



Events

African Studies Program Indiana University Summer 2008

Honorary degree awarded to Liberian President highlights connections with IU

When Liberian President **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** received an honorary degree this month from Indiana University-Bloomington, it marked a high point in a long-term relationship between IU and this West African nation. Sirleaf, the first woman elected president of an African country, received her honorary degree on May 3, 2008 at commencement attended by most of IU-Bloomington's 7,000 graduates, their families, and university faculty and dignitaries.

During her visit, Sirleaf spoke to faculty, students and administrators at the Lilly Library and took questions from the audience. At a May 3 reception attended by IU students, officials, and representatives of the Liberian diaspora from across the Midwest, President Sirleaf talked about the progress and challenges of rebuilding Liberia.

Sheasby Matiure and the *Mbira Queens* performed for the President and invited guests during the reception.

IU President **Michael A. McRobbie** said the university selected Sirleaf to receive the honorary degree in recognition of her efforts to promote peace, justice and democracy, and of the close relationship between Liberia and the university. Dr. J. Gus Liebenow, founder of the IU African Studies Program, was a pioneer in the academic study of Liberia. IU faculty have continued research on Liberia since then and institutional partnerships have been developed in recent years.



IU faculty member Dr. Amos Sawyer greets Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at IU Reception

Wednesday Speaker Series & Seminars

Fall 2008

Maria Grosz-Ngaté (African Studies) offered the Fall 2006 interdisciplinary African Studies graduate seminar on the theme, “Contemporary Africa in the Classroom: New Perspectives on the Africa Volume.”

Guest lectures open to the public included: **James Delehanty** (University of Wisconsin) “Mapping Contemporary Africa”; **John Aden** (Wabash College) “Roots and Branches: Historical Overview to 1870”; **Takyiwaa Manuh** (University of Ghana) “Empowering Women? Passing Domestic Violence Legislation in Ghana”; **Tracy Luedke** (Northeastern Illinois University) “Health and Society”; **Stephen Ndegwa** (World Bank) “Development Issues”; **Karen T. Hansen** (Northwestern University) “Urbanism as African Ways of Life: Thematics for an Exploration of Changing Urban Livelihoods in the Time of Globalization.”

Special Guest Lectures

John Prendergast gave a special lecture, “Stopping Genocide in Darfur,” in the Oak Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on February 19, 2008. Prendergast is Co-Chair of the ENOUGH Project and was a visiting scholar at the University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies in 2007-08. He is the author of eight books on Africa, the most recent of which he co-authored with actor/activist Don Cheadle, *Not on Our Watch*.

Richard Werbner, Professor Emeritus of African Anthropology, Manchester University, spent several days on campus during spring semester. Co-sponsored by Communication and Culture, Anthropology, and African Studies, Dr. Werbner spoke about “Ethnographic Film-making as Discovery: The Quest Trilogy” and showed his film “Eloyi” on March 18. His most recent publication is *Reasonable Radicals and Citizenship in Botswana: The Public Anthropology of Kalanga Elites* (2004). Professor Werbner’s current projects include a study of séances, counseling, and subjectivities in examination of the AIDS epidemic in Botswana.

Spring 2008

Marion Frank-Wilson (Library) and **Ruth Stone** (Ethnomusicology) taught the Spring 2008 seminar with a focus on “Fieldnotes in African Research.”

Public lectures included: **Steven Raymer** (IU Journalism) “The Documentary Photographer: Writing with Light”; **Peter M. Chilson** (English and Creative Writing, Washington State University) “Romancing the Archivist: A Cautionary Dispatch from West Africa”; **Kate Schroeder** (IU History/Library) and **Austin Okigbo** (IU Ethnomusicology) “Recent Experiences with Fieldnotes”; **Daniel Reed** (IU Ethnomusicology) “Fieldnotes: For Whom and What For?”; **Anaba Anankyela Alemna**, (Library and Library Science, University of Ghana) “Field Notes and the Library”; **Selwa El-Shawan Castelo Branco**, (Ethnomusicology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal) “Ethnography at Home: Revisiting the Past, (Re)Constructing Self and Others through Fieldnotes.”

POAET & Arts Week 2008 Presents “The Poem and the Emperor”

As its contribution to Arts Week 2008, the Project on African Expressive Traditions (POAET) sponsored “**The Poet and the Emperor: Power and the Arts in Nigeria & Beyond**” at the Lilly Library on February 25, 2008. During the event, IU Comparative Literature professor **Akinwumi Adesokan** read from his novel *Roots in the Sky*. Harvard professor **Biodun Jeyifo** then offered his reflections in response. Both raised issues about writing, the state, and politics in Nigeria and more broadly in Africa and elsewhere that were further pursued in discussion by the audience. A reception and an exhibit of works by Professors Adesokan and Jeyifo followed.

Visiting Scholars

Sponsored by the IU Institute for Advanced Studies, **Adérónké Adésányà** was a scholar in residence from November 4-December 2, 2007. Dr. Adésányà is a Research Fellow/Lecturer in African Art History, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, as well as an accomplished cartoon artist. Her current book project, *Carving Woods, Making History: Tradition, Modernity and Yoruba Woodcarvings* is the first comprehensive work on the woodcarving tradition in the Yoruba town of Ila-Orangun. During her residency at the Institute, Adésányà met with art history graduate students, visited classes, and consulted with colleagues in several departments. She also gave a public lecture on the Indianapolis campus and another in IU Bloomington's Neal Marshall Black Culture Center entitled "Contemporary Nigerian Artist: Confrontations, Contestations and Conversations with Modernity."

The Department of Anthropology hosted **Christiane Owusu-Sarpong** for a lecture entitled "The 'Writing' of History Among the Akan of Ghana" on October 10 and a screening of her DVD on Akan funeral rites on October 11, 2007. Dr. Owusu-Sarpong has a doctorate from the Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, and taught at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, until 2001. She has edited two volumes of *A Trilingual Anthology of African Folktalks* and published *La Mort Akan – Etude Ethno-Semiotique Des Textes Funéraires Akan* in addition to numerous other works.

Abdoul Sow, Dean of the Université Cheikh Anta Diop School of Education in Dakar (Senegal), visited IU from May 3-9, 2008, to explore new possibilities for collaboration. The School of Education hosts the ASP's summer study abroad program in Dakar.

On January 18, 2008, **Monica Blackmun Visonà** of the Department of Art History, University of Kentucky, offered this year's Robert and Avis Burke Lecture in Art History on "Constructing African Art Histories for the Lagoons Peoples of Côte d'Ivoire." Dr. Blackmun Visonà is the principal author of the critically acclaimed

survey *A History of Art in Africa* (Abrams/Prentice Hall 2000; Pierson 2007). She is currently completing a manuscript on the methodologies and critical issues encountered by art historians engaged in research in African communities.

African Studies Welcomes New Faculty



Beth Lewis Samuelson joins the School of Education this fall. Dr. Lewis Samuelson came to IU from Central Michigan University, where she was an assistant professor in Education.

She is a 2006-2008 Spencer/National Academy of Education Postdoctoral Fellow conducting research on reform of language and critical literacy education in Rwanda. She also was a finalist in the 2006 National Council of Teachers of English Promising Researcher competition. Before returning to academe, she was a high school EFL teacher and an assistant editor for a publisher of English language teaching materials in Taiwan. As an adolescent, Dr. Samuelson lived with her parents in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She speaks French and Lingala.



Michelle Moyd will be a new faculty member in the History Department. Dr. Moyd holds a bachelor's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at

Princeton University and a master's degree in African History from the University of Florida, Gainesville. She obtained her Ph.D. from Cornell University. Her dissertation "Becoming *Askari*: African Soldiers and Everyday Colonialism in German East Africa, 1889-1918" is a social and cultural history of the African soldiers known as *askari* who fought in the German colonial army in East Africa. She has received numerous grants, fellowships, and honors, and she has published articles, encyclopedia pieces, and book reviews.

Islam, Contested Authority and the Making of Everyday Lives in Africa

The African Studies Program hosted a conference on “Islam, Contested Authority, and the Making of Everyday Lives in Africa” on October 11 and 12, 2007. Organized by **Beth Buggenhagen** (Anthropology), **Maria Grosz-Ngaté** (African Studies), **John Hanson** (History), and **Dorothea Schulz** (Religious Studies), the conference brought together a noted group of scholars whose presentations generated lively discussions. IU colleagues **Kevin Jaques** (Religious Studies), **Eileen Julien** (Comparative Literature), **Sara Scalenghe** (History), **Ron Sela** (Central Eurasian Studies), and **Nazif Shahrani** (Anthropology) served as panel moderators or discussants.

Presentations were grouped thematically in four panels:

- “Islam In & Out of Africa”: “Rethinking Religious Conversion: A Theory of (Trans)National Senegalese Shi’ism,” **Mara Leichtman** (Michigan State University); “Beyond Brotherhood: Gender, Religious Authority and the Global Circuits of Senegalese Muridiyya,” **Beth Buggenhagen** (IU).

- “New Forms of Sociality & Mediation”: “Islam in the National Public Sphere and the Islamic Public Sphere in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” **Goolam Vahed** (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa); “Muslim Masculinities at the Movies,” **Laura Fair** (Michigan State University).

- “Muslim Discourses”: “The Dialectics of Tradition and Reform: The Hadhrami Model of Islamic Learning and Religious Authority in Twentieth-Century Kenya,” **Rüdiger Seesemann** (Northwestern University); “Scripturalism and Modernity: Reflections on Islam in Contemporary Africa South of the Sahara,” **John Hanson** (IU); “Is Islamism a New Phenomenon? Lessons from West Africa,” **Ousmane Kane** (Columbia University).

- “Religious Authority”: “‘Kaffir’ Renner’s Conversion: Muslim Representation and the Politics of Self-Invention in the Gold Coast and Ashanti, 1880-1954,” **Sean Hanretta** (Stanford University); “Authority Matters: Islamic Moral

Renewal and Female Authority in Contemporary Mali,” **Dorothea Schulz** (IU); “Ahmed Deedat and the Form of Islamic Evangelism in Nigeria,” **Brian Larkin** (Barnard College).

The keynote lecture entitled “Islam in Question: When and for Whom is ‘Islam’ the Answer?” was delivered by historian **Barbara Cooper**, Director of the Rutgers University African Studies Program.

Nigerian Writer Visits IU

African Studies hosted esteemed Nigerian writer and publisher **Adewale Maja-Pearce** this spring. On April 20, Maja-Pearce read “How Pinkie Killed a Man” and other essays from his latest collection at the Monroe County Public Library. The reading generated an engaged discussion. The following day Maja-Pearce spoke about “Exile, Foreign Publishing, and Literary Culture in Nigeria” in Woodburn Hall.

Maja-Pearce is the author of numerous books and was the editor of the Heinemann African Writers’ Series from 1986 to 1997. His most recent book, published in 2005, is *Remembering Ken Saro-Wiwa & Other Essays*. He lives in Lagos, where he directs YAMAJA, an editorial services agency.

Pearce’s visit was co-sponsored by the English Department and the Project on African Expressive Traditions (POAET).



Ghana's 50th Anniversary of Independence Celebrated in Style

Ghana's Jubilee was celebrated belatedly by a series of events at Indiana University this spring. In Ghana, the 50th anniversary was commemorated in March, 2007. The IU campus events were sponsored by the African Studies Program and the Graduate Students in African Studies and organized by a dedicated committee of students and faculty.

On Tuesday, March 4, **Bernard Woma** and his troupe *Saakumu* inaugurated the Jubilee events at IU. Performing before a crowd at Wilkie Auditorium, the evening featured *Saakumu's* vibrant dancers and drum ensemble as well as the *gyil*, a xylophone commonly found in the northern region of Ghana. During several days in residence, *Saakumu* also held a workshop for dance students and performed at Bloomington's University Elementary School and at Central East Middle School in Columbus, Indiana. The performances were highly interactive, giving students an opportunity to try out Ghanaian dances.

On Friday, March 21, Kwaw Ansah's 1980 film *Love Brewed in an African Pot* was screened in Woodburn Hall. Set in 1951, the film is a love story illustrating the struggle between different social

classes. It has won several international awards, including the 1982 UNESCO Award.

A highlight of the celebrations was the Ghana Jubilee Symposium, held in the Grand Hall of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The afternoon event started with a roundtable discussion by Ghanaian graduate students **Ebenezer Ayesu** and **Abdulai Salifu** and African Studies Director Professor **Samuel Obeng**, entitled "What Ghana Means to Us." The roundtable was followed by two stimulating lectures centered on the theme of Ghana's Jubilee. Professor **Kofi Baku** (History, University of Ghana-Legon) reflected on "Using the Past for the Present and the Future: Ghana's 50th Independence Celebrations." Professor **Jean Allman** (History, Washington University) complemented Dr. Baku's insightful lecture with a stimulating presentation entitled "In Search of Hannah Kudjoe: Nationalism, Feminism, and the Tyrannies of History." The evening concluded with a dinner at Bloomington's Samira restaurant.

Finally, African Studies faculty and students welcomed esteemed master drummer, **Midawo Gideon Alorwoyie**, and his *Afrikania Culture Troupe*. A master drummer, an Ewe Chief, and a professor at the University of North Texas, Midawo Alorwoyie and his troupe gave a lively performance. The group played primarily the traditional musical genres of the Ewe people, who live in the eastern

region of Ghana and in Togo. The evening was opened by the *Osagyefo Dance Ensemble*, led by IU Ethnomusicology doctoral student **Kwesi Brown**, who also gave a stunning performance of dancing and drumming. Several members from the *Osagyefo Dance Ensemble* joined the *Afrikania Culture Troupe* later in the performance.



Saakumu dancing with University Elementary school students



African Languages News

Associate Instructors **Nasra Ahmed** (Kiswahili), **Boubacar Diakite** (Bamana), **Fabienne Diouf** (Wolof), **Hannah Essien** (Akan), **Muziwandile Hadebe** (Zulu), and **Abdulwahid Mazrui** (Kiswahili) participated in a workshop on assessment of proficiency, January 17-18, 2008, conducted by ACTFL specialist Dr. Karl Otto. The workshop complemented those organized by African Languages Coordinator **Alwiya Omar** on the integration of the 5Cs of the National Foreign Language Standards and on the use of technology in language teaching.

Dr. **Alwiya Omar** was awarded a grant in the IU Faculty Podcasting Initiative, administered by University Information Technology Services (UITS). She will receive equipment and software to develop podcasts for use in African language

classes in cooperation with the African language instructors.

ASP was well represented in the teaching of African languages during SCALI 2008 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. **Alwiya Omar** conducted the pre-SCALI workshop for language instructors and several instructors taught in the Institute: **Boubacar Diakite** (Bamana), **Hannah Essien** (Arabic), and **Abulwahid Mazrui** (Kiswahili). Graduate assistant **Al-Munir Gibrill** taught Hausa and **Austin Okigbo** taught Igbo.

The past year's African Languages Festivals were held on November 2, 2007 and March 28, 2008. Over one hundred African languages students along with their friends and families enjoyed African food and language performances through skits, poems, and songs on each occasion.

Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients

Academic Year 2007-08

Lindsey Badger (Comparative Literature and SLIS) – Wolof III
 Meghann Beer (Public and Environmental Affairs) – Kiswahili III
 Sara Boulanger (History) – Kiswahili I
 Christopher Green (Linguistics) – Bamana II
 Abbie Hantgan (Linguistics) – Bamana II
 Jessica Hurd (Art History) – Bamana I
 Jeremy Kenyon (Library and Information Science/African Studies) – Zulu II
 Nesrin Omer (African Studies) – Zulu III
 Fileve Palmer (Anthropology) – Zulu III
 Angela Stone-MacDonald (Education) – Kiswahili IV
 Summer Tritt (Library and Information Science/African Studies) – Akan/Twi III
 Katherine Wiley (Anthropology) – Arabic II
 Martha Wilfahrt (Political Science) – Bamana I

Summer 2008

Sara Boulanger (History) – Kiswahili II at SCALI
 Christopher Green (Linguistics) – Kiswahili I at IU
 Genevieve Hill-Thomas (Art History) – Bamana II at SCALI
 Jessica Hurd (Art History) – Dogon II in Mali
 Fred Pratt (History) – Akan/Twi II in Ghana
 Summer Tritt (Library and Information Science & African Studies) – Akan/Twi IV in Ghana



Library News

Dr. **Marion Frank-Wilson** (African Studies Collection) coordinates African Studies participation in IUScholarWorks, Indiana University's centralized, electronic, institutional repository for pre- and post-publication academic research. IUScholarWorks is a non-profit designed to showcase and collect academic works for their long-term preservation and improved access. Intended to benefit the scholarly community at large, there is no charge for the use of any of the deposited materials. For African Studies, IUScholarWorks is a particularly powerful tool to

provide increased access to research for colleagues on the continent. The African Studies Collection in the Wells Library has continued to add faculty publications to IUScholarWorks, and faculty are encouraged to consider submitting their materials.

The African Studies Collection website has added several new features this summer, including a link to new African Studies library acquisitions ("New Titles in the African Studies Collection") and a tutorial on finding and accessing journal articles.

Liberian Collections Project

Coordinated by **Verlon Stone**, the Liberian Collections Project (LCP) was awarded a grant to conserve, organize and digitize approximately 6,500 historic photographs from the records of **William V.S. Tubman**, Liberia's longest-serving president. The grant, from the Endangered Archives Programme of the British Library, is for 38,491 British pounds (about \$76,750 U.S.) over two years. The project includes researching the photographs and creating Web tools for annotating, viewing and searching the collection.

The photographs project had its genesis in 2005, when the Liberian Collections Project recovered and transported 22 containers of papers and other personal materials from the Tubman family Liberian country estate to IU for preservation. A conservation team found more than 2,000 Tubman-era photographs among the documents. In 2006, the Tubman family allowed Dr. Stone, LCP Advisory Board Member, Elwood Dunn and Philip Bantin, director of the University Archives at IU, to recover four additional containers of photographs from the estate. Included were many photographs of Tubman, who was president of Liberia from 1944 to 1971, with world dignitaries and African leaders.

The LCP has moved into the final phase of microfilming for the project *EAP027: Rescuing*

Liberian History—Preserving the Personal Papers of William V. S. Tubman, Liberia's Longest Serving President. Later this year, complete sets of the microfilms will be sent to the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, and the Center for National Documents and Records/National Archives in Liberia.

Liberian President **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** inspected several documents from the President W.V.S. Tubman papers and viewed a photo display of the LCP's archival work in Liberia during her visit to IU at the beginning of May.



Outreach News

In collaboration with the Career Development Center, African Studies held an African Careers Night on November 27, 2007. The well-attended event allowed students to learn about opportunities in African Studies and to network with professionals. Panelists and their topics included: **Brett Kuhnert**, Peace Corps as a Gateway to an International Career; **Diane Pelrine**, Careers in African Art; **Rachel Kenis**, Journalism Internship Experience in Senegal; **Elana Habib**, Volunteering in Kenya; **Laura Arntson**, Careers with Non-Profit Organizations.

ASP Outreach Director **Osita Afoaku** and his assistant **Kwesi Brown** organized the annual Spring Workshop and the Summer Institute for 7-12th grade teachers.

The spring workshop was held on March 22, 2008, and focused on "AIDS/HIV and Conflict Management in Africa." The Summer Institute took place from June 23-27, 2008. IU faculty and graduate students introduced teachers to a range of topics relating to African history and contemporary issues. A curriculum specialist from the IU School

of Education met with teachers throughout the week to discuss ways of integrating their new knowledge into their lesson plans.

ASP conducted six teacher workshops in central and southern Indiana in cooperation with other IU National Resource Centers and the Center for Social Studies and International Education. The workshops were tailored to two of the state standards for the high-school level "History and Geography of the World" course.

Several African Studies graduate students were active in outreach to schools and community groups by teaching about Africa through music and dance. **Muziwandile Hadebe** and his Gumbo Ensemble, **Austin Okigbo**, and **Kwesi Brown** gave more than twenty performances across the state during the academic year. The Gumbo Ensemble also performed for classes and events on the IUB campus. Kwesi Brown and the African Music and Dance Ensemble held drumming sessions at the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center on Friday evenings during the semester.

Bloomington Film Series

The African Studies Program hosted an African film series in Fine Arts 102 on three consecutive Wednesday evenings in August 2008:

- ***Ezra*** (Newton Aduaka, 2007), the first film to give an African perspective on the phenomenon of child soldiers.

- ***Forgiveness*** (Ian Gabriel, 2005), a dramatic rendering of the search for forgiveness following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in South Africa.

- ***Iron Ladies of Liberia*** (Siatta Scott Johnson and Daniel Junge, 2007), an examination of Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's first year in office and the challenges faced by her and her women appointees.

Indianapolis Film Series – Africa: Challenge and Hope

The IUPUI Committee on African and African-American Studies organized a film series during Black History Month in cooperation with the Indiana Museum of Art (IMA) and the Indiana University Black Film Center/Archive. Held at the IMA in February, each of the films was followed by a discussion:

- ***Bamako*** (Abderrahmane, 2006) makes vivid the personal and cultural effects of globalization on post-colonial Africa through a poignant and poetic trial of international financial institutions, set in a courtyard in Bamako.

- ***Days of Glory/Indigenes*** (Rachid Bouchareb, 2006) tells the story of four Algerian men who face harsh discrimination in the French army during World War II. The film was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 2006.

- ***Iron Ladies of Liberia*** (Siatta Scott Johnson and Daniel Junge, 2007)

The African Studies Program Congratulates 2007-2008 Ph.D.s

Kathryn V. Boswell (Anthro-pology): “Transnational Migration, War, and Forced Repatriation from Cote d’Ivoire to Burkina Faso, West Africa.” Kathryn accepted an assistant professor position at Bard College at Simon’s Rock, MA.

Candace Keller (Art History): “Visual Griots: Social, Political, and Cultural History in Mali Through the Photographic Lens.” Candace accepted an assistant professor position at Michigan State University.

Christine Mathenge (Geography): “Effects of Migrant Origin, Occupancy and Land Acquisition on Changing Land Tenure Patterns in Southwest Uganda.” Christine accepted an assistant professor position at Austin Peay University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sarah A. Mathews (Education): “An Ethnographic Examination on Perspective Consciousness and Intercultural Competence among Social Studies Student-Teachers in Kenya, West Africa.” Sarah has accepted a tenure-line position at Clemson University.

Sheasby Matiure (Folklore/Ethnomusicology): “Performing Zimbabwean Music in North America: An Ethnography of Mbira and Marimba Performance Practice in the United States.” Sheasby will return to a faculty position at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare.

Evelyn L. Namubira (Public Policy/SPEA): “Coping with Top-Down Institutional Changes in Forestry (Uganda).”

Hannington Ochwada (History): “Negotiating Difference: The Church Missionary Society, Colonial Education, and Gender Among Aaluyi and Joluo Communities of Kenya, 1900-60.” Hannington is a visiting assistant professor at Missouri State University.

Donna J. Patterson (History): “Expanding Professional Horizons: Female Pharmacists in Twentieth Century Dakar, Senegal.” Donna took up an assistant professor position at Wellesley College.

Elizabeth Perrill (Art History): “Contemporary Zulu Ceramics, 1960s-Present.” Elizabeth accepted an assistant professor position at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Nathan Plageman (History): “Everybody Likes Saturday Night: A Social History of Popular Music and Masculinities in Urban Gold Coast/Ghana, c. 1900-1970.” Nathan has accepted an assistant professor position at Wake Forest University.

Tristan Purvis (Linguistics): “A Linguistic and Discursive Analysis of Register Variation in Dagbani.” Tristan has accepted a position at the University of Maryland.

Retirements

Professor **Robert Port** retired at the end of the 2007-08 academic year after 30 years of teaching at Indiana University. Dr. Port was Professor of Linguistics, Cognitive Science, and Computer Science and a member of the African Studies Program faculty. Dr. Port earned his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 1976. He specializes in phonetics, speech production and perception, Kiswahili, and dynamical models of cognition. He will continue to teach classes in the Department of Linguistics, including “What is Phonology?” in the fall 2008 semester. Dr. Port was the first Africanist Linguist faculty hired in the Program in African Languages and Linguistics to teach Swahili and Phonetics.

Sue Hanson is retiring effective September 1st after twenty-seven years as administrative assistant and officer manager in the African Studies Program. She will be missed by office staff, faculty, and students. The ASP will honor her for her work and dedication at the 2008 fall reception on October 3rd.

Faculty Notes

A.B. Assensoh (African American and African Diaspora Studies) published “A Historical-Cum-Political Overview of Ghana’s National Health Insurance Law,” in *African and Asian Studies Journal* (co-authored with Hassan Wahab) and co-authored “A Farewell Salute: Ousmane Sembene, A Distinguished Filmmaker, Author, and Activist,” in *Black Camera*. He was discussant for the panel “Pedagogical and Research Issues in Teaching African and Latin American Courses” and chaired a panel on “Third World History and Politics” at the Association of Third World Studies conference in Lima, Peru. He gave the invited paper “Lincoln’s External Legacy: Africa” at the 2008 Abraham Lincoln International Conference, sponsored by the German American Institute, and presented “Ghana at 50 Years Old: A Histo-Political Perspective” at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Assensoh received the Research Forum Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of Third World Studies and the Eminent Scholar Award for giving the keynote address for the University of Ghana Ahmadiyya Students’ Association of Ghana.

Gracia Clark (Anthropology) participated in a “writeshop” with African traders entitled “Traders Talk” in Nairobi at the beginning of fall semester 2007. The event she helped plan was sponsored by KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam in cooperation with several international organizations. In May

2008, Dr. Clark presented “Lincoln Green and Real Dutch Java Prints: Cloth Selvages as Brands in International Trade” at a conference on “Cultures of Commodity Branding” at University College London, U.K.

Jane Goodman (Communication and Culture) received a Fulbright-Hays fellowship and an ACLS/SSRC/NEH fellowship for her research on Algerian theater during the 2008-09 year.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté (African Studies) presented “Religious Practice and Ethnic Diversity in the Bu Kunta Branch of the Qadiriyya (Senegal)” during the Seventh International Mande Studies Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 24-27 June, 2008.

Lauren Morris MacLean (Political Science) published a working paper “The Micro-Dynamics of Welfare State Retrenchment and the Implications for Citizenship in Africa,” in *Afrobarometer*.

Samuel Obeng (African Studies and Linguistics) published one book, *Efutu Structure*, and co-authored two volumes with Beverly Hartford: *Political Discourse Analysis and Intercultural Communications* in 2008. He also published several book chapters: “Language Maintenance among Akan-Ghanaian Immigrants Living in the United States” in *Migrations and Creative Expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora*, Toyin Falola, Niyi Afolabi, & Adérónké Adésolá Adésányà, eds.; “‘If We Have Something to Tell God, We Tell it to the Wind’ A Linguistic and Discursive Analysis of Akan

Therapeutic Discourse” in *Health Knowledge and Belief Systems in Africa*, Toyin Falola & Matthew Heaton, eds. Obeng also co-authored a review of the *Handbook of Discourse Analysis* with Christopher Green for the *Journal of World Englishes*.

Alwiya Omar (Linguistics) co-authored a Kiswahili text book for advanced learners with Leonce F. Rushubirwa: *Tuwasiliane kwa Kiswahili (Let's Communicate in Kiswahili): A Multidimensional Approach to the Teaching and Learning of Swahili as a Foreign Language*, published by the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) Press, Madison, Wisconsin, 2007.

Daniel B. Reed (Ethnomusicology) received a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grant from the IU Office of the Vice President for Research for “Crossing Boundaries: An Application of Innovative Technology to an Ethnomusicological Study of Ivorian Immigrants in the United States.” He presented “Embodying Diversity, Representing Africa: Renegotiations of Praxis and Identity for Ivorian Immigrant Musicians in the Midwestern United States,” at the 2007 African Studies Association annual meeting; “Music, Masks and Identity in the Lives of 21st Century Dan,” Sogbety Diomande’s West African Celebration, Mansfield, Ohio; and “Ge Performance: Masks, Music and Identity among Ivoirians at Home and Abroad,” Harvard University Committee on African Studies Lecture Series.

Beverly Stoeltje (Anthropology) chaired the organizing committee for the symposium “Rethinking Race in the Americas: Anthropology, Politics and Policy” to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the IU Anthropology Department.

Verlon Stone (Liberia Collections) chaired a panel on the W.V.S. Tubman Papers at the Liberian Studies Association meetings. He was also an invited participant and presenter at the Liberian Archives Symposium at the Schomburg Center of the New York City Library.

Student Notes

Ebenezer Ayesu (History) conducted pre-dissertation research in Ghana in summer 2008.

Meghann Beer (SPEA) completed her Master of Public Administration in May. In the summer, she led a 5-week service-learning trip for US high school students to Tanzania for the NGO *Global Routes*. Meghann also became the executive director for the Bloomington nonprofit *Giving Back to Africa*, which fosters education and community service in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Paul Davis (Art History) was awarded a 2008-09 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship and a Fulbright IIE Grant (declined) for research in Mali.

Christopher Green (Linguistics) published “Discursive Strategies in Political Speech: The Words of Dr. Bingwa Mutharika” in *Issues in*

Political Discourse Analysis and co-authored a review of the *Handbook of Discourse Analysis* with Dr. Samuel Obeng, for *The Journal of World Englishes*. He also presented “Nasal Deletion in Class 9/10 and its Effect on the Augment” at the 39th African Linguistics Conference.

Colleen Haas (Ethnomusicology) received the Outstanding Service Award from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington for her role as artistic director of the Music and Diversity Concert held in February 2008.

Jennifer Hart (History) was awarded a 2008-09 Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship and a Fulbright IIE Grant (declined) for dissertation research in Ghana.

Clara Henderson (Ethnomusicology) was nominated for the Academic Diversity Group award by the Office of Academic Support and Diversity as part of Sheasby Matiore’s Mutihimira Marimba Ensemble.

Abdulwahid Mazrui (Linguistics) and **Khalfan Mohammed** published *Swahili: A Complete Course for Beginners* (Random House, 2007).

Sheasby Matiore (Ethnomusicology) released his second album, *Saruwa Rako*. The album is composed of traditional Shona songs arranged for the mbira nyunganyunga, and for the marimba. Recorded in Bloomington, the full-length album includes tracks with the Mbira Queens and with the Mutinhimira Marimba Ensemble and is available in local stores and by

contacting Mark Miyake at mymiyake@gmail.com.

Kate Schroeder (History) has accepted a position as a librarian with the U.S. Government in Washington, DC. She holds a M.L.S degree from IU’s School of Library and Information Sciences.

Alex Segura (African Studies Certificate student) was awarded an Economics Department Scholarship.

Angela Stone-McDonald (Education) received a 2008-09 Fulbright IIE Grant for research on education for children with developmental disabilities in Lushoto, Tanzania.

Summer Tritt was awarded an IU International Enhancement Grant in support of her summer 2008 internship at the **Balme Library**, University of Ghana at Legon.

Alumni Notes

Matthew Carotenuto (History, 2006) moved from Albion College in Michigan to a new assistant professor position at Saint Lawrence University in Canton, NY.



Director: **Samuel G. Obeng** (812) 855-8284
Associate Director: **Maria Grosz-Ngaté** (812) 855-5081
African Languages Coordinator: **Alwiya Omar** (812) 855-3323
Outreach Director: **Osita Afoaku** (812) 855-6786
Budget Manager: **Helen Harrell** (812) 855-5082
Graduate Assistant: **Angela Scharfenberger** (812) 855-8284

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Woodburn Hall 221
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
Fax: (812) 855-6734
Email: afirst@indiana.edu
<http://www.indiana.edu/~afirst>