A Word from the Director
Beverly Mack

We open the Spring 2012 semester with several new beginnings at KASC. First, we welcome everyone to visit our new offices, 208, 207, 203C Bailey. Although we actually completed the move to this new space in the summer, we are at last completely settled, and have finished putting things in order. In this space we begin the year with new personnel arrivals and losses.

First, we are delighted to welcome Jessie Yoon to the Center as our new accountant and office manager. Jessie holds a KU Master’s degree in Accounting, and has been attending multiple training sessions to learn KU’s myriad electronic reporting systems. Patricia Siqueiros has also joined us this fall as a part-time student assistant. We are happy that she will be working with Jessie this spring. Please stop by to introduce yourself and say hello to both of them.

Just as Jessie and Patricia have joined us, we have lost our longtime student assistant, Nona (Nefertari) Hanna, who has graduated. We will miss her extraordinary capability with all things technical (especially the beautiful designs she created for the newsletter), her cheerful presence, and her unflagging enthusiasm for the Center. Thanks and congratulations to her, and best wishes for continued good luck in future endeavors.

Beyond the Center, we are fortunate to have a new colleague in the Department of African and African-American Studies who has a professional foot in Africa (studying South African labor issues) as well as a focus in African-American Studies. Professor Clarence Lang has joined the AAAS faculty, coming to us from Illinois. His wife Jennifer Hamer will be in American Studies. We extend a hearty welcome to them both.

This fall we were fortunate to participate in a Conference on African Literature that Professor Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka organized with the support of the Hall Center and KASC. It was a small gem, the kind of intimate conference that allows for genuine discussion and cross-fertilization of ideas. We appreciate Folabo’s hard work, and hope to do what we can to make the conference an annual event.

The African Literature Conference had fortu
nate results in another way, allowing us to meet one of the participants, Professor Niyi Coker from the University of Missouri (St. Louis). Professor Coker, UM’s E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of African/African-American Theatre and Cinema, has been orchestrating festivals of the newest African documentary films internationally for several years. Our introduction to him at the Literature Conference has resulted in plans for him to bring the Africa World Documentary Film Festival to KU this spring (it will also travel to Yaoundé, Cameroon; Birmingham, AL; St. Louis, MO; Cave Hill, Barbados; Ibadan, Nigeria; London, UK; and Leiden, Netherlands). We are fortunate to be able to work with him to stage showings of 21 African films that are new this year. Such an endeavor does not come cheaply, and, considering that our Title VI budget was so drastically cut last June, you might ask how it is possible for us to undertake this project. Assistant Director Christina Lux has worked tirelessly seeking assistance from other KU units. As a result of her work and the generosity of many departments, we are able to offer this African Film Festival as a free event, co-sponsored by many units that are friends of KASC here at KU. The event will be held at the Spencer Museum, April 25-28. We hope to see you there.

Speaking of funding, we will spend the spring semester writing external grant proposals, hoping to find sources of support to supplement the diminished Title VI grant. Some of our potential funding agencies include the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright-Hays, and the Kansas Humanities Council.

Part of our new approach to programming in this time of reduced funds involves a reorganization of our delivery system for teacher-training outreach. Rather than put all our eggs in the summer teacher-training institute basket, we would like to embark on a new model through which we spread teacher-training workshops throughout the year, and more often in collaboration with other KU NRC Centers.

In addition, we hope to regularize our Graduate Research workshops, and integrate them into our annual planning, so that our graduate students can benefit from the program and move toward presenting papers at the annual African Studies Association meetings each fall. The spring Graduate Research Workshop will be held on April 6th, 2012, organized by Christina Lux and Glenn Adams.

Our brown bag series continues, with a full schedule into the spring. This and the FLAS announcement can be found on our newly revised website (http://www.kasc.ku.edu/). FLAS fellowships provide funding for the study of African languages, including Arabic programs that are situated in Africa or in a domestic African Studies language program. We welcome any and all inquiries. If you have an interest in studying an African language, but have been shy about inquiring, feel free to ask any of us about how to make this happen. The FLAS fellowship provides funding for tuition and a stipend for both undergraduates and graduates studying African languages. Please ask us how you can get a FLAS – but do it soon, as the deadline for applications is February 1, 2012!

Once again a hearty thank you to ADEKU who provided drumming entertainment that moved people to dance during our end of semester potluck in the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center on December 9. If you missed that event, try not to miss ADEKU next time you see a performance advertised. You will not be able to keep your feet still, guaranteed. Thank you, Dylan Bassett, and all your drummers.
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.

**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
**K-16 Outreach**

KASC contributed to a week-long series of events on African cultures at Washburn Rural High School, with presentations by Glenn Adams, Beverly Mack, Peter Ojiambo, and Dylan Bassett. Washburn also borrowed several artifacts from KASC’s outreach trunk, which were put on display for a week at the school.

The African Students Association hosted a well-attended Fashion Design Competition and KASC provided three judges – Carol Ann Carter, Beverly Mack, and Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka.

This February, KASC is co-sponsoring a day-long Teacher Workshop on World Heritage Sites. Liz MacGonagle will give a presentation on Ghana’s slave forts.

This spring, we will host the Africa World Documentary Film Festival from April 25-28, screening 21 films at the Spencer Museum of Art. The event will be free and open to the public. All films will later be deposited in EGARC and made available for checkout to any Kansas resident.

**Public Lectures**

The Marwa Lecture by Nawal El Sadaawi resulted in a full house at Woodruff Auditorium, with approximately 300 people in attendance.

Our Ujamaa Brownbag Series included lectures on xenophobia in Cape Town, disability services in Dar Es Salaam and Kinshasa, traffic accidents in Nigeria, urban planning in Tanzania, and environmental literature, as well as reports on study abroad programs in Morocco and Kenya.
Conferences and Symposia

African Literature in Global Perspective was a three-day Symposium organized by Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka at the Hall Humanities Center, featuring a keynote address by Biodun Jeyifo (Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard), poetry readings in Yoruba, Wolof, KiSwahili, Igbo, and Arabic, readings by writers such as Nozipo Maraire, and a performance of Wole Soyinka’s play Camwood on the Leaves, directed by Niyi Coker (E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies at the University of Missouri-St Louis).

The Symposium “Cultures of Exile,” convened by Ebenezer Obadare, had 60 participants and offered an intimate space in which researchers were able to network and share their research.

The conference, “Identity and Community after the Cold War,” co-sponsored by KASC and organized by CREES, hosted approximately 150 attendees.
**Virtual Engagement**

At the request of the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville, KASC organized a **Virtual Roundtable**, “Higher Education in the United States,” which was delivered to **Marien Ngouabi University** via Skype. Bovid Atouta, Franck Indzembi and Christina Lux spoke to a full auditorium of students and answered questions during the one-hour session.

Through the support of EGARC and HBW, KASC was able to offer a **live webstream** of Nawal El Sadaawi’s lecture to select **HBCUs**, such as **Clark Atlanta University**.

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**Museums**

9 African pieces were featured in an exhibit at the **Spencer Museum of Art** from Aug. 23-Sept. 4, including a painting by **Yelimane Fall**, entitled “I have never doubted my quality of being in proximity to the Creator because I have been filled with wonder by the universe.”

Beverly Mack donated a collection of **200 pieces** from Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Nigeria, and Morocco to the **Spooner Archival Collection** and the **Teaching Gallery** at the **Spencer Museum of Art**; her contribution of Hausa-Fulani material strengthens their holdings in Islamic cultures. In Fall 2012, two textile pieces she donated featuring Shehu Shagari and Queen Elizabeth II will be featured in the exhibit **“Politics as Symbol/Symbol as Politics,”** curated by Burdett Loomis.
ATTN: DRUMMERS

THE AFRICAN DRUM ENSEMBLE at KU is accepting new members.

A non-credit percussion group exploring traditional drumming styles of West Africa.

Classes are FREE and open to anyone with a commitment to attend all rehearsals and know your parts.

If you would like to join come to our 1st rehearsal on Monday January 23rd @ 7:30pm Room 118 Murphy Hall

For more information contact director, Dylan Bassett: 785-331-8002; dylanbassett@yahoo.com Or find us on facebook
Noteworthy News

**Beverly Mack** (KASC Director & Professor, AAAS) served as a Kansas Humanities Council TALK discussion leader for the book *Distant View of a Minaret* by Rifaat at Eldorado Library in Eldorado, KS. She was invited to give a lecture, “Nana Asma’u’s Legacy,” in October at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, on the occasion of the visit of the Sultan of Sokoto, Nigeria. In November, she gave an outreach presentation at Washburn Rural High School, “Hausa Language and Culture,” and also served as Chair of the African Studies Center Directors meeting at the African Studies Association Conference in Washington D.C..

**Raj Bhala** (Dist. Prof and Assoc. Dean, Law) was awarded the George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award this past November. His article “The Lost Purpose of the Doha Round” was published in student-edited journal *St. John’s International and Comparative Law Journal*. His WTO Case Review 2010 (28 Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law) was listed in the Top Ten most downloaded articles on Social Science Research Network (SSRN) Trade Law Topic (16 November-17 November 2011), International Trade eJournal, Dispute Resolution Topic and International Adjudication Topic (16 November-6 December 2011), WTO Law Topic (16 November-7 December 2011), and Corporate Governance International Topic (16 November-11 December).

**Christina Lux** (Assistant Director of KASC) presented a lecture for the Hall Humanities Center’s Gender Seminar and chaired a panel on African women’s liberation at the African Studies Association. She published poetry in *The Delmarva Review* in October and had an article on multilingual literature conditionally accepted for publication in Spring 2012. She served as a manuscript referee for the *African Studies Review* and is now reviewing books for *Warscapes, American Studies*, and *Africa Access Review*.

**Giselle Anatol** (Assoc. Prof., English) has been awarded an 8-week research fellowship at the Schomburg Center for Black Culture (May - June 2012).
Caroline Chaboo (Asst. Prof and Curator, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology) was named by Ad Astra Kansas among their 150 Influential Kansas Scientists. Two publications featuring her research with beetles, plants and San Nations appeared in 2012. A successful NSF award to help digitize specimen data from the KU-Biodiversity Institute entomology collections was featured on radio (http://researchmatters.ku.edu/2011/november/digitizingbugs.shtml) and in newspapers around the country (Interview, LJW, Christine Metz: article and video (Sept 21 2011; Re-broadcasted by Assoc Press; ABC-KTKA news; KTKA.com; NBC-KSNT, KSNT.com; KOAM TV; KWCH.com, Channel 12, Eyewitness news; KCTV, KS; DNT, CT; Connecticut Post, CT; San Antonio Express, TX; Topeka CJ, KS; Albany Times Union, NY; NTV; Washington Examiner, D.C.; The Republic, IN).

Glenn Adams (Assoc. Prof., Psychology), Tuğçe Kurtiș, and two other members of the Culture and Psychology Research Group at KU (psychology professor Ludwin Molina and Ph.D. student Sahana Mukherjee) hosted members of the Liberation Psychology Collective at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) for a 3-day Liberation Psychology Workshop (22-24 AUG). Glenn, Tuğçe and their KU colleagues then travelled to Costa Rica, where the UCR Collective hosted them for a 3-day seminar (28-30 SEP) on Neocolonialism, racism and oppression: “Perspectives from Cultural Psychology and Liberation Psychology,” at which Glenn presented a keynote address: “Cultural Psychology: Tool for decolonization.” In addition to collaborative activities with Costa Rican colleagues, Glenn also gave several lectures in Viet Nam during Summer 2011 at the Open University, Ho Chi Minh City and the University for Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City.

Glenn also co-edited a book forthcoming in Spring 2012: Relationship science: Integrating evolutionary, neuroscience, and sociocultural approaches as well as the following chapters in edited books: “Context in person, person in context: A cultural psychology approach to social-personality psychology,” and “A cultural psychology of relationship: Decolonizing science and practice.” Glenn also reports publication of the following co-authored journal articles, “A Critical Race Psychology is not yet born,” and “National Identity and Immigration Policy: Concern for Legality or Ethnocentric Exclusion?”
The 17th annual conference of the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) took place October 28-29 at the University of Missouri in Columbia. This year’s event was a collaboration between MAAAS and the Black Studies Program at the University of Missouri. The theme of the conference, “The African Diaspora: Past, Present, and Future,” reflected this collaboration.

There have always been strong links between KASC and MAAAS, and this year’s conference was no different. KU’s own Tanya Golash-Boza gave the keynote address “Yo Soy Negro: Blackness in Peru,” in which she described her fieldwork on experience of race among people of African descent in a Peruvian community. Several other KASC affiliates also presented papers, including Erika Kraus “Positions of Power and Sacred Forests;” Devon Lee “Metaphysical Black Subjective Identity in Belize;” and Hadi Shateh “The Urban Transformatons of the Spatial Structure of Zanzibar City between Social and Cultural Influences.” Besides participation of individual affiliates, KASC contributed to the event by covering expenses of the keynote speaker and by sponsoring the Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award for the best student presentation. This year’s award went to Angellar Manguvo from the University of Missouri for her paper, “The Role of Volunteerism on Social Integration: A Case Study of Black African International Students at a mid-Western University in the U.S.”

Stay tuned for more information about the 2012 MAAAS conference, which former KASC affiliate and current MAAAS president, Phia Salter, has proposed to host at Texas A&M University.
Madinah is a current M.A. student at the KU School of Journalism, sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Madinah, from one of the world’s poorest countries –Uganda, is committed to promoting human rights and girl education. Madinah has worked as a journalist for six years, covering security, human rights, education, crime and legislation, during which she has undertaken several on- job trainings in different parts of the world such as media and democracy, media and multi-party politics, transitional justice and human rights and accountability of public expenditure, among others.

Madinah has been a part-time lecturer for two years at the Islamic University in Uganda back home, teaching journalism students in addition to being a human rights activist. In 2008 and 2010, together with other human rights activists she held several forums in the country to advocate for the enactment and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in order to address domestic violence.

In 2009 to 2010, Madinah together with MPs of the eighth Parliament of Uganda, traveled to different parts of the country sensitizing the public to support the Marriage and Divorce Bill (formerly Domestic Relations Bill) which is surrounded with lots of concern and controversies, from different communities within the country. Being the only female graduate in her village, Madinah is currently developing a community-based organization “Send a Girl to School” to improve education access in the community among girls. Madinah also runs a poultry farm through which women in her community gain income-generating skills so as to address the high levels of poverty at the household level.

Madinah holds a B.S. in Mass Communication from the Islamic University in Uganda and has received awards from the Ford Foundation and the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (with the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association).

“Journalists give voices to the voiceless. It’s more exiting when the highlighted plight attracts the attention of policy makers.”
- Tebajjukira Madinah
Embracing the Desert
Isaac E. Gwin

A sudden wave of apprehension struck me as the overhead neon light blinked on. “Please fasten your seatbelts as we will be taking off shortly,” the voice echoed over the loudspeaker. With the sound of the two metal ends clicking into place securely across my lap I realized I was well past the point of no return. In a few moments JFK airport, along with the rest of North America, would be a fleeting speck behind me. Next stop Casablanca.

This was it, the moment I had been ceaselessly planning for over the past several months. Even with all of the research and preparation I had conducted I still had no idea what to possibly expect. After all, this was about as obscure and atypical of a study abroad as one could partake in. I mean, who goes to Northern Africa to study Arabic? Most students take the trendy and prosaic option of traipsing across Western Europe for a few weeks. This was simply not the case for myself and the four other students from KU who were accompanying me. We were going to Morocco.

After seven plus hours of listening to small children decide to forgo sleep in favor of screaming their tiny lungs out, we landed at Mohammed V International Airport in Casablanca. Following a few choice Humphrey Bogart quotes from yours truly to my travel companions, we managed to find our way to the adjacent train depot. We narrowly made it to our assigned passenger car as the train shuttered into action. Exhausted, I slumped down into my plush seat and silently peered out the window at the new world racing past me.

Al Akhawayn University was nestled in a kind of ski resort town, constructed during the years of French occupation, located high in the Atlas mountain range. This was where the real work would soon begin. After a couple days rest, and a placement test to prove that I was not completely ignorant of the Arabic language, my grueling class schedule commenced. During a given week, Monday through Friday, I was in class from eight in the morning until one in the afternoon, with short, sporadic breaks throughout. The program’s advertisement as being language intensive was holding true.

Two weeks into the program and it was time for the first organized group trip. Around fifty or so students piled into two large, and relatively comfortable, touring buses set to take us ten plus hours south-east to the small village of Merzouga, located on the tip of the western Sahara desert. After two days of traveling we arrived at a large city square. Exiting the bus the first things to catch my eye were the dozen or more Toyota 4x4s waiting to take us deep into the desert. I quickly found the one I wanted and piled in. A short twenty minute ride through the city and we found ourselves in a kind of preliminary rock desert, not the Sahara,
but hot and arid nonetheless. For another fifteen minutes the caravan of 4x4s stayed on the paved road that was taking us farther into the rock desert. Suddenly, all the 4x4s careened off the road. They broke from their queue and spread out across the desert gaining speed. At one point I noticed some of my fellow students climb out the passenger windows of the 4x4 next to us. Not being one to miss an opportunity to do something exciting I followed suite. It was incredible. My heart raced as we stormed across the desert at nearly 80mph while holding onto the baggage rail for dear life as the 4x4 bounced over hills and dodged large rocks. Seemingly out of nowhere the peaks of the orange dunes of the Sahara rose out of the horizon. We entered the oasis at Merzouga where camels were at the ready. That evening we took our camels far out into the dunes where we then climbed by foot some eighty feet up one of the largest ones to watch the sunset. It was one of the most beautiful things I had ever seen. At that very moment I fell in love with Morocco.

For the next six weeks I studied hard and traveled every weekend. Every weekend a new city. Every city a new adventure. I met and conversed with an untold number of people and saw things I could never imagine I would ever see. It was an especially exciting time to be in the country because of the political reforms that were taking place as a consequence of the Arab Spring. The cities were alive with people clamoring for human rights and freedoms they had never experienced, all in a mostly peaceful manner. I would come to have profound respect for my Arabic language professors who were incredibly engaging and willing to help in any way they could. They made every day in class a joy. I got along great with all my fellow classmates and have made friendships that will carry on for a lifetime. I had mixed emotions as I boarded the plane to take me back to the United States. I knew I needed to return home, but all I could think about was what I was leaving behind. I will always have a special place in my heart for Morocco.
**January 20**  
Spring Reception  
Bailey 109, 3 - 5 pm

**January 25**  
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Collective memory practices as tools for reconciliation: The case of Sierra Leone,” Glenn Adams, Psychology, KU  
Alcove F, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**February 2**  
Roundtable: “Women and Peace: The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Trio of Laureates”  
*Co-sponsored by Peace and Conflict Studies, Dept. of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies*

**February 15**  
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “A Phonological Overview of Ekegusii,”  
Carlos Nash, Anthropology, KU  
Alcove F, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**February 25**  
Teacher Workshop:  
World Heritage Sites  
featuring “Ghana’s Slave Forts over Time”  
Liz MacGonagle, History and AAAS, KU  
9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
*Co-sponsored by CReES, CEAS, LAS and CGIS*

**February 29**  
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Thinking Outside the Box: Pastoralism Without Borders in East Africa?”  
Sandra Gray, Anthropology, KU  
Governor’s Room, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**March 14**  
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Nana Asma’u’s Legacy,” Beverly Mack, AAAS, KU  
Alcove F, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**March 28**  
Ujamaa Brownbag Series: “Called to Educate: The Story of Joseph Gikubu and Starehe Boys Centre and School, Kenya,”  
Peter Ojiambo, AAAS, KU  
Alcove F, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**April 6**  
Graduate Research Workshop  
Convener: Glenn Adams, Psychology, KU  
Alcoves D, F & G  
Kansas Union  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**April 18**  
Alcove F, Kansas Union  
11:30 - 1:00 pm

**April 25-28**  
Africa World Documentary Film Festival  
Spencer Museum of Art  
*Co-sponsored by AAAS, EGARC, Film, KU Libraries, Project on the History of Black Writing, Spencer Museum of Art, French and Italian*

**May 4**  
African Studies Council Meeting  
Bailey 109, 12: 30 - 1:30 pm