We are excited to see KASC growing and flourishing as we welcome five new staff members that have already made a significant impact on our Center. We are pleased to achieve a more coherent African studies curriculum across disciplines at KU, and to invest in our African language program by maintaining the base languages and adding new ones. With much delight, we are thrilled to expand our outreach program and strengthen teacher training through offering additional curricular resources and invest in our new Mid American Outreach Initiative and strengthening our connections with the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS). There is - without a doubt - excitement flooding the Center! We ended fall 2006 with a successful seminar, brownbag series, employment searches, and the hiring of new Center staff. It was certainly a triumphant semester.

In this newsletter, you will find reports about our fall activities as well as announcements of upcoming planned events. Our 2007 spring semester seems busy, as you may see in the comprehensive calendar attached to this issue. We are looking forward to an interesting outreach conference and symposium as well as our dynamic seminar and brownbag series.

Khalid El-Hassan, Editor

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

By: Garth Myers

It has been quite a thrill ride for me this semester, as I have been learning the ropes as Director. The excitement and possibility created from the tremendous shot in the arm of NRC+FLAS funding sustains me through the withering layers of bureaucracy and regulations I must now learn. If one were to ask me what I have done in the fall semester, I would have to repeat the words John Janzen wrote to me in an email several months back, about the fall 2000 semester, his first as Director of a Title VI National Resource Center: “I spent the fall learning how to hire people.”

Beyond the appointment of our new faculty Associate Director, Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka, and the re-formulation of Khalid El-Hassan’s position to be that of administrative Associate Director, KASC has hired a handful of new staff. We have a new student assistant (the creative and ever-enthusiastic Jennifer Attocknie), a curatorial assistant (web wizard Orion Graf), a library assistant (multilingual Nady Osmat), an outreach assistant (our newest statesman, Emmanuel Birdling), and a Longview grant assistant (the irreplaceable Kelley McCarthy); we have upgraded the status of our formerly part-time Kiswahili lecturer (our second new statesman, Ashford Njogu) to full-time, run a search for a full-time lecturer in Arabic (hiring Georgette Jabbour at press time), and provided funding for lecturers and teaching assistants for core Africa classes in Spring 2007. I have also, luckily, begun to learn how to pay people, an entirely separate issue from searching for or hiring them, apparently.

What drove me to apply for this position in the first place would not have had anything to do with enhancing my skills with paperwork or bureaucracy – although I admit that I really had no idea quite how much I had to learn or how much that learning would consume of the alleged “50%” of my appointment that is now devoted to directing the center (in the new math, this “50%” equals about 186%). Instead, intellectual, curricular, and activist energies and enthusiasms were at the heart of my
decision-making about the post. I am delighted to report that this portion of the job has been immensely rewarding. We have had a very successful and thought-provoking seminar series this fall on security issues, with a variety of presentations from KU colleagues and colleagues from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The Center worked with The Light Center and Ecumenical Christian Ministries to bring the incomparable cellist and performance artist Francois Le Roux from South Africa. Other programs or centers sponsored several fantastic public lectures with Africa content, with notable visits, talks, or performances by Nuruddin Farah, Takao Shibata, Paul Adderly, and Polly Roberts. We also had two impromptu visits this fall, from South Africa’s Chicago-based Consul-General Yusuf Omar and from the Director of the Zambia Initiative for resettlement of refugees, Dr. Dominic Minyoi that led to quite fruitful exchanges that may lead us in exciting directions. Our Brownbag talks were well attended all semester, too, with our own fine faculty and graduate student talks supplemented by guests like the University of Kansas Chancellor’s Professor for 2006-2007 Takao Shibata and Oxfam’s Jim French.

We are now very busy, led by Gitti Salami, in the preparation for the February 22-25, 2007 conference on “Sufi Arts, Rituals, and Performance in Africa” that coincides with the opening of the Spencer Museum of Art’s exhibition on “A Saint in the City: Sufi Arts of Urban Senegal.” February will also find KASC hosting a symposium on the 9th and 10th, “Soyinka: the Man, the Playwright, the Novelist, the Activist,” to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Wole Soyinka’s Nobel Prize in Literature. We have lined up a stimulating seminar series for spring 2007, on Cities in Africa. Between the Sufi conference, the Soyinka symposium, and the Cities seminar series, we will welcome an enticing roster of scholars to KU this Spring term, including Niyi Coker, Chinyere Okafor, Karen Tranberg Hansen, Francis Owusu, Stephen Commins, Cheikh Babou, Souleymane Diagne, Cynthia Becker, Allen Roberts, Salah Hassan, and Fiona McLaughlin – not to mention Okwei Enwezor, who will be giving the Murphy Lectures in the Spencer Museum this spring - and I welcome all of you to attend their talks and interact with them while they are here. The years to come will bring more excitement along these lines. First-year professors Majid Hannoum and Ebenezer Obadare are already proposing ambitious seminars for the future. Byron Caminero-Santangelo is already busy setting up the next spring conference (for 2008).

Curricular development is expanding apace. Our Morocco-based Arabic Summer Institute is once again attracting significant interest, as our language coordinator Dr. Naima Omar and 2nd-year linguistics professor Harold Torrence forge new links with the Africanist language and linguistics communities. Our Executive Committee has approved a proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in African Studies that will now be moving forward through the formal channels for approvals. This spring term we embark on the initial adventure of offering Fanti as a Directed Language Study course alongside our four core language courses. Thanks to Byron Caminero-Santangelo’s fall trip to South Africa, we have secured a new study abroad opportunity for KU students, beginning in summer 2008, at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Peter Ukpokodu, Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, Alassane Fall, and Alassane’s students in the Wolof classes have, by their various actions, reignited our Senegal study-abroad opportunities. I will be meeting with officials at the State University of Zanzibar in July 2007 to, hopefully, get a study abroad program started there by 2008 or 2009. Elizabeth MacGonagle and Hannah Britton are traveling to Namibia (and potentially Angola) on KASC’s behalf with similar objectives this coming summer. John Kennedy is distance-teaching his spring 2007 research methods class in Political Science to a select group of students at Mogadishu University, in Somalia, in what I think of as an unprecedented and extraordinary effort.

KASC is really moving ahead with outreach and activity with the community. We have begun the new Great Plains Outreach Initiative, with an invitation to our Mid-America Alliance for African Studies colleagues to apply for one of five $300 travel grants to come to KU for the Sufi conference or for collaborative work with KU faculty, in particular, when related to our projects on new African immigrants. Speaking of MAAAS, we sent a full van-load of KU participants to St. Louis for the 2006 annual meeting in November. Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka gave a stirring keynote address to the conference, and several graduate students gave exceptionally impressive paper talks. KU will host MAAAS 2007 in late September, where the organization will award the first-ever Ken Lohrentz Award for best graduate student paper, in honor of our long-time KU Africana bibliographer as Ken moves into retirement. Ken’s own gift for outreach was on display alongside Omofolabo’s in the exciting Africa component to the KU Libraries’ International Education Week celebration that immediately followed MAAAS. KASC was also very well represented at the African Studies Association annual meeting in San Francisco. Nine of us gathered to raise a toast to the Center for its newly regained NRC status, vowing to have a proper reception next year at the New York ASA meetings. Kelley McCarthy has made extraordinary progress in her work on the Longview Foundation grant, making many modules for teaching Africa in the high schools available through the KASC website and building bridges with local teachers in
Kansas and Missouri. John Janzen has quite nearly finished the exceptional video that he has led the way in producing as the capstone for our Kansas Humanities Council grant to study “Identity, Voice, and Community” among new African immigrants in the state. Allassane Fall has forged new outreach links with correctional facilities in Lansing and Topeka, Kansas and Allassane joined Emmanuel Birdling and Khalid El-Hassan on a panel on “Islamic Activism in Africa” at Fort Leavenworth.

All in all, fall 2006 has been a very rich and rewarding semester, and spring 2007 looks like it will be even more so. I ask for all of you to participate in continuing to make KASC better and stronger, in little ways and grand, as the first year of the 3rd Title VI cycle rolls along.

**WELCOME NEW KASC STAFF**

**Emmanuel Birdling** is the new KASC Outreach Coordinator. He is originally from Northern Nigeria, born and raised in a village on the slopes of the Mandara Mountains, 67 miles from the borders of Northwestern Cameroon and Northeastern Nigeria. He belongs to the Margi ethnic group in Nigeria. He attended an American Missionary primary school (conducted by the Church of the Brethren) in his village of Gulak, and then attended a government secondary school in Bauchi, Nigeria, about 500 miles away from his home village. He worked for the Gongola State (of Nigeria) Government in the Ministry for Works and Housing for six years. During this time, he was sent for in-service training as an Assistant Works Superintendent, then as a technical officer to the famous (in Nigeria) College of Science and Technology at Kaduna. He came to the United States and attended Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg, Missouri; after graduating with a B.Sc. in Construction Engineering Technology, he went on to work for 12 years for Kansas City, Missouri as a city inspector. He also has experience as the Physical Plant Operation Director for the (former) North Hill Hospital in KC, MO, a K-12 Construction Trade Instructor, and as a Community Organizer under Kaw-Valley Habitat for Humanity in Kansas City, Kansas. Currently he is working towards an M.A in International Studies at the University of Kansas.

Joining the Center staff in August 2006, **Kelley McCarthy** is the Assistant for Curriculum Development for Teaching Africa and the Middle East in the Great Plains, a project sponsored by the Longview Foundation that was launched in June 2006, and will continue into 2007. Kelley assists with the development and distribution of curricular materials on Africa for teachers, including teaching modules that are prepared for website display. She has devoted limitless effort into creating a webpage for this project, a tool that will prove to be beneficial for teachers and their students. Alongside the always optimistic Emmanuel Birdling, Kelley manages the entire KASC site, recently giving it a new vitality. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from KU in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and a minor in African studies. She plans to continue her education by attending graduate school to obtain a master’s in anthropology with a focus on Africa. She is a significant addition to the Center and is happy to be a part of KASC!

Having joined our staff in August ’06, **Orion Graf** has made many new changes and updates to our African Art and Material Culture Collections website under Dr. John Janzen and Dr. Tom Foor. He is also working with Dr. Gitti Salami on her Virtual Tour of the African Collection site. His goal is to provide a new and large variety of photographs and information to the websites that will be more aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly than previous versions. Orion graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff Arizona in the spring of 2004 with a bachelor of arts in anthropology. He is currently pursuing his graduate degree in biological anthropology (genetics) under Dr. Michael Crawford and Dr. Alan Redd. Some of his outside interests include: reading, playing his guitar, watching movies, and traveling. He will soon have a very exciting new interest in his life as he and his wife are expecting their first child in March. Orion is looking forward to working with all of you in the upcoming semester.

**Jennifer Attocknie** is an undergraduate theatre major, who returned to KU after a 9 year absence. Her academic interests include postcolonial and multi-cultural theatre, focusing on Native American Theatre. She has directed and acted in several plays both professionally and through a university setting. She has a 3 year old son who attends Hilltop Child
Development Center on campus. She also has experience in event planning in university, international, and military settings. She plans on attending graduate school and becoming a professor.

Nady Osmat, Library Assistant to Africana Bibliographer, Ken Lohrentz, is an international student from Lebanon who is majoring in mechanical engineering at KU. Nady’s mother tongue is Arabic, but he is also fluent in French and English as he received language instruction in all three in his primary and secondary education in Lebanon. During the two years he studied at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, Nady served as the Vice President of the Arabic Club, where he was keen on promoting the study of the Arabic language among American students and establishing affiliations with African-American student organizations and clubs. Currently, as a KASC staff member, Nady assists Dr. Ken Lohrentz in choosing books for the African Studies Library at the Anschutz Library. He uses his knowledge of Arabic and French to select interesting works by African writers, especially from Arabic and French-speaking North African countries. Nady is a music fanatic with very eclectic tastes. His other hobbies include reading, photography, filmmaking, dancing, news, politics, movies, and sports.

The fall 2006 African Studies Seminar, sponsored by the KASC in collaboration with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, KS, was presented on African and U.S. security interests and the role of African militaries on the continent. The goal of this series was to give the participants greater insights into some of the areas of interplay military forces have in the daily affairs of present-day Africa. Special emphasis was on the role of the American military in conjunction with other aspects of American policy that are being used in regards to current and future U.S. national security interests and strategy on the African continent. An obvious conclusion from this series of presentations was the realization that U.S. economic, political, and security interests in Africa are on the rise.

The seminar series was launched with a presentation by Major (Chaplain) Bob Owen on "Islamic Terrorism in Africa and America's Response to It." The presentation was well illustrated by videos and examples from different parts of Africa. It was followed by a strong audience discussion relating to Northern Nigerian perspectives on the U.S. policy cornering the war on Islamic terrorism. The second presentation was delivered by Douglas Lathrop, CGSC faculty, on September 14, entitled: "China in Africa: Has the Cold War Returned to the Continent?" The basic content of the presentation was an in-depth look at China's return to Africa in a big way. The analytical part of the briefing focused on the impact this may have upon the U.S. military in Africa. Mr. Lathrop also presented "Oil in Africa: Cure or Curse or What a Difference an ‘S’ Makes" on October 19. This presentation, in particular, was extremely interesting and raised many political, economic, and environmental issues.

The third presentation examined the efforts of the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa (CJTF HOA) in promoting regional stability, building capacity, and combating terrorism in the Horn of Africa and East Africa. The Task Force’s actions were placed into the larger context of the political/economic situation of the Horn and East Africa. It was presented by Lt. Col. Shawn Cupp and Anton Menning, KU graduate student and journalist who was embedded as a reporter in the Task Force. The lecture provided a critical look into the ultimate effectiveness of the U.S. military in Africa and attempted to answer the question: Is terrorism really a concern in the region?

The closing session of this successful seminar presented student officers Captain Sidi Toure from Mali and Lt. Col. Elias Abraha from Ethiopia on November 30 to discuss security issues in Africa from African military perspectives. It was well received and discussed by an
audience of faculty and students. December 6, KASC presented a panel on "The Wave of Islamic Activism in Africa" for the CGSC faculty and staff. We would like to thank Doug Lathrop and his colleagues at the CGSC at Leavenworth for their effort and dedication in preparing and presenting this seminar. All of the PowerPoint presentations of the seminar series, in addition to many other articles provided by our Leavenworth colleagues are available at the Center and on our website. The significance of this seminar demonstrates that the CGSC at Fort Leavenworth and KU have a viable two-way exchange relationship. We look forward to continuing this collaboration between Africanists at KU and CGSC.

Audience participants from the African Studies Seminar on Security Issues in Africa

PEACE CORPS AND THE BUDDING OF AN AFRICANIST

By: Hilary Hungerford, Graduate Student, KU

After my undergraduate work in geography, I was not ready to delve into the grind of graduate school. I wanted, instead, to live somewhere with a different culture and way of life. The Peace Corps offered me this opportunity, and for two years I lived and worked in a rural community in Benin. My official assignment was Rural Community Health. I worked with the local health center, spearheading much of their public outreach campaigns on sanitation, AIDS, and child nutrition. The health clinic staff consisted of one nurse, one midwife, one pharmacist, and seven assistants, all receiving meager wages for their time and energy. I was glad to support their work by developing outreach programs.

The first five months in Gouka were spent assessing health concerns of the community and learning about village life in general. As a geographer, it was essential for me to know the place and what it means to the people that live there. This time was spent talking with people at the market, visiting neighbors and friends houses', attending village dances and ceremonies, and trying to learn the local Ifé language. My curiosity was met with equal inquisitiveness as to what my life, thoughts, and home were like.

Members of Imontoto Women’s Group

My primary project in Gouka was public sanitation in collaboration with a local women’s group. The community was growing, and new growth prompted some environmental stress that had serious health consequences. Showers and urinals, for example, were often erected quickly but drainage systems did not accommodate their use. The women’s group learned how to construct drains made of local materials—rock, gravel, and charcoal—and assembled these drains in 15 households. In addition, the group cleaned the public market every morning before market in an effort to squelch sicknesses caused by unsanitary conditions, such as typhoid fever and gastrointestinal ailments. Each market vendor paid a small amount to the group in exchange for their cleaning service. Monies gained were used to buy supplies and provide small loans to group members. As of December 2006, the group is still active and expanding their activities to include composting and radio programs.

Outside with my next door neighbor
I worked with a community theater group in Gouka on AIDS education. Together we developed short skits and songs about AIDS—how to get it, what it does, and how to prevent it. With help from a small grant from the Peace Corps, we held a week-long training for group members on AIDS education. A guest speaker came from a national NGO that supports people with AIDS to talk to community leaders about the reality of the AIDS epidemic in Benin.

Gouka’s Theatre Group

I am grateful for the time I was able to spend in Benin. I feel I gained a unique perspective of what life is like in a rural community in West Africa. My experience is a foundation on which my graduate work in geography has developed and will continue to grow. Peace Corps provided me an opportunity to develop relationships and understandings with people in Benin that I will always cherish. I believe in the importance of helping people tell their stories, and feel this is a primary objective of my current and future academic work.

The first night I spent in Gouka, the village I lived and worked in during my service, was the longest night of my entire life. I sat on the cement floor of my new home, listened to a mix tape from a friend, and thought I would never last the two years. There are things I will never forget, but wish I could: frustrating misunderstandings at work, the embarrassing moments of impatience, or the advice from a friend I should have followed but didn’t. Most of my memories, though, are of a time cherished and a place loved: dinner by candlelight every night, the festive marketplace twice a week, showers under a roof made of stars, and friends that are now like family. I learned that wherever you go in life, there’s always a slice of home.

Sunflower field near Gouka

In addition to working with the theater group, I also held month-long AIDS education classes for various groups in the community including out-of-school youth, taxi drivers, and apprentices.

Taxi Moto Drivers of Gouka and Atokolibe

Glenn Adams, Assistant Professor of Psychology, traveled to Greece during the summer of 2006 and presented two papers describing research he conducted while in Ghana. He presented the first paper, “Enemyship as Intimate Connection: Implications for the Study of Personal Relationship,” at the bi-annual meeting of the International Association for Relationship Research in Crete. From there, he traveled to the Isle of Spetses, where he presented his second paper, “The Cultural Grounding of Friendship: Cross-Cultural and Experimental Evidence” at the 18th Congress of the International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology.” During the 2006 fall semester, Glenn presented a third paper, “Fieldwork in Ghana: Implications for the Study of Personal Relationship,” at the annual meeting of the Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.
Elizabeth Asiedu, Associate Professor of Economics, is among a group of ten researchers and educators chosen by *Diverse* magazine as Emerging Scholars for 2007. Scholars are nominated by department chairs, other scholars in their field, and university public relations staff. Asiedu caught the attention of the magazine, formerly called Black Issues in Higher Education, for her research into the role of foreign nations’ direct investments on Africa’s economy. Asiedu has advised policymakers in Africa on how to make a “friendlier” investment climate to attract more foreign investment. She has also worked for several international organizations including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, International Labor Organization and the International Monetary Fund on issues regarding foreign investment to Africa. On behalf of our Africanist community at KU, we would like to congratulate Elizabeth for this significant recognition.

Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, English, gave a paper at the Annual Literature and Ecology Colloquium at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa in October 2006, entitled "Zakes Mda’s *Heart of Redness: Some Thought on the Nature of Nature." While at Rhodes, he also explored possibilities for summer study abroad. After his return, Dr. Caminero-Santangelo proposed and organized a study abroad program, "Society, Politics, and Culture in South Africa." The program will consist of two courses. One will be taught by some of Rhodes University's finest scholars and will consist of the following three "modules": 1) an intense introduction to the background needed to understand the complexities, problems, promises and challenges of modern South Africa; 2) a week-long immersion in South African art and culture, with an emphasis on contemporary music and the post-1994 novel; 3) a choice of three thematically oriented mini-courses (Poverty and Development Policies in an Arid Zone, The SA HIV/Aids Epidemic, Changing Environments and Environmental Education) which will include the opportunity to see inaccessible parts of South Africa, as well as hands-on field experience or service learning. Integrated into the course are several excursions in and around Grahamstown. During the first week of study, students will visit a game reserve. The second week will comprise a week-long immersion in South African and Art and Culture through participation in the Grahamstown National Arts Festival. During the third and fourth weeks of study, site visits will vary depending upon the chosen mini-course (the Karoo, the "Wild Coast," King Williamstown). The second course, taught by Dr. Caminero-Santangelo, offers an introduction to contemporary South African fiction. Students will be reading novels by and exploring the relationship among some the most important recent South African literary voices—Nadine Gordimer, Alex LaGuma, Athol Fugard, Zakes Mda, and Zoe Wicomb—as they reflect on South African society and politics. At the same time, the course will afford students the opportunity to reflect on and reinforce what they learned during their study in South Africa using the novels. For further information on the program, contact Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Department of English, Kansas University, 3118 Wescoe Hall, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045-7590. Dr. Caminero-Santangelo also published an article entitled "Of Freedom and Oil: Nation, Globalization, and Civil Liberties in the Writing of Ken Saro-Wiwa" in REAL: *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature*. v. 22 (2006).

Jane Irungu, Coordinator of the Global Awareness Program (GAP) presented a paper entitled, “Creating an Integrated Student Global Awareness and Curriculum Internationalization Program” at NAfSA: The Association of International Educators Region II meeting held Nov 8-10, 2006 at Kansas City, MO. Her presentation was nominated as the best of Region II.

Yusuf Omar, the South African Consul General in Chicago, and his delegation visited KU on November 14, 2006. Mr. Omar and his delegation visited KU while touring the Midwest to make connections and to collaborate with KU in projects for the future. Their mission is to improve the quality of life of South Africans by promoting good relations with all segments of the United States. Dean of the Graduate School Diana Carlin and the Office of International Programs hosted a luncheon at the Kansas Union in honor of Mr. Omar and his delegation. It was attended by KASC Director, Garth Myers, and a select number of Africanist faculty who have research interests or maintain connections with South Africa. In the afternoon, KASC held an open house for Mr. Omar and his delegation at the Center’s offices. Mr. Omar addressed a large group of Africanist faculty and graduate students, who gathered at KASC’s open house and spoke about potential opportunities of collaboration between KU and South Africa.
Garth Myers, KASC Director and Associate Professor of Geography and African Studies, has published a book that he co-edited with Martin Murray of Binghamton University, "Cities in Contemporary Africa" (Palgrave Macmillan), and an article in the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, on Lusaka, Zambia. A third publication is forthcoming in Social and Cultural Geography, co-authored with Mohamed Dosi and Leonce Rushubirwa on Tanzanians in Kansas. Garth presented papers at the MAAAS and ASA conferences this fall. He will be conducting research in Finland and Tanzania in 2007 on his current NSF grant project on land reform and political and economic reform in Zanzibar.

Shaunika Cotton is a University of Kansas Junior in the African and African American Studies Department. She is majoring in African and African American Studies with a minor in peace and conflict studies. She is also a member of the Global Awareness Program that honors students that add an international dimension to their undergraduate degree. She will be studying abroad during the spring semester of 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania through a program administered by the University of Florida. Studying at the University of Dar es Salaam, she will be taking courses in African studies as well as the Swahili language.


Dominic Minyoi, the National Program Director of the Initiative Development Program of the Commission for Refugees in Zambia visited KU November 21, 2006. Dr. Minyoi presented a seminar entitled "Development through Integration of Refugees: The Zambia Initiative as a Durable Solution for Protracted Refugee Situations." The seminar was attended by KU Africanist faculty and graduate students. Dr. Minyoi visited the Center and asked to be added to our e-mail distribution list, and promised to be in contact with the Center and its people. Dr. Minyoi’s visit to KU was made possible due to the contacts of Angela Gray, Ph.D. student in Geography and Garth Myers, KASC Director.

Alice Lieberman, Associate Professor in the School of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Kansas African Studies Center held a successful film screening of “The Lost Boys of Sudan,” at Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union. The screening was attended by 250 faculty and students from the School of Social Welfare as well as members of the Africanist community at KU. A very intriguing discussion of the film was led by Abraham Beny, the President of the Lost Boys of Sudan organization in Kansas City, MO and one of his colleagues following the film showing. The screening of
the film was sponsored by the School of Social Welfare and the Kansas African Studies Center.

Abraham Beny, president of the Lost Boys of Sudan organization in Kansas City, addressing KU students

Nuruddin Farah, the famous Somali novelist, visited KU and presented a public lecture entitled “The Fork in the Fork of the Road” on September 12, 2006. Farah is considered one of the world’s great authors and is the winner of the 1998 Neustadt International Prize for Literature. He has lived much of his adult life in exile in a variety of African countries. He currently lives in South Africa. His most recent novel, *Links*, has won praise around the world for its cogent and personalized analysis of Somalia’s political upheaval, with a particular focus on the aftermath of the U.S. intervention in the early 1990s.

Nuruddin Farah talking with Louisa Matmati, Fulbright visiting scholar from Algeria

Farah’s lecture drew over three hundred listeners to the Kansas Union’s Woodruff Auditorium. His visit to the University of Kansas also included a discussion session the following day at the Hall Center. African Studies Council member Byron Caminero-Santangelo introduced Farah at the main lecture, and Kansas African Studies Center Director Garth Myers moderated the discussion on September 13th. After the visit, Dr. Caminero-Santangelo noted Farah’s great “generosity and graciousness in answering questions” about Somalia, gender, the environment, the veil in Islamic cultures, and other broad themes. His lecture was part of the Humanities Lecture Series sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and is supported by the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City.

In Spring 2007, the undergraduate students from University of Kansas (KU) and Mogadishu University (MU) will attend the same class on political science research methods through an internet link and “streaming” video. This course exchange will contribute to current program development in the social sciences and the Institute for Somali Studies at MU. The political science course POLS 306 Methods of Inquiry that covers basic research methods including data collection and statistical analysis will be recorded in a KU lecture hall and then uploaded to a web page and accessed by MU students the following day. KU and MU students will also have an opportunity to communicate with each other and share ideas about the class and cultural differences through e-mail. Current social and political conditions in Somalia have made life very difficult for many Somalis, but within this politically unstable environment, MU is an intellectual safe haven for Somali students and professors. KU has an opportunity to work with MU professors and contribute to the continuation and further development of this educational sanctuary. The current exchange project is the result of a collaborative effort that began in 2005 with Abdirahman Gutale, John Kennedy, Garth Myers, Abdinur Mohamed, and Khalid El-Hassan, as well as the Kansas African Studies Center, Department of African and African American Studies, and the KU Department of Political Science. Finally, Thomson Learning-Atomic Dog Publishing donated brand new textbooks for the MU students and professors.

John Janzen, Professor of Anthropology, devoted the fall semester to wrapping up unfinished African studies projects begun under his tenure as director, and moved back to medical anthropology. The first of these projects was the *Proceedings* of the April 7-8, 2006 workshop on “Business and Islam,” conceived by KU economics professor Mohamed El-Hodiri and Professor Sultan Abou Ali of Zagazig University, Cairo, Egypt, the keynote lecturer. The KU Center for Business Education & Research, under the direction of Melissa Birch, PhD, helped coordinate and sponsor the workshop.
that drew about 35 participants. Dr. Janzen authored the summary proceedings, and was assisted in transcriptions of the lectures and discussions by Ousmane Seck, recent PhD graduate in Economics, and Zaier Aouani, PhD student in Economics, University of Kansas. See KASC website. The second project is the Kansas Humanities Council sponsored "Identity, Voice, Community: New African Immigrants to Kansas." Janzen has been preparing the project materials—interview transcripts, photographs, and public program sessions—for public access in the Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library. He has also completed a video film on the project. A summary of this material is available on the KASC website.

On October 12, 2006, Dr. Janzen delivered the keynote address at the University of Florida African Studies Center conference "Transnational Medicines, Mobile Experts—Anthropological Perspectives on Medicine in and beyond Africa." His keynote lecture, which opened the conference, was entitled "Afri-Global Medicine: New Perspectives on Epidemics, Drugs, Wars, Migrations and Healing Rituals." Speaking on "the medicine of global intersections," Janzen defined his topic as "situations of sickness and healing in an African setting that are affected, addressed, or handled by wider global forces or agencies" and "where persons, practices, or material media that have originated in Africa are used far from their origins in a manner reminiscent of their original characteristics." He developed three extensive case studies of such globalization from his research: (1) Ebola outbreaks, and the conversations between local communities and global health care agencies over the nature of the epidemics and how to deal with them; (2) the intersection of African material media, traditional experts, pharmacists, and researchers, and multinational pharmaceutical companies over control of and access to these resources; (3) the displacement and movement of migrants and the transnational communities that result, exemplified by a commune in Rwanda and the Somali Foundation of Kansas City. Globalization, as one of the defining features of our time, has a profound impact on health in Africa and how health crises are handled.


The African Women's Student Organization (AWSO) is a new Africanist student organization at KU. It was formed in August 2006 to promote empowerment, initiative, advocacy, and leadership among African women at KU. In the words of Ainehi Edoro, AWSO President, "Whenever we are asked to tell the story of our beginnings, we always go back to one of the seminar sessions arranged by the University of Kansas African Studies Center in which Dr. Hannah Britton, in a talk about her research on Southern African women in the parliament of South Africa, noted the pivotal role powerful women’s movements have played in African politics. We took that statement to mean that organization—mobilization, group action—is the key to being relevant both in our present KU community and back home on the continent of Africa, hence the urgency with which we formed an African women’s student group.” According to Ainehi, AWSO is great because it gives the Africanist community at KU a unique platform from which to engage issues affecting African women such as HIV/AIDS, girl-child education, political participation and representation, harmful traditional practices, etc. As a cultural organization, AWSO is also a space where cultural exchange can occur between the differing groups that constitute KU’s increasingly diverse community. Finally, as a group of mostly young women and men, AWSO also seeks to celebrate all that is youthful in Africa by promoting contemporary African cultural creativity.

Jim French, Oxfam regional coordinator and farmer of wheat, cattle, and grain sorghum from Partridge, Kansas, and Charlie Melander, wheat and row crop farmer from Assaria, KS, presented an interesting brownbag lecture to the Africanist community at KU on August 25, 2006. French and Melander joined farmers from Texas, Illinois, Virginia, and Vermont on a tour from July 9 to July 16, 2006, of Mali and Senegal. The tour, hosted by Oxfam America, gave U.S. farmers the opportunity to meet West African farmers and visit rural agricultural communities.
According to French and Melander, this face-to-face experience provided a close look at the lives of rural Africans in the challenging context of the global economy. They said that over 80% of the world's poorest people, like these in West Africa, depend upon agriculture in some way for their livelihoods, and most live in rural areas. They also argued that the tour had implications that go beyond farming; it touched on issues like hunger, poverty, immigration, and political stability. The tour came at a crucial point in time as the recent Doha talks in the WTO continue, and as the U.S. Congress looks to authorize a new farm bill in 2007. French and Melander had an engaging PowerPoint presentation in which they shared photos from their trip.

The Kansas African Studies Center held a meeting for "African Migration" on October 27, 2006. The meeting discussed issues and future perspectives of KASC research interests on African migration. KASC's former and current leadership reported and discussed the outcomes of its research project, "Identity, Voice, and Community among New African Immigrants to Kansas" funded by the Kansas Humanities Council. They also discussed its "Mid America Outreach Initiative" sponsored by the Department of Education’s Title VI NRC grant which was also presented at the MAAAS conference in St. Louis, MO November 3-4, 2006. Most importantly, KASC discussed with a group of Africanist faculty and graduate students future perspectives on African migration and the possibilities of obtaining significant future funding.


Matt Conley, KU senior, studied abroad in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from January to May 2006. He studied at the University of Dar es Salaam in development studies and political science. Matt lived on campus with several other Tanzanian students. He taught English daily to carvers in the Mwenge Market, so individuals could expand their communication with their clientele. He went on safari to the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park where he saw many wild animals ranging from packs of lions to many elephants. Matt also attended the Sauti za Busara festival, which translated into “words of wisdom” in Swahili, in Zanzibar, the Swahili music festival, and the International Film Festival. After the school term was completed, he traveled throughout Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. On his travels he rafted the Nile, trekked chimps, and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. He had the time of his life and is currently working on finishing up his degree at KU so he can find his way back to the continent of Africa.

FACE AIDS is a new student organization at KU. This national student organization was founded by three Stanford students to mobilize and inspire students to fight AIDS in Africa. It raises funds and uses lunch awareness campaigns at universities across the country. So far, they have over 100 colleges signed on including Kansas University. Their campaigns are centered on the distribution of beaded AIDS awareness pins. These pins are made by AIDS-affected individuals in Zambia, who gain both a needed source of income and the benefits of an AIDS support group from their work. Each pin sold in the U.S. is accompanied with the name and story of the pin-maker, creating a medium through which American students may identify personally with the epidemic of AIDS in Africa. Along with distributing pins, each university campaign will coordinate educational and awareness events at their school. The FACE AIDS at KU organization held a film screening of the acclaimed film, Hotel Rwanda, which was followed by a presentation and discussion about war and conflict in "post-colonial" Africa on October 26, 2006 at the Solidarity Center in Lawrence for their fundraising campaign.

ABOUNA (Our Father), a film by Mahamet Saleh Haroun, was shown during the TOURNÉES KU French/Francophone Film Festival on November 7, 2006 at Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union. The film, portraying two brothers searching for their father who has abandoned the family, takes place in Chad and is in the French and Arabic languages. It is also subtitled in English. The Tournées festival was organized by the KU Department of French and Italian with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture (CNC). Other sponsors were the KU Department of Theatre and Film, the Kansas African Studies Center, European Studies, History, KU Honors Program, and the Kansas Memorial Unions.
**Wangari Mathai,** Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner, will be speaking at Benedictine College, KS, her alma mater, on Sunday, January 28, 2007. Dr. Mathai is the founder of the Green Belt movement in Kenya, a long-time advocate for sound environment and land policies. In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace" — the first African woman to receive the award. Hon. Dr. Maathai is also an elected member of Parliament and served as Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources in the government of President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya between January 2003 and November 2005.

**Peace Corps around the World** was a presentation series organized by Betty Barron, KU Peace Corps representative during fall 2006. It will continue to be held in the spring of 2007. The forum hosted a number of KU professors and graduate students to discuss their experiences. **Glenn Adams,** Assistant Professor of Psychology, discussed Sierra Leone, where he taught mathematics. The event was held November 29, 2006 in the Kansas Memorial Union. KU graduate student and returned Peace Corps volunteer **Hilary Hungerford,** who served in a health project in Benin, also presented an interesting PowerPoint slideshow, "Turning Hope into Action: Combatting HIV/AIDS" on December 1, 2006 at the Kansas Memorial Union, in a brownbag event.

**Melissa Filippi-Franz,** Ph.D. student in Anthropology and her husband Eddie had a baby boy on October 23, 2006. Their son, Desmond Brendan Franz was born at 4:07 a.m. that morning, 10-23-06, and weighed 9 pounds and 5 ounces. He is 19 and 3/4 inches tall and he is the "cutest and most healthy baby you'll ever see," to quote the proud father who called us with this good news. Desmond was born on the *Eid El Fitr* day and he is given the name *Eid Wanaagsan* by Melissa’s Somali friends in Kansas City. In the Somali tradition, this name would be given to blessed children who were born at the time of the Eid. We are pleased that another potential Africanist has been added to our Africanist community in Lawrence!

**Takao Shibata,** former Consul General of Japan and 2006-07 University of Kansas Chancellor's Lecturer presented a brownbag for KU Africanist faculty and students on September 6, 2006. Mr. Shibata talked about his diplomatic experiences in Africa, particularly in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. He specifically addressed the issue of "Decommissioning Rebel Armies in Africa." The presentation was well received and discussed by the Africanist community at KU.

**KU, the Kansas African Studies Center,** Oxfam, Ecumenical Christian Ministries at KU, Community Mercantile and other churches, organizations and individuals were sponsors of a regional conference November 3-4, 2006. The host site was the ECM at Kansas State University, in Manhattan, KS. Over 70 participants, mostly students, gathered to address the theme “Fair Trade in the Heartland.” University of Kansas students were the largest contingent of participants. Other students were from Kansas State University, Rockhurst University, Bethany College and the University of Tulsa. The keynote was given by the Fair Trade Project Coordinator for Lutheran World Relief. Heather Putnam, a KU graduate student and member of United Students for Fair Trade and KU Students for Fair Trade/ECM Fair Trade Team, facilitated a response to the presentation that involved all the registrants of the conference. KU Political Science Professor, Catherine Weaver, presented an overview of the history of “fair” vs. “free” trade and the World Trade Organization. Her lecture was followed by a presentation from Jim French, Head Organizer (Agricultural Campaign) for Oxfam America. Workshops were on “Conscious Consumerism,” “Organizing on Campus,” “Campaigning for Change,” and “Mainstreaming Social Justice.” These workshops were led by facilitators associated with Equal Exchange Interfaith Liaison, United Students for Fair Trade, and Student Oxfam Change Leaders. ECM at KU and KU Students for Fair Trade were the primary organizers of the conference, along with ECM at Kansas State University and the...
Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ. It was interesting to note that the keynote speaker and workshop leaders were all university students or recent graduates.

Topeka Collegiate School at Topeka planned a school-wide theme focused on the African Diaspora for the 2006-2007 school year. TCS serves students in grades pre-kindergarten through eighth. The school community embraces all forms of diversity, and this commitment is reflected in the student population, the curriculum, and by the Board of Trustees. For the past three years, Collegiate has used a school-wide theme to give a more specific focus to their diversity work. The main goals of devoting this year’s theme to the “African Diaspora” are to foster positive self-identity among persons within TCS and the surrounding community who trace their ancestry in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, to Africa; to further solidify TCS’ position, in appearance and in fact, as a leader in cultural awareness and as a proponent of community strength through diversity; and to enhance faculty, student, family, and administrator understanding of the African-American culture and children. To achieve these goals, TCS has brought to campus and will be bringing to campus in the spring semester of 2007, special guests and numerous resources to the campus and to the City of Topeka, including five photo exhibitions, five musical/theater performances, many special workshops, resources, guest speakers, displays, and one film. On January 9, 2007, TCS hosted the screening and panel discussion of the film: Through Martha’s Eyes (in cooperation with script writer, Marcia Cebulska and director, Charles Cranston). For information about upcoming events, please contact Kevin Freed (kfreed@topekacollegiate.org) or Mary Loftus (mloftus@topekacollegiate.org), or call the school, 785-228-0490.

Rebekah Heacock and Heather Baker, 2006 KU graduates, have moved to Kampala, Uganda, to volunteer at the Hope Integrity Orphanage. Heacock and Baker, along with Baker's boyfriend, Colin Hamel of Lawrence, left September 4, 2006 for Uganda. Heacock will live in Uganda for a year, while Baker and Hamel will live there for nine months.

By: Kelley McCarthy, Assistant for Curriculum Development, KASC

In June 2006, the Kansas African Studies Center (KASC) was awarded a grant from the Longview Foundation to support Teaching Africa and the Middle East in the Great Plains – a project devoted to preparing and disseminating teacher training and curricular materials on Africa (including the African Diaspora, North Africa, and related aspects of the Middle East). Kansas teachers are currently on their own when they seek to address Africa in their classrooms because no clearing-house for relevant educational content now exists in the state. As a consequence, the materials they use and their approaches to teaching about Africa vary greatly. In this first year, the project will focus on high school level materials and resources, but KASC has hopes to expand its resources for other grade levels in the future. A portion of these materials, specifically teaching modules, were collected from previous KASC Teacher Summer Institutes (1995 to 2006). Created by participants of the annual institute, these modules were re-formatted for website display, and made to contain the curricular standards of Kansas and Missouri by which they meet. Additional teaching modules stem from other web resources including various universities, National Geographic, Discovery, and others. Subject matters include African history, geography, cultural studies, literature, art, music, politics, economics, and science.

All materials are currently being displayed on the Center’s website (www.kasc.ku.edu/longview). There,
educators can access and download the modules to be used in the classroom. In later stages of the project, they will also become available on other websites focused on international education. Further resources will be added with progression of the project.

Project staff John Janzen, project director, Garth Myers, co-director, Khalid El-Hassan, coordinator, and myself are working with a group of dedicated teachers from Kansas and Missouri on preparing and transforming these instructional materials to bring them into alignment with the themes prioritized in state and national education standards.

Bianca Elliott, a high school instructor at Lansing, Kansas, joined the project in the summer. She has been a participant in past Teacher Summer Institutes, including the most recent in 2006, and has written a module focusing on contemporary African culture with a female perspective. Her knowledge, interest, and desire to promote African studies within the classroom have been, no doubt, strong assets to this project. Other project participants include: Paul Adams of Topeka High School who has composed modules on Islam and the influence of western Africa on the English language; Mark Adams, Education Director and Webmaster for the Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri, who has experience working with students and teachers and has been a part of National History Day, a year-long project devoted to teaching students the significance of historical issues; and Dr. Majid Hannoum, Assistant Professor in Anthropology and African & African-American Studies who specializes in North Africa and Arab societies.

Beginning in 2007, the project staff will work with KU Continuing Education (KUCE) to develop a graduate-level course for teachers and students. Based on the anthropology course “Peoples of Africa,” the distance learning course will use case studies on various African populations to show the diversity of the continent relating to religion, government, language, societal organization, etc.

The project staff has already begun to promote the project through appropriate outlets such as websites, professional workshops, and conferences. Grant provider, the Longview Foundation, currently features a description of the project on their website. In November, literature about the project was distributed at the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) as well as the Kansas Council for the Social Studies conference held in Wichita. By distributing these materials, KASC expects teachers will adopt and use these materials within their classrooms, bringing a greater understanding of Africa to students within the region.

Teaching Africa and the Middle East in the Great Plains will extend KASC’s on-going efforts to develop appropriate and accessible Africa- and Middle East-related instructional materials for use by teachers in the Great Plains. Since 1995, the Teacher Summer Institute has been the primary approach of reaching out to K-12 teachers, as well as college level instructors. Each June, teacher participants are involved in this multidisciplinary training on teaching Africa. Through presentations, panels, hands-on library searches, and interactive discussions with Africanist faculty, the Institute’s participants are able to explore new information that can be applied directly to classroom settings. After enhancing their knowledge of the African continent, teachers prepare and contribute their own collection of papers, including teaching modules to be used as beneficial resources.

The 2007 Teacher Summer Institute, being held June 11th through the 22nd, is entitled “Africa: A Dialogue of Cultures.” It will focus on a wide range of topics that include culture, religion, language, art, historical and present-day topics. Scholarships are being offered to participants this year, providing the opportunity for more students and teachers to participate and allow the Institute’s numbers to grow.

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Paul Adams of Topeka High School presenting at the Teacher Summer Institute, 2006

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Paul Adams of Topeka High School presenting at the Teacher Summer Institute, 2006
Anton Menning, KU graduate student in Journalism, to lecturing to the fall 2007 African Studies Seminar

Matthew Conley, KU student, receiving an award from the Tanzanian woodcarvers to whom he taught English

Alassane Fall, Wolof lecturer, and his Wolof culture class

John Janzen, former director of KASC, and Khalid El-Hassan, associate director, speak with Farah Abdi of the Somali Foundation

Professor Alice Lieberman of Social Welfare with Sudanese Lost Boys speakers

Abdullah Jaradat, Arabic instructor, speaking at fall 2006 Ujamaa brownbag
Garth Myers chatting with students at Martin Luther King reception sponsored by KASC

Sara Smiley, PhD candidate in Geography, presenting at MAAAS 2006 conference in St. Louis

Dr Omofolabo Ajayi delivering her keynote address at MAAAS 2006 in St. Louis

Longview Project meeting headed by former director John Janzen

Scene from fall 2006 African Studies Seminar on Security Issues in Africa

Celebrating at the January 2007 KASC reception
Why give to the 
Kansas African Studies Center?

By giving to KASC, you contribute to African academic activities, outreach, special events, & research programs like those described in the preceding pages of this newsletter.

- supports the development of new courses, faculty and student research travel for study of African languages & the Africana Library at KU.
- promotes knowledge of Africa through academic conferences, seminars, brownbags and public lectures, cultural performances, exhibits, recitals, and festival celebrations.
- organizes annual teacher summer institute and other outreach programs that serve K-12 and post-secondary schools throughout the Great Plains region.

The Center is funded by the university, foundations, and the Department of Education (Title VI National Resource Center grant), and we actively continue to pursue such support. However, contributions from individual donors are essential not only to underwrite activities not covered by other sources, but also to demonstrate to corporate sponsors and foundations the value our alumni and members attach to the Center and its mission.

You may donate to an unrestricted fund and allow the Center to decide where your contribution can be used most effectively, or you can direct your donation to a particular area or activity, such as:
- Undergraduate or graduate study abroad scholarships
- Research or conference travel for students and faculty
- Public programs (conferences, lectures, exhibits, and performances)
- Curriculum development and African studies undergraduate minor
- Teacher Summer Institute
- The Africana Library acquisitions
- KASC website
- The Biannual Newsletter
- Gifts to the KU Endowment are tax deductible under Section 170 (b) of the IRS Code.

Please send your donations, clearly marked "for the Kansas African Studies Center," to:

Lisa Jackson, Development Officer
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
KU Endowment, P.O. Box 928
Lawrence, KS 66044-0928

We have enclosed a card and envelope for your convenience.
Art of Sudanese artist Hassaballa Omar Hassaballa on display at the Lawrence Public Library

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