



EVENTS

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2010

Note from the Director



Photo courtesy of Indiana University

As we are about to begin the 2010-2011 academic year, I would like to extend warm greetings to you and your families! 2009-2010 was a busy year for the African Studies Program. The range of activities summarized in the pages of this newsletter show us to be a vibrant Program. I thank the faculty, students, and staff whose dedication and energy made them happen.

The ASP office was particularly busy, as this was the year when we had to prepare a new Title VI grant application. Submission was later than usual, but I am pleased to report that we recently received the excellent news that our proposal was successful. Given

our success in the grant competition, we will continue to serve as a US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) for the next four years (2010-14). We will also again have the privilege to offer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to eligible students studying African languages. Together, the NRC and FLAS awards amount to nearly \$630,000 in 2010-2011.

I am grateful to the faculty members who proposed projects to be carried out in the course of the new grant cycle. The Program staff and I look forward to working with all of you to bring them to fruition. Exciting new initiatives will focus on *Islam, Media, and Materialities; African photojournalism; New African Literary Initiatives; Public and Eye Health in Africa; and The West African Savanna as Corridor*, among others. The ASP will continue to work with colleagues in IU's professional schools to augment Africa content in new and existing courses and to further develop linkages and cooperative activities with African institutions.

The ASP also will participate in several major cross-center and cross-school collaborations such as a new initiative to internationalize the community college curriculum beginning with our local

IVY Tech State College, and one on Global Business, Law, and Human Rights. Digitization of our rich Liberian and other library collections will be continued in an effort to further enhance access. We also plan new activities to strengthen assessment of our students' proficiency in African languages, and to expand existing outreach activities.

Finally, I am happy to inform you that interest in our free-standing MA and dual Master's degrees with SPEA (Public Affairs), SLIS (Library Science) and Public Health is growing. We will be seeking approval for the launching of an undergraduate African Studies Minor next academic year. A number of our faculty received tenure and promotion, further strengthening the academic and professional facets of our Program. I congratulate them all.

Let me end with an Akan proverb: *A single head does not constitute a jury.* I would like to emphasize our inter-twined 'destinies' and note the strength that comes from cooperation. I wish you all a peaceful and productive new academic year.

Samuel G. Obeng,
Director

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Visiting Artists & Scholars

From the Postcolonial to the Global Postmodern? African & Caribbean Francophone Filmmakers & Scholars in Conversation brought internationally acclaimed filmmakers from Africa and the Caribbean to campus from March 1-5, 2010. **Gaston Kaboré** (Burkina Faso), **Euzhan Palcy** (Martinique), **Joseph Gaï Ramaka** (Senegal), and **Jean-Marie Teno** (Cameroon) screened their films and discussed their work. The week's events addressed several themes, including: 1) the usefulness of concepts such as postmodernism, globalization and postcolonialism to African filmmaking practices and diasporic experiences, and 2) whether the modern African film industry continues to remain committed to political engagement, which was fundamental to early African cinema.

Participants screened short and feature-length films, several of which were shown in Indiana for the first time. They also met with students and faculty for informal discussions. The festival concluded

with an afternoon forum moderated by **Eileen Julien** (Comparative Literature) and **Michael Martin** (Black Film Center/Archive) where film makers engaged with film scholars **Akinwumi Adesokan** (Comparative Literature), **Kenneth Harrow** (Michigan State University), **Françoise Pfaff** (Howard University), and members of the audience. Most of the events were held in the Black Film Center/ Archive in Wells Library. The program was co-sponsored by the African Studies Program, the College Arts and Humanities Institute, Black Film Center/ Archive, Dean's Office-College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for International Affairs, Department of Comparative Literature, Department of Communication and Culture, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.



Filmmaker Jean-Marie Teno speaks to the audience after screening one of his films. *Courtesy of the IU Black Film Center/ Archive*

Ondjaki



Angolan writer and filmmaker **Ndalu Almeida (Ondjaki)** spent two weeks at IU in fall 2009. Ondjaki has received literary prizes in Angola and Portugal and was recently awarded the Italian Grinzane Cavour Prize for Africa in the young writer category in Ethiopia. Among other themes, his film and books examine past and present life in Luanda. His visit included public readings, a showing and discussion of his film, *Oxala Cresçam Pitangas* (Hope the Pitanga Cherries

Grow), and a roundtable discussion. His visit was co-sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study, the ASP, and the Black Film Center/ Archive.

Joseph Gai Ramaka

Filmmaker and writer **Joseph Gaï Ramaka** taught an eight-week course offered jointly by the departments of Comparative Literature and African and African American Diaspora Studies. Students enrolled in the course performed the play *The Vanity of Power* in the SOFA Gallery on October 24. The work explored the meaning of Gaï Ramaka's allegorical play *Two and One-Thousand Voiced Fragments* about dictatorship in a fictive country. The performance included the participation of visual artist **Wayne Manns** and **Estrella do Norte**, a Capoeira group in Bloomington, and was co-sponsored by ASP.

Femi Osofisan

On December 16, students performed *Farewell to a Cannibal Rage* at the Wells-Metz Theatre. The play was written and directed by award-winning Nigerian playwright **Femi Osofisan**, who was in residence at IU in fall semester, 2009. Inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*, the play treats stereotypes and taboos with uproarious humor, offering a unique vision of star-crossed lovers. The performance was the culmination of an eight-week course taught by Osofisan.

Labou Tansi's *Parentheses of Blood*

In December, students performed the play *Parentheses of Blood* at the Wells-Metz Theatre. Written by **Sony Labou Tansi**, the work depicts a freedom fighter in a country controlled by a brutal authoritarian regime that seeks to squash any threatened rebellion. Libertashio is identified as the number one threat to be eliminated, but even when he is apparently killed, the government continues to hunt him down. Directed by **Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe** (Theatre Department), the play depicts a world that parallels our own, and the exaggerations are not far-fetched.

African Art at the IU Art Museum



Lega peoples, Democratic Republic of the Congo. **Figure for the Bwami Association.** Wood, shells, wax or resin. H. 11 1/2 in. Indiana University Art Museum, Raymond and Laura Wielgus Collection, 2010.31. Photo by Michael Cavanagh and Kevin Montague.

The past year was eventful for African art at the IU Art Museum. While many activities took place—a major special exhibition, tours, lectures, workshops, and acquisitions—in terms of long-term effect, the death of **Raymond Wielgus**, a longtime friend of African art at the Museum overshadowed everything else.

Wielgus died on January 18, 2010, in Tucson. A connoisseur and collector, he and his wife Laura, who passed away in 2003, assembled an extraordinary collection of art from Africa, Oceania, and the Americas during the 1950s, '60s, and early '70s. Through their friendship with Roy Sieber, who taught African art history at IU for many years, they became acquainted with the IU Art Museum and, in 1990, they committed their entire collection to the museum and the financial resources to create a curatorial endowment to support it. With Wielgus's death, the internationally acclaimed collection is now part of the Art Museum's permanent collections. The Wielguses also committed funds to create the Raymond and Laura Wielgus Curatorship in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas and the Raymond and Laura Wielgus Fund,

which will ensure that the museum's collections in those areas continue to thrive.

The major special exhibition, *Form and Surface: African Ceramics, Baskets, and Textiles from the William Itter Collection* (September 26–December 13, 2009), included over 150 objects from all over sub-Saharan Africa. Organized by **Diane Pelrine**, the Art Museum's curator for African art, the exhibition focused on clay vessels collected by painter and retired Hope School of Fine Arts faculty member **William Itter**, with additional examples from his smaller basket and textile collections.

Several public programs were held in conjunction with the exhibition. African ceramics specialist **Barbara Frank**, an IU alumna and Associate Professor of Art History and Africana Studies at Stony Brook University, presented a lecture, "Texts and Textures in African Ceramics," on October 23. In November, Chicago gallery owner **Douglas Dawson** joined Itter and Pelrine in leading a collectors' workshop. Later that month, ceramist and Hope School of Fine Arts

Director **Tim Mather** spoke about pottery techniques as part of the museum's lunchtime Noon Talk series.

Form and Surface also presented the opportunity to join with the African Studies Program in organizing a workshop on African art for local teachers. Using both the permanent collections and the special exhibition, about a dozen teachers spent a full Saturday studying African art as well as trying their skill at making stamps and creating artworks modeled on Ghanaian *adinkra* cloth.

African acquisitions for 2009-10 included ten of the ceramics that had been on display in *Form and Surface*, which were given by Bill Itter, and artworks from the Wielgus estate. Department of the History of Art faculty member **Christiane Gruber** donated objects collected in Niger during the 1930s. Finally, during the past academic year the museum added to its collection of African hats and headgear with the purchase of three wigs from Namibia. --Diane Pelrine, IU Art Museum

Form and Surface: African Ceramics, Baskets, and Textiles exhibit.



Photo by Michael Cavanagh and Kevin Montague.

Library Residencies

facilitate the use of our rich collections by faculty whose institutions have more limited library resources. Our awards committee selected three fellows from a strong group of applicants:

Dior Konate (South Carolina State U.) researched secondary sources for her project on imprisonment and citizenship in colonial Senegal while **Sarah Smiley** (Morgan State U.) perused records on colonial and post-colonial housing and development in Dar es Salaam. **Steven Thompson** (Pacific Lutheran U.) studied J. David Sapiir sound recordings and print materials for his project on cultural constructions of masculinity among the Kasa Jola of The Gambia.

The Wells Library African Studies Collection and the Archives of Traditional Music hosted the recipients of the African Studies Program's summer 2010 library residency awards. The awards are intended to

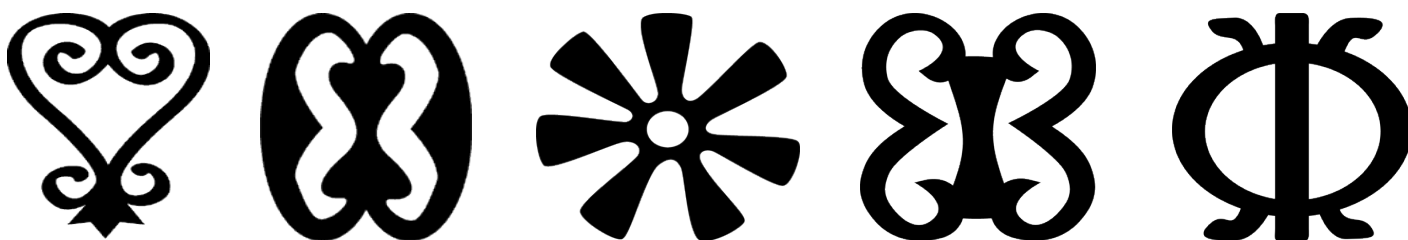
African Currency at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures

The Mathers Museum of World Cultures opened an Africa-focused exhibit in April 2010, which will run through May 8, 2011. *Money Is An Object: African Currency* displays a wide variety of objects used as money in different regions of Africa and in different time periods. Woven strips of cloth, sea shells, iron implements, dyed robes, and copper ingots all served as currency in the past, some of them until quite recently. Many of these items had meaning beyond their use as mediums of exchange and the exhibit explores this “value added” aspect of African currency.

The artifacts on display include a number of items from a significant collection of African currency donated to the museum by **Allen C. Davis**, former U.S. Ambassador to Uganda and Guinea. The exhibit also benefits from the museum’s connection with the Liberian Collections Project, as it features materials including weaving tools donated by **William Siegmann**, the former Curator of the Arts of Africa and the Pacific Islands at the Brooklyn Museum.



Currency in exhibit from Allen C. Davis.
Photo courtesy of the Mathers Museum



Liberian Collections Project

During 2009-2010 the IU Liberian Collections (IULC) improved user access to Liberian research materials and bibliographic information. Strategies included the use of interactive web sites, digitization of images and documents, and improving and increasing IULC’s searchable online image and document databases while expanding its email and phone support to researchers of all ages and levels.

In the December 2009 roll-out, the improved *IU Finding Aids Web Site* added the IULC, providing inventories of 10 Liberian collections. These online finding aids give detailed descriptions of manuscript collections, their intellectual organization, and individual items in the collections. Finding aids for the papers of J. Gus Liebenow (founder and first director of the IU African Studies Program) and John Gay will

soon be added to the IU Finding Aids web site. The finding aids for IULC can be found at: (<http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/findingaids/search?repository=lcp>).

The IULC collaborated with the IU African Studies Collection to incorporate over three hundred Liberian language and linguistic materials into the African Studies Collection’s searchable pamphlet index (<http://www.libraries.iub.edu/?pageId=6060>). It is also collaborating with EBSCO Information Services to post online digitized, searchable issues of the first 33 volumes (1969-2008) of the *Liberian Studies Journal*.

The Africana Librarians Council’s Title VI Librarians awarded the IULC grants to digitize the recently microfilmed papers of William V.S. Tubman, Liberia’s

longest serving president, and to complete the organizational processing of the manuscript collection of Bai T. Moore, Liberian novelist, poet, intellectual, and government official still revered as “the greatest champion of Liberia’s culture and indigenous heritage.”

Visiting scholars to IULC included researchers from public and private universities in the U.S. and from overseas. Many others were supported via emailed annotated bibliographies which integrated resources from the IU Liberian Collections and the IU African Studies Collection, often after extensive phone interviews. Beneficiaries included researchers from Sewanee: The University of the South, University of Tel Aviv, University of Liberia, Cuttington University, and the Government of Liberia.

African Languages Program



Dr. Betty Dlamini and Zulu students

Photo courtesy of Dr. Betty Dlamini.

AFRICAN LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

This past fall and spring, African language students participated in the biannual African language festival, sharing their experiences in the African language program with the campus and Bloomington communities. Presentations included skits, songs, and other aspects of culture that students learned in their language classes. The spring festival was sponsored by the IU African Languages Club with funding from the IU Student AID office.



Wolof students

Photo courtesy of Dr. Alwiya Omar.



Akan class.

Courtesy of Abdou Yaro.



Bamana skit

Photo courtesy of Dr. Abdou Yaro.



Swahili class

Photo courtesy of Dr. Alwiya Omar.

African Studies Culture Courses

African Languages Lecturers developed new culture courses to expand recruitment for African languages. **David Adu-Amankwah** taught Occultism in Africa; Popular Akan Oral Art Forms, and Ananse as an African (Akan) Folk Hero. **Betty Dlamini** offered Reed Dance; Gumboot Dance – Beauty from Pain, and Southern African Culture of Song and Dance. Students in the latter two classes performed at the Wilkie Auditorium and Briscoe Hall Lounge. **Abdou Yaro** taught Children's Images in African Cinema, and Mande Culture in Cinema.

Thank you... to **Dior Fall**, who taught Wolof in the 2009-2010 academic year as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA). Fall has returned to Senegal where she will be teaching high school students in Saint-Louis. A warm welcome to **Doroth Lwelamila** from Tanzania who will be joining us in the fall as a FLTA for Kiswahili.

Co-sponsored Special Events

The workshop, *Locations, Epistemologies, Pedagogies I*, brought scholars from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (WITS), Stellenbosch University, and Indiana University together to explore the relationships of place to the interpretation, criticism, and the teaching of texts. Scholars' papers also examined the weight of specific contexts and languages in enabling knowledge and the very practice of criticism. IU presenters had a South African commentator for their papers and vice versa. Held at IU April 12-14, the event was organized by **Eileen Julien** (Department of Comparative Literature and the Project on African Expressive Traditions) and **James Ogude** (Department of African Literature, WITS). A second workshop is scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2011.

The African Studies Program was one of the sponsors of several lectures hosted by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC) over the past academic year. Presenters at the *Poetry and Theory Workshops* gave lectures in Arabic and then served as discussants for presentations by NELC Arabic literature graduate students. Africa-related presentations included "The Qasida in West African Arabic

Poetry: Marriage or Concubinage?" by **Munir Gibrill** (NELC). ASP also co-sponsored two lectures by **Dr. Akiko Motoyoshi Sumi** on *The 1001 Nights* and *The 101 Nights*. The latter is a collection of stories that was handed down through Maghrebi manuscripts. Sumi is a professor of Cross-Cultural Studies at Kyoto Notre Dame University.

German filmmaker and TV personality **Mo Asumang** screened and discussed her film *Roots, Germania? Afro-German Identity in Context* in January 2010. The film addresses multicultural issues in modern Germany.

On April 16, **Birgit Brock-Utne** spoke at the School of Education. Brock-Utne is an internationally recognized researcher and educator in the fields of literacy and language policies, peace studies, and feminist scholarship. In her lecture, "Understanding What the Teacher Is Saying – The Language of Instruction Issue in Africa," Brock-Utne discussed insights on language of instruction based upon her experience teaching and working in Tanzania, Namibia, and Norway.

IUPUI Committee on African and African American Studies (CAAAS) Activities

2009-2010 Committee Chair: Dr. Jennifer Thorington-Springer, Dept. of English

In October 2009, CAAAS co-sponsored the second annual African Film Series with the Indianapolis Museum of Art in an effort to raise awareness on Africa and build relationships with the Indianapolis community. Three dynamic films were shown: *Say My Name*, *Boys of Baraka*, and *My Mother's House*. CAAAS faculty members facilitated discussion after the well-attended screenings.

Also in October, **Abebaw Gezie** (College of Education and Department of Psychology, Addis Ababa University) gave a lecture on "The Dynamics of Human Trafficking: Lessons from Three Ethiopian Trafficking Returnees."

CAAAS co-sponsored the First Public Scholars in Africana Studies International Conference: "Rethinking Economic Development in the Context of Globalization: Entrepreneurship, the Knowledge Economy, and Sustainable Development" from October 29-31, 2009. His Royal Majesty **Oba (King) Michael Aremu Gbadebo** offered a keynote address on "The Changing Role of Nigeria in the 21st Century Knowledge Economy." **Keenan Grinell** (Colgate University) and **Toyin Falola** (University of Texas at Austin) also presented keynote lectures.

On March 3, 2010, CAAAS organized a panel on Haiti, entitled "In the Wake of the Quake: Rethinking and Rebuilding Haiti". IUPUI professors from various disciplines who study Africa and the African Diaspora, along with students and community leaders, addressed the myths and misunderstandings about Haiti and its history, the island nation's environmental and natural hazards, and the sharing of resources to help with the rebuilding effort.

A Symposium on "Natural Resource Wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Their Impact on Women and Children" brought together scholars and community leaders on May 21-22, 2010. Professor **Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja** delivered the keynote address.

The IUPUI Africana Studies' Olaniyan Scholars Research Program hosted a High School Summer Program, June 7-18, which included seminar presentations by CAAAS faculty members.

African Studies Outreach Program Highlights



Teachers learning Ghanaian dance during Spring Workshop. *Courtesy of ASP.*

The Outreach Program had a dynamic year of workshops, presentations, and performances. A fall teacher workshop, organized in collaboration with the IU Art Museum, offered teachers a comprehensive view of African arts and culture. The spring workshop was the second in a two-part series of workshops on African music. Music teachers from across the state experienced African music with Ghanaian master musician **Bernard Woma** (African Studies). ASP faculty and Ph.D. candidates introduced teachers to topics in the African arts and humanities, history and society, and contemporary issues during the week-long 2010 Summer Institute. Teachers are developing lesson plans that will be posted on the Outreach Program web page.



Jessica Hurd discussing indigo dying techniques in Wendy Bernstein's art class at Arlington Elem. *Courtesy of ASP.*

African Studies Program affiliates visited over 30 schools and community groups during the past year, reaching students of all ages. Several of the programs were long-term, offering students richer understandings of African traditions and their contexts. **Jessica Hurd** (Art History) taught fifth graders in **Wendy Bernstein's** art classes at Arlington Elementary how to make stepping stone designs in concrete using found objects and paint, imitating women's art from Mali. **Bernard Woma**, with the assistance of graduate students **Fred Pratt** (History) and **Paul Schauert** (Ethnomusicology), taught African music and dance in over 15 schools, reaching as far as Fort Wayne. Under the guidance of music teacher Kathy Heise, Fairview Elementary 4-6th graders participated in a weekly drumming group, learning hand drums and songs from Nigeria and Ghana with **Angela Scharfenberger** (Ethnomusicology), culminating in a year-



Bernard Woma demonstrates the *gyil* to a group of homeschool students at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. *ASP.*

end performance for their school. Schools in other states benefited from teleconference presentations on a variety of topics relating to Africa.



Cosmas Magaya at the Lotus Blossoms Bazaar. *Courtesy of ASP.*

African Studies also participated in community events such as the Bloomington Multicultural Expo, the Lotus Bazaar, and the ASP Film Series, headed by Outreach Director **Abdou Yaro** (African Studies). The successful Family Craft Day was developed in collaboration with the Mathers Museum and the Monroe County Public Library. Children and their families made simple musical instruments, modeled on African ones. Participants also learned rhythms and dances with **Austin Okigbo** (Ethnomusicology).



Austin Okigbo teaches drumming at Family Craft Day. *Courtesy of Beth Buggenhagen*



Cosmas Magaya teaching about the *mbira* at Templeton Elem. *Courtesy of ASP.*

Finally, ASP hosted two world-renowned performances: Zimbabwean *mbira* player **Cosmas Magaya**, and Bernard Woma's **Saakumu Dance Ensemble**. Each performed in Martinsville and Bloomington schools, as well as for classes on campus and in public performances. The African Students Association, led by **Isak Nti Asare**, was highly involved in outreach throughout the year, contributing both resources and enthusiasm to several events.



Saakumu drummer talking with Poston Road (Martinsville) Elem. Students. *Courtesy of ASP.*



Woma teaching drumming at a workshop during Saakumu's visit. *ASP.*

Democratic Processes, Violence, and Reconstruction in Africa Symposium

The ASP organized a symposium on **Democratic Processes, Violence, and Reconstruction in Africa** in partnership with the Indiana Consortium for International Programs and the IUPUI Office of International Affairs. Held on the Indianapolis campus on September 25, 2009, the symposium featured presentations on Kenya's democratic transition by **Maurice Amutabi** (Central Washington University); post-war reconstruction in Mozambique by **Anne Pitcher** (University of Michigan); the reconstruction of the Liberian judiciary by **Jallah Barbu** (IU Law); and on rural civil society and post-violence reconstruction by **Joshua Forrest** (LaRoche College). **Lauren Morris MacLean** (IU Political Science) moderated the sessions. The event opened with a luncheon and keynote address by Zimbabwean writer and activist Zvisinei Sandi (Georgetown University).

2009-2010 Film Screenings

The ASP Outreach Program screened the following films in the Monroe County Public Library during the 2009-10 academic year:

Ezra (2007, Director: Newton I. Aduaka)

Long Night's Journey Into Day (2000, Directors: Deborah Hoffmann and Frances Reid)

Everyone's Child (1996, Director: Tsitsi Dangarembga)

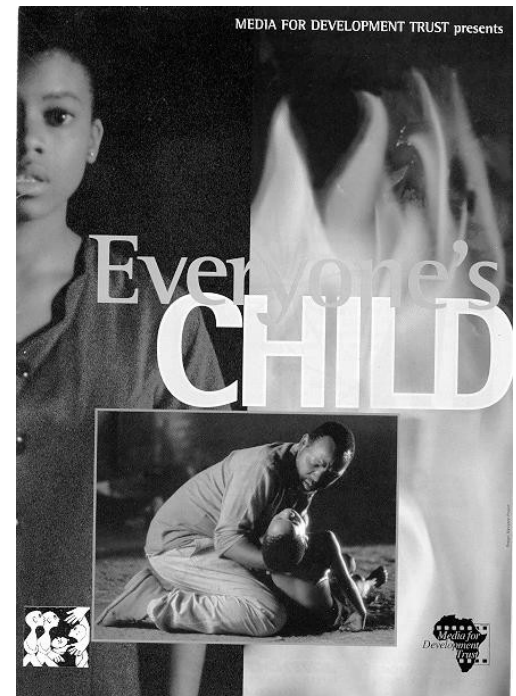
Thunderbolt (2000, Director: Tunde Kelani)

Sankofa (2003, Director: Haile Gerima)

Moolaade (2004, Director: Ousmane Sembene)

IU Mini-University

Several ASP faculty members also taught at IU's Mini University in June. This weeklong continuing-education program offered noncredit classes in a wide variety of subjects to IU alumni, staff, and faculty. Courses offered by ASP faculty included: **Diane Pelrine** (IU Art Museum), "Exploring African Art at the Indiana University Art Museum"; **Michelle Moyd** (History), "Africa and Africans in World War I: The Forgotten Front"; **Lauren Morris MacLean** (Political Science), "Democracy and Development in Ghana: Lessons for the Rest of Africa", and **Kevin Hunt** (Anthropology), "Making Sense off 'Ardi,' the New Ardipithecus Ramidus Fossils: Chimpanzee, Human, or Both?"



NOAFEST receives Warhol Grant

The New Orleans Afrikan Film and Arts Festival Project (NOAFEST) received an \$80,000 grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for broad support of its project. Launched in summer 2008, NOAFEST exposes the New Orleans public to new ideas and other worlds through multi-media events involving film, music, and dance, as well as literary or visual arts. The organization strives to cultivate the excitement and energy produced by encounter and exchange between the artists whom it brings to its screenings and spectators. Africa and its diasporas are points of departure through which participants open themselves to the world. **Eileen Julien** (Comparative Literature) is the co-founder and co-president of NOAFEST.

Collaborative Teacher Workshops

Six workshops, held in cooperation with IU's Center for Social Studies and International Education in different parts of the state, targeted two standards of the Indiana Geography and History of the World high school course. **Megan Hershey** (Political Science) provided Africa content for the standard on Conflict and Cooperation; **Paul Schauert** (Ethnomusicology) did the same for the standard on Innovations and Revolutions.

Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Recipients

Academic Year 2009-2010 Fellows

Erick Amick (Applied Health Sciences and African Studies), Swahili V
 Jonathan Anderson (Linguistics), Akan III
 Virginia Bunker (African Studies), Akan III
 Jennifer Chizek (Anthropology), Akan II
 Ryan Conway (Political Science), Akan I
 Jessica Dilsaver (Linguistics), Arabic I
 Emily Giovanni (School of Public and Environmental Affairs), Swahili II
 Sarah Keil (Library Science and African Studies), Bamana I
 Nesrin Omer (African Studies), Zulu IV
 Elizabeth Pfeiffer (Anthropology), Swahili II
 Julie Rawe (African Studies), Wolof II
 Justin Wild (School of Public and Environmental Affairs & African Studies), Swahili III
 Katherine Wiley (Anthropology), Arabic V

Summer 2010 Fellows

Meg Arenberg (Comparative Literature), Swahili IV
 Lewis Bradford (Anthropology), Arabic II
 Jennifer Chizek (Anthropology), Akan II
 Sekou Kante (School of Public and Environmental Affairs),
 Bamana I

Janice Levi (African Studies), Bamana II
 Allison Martino (Art History), Akan I
 James O'Dea (Undergraduate, Anthropology), Bamana III
 Elizabeth Pfeiffer (Anthropology), Swahili III
 Julie Rawe (African Studies), Wolof III

Wednesday Seminar Guest Speakers 2009-2010

Fall 2009: "The Twentieth Century II: Afrocosmopolitanism"

Akinwumi Adesokan (Comparative Literature)

October 21 "Geographic Thinking: Édouard Glissant, Philosopher," **Patrice Nganang** (Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, SUNY Stony Brook)

October 28 "Cosmopolitan Disconnect: Fanon, Xenophobia and Post-Apartheid Political Culture," **Harry Garuba** (African Studies and English, UCT)

November 4 "Anachronism and Primitivism: Timeliness, Abstraction and the Cultural Politics of Form in Aimé Césaire and Wifredo Lam," **Natalie Melas** (Comparative Literature, Cornell)

November 11 "Lessons from Bolano-Land: The Death of the Postcolonial, the Ugly Birth of the Transnational," **Grant Farred** (English and Africana Studies, Cornell)

December 2 "The Morality of Ritual in Soyinka's Drama," **Abiola Irele** (African and African American Studies and Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University)

Spring 2010: "Voices and Values in African Performance and Colonial Relationships"

Ruth Stone (Folklore and Ethnomusicology)

February 24 "Sembene: A Disalienated Modernity," **Akinwumi Adesokan** (Comparative Literature, IU)

March 24 "Music and the (Post-) Post-Colony: Stories from Tanzania and Rwanda," **Gregory Barz** (Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University)

March 31 **Cosmas Magaya**, Master Performer, *Mbira DzVadzimu*, Zimbabwe

April 7 "The Political Economy of the Archive and the Geo/Politics of Literary Culture in Africa," **Olabode Ibrinke** (Department of English, Johns Hopkins University)

April 14 "Power Moves: Colonial Military Culture and Physical Expression in German East Africa," **Michelle Moyd** (History, IU)

April 21 "The Right to Copy: Imitation and Creativity in Tanzanian Musical Compositions," **Alex Perullo** (Anthropology, Bryant University)

African Students' Research Award

Ammina Kothari (Journalism) and **Josef Woldense** (Political Science) received the 2010 African Students' Research Award.



Kothari's dissertation research examines the role of Tanzanian media in educating the public about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, focusing especially on media-based educational initiatives to counter the increasing spread of the epidemic among women. Kothari was also awarded a 2010 Summer Pre-Dissertation

Travel Grant. She was selected to participate in the National Communication Association's Annual Doctoral Honors Seminar at the University of Utah in summer 2010. The theme of this year's seminar was "Communication Research in the Next 100 Years: Evolving Issues, Theoretical Tensions and Methodological Pluralism."

Woldense's dissertation research examines institutional change, violence, and contentious politics as he explores why some coups succeed while others fail. He focuses on the events of 1974 that culminated in the ousting of Haile Selassie, the



last monarch of Ethiopia. Woldense has presented at several IU conferences, including the Herman Hudson Symposium where he gave the paper entitled "Nation or Ethnicity: Forging Eritrean [es] and Ethiopian [es]".

Carleton T. Hodge Award

Abbie Hantgan (Linguistics) was awarded the 2010 Carleton T. Hodge Prize for excellence in African Studies. Her dissertation research on the endangered language isolate Bangime, spoken in Mali, is supported by a Fulbright-Hays-Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant. In the summer of 2009, she returned to Mali to continue her linguistic study of Bangime and translate literacy materials into Kindige. She and her research assistant also partnered with Dr. Jeffrey Heath (University of Michigan) to convert his preliminary dictionary of Najamba into Kindige.



Hantgan also received a College of Arts and Sciences travel grant to present her studies of Bangime at the World Conference on African Linguistics in Cologne, Germany, and her research on Kindige at the Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics in Leiden, Netherlands. She has published one article entitled, "Does Tone Polarity Exist? Evidence from Plural Formation among Bangime Nouns," in the *Indiana University Working Papers in Linguistics Volume 8 (African Linguistics Across the Discipline)*.

Tuesday Noon Talks

The African Studies Program continued to host its Tuesday Noon Talks throughout the 2009-2010 academic year. IU faculty and graduate students from a variety of departments including History, Communication & Culture, Education, Anthropology, and Art History shared their research. The talks covered a broad range of topics from sport in Ghana to theater in Algeria to children in African cinema. Femi Osofisan from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, spoke about "The Experience of Writing in Africa Today: A Personal Itinerary" during the fall semester. The noon talks continue to provide the opportunity for presenters to share their research and get feedback from others about their work.

Faculty Notes

Akinwumi Adesokan (Comparative Literature) was an invited speaker at the International Colloquium on African Urbanism, organized by the African Center for Cities between March 31 and April 4, 2009, at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He also published a chapter, "Excess Luggage: Nigerian Films and the World of Immigrants" in *The New African Diaspora*, (Isidore Okpewho and Nkiru Nzegwu, eds.), Indiana University Press, as well as an article, "Practicing 'Democracy' in Nigerian Films" in the *Journal of African Affairs*. In summer 2010, his essay on the cinema of Abderrahmane Sissako was published in *Screen*, and he was an invited speaker at the international workshop on Nollywood, held at the Kwara State University, Ilorin, Nigeria.

David Adu-Amankwah (African Studies) presented at several conferences over the past year including the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) Conference in Madison, WI, where he gave the paper "Using Video to Teach the Target Culture to Non-Native Learners: The Case of Akan." He also served as an editor for the *Journal of the African Language Teachers Association (JALTA)*.

Akwasi B. Assensoh (African American & African Diaspora Studies) was presented with the Outstanding Leadership and Service Award by the Association of Third World Studies at its November 2009 annual conference in Elmina, Ghana. Assensoh has also been re-appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Third World Studies (JTWS)*, the refereed Journal of the association. His co-authored book (with Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh), *African Military History & Politics, 1900-Present*, was reissued in 2010 in paperback by Palgrave/Macmillan. Assensoh also gave an invited lecture at Harvard University's affiliated Institute for Advanced Studies at Adenta, Accra, Ghana and completed part of his research for a commissioned book manuscript (with Alex-Assensoh) at the

Du Bois Center in Accra, Ghana, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York.



Courtesy of Gracia Clark

Gracia Clark (Anthropology) published a new book, *African Market Women: Seven Life Stories from Kumasi, Ghana* (Indiana University Press) as well as two articles "Loyalties and Scapegoats: Relations Between Market Traders in Kumasi, Ghana and Their Governments in Historical Perspective" (*African Studies Quarterly*) and "Working the Field: Kumasi Central Market as Community, Employer and Home" (*Anthropology of Work Review*). She also received several collaborative grants, including one to work on a project on second-hand clothing in Kumasi as part of "Localizing Globalization: Gendered Transformations of Work in Developing Economies," a new interdisciplinary project at UNIFOB-Global, University of Bergen, Norway. Clark gave the keynote talk at the UNIFOB preparatory conference "Global Transformations of Gender and Work: Methodological Challenges in Comparative and Multidisciplinary Research" at the University of Bergen. Her lecture was entitled "Globalization with Ancestors: The Deep Roots and Recent Transformations of Global Influences on Gendered Trading Patterns in Ghana". Clark also presented papers at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (University of Cambridge); the Public Scholars in Africana Studies International Conference (IUPUI); the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference (Leipzig, Germany), and at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Betty Dlamini (African Studies) became a member of the advisory board of the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC). She presented two papers at the annual African Language Teachers Association in Madison, Wisconsin including, "Passion as a Force and Bridge that Leads to Language Proficiency: A Case of IU Intermediate Zulu Class Writing Zulu Papers on Topics of Their Own Choice." She also gave "Subversions and Identity Reclamation: Swazi Women in Song," at the Annual Symposium on African American Culture and Philosophy. In addition, Dlamini published the article, "Gumboot Dance," in the *Grundschulmagazin* and a Siswati textbook for American students, *Asikhulume Siswati* (NALRC).

Hasan El-Shamy (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) conducted a workshop and training session on the topic of "Fields of Folklore and Current Theories of Folklore" at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information, Division of Culture and National Heritage, Kingdom of Bahrain. He also gave two lectures and one television interview in Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and King Saud University. At Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, he presented the inaugural lecture in a semi-annual series honoring the legacy of the Turkish folklorist P. N. Boratav. The lecture was titled "How Folklore Theories and Techniques Approach Narrative Traditions of Islamic Countries: the case of AT/ATU 938B, *Better in Youth*. The Oedipus Complex or the Sethian Syndrome?" Columbia University's Department of Arabic also invited him to present "The Structure of Sentiments in an Arab Novel, Short Story Anthology, Folktale, Folk Ballad, and Folk Romance-Epic: The Brother-Sister Syndrome". El-Shamy published *Religion Among the Folk in Egypt* (Praeger Publishers) and two of his other works were reissued: *Qâmûs mustalahât al-ethnolojyâ wa al-folklore* (translation of A. Hultkranz's *General Ethnological Concepts*) with El-Mariff and *Nazariyyât al-folklore al-mucâsirah* (Translation of R.M. Dorson (ed.), "Theories of Folklore and Folklife Studies" in *Folklore and Folklife: An Introduction*), Cairo. His chapter, "Fihrist al-juzay'iyâat li al-ma'thuuraat al-sha'biyyah al-shafaahiyyah" (An Index for Oral Folk Traditions--Arabic) in *Al-Thaqaafah Al-Sha'biyyah (Folk Culture)* (Manama, Bahrain) is forthcoming.

Marion Frank-Wilson (School of Library Science) presented the paper, "Africana Personal Papers at Indiana University - Issues and Questions", at the conference of the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa in June 2010. Her paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of *African Research & Documentation*. She also attended the 2010 conference of European Librarians in African Studies in London.

Eileen Julieen (Comparative Literature) published *Travels with Mae: Scenes from a New Orleans Girlhood* (Indiana University Press).

Marissa Moorman (History) received a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies and from Fulbright-Hays to continue her project "Tuning in to Nation: Radio, 'Imagined Community' and the Cold War in Angola, 1961-2002" during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Michelle Moyd (History) received a Residential Fellowship from the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas-Austin for the 2010-2011 academic year. She also received a Research Leave Supplement Award from IU's Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Campus Writing Program Writing-Teaching Grant. Moyd published "'All people were barbarians to the askari...': Askari Identity and Honor in the Maji Maji War, 1905-1907" in James Gibling and Jamie Monson, eds., *Maji Maji: Lifting the Fog of War* (Leiden: Brill 2010) as well as a review of *Wielding the Ax: State Forestry and Social Conflict in Tanzania, 1820-2000* in the *Journal of African History*. She presented at the African Studies Association's annual meeting and at numerous events across campus including the Mini-University (IUB Alumni Association) and events held by the Germanic Studies Program.

Lauren Morris MacLean's (Political Science) book *Informal Institutions and Citizenship: Risk and Reciprocity in Rural Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire* was published by Cambridge University Press in June 2010. Her article "State Retrenchment

and the Exercise of Citizenship in Africa" is forthcoming in *Comparative Political Studies*.

Samuel Obeng published *Topics in Descriptive and African Linguistics. Essays in Honor of Distinguished Professor Newman* (LINCOM EUROPA, 2009); and *Intercultural Communication Handbook* (Nova Science Publishers, 2010) with Beverly Hartford. He also published two refereed journal articles and a book chapter: "Aspects of Language Maintenance of Ghanaian (Akan) Immigrant College Students Living in the United States." *African Linguistics across the Discipline IULC Working Papers in Linguistics* (Volume 8); "Disagreements in Akan Juridical Discourse." *Issues in Intercultural Communication* (forthcoming 2010); and (with Tristan Purvis) "Sub-Saharan Africa." In Joshua Fishman (ed.) *Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press. In addition, he published two poems: "An Orator with a Tongue." *Issues in Intercultural Communication* (2009); and "The Tongue that Could Not Be Silenced." *Issues in Political Discourse Analysis* (2009). He made four conference presentations: "Speaking the Unspeakable: Mitigating Cross-Cultural Miscommunication Through Understanding Communicative Strategies in African Society." Center for Advanced Study of Language, Stuttgart, Germany (June 2010); "Disagreement in Akan Jurisprudence" 22nd Ethnographic and Qualitative Conference, Cedarville University, Ohio (June 2010); "President Obama's Speech to Ghana's Parliament: Implications for Africa-US Relations," Kentucky State University, Frankfort (March 2010); and "Obliqueness in Akan Jurisprudence." African Studies Center, Michigan State University (December 2009).

Daniel Reed (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) published *Mask, Music and Dance Performance in Western Côte d'Ivoire*, (1997), with the Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis Digital Archive (EVIADA). The work is a research analysis of field video. He also presented a lecture at the Rietberg Museum in Zurich, Switzerland, in September 2009 on the invitation of Eberhard Fischer, Director Emeritus. Fischer along with his father Hans Himmelheber did much of the foundational research on Dan masks and religion from the 1930s through the 1970s.

Mohammad Torabi (HPER) was the recipient of the Biennial Plaque of Recognition and Appreciation for his service to the International Council on Health, Physical Education, Recreation – Sport and Dance (ICHPER-SD). It was awarded at the 52nd ICHPER-SD World Congress in Doha, Qatar in May, 2010. His keynote presentation entitled "Physical Activity as a Panacea for Disease Prevention and Health," will be published in the Proceedings of the Congress (paper co-authored with A. Luegers).

Abdou Salam Yaro (African Studies) presented the paper "Nyamanton ou La leçon des choses" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference (KFLC) in April 2010. He also gave the paper "Cinema and African Language Teaching and Learning: The Case of Bambara", at the African Language Teachers Association in April 2010.

New Faculty

Jennifer N. Brass will be joining the faculty of the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs in the fall. She earned her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and her master's and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. Her dissertation, *Surrogates for Government? NGOs and the State in Kenya*, focuses on the political impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa, examining whether the recent proliferation of NGOs undermines or bolsters the state. She explores the impact of NGOs on four "elements of stateness": governance, legitimacy, capacity, and territoriality. Brass has published articles on both Kenya and Djibouti and has received numerous fellowships, including the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship. She has worked for the International Law Institute in Washington, D.C. and has also served as a consultant for various organizations, including the United Nations' Development Programme. Dr. Brass has also had a recurring educational role as an AIDS doctor on a Kenyan Broadcasting Company sitcom, *Vituko!*



Student Notes

Kate Bishop (Anthropology) participated in the Smithsonian's 2010 Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology. The goal of her research project was to locate and analyze African items of dress that display printed political imagery including articles that promote social programs, such as cloth made for Women's Day in many countries.

Okomfo Ama Boakyewa (Anthropology) was awarded a 2010-2011 Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship to the African Studies Department of Howard University. The award is sponsored by the IU Graduate School.

Virginia Bunker (African Studies) presented a paper at Ohio University's (Athens) 2010 Sports in Africa Conference. This year's theme was *Politics and Globalization*. Her paper was based on research for her master's thesis focused on sports and development in Ghana.

Candice Grant (School of Education) received an International Enhancement Grant from the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs. The grant funded preliminary dissertation research in Senegal during the summer of 2010.

Christopher Green (Linguistics), fellow graduate student Jon Anderson and ASP Director Samuel Obeng co-edited and published a peer-reviewed working papers volume, *African Linguistics Across the Discipline*, in which his co-authored essay "Syncope and the drive towards minimization in Colloquial Bamana" appears. Green presented a paper entitled "Margins and Metrical Structure: Constraining Minimization in Colloquial Bamana" at the Annual Conference on African Linguistics in Toronto.

He also presented at the Manchester Phonology Meeting and the Mid-Continental Workshop on Phonology. Green was a National Institutes of Health Pre-Doctoral Fellow for 2009-2010 and a recipient of a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant to conduct research in Mali during the summer of 2010.

Megan Joy Hershey (Political Science) received the College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship for 2010-2011. The award will help fund the completion of her dissertation, "NGOs, Success and the Role of Community in Kenya's Fight Against HIV/AIDS."

Sarah Keil (African Studies & SLIS) received funding from the College of Arts and Sciences to present a paper at the 2010 Human Development Conference at Notre Dame in February 2010. The conference theme was "People, Power, and Pragmatism: The Future of Development in Our Changing World" and her presentation was entitled "On the Brink: Perspectives on Healthcare for the Muslim Women of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon."

Austin Okigbo received his Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology. His dissertation is entitled, "Ingoma Yomzabalazo - Music of the Struggles: An Ethnography of a South African Zulu Choral Music and the HIV/AIDS Struggle." He will be teaching in the College of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame during the 2010-11 academic year.

Elizabeth (Libby) Pfeiffer (Anthropology) received a Summer Research Feasibility Award from the Department of Anthropology to conduct preliminary dissertation research in Kenya. This summer she also served as the Principal Investigator for the project "HIV/AIDS and Risk Reduction: Understanding the Cultural Contexts of Women's Vulnerabilities in Western Kenya". In the summer of 2009 she co-directed a study abroad program to Jamaica for Ball State University; the group published a literacy reader for an NGO entitled *Our Jamaica: Voices from Within* with Drinian Press.

Fred Pratt (History) received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant to conduct his dissertation

research in Ghana. His project is entitled "Mass Media and the Construction of the Post-Colonial State: Radio and Cinema in Gold Coast and Ghana, 1950-1966".

Paul Schauert (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) received a Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship to teach at IU South Bend for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Carolina Jane Smith (Linguistics) was accepted into the Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad in South Africa, directed by the University of Pennsylvania. She spent eight weeks in South Africa to study Zulu at the University of KwaZulu-Natal; she also traveled to Durban and the rural villages at Maqongqo, Eshowe, KwaZulu-KwaNongoma, and the Drakensberg mountains. In summer 2009, she participated in the IU study abroad program in Dakar, Senegal.

Cullen Buckminster Strawn (Folklore and Ethnomusicology) received a Graduate and Professional Student Organization Travel Award to present at the 2009 African Studies Association annual meeting. His paper was entitled "Kunfè Ko: Uncertainty in Malian Wasulu Hunters' Music Performance and Hunting." He also wrote liner notes and photographs for two CDs of Wasulu hunters' music – *Toba Seydou Traore* and *Abdoulaye Traore* – which were released in June by Yaala Yaala Records. Strawn served as a consultant for the acquisition of musical instruments and related objects from Mali for the Musical Instrument Museum, Phoenix, Arizona.

Justin Wild (SPEA) was a committee member for the International Public Affairs Association (IPAA) which held its conference on March 26. The conference consisted of presentations from faculty and students from several different universities; the keynote speaker was former President of Ecuador Jamil Mahuad. Wild also traveled to Kenya in July as part of an IU course "Kenya Today," taught by Diane Henshel and Henry Wakungu. The group is partnered with Moi University students and traveled throughout the country studying issues of the environment, health, policy, and society and culture.

Katherine Wiley (Anthropology) was awarded a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant to conduct her dissertation research. Her project is entitled "From Slavery to Success: Gendered Economic Strategies in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania." She was also a co-organizer of a panel at the African Studies Association's Annual Meeting on which she presented a paper: "From the Guinée to the Gâz: Race and Gender through Mauritanian Cloth-in-Motion."

Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS)

In the spring of 2010, Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS) created a new constitution which includes the following objectives: promoting interest in the study and research of African cultures, providing greater awareness of African Studies, and hosting social activities. GSAS also began a speaker series which will provide a forum for graduate students to present their ideas and research to each other. Social events included ice skating as well as a spring potluck. In addition to holding monthly meetings that were open to all members, officers met biweekly to discuss the status and progress of the organization and to plan for upcoming events.

GSAS officers are creating a website where information about upcoming events and fundraising can be found. GSAS will also mail welcome brochures to incoming students in the ASP master's program. Additional events are being planned for fall 2010 including a student conference. GSAS is open to any IU graduate student who is affiliated with ASP. For further information please contact Muhammad al-Munir Gibrill at mgibrill@umail.iu.edu.



GSAS ice skating event.
Courtesy of Janice Levi

In Memory...

The African Studies Program staff, faculty, and students were saddened by the passing of Sue Hanson on December 5, 2009, after a brief illness. Sue retired in September 2008 after working for the African Studies Program for 27



years, most recently as the Office Manager and FLAS Coordinator. She graciously assisted during the transition year following her retirement when the need arose. Sue is fondly remembered for her dedication to the Program and its students, visitors, and faculty. The ASP has established an Undergraduate Paper Prize in Sue's memory. To donate to this fund, please see the form on the back cover of the Newsletter.

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Alumni: Please send us updates on your activities to share in our next newsletter!