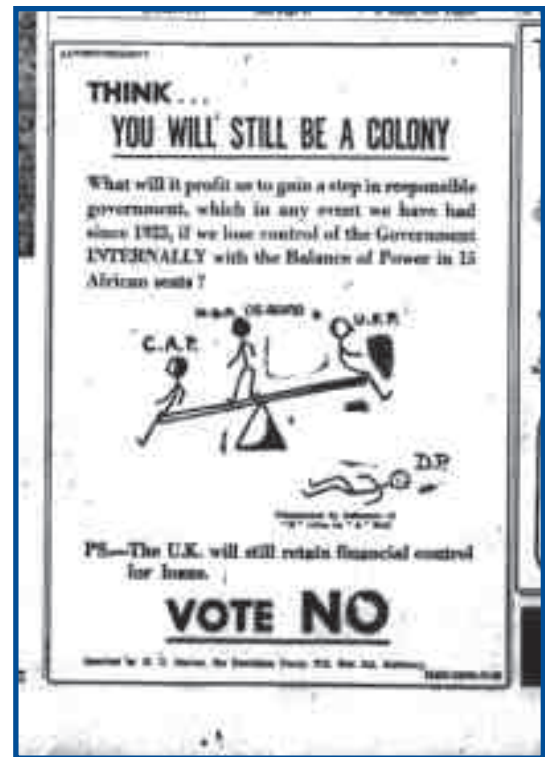
In the course of working on a book on the history of the Rhodesian state during its renegade independence (1965-80), I became very interested in the history of universal suffrage and how one man, one vote became the natural logic of decolonization. With funds from the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere at UF and the Center for African Studies, I was able to organize a small workshop here in April 2009, to bring South Asian historians together with those of Anglophone and Francophone Africa. The discussion was terrific, but made me realize that suffrage was only part of the question; the very mechanics of voting was also critical.

With the help of a CLAS Humanities Enhancement summer award, I was able to go to Zimbabwe for three weeks of research. I had hoped to find material on a quickly organized African-run referendum on Southern Rhodesia's controversial 1961 constitution. I didn't find very much as most files from the early 1960s in Southern Rhodesia have not yet been accessioned in Zimbabwe. I did however find some excellent newspaper accounts, especially from the African press, that described the actual practices of the referendum in several cities. But archives are places of great riches and to my surprise I found material I had long despaired ever finding, especially some of the submissions to the 1969 constitutional commission. This was the constitution by which Rhodesia became a republic and attempted to re-invent Africans as tribal people, unconcerned with politics and policies and eager to follow their chiefs.

Indeed, as the 1969 constitution was debated and drafted, tribes became races and Rhodesia was to be eventually divided into three provinces, one for Europeans, one for Ndebele, and one for Shona. The submissions that led to such a constitution were

quite weird and wonderful, about why Rhodesia should not only continue to be a monarchy but should be ruled directly by the Queen, about voting rights for American Indians in the US, and projections of the extent to which republican status would impact tobacco sales.

Luise White is a professor in the Department of History and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida.



Understanding Local Perceptions of Waterborne Zoonotic Disease and Its Impact on Health Behavior (Tanzania)

ALYSON YOUNG

My research in northern Tanzania focuses on understanding the political ecology of resource security among agro-pastoral populations, and the impact of perceived household vulnerability on the health and wellbeing of men and women. In particular, I study local perceptions of risk for zoonotic infection and the ways that perceptions of illness and food/water scarcity impact emotional health, decisions about the use of resources, and risk for waterborne infection. As part of this research, I spent May to July 2009, in Manyara District, Tanzania conducting ethnographic fieldwork on ethnohydrology and local ideas about animal and waterborne disease transmission.

Food and water insecurity are growing problems with major health implications. Approximately 1.1 billion people worldwide lack adequate water provision and unsafe water has been linked to 80% of illnesses and 30% of deaths in developing countries (WHO, UNICEF 2000). Sub-Saharan Africa faces a particularly serious water supply crisis. It is estimated that half the population of Southern Africa does not have access to either clean water or sanitation services, and that by 2025, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe will all face critical water shortages. Unfortunately, while we grasp the physical consequences of resource scarcity, our knowledge of the emotional consequences of resource insecurity remains underdeveloped.

This summer I visited several villages in rural Tanzania and talked to informants about their perceptions of resource security, beliefs about water and animal transmitted infections, and the strategies that they use to reduce their risk for illness. Perceptions of resource security varied between men and women, however most agreed that resource insecurity was becoming more common. In particular, the predictability and cost of resources was a source of distress. Many informants cited poor rains or



fluctuations in the timing of rains as a challenge to securing food and water for households and animals. Disagreements over the maintenance and distribution of water supplies were also a source of concern. When pumps failed in one village, it took three weeks for local hospital and government administrators to agree about replacing the broken part. In the meantime, the village relied on a local stream for their daily water and a number of people became very ill.

Perceptions of animal and waterborne diseases varied as well. While many informants cited the risks associated with unclean water and food, very few had adequate resources to consistently boil water or milk for household use. Every person interviewed had experienced at least one illness in the past month that related to unhygienic water supplies. A primary source of anxiety

among informants was the combined inability to access adequate water/food resources and the constraints on utilizing the resources they did have. Often, informants stated that they were making risky decisions by using what they considered “unhealthy resources,” but felt they had few options under the circumstances.

The information collected this summer is being incorporated into a grant application that will be submitted to the National Science Foundation in July 2010.

Alyson Young is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. This research was funded by a Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund grant from the University of Florida.

Student Reports

Ken Bugul: A Unique African Woman Novelist and Message

CHRISTIAN AHIHOU

During summer 2009, I traveled to Benin to conduct an interview with the African writer Ken Bugul at her home in Porto-Novo. Ken Bugul is the pseudonym used by the Senegalese writer Mariétou Mbaye Biléoma. Her novel *Riwan ou le chemin de sable* (*Riwan or the Sandy Track*) was awarded the 1999 prestigious literary prize Grand Prix littéraire de l'Afrique noire.

In collaboration with my dissertation director, Dr. Carol Murphy, I prepared a questionnaire, which highlighted the two principal axes that characterize the Bugulian novels: first, her conception of the word tongue, and second, what she expresses with it in her fiction. Some of my questions follow.

For example, what does emotion effectively have to do with the notion of “mother tongue,” a theme that she developed in her presentation at the 2009 Gwendolen M. Carter Conference hosted by the UF Center for African Studies. How did the loss of her mother, who abandoned her at a very young age, affect her choice of language or tongue as well as her writing skills? Has the loss of her mother produced in her writing a unique tongue different from that of other African women who express themselves in French? Does she worry about not being understood by her readers, since her tongue is not the admissible one in an African society in which women are not allowed to talk about everything and any way? And finally, for whom is she writing?

Ken Bugul graciously welcomed all my questions, answered them fully and even went beyond my expectations. Her tongue for example is exclusively hers since she did not have any chance to learn it from anyone. On contrary, life had forced her to make it up by herself. So, she is not embarrassed at all by being understood or not. The orality in her writings is the manifestation of her will and need to hear herself while she is writing.



In many ways this interview will help structure my dissertation. For the moment, I aim to write an article for publication that will convey the content of our conversation. Finally, I would like to thank the French Graduate Committee for having awarded me the Else Duelund scholarship to travel to Benin.

Christian Ahihou is a doctoral student in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures studying French. Funding for his research was provided by the Else Duelund scholarship.

Improving Soil Fertility Management in Northern Ghana

PHILLIP ALDERMAN

In Ghana, as in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, poor soil fertility is a major cause of hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, improving soil fertility is key to improving human health and well-being. Through my dissertation research, I am collaborating with smallholder farmers and scientists in the Upper West Region of Ghana. We are working together to develop locally-appropriate soil fertility management strategies.

As scientists, we are aware of fundamental physical and biological processes that influence food production. Similarly, farmers possess vital experiential knowledge of their livelihood systems that we, as outsiders, lack. Both perspectives are essential to identifying and implementing environmentally and socio-economically viable farming practices. With that in mind, this summer we established two researcher-managed experiments and one on-farm experiment managed by local farmers.

The researcher-managed experiments are being conducted in partnership with the Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), an agency of the Ghanaian government. Both experiments focus on characterizing pigeon pea growth and development under local climatic conditions. The results will provide important information for advising farmers on how best to grow pigeon pea in the Upper West



Region. Unlike typical “on-station” experiments, which utilize large amounts of irrigation and fertilizer, we tried to approximate farmer conditions as much as possible. Initially it seemed sporadic rainfall early in the season would ruin the experiments. The experience gave me an increased appreciation for the farmers’ concern about the shortage of rain.

In the on-farm experiment, farmers, SARI scientists, and I are collaborating to determine the effects of integrated nutrient management (a combination of crop rotation and fertilizer use) on soil fertility. This year we planted three crop species: maize, peanut, and pigeon pea. Next year, all plots will be planted with maize to determine the effects of the previous crop. Small amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen fertilizers will also be applied to evaluate the combined effect of crop rotation and fertilization. Though previous on-farm trials in the area have generally involved between six and eight farmers, a record 15 farmers are participating this year. Farmers expressed genuine interest in the research; especially with respect to how pigeon pea might fit into their farming system. I look forward to our continuing work together.

Phillip D. Alderman is a doctoral student in Agronomy. His research was funded in part through the USAID Peanut Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP). He was a CAS FLAS Fellow in 2006-07 and 2007-08 for Akan.



Land Use Profitability in Northeast Tanzania

RENEE BULLOCK

For the past two summers now, I have had the opportunity to work in the East Usambaras, part of the Eastern Arc mountain range and located in northeast Tanzania. This part of the world hosts unique biodiversity and poses interesting challenges in how to conserve the remaining biodiversity.

It is one of 25 hotspots worldwide. Its proximity to the Indian Ocean and relative isolation from other mountains has created a continuously moist climate and rainforests that support 16 species found nowhere else. Too, this is where the African violet came from.

Last summer I collected data for my master's research, which concerned governance of protected areas, specifically Village Forest Reserves (VFR). Tanzania's efforts to improve conservation and encourage local participation have been to devolve forestry rights and management. VFRs are communally owned and usually are small forest fragments within a mountainous landscape of diverse land uses. My research dealt with understanding the extent to which local community members were participating in management activities and findings were that participation is low, however perceptions of governance are still quite optimistic. People also have positive attitudes towards protected areas, which differ from many southern African narratives regarding protected areas.

This year the purpose of my research fell within agricultural economics, quite a different field. However, institutions play a very important role in shaping and affecting landscape dynamics and so this informed and helped in my understanding of local



conditions. My research concerned smallholder land use systems and describes these systems in economic terms, including private costs and returns.

Since the introduction of cardamom a few decades ago, deforestation has increased. Cardamom is shade growing and often farmers develop a multi-crop agro-forestry system. But, as yields decline, after about 15 years, the agro-forestry system is converted to support more sun loving crops, such as annual food crops, thereby contributing to deforestation. Understanding land use dynamics and decision-making by farmers in their livelihood strategies contribute to better understanding the potential of integrated conservation strategies. Complex, improved agro-forestry, in which cardamom production is prolonged through fallowing seems feasible from a

development perspective, but perhaps not from a farmer's perspective. Current market mechanisms do not support sustainable farm practices. Payments for environmental services or eco-certification schemes may provide better incentives to practice improved agro-forestry that supports both rural livelihoods and conserves biodiversity.

Fieldwork in this area has been challenging and rewarding, ranging from trekking through knee high mud to stunning views of mountains and the Indian Ocean. As a researcher, my hope is that my work contributes to better understandings of how people and the environment can support each other into the future.

Renee Bullock is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography. Her research was funded in part through the World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. She is currently a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow for Swahili.



Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo: Analyzing the Intergeneration Health Effects of Sexual Violence

NICOLE D'ERRICO

For four months this summer I lived in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. My home base was in Goma, a town on the Rwandan border that sits on Lake Kivu. I carried out my research under the auspices of a HEAL Africa hospital/NGO, where I took the first step in preparing for my dissertation research in the region. My dissertation will take a bio-cultural approach at studying the intergenerational effects of sexual violence by tracking intrauterine stress levels and corresponding birth outcomes for children conceived in violence.

I worked in the maternity section of the HEAL Africa hospital, attending the births—as a birthing doula—of survivors of sexual violence, and then following up, as a researcher. Much of my time was spent doing research on the emic meanings and dynamics of war and sexual violence. To that end, I held focus groups and individual interviews with members of the community in order to examine the effect of the use of sexual violence as a strategy of war. Time was spent not just with women survivors, but with women who have not been raped, in order to begin to understand the biological effects of this acute, on-going stressor, how the omnipresent potential that one could be raped affects us biologically, through the production—and maintenance—of stress hormones in the body.

I also worked as the research consultant for HEAL Africa's "Safe Motherhood" program. This program provides micro-grants to vulnerable women to create Solidarity Groups. In their groups, women make soap and mats to sell at the market. Their profits generate a collective Maternal Insurance Fund, which is used when a pregnant member needs to pay for prenatal or postnatal care, sometimes to travel to a health center, or for a C-section or other pregnancy-related interventions.

My research sought to understand and evaluate how the presence of Solidarity Groups in villages



affected by the ongoing war impacted overall health and birth outcomes for vulnerable pregnant women. As a secondary focus, my research evaluated the effect of the program on the husband-wife dyad and on perceptions of women in the villages overall. By working with men, women, traditional birth attendants, hospital/health center staff and regional health supervisors, the research tracked not only perceptions and opinions of the Solidarity Groups over time, but it generated epidemiologic data on numbers of women who utilized the Maternal Insurance Fund, and how this affected biological markers such as gestational age, birth weight and infant mortality.

I might also mention that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited HEAL Africa this August while I was there, in her attempt to understand the effects of sexual violence in the region. We toured her, held interviews with survivors, and then she attended a panel discussion that concluded with a press conference.

Nicole C. D'Errico is pursuing an MA degree in medical anthropology and a MPH in Epidemiology. Her research was partially funded by HEAL Africa. She is a 2009-10 FLAS fellow in Swahili.

Landscape Dynamics and Climate Variability in the Okavango-Kwando-Zambezi Catchment of Southern Africa

ANDREA GAUGHAN

Southern Africa is one of the most uncertain regions in the world with respect to projections of climate change and the response of land-use/land-cover dynamics. How vegetation phenology, structure, and composition will change with increased variability, more or less rainfall, or changes in temperature is compounded by the land-use decisions for agriculture, ranching, and settlement. Before competing and interacting drivers of climate and land use may be disentangled, effects of water availability must be accounted for in landscape change as it is considered to be the most limiting factor in a savanna environment.

Savanna environments are characterized by a strong seasonal response to wet and dry seasons making quantification of initial water input, rainfall, the first step to understanding the influence of water in the system. Changes in rainfall will affect system drivers, such as soil moisture or fuel load, in turn influencing the vegetation cover ratios in semi-arid dry land ecosystems. My dissertation project focuses on spatial and temporal patterns of precipitation in part of southern Africa and the seasonal and long-term response of vegetation. The research uses geospatial analyses and field measurements to examine the response of vegetation productivity to rainfall variability at a regional catchment scale and to better understand long-term change in woody and grass land covers for a local protected area in Caprivi, Namibia.

The local study area in Caprivi, Namibia is located along the woody end of the tree-grass continuum with the predominant woodland land cover resting upon a relatively homogenous substrate of Kalahari sand. Characteristic of rainfall in dry land systems, this region has experienced great fluctuations over the past century and statements collected from environmental history interviews correspond to a description of southern African rainfall variability described by Nicholson (2001).

In addition to these environmental history interviews, research during the 2007 and 2008 field seasons also included focus group discussions on land-use perceptions and ground data collection for use with satellite imagery. The 2009 field season focused on validating land-cover datasets for both



the local, Caprivi area but also for areas in the larger Okavango-Kwando-Zambezi catchment. Several rainfall and satellite image products were compared to land cover along a precipitation gradient stretching from the western side of Caprivi up to Mongu, the capital of the Western Province in Zambia located on the edge of the Barotse floodplain. Key informant interviews were conducted with select people to identify what types of development and growth have occurred over the past 20 years in the rural western Zambian region. In addition, training sample data and tree cores were systematically collected to inform analyses of land-use and land-cover changes in the regional catchment.

All field seasons have included collaborative efforts amongst faculty and graduate students at the University of Florida as well as partners at African universities and within local communities. The overall objective of this research is to contribute to the broader knowledge of how dynamics of human and environmental factors interact in dry land socio-ecological systems by accounting for precipitation-vegetation relationships in the Okavango-Kwando-Zambezi catchment. This study will contribute an applied understanding to historical environmental change necessary to look at future projections of climate change and variability and its effect on semi-arid dry land vegetation both at the local and regional scale.

Andrea E. Gaughan is a doctoral student in the Department of Geography and the IGERT: Adaptive Management, Water, Watersheds, and Wetlands program. Funding for her research this summer came from NASA Land-Cover/Land-Use Change Program, Earth Systems Program Grant.



The 1964 Zanzibar Revolution and Its Revolutionaries

ANN LEE GRIMSTAD

I took three brief pre-dissertation research trips this summer to examine North American sources of information on the Zanzibar Revolution. This revolution, on the nights of 11-12 January 1964, came just one month after independence was granted. There was an American presence in Zanzibar at the time, which included scholars, journalists, CIA, US consular staff, and employees of Project Mercury, a US space tracking station in Zanzibar.

My first trip took me to the Michael Lofchie collection of Zanzibar Publications 1909-1965 at UCLA. Professor Lofchie wrote the seminal scholarly piece on the Zanzibar Revolution in 1965, *Zanzibar: Background to Revolution*. Lofchie's collection includes numerous local newspapers, political pamphlets, and a 1948 social survey that has provided critical information about different social groups' access to education and resources during the colonial period that preceded the revolution. Additionally, there were transcripts on the hearings held by a Commission of Inquiry into disturbances during the 1961 elections that many scholars see as a precursor to the revolution. Finally, I had informative meetings with Professor Lofchie, in which he provided me with more contacts who were in Zanzibar at the time of the revolution.

I then proceeded to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, Texas, where all of the official US foreign policy documents about the Zanzibar Revolution are housed. LBJ came to power just months before the Zanzibar revolution, but he was kept abreast of the situation on a regular basis, in part because of Project Mercury. State Department memos mostly outline decisions about the tracking station, the evacuation of American citizens, and diplomatic relations with the new government of Zanzibar. They became more interesting when the US Consul was arrested and deported from Zanzibar by the new government. Tapes of LBJ's phone conversations were among the most interesting data which clearly demonstrated Johnson's view of the situation in Zanzibar and its new revolutionary government. The



President outlined important strategic reasons for recognizing this new government to the British Prime Minister, who was stalling on the issue. The length of time the US and UK waited to recognize the new Zanzibar government ended up backfiring on them, as it gave Eastern Bloc countries time to move in with support, right in the midst of the Cold War.

Finally, I went to Ottawa, Canada to interview Clyde Sanger, who wrote the introduction to the autobiography of one of Zanzibar's revolutionaries. Sanger was also a reporter for the Guardian in 1964, and was put under house arrest by the new government when he arrived in Zanzibar just days after the revolution. Sanger had impeccable records from the 1960's, including never-published photos of some of the revolutionaries, official Zanzibar government documents, and numerous newspaper clippings. Not only did Sanger enlighten me with his personal experience during the revolution, but he also put me in contact with other sources.

The opportunities presented by interviewing principal witnesses and reviewing primary source material allowed me to develop new networks and sources for continuation of my dissertation research.

Ann Lee Grimstad is a doctoral student in the Department of History and received funding from the Center for African Studies to conduct this research.



Design for the Children: East African HIV/AIDS Clinic Design Competition

TRAVIS HERRET

Design for the Children hosted an international design competition in Fall 2008 to promote the health of East African mothers and children and help prevent treatable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV through the construction of non-profit clinics in the region.

This competition entry chose to focus on how the architecture and planning of the clinic could best solve the problem of social stigmas associated with mothers receiving HIV anti-retroviral treatment to prevent transmission to their unborn children.

A specific strategy is needed for the delivery of both a localized need (anti-retroviral treatment) and a larger idea (education/prevention) for the East African region and the African continent as a whole. The natural self-organization and self-similarity of fractal geometry is the strategic means in connecting the small and the large. By building the clinic in a small rural village and allowing the local residents to interact and take part in building, treating, and teaching, a seed is planted that is then able to spread to other villages. Collectively, this network begins to change the future of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The design of the buildings is uniquely tied to providing the necessary medications involved in HIV/AIDS prevention. Market places, gardens and schools are both functional elements of the community and also serve as a guise for treatment. By giving HIV positive mothers a separate reason to visit the clinic, treatments can be continued without the risk of being ostracized by the community.

Designing and building recursive rural clinics that are able to branch out and spread education and treatment is crucial in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Travis Herret graduated with a master's in Architecture in May 2009. He worked in conjunction with Professors Donna Cohen and Nancy Clark in Graduate Studio 3.



Heritage Tourism and Local Capacity in NW Tanzania

RACHEL IANNELLI

What is the current state of heritage tourism in Tanzania? What future options for expansion of heritage tourism offerings are viable in Kagera Region of northwestern Tanzania? This summer I traveled with my advisor, Dr. Peter Schmidt, and fellow student Malia Billman to Tanzania on a CIBER grant in order to answer these questions. Our team began by working closely with a local tour company in the town of Bukoba, with an assessment of the tour company's infrastructure upon which development of heritage tourism might be built. Our assessments included customer surveys and customer evaluations of services delivered. We joined tourists on various local guided tours, as we also wanted to assess tour company representations of local histories and determine customer appetites for these heritage themed excursions.

In conjunction with these activities, we also collaborated with the village of Katuruka, Tanzania, which has recently created a village-based preservation committee to oversee the development of three key

heritage sites within its jurisdiction. Working with the committee, a development plan was drafted with specific and prioritized action points. Among these action points was the restoration of Mugasha's shrine as a logical developmental starting point because of its highly visible remains. The focus of the shrine of Mugasha is a laterite rock upon which can be seen the footprint of Mugasha, the patron of the lake and the rains, as well as that of his child. These rocks sit on a triangular piece of communally owned land centrally located in the village, a perfect location to maintain community support and interest in the revitalization of these historical areas as possible tourist destinations. While in Katuruka, I also assisted the village in surveying 67% of the households to determine how many elderly "keepers of oral history" remain available to add to the repository of knowledge needed to create a narrative history for visitors attending these sites.

By the end of two weeks,

Mugasha's shrine was complete and a consecration ceremony was held. Guests attended the festivities from the local tourism industry, as well as the Regional Development Director. A senior member of the Katuruka Preservation Committee, Benjamin Shegesha, gave guests a guided tour of the shrines, explaining in detail the rich histories of these places. First impressions of this day are that the visitors and villagers alike were delighted by the great potential of a reemergence of Katuruka's unique history, both parties expressing the desire to realize a partnership of sustained and dedicated commitment to the revelation of these histories as being beneficial to the village, the nation, and the broader world.

Rachel Iannelli is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research was made possible through a summer 2009 UF Center for International Business & Economic Research (CIBER) grant.



Capturing Water Resources for Agriculture and Human Development in Swaziland

JILLIAN JENSEN

The Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP) is an irrigation-for-development scheme, which involves the construction of an off-stream reservoir and canal system to irrigate roughly 11,000 hectares of farmland in the lowlands of Swaziland. The targeted beneficiaries are approximately 2300 local subsistence-farming homesteads. The goal of the project is the elimination of extreme poverty through agricultural intensification and livestock commercialization. The project is loan-financed by nine international donors and development banks, and is being administered by a parastatal of the Swazi government.

The main focal activity of the project is the assembly of suitable land controlled by clusters of smallholders into cooperatives for the purposes of growing sugarcane on an equity-share basis. Also, two supplemental and complementary activities are being carried out: a home garden program of vegetable production for enhanced domestic food security and cash income, and homestead delivery of potable water to address persistent health concerns over the quality and quantity of domestic water supply. The coverage of the home garden and potable water programs reaches every homestead in the project area to widen the scope for benefit distribution even when soil conditions are determined to be unsuitable for participation in a sugar cooperative.

Concurrent to the start-up of LUSIP is the commencement of decentralized water management across Swaziland. The Water Act of 2003 reflects in detail the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), an internationally agreed framework for the governance of water resources. The Act specifies the gazettement of five River Basin Authorities (RBAs) across Swaziland and the formation of increasingly decentralized management committees empowered to decide issues such as water permitting, water resources development, water-for-conservation planning, etc. It is this participatory model of decentralized governance that



has been given the responsibility to manage and distribute the new water captured by the LUSIP development. The Swazi government has taken an active role in capacity-building members of the public to take on their new administrative functions, and sensitizing the general public as to their new legal and financial responsibilities for improved water management.

My case study of LUSIP provides a unique window into the application of a definitively western governance model, IWRM, in a sociopolitical context featuring a monarchy, an agrarian bureaucracy, and feudal chiefs. The social transformations implicated by the conversion to cooperative estate farming and the relationship and management of water on (neo)liberal terms are practically and psychologically disturbing to local inhabitants. The competing logics or governmentalities at work in the interface between LUSIP and IWRM are speaking to larger questions about postcolonial development. I am

centralizing the political question of who this water development is for to uncover how the resulting structural transformations are directing benefits relative to the rural poor. Further, the research considers what the role and relationship is of IWRM in this process. The history of IWRM is littered with failures to achieve its intended social outcomes. It is my position that IWRM may be acting as an anti-politics machine to obscure the benefit capture away from the rural poor under a veil of good governance.

Jillian Jensen is a doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Ecology and an NSF Fellow in the AM:W3 IGERT Program with the Center for Environmental Policy. Her research was partially funded through an African Power & Politics (APP) summer pre-dissertation grant from the Center for African Studies. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.

Assembling Campaigning Identity Online: The Virtual Space of the Transnational Chinese Entrepreneurs in Ghana

YANG JIAO

For the past year, I've been doing follow-up research on the Chinese business community located in Accra, Ghana. This time I focused on the virtual space in which Chinese businessmen and businesswomen assemble elements of a transnational identity, construct a cyber public domain, and establish business networks.

The Chinese business community in Accra has grown quickly. Up to the second quarter of 2009, 387 Chinese enterprises are registered with the Ghana Investment Promotion Center, with a total investment of \$235,180,000. The number of Chinese companies has almost doubled since my 2008 study. The development of the virtual community of Chinese represents this trend well with the number of online discussion groups quadrupling. The website of the Ghana central-China Chamber of Commerce has drawn members not only from within Ghana, but people in bordering West African countries as well.

With the contemporary inflow of Chinese capital and labor force, the Chinese entrepreneurs I interviewed have created a transnational space where they are both outside of the Chinese nation-state and bounded by a shared citizenship. For instance, following the earthquake in southwest China in July 2009, people from different corners of Accra gathered together and donated money through the Chamber of Commerce website and discussion group.

Last summer I reported that some Ghanaian entrepreneurs called for regulations on Chinese retailing activities. Despite the sweeping inspection of Chinese businesses soon after the December 2008 elections in Ghana, retail/wholesale shops still managed to operate near Rawlings Square, which was referred to as China town inside the Chinese business community. Frequent trips to China by Ghanaian government officials to promote investment in Ghana combined with the sporadic efforts of the state to protect the national economy highlight



conflicts between state efforts to benefit from the global market forces and to regulate global capital and labor. The transnational Chinese entrepreneurs are very savvy about the situation and have utilized the virtual space as a public domain to strive for their legitimate existence and rights. Recently, the chamber of commerce has started a campaign to collect questions and concerns for a dialogue with the vice president of Ghana.

Aside from the political awareness of the Chinese business community, they have developed the website and online discussion group into a space where prospective investors in China and veteran entrepreneurs in

Ghana connect and communicate. This is reflected in the specialization of discussion groups, such as the one devoted to the construction sector business.

Yang Jiao is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. His research was made possible in part through a Center for African Studies pre-dissertation summer research grant.

Fairtrade South Africa: Global Models and National Realities

ALISON KETTER

I conducted my pre-dissertation field research from June to August 2009 in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces of South Africa, dividing my time between the Fairtrade South Africa (FTSA) headquarters in Cape Town and numerous Fairtrade certified farms throughout the two provinces. I met with a range of actors engaged with the Fairtrade system and discussed issues of certification, governance, and varying empowerment strategies. During this research I observed three primary issues.

First, although Fairtrade is an international initiative that aims to empower marginalized producers across the global South through the promotion of equitable production, distribution and consumption practices, it is often not as fair or transparent as it aims to be. In South Africa, white commercial producers remain privileged over their black smallholder counterparts due to the former's established relationships with supermarkets, seed and fertilizer companies and other strategic trading partners.

Secondly, FTSA is going through a period of adjustment where it is rethinking its requirements for certification, moving away from a model based on land redistribution and towards one that focuses instead on adherence to the Black Economic

Empowerment (BEE) scorecard, a model that focuses on diversity in management and labor practices rather than land ownership. BEE is a South African governmental initiative that focuses on development of previously disadvantaged peoples and contributing to transformation in the post-apartheid state through employment incentives, preferential procurement, skills training and ownership. This heavily contentious transition has been applauded by some as a more practical and efficient approach to empowerment in South Africa while others lament that it detracts from the core principal of Fairtrade—empowering marginalized producers, specifically smallholders.

Finally FTSA is in the process of launching a new South-South ethical trade regime that markets Fairtrade



certified goods locally. This new policy direction will allow FTSA control over all of the value-added throughout the supply chain, thus benefiting as many sectors of the South African economy as possible. This new form of governance is in contrast to the established Fairtrade model of developing states marketing their goods in the global North, thus benefiting Northern consumers and corporations more than the producing countries. FTSA's new model is the culmination of a multi-year power struggle with Fairtrade International that numerous producer nations have watched closely.

I plan to continue researching these issues when I return to Cape Town in October 2009 for the FTSA Annual General Meetings.

Alison M. Ketter is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. She was a CAS FLAS fellow in Swahili for the academic years 2007-08 and 2008-09.



Experts and the Subjects of Expertise: Education and Development in Madagascar

MICHELLE KIEL

I conducted dissertation fieldwork in the eastern region of Atsinanana, Madagascar between July 2008 and March 2009. The investigation concentrated on two development projects that sought to transform the livelihoods of rural Malagasy by training them in market techniques and “modern” agricultural practices. These projects were tightly linked to the development objectives and resources of the Malagasy state under Marc Ravelomanana, the support of international aid organizations, and the cooperation of local stakeholders.

My primary research questions were: 1) How do international partnerships affect the implementation and maintenance of state-led development interventions? and 2) How does the interaction of disparate actors (local farmers, agricultural technicians, bureaucrats, project administrators and project partners), influence the types of knowledge and status conveyed by the projects. Ethnographic research was conducted among these groups over a variety of settings including rural homes, development conferences, consciousness-raising events, strategy sessions, and rural evaluations.

The rural development initiatives I examined were characterized by struggles over the definition of the rural subject worthy of training, the types of knowledge worthy of dissemination, and the ideal subjects to be produced through “development.” These struggles, and the more material struggles over funding, materials, land, and status that they are associated with, propelled these projects into a state of constant evolution where the continuation of the project, and not its successful completion, became the preeminent goal. This dynamic brought political prowess to the fore as project directors struggled to align the projects to the changing objectives and commitments of government and international partners, while maintaining or expanding their status among rural stakeholders.

Struggles among different interest groups were mirrored in the Malagasy political environment, where



in December 2008, the young mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, questioned President Ravelomanana’s commitment to democracy and development. With local business interests, former Malagasy leaders, and perhaps the silent support of the French government behind him, Rajoelina accused Ravelomanana of being a dictator concerned more with personal profit than the needs of the Malagasy people and named himself president of a transitional government in March 2009. The effect of the crisis on development funding was swift: the Millennium Challenge Account grant was cancelled, the World Bank froze its activities, and a number of state-led development programs were paralyzed. At the same time, the French continued their aid programs and a number of Arab nations stepped in, thereby transforming the geopolitical dimensions of Malagasy aid.

As the crisis continues, the landscape of agricultural development is shifting in a way reminiscent of the transformations undergone during earlier political crisis in Madagascar, forcing development projects to re-align their efforts and their understandings of development to the dynamic and interlinked politics and preferences of government regimes, regimes of aid, and local stakeholders. In the long run, it will be rural populations who have participated in development programs who will suffer from these struggles, as interventions in their communities are abandoned or shifted elsewhere while projects align to the new contours of development objectives at the national and international levels.

Michelle Lea Kiel is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research was made possible by a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.

Agricultural Change Between the Batoro and Bakiga Peoples: Kibale National Park, Uganda

KAREN KIRNER

This past summer I traveled to Kibale National Park (KNP) in southwestern Uganda, where part of my time was spent working on a large collaborative project looking at land use and land cover change around parks in eastern and southern Africa. Working with UF geographers Drs. Michael Binford and Abraham Goldman, I helped to record land use and land cover in a sample of the area surrounding the park. These data show the degree and types of land use intensification that have occurred outside of the park, an area with high population growth which can put stress on the resources available. All of these factors underscore the importance of understanding how the presence of the park may influence the uses of the surrounding landscape.

While collecting the land use data and traveling around the area, we observed some differences in the agropastoral practices of the two main groups of people, the Bakiga and the Batoro, who live around the park. I had the opportunity to use these ideas to conduct a research project on agricultural change around KNP among the Bakiga and Batoro.

When talking with farmers who own land within five kilometers of the park boundary, I was able to learn about the crops that people choose to grow, the animals that they raise, and the agricultural challenges that people face when farming in this area. Additionally, I talked with farmers about the techniques they use to minimize the challenges of farming and asked if the strategies and techniques they use are

different from those employed by other people who live in the area.

Understanding not only the challenges faced by farmers living around KNP but also the factors that influence agricultural decision-making among the Bakiga and Batoro farmers can help to inform poverty reduction initiatives, to influence the successful introduction of new agricultural techniques and crops, and to ameliorate some of the negative consequences of living in proximity to a national park.

Karen Kirner is a master's student in the Department of Anthropology. Her 2009 summer research was made possible by the collaborative NSF project, "Parks as agents of social and environmental change in eastern and southern Africa", led by Abraham Goldman (Geography).



Islamic Organizations & the Provision of Education in the Democratic Republic of Congo

ASHLEY LEINWEBER

With generous support as an African Power and Politics Program Fellow in 2009, I conducted extensive dissertation fieldwork in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the role of the Muslim community in providing education. Public services are difficult to come by in a post-conflict setting with a central state that has been characterized as failed, weak, and corrupt. However, religious organizations in the Congo are the primary providers of much needed services, such as schooling and health care. The Catholic and Protestant churches have been functioning in this capacity for several decades. What this dissertation research has uncovered is that the Congolese Muslim community has, in the last few years, also taken up this vocation. Public schools run by Islamic organizations are blossoming at an accelerated rate in areas with a substantial Muslim population in order to provide a good education to children from all religious backgrounds.

This fieldwork built upon the two-month pre-dissertation research I did in summer 2008 in the eastern province of Maniema, where I explored the role of Islamic organizations in providing public services to the local population. In spring and summer 2009, my qualitative research was expanded to include four research sites. The majority of my research was conducted in the Maniema province, home to the majority of Congolese Muslims. Kindu, my primary site, is the provincial capital where most politically active Maniemans live. The second site of Kasongo is a large town in southern Maniema and the birthplace of Islam in Congo. The third site, Kisangani, is capital of the Orientale Province, includes the most significant Muslim population outside of Maniema, and the location of the University of Kisangani where I was able to meet with Muslim academics and conduct archival research in their libraries. In Kinshasa, the Congolese capital, I conducted interviews with



members of the national Muslim organization, COMICO, who have been very active in recent years to unite the Islamic community and get them involved in development projects.

During the pre-dissertation research phase I had discovered that despite the lack of support from governmental agencies, ordinary Congolese citizens, and more recently Muslims, have mobilized to form organizations that respond to the needs of the population such as schools, health care facilities, orphanages, and other post-war reconstruction projects. Building upon this finding, in the dissertation research I narrowed the focus to the education sector in an attempt to better understand the dynamic of the rapid recent involvement of the Islamic community in providing public goods. I observed in each kind of school: public, private, and those managed by each of the four main religions in Congo. I conducted

interviews with local groups of Muslim men and women, discussed issues with local non-governmental organizations of all types, and did elite interviews with government officials and heads of each religion. Because of my ability to meet with various actors in multiple settings and sites, I have pieced together a better understanding of the political history of the Congolese minority Muslim population and their reasons for becoming active providers of education in contemporary DR Congo.

Ashley Leinweber is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. She received dissertation fieldwork funding as an African Power and Politics Program Fellow. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member. She was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in Swahili during academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and summer 2006.

Uncovering Current Contentious Issues During Zanzibar's Electoral Process

STEVE LICHTY

My future as a fourth-year Ph.D. student entailed studying for comprehensive exams, applying for research funding and preparing a prospectus, but this summer an opportunity arose serendipitously that was too good to miss, and I embarked on a minor detour. In early July I was contacted by the International Law and Policy Group (ILP), an Oslo-based political consulting firm, which was looking for long-term observers of the voter registration process on the island of Pemba in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The three previous elections (1995, 2000, 2005) in Zanzibar were marked with serious irregularities and deemed not free and fair by several international observer groups. With this track record, the international donor community in Tanzania wanted to keep a watchful eye on the electoral process leading up to the next general election in October 2010.

The ILP was contracted by the Norwegian Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to spend six months on Pemba to provide detailed accounts of the registration process. While officially an observer, over 80 percent of my work was ethnographical in nature, so aside from the experience gained from interacting with the Zanzibari electoral process, I conducted countless interviews with political party and government officials, members of parliament, scholars, human rights experts and religious leaders. This coupled with time spent at the village level in dialogue with local peasants has given me a clearer picture of the political, economic and social forces at play in Zanzibar's history and ones that still remain

relevant today and for the future.

The reports my team wrote for ILP were disseminated among 12 donor nations with substantial interests in Tanzania. These reports included detailed weekly updates, but also more topical oriented reports including analysis of the situation and policy recommendations. In attempting to provide reliable information, I faced the challenge of sorting through the various conflicting reports of the major stakeholders. This has shown me firsthand the ethical dilemmas scholars often face in the field, but simultaneously I observed the importance of quality scholarly work that provides a knowledge base for more effective diplomacy and development. My

course work at the University of Florida provided an excellent foundation to gain the methodological tools necessary to dig deeper into the underlying problems facing Zanzibar today. After ten weeks in Zanzibar, I take back to Florida not only a field work experience that despite not being related specifically to my dissertation topic, has opened up new avenues of research, but it has also given me the opportunity to co-publish future articles with ILP partners in Oslo.

Steve Lichy is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science. He was a Center for African Studies FLAS fellow in Kiswahili from 2006-08.



The Sustainability of Public Health Interventions in Northern Tanzania

MEREDITH MARTEN

Sustainability is a popular concept in international development, yet is rarely addressed in international health. After studying and working in public health, however, I began to think that excluding a long-term strategy for sustainability from program planning was risky, particularly as many health initiatives collapse once the donors leave.

I accompanied Dr. Alyson Young to Tanzania this summer, and started preliminary research with a pre-dissertation grant from the Center for African Studies. Tanzania attracts a lot of international aid, and their national health care system is populated by numerous facilities organized, operated and funded by international development organizations. With so much of the country's health care hinging on the continued funding and collaboration with outside donors, the pressure to scale-up the national system increases, especially in light of recent global economic crises.

One avenue to research sustainability in health care is to look at how individuals enrolled in health programs cope with the problems encountered when the program ends or they are unenrolled. I examined a prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) program rolled out by a mission hospital in northern Tanzania. In this program, women and their infants receive more free services than other patients enrolled in highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), like food support, hospital transportation, and home-based care. After two years they are unenrolled, but still must cope with HIV and potentially care for a child with HIV. How these women cope with HIV after the program's end may illuminate cultural models of health, hierarchies of perceived risk and the structural constraints contributing to poor health outcomes that plague Sub-Saharan Africa.

This summer I interviewed health care workers, administrators, program planners and researchers, attended regional meetings for HIV+ people about living positively with HIV/AIDS, observed interviews with new mothers about their experiences in the



PMTCT program, and shadowed health workers and researchers to get a better idea of what a typical day on the job looks like. Through these interviews I began to see that some coping methods people adopt are determined by a combination of structural and socio-cultural factors: income and cost of care, distance from health facilities, access to transportation, trust in the quality of care and health care providers, perceptions of corruption, discrimination, stigma, and social network composition. I also learned that the hospital itself was grappling with a potential funding shortfall in the near future, and hospital administrators were working hard to figure out ways to maintain services. On both the individual level and the institutional level, patients and administrators will need to cope with a loss of support.

This pre-dissertation research was critical for me to better understand the scale of the problem of sustainability in Tanzania, and how it is understood, experienced, and planned for on multiple levels and by different people. I refined my ideas of how people may cope in creative ways and how institutions attempt to soften the blow of a potential loss of funding in the future. I will continue this research in the fall of 2010.

Meredith Marten is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology. Her research was made possible by a Center for African Studies Madelyn M. Lockhart pre-dissertation grant. She was a FLAS fellow during academic years 2008-09 and 2009-10 for Swahili.

Carbon Dynamics in Central African Forests Managed for Timber

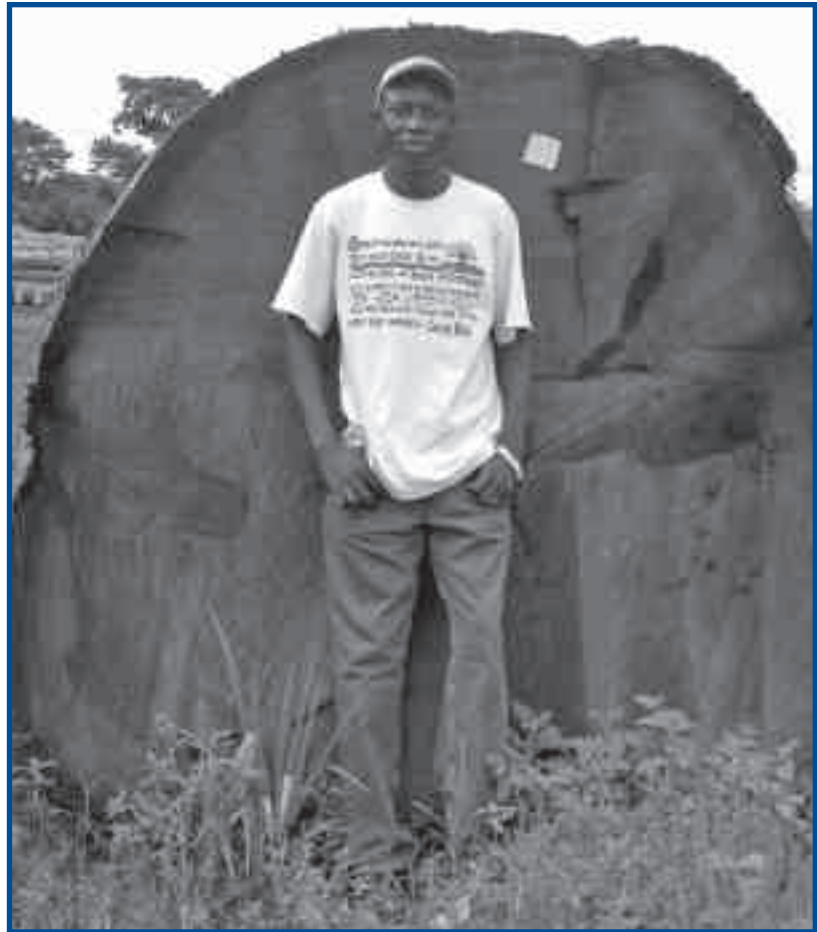
VINCENT MEDJIBE

My research aims to understand the effects of reduced-impact logging (RIL) and conventional logging (CL) techniques on carbon stocks in a forest managed for timber in Central Africa. I conducted my pre-dissertation research in a timber concession in Gabon. Gabon has 85% forest cover, which store large quantities of carbon and provide goods and services for humanity. But the various ways in which these forests are being used has different effects on their structure, soils, wildlife, and carbon stores.

The primary objective of this pilot study was to estimate aboveground forest biomass and carbon stocks before logging then evaluate damage on trees after logging as surrogate of biomass loss. From June to August 2009, I worked on Mont Cristal, about 150 km from Libreville, Gabon. I worked in collaboration with Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF) and Wildlife Conservation Society who share similar objectives. In addition, SEEF allocated a portion of its concession for the study and ENEF (National School of Water and Forests) in Libreville provided interns to learn forest management methods and research. Timber production constitutes a major source of revenues for the Central African countries, which have high forest cover and low deforestation rates. But there is a lack of data and information on how logging affects carbon stores in these forests.

During the fieldwork, with the help of interns and WCS field staff, we demarcated an area of 72 hectares in the site to be harvested using reduced-impact logging techniques. Within that area, we established 10 one-hectare plots to collect data on above-ground biomass before and after selective logging. We also conducted the tree inventory; the first plot was logged using directional felling and other RIL techniques damaging about 14% of the inventoried trees.

Preliminary findings show that the vegetation on Mont Cristal is diverse with high density of tree species but logging is a major threat to these ecosystems. In view of the international focus on



efforts to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), it is important to develop strategies to improve forest management in Central Africa.

The pilot study provided essential information to focus my dissertation research. However, more needs to be done in the field, and I hope to capitalize on the strong partnerships with WCS, TFF, and ENEF to compare financial costs and benefits of activities associated with conventional and reduced-impact logging and to explore the extent to which reduced-

impact logging approaches sustain timber yields of commercial species.

Vincent Medjibe is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Department of Biology. This research was made possible by a summer pre-dissertation grant from the Center for African Studies. Further support was provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society-Gabon Program, Tropical Forest Foundation-Congo Basin Program, and from Dr. Francis E. "Jack" Putz.

Rock Residences in Anomabo, Ghana: Architectural Statements of Power and Identity

COURTNAY MICOTS

I spent six months in coastal Ghana this summer and fall learning the local Fante language and conducting fieldwork to complete my dissertation. By thoroughly examining the stone and brick residences of the historically significant coastal town of Anomabo, I was able to delve into larger questions dealing with artistic homophony. These structures visually demarcate the struggle for identity and power on the coast during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Previously, these residences have not been documented, as scholarly focus has been on coastal forts and castles.

I interviewed the families of these residences as well as leaders and historians of Anomabo. Archival research was conducted in Accra and Cape Coast. I discussed my research with scholars at the University of Ghana in Legon, the Institute of Science and Technology in Kumasi (KNUST), and the University of Cape Coast. I also utilized the National Archives in Accra and Cape Coast.

Some of the earliest surviving structures in Anomabo are European buildings. However, even though several Fante masons were trained in stone nogging at this time, the Fante did not incorporate these European technologies and forms until after



the devastating Asante war of 1807. Its seeming permanence appealed to the Anomabos, just as today cement blocks are the building material of choice. In contrast, earthen architecture, once the Fante technology of choice for residences, is more vulnerable to war, rain and termites. The coastal stone was used as a rubble masonry, also termed nog construction - a system using a wood framework with masonry infill. These buildings may be faced with stone or brick. During this period of rebuilding, masons doing the work were trained by Christian missions who established vocational training in Ghana by the mid-19th century. The missions promoted the *sobrado* design house that exists all over the European colonized world.

About sixteen stone nog buildings survive in Anomabo, most built by wealthy Fante merchants. While these houses vary in their plans and elaboration of design elements, my study will examine how the Fante selected certain aspects to construct

an elite coastal identity that offered an image of power during an increasingly powerless century. Yet, several Fante aspects of plan and design were retained, and most importantly, new forms were created. These identity markers were largely possible on the coast because of its history as a commercial site. Individuals could achieve wealth and power through their own industry, rather than having inherited it. They wanted and were expected to express their status in a public way.

These homes are power symbols, demonstrating visually that the owner has the ability to construct a stone house of such size and prominence and of a style reflecting his worldly knowledge, connections and travel. Such architecture makes a powerful statement about Fante wealth, intellect, and mobility in the global world.

Courtney Micots is a doctoral student in African Art History at the University of Florida's School of Art & Art History. She received a summer FLAS in 2009 to study Fante.

Student Unionism and Cultism in Nigeria

JESSICA MOREY

In the summer of 2009, I spent 8 weeks at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife Nigeria as part of a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad program. Monday through Friday, the other nine participants and I had three morning Yoruba classes, focusing on grammar, culture, and conversation. In afternoons, we engaged with guest lecturers, observed cultural performances, and worked on our research. We took mid-week trips into Ile-Ife to visit the Oni's Palace, the Ife Museum, the day market, the nearby night market in Modakeke, a local shrine, and to see a primary school celebrate its cultural heritage day. On Saturdays, we went on longer excursions to other Yoruba cities, including Ibadan, Osogbo, Abeokuta, Imesi-Ife, Ondo, Akure, and Idanre. Our Sundays were free to spend with our host families, study, and rest.

My research is on the history of university student unions in Nigeria, but for the program I wrote a paper (in Yoruba!) on campus cults. I was able to meet the Vice-Chancellor and his predecessor, the Dean of Student Affairs, and current and former student union members. I witnessed the effects of union activities, in this case the academic and senior staff unions, as they went on strike two days into our stay. The federal and state universities were closed indefinitely. In addition, the week before our arrival, the students' union at OAU led a peaceful demonstration on campus and held a two-day lecture boycott, ostensibly over lack of water. I was able to gain insight into how and why students organize through discussing this event with both the Dean of Student Affairs and members of the Students' Union. The students' union remained active even when the university closed. For example, they led a group of students to Lagos on July 10th to commemorate the deaths of six OAU students who were slain by cult members on July 10th, 1999.

The trip had several highlights beyond research.



One of my favorite days was a trip to the famous Mapo Hall in Ibadan. We went to see Toyin Falola give the Adegoke Adelabu Memorial Lecture. Before the lecture, I was excited to greet Dr. Akinwumi Isola, who I recognized from his role in my favorite Nigerian movie *Campus Queen* (he also wrote the script). We also got a taste of Ibadan politics, as there were cheers and jeers from the audience every time the governor and his deputy's names were mentioned. I later returned to Ibadan to interview Dr. Isola and tour the University of Ibadan. Other highlights include visits to where the peace treaty

ending the Yoruba wars was signed in Imesi-Ife; climbing the five hundred steps to the top of Idanre hill and seeing its old palace (while looking at the sprawl of the new city below); visiting the Osun grove, seeing artist Nike's gallery, and chasing an Egungun through Osogbo; and making new friends in Ife—all while improving my Yoruba.

I had a great experience in Nigeria and can't wait to go back!

Jessica Morey is a doctoral student in African History. Her trip to Nigeria was made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Summer Intensive Yoruba Group Projects Abroad (GPA) program.



Community-Based Ecotourism Development in Kgalagadi District, Western Botswana

NAOMI MOSWETE

Last fall (October 2008 to January 2009) I traveled to Botswana to conduct my doctoral research. I completed four months of fieldwork in Kgalagadi district where I worked with nine local communities. My dissertation research was supplemented by a pre-dissertation trip to the region in 2006, during which I introduced myself to local authorities, familiarized with the study site, and also conducted key informant surveys in six villages.

In 2008 -2009 I returned to the study area, and conducted the larger part of my dissertation research. The study sites, Kgalagadi District and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park were chosen due to the fact that community-based ecotourism is lowly developed, dependence on livestock farming and rangeland resources has led to severe land degradation and conflicts over natural resource use. Furthermore, increased incidence of poverty has been observed. Even though some of the Botswana's tourism policy objectives are to promote socio-economic well being of communities living adjacent to protected areas, and increase the number of citizens meaningfully involved in, and benefiting from their tourism industry, these areas are still lacking in community-based tourism development. It is important to emphasize that community-based ecotourism (CBE) is still relatively



new and numerous projects are in the initial stages of development in Botswana. However, the government has identified CBE projects as possible avenues for diversification, and they have been encouraged around the country. Thus, this study investigated stakeholder's perspectives about the potential for community-based ecotourism development, and support for Kgalagadi Trans-frontier Park as a Trans-boundary protected area.

The study was conducted in nine village/settlements within the Kgalagadi region, four of which were located in the Wildlife Management Area (WMAs) and Controlled Hunting zone (areas that are strictly protected for wildlife conservation purposes). Two data collection methods were employed. Participants from 700 households were interviewed. Although I am still working on my final data analysis, some interesting findings have emerged. For example, despite unfamiliarity with tourism as a

business, the majority of the residents considered ecotourism as positive and a worthwhile development for the Kgalagadi region. Also, participants indicated mistrust as a major barrier in developing community projects (including trans-boundary resources), and they also emphasized the need for strengthening local management skills and entrepreneurship in tourism as the best strategy for community-based ecotourism development.

Naomi Moswete is a doctoral student in the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management (TRSM) and is a Kellogg Foundation Fellow (2005-2009). Her pre- and final dissertation research (2006 & 2008) was made possible by a WKKF Study grant via Leadership Initiatives for Southern Africa (LISA) in partnership with Academy for Educational Development (AED). She was also awarded a doctoral student research travel grant by the UF TRSM Department in 2008.



Democratizing wildlife management or not? A Comparative Case Study of Three Village Trusts in Botswana

PATRICIA MUPETA

As a recourse to failed centralized wildlife management regimes in Southern Africa, the community based natural resource management (CBNRM) approach has been implemented for over two decades. Founded on the principles of devolution and democracy, this approach transfers power and resources to grassroots communities to manage and benefit from wildlife resources. Following two decades of implementation, this initiative is growing in southern Africa and is increasingly gaining recognition as the direction that bridges rural livelihood benefits to natural resource management.

As well as gaining recognition, the CBNRM programs have received huge criticisms in regard to weak institutional development both at the state and micro community level. Poor local governance has translated into elite capture of benefits by a few in the rural communities. As a consequence, the process of devolution from the state to local communities has suffered with incomplete devolution taking place in some areas. At the core of sustaining the CBNRM program is an in-depth understanding of its institutional development. The decentralization of wildlife management that has been implemented in CBNRM thus provides an excellent opportunity to examine this understudied area. My research examines this by focusing on two overall objectives: 1) the vertical relationship between the state and CBNRM communities and the extent of CBNRM devolution in Botswana and Zambia; and 2) examining whether CBNRM communities are democratizing or not; and whether this has led to the provision of CBNRM economic benefits and the protection of the natural resources.

As a first stage in this study, in summer 2009, I undertook research in Botswana in three village communities (Khwai, Mababe and Sankuyo) that have been implementing CBNRM for over a decade. Situated on the northwestern side of the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana, the three villages receive revenue from both photographic and hunting tourism. Revenue received is targeted at providing both individual and communal benefits to the members



of the villages, as well as investment into resource protection. The working hypothesis for this link therefore, was that if power has been devolved from the state to local community institutions, this should translate into democratic entities that would provide both CBNRM economic benefits and in turn, contribute to the protection of the wildlife resource.

Key informant interviews were conducted with members of the communities, Wildlife Department officers, safari operators, Botswana Tourism Board officers and staff from nongovernmental organizations that had worked with these village communities. Participant observations were also conducted in both Sankuyo and Mababe village elections, to examine how participatory these democratic institutions were. Finally, a total of 178 questionnaires were distributed using a random sample of members of the community who were

18 years and above. The surveys aimed to measure two metrics of democracy in each village, i.e. participation and competition.

Preliminary results show that out of the three villages, Sankuyo performed better on both measures of democracy, and also has done relatively well in providing both individual and communal CBNRM benefits. Mababe shows poor results on democracy, and provision of CBNRM benefits. All three villages show poor results, in terms of providing revenue for resource protection.

Patricia Chilufya Mupeta is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. She received dissertation fieldwork funding as an African Power and Politics Program Fellow. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.

Wildlife Based Land Use and Cattle Production on Private Land in South Africa

JESSICA MUSENGEZI

Wildlife based land use has been spreading rapidly on private land of south Africa as individuals harness the benefits of wildlife in semi-arid areas where traditional agricultural activities of livestock rearing are challenged by the harsh agro-climatic conditions. South Africa is one of only three countries on the African continent that allow wildlife use on private land. Private game ranches in South Africa cover 14% of the country's total land area, far in excess of the 6.3% represented by official national and provincial conservation areas. With the majority of natural areas lying outside of state protected areas, private ranches present an increasingly important avenue for conserving biodiversity and natural habitat outside these protected areas as well as contributing to the growth of the national economy.

Despite the widespread adoption of wildlife utilization there is little scientific knowledge on the economics aspects of this industry. The purpose of this study is to better understand the financial and economic profitability of commercial wildlife utilization (consumptive and non-consumptive) and commercial livestock production on private land in the semi arid rangelands of South Africa.

The study focuses on land use in the Limpopo province. Data collection for the study was conducted in eastern Limpopo province, an area with a large concentration of game farms. Data collection included in-depth interviews with game ranch

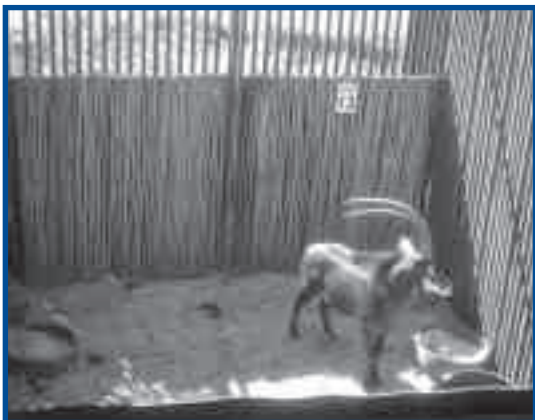


owners to determine the costs and revenues of wildlife enterprises. The game ranches displayed diversity in enterprises including traditional safari viewing tourism, trophy hunting, venison hunting and wildlife breeding. In addition, interviews with provincial conservation authorities and agricultural officers provided information on the policy and regulatory environment and enterprise budgets for cattle production.

Data collected will be analyzed using the Policy Analysis Matrix framework, which allows estimation of both private profitability and economic comparative advantage of wildlife enterprises relative to cattle. Quantifying the benefits of wildlife resources and their impact on local

economy will assist in understanding of the role of wildlife utilization in the development process in semi arid areas.

Jessica Musengezi is a doctoral student in the Department of Food and Resource Economics. Her research was funded by grants from the Wildlife Conservation Society-Animal and Human Health for the Environment and Development (WCS-AHEAD) and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area Seed Grant Programme.



Institutions and Institutional Change in CBNRM: Understanding Interactions among Local, Meso and Macro Political Structures

SHYLOCK MUYENGWA

My research focuses on the interactions among three governance tiers in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). After two decades of implementation, CBNRM in southern Africa has variable outcomes ranging from 'weak' to 'elite capture' of community benefits. My objectives for my summer research were: (1) to understand the factors influencing variability between the many communities involved, (2) explore how the distribution of authority across multiple institutions at the micro (local people), meso (e.g. district councils) and macro levels (e.g. central government, NGOs) affects CBNRM, and (3) explore how the melding of modern democratic institutions and the traditional arrangements of chiefs and headmen affects performance of CBNRM programs.

My research work builds on field research started 2007 with a University of Florida research team in Namibia. Over summer of 2009, I worked in Namibia and Zimbabwe. I spent the first half of summer in Namibia collecting and analyzing data, which we fed back to the community members and wildlife committee members in five conservancies in the Caprivi region, Balyerwa, Kwandu, Mashi, Sobbe, and Wuparo. The experience helped me to focus my work in Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, I worked with the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) Association. I reviewed project documents, workshop proceedings, consultancy reports, and conducted informal discussions with employees. Afterward, I visited Masoka community (northeastern Zimbabwe) and conducted interviews, participated in meetings, community activities, and reviewed records of meetings and documents at the local office for the past 12 years.

My preliminary findings in Zimbabwe show that the macro-political and economic crisis was a



major shock on CBNRM activities at community and district level. But more importantly, local level shocks exert great impacts on the CAMPFIRE activities. In Masoka community, there has been a gradual decline in people's adherence to CAMPFIRE principles. This corresponds with the decline in external support (finance and education) and death of Headman Kanyurira (local leadership). Over the years, community members have developed a sense of mistrust over new leadership due to a lack of financial transparency and centralized decision-making. Macro and meso political factors also exert a moderating effect on the local level, and the lack of monitoring and education increasing the potential for 'local elite capture.'

Following the outcome of

my research, I intend to undertake a comparative study across three countries, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe on the role of traditional authorities in conservation activities.

Shylock Muyengwa is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and Managing Editor for Africa Studies Quarterly Journal. This research was made possible by Africa-Power and Politics (APP) program. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid, to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member. Further support was provided by a field research grant from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) program in Latin American Studies and Dr. Brian Child.

Exploring Liberia's Musical History

TIMOTHY NEVIN

During the summer of 2008 my research took me back to Liberia for a second time. I had first visited Liberia during the summer of 2005, a trip that was in part funded by a travel grant from UF Student Government. It was extremely difficult finding funding for research in Liberia since the country was on the State Department's travel warning list, and there was no Fulbright Fellowship program operational at the time. Fortunately, I had taken a teaching position at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and was able to finance my trips with my salary.

My dissertation topic focuses on writing a history of Liberian popular music from roughly 1945 to 1990. I am focusing on the decades of the 1970s and 1980s, so most of my time in the country was spent searching for and interviewing musicians and cultural troupe members that were active during that time period. I also spent time at the National Archives (such as they are) and interviewing people at various radio stations, and at the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. I visited a conference hosted by the Liberian musicians union, and was interviewed myself on the UNMIL radio station (the UN Peacekeeping Force in Liberia), and for a local television station.

One of the biggest challenges was that most physical evidence was destroyed during the Liberian civil war, which lasted from 1989-1997, with a second phase of fighting from 2000-2003. The massive



countrywide destruction meant that I had to rely on oral histories (over 120 interviews), and copies of Liberian newspapers that were saved on microfilm at the US Library of Congress. For copies of the actual recordings I had to rely on finding items on cassette in the Waterside market, or on vinyl and CD on E-bay. Essentially I am attempting to document the alternative multicultural vision that these Liberian musicians, singers and cultural performers were putting forth before being overwhelmed in the conflagration of the civil war in which

estimated 250,000 lives.

Additionally, this is the first time anyone has attempted to write a history of Liberian popular music, since the older generation of ethnomusicologists viewed any non-traditional music as somehow "impure." It is an exciting and challenging project that has also taken me to Liberian communities all across the US, and a subsequent article that has come from the project on the dance dramas of the Liberian National Cultural Troupe has been used to inform a new generation of young people this past summer at a "Liberian culture camp" in Philadelphia sponsored by the Philadelphia Folklore Project.

Timothy Nevin is a doctoral student in the Department of History. He was a Center for African Studies FLAS Fellow from 2003-2005 for the study of Wolof.



A Comparative Study of Foreign Versus Domestic Owned Firms in the Namibian Tourism Sector

JOSHUA NIEDERRITER

My project's goals are to investigate whether or not foreign-owned lodges (hotels) face a stricter regulatory and enforcement framework than domestic firms. I also want to find out whether differing regulatory environments affect the level of income generated by conservancies. My final goal is to assess both the feasibility and competitiveness of US firms operating lodges in Namibia.

To meet these goals I needed to collect data on which lodges are Namibian, which ones are located in conservancies and the amount of income they generate or contribute to a conservancy. I also needed to interview lodge owners and managers to find out if there is a difference in the way they are treated by the government and the local Namibians. Furthermore, I needed to find out what steps a U.S. firm would need to take to establish an operation in Namibia.

Most of my stay involved me doing research at the Multidisciplinary Research Center at the University of Namibia. There I met with other researchers who gave me advice on my project and whom to

contact within the Namibian Government concerning my project. The researchers at the university also allowed me access to a copious amount of conservancy data, which includes social-economic data on people living in conservancies and income contributed by lodges.

I spent several days talking to the Namibian Tourism Board to get data on lodges. The Namibian Tourism Board regulates all aspects of the tourism industry in Namibia. They eventually gave me a list of all foreign and domestically owned lodges in Namibia as well as all the regulations these firms face. From this list I drew my sample of which lodges to interview.

At the University of Namibia, I met a collaborator, Thea Simpson, who is continuing my research in Namibia. Thea was selected by Dr. Silva to be a graduate researcher for her work on community-based natural resource management. She is currently interviewing owners and managers of both foreign and domestically owned lodges in conservancies as well as officials in government ministries.

Joshua Niederriter is a student in Economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. His research was made possible through a grant from UF's Center for International Business & Education Research (CIBER).



Informal Institutions: Do They Matter?

WINIFRED PANKANI

It is typically argued that despite increasing urbanization, state bureaucracies in Africa still sit atop mostly rural populace determined to elude the best efforts of the state to fully incorporate it into its fold. This failure of the state to fully penetrate society has resulted in the proliferation of and the salience of informal rules even though this does not mean there is a complete absence of rules and regulation.

In contrast to the general depiction of the African state and its bureaucracies as highly corrupt, inefficient operations unable to deliver basic services to their citizens, countries like Botswana and Mauritius have gained a reputation for their administrative integrity and capability, reputations that preceded their impressive rapid economic growth. An argument could be made that Botswana and Mauritius have been democratic and stable polities since independence and could thus be atypical cases for Africa. However, countries like Ghana, and Malawi and until recently Uganda, the Ivory Coast and Kenya were considered fairly well administered state even if they constitute a second tier in comparison to Botswana and Mauritius. Herein lies the interesting puzzle: why then do some African states acquire relatively effective states? Most African bureaucracies operate with all but a modicum of rationality and even though efficiency as a goal seldom ranks high for bureaucrats, why do these bureaucracies function relatively well?

My research answers this question in three stages. I hypothesize that state capacity is largely shaped by the interaction between formal and informal rules, and the choices of state elites at critical junctures. To test these hypotheses I spent the summer of 2009 in Ghana building on my previous research on bureaucratic performance in select Ghanaian ministries in an effort to tease out in a systematic fashion the role, if any, informal institutions played in



state development. To this end I focus on four key ministries - Agriculture, Education, Health and Transportation - theorized in the state building literature as important for the development of state capacity, which is largely dependent on the ability of the state to penetrate and rule over its territory. I spent the summer combing the libraries of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), the Ministry of Finance and the Head of Civil Service as well as the Resource Center at the Center for Democratic Development (Ghana).

The aim of this summer research trip was to collect more qualitative and historical data to complement survey data collected in 2008. I also spent the summer conducting extensive multiple

interviews with upper level bureaucrats and some politicians deemed by the bureaucrats in the ministries of interest as being very effective ministers or deputy ministers. I am still analyzing my data, but my initial impressions are that while informality is quite pervasive, evaluation and favoritism of the well-performing bureaucrat was quite common.

Winifred Pankani is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science. She received dissertation fieldwork funding as an African Power and Politics Program Fellow. APPP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.

Livelihood Vulnerability and Village Economic Structure in Systems of Covariant Shocks

GREGORY PARENT

The dry biomes of southern Africa are home to large numbers of charismatic megafauna. Animal biomass in these systems is limited by the metabolite production of the plants, and these plants are, in turn, limited by water. The natural system, typified by the diverse mix of browsers and grazers at varying levels of food selectivity, has been supplanted by the uniformity of ranching and agricultural systems. This has severely altered the dynamic nature of the ecosystem that has evolved between vegetation and high herbivore diversity, heavily contributing to desertification, bush encroachment and ultimately a reduction in yields of cattle and crops.

Yet there exist few livelihood alternatives to ranching and rain fed agriculture. The lack of viable alternatives to rural households increase livelihood vulnerability as the local system becomes progressively dryer and unpredictable in terms of rainfall. It is important to understand the interrelationship between covariant shocks and the local economic structure in order to design policy mechanisms that would both decrease vulnerability to shocks and maximize benefit to communities from their land while preserving its productivity.

Over the summer, I lived and worked in 7 rural communities along the border of Kruger National Park in South Africa. In this round of data collection, I conducted, with help of local research assistants, 430 randomly selected household interviews. To achieve a more dynamic understanding of household and village level impacts, I will employ two methods: the econometric method Vulnerability as Expected Poverty (VEP) and the development of village level Social Accounting Matrices.

While entitlements and factor endowments affect a household's income level and constrains the coupled consumption-production decisions



of rural households, poverty and associated behavior of households, cannot be simply explained within these parameters. Vulnerability to risk events itself is a factor in the poverty equation and influences the household choice matrix by altering constraints. Vulnerable households face significant uncertainty that often results in the alteration of production/consumption choices away from maximizing benefit towards the mitigating of risk. Social vulnerability can be thought of as the interplay between the economic entitlements and the environment, which include: social aspects, such as proximity to urban centers and health facilities, natural resource endowments, such as access to fertile land, forest resources, minerals, etc., and climate, frequency of drought, flood events, and other weather events.

While communities have been shown to establish informal insurance mechanisms to aid in risk mitigation, these informal mechanisms are often brittle in the face of widespread regional or village shocks. Formal insurance mechanisms have the greatest security, but few people/communities in developing countries have access to formal insurance. As such, to fully understand the potential benefit of any policy aimed at poverty alleviation, such as CBNRM, an understanding of rural vulnerability with its associated influence on household decisions is crucial.

Gregory Parent is an NSF IGERT Ph.D. Fellow in the Department of Geography & 2009-10 CAS FLAS fellow for Xhosa. He was awarded a Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Animal Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) program seed grant to conduct this research.

Re-Fashioning Africa: Ghana's 3rd Annual Fashion Weekend

CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS

This summer I traveled to Ghana for three weeks to begin investigating my research topic, contemporary African fashion, and to gain insight into the development of a fashion industry in Accra. I attended Ghana's third annual Fashion Weekend, which featured over 30 contemporary African fashion designers. The designers ranged from recent graduates to internationally known designers like Alphadi from Niger. Textile companies, such as Vlisco and Da Viva sponsored several runway shows with the intent of showcasing their latest fabrics. Not only did Ghana Fashion Weekend indicate a burgeoning fashion industry in Ghana, but it illustrated interesting continuities between "classical" African textiles and contemporary fashion garments.

Several designers, including Ghana's top designer, Kofi Ansah, relied heavily on bogolan and kente cloth, remixed into European influenced designs. Nigeria's Modela borrowed the silhouette of Yoruba ades (beaded crowns worn traditionally by Yoruba kings) to produce hats and purses. As these current designers suggest, "classical" forms of African textiles still play an important role in African dress, but in new and transformed styles.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ghanaian designer Kofi Ansah, as well as the organizer of Ghana Fashion Weekend, Sima Ibrahim. Both individuals provided me with an interesting perspective on African fashion and its relationship to the European fashion market. Both expressed their desires of making African fashion global, while maintaining localized production and building a fashion industry within Ghana.

Beyond the influences of classical textiles and forms of dress on contemporary African fashion, questions regarding beauty and gender emerged from my experiences during Ghana Fashion Weekend. Several women expressed to me during the show their frustration with the runway models, as they were too thin and did not accurately represent the "average" female body. What constitutes beauty in Ghana is something to explore further, particularly the conflict between Ghanaian and European standards of beauty.



The four-day fashion event was a whirlwind of vibrant fabrics and innovative garments, suggesting this is an area in need of further examination. After this initial visit, I plan to return to Ghana in summer 2010 to begin working directly with Ghanaian designers and exploring the role of fashion within contemporary

Ghanaian society. This will include how classical African forms and textiles are reinterpreted into contemporary clothing, the viability of a fashion industry in Ghana, and a further exploration of issues pertaining to conceptions of ideal beauty and gender.

Christopher Richards is a doctoral student in the School of Art & Art History.

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

AMY SCHWARTZOTT

My research explores the local and global impact of contemporary Mozambican artists who use recycled materials in their art. The transformation of recycled materials into art by artists reflects a nexus of environmental, economic and culturally related issues that I analyze and are reflective of Mozambique's distinct history in Africa and how artists utilize recycled materials to create distinctly Mozambican art. My research focuses on determining how and why Mozambican artists use recycled materials to create their art and how the use of these materials relates to broader themes of recycling, visual culture and post-conflict resolution theory. I investigate artists who use natural and urban refuse, as well as artists involved with the Christian Council of Mozambique's program Transformação de Armas em Enxadas/Transforming Arms into Plowshares (TAE), who transform decommissioned weapons from the Mozambican civil war into assemblage art.

Mozambican artists' conceptual approach in specifically selecting recycled materials to create art is reflected in the words of artist Fiel dos Santos, "We have to start to re-find things, bring them back to use." My research demonstrates that dos Santos and his fellow artists are using recycled materials to both literally and figuratively recycle and deconstruct Mozambican history to create evocative and powerful art. The pre-dissertation research I completed this summer builds on a research trip I completed during the summer of 2008.

I returned to Maputo in summer 2009, with funding from a pre-dissertation research grant from CAS. I expanded my base of artists and strengthened my ties with religious and cultural organizations such as the Christian Council of Mozambique, as I began to observe and investigate the process of weapons retrieval and destruction instrumental to the development of art from arms by the TAE project. I also became more fully connected to the arts community of Maputo, receiving enthusiastic support



and access to the cultural landscape of Maputo from organizations such as the Museu Nacional de Arte and the República de Moçambique Ministério da Educação e Cultura/Departamento de Artes Visuais.

One important development I am very pleased to report this year is the building of Peace Monument, a nine-meter tall monument being constructed in Maputo. I have been able to observe the building of the monument by its creator, Cristovao Canhavato (Kester), a TAE artist. The monument is designed to serve as a symbolic place of

remembrance of the Mozambican civil war, constructed of decommissioned weapons - the imagery of which will include such symbols as a dove, a globe, and a map of Mozambique.

Amy Schwartzott is a doctoral student in the School of Art and Art History. She received a Center for African Studies summer pre-dissertation grant for this trip and is also a UF Graduate Alumni grant awardee.

Interdisciplinary Studies for Crocodile Conservation Across Africa

MATTHEW H. SHIRLEY

Since 2005 I have been developing an interdisciplinary program for crocodile conservation in Africa including re-evaluation of the systematics of these species, surveys and capacity building to assess conservation needs, and implementing sustainable utilization where appropriate. The past year was marked by exciting advancements with fieldwork in Senegal, Gambia, Egypt, and Uganda. In the fall of 2008, while studying French in Senegal, I had the opportunity to work with the wildlife conservation agencies of Senegal and Gambia to determine if dwarf (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*) and slender-snouted (*Mecistops cataphractus*) crocodiles were locally extinct. Neither species had been seen for 20 – 40 years, but I was inspired by our quick rediscovery of dwarf crocodiles in both countries. Even better news is that we rediscovered slender-snouted crocodiles in River Gambia National Park, though this western population is precarious with as few as 12 – 20 individuals.

Starting in June 2008, I initiated a project with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency to evaluate the burgeoning Nile crocodile population in Lake Nasser as a harvestable wildlife resource. Over the course of the year we established a population size estimate and built strong relationships with the Lake Nasser communities. As a culmination to this exciting first year, my colleagues and I passed a proposal to initiate a government-sponsored crocodile management unit, which is now continuing management related research, and has drafted a proposal to the 15th CITES CoP for approval of utilization and international trade.

In the lab I have been working on finalizing extensive investigations into the evolutionary history of African crocodiles. The dwarf crocodile was recently split into three unique species, and our analysis of samples collected in Senegambia suggest



that they warrant recognition as an Evolutionarily Significant Unit within the West African (as yet unnamed) species. For the Nile crocodile, my results provide strong evidence that there are two species with highly divergent evolutionary histories. Based on this we have proposed that the taxon *Crocodylus suchus* (Geoffrey 1807) should be resurrected. This species was described from mummies of the historic Crocodilopolis of ancient Egypt, and our ancient DNA analyses confirm that these mummies are actually a different species than existed in the Nile River, and are aligned with our *C. suchus*. This is exciting as it suggests the Pharaonic Egyptians were cognizant of two different species and preferentially bred one in the temples of Sobek. Samples collected in Uganda from a population of pygmy crocodiles in the Kidepo Valley provide additional support that *C. suchus* was once more widely distributed than its modern, predominantly West African range suggests. The conservation implications

of this species split are profound because Nile crocodile populations throughout East and southern Africa are large, with harvest as the ideal management strategy, while *C. suchus* automatically qualifies as Threatened or Endangered.

The coming year promises to be just as exciting with continued fieldwork in Egypt and Uganda, and new programs starting up focused on the ecology and conservation of the slender-snouted crocodile in Gabon and Republic of Congo.

Matthew H. Shirley is a doctoral student in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation. He has received funding for his research from USAID – Egypt Junior Scientist Visits Grant, the Conservation Leadership Programme, Conservation Leadership Programme Mentoring Award, Rotary International Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, The Minnesota Zoo – Ulysses S. Grant Conservation Award, and Idea Wild Foundation Equipment Grant.

Environmental Information & Communication Among Stakeholders: Okavango Delta, Botswana

OLEKAE THAKADU

Information diffusion interventions have often relied on the use of agents to diffuse information to their constituents. The approach has the potential of facilitating broad-based impacts in terms of information dissemination and social change. However, effective communication of information requires an understanding of the knowledge-sharing behaviors of the agents as well as the effectiveness of the communication methods used to impart knowledge to effect the desired change. Research related to knowledge-sharing behaviors is scarce in environmental/natural resources literature, though it abounds in other areas such as business, professional, IT, and public organizations.

The current research, aimed at examining predictors of environmental knowledge-sharing behaviors of community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) board members and assessing the relative effectiveness of two communication methods (visualized and conventional verbal communication), is an attempt to address this gap.

The study will enable practitioners in environmental communication and education to: (1) understand the knowledge sharing behaviors of community leaders or agents often used to diffuse environmental information, (2) design interventions based on research that target significant factors influencing Trustees or agents' decisions to share acquired knowledge, and (3) select effective communication methods that will promote maximal information acquisition by the Trustees/agents. Understanding factors that will promote knowledge sharing and effective knowledge acquisition methods will help practitioners in planning information diffusion campaigns and interventions aimed at promoting responsible environmental behaviors.

I did fieldwork from May through July 2009 in the Ngamiland District in Botswana. Fifteen groups of CBNRM Board of Trustees took part in the study



for a total sample of 150 subjects. Three of the participating Boards were used to pilot both the instrument and the two interventions. Workshops were held with each participating Board, addressing two specific environmental concerns and issues within the Okavango delta: fire management and waste management within community-managed concession areas, often referred to as community controlled hunting areas (CHAs). After each presentation, participants completed a retrospective questionnaire addressing relevant aspects of the subject matter. The questionnaires assessed participants' perceived knowledge of the environmental issues before and after the intervention, their attitudes, beliefs and intention, as well as locus of control in respect to knowledge sharing or communication.

Fieldwork also gave me the opportunity to work again with CBNRM leaders and helped me to better understand the knowledge and information needs required for effective management of community

areas, as well as promoting responsible environmental behaviors among community constituents. I was amazed by the interest shown for the issues that were presented (fire and waste management) as they related to community-managed areas. Board members indicated that the information provided them with requisite knowledge, skills and enlightenment to better manage and ensure compliance of community areas management plans. I was fulfilled as a scholar and practitioner in that I benefitted from the participation of the subjects and imparted something that was of immediate use in their day-to-day lives.

Olekae Thakadu is a doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication and an associate in the UF NSF-IGERT program on Adaptive Management: Wise Use of Waters, Wetlands, and Watersheds (AM-W3). The summer 2009 fieldwork was carried out with funding from the University of Botswana.

Structural Changes in the Malian Cotton Sector: Implications for Export Performance

VERONIQUE THERIAULT

After a year of research, I finally had the opportunity to get directly exposed to the Malian cotton industry last summer. Indeed, I have been able to explore the whole cotton sector, from the field to the capital, during my preliminary fieldwork. Through semi-structured interviews conducted with principal stakeholders (e.g. cotton producers, ginning companies, banks, state representatives and exporters), I went further into understanding the complex roles played by the cotton industry in Mali's social and economic development, and the necessity of taking into account local realities on reform's success.

Cotton, the primary cash crop in Mali, significantly contributes to the national economy by providing income and employment to over three million smallholder farmers. In addition to its direct impact on income and employment, the cotton sector is affiliated with cereal production as well as Malian manufacturing and transport industries. Two recent developments are threatening to offset or slow economic growth derived from cotton exports. The first is downward pressure on cotton prices brought about, in part by increased yields made possible by genetically modified seed. The second is related to institutional reform. Beginning in the 1990's, Mali and other sub-Saharan countries were strongly recommended by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to undertake reform measures designed to privatize segments of their cotton sector in order to render them more efficient and more competitive. While the process is ongoing, Malian cotton production has declined drastically since the reform measures began and have resulted in negative repercussions affecting the entire economy.

Using primary and secondary data collected during my fieldtrip, I aim to quantitatively assess the impacts of structural and economic reform on cotton production over the last decade. Specifically, the objective is to analyze the roots of the recent drop in production as a function of both agro-environmental



factors and policy decisions. Choice of explanatory variables in the econometric model is based on discussion with principal stakeholders. For instance, low farm prices for cottonseed, high input costs, delay in payment and insufficient rainfall were all continually mentioned as possible causes of production decrease. Determination of the principal factors responsible for the production decline, as well as their relative importance, could serve as a guide to policymakers in seeking to boost both the cotton industry and larger economy. As an example, if the recent drop is mainly caused by low farm prices, then the new price mechanism put in place with the institutional reforms should be rethought in a way that will motivate profitable farmers to produce rather than encouraging them to withdraw from farming cotton. It suggests that the actual price system is not effective

since it does not send the right incentive to produce cotton.

I would like to thank everyone who made this preliminary fieldwork possible and particularly, all the Malians who nicely welcomed me and shared valuable information. This work would also not have been carried out without Dr Renata Serra's contributions and mentoring.

Veronique Theriault is a doctoral student in the Department of Food and Resource Economics. Her 2009 summer research was made possible by a W.W. McPherson Graduate Student International Travel Scholarship from the Food and Resource Economics Department and by a pre-dissertation research stipend from the African Power and Politics (APP) Program from the Center for African Studies. APP is funded by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid to a research consortium of which CAS is an institutional member.

Primate Conservation and Environmental Education: Re-filling the Empty Forests

CARRIE VATH

“Pana Ebo?” means, “where are the monkeys?” in the local language of Iko. During the summer of 2009, I spent six weeks investigating this question in the Iko Esai Community Forest in the Cross River State in Nigeria. This area is known as the “people’s paradise” because it is home to the remaining 10% of tropical forests found in Nigeria and the people are known for their caring disposition. I worked alongside the Centre for Education, Research, Conservation of Primates and Nature (CERCOPAN), a non-governmental organization (NGO) that has worked in Cross River State for the last fifteen years investigating empty forest syndrome and piloting an environmental education program.

A forest is deemed empty when the fauna has been depleted by hunting to the point where its ecological structure and the actual or potential economic role of the forest has been altered. To assess the forest health I conducted line-transect surveys (focusing on diurnal primates), habitat mapping, and helped with the collection of phenology data. In order to gauge the community’s use of the forest, I collaborated with CERCOPAN researchers to determine the types of non-forest timber products removed each day from the forest and the number of individual hunters entering the forest. I created an overnight tropical forest ecosystem and primate conservation education module that brought twelve students from the local secondary school to experience the sights and sounds of the rainforest first hand using the forest as our classroom.

One of the primary objectives of my visit was to learn about the communities’ views on primate conservation and forest preservation. I conducted informal interviews with the local chiefs, ex-hunters, and women, attended chief council and hunter’s group meetings, and spent time interacting with school children to determine their skill level. My initial



findings show that this forest could be suffering from empty forest syndrome due to unsustainable hunting practices but the community seems committed to learning more about sustainable development. My dissertation work will focus on the behavioral ecology of the endangered red-eared monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*), developing methods to test for empty forest syndrome, working with hunters to implement alternative livelihoods, and developing environmental education programs targeted at hunters and women.

My stay in Nigeria resulted in lifelong friendships, amazing cultural experiences, and unforgettable primate rehabilitation work. I want to dedicate this report to the memory of Chief Patrick, a man who was loved by all who met him and will forever be missed.

Carrie Vath is a doctoral student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her summer 2009 research was supported by a CAS pre-dissertation research award and by the Katherine Ordway Endowment of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Moroccan Islam(s): Debating Religious Authority Through Ritual and Musical Performance

CHRISTOPHER WITULSKI

Since 2005 I have been spending time in Morocco researching the music of the Gnawa, a previously enslaved population from the south of the country. With each passing trip to North Africa, I am able to further probe the complexities of the relationship between these people, their religion, Sufism, Islam, rituals, and popular music. The ritual music of the Gnawa, unlike that of most Sufi groups in the region, has two parallel goals. It not only attempts to create a bridge between the individual and the divine, it also engages spirits or *mluk* (owner), asking them to participate in the ceremony by capturing, or possessing, adepts. The blessings from these spirits rest upon the house and the family of those who are possessed or *maskun* (lived within).

Questions remain unanswered, however, as orthodox groups and everyday Moroccans ask about these *mluk*: are they syncretic Muslim/African spiritual figures, as the Gnawa say, or are they jinns, troublesome demons aiming to separate Muslims from Allah?

When this contentious set of beliefs is conflated with the already tenuous position of music within the Islamic world, criticisms and religious struggles between brotherhoods and other organizations percolate to the surface. Simultaneously, however, groups like the 'Aissawa, a Sufi path originating in 18th century Meknes, adopt Gnawa songs and even spirits, placing them within their own ritual practices.

This past summer I was able to return to Fez and investigate the theological, social, and economic relationships between these different religious organizations. By examining the motivations that drove 'Aissawa and other Sufi groups to include Gnawa material in their rituals and theological worldviews, I worked to unravel small corners of the



densely woven Moroccan cultural “web.” As a nation renowned for “hybridity,” social relations in Morocco fall upon innumerable parallel and intersecting axis, with race, belief, and language, three that implicate the Gnawa directly, proving to be a few of the most prominent.

During this trip, I had the opportunity to work closely with a diverse range of musical and ritual leaders including Abderrahim Abd ar-Rzaq and Gaga, both Gnawa *maalems*, Adil and Abdullah Yaqubi, 'Aissawa *muqaddems* from two different groups, and two members of a Hamadcha brotherhood, Abderrahim

al-Marrakechi and Fredrick Calmus. These individuals welcomed me into their lives and social circles, teaching me to play and sing their music while spending countless hours humoring my questions about rituals, beliefs, society, and Islam as they appear in Fez and Morocco.

Christopher Witulski is a doctoral student in Ethnomusicology. His research was funded by the University of Florida Alumni Grant Program and a summer pre-dissertation research grant from the Center for African Studies.

Collaborative Project Reports

Fulbright-Hays Summer 2009 Intensive Yoruba Group Project Abroad [GPA]

AKINTUNDE AKINYEMI

This year marks the fifth successful hosting of the Summer Intensive Yorùbá Group Project Abroad [GPA] Program, which is funded by the US Department of Education through its Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program.

This eight-week summer intensive language program is based at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife in Nigeria, and provides an avenue for American college students to achieve advanced competence in the study of Yorùbá language and culture. The instruction therefore gave equal attention to proficiency in the four basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding. Other components of the program are one-on-one tutoring, interaction with local residents, discussions with Yorùbá scholars, interaction with guest lecturers, reading a variety of literary works in Yorùbá, and field trips to cultural and historical sites.

The program, which took place from June 18 to August 16, 2009, had 11 participants including 5 graduate students and 6 undergraduate students from seven universities across the United States. The institutions represented were: University of Florida, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Texas-Austin, Harvard University, California State University-Fresno, University of Georgia, and Georgia Southern University.

Participants were able to develop their Yoruba language competence through classroom instruction as well as informal interaction and socialization outside of class. There were numerous things achieved in the 2009 program in terms of the participants' immersion experience, language instruction, and program administration. The program participants were able to use the Yorùbá language to perform various personal and professional activities in Ile Ife and other parts of Yorùbá land. Even though some participants became integrated with their host families and the host university community quicker than others, all participants were able to use the Yorùbá language to perform far ranging tasks as well as learn



more about the language, people, and culture.

Although there were some challenges as one might find in any study abroad program, the good news is that we continue to see the long-term benefits of the program. For instance, 2 former participants of the program, Matthew Brown (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Regan Buck Barden (UCLA) have been awarded Fulbright scholarships for doctoral dissertation fieldwork in Nigeria next year. While Matt will be working on the Nigerian video film industry, Regan's research interest centers on the early print industry in Yorùbá land and the interactions between print and oral practices.

Finally, we continue to refine the program to achieve the goals of advanced language competency and encourage the study of Yorùbá language and culture.

Akintunde Akinyemi is an associate professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. He is the Principal Investigator and program director for the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Intensive Yoruba summer program.

Public Utility Research Center (PURC): African Infrastructure Research and Outreach

SANFORD BERG

With nations facing difficult financial choices in funding health, education, and infrastructure services, leaders have begun to focus on ways to improve performance in the energy, water, telecommunications, and transportation sectors. Many African nations have established utility regulatory agencies to separate the political processes behind policy-making from the professionals who implement that policy. Thus, there is a need for training and the sharing of best practice across national boundaries.

Since 1997, the Public Utility Research Center/World Bank International Training Program on Utility Regulation and Strategy has been delivered every January and June. Although PURC received seed money to design the course, the program has been self-sufficient. The course has been customized to offer infrastructure professionals around the world technical skills and lessons about ways to improve infrastructure sector performance. Of the 2,000 participants from 140 nations, nearly half have come from African regulatory commissions, government ministries, or utilities.

"I am now armed with the information that will enable me to appreciate telecommunications," said Ugandan Communications Commissioner Timothy Lwanga after his participation in the PURC Program. "I have learned a lot and hope to be a more effective commissioner. [It was] quite an experience."

The two-week program focuses on infrastructure to prepare utility professionals with the tools they need in their profession.

"This course [gave me] an opportunity to interact with some of the best speakers around the world," said Zambian Consumer Officer Stephen M. Bwalya of the 26th PURC/WB Program. "The program is very good for the regulators, as it provides insights to apply to decision-making and tariff-setting."

PURC-affiliated scholars have organized customized courses in Botswana, Namibia, Nigeria,



South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia (and more than 20 other countries around the world). For example, Ted Kury, PURC director of Energy Studies, will be delivering courses in Rwanda and Ghana in fall 2009. In addition, professor Sanford Berg, PURC director of Water Studies, has written a number of papers, including "State-Owned Enterprises: NWSC's Turnaround in Uganda," in the *African Development Review* with co-author Silver Mugisha of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). The article describes the strengths and limitations of the Ugandan water reform efforts.

Berg and Mugisha also have a paper forthcoming in *Water Policy*, "Pro-poor Water Service Strategies in Developing Countries: Promoting Justice in Uganda's Urban Project," that examines how public standpipes (and a combination of other options) can meet both financial constraints and social objectives. Infrastructure is one arena where UF researchers are having a significant impact.

Dr. Sanford Berg is the PURC Director of Water Studies and a Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Florida. Jessica Chapman, the PURC student assistant, also contributed to this report.

Transforming CBNRM Education in Southern Africa: Bridging the Gap Between Classroom and Natural Resource Governance

BRIAN CHILD, GRENVILLE BARNES, SANDRA RUSSO, AND BRIJESH THAPA

In 2009, Brian Child (Geography & CAS), Grenville Barnes (School of Forest Resources & Conservation), Sandra Russo (UF International Center) and Brijesh Thapa (Department of Tourism, Recreation, & Sports Management) were awarded a three-year \$600,000 Higher Education for Development (HED) grant, "Transforming CBNRM Education in Southern Africa." Our goal is to facilitate renowned scholars and practitioners in southern Africa region to synthesize and record twenty years of experience in the region's cutting edge Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) programs to provide quality curricular materials for universities, vocational colleges, practitioner training and the private sector.

Since the 1960s southern Africa has led a global change in conservation policy based on the principles of sustainable use. Countries like Zimbabwe and Namibia experimented boldly, first introducing policies that devolved use and benefit rights from wildlife to private landholders. The successes of these new policy approaches are reflected in blossoming wildlife numbers and a vigorous wildlife economy. The next challenge, beginning in the 1980s, was to extend the concepts of incentive-based conservation to the socially complex communal lands where the majority of rural Africans live.

This led to well known initiatives like CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe and Namibia's national CBNRM program, whereby local communities benefit from and therefore conserve wildlife and other natural resources. Key to these programs was the development of new economic and political institutions for governing wild resources, including strengthened property rights, new markets and rural democratization. Other innovations combined participation and science to improve wildlife and natural resources through adaptive management.

In this current project UF faculty and students work closely with southern African conservation practitioners and communities, undertaking interdisciplinary environmental, social and economic



research related to state and community conservation. We have paid considerable attention to building long-term relationships, and to orientating our research towards local needs and problems. Additionally, we work with practitioners and communities to develop the long-term monitoring systems that are critical for adaptive management.

This experience enabled us, in July, to provide training on governance and economics to a forum comprising communities, government officials and the private sector to improve the management of and benefits from the extraordinary resources in Botswana's Okavango Delta. Later that month, 58 scholars and practitioners from eight countries met in Pretoria, South Africa, to map out a strategy for improving curricular materials, teaching and research related to CBNRM in southern Africa. With matching funding from USAID and Norway through WWF, participation included twelve universities, seven colleges, major NGOs and practitioners working in the

region (WWF, AWF, WCS, IUCN, Resources Africa), representatives of the tourism and hunting industries, and USAID which funds this project and has invested over \$100 million in community conservation in the region since 1989.

The workshop concluded that it was essential to integrate research with training and practice, and that although a substantial amount of knowledge has been accumulated by a network of dedicated scholar practitioners, it has extended only haphazardly into education institutions and academia more generally. Training materials do not adequately reflect the current "state-of-knowledge," and too few people are being trained in new approaches to issues like biodiversity conservation, climate change, food security and payments for environmental services.

The Pretoria workshop was the first step to strengthen a community-of-practice of committed scholars and practitioners around the tasks of: 1) collecting, collating, and designing CBNRM curricula and materials;



and 2) institutionalizing these in local universities and colleges. To capture southern Africa's extensive lessons, we will be holding a series of write-shops in field locations over the next three years. Our output will be a series of books, manuals and teaching materials written collectively by scholars and practitioners covering subjects like natural resource governance, economics, marketing and business development, social learning and adaptive management, participatory resource management. These write shops will include the next generation of teachers and trainers to encourage their

buy-in to the materials and pedagogy that links to field practice.

The Project PI is Brian Child who has considerable experience implementing CBNRM in southern Africa, including Zimbabwe's pioneering CAMPIFRE program. Brijesh Thapa adds tourism expertise, and Grenville Barnes adds capability in resource governance and property rights. Sandra Russo is an agronomist with considerable expertise in the region and in training approaches. The program is also linked to research projects being implemented in the region

by Geography professors Jane Southworth (land change science), Eric Keys (rural sociology, agriculture and innovation), Michael Binford (bio-geography) and Abraham Goldman (agriculture and parks) and more than a dozen graduate students working on natural resource governance.

Brian Child is associate professor in the Department of Geography and the Center for African Studies. This project is managed through the Higher Education for Development (HED) office with a three-year funding award of \$600,000 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

NSF-Human and Social Dynamics Program: Parks As Agents of Social Change

ABE GOLDMAN, MICHAEL BINFORD, BRIAN CHILD, J. TERRENCE MCCABE, AND PAUL LESLIE

This multi-institutional interdisciplinary project examines the social and environmental impacts of a sample of parks in four countries – Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, and Namibia – and across an ecological gradient from mid-altitude forests to semiarid savannas. Demographic conditions around the parks range from very densely populated agricultural landscapes bordering two of the parks to sparsely populated landscapes with seasonal movements of people, livestock, and wild animals. Some of the parks have attracted many settlers from other areas, while in other cases, people have left for opportunities elsewhere.

Our research indicates that each of the parks—Tarangire in northern Tanzania; Kibale in western Uganda; Chobe and nearby protected areas in northern Botswana; and Bwabwata and Mudumu in northeastern Namibia – have been reasonably successful in protecting habitat and biodiversity within their boundaries. They have also had a complex mix of impacts on surrounding landscapes and ecosystems, including institutional development at various levels; demographic trends; changes in risks, welfare, and livelihood activities; changes in attitudes to parks and conservation; and environmental changes in the surrounding landscapes and communities.

Some of our findings include the following: all of the parks have stimulated social and institutional change in neighboring communities and households. Public and private ecotourism institutions as well as other economic enterprises and physical infrastructure have expanded in all of the areas. In several cases, increased tourism associated with parks (or its expectation) has stimulated the growth of women's craft production groups. Community-based management institutions that receive a substantial share of the revenues from tourism and hunting licenses have been established in Botswana and Namibia. Comparable institutions are rare or absent from the Tanzanian and Ugandan parks, although some revenue sharing occurs. Major negative impacts of protected area conservation include the crop losses and other hazards posed by animals in all of the areas,



as well as the environmental impacts of rapidly increasing elephant populations in the southern African cases.

Population growth, external income sources, and marketing opportunities have led to agricultural expansion and intensification around the Ugandan and Tanzanian parks, but in southern Africa crop and livestock agriculture has not necessarily expanded and has often stagnated or contracted. Income and employment related to the parks have minor per-capita effects in the East African cases, but have had a large impact in some of the southern African communities.

Local peoples' assessments of the parks have been more positive in many, though not all, of the cases, contrary to the expectations of many critics of park impacts. Most respondents in the southern Africa and Ugandan cases view parks positively either for economic or environmental services reasons. Attitudes to the park in Tanzania are far more negative, partly because of frequent changes

in park policy as well as occasionally heavy-handed enforcement of park regulations. Some Tanzanian communities have adopted “preemptive cultivation” in wildlife migration corridors to avoid further loss of land to parks and protected areas. This is one among several examples of how parks and conservation policy can stimulate responses that affect the efficacy of conservation efforts themselves.

This project is led by Abe Goldman, Michael Binford, Brian Child (Geography, University of Florida), J. Terrence McCabe (Anthropology, University of Colorado at Boulder) and Paul Leslie (Anthropology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill). Additional collaborators include the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Makerere University, Uganda; University of Namibia; and the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre at the University of Botswana. There are also several UF student participants involved including Amy Panikowski (Geography), Karen Kimer (Anthropology), Patricia Mupeta, Luke Rostant, J.G. Collomb, William Kanapaux, Juanita Garcia-Saqui, Shylock Muyengwa, Greg Parent, Deborah Wojcik, Tim Fullman (all SNRE), Andrea Gaughan and Cerian Gibbes (Geography), and Katherine Mullan (Food & Resource Economics).

Fostering International Collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal

SANDRA L. RUSSO, DOUG LEVEY, ANN DONNELLY, AND TODD PALMER

In May to June 2009, the University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) School of Biological and Conservation Sciences hosted a group of postgraduate students from the University of Florida and middle school science teachers from Gainesville. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the UF students spent four weeks conducting joint research activities under the direction of UF and UKZN faculty. The goal of the visit was to establish a foundation for interdisciplinary, international research collaboration under the umbrella of ecosystem health focusing on three areas: aquatic zoology, terrestrial zoology, and invasive species management.

The aquatic zoology team was led by UF doctoral students Alexis Morris, Elisa Livengood, and Dana Ehret, who each worked on different projects related to their research interests. Alexis worked on a comparative study on the thyroid function of the elasmobranch species to determine how environmental contaminants disrupt the function of shark's thyroids. Dana focused on the aging, growth, and body changes in fossils and modern lamniform sharks, while Elisa studied the life support systems and fish husbandry practices at the uShaka Sea World Aquarium to supplement her research in the ornamental fish trade industry.

The terrestrial zoology team was focused on nutritional ecology, habitat utilization, population genetics, and the effects of environmental contaminants on Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) populations in the St. Lucia Estuary and the Pongola River system. The students, Josiah Townsend, Jackson Frechette, Estelle Robichaux and Elan Dalton helped capture seven adult Nile crocodiles to collect blood and urine samples, record morphological measurements, and mark the animal for future identification and reference. Moreover, the students also conducted a short study on Vervet monkey's (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) health to determine the level of monkeys' interaction with humans by analyzing parasite loads. Another team of UF doctoral students, Julian Resasco and Chris Woan, studied the meta-community of ants to analyze the species and



size variations within bush clumps in the New Germany Nature Reserve.

The invasive species team focused on studying the feeding preferences of mousebirds and mental models of invasive species. Kristine Callis and Rachel Naumann analyzed the ethanol preferences of mousebirds to determine if they select more or less ethanol-laden fruit (as evidence of ripeness). Dara Wald and Darina Palacio participated in an ongoing research project on the ecological impact of feral cats which could be later used to develop a mental model illustrating key concepts and variables of the South African experience compared to U.S. experience with invasive species. They interviewed scientist experts as well as local stakeholders to construct the mental model.

The UF students and Alachua County middle school science teachers, May Steward, Eugenia Campbell, Nate Stewart and Carmella O'Steen, shared informal science education lessons and programs at some primary and secondary schools in KwaZulu-Natal. They visited the Mandini and Manor

Gardens primary schools and the Siyahomula and Pholela high schools, which provided them insights into how universities in developing countries transfer knowledge and research outcomes to the primary and secondary school level science classrooms.

This international collaboration is one of several long-term graduate student research programs between UF and southern African universities. Future research programs working more closely with Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife and the iSimangaliso Wetland Authority are being developed to maintain this collaboration and broaden international research experiences for UF students.

Dr. Sandra Russo, Director of Program Development at the UF International Center, is the PI on this grant and Dr. Doug Levey (Biology) is the Co-PI. Funding was provided by multiple NSF grants. Drs. Todd Palmer (Biology) and Ann Donnelly (Particle Engineering) as well as Nicola Kernaghan (International Center) were group leaders.

American Political Science Association: Elections and Democracy Workshop in Ghana

DANIEL SMITH

For three weeks this summer, I coordinated a workshop on the broad topic of Elections and Democracy in Ghana with 2005 UF Political Science alumnus Kevin Fridy (University of Tampa), Beatrix Allah-Mensah (University of Ghana) and Ukoha Ukiwo (University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria). The workshop, which was underwritten by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and spearheaded by the American Political Science Foundation, brought together two-dozen African political scientists from across the continent and four American-based Ph.D. students. The workshop took place at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana in Legon and was intended to increase research linkages between U.S.-based scholars and their African colleagues.

The workshop was quite intense. In addition to our informal discussions during meals and on our excursions, each workshop participant presented his or her ongoing research in the plenary sessions.

In the mornings, we broke into small groups to critically engage a large body of scholarly readings on political democratic development, elections, political parties, and campaigns. Participants also actively interacted with a number of guest speakers who were experts on Ghanaian politics and elections. During breaks, participants sought out new collaborative research efforts with one another.

As workshop co-leaders, we organized several site visits for the participants, including a trip to meet with the Deputy Commissioner of Ghana's National Electoral Commission and officials from the national headquarters of Ghana's two major political parties. We also took participants to visit Ghana's most prestigious think tank, the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), and had the opportunity to question representatives of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers as well as the staff members

of the AfroBarometer survey. During the last week of the workshop, we headed to Parliament, meeting and with the Minority Leader for nearly two hours. Finally, we took weekend excursions to Kumasi, the heart of the Asante Kingdom, and to Elmina, where we toured a slave castle on the Atlantic coast. Participants also got to test their mettle by walking over a canopy bridge suspended 150 feet in the Kakum National Park rain forest.

In addition to getting critical feedback on their research projects during the workshop, each participant will have his or her research précis published in a forthcoming issue of the journal, *PS: Political Science and Politics*.

Daniel A. Smith is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and affiliate faculty with the Center for African Studies. The workshop was made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the American Political Science Foundation.



Strengthening Teaching, Research, and Faculty Development in Tourism Management in South Africa

BRIJESH THAPA

South Africa is the dominant tourism market on the African continent. Tourism is a very important industry for the economy, which has largely focused on the core products such as parks, wildlife, nature and culture. In the last two decades, the product mix has been diversified to incorporate marine and coastal areas, rural communities and townships, events, urban centers, meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.

The market is largely comprised of visitors from Africa and the Middle East. However, international markets are increasing and there are indications of continued growth in the future. Also, the government expects to increase international arrivals to 10 million by 2010. Given the projected increases in visitors, the potential to expand this sector to generate more income, employment and other benefits is enormous, considering the current level of tourism development.

However, tourism growth is dependent on a number of factors, notably, developing a trained and skilled labor force. Capacity building and institutional development through training is a key component for the vitality and sustainability of the tourism industry in South Africa. In order to address this major need, the University of Florida (UF) and Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Tshwane, South Africa have formulated a partnership to strengthen its teaching, research, service and faculty development initiatives in tourism management.

In Year 1, the teaching and curriculum needs will be accommodated at the Bachelor's degree level with respect to the following objectives: a) review and update existing curriculum; b) develop new curriculum in casino management, event management, airport and aviation management (currently these degree programs are not offered on the African continent); and c) develop vocational and executive training certificate programs in tourism. Also, a more concerted effort will be highlighted to target and enroll disadvantaged populations to the Department of Tourism at TUT.



In Year 2, based on a strategic visioning meeting with faculty and industry stakeholders, a Center for Sustainable Tourism will be established with active industry engagement (Advisory Board) and partnership. The mission of the Center will be largely to serve tourism destinations and industries through research, training and outreach within the community, province and other regions in southern Africa. In Year 3, faculty development will be emphasized with regard to enhancing capacity as well as collaborative initiatives in tourism research with the project team and select UF faculty. The facilitation of collaborative initiatives in research partnerships will be sustained during and post-completion of the project. Also, professional development opportunities will be offered to current TUT faculty through a short exchange program with UF.

The project team has been formulated based on their respective backgrounds, knowledge and expertise within and outside UF which will be instrumental in accomplishing the objectives and strengthening the partnership between UF and TUT.

This project is led by Dr. Brijesh Thapa, an associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation, & Sports Management and director of UF's Center for Tourism Research and Development. He is also affiliate faculty with the center for African Studies. The partnership is managed through the Higher Education for Development agency with a three-year funding award of \$250,000 from the United States Agency for International Development.

New Master's Degree in Sustainable Development Practice

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded the Center for Latin American Studies and the Center for African Studies at the University of Florida nearly \$1 million to create a master's degree in development practice.

In 2007 a group of 20 leading scholars and practitioners were commissioned to conduct a year-long study of development educational programs across the globe. This International Commission on Education for Sustainable Development Practice found that existing development programs lacked critical linkages between the natural, social, and health sciences and management to address urgent problems in the developing world. They concluded that "generalist practitioners" are needed to bridge the gaps between specialized disciplines and "develop integrated policy solutions that are scientifically, politically and contextually grounded."

The MacArthur Foundation has devoted \$15 million to implement the recommendations of the Commission by developing a global network of Master's programs in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP). The first MDP program was initiated in October 2008 at the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

In June 2009, UF was selected as one of only two universities in the U.S. to receive this prestigious award to create an MDP program. Nine other universities in India, Australia, Ireland, China, Senegal, Botswana, and Nigeria were also funded.

The MDP degree at the University of Florida will focus on training development practitioners who will be able to address development challenges facing poor, resource rich communities in innovative ways. The program will partner with the University of Botswana as well as universities in Latin America to combine coursework with field experiences in agriculture, policy, health, engineering, management, environmental science, education and nutrition.

The program is aimed at individuals who have an interest or background in some aspect of development and who want to be a part of a global network of development specialists who will pioneer innovative responses to critical development challenges including poverty alleviation, climate change, disease control, natural resource governance, and sustainable housing.

We expect to admit the first class of students in Fall 2010. For more information please visit www.africa.ufl.edu/mdp.

Academic Year & Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

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

Fellowships are offered for any one of the regularly taught languages (**Akan, Amharic, Arabic, 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.

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

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

Thanks to Our Donors

Madelyn M. Lockhart Graduate Research Award



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

Jeanne & Hunt Davis Graduate Research Award



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

African Studies Faculty & Alumni Pre-Dissertation Award

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

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

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

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Be Part of This Exciting Work: Contribute to Graduate Student Research on Africa at UF

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

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

must demonstrate a strong familiarity with the proposed field site and the capability to carry out the proposed work.

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

The Center for African Studies has recently established a fund with the goal of creating an endowment of at least \$30,000,

so as to generate the revenue for an annual award to help a student carry out pre-dissertation research in Africa. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, we (and future generations of UF Africanist students!) would be very grateful. The form below can be used for this purpose.

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

If you have any questions or would like more information—please contact Leonardo Villalón (CAS director) at villalon@afrika.ufl.edu or 352-392-2183



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Thank you for your support!

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The Center Would Like to Thank

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