A Word from the Director
Beverly Mack

Gaskiya ta fi kwabo.
Truth is better than money.
(Hausa proverb)

As the Kansas African Studies Center enters the second year of its Title VI grant, it has suffered several losses. The first and arguably most severe loss is the departure of its Director, Professor Garth Myers, to Trinity College in Hartford CT., where he is now the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies (garth.myers@trincoll.edu.). Garth’s many accomplishments here, his great enthusiasm for all things African, and his gregarious nature made him a prime catch for Trinity. We will miss his lively participation, creativity, and energetic spirit as we move ahead to further develop the Kansas African Studies Center that he continued to shape after taking the helm from John Janzen’s inaugural leadership. We extend congratulations and best wishes to him and his family for a prosperous new chapter in their lives, and hope that he will be back to visit us here in the Heartland.

KASC’s second loss, which Garth suffered through as his last official act, was the news in June that our year two Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education would be cut by 46%. The NRC portion of our grant was, in Garth’s words, “cut to the bone.”

Although it may have been due to the effect of the heat, I agreed to take on the Directorship at this crucial juncture, perhaps figuring that it could only get better. I am fortunate to have inherited a long list of KASC accomplishments, connections, and networks from my predecessors. I believe there is much good that we can do on a shoestring. I have seen the effects of the generosity of my colleagues here at KU and beyond, and I know that those of us who care deeply about educating the public about Africa will sustain the Center’s high profile.

Speaking of generosity, the College has been exceedingly generous to KASC. In response to Garth’s lobbying, Dean Danny Anderson and Associate Dean Marsha Haufler have
shown demonstrable support by securing for KASC new space in Bailey (207, 208, and 203C Bailey), and financial support for several grant initiatives that would otherwise would have been cut when the grant budget was reduced. This is especially important to us as KASC’s newly-implemented budgetary independence from AAAS means that KASC officially is now an autonomous entity at KU.

Assistant Director Christina Lux spent the first two weeks of July conducting the annual Teacher Summer Institute, ably assisted by Nefertari Hanna, Craig Pearman, Emmanuel Birdling, and Alassane Fall. South African author Véronique Tadjo delighted participants with her discussion of her own experience writing and illustrating children’s literature. Carmeletta Williams, our colleague (and Institute veteran!) from JCCC spoke about Sankofa, the Ghanaian concept of returning home. Rounding out the two-week workshop were up-close and personal lectures by our own faculty: Mujdey Abudalbuh, Shawn Alexander, Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Giselle Anatol, Shiferaw Assefa, David Blackburn, Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Caroline Chaboo, Alassane Fall, Carol Ann Carter, Heidi Hallman, Lorraine Haricombe, and Garth Myers. Glenn Adams was in Viet Nam, but, undaunted by distance, he lectured by Skype. Considering the state of the budget, we expect that technology like that will play an ever-increasing role in this year’s activities.

At the same time in July, behind the scenes, we were packing up, planning a move, getting new space painted and renovated, moving, and setting up for business in our new digs. After so many years in cramped quarters, the new space is luxuriously light and open. In addition to appropriate room in which to work, we are also delighted that the 208 Bailey office offers a place in which students can comfortably meet and chat. Christina’s 207 office, and the Director’s 203C office provide good work and conference space. We look forward to seeing visitors, and hope that you will all be stopping in to see us, in addition to checking our virtual space on Facebook, which is thriving in Christina’s tech-savvy hands. Please feel free to post Africa-related events on our Facebook page, as well as news items of interest. Our new website will also be up and running this semester, so please remember to visit and send us feedback.

As we head into the fall semester, we aim to continue some things, and institute others. The well-established brownbag lecture series continues as a prime opportunity for the exchange of ideas about and experiences in Africa. We hope to explore new ways of orchestrating a speaker series with limited funding, and look forward to brainstorming with both the Executive Committee and students alike about new projects.

KASC participated with other KU NRC Centers in the collaborative conference sponsored by CREES, “Identity and Community After the Cold War Era”, held on August 25-27, 2011. KASC’s Professor Liz MacGonagle lectured on “History and Memory on Robben Island”, and KASC’s Professor Glenn Adams was part of two panels: “Silence in Representations of American History: Implications for Identity-Relevant Action” and “What Does It Mean To Be a ‘True’ American? Constructions of National Identity and Immigration Policy.” KASC staff also assisted with registration and manning tables and moderating sessions.
Professor Ebenezer Obadare has bravely undertaken to hold the October conference, “Cultures of Exile” with almost no funding. It has been pared down to a one-day symposium, scheduled for October 5, 2011, in the Kansas Union Centennial Room. Professor Obadare is, nevertheless, finalizing the program. Several scholars from outside the U.S. have already expressed their interest in participating, as have domestic scholars. We look forward to enthusiastic participation, and applaud Professor Obadare for forging ahead.

It is said that necessity is the mother of invention; for us, the need to work without a budget will result in our creating new ways of educating about Africa. KASC has under its belt over a decade of experience, but the collective persona that wears that belt is the vast array of Africanist faculty, students, and friends across the university and region who comprise the Kansas African Studies Center. We look forward to continuing this close association with all of you whose work has brought KASC to where it is now, so that we may move forward together. With or without a budget, KASC can continue to promote African Studies in the Heartland, but that cannot be accomplished without the enthusiastic participation of all of you. The Hausa say Gaskiya ta fi kwabo: Truth is better than money. Although we would be thrilled to have even just a bit of pocket change to fuel our effort to spread Truth about Africa, we know that we can carry on the good work by pooling our energies. We look forward to hearing from and seeing you!
K-16 Outreach

The Teacher Summer Institute, July 5 - 15, served participants from Chapel Hill (NC), De Soto (KS), Topeka (KS), Houston (TX), the Afrikan Centered Education Collegium (MO), Indian Creek Elementary (MO), KU, and Johnson County Community College. Presentations ranged from traditional lectures to interactive presentations, such as West African drumming. Each teacher developed a lesson plan and received feedback from colleagues focused on aligning content from the day’s sessions with state standards.

Véronique Tadjo was our writer-in-residence during the Teacher Summer Institute. She gave a reading at the Kansas City Public Library, conducted a workshop for our teachers on African children’s literature, and conducted another workshop for young people at the Spencer Museum of Art on how to write and illustrate children’s literature.

“Migration, Music, and the Arts” was a one-day collaborative teacher workshop at the Lawrence Arts Center, featuring ADEKU, our African Drumming Ensemble. This event was organized jointly with other KU Centers.

This Spring we also hosted multiple visits from classes at Académie Lafayette. If your class would like to visit the Center, please contact us two weeks in advance so we can be sure to accommodate you.

Public Lectures

Our Ujamaa Brownbag Series continued strong this Spring, including presentations by Glenn Adams, Barnabas Danborno, and Daphne Johnston. We were able to host several South African scholars, including Kevin Durrheim, Richard Ballard, and Maano Ramutsindela. We also conducted a lecture series on Africa at 50+, focusing on the post-independence period, with talks by Ebenezer Obadare on Nigeria and John Janzen on DRC.
Virtual Engagement

**Facebook:** Since January our “New Likes” have grown by 127%, our “Post Feedback” grew by 228% and our “Post Views” grew by 16,541%, at 69,227 views.

**Videoconferencing and Skype:** This fall we will be offering select talks from our Lecture Series by videoconference to HBCUs and community colleges. This summer, Dr. Maryemma Graham conducted a session on Toni Morrison with students in Brazzaville, Congo via Skype and Dr. Glenn Adams delivered a lecture for our Teacher Summer Institute via Skype from Saigon, Vietnam.

**Website:** Since January, we have been working on a full re-design of our website, to launch this fall. One of the exciting new features: a page showcasing faculty publications.

Building African Language Programs

During the Teacher Summer Institute, we piloted a series of 20-minute **mini language lessons in Wolof and Arabic**, with the assistance of Mujdey Abudalbuh and Alassane Fall.

This Fall, Jon Perkins, Director of EGARC, organized a “**Language Buffet**” during Hawk Week that featured Arabic, Hausa, Amharic, KiSwahili, and Wolof. Beverly Mack, Peter Ojiambo, Khady Tamba, Mujdey Abudalbuh, and Nini Negash volunteered to staff the event.

This Fall we also plan to increase our outreach related to African languages through the development of **mini video language lessons** in KiSwahili and the launching of Dr. Peter Ojiambo’s new **KiSwahili website**.

Graduate Student Corner

This spring we led three initiatives specifically geared toward graduate students:

**Graduate Student Research Symposium** (please see page 9)

**Spring Break Write-In:** Students came together to work on a project for **two hours each morning** during Spring Break.

**African Studies Association Graduate Student Panel:** KASC partnered with **Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** to organize a graduate student panel at ASA. WGSS assigned a mentor to work with each student as she prepares her final paper. The panel has been accepted and the students will be presenting at ASA in November. **DaMaris Hill, Mary Mba, and Marwa Ghazali** were selected to be on this panel, which is titled, “Women’s Liberation at 50+: from Representation to Empowerment”; I will serve as Chair and Liz MacGonagle will serve as Discussant. Thanks to our local chapter of the **American Association of University Women**, which provided a financial contribution to support this initiative.
Dustin Crowley is a PhD student in English whose dissertation project involves African literature and postcolonial ecocriticism. Though the scope of the project is broadly comparative between African literatures, a significant portion focuses on East African authors and writing. Dustin plans to use the FLAS in part to continue learning Kiswahili in an effort to become proficient enough to include Swahili literature in the dissertation. He hopes that reading Swahili literature directly will uncover salient differences between literature written in Kiswahili and that written or translated into English, differences which may further develop an understanding of how East African literature and cultures understand and represent their relationships with environments and environmental problems.

Ithar Hassaballa is a Community Health and African & African American Studies major here at KU. She will use her FLAS award to continue learning Swahili. She is interested in combining what she learned in Health and Swahili classes to minimize health issues in East Africa (at the community level). Born in Sudan, the Arabic-speaking senior says studying about Africa helps her increase her knowledge about the culture and people of Africa. Ithar hopes to do her Community Health internship in a Swahili-speaking country.

Erika Kraus is in her second year of the African and African-American Master’s program. She joined the program to expand upon her experiences in Benin as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She is studying Arabic to broaden her range of study across North and West Africa. Fluency in French and Arabic will enable her to study how people interact with the natural environment in the region. In Benin, she focuses on sacred forests, and in Arab North Africa, she focuses on the city parks. A further step will be to study Urban and Community Forestry to evaluate the biodiversity of these natural areas near to human populations.

This summer she studied Classical Arabic at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco. She lived with a host family and succeeded in becoming much more acquainted with daily life in Morocco. She encountered differences between Classical and local Arabic, which complicated communication, but were surmountable. She was also able to view firsthand the parks that were created with the city of Fez, and their contribution to the city’s health.

Alexandra Lee is a first year MA student in Geography. She will use her FLAS fellowship to study first year Kiswahili. Her research interests include East Africa, land reform and policy, agricultural communities, neocolonialism, international land purchasing, and migration.
**Peter Self** is a second year M.A. student in Geography. He will be using his FLAS to study second year Kiswahili. He hopes to use this second year to build upon his first-year language proficiency so as to enable him to research in East Africa for his PhD. The FLAS will allow him to communicate more freely with peoples across East Africa. His long-term goals are to move to Kenya or Tanzania full-time after his M.A. is completed to conduct long-term PhD fieldwork where Kiswahili will be vital in facilitating interpersonal communication and cultural understanding. His research interests currently are centered around urban service delivery and the impacts that differing levels of service delivery have on development.

**Laura Wiseman** is in her second year of study at KU, and sixth overall. She came to KU specifically for the African Studies program, and has not been disappointed! During her first years of college she spent three summers working in Kenya at a small, rural school. After these experiences she decided that she wanted to study Africa, and, specifically, Swahili. Currently, she is majoring in both African Studies and Political Science, and her hope is to one day work in Africa, possibly teaching, but she is also trying to use her time at KU to learn about other disciplines and the different possibilities that are offered. Swahili will enable her to develop a deeper understanding of Africa and its people, specifically in Kenya.

**John Oakes** is a 4th year PhD student in Geography going into his fourth year here at KU. He is originally from Spokane, Washington. He is excited to begin studying KiSwahili this year as a part of his mission to become the most well-rounded Africanist he can in my time here at KU. His research interests are centered on intra-African linkages of migration, economy, culture and society. So, immersing himself this year in the language and culture of East Africa will not only bring fuller perspective to his current research project, but those he will pursue in the future as well. He is sincerely thankful to the Kansas African Studies Center for this opportunity!

**Baiba Sedriks** is currently pursuing an M.A. in TESOL. She recently returned from a Fulbright Fellowship to Morocco where she taught English for Specific Purposes at the University of Ibn Zohr, Ouarzazate. In collaboration with two of her colleagues, Baiba helped in the creation of a new department which will offer the first 3-year professional B.A. in English Studies in the country. She hopes to return to Ibn Zohr in the fall of 2012 to teach during its inaugural year. Baiba will use her FLAS to begin studying Standard Arabic with the intent to continue to work on educational reform both in the US and North Africa.

**Jacqueline Victor** has always been deeply interested in language and culture, and as an undergraduate in French she began to explore what is called la francophonie, which commonly refers to the French-speaking world outside of France. She became particularly interested in the literary, philosophical and artistic output of Senegal and in 2005 had the opportunity to study abroad there through a program focusing on sustainable development. She quickly learned that knowledge of Wolof would be essential for both broader communication and a fuller understanding of Senegalese culture. As a current M.A. student in the French department she is focusing her coursework on the intersection between French and African studies, as well as learning the Wolof language. She hopes to incorporate urban studies and sustainable development into my future studies and will continue to study Senegal within this context. Understanding Wolof would allow her to conduct research within that country and also to better communicate with the Senegalese populations in urban areas throughout France and the United States.

**Laura Wiseman** is in her second year of study at KU, and sixth overall. She came to KU specifically for the African Studies program, and has not been disappointed! During her first years of college she spent three summers working in Kenya at a small, rural school. After these experiences she decided that she wanted to study Africa, and, specifically, Swahili. Currently, she is majoring in both African Studies and Political Science, and her hope is to one day work in Africa, possibly teaching, but she is also trying to use her time at KU to learn about other disciplines and the different possibilities that are offered. Swahili will enable her to develop a deeper understanding of Africa and its people, specifically in Kenya.
Giselle Anatol, Associate Professor of English, won the Mabel S. Fry Award for Outstanding Teaching in the English Department.

Elizabeth MacGonagle, Associate Professor of History, wrote an essay on imagining the past at Great Zimbabwe which will be published by Africa World Press in the volume Africa & Its Diaspora: Memory, Public History, & Representations of the Past. This work is part of a project that examines how Africans engage with the burden of remembering slavery while also attempting to transcend it. She plans to travel to Mozambique in the spring to conduct fieldwork on Ilha de Moçambique, a site of memory steeped in the history of slavery.


Christina Lux, Assistant Director of KASC, presented “Ecrire le conflit, écrire la paix,” at the Université Internationale de Brazzaville and “Writing and Publishing in the United States,” at Villa Washington, Brazzaville, Congo, in June as well as “Dismantling Bellicose Identities: Strategic Language Games in Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s DICTEE,” with Hee-Jung Serenity Joo (University of Manitoba) at the University of Kansas, in February. This summer, she served as a Cultural Envoy to the Republic of the Congo for the U.S. Department of State, where she conducted two workshops on writing peace and conflict. Her poetry is forthcoming in The Delmarva Review in November.
**GRADUATE RESEARCH WORKSHOP**  
**GLENN ADAMS**

**KASC** held its first Graduate Research Workshop on February 5, 2011 in the Kansas Union, thereby implementing one of the initiatives from the Title VI National Resource Center grant proposal.

A total of 13 students from 8 different departments presented their work, including Kenneth Aikins (Political Science), Heather Aldersey (KU Beach Center on Disability), Patrick O. Asingo (Political Science), Emmanuel Birdling (Geography), Kundai Chirindo (Communication Studies), Kris Getzie, (Univ. of St. Thomas (Minnesota) Dept. of Leadership, Policy, and Administration), Megan Holroyd (Geography), Hilary Hungerford (Geography), Erika Kraus (African and African American Studies), Tuğçe Kurtiş (Psychology), Colleen Pollock (Anthropology), Kate Pickett (Psychology), and James Timbuak (Anthropology). Besides the 13 presenters, audience members included more than 20 KASC-affiliated faculty and non-presenting students. Each student participant had 10-15 minutes to provide an outline of her or his research, followed by 35-40 minutes of audience discussion using the presentation as a centerpiece.

The prevailing model of academia divides work on the basis of discipline, meaning that people working in African Studies from different disciplinary bases do not always have an intellectual space in which to meet and exchange ideas. A primary purpose of the Graduate Research Workshop was (and is) to foster development of a more tangible intellectual community for interdisciplinary African Studies at KU. Presenters and other participants cited this as one of the workshop’s primary successes. For many students, it was the first opportunity they had to present and discuss research ideas or results outside a discipline-based audience. Participants reported that they greatly appreciated the opportunity to make connections with colleagues in other disciplines and to learn about the broad range of research activities among KASC affiliates. Even KASC staff members were impressed by the synergies that emerged from previously unacquainted researchers from different disciplinary bases. Several themes—including connection to place and environment, critical approaches to gender and discourses of development, conceptions of personal relationship, interplay between local agency and uneven global flow—were evident across diverse presentations.

Besides formal conversations, KASC also created space for informal intellectual exchange by organizing breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks during the workshop. After the workshop, participants proceeded to an informal happy hour at the Oread Hotel to continue the conversations. Participant feedback suggests that the Graduate Research Workshop was highly successful, and many participants enthusiastically endorsed the idea that KASC should make it an annual event. If you are a graduate student or trainer of graduate students in African Studies, please make plans to join us for the next Graduate Research Workshop.
Fellowships are available for undergraduate and graduate students of any discipline who study an approved foreign language.

**Undergraduate** Academic Year FLAS Fellowships provide up to $10,000 for tuition and a $5,000 stipend. Undergraduate FLAS is available for intermediate and advanced language study only.

**Graduate** Academic Year FLAS Fellowships provide full KU tuition (restrictions may apply) and a $15,000 stipend. Summer 2012 FLAS Fellowships (undergraduate and graduate) provide up to $5,000 for summer tuition and a stipend of $2,500. Travel funds may be available for summer. Summer undergraduate FLAS is available for intermediate and advanced language study only. All tuition amounts are limited to actual tuition charges. Fellowships are divided by language among the relevant KU area studies centers.

**Eligibility:** Undergraduate applicants must qualify to enroll in second year language courses or above. Students must be enrolled at KU or in an approved study abroad program or in an approved domestic summer intensive language program. Study abroad programs must be pre-approved by the US Department of Education. Students must be studying a qualified language (see below.) Students must be US Citizens or permanent residents.

**Languages:**
- **Africa**
  - Languages: Amharic, Arabic, Hausa, Kiswahili, Wolof and other languages on demand.
  - African Studies FLAS funding for Arabic is for programs that are held in Africa or in an African Studies related domestic program only.
  - Call 785-864-3745, e-mail kasc@ku.edu, or go to www.kasc.ku.edu
- **East Asia**
  - Languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Uyghur, Tibetan
  - Call 785-864-3849, e-mail ceas@ku.edu, or go to www.ceas.ku.edu/academics/flas.shtml
- **Global & International Studies**
  - Languages: Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hebrew, Hindi, Mongolian, Turkish, Uyghur
  - Call 785-864-1120, e-mail cgis@ku.edu, or go to http://global.ku.edu/opportunities/flas.shtml
- **Latin America**
  - Languages: Haitian Creole, Kaqchikel Maya, Portuguese, Quichua, Spanish (advanced graduate level only) and other languages possible for summer on demand.
  - Call 785-864-4213, email latamst@ku.edu, or go to www.ku.edu/~latamst
- **Russia, Eastern Europe & Eurasia**
  - Languages: Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Slovene, Tajik, Turkish, Ukrainian, Uyghur, Yiddish
  - Call 785-864-4236, e-mail crees@ku.edu, or go to www.crees.ku.edu
2011 MARWA AFRICANA LECTURE

Nawal El Saadawi
Creativity & Dissidence

Woodruff Auditorium
Kansas Union
7pm

September 14th
7pm

Sponsored By:
African & African American Studies, Kansas African Studies Center, Langston Hughes Center
Fall 2011
Calendar of Events

August 21
Language Buffet Featuring Arabic, KiSwahili, Hausa, Wolof and Amharic
4th Floor Wescoe Hall

August 22
KASC Reception and Open House
Bailey Hall, Room 109 + 208, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

August 25 - 27
Area Studies Centers’ Joint Conference: “Identity and Community after the Cold War Era”
Kansas Union

September 6
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Impacts of Xenophobia on African Immigrants in Cape Town, South Africa,” John Oakes, FLAS Fellow
Alcove D, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

September 14
Marwa Africana Lecture: “Creativity and Dissidence,” Nawal El Saadawi
Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

September 20
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Arabic in North Africa,” Erika Kraus, FLAS Fellow
Alcove D, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

September 26
Gender Seminar: “Sounding the Atlantic, Shaping American Disciplines: Translating Race and Gender from Maryse Condé to Frantz Fanon,” Christina Lux, Assistant Director KASC
Hall Humanities Center, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

October 4
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Disability Responses, Resources, Services and Needs in Dar es Salaam and Kinshasa,” Heather Aldersey, Research Assistant, Beach Center on Disability, KU
Alcove F, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

October 5
Symposium: “Cultures of Exile: African Globalities in the Age of Transnationalism”
Centennial Room, Kansas Union
Convener: Ebenezer Obadare, Sociology, KU

October 18
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Masomo: A Six-Week Kiswahili Program in Mombasa,” Ithar Hassaballa, FLAS Fellow
Alcove D, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

October 27-29
Symposium: “African Literature in Global Perspective”
Hall Humanities Center
Convener: Omofolabo Ajayi-Syohinka, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

November 8
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Cultures of Collision,” Katie Rhine, Assistant Professor Anthropology, KU
Alcove D, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

November 29
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Urban Planning Shadows in Tanzanian Post-Revolutionary Politics of Zanzibar,” Makame Muhajir, Visiting Assistant Professor, AAAS, KU
Alcove D, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

December 6
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Reimagining Development: African Literature and Environmentalism of the Poor,” Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Associate Professor, English, KU
Governor’s Room, Kansas Union, 11:30 - 1:00 pm

December 6
Stop-Day KASC & African Students Association Potluck
Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, 12:00 - 1:30 pm