

ASP NEWS

SUMMER 2004

Newsletter of the Five College African Scholars Program, Amherst, Massachusetts

This is the first e-newsletter from the African Scholars Program. We hope to foster greater connections among current ASP fellows in Amherst, ASP alumni and everyone associated with the Program in the Five Colleges. A web-based format of this issue with pictures will shortly be linked to the program website: www.fivecolleges.edu/asp.

If you are interested in submitting a listing or article to our next newsletter, or if you received this email via a friend and wish to receive future newsletters, please email ASP (asp@fivecolleges.edu) with your name and email address, and we will add you to our mailing list. If you do not wish to receive future email newsletters, please email ASP and we will remove you from our mailing list. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the African Scholars Program or of Five Colleges, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director

New Scholars: 2004-2005

Alumni Reflections

Notes and News

Post-Residency Awards

Call for Applications: May 1, 2005 Deadline

* * * * *

FROM THE DIRECTOR

August 8

Welcome to our first newsletter!

There are few holidays in August for ASP. It's a busy month, a time of many arrivals. Hardly two months ago the spring cohort returned home safely; now we're eagerly awaiting the next scholars—Antoinette Tidjani Alou, Rochelle Kapp, Elie Ngongang, Fredrick Wanyama—who come August 17. The rest of the month they will be settling into Amherst, meeting their hosts, getting underway as the leaves change color. In November all four will present papers at the African Studies Association meeting in New Orleans. With any luck, there will be light (?) snowfall as they head home in December. Such are the seasons of the program.

Another newcomer is Tina Barsby, who's just begun as Program Coordinator. She stepped into the huge shoes left by Linda Faulkingham and immediately they fit. To switch metaphors, day-to-day operations remain in very sure hands. The ancestors must have smiled kindly on our enterprise—and me especially—to have sent these two remarkably talented, kind women to run things.

[Linda and Ralph's grandchildren have arrived, Sam early in the summer and Sadie, Max, and Ryan last week. The triplets are tiny and will be in hospital for a while, but all are healthy and determined, like their grandparents. We send them our love and prayers.]

A major mid-summer milestone is writing ASP's annual report to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Despite the chore of sorting out numerous documents and statistics and budgets, I welcome this chance to stand back from the trees and see the forest. The record is strong: in two years we have realized the initial commitment "to build stable bridges to Africa across which scholarship can be shared—and created jointly" (2001 project proposal). But that lofty statement finds real meaning only in the fifteen scholars who have come and another twenty coming in the months ahead—and the dozens of colleagues here who work with them. Particular faces and conversations and ideas come to my mind, vivid memories of how much these visitors enrich this little place called Amherst and the larger world beyond.

Enclosed below is a rich array of material: a list of future scholars; keen reflections by Pamela Mbabazi (Fall 03), Hamadou Adama (Spring 04), and Sanya Osha (Spring 03); news from several alumni and African Studies colleagues here; announcements of Post-Residency Awards and the May 2005 application deadline. In particular, please spread word of the program to promising candidates and encourage them to apply; full information can be found at www.fivecolleges/asp. Those most familiar with the program can be its surest advocates.

At last week's Democratic Party convention in Boston the song, "We Are Family," was played over and over so often that I never want to hear that slogan again. But I will entertain Pamela's description last year of ASP as "a village with a personal touch." Not so true for Americans' hometowns, but an African rarely loses ties to her village. This newsletter is part of an attempt to sustain a virtual village, to hold on to the friendship and scholarship so full of promise first shared in Amherst. I urge you all to stay in touch with ASP. Return when you can, look for one another in Nairobi or Ngaoundéré or New Orleans, let us know about your work and lives. Like the rest of the program, this newsletter is yours and needs your words and ideas and loyalty.

Nkosi sikilel' iAfrika — **John**
* * * * * * * * *

NEW SCHOLARS 2004-2005

ASP is excited to welcome the following Fall 2004 Scholars to Amherst on 17 August:

Rochelle Lynne Kapp, Language, University of Cape Town, South Africa
"The Politics of English: Classroom Discourses in a Township School"

Elie Ngongang, Economics, Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroun
"Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle dans les Ménages Pauvres au Cameroun"
(Food and nutritional security in poor households in Cameroon)

Antoinette Theresa Tidjani Alou, Modern Literature, Université de Niamey, Niger
"Gender, Identity and Religion in Contemporary African Literature"

Fredrick Ouma Wanyama, History & Political Science, Maseno University, Kenya
 “Local Organizations for Sustainable Development in Africa: A Study of Kenya”

For Spring 2005, ASP will welcome the first cohort of scholars in a themed residency, Power and Representation. Scholars due to join the Program in January 2005 are:

Ndiouga Benga, History, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Sénégal
 “Qui peut prendre la parole? Senegal: les citoyens et la vie locale”
 (“Who can speak? Senegal: Citizens and local life”)

Nada Hussein Wanni, English, University of Khartoum, Sudan
 “Culture Identity and Power Relations in Sudan: The Jungle and Desert School”

Sethunya Tshepho Mphinyane, Sociology, University of Botswana, Botswana
 “The Creation of a Government-led Local Film Production Industry: Botswana Television and Commissioning”

Lucien Fidèle Toulou, Social Sciences & Management, Université catholique d'Afrique Centrale, Cameroun
 “‘Qu'ils viennent au nom de Dieu!’: Eglise, pouvoir, et politique d'appartenance au Cameroun”
 (“‘May they come in the name of God!’ Church, Power and Membership Politics in Cameroon”)

For the Fall 2005 residency, the following scholars have been selected:

Sakhela Maxwell Buhlungu, Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
 “Labour and Liberation: Ideology, organization and leadership in the nonracial unions in South Africa, 1973-2000”

Francis Musoni, Curriculum & Arts Education, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
 “Internal Displacements, Nationalism and Ethnicity in South-Central Zimbabwe, A Case of Buhera District 1950s to 2003”

Susan Ntete, English, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
 “Transcending the Environment: Stories of learners at a township school”

Lynda Gichanda Spencer, English, University of South Africa, South Africa
 “Popular Literature in Uganda”

* * * * *

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

MY EXPERIENCES AS AN ASP SCHOLAR

Pamela Mbabazi, Mbarara University, Uganda (Fall 2003)

Apprehensive about writing of my experiences in Amherst and the benefits of the African Scholars Programme, I initially hesitated whether to accept or find a lame excuse to refuse. In the end, I decided to accept as I felt it would be a great opportunity to share experiences and reflect on my times in Amherst and possibly inspire more scholars from Africa to take advantage of this opportunity.

The good news about my having been selected for the ASP programme came at the right time indeed. I had just completed my data collection in the field for my Ph.D. research and was beginning to analyse and write-up my draft thesis: a time that needs serious concentration and reflection, something difficult to come by here in Mbarara. As a Dean of a very embryonic but fast-growing faculty, at the same teaching two courses for undergraduates and graduates, and caring for my family (husband and two little boys living in a different town), my whole lifestyle is very hectic and leaves me only limited time to immerse myself in hard academic analysis and original thinking. My coming to Amherst thus was a great blessing to me as I was able to concentrate and use my time and the abundant resources available there to compile the first raw draft of my thesis.

My topic, "Supply Chain and Liberalisation: The Milk Industry in Ankole," looks at the impact of liberalisation on the milk industry in Ankole, the largest milk producing region in Uganda. I used the supply chain analysis as my methodological tool to understand why it has been difficult for the processing industry in particular to survive under the era of liberalisation. Milk in Ankole is so plentiful, but prices for raw milk are so low and this has frustrated farmers. Although more than six processing industries were established after liberalisation in the mid-1990s, today almost all have closed down and the two remaining ones are barely surviving. The analysis shows that the liberalization of the Ugandan economy did initially lead to the rejuvenation and redevelopment of the milk industry in Ankole. Several milk factories were established in Mbarara, and many small producers, vendors and processors benefited. Subsequently, however, the industry/sector has been faced with many insurmountable difficulties including high prices for inputs, insufficient demand in and outside the country, inadequate capital, and unfavourable policies among others. From the research, it was established that the economy was liberalised prematurely and this led to unbridled competition. With the lack of regulation and unfavourable policies to support the development of the milk industry, the progress of this sector in Ankole has been hindered.



My study's main policy recommendation is that, in order to revitalize this sector/industry and enable milk—the key commodity in Ankole—to continue playing its vital role of promoting human development in the region and the country at large there is a need for a deliberate policy on the part of government and non-state actors in partnership to promote this sector. My thesis proposes various scenarios to this effect.

In Amherst I was able to visit some small farmers in the Valley (such as Mr & Mrs. Cook of Cook's Farm). I was able to learn much about the challenges faced by small milk farmers in the US today and how they are coping. I also got some insights into different kinds of milk chains existent in the industry today and how many small farmers have to be more innovative in marketing their milk due to increasing challenges. For instance, Mr. Cook explained how he has now reverted to home deliveries of his own milk and other milk products to customers and the quality assurance measures put in place on the farm to ensure the production of good quality milk. I was able to draw some lessons from all this to inform my project.

The library resources were unbelievably humongous. With all the choice I was completely lost and would at times end up spending my entire afternoon holed up in the Mount Holyoke College library reading materials from the numerous journals I could access at any time. I enjoyed the Amherst College library most as it had a wider range of up-to-date journals relevant to my study topic. The numerous talks and lectures I attended at the ASP meetings were very informative and insightful. I also greatly benefited from the guest lectures at Smith College, which I attended on several occasions.

Disaster almost struck, however, when my appendix ruptured in October. I am truly grateful for the generous support and help I got from Dr. John Lemly and Ms Linda Faulkingham together with the entire medical staff at Cooley Dickinson Hospital who all nursed me back to health in seemingly 'a spake of a minute'. The 12 days I spent in hospital flew by so fast without my noticing. I do appreciate all the love and kindness expressed by the entire ASP fraternity in the valley and my colleagues, Mamashela, Abdussamad and Kennedy. It was an experience I will always remember fondly.

On my return to Uganda, I revised my draft thesis, and although I was disorganised somewhat by the recommendation of my principal supervisor to make some major changes in my thesis, I have been working exceedingly hard and am almost done. I will be defending my thesis in July and hope you can all keep me in your prayers.

My term as Dean will run for another year and I will resume teaching in the next academic year in October. I look forward to receiving you in Mbarara sometime soon and you are all very welcome to visit.

I must say that the ASP is indeed a wonderful opportunity not only for one to do serious study and writing, but also to interact and discuss different topics with various scholars and professors of repute. I am so glad and grateful to the ASP Council and the Almighty for having been given this chance. May God bless you all!

* * * *

AN OPINION ON THE “DAILY COLLEGIAN” OF UMASS (translation below)
Hamadou Adama, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon (Spring 2004)



Point de vue sur le Daily Collegian de UMASS

Au cours du semestre que j’ai eu à passer à Amherst (janvier – mai 2004) dans le cadre d’un programme de recherche académique, je crois avoir été un fidèle lecteur du quotidien The Daily Collegian. Au fil des jours et des semaines, je me suis retrouvé à apprécier les différentes rubriques avec, cependant, une prédilection concernant notamment celles qui mettaient en exergue l’échange vif des points de vue, la saine contradiction et, pour tout dire, le débat. L’éditorial fait bien sûr partie de mes pages favorites. Tout n’a pas été facile au début de mon séjour à Amherst et il m’a fallu du temps pour peaufiner ma diction de l’américain, m’imprégner de l’actualité locale, histoire de saisir, avec plus ou moins de sens et de force, les débats en cours sur le campus et dans mon environnement socio-politique immédiat.

Et c’est pratiquement à ce niveau que se situe tout l’attrait de ce quotidien : servir de jonction et d’interface entre le campus et la société.

Tout en saluant le professionnalisme de certaines plumes, j’ai néanmoins eu, par moments, comme une impression d’insatisfaction à la lecture fidèle et assidue du Daily Collegian au cours de mon séjour à Amherst. Les premières livraisons de février 2004 m’ont tout de suite amené à entretenir un préjugé favorable à l’endroit de cet organe de presse gratuitement mis à la disposition de la communauté universitaire, dans tous les lieux de grande fréquentation. Était-ce simplement un sentiment conjoncturel lié probablement à la difficulté de mon acclimatation dans cet hiver boréal ? Peut-être. Il est en tout cas vrai que la rentrée universitaire venait juste d’avoir lieu et, comme dans tous les autres domaines d’activité, les plumes des rédacteurs étaient aussi fraîches, alertes et inspirées. Du coup, je me suis alors légitimement demandé de la nécessité d’acheter un journal d’information générale, si tant est que The Daily Collegian pouvait, pleinement, satisfaire ma curiosité sur le double plan académique et socio-politique. Pourquoi donc, puisque je disposais ainsi, par le biais de ce canal, d’informations gratuites sur la vie universitaire et sur les tribulations de la vie hivernale à Amherst.

Au plan académique, je me suis finalement rendu compte que les informations ainsi gracieusement fournies sont parcellaires, parfois incomplètes et, de par mon statut d’étranger à ce pays, inutilisables puisque sans référence topographique indicative. Je me disais quand même que la vie des associations communautaires – et Dieu sait qu’il en existe de ce côté de l’Atlantique – aussi chaleureuses et chatoyantes soient-elles, gagneraient, de mon point de vue, à insérer dans les colonnes du The Daily Collegian, ne serait-ce qu’épisodiquement, les annonces de leurs différentes rencontres qui, pour un jeune étudiant ou chercheur étranger de passage, constitueraient autant de lieux de grande

sociabilité, de grandes retrouvailles entre ressortissants d'une localité et adeptes d'une structure ou d'une organisation.

Au plan social aussi, il m'est arrivé de chercher ailleurs, dans d'autres organes de publications, les nouvelles du terroir, celles qui vous lient, progressivement, à un sol qui, en l'espace de quelques mois, commence à devenir votre. Les histoires du voisin, celles du chauffeur de taxi, du gardien de la paix, bref de chacun de nous ne se retrouvent pas dans les colonnes de cet organe. Il faut aller les chercher ailleurs. Et, c'est justement ce qui fait problème. Comment, en effet, trouver la formule salutaire pour mettre sur pied un organe de presse en milieu universitaire qui, en même temps, servirait d'interface active, de lien presque ombilical avec la société civile tout en restant résolument ancré dans ce qui, de toute apparence, fait sa force, son esprit, sa créativité, sa raison d'être, je fais bien sûr allusion aux étudiants ? Je croyais, à dire vrai, trouver, indirectement, à Amherst et dans la lecture fidèle du *The Daily Collegian*, un début de réponse à cette grande interrogation à laquelle nous, dans les universités camerounaises, sommes régulièrement confrontée. C'est aussi peut-être l'une des raisons qui expliquerait l'omniprésence d'interminables débats sur les élections de représentants d'étudiants au sein de différentes instances administratives de gestion de la vie en milieu universitaire. C'est enfin, peut-être aussi, tout cela qui expliquerait et justifierait par ailleurs sa longévité enviée et la fidélité de ses lecteurs dont je continue à faire partie, à distance. Son impertinence somme toute pertinente et les différentes prises de position parfois tranchées, mais toujours à contresens de l'orthodoxie politique établie, sont, elles aussi, après tout, les véritables fondements de sa relative popularité auprès de ses jeunes lecteurs et constituent la source principale d'inspiration sans laquelle une reproduction des talents serait probablement hypothétique.

* * * * *

During the six months (January–May 2004) that I spent at Amherst in the Five Colleges African Scholars Program, I became a faithful reader of the student newspaper at the University of Massachusetts, *The Daily Collegian*. After a few weeks, I found myself appreciating the various sections but with a special predilection to articles which put forward sharp exchanges of views, healthy contradiction and open debates. The editorial column is above all one of my favorite pages. Nothing was easy, though, at the beginning of my stay in Amherst. Frankly, it took me a lot of time to polish my command of American English, to become immersed in the local socio-political environment, and to understand, more or less accurately, the on-going debates both on campus and in the surrounding society as a whole.

It is on this level that I personally found *The Daily Collegian* more attractive since it satisfied my curiosity by providing some information on the interaction between town and gown.

While acknowledging the professionalism of its talented writers, I nevertheless was, at times, dissatisfied shortly after reading some strong opinions published by *The Daily Collegian*. Indeed, the first issues of February 2004 immediately impressed me with this daily newspaper that was generously distributed free to members of the university community, at the most frequented spots on all the five colleges' campuses. Was this simply a fleeting sensation probably related to the difficulty of my acclimatization in this northern winter? May be. In any case, it remains true that the university had just resumed and, as one might expect in all other pursuits, writers also were still fresh, shrewd, alert

and inspired. I, consequently, wondered why I should buy a regular magazine or newspaper when *The Daily Collegian* could provide me more comprehensive information both on academic and social life. Through the student newspaper I can have access to free and reliable information on academia and on the unpredicted consequences of the severity of winter in Amherst.

On the academic level, I came to realize that this free information was not only fragmented but also, sometimes, incomplete and to me, as a foreigner in this land, less practical because it provided no useful directions to locate the places advertised. I was thinking that these social activities—and God knows how numerous they were on this side of the Atlantic Ocean!—as attractive and inviting as they can be, should, in my opinion, appear in the columns of *The Daily Collegian*, even if only to announce these occasions where new students or researchers might make friends, or find hearty reunions with compatriots from the same region.

On the social level, too, I sometimes sought in other publications more information on the land, information that progressively links one to a country in which, in only a few months, he begins to feel at home. News about the neighbor, about the taxi driver, the policeman, in short, news about each and every one of us cannot be found in *The Daily Collegian* and must be gotten elsewhere. And that is precisely the problem with this paper. In fact, the big question was: how to make a university newspaper serve actively as an interface and a link between the academy and civil society while remaining solidly rooted in the student milieu, which, above all, constitutes its force, spirit, creativity and *raison d'être*? As a matter of fact, I hoped discreetly to find in Amherst and in the faithful reading of *The Daily Collegian* the hint of an answer to this thorny issue which we in Cameroonian universities regularly confront. Perhaps, this partly explains the newspaper space dedicated to interminable debates on the election of student representatives to the bodies governing campus activities. It is also perhaps all these factors and negotiated concessions together that explain and somehow justify the paper's envied longevity and the regularity of its readership, including myself, in a far-off land. Its pertinent impertinence, as well as the various positions which appear at times adamant but always contradicting the established political orthodoxy, constitute, after all, both the real foundation of its relative popularity among its young readers and the vital source of inspiration for these talented writers.

* * * * *

NIGERIA'S CANDLELIGHT GLOBALISM (abridged)
 Sanya Osha , University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Spring 2003)



Some years ago Wole Soyinka faced a dilemma he undoubtedly faces all the time given his numerous transnational engagements as a creative artist of global fame. He often has to talk about his country, Nigeria, in unflattering terms and this must indeed be a very difficult task. During the height of the late Sani Abacha's dictatorship, Soyinka had been invited to a conference in Ethiopia with the theme, "From Concord to Discord: The Horn of Africa". This was around the period the June 12 presidential elections were to be annulled by the military. Naturally the expectations of the participants at the conference were high. Nigeria, it was widely perceived, was finally on the way to moral and sociopolitical leadership and fulfillment. But before the commencement of the conference, the military struck once again, and Soyinka was saddled with the distasteful task of

explaining the failure. In that instance, he personified both the set-backs and the potential of the Nigerian nation. More important, he personified a terrifying question that had to be answered and torn by these antagonistic sentiments, he had to recreate and convey an unpleasant reality.

This was so because the delegates at the conference had come up to him to make various inquiries. "Why have you people done this to us?" "Do you know what you've done, what example you've set?" "Do you know how much we had looked forward to citing you as an example?" Knowing Wole Soyinka well, I imagine he would have devised and executed a scheme of evasion. Years of trying to keep ahead of the different goons of Nigerian military and civilian dictatorships have made him exceptionally nimble and alert. Once back in Nigeria, however, he was to off-load his vitriol regarding the national reality on an equally brutalized audience. Casting his gaze on the Nigerian nation, Soyinka declared, "There are moments when I do wish I had been born somewhere else on the continent, in one of those tiny or resource-starved, desolate slabs of earth that no one wants, nobody cares about, that offers no strategic prospect that any powers would covet. It becomes exhausting to belong to a nation from which, you objectively admit to yourself, even much more should be demanded."

When Soyinka says he wishes he came from a resource-starved nation, one knows precisely what he means. For decades, petroleum has been a curse rather than a blessing to the generality of Nigerians. Before then, palm-oil had served as the mainstay of the colonial economy, and so the history of oil in its various forms has also been a catalogue of woes. Oil has been a resource that had always enriched a few and immiserated the most. In the ravaged and ecologically damaged Niger Delta region of Nigeria, oil has blighted the lives many people.

Ordinarily, when one thinks of oil, one also thinks of wealth. In general terms, however, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world. But as Bill Clinton said, Nigeria is too rich to be poor. It has been an interminable story of the national wealth

plundered by a self-serving compradorial elite drawn from the military establishment and an equally morally bankrupt political class.

Yet, with all its abilities to cause social disarticulations and disaffections, petroleum is a kind of glue for the polity at least from the point of view of the political class. Petroleum has also bred arrogance and profligacy within the privileged (high-level government technocrats and big business people) classes. On the other hand, the youth of the Niger Delta (with most of the oil reserves) are getting increasingly ungovernable. Perhaps they might decide the future of the nation if conditions permit.

Moreover, even in the face of a supposedly democratic and secular dispensation, the question of religious fundamentalism remains crucial. Out of the 36 states of the Nigerian federation, 9 have adopted the sharia legal code. The federal government was clearly confounded by this development. It is only when we read about ‘guilty’ people losing limbs in accordance with the code and the public whippings of those found wanting do we know something is amiss. The president, Olusegun Obasanjo, could tell the world the introduction of the sharia code would not affect the volume of foreign business investments. One wishes this were true.

Teeming masses of Nigerians huddle together on most nights in darkness, tropical heat and swarms of mosquitoes contemplating, perhaps, the meaningless and violence that is Nigeria—doing nothing most of the time. You get up in the middle of the night to complete an article, and the lights suddenly go out. Entire neighborhoods go without electricity for months. Most telephone lines are dead and those that are not are beyond the reach of most. Internet connectivity is also scarce and unsure. Without electricity and petrol, how global can Nigeria be?

All right, let’s not be too pessimistic. Instead, we shall attempt to recuperate and magnify the more redeeming features of our society but alas, only to a point. After all, we are supposed to be under a democratic dispensation. But what does democracy mean against a backdrop of prolonged military rule? How consistently do we ask ourselves this important question?

The point is, militarism just like colonialism is not episodic; rather, it is processural and epochal. The uniform and the gun are two of some of its most prominent symbols. These national totems of fear have done a great deal to brutalize our collective psyche. Literacy levels are low and as such the public investments in those two symbols in terms of an ill-considered legitimacy have been quite enormous. Obviously the deconstruction of their inadequately interrogated primacy has to be systematic, rigorous as well as broad-based. This task has not started. Of course, the current democratic structure was planned, instrumentalized and is being maintained by powerful military interests. This alone poses a great difficulty.

Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, the Congolese philosopher of history who under unacceptable postcolonial conditions abandoned the more sedate precincts of the academy in order to become a guerrilla fighter, is always stressing one crucial point in his articles. He argues that Mobutism as a historic form of politics extends beyond Mobutu himself and those within his clique. Mobutism has become in other words an entrenched mode of misgovernment and sociopolitical interaction.

This argument was found to be true after the death of Mobutu, when Laurent Kabila assumed power. As we all observed, Kabila’s reign turned out to be a continuation of Mobutism. Nepotism was rife, governmental accountability and transparency non-

existent, and Kabila spent his days out-scheming transnational mineral prospecting interests. As such, political developments in the democratic Republic of Congo bear some resemblance to those in Nigeria. Paraphrasing Wamba dia Wamba, militarism as a form of politics extends beyond itself. Each time, the Nigerian populace assumes that the end of military rule and the beginning of democratic governance spells the end of militarism and indicates an epistemic break. This is a mistake we are making even now.

Chinua Achebe, in his slim monograph, *The Trouble with Nigeria*, states that the question of leadership has been the bane of our national troubles. But the issues of citizenship are equally important. How alert have we been as citizens or subjects? Who do we expect to perform the task of nation-building for us? We never fully articulate these questions in the public sphere. No one carries placards to the local government councils and relevant government establishments. The crises of the nation and the state are many and those calling for a sovereign national conference know what they mean. More than ever before, the national question poses a grave dilemma.

There is a need to rearticulate the internal arrangements and relationships within the nation. There is also need for political awakening and empowerment of the citizenry. Finally, the critique and deconstruction of militarism have to be carried to every nook and cranny, every heart and every bedroom, every isolated hamlet and malformed and malfunctioning university. Only then might optimism be restored and the painful era of attempting to globalize without basic infrastructure may come to an end.

* * * * *

NOTES AND NEWS

Holly Hanson (Mount Holyoke) planned to visit Pamela Mbabazi (Fall 2003) when she was in Uganda in June and July, beginning work on her project on the social history of Kampala. Unfortunately, Holly and Pamela did not meet up this time—Pamela was hard at work defending her Ph.D. thesis (see Pamela’s article in “Alumni Notes”). A high point of the last semester for Holly was the African Scholars' Colloquium, which drew many faculty from the Five Colleges into discussions of our scholars' work. Holly’s own personal success of this semester was to convince Mount Holyoke to bring Oliver Mtukudzi to campus: she now has a new role as African music impresaria of the Pioneer Valley. Holly looks forward to seeing all ASP Scholars again, here, or somewhere else.

Thomas Cassirer (Emeritus Professor of French and Italian at UMass-Amherst) donated nearly 500 books on African literature to the ASP. Scholars in residence last spring were thrilled with the choices. Hamadou Adama from Cameroun was especially happy to find so many volumes in French. Scholars have each sent M-Bags of the books back to their university departments and plan to use them in courses they teach. The remaining books are stored at Machmer Hall in the African Studies Review office and will be made available to subsequent scholars. Thank you, Tom!

Race Achara (Spring 2004) has been promoted to Associate Professor at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria.

Fredrick O. Wanyama (Fall 2004) completed his doctorate in Political Science at Maseno University, Kenya in February this year, and has since been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Political Science. He teaches African politics, public and development administration at undergraduate level as well as research methodology at postgraduate level. His research focuses on development politics, particularly local politics and organizations in the development process. He has contributed chapters to peer-reviewed textbooks and articles to refereed journals, such as *Regional Development Studies*. He has also presented over a dozen of papers at international conferences. His academic sojourns have taken him to Bergen, Norway; Geneva, Switzerland; Dublin, Ireland; Leuven, Belgium; Cape Town, South Africa; and Cotonou, Benin. He will be joining the Five College African Scholars Program in August 2004.

Fi (Eugenia) Herbert (Mount Holyoke) has a chapter entitled "Metallurgy and Its Consequences", co-authored with S. Terry Childs, coming out in late summer 2004 in *African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*. The book is part of the Blackwell Studies in Global Archaeology.



Dr Elie Ngongang (Fall 2004) will be giving a paper on "Communication and minorities: elements for a gender studies in Africa" at the annual African Studies Association conference in November 2004. Dr Ngongang is Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. He teaches social economy and statistics. Current fields of research include: micro-finance, regional economic integration, human resources and rural community development. In March he took part in the annual colloquium of CEDIMES (Centre for Studies in International Development and Economic and Social Movements) of which he is a member.

Dr Kennedy Mutundu (Fall 2003) is back teaching at Kenyatta University. He writes: "I am now giving my lectures in 'flashy' power point presentations (thanks to the ASP laptop and all the training I had at IOT). My students just love it! (Actually this is not quite true—there are only two projectors in the entire Kenyatta University and to use any of them you have to schedule your presentation on weekend nights and make a six month advance booking!!!).

YES, YES, thanks to ASP residency, I EARNED my promotion to Senior Lecturer, on the basis of my forthcoming publications that I completed while in residence. My first Ph.D. student will be defending his thesis in a month's time, and he is quite ambitious to be an ASP Scholar. I told him to forget it—but I gave him the ASP brochure to try—that fellowship is damn too competitive!!!! This week I leave for Norway, Bergen, for the Biannual Society of Africanist Archaeologists where I am scheduled to present TWO papers (I have only agreed because it is summer there, I hope, but also someone else is paying for it).

Irene (for those of you who remember her, my wife) is watching over my shoulder as I type this, and sends all her regards to ALL of you. Always, ever so thankful to ASP. Hello, Hello, Pamela, Mothokoa, Abdussamad, WHERE ARE

YOU!!!!!! (Wait, I will be the first president of the United States of Africa and I will fish you out of those hideouts!!)

Linda and Ralph Faulkingham welcomed their daughter Sarah's triplets on Monday August 2. The babies will be at the NICU (Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit) at Bay State Hospital for several weeks but Sarah is home. Linda writes: "The doctors and the facility are truly amazing. Mike and Sarah are doing fine, as are their babies, who are healthy, albeit very small. It is an unbelievable joy to see Sarah and Mike with them. They are relieved and loving and positive about this whole experience. Here's the detail on the births:

Sadie Karin (derived from Sarah's and Lisa Karin's names) is 13" long and weighs 1 pound, 9 ounces. Born at 13:08 pm

Max Christopher is 15" long and weighs 3 pounds, 5 ounces. Born at 13:07 pm

Ryan Matthew is 17" long and weighs 3 pounds, 12 ounces. Born at 13:07 pm."

* * * * *

POST-RESIDENCY AWARDS

A reminder to all Scholars: ASP has established one-time \$1,000 awards to scholars for books, software, equipment, or other research materials to enhance education at the scholars' home universities.

Scholars should submit the application form, a list of requested materials, together with a letter from their department head or librarian, endorsing the request and indicating how the materials will be used. Even before their residency begins, future ASP scholars are encouraged to prepare a list of materials to be purchased while in the US, in consultation with their colleagues.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Help us spread the word—please forward this to colleagues who may be interested: May 1, 2005 is the deadline for the terms:

Mid-January to May 2006: Projects on the topic of Health and Society (see below)

Mid-August to December 2006: Projects on any topic in Humanities & Social Sciences

ASP invites proposals for competitive residency fellowships from junior and mid-level teaching staff employed full-time in African universities. Projects relevant to the study of Africa are welcomed in the humanities and social sciences. The program cannot fund projects in the natural or physical sciences. Proposals should be based on the applicant's current research, which can be completed and prepared for publication during the residency. Three to four candidates will be chosen for each term. Each scholar will receive a stipend of \$3,000 per month subject to US taxes, airfare to and from the USA, laptop computer, housing, health insurance, access to libraries, and a modest research allowance.

For more information and an application form, see the ASP website at <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/asp/>.

You can send an application form directly from the website at <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/asp/applying.html>.

Questions or comments? Email asp@fivecolleges.edu.

* * * * *

African Scholars Program – Health and Society Thematic Residency (Spring '06)

The Five College African Scholars Program seeks applications for scholars in residence for Spring 2006 focusing on the topic of Health and Society. Issues of health and society include understanding not only the physical agents of disease, but the social, economic, political, and cultural factors that affect health, disease, and the delivery of effective treatments and interventions. African countries in particular suffer from a paucity of health facilities, trained personnel, and pharmaceuticals necessary to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the persistence of infectious diseases such as malaria, the resurgence of tuberculosis (TB) and polio, as well as malnutrition and trauma. These health inequities are exacerbated by burdens of poverty, periodic famine, civil and domestic violence, and by varying responses of the international community.

We encourage applicants in the social sciences, humanities, and public health fields to reflect on their own research and to contest and enlarge upon broad questions of health and society. We welcome proposals dealing with policy issues, with the analysis of current or historical circumstances, or with the development of concepts and practices dealing with health in African societies. Potential topics include the policies of international institutions (such as WHO, FAO, UNDP, World Bank), as well as colonial and postcolonial policy, traditional healing, local level practices, and the interface between international and local agencies and actors, in pre-colonial or more recent times. Given the links between human health and society and fauna and plant productivity, epizootics, changing plant pathogens and resultant policy innovations are also possible subjects. Finally, because attitudes toward health and well-being are culturally constructed and culturally expressed, proposals may consider cultural and artistic manifestations dealing with health such as witchcraft, forms of ritual or religious power, rumor, or popular media—story, music, dance, film.

The following questions suggest the range of possible approaches to this vast and important field; we welcome other perspectives and approaches as well.

- What are the political and economic dimensions of public and personal health?
- What are the social processes whereby advances in basic science and technology can have maximum, sustained benefit for communities and individuals? What forms of western science (past or present) are seen as threats to local health? How is this vision expressed?
- How has the history of particular African societies been affected by health policies under colonial or post-colonial administrations?
- How successful have policy responses (governmental and non-governmental) been in addressing health demands and problems in African countries? How do

different models of health system governance address questions of access, equity, and sustainability?

- How do epidemics and widespread disease shape the history and development of nations and regions? How has “development”—urbanization and globalization—affected health?
- How do sexual attitudes and practices affect general health and prosperity? What role does education or advertising and “the media” play in diminishing or increasing health risks?
- What are the psychological effects for individuals and societies undergoing traumatic stress?
- How does society articulate health concerns through cultural, artistic, ritual or religious expression—or through rumor or resistance in response to health initiatives?

Note: The Program does not have the facilities or funding to support basic scientific research, but it welcomes applied projects relevant to the social sciences, humanities, and public health fields.

* * * * *

ASP News is issued three times a year to report on activities of resident scholars at the Five Colleges and on their return to their home universities in Africa. We welcome updates from current, future, and former scholars: about scholarly work, teaching, travels, personal anecdotes, or your thoughts on higher education and life in Africa or in the US.

Begun in 2002, the Five College African Scholars Program provides semester-long residencies for African scholars with faculty appointments in African universities and colleges. The Program is generously supported by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), Smith College and Five Colleges, Incorporated, a consortium serving member institutions, [Amherst College](#), [Hampshire College](#), [Mount Holyoke College](#), [Smith College](#), and the [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#).

Program Director: Professor John Lemly

Program Coordinator: Tina Barsby

Five College African Scholars Program

706 Herter Hall

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003

USA

Telephone: 413/577-3778

Fax: 413/577-3781

Website: <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/asp/>

E-mail: asp@fivecolleges.edu

8/8/2004