

University of Oregon

African Studies

Fall 2013

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 8, 8 pm

Celebrate Africa! Festival of the Arts

Reception with food, drinks, music and art
Broadway Commerce Center, Eugene

Info: www.facebook.com/CelebrateAfrica

Sat-Sun, November 9-10, various times

Celebrate Africa! Festival of the Arts

Film festival; Dance and Drum Workshops;
Live Concert

Bijou Metro; Gerlinger Annex; Cozmic Pizza

Info: blogs.uoregon.edu/celebrateafrica

Wednesday, November 13, 12-1.15 pm

African Studies Lecture Series

Dr. Larry Becker, Geography, OSU

“Land Sales on the Urban Fringe in Mali:
Food and Equity in Jeopardy?”

Knights Library Browsing Room

Wednesday, November 13, 1.30-4.00 pm

Lunch and Meetings with Larry Becker

Spots available for lunch with Dr. Becker and
for 30-45 minute individual meetings.

Contact graboyes@uoregon.edu to schedule.



An Exciting New Year

African Studies is in the midst of a number of exciting changes. We would like to welcome Leslie Steeves as the new director, and extend a large thank you to Stephen Wooten, who served as director last academic year. Leslie will serve as the interim director for academic year 2013-2014. We welcome two new members of the African Studies Executive Committee, who will also serve one-year terms: Lisa Gilman and Lindsay Braun. Janis Weeks is our third member of the committee.

We have a full schedule of activities planned, in addition to a new 2-unit AFR course offered in conjunction with the Lecture Series during winter and spring quarter. A few of our goals for this year will be to grow the number of our undergraduate minors, increase the number of AFR prefix classes, maintain enrollment levels in other core AFR classes, and continue to support our existing minors through language training and study abroad experiences. We look forward to an exciting and active year!



African Studies Program

Director: Leslie Steeves
Assistant Director: Melissa Graboyes
GTF: Emmalee McDonald

New AFR Faculty and Staff—Welcome!

New hires related to Lusophone literature, Women and Gender Studies, African Dance, and a new AFR Librarian



Kemi Balogun
Assistant Professor
WGS & Sociology

Kemi Balogun received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2012. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and her parents are originally from Nigeria. In her spare time she enjoys reading biographies and dance.

Kemi is interested in embodiment, globalization, nationalism, gender & sexuality, culture, and African migration. She is currently working on a book focused on the Nigerian beauty pageant industry and its connections to gendered nationalism, culture, and the political economy.



Habib C. Iddrisu
Adjunct Faculty
Dance Department

Habib Iddrisu is a traditionally trained dancer, musician, and historian from the Dagbamba/Dagomba Bizing family in Northern Ghana. Dr. Iddrisu has an M.A. in African History from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Northwestern University.

Habib's research interests include West African Music and Dance Performance and cultural studies. He is currently researching how history and music that has been passed down through oral tradition for centuries by the *luyisi* of the Dagbamba people is able to survive in an era of modernity and multimedia.



Lanie Millar
Assistant Professor
Romance Languages

Lanie Millar received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from University of Texas in Austin in 2011 and her MA in Spanish from Middlebury.

Lanie's research focuses on trans-regional connections between Latin America and Africa, especially through the lens of socio-political phenomena like revolution. Her current project compares post-revolutionary/ post-utopian historical works from Cuba and Angola.



David Woken
Librarian
Hist, Latin Am, AFR

David Woken earned his M.A. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a M.A. in Latin American History with a minor concentration in African Diaspora history from Indiana University.

David's historical research has focused on labor history and revolutionary social movements in Latin America, as well as print culture history of such movements. Most recently he presented on the intersection of revolutionary ideology and the practical social, economic, and political factors shaping the production of the Argentine anarchist newspaper *La Protesta*.

Summer Reports

AFR Faculty crisscrossed the continent with undergrads, grad students, and co-authors in tow!



Leslie Steeves and UO students at Lake Bosomtwe, Ghana

Leslie Steeves (COM): I brought 16 wonderful students (14 undergrad, 2 grad) to Ghana for my annual Media in Ghana program. My colleague, Prof. Ed Madison, also came along. Students take a 4-credit course on Media in Ghana that begins spring term, and they do full-time media internships in Ghana's capitol, Accra, each student in a different internship. They also hear lectures from Ghanaian media scholars and go on weekend field trips to different destinations including Cape Coast, Kumasi, and the Volta Region.

Kemi Balogun (WGS/SOC): I spent about five weeks in Nigeria conducting some follow-up research and visiting my extended family. My family and I moved to Eugene in mid-August.

Habib Iddrisu (DAN): I spent the summer introducing my baby son Kayaba (born in March) to the world, and spending time with friends and family. I also enjoyed working at Young Musicians and Artists (YMA) and Camp Erin, and traveled to performances in other states.

Stephen R. Frost (ANTH): Last summer my colleague Chris Gilbert (Hunter College, CUNY) and I went to the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi; the National Museum of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam; and the National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa to study fossil monkeys (Family Cercopithecidae) from throughout eastern Africa, focusing on the time period between 1.5 - 4 million years ago (Ma). The goal of our project is to refine current age estimates for a number of sites where important human fossils have been discovered. By studying the fossil species from well-dated sites in eastern Africa and comparing them to those from southern Africa that are often poorly constrained in age for geological reasons, we can estimate the geological ages for the latter. Our research this summer, was supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and CUNY, and built of our research last summer in South Africa.

Alfredo Burlando (ECON): This summer I spent a lot of time sick in Africa! I was in Zanzibar for two weeks setting up a new project that is testing whether the adoption of mobile-savings accounts affect the welfare and investments of users. I then spent two weeks in Uganda, checking up on another project that I'm running related to informal savings groups. The site in Uganda has hosted UO undergrads in the past, so I was also preparing for another student to go there during this winter term.

Alfredo Burlando works with informal savings groups in Mbarara, Uganda



Lindsay Frederick Braun (HIST): My work continues to focus on issues of surveying, land titling, and colonial rule in Africa. This summer I completed the manuscript for my book on land division and landscape in South Africa, and brought out an article on the Venda kingship around 1900. I am now working on two short studies of South African maps in the nineteenth century, while also restarting a larger project connected to a chain of surveys from South Africa to Egypt that had both global and local repercussions.



Mokaya Bosire with Startalk participants at the end of the 2-week program

Mokaya Bosire (LING): This past summer I taught two Swahili summer courses that targeted different groups of learners – the first course was a highly successful [college readiness program](#) for high school students from all corners of the US, introducing them to Swahili and Swahili culture and making them aware of foreign language choices at the UO and preparing them for a collegiate experience based on project-based instruction and diversity. This particular course is sponsored by the Center for Applied Language Studies (CASLS) through funding by [Startalk](#). The second summer course was appropriately named “Survival Swahili” and was aimed at college students and community members who needed a crash course in Swahili for survival in the field, as a bridge to the regular Swahili beginner’s course in the Fall or those who for other reasons could not take the regular SWAH 101 course. Both programs were a big success and we are looking to replicate and improve on them next summer!

Nelson Ting (ANTH): I traveled to Western Uganda with my graduate student and postdoctoral fellow to continue work on our NIH funded project entitled "Biological and Human Dimensions of Primate Retroviral Transmission." Our activities this summer focused on the collection of biomaterials from various groups of monkeys within and surrounding Kibale National Park. These samples were brought back to the University of Oregon, where we will apply genetic methods to them to study patterns of migration and disease transmission in these animals. Overall, it was a very successful field season, so much so that we now have our work cut out for us this coming year in Eugene!



Nelson Ting in Uganda

David Woken (LIBRARY): I moved to Eugene from Chicago with my then-girlfriend at the beginning of June, and by the end of that month we decided that, after four years and moving several thousand miles together, we should finally get around to marrying. It’s been a wonderful three months since then. Professionally, I have been getting myself situated in my role here at Knight Library, trying on the seeming dozen or so hats that I have to wear in this job, and getting to know the scholars and community I will be serving.

Fulbright in Malawi



Lisa Gilman spent last year researching

“Our Culture is Dying: Dance and the Politics of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Malawi”

While in Malawi, I pursued research for my project *Our Culture is Dying: Dance and the Politics of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Malawi*. Building on my previous research on Malawian dance traditions, gender, and politics, this project explores UNESCO’s efforts to preserve intangible cultural heritage in Malawi, the cultural policy and programming of the Malawian government, initiatives by cultural associations, and the attitudes and efforts of people at the grassroots level regarding the cultural documentation and preservation of dance forms. The research involved interviewing people throughout the country who are either

involved in or impacted by efforts at cultural revitalization, visiting cultural centers, and attending cultural events. This research will culminate in a series of articles, starting with my contribution to the special issue mentioned above.



As a requirement of my Fulbright grant, I taught two classes at northern Malawi: Business Communications (52 students) and Oral Literature (120 students). In addition to teaching the required syllabus, I

capitalized on my documentary film making skills and taught students in the Business Communications class how to make short videos that promoted tourism sites in northern Malawi, a topic relevant to my current research.

Lisa Gilman’s students from Mzuzu University in northern Malawi worked on creating a short film to promote tourism.



AFR Alumni Update

Sandra Sjogren graduated last year with an MA in International Studies from the UO, with a geographical focus on Africa. She is currently utilizing her education as the Program Development Officer for Heartland Alliance International Great Lakes (HAIGL). HAIGL is an American-based NGO that implements human-rights based projects internationally.

Sandra's work description: I meet with potential donors and potential partners (international organizations such as MONUSCO, UNICEF as well as Congolese ASBL) before implementation of projects. I focus on two projects, one is for women's leadership and empowerment, one is for enhancement of workers' rights on mine sites. Both projects take place in North and South Kivu. As far as the women's leadership project is concerned, I meet weekly with a women foundation in Bukavu called Mama Shujaa. It's a media center where women can learn English and have access to computers for free. HAIGL plans to support Mama Shujaa so that more media centers are opened in Eastern DRC, especially in rural areas (which are often isolated).



Mama Shujaa Foundation in Bukavu; UO alum Sandra Sjogren at the far right



**Leslie Steeves, AFR Interim Director
Professor & Associate Dean,
School of Journalism and Communication**

Leslie Steeves currently heads the graduate studies programs for the School of Journalism and Communication. Much of Steeves' research centers on two areas and their intersection: communication and information technologies in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and gender and communication. She has published two books and many articles in these areas. Her present work examines entertainment and tourism representations of Africa. She has had two Fulbright grants for teaching and research in Kenya and Ghana, and she directs an annual summer study abroad program in Ghana.



Melissa Graboyes, Assistant Director

Melissa's work focuses on the history of medicine, public health, and science in Africa. She's currently finishing a book related to the history of human experimentation and medical ethics in East Africa, from 1940-2010. She's also looking forward to starting a new project in Uganda during summer 2014. In addition to her work with African Studies, she teaches for the Departments of History, International Studies, and the Clark Honors College.

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Fall Advising Hours
Graboyes: Friday 10-12
McDonald: Tuesday 11- 1



Emmalee McDonald, GTF

Emmalee is a concurrent masters student, studying Conflict and Dispute Resolution and Multimedia Journalism. Her current research interests include how multimedia tools are being utilized as a form of women's empowerment in East Africa. She is thrilled to be continuing on with the African Studies team and community, in her second year as the AFR GTF.