Fall 2023/Spring/Summer 2024

# H A B A R I

Newsletter of the Center for African Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign

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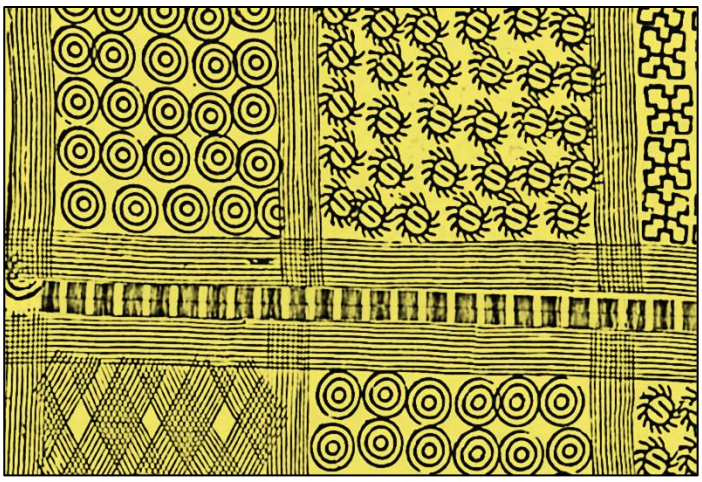
**A few interesting reads in African(a) Studies**





"Storytellers ought not to be too tame. They ought to be wild creatures who function in society. They are best in disguise. If they lose all their wildness, they cannot give us the truest joys."

- Ben Okri



# *Acting Director's Note*

**Professor Erik S. McDuffie**



Greetings! On behalf of the Center for African Studies, I am happy to announce the first publication of Habari: Newsletter of the Center for African Studies since fall 2020.

Over the past four years, the Center for African Studies has remained a vital component of the Illinois Global Institute and a vibrant site for the study of Africa.

Let me begin by telling you about myself. I am a sixth generation African American midwesterner originally from Detroit, Michigan. My family hails from St. Kitts, Canada, and the United States. I was raised in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, and I spent considerable time as a child in Puerto Rico. Africa and the Black Diaspora have been important parts of my life for as long as I can remember.

My research reflects my interest in Global Africa. This is most evident in my forthcoming book *The Second Battle for Africa: Garveyism, the U.S. Heartland, and Global Black Freedom* (Duke University, December 2024). I have taught at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign since 2003. I became the Acting Director of the Center for African Studies in January 2024 while Prof. Teresa Barnes, CAS Director, took a much-deserved sabbatical.

One of the Center's many highlights in AY 2023-24 was the lecture "Gaza: What Would MLK Do?" by the preeminent Africana studies scholar Prof. Robin D.G. Kelley. More than four hundred people from campus and the community interacted with Prof. Kelley during his campus visit in February. A talk by Prof. Barnes on South Africa, Israel, and the International Court of Justice, the Timbuktu Talks lecture series organized by Prof. Mauro Nobili, and a panel on contemporary Senegalese politics facilitated by CAS Associate Director, Dr. Maimouna Barro, were thought-provoking. This summer, we welcomed four researchers and community activists from Mobile, Alabama, and Tallahassee, Florida—Dr. Na'Imah Ford, Mr. Robert McWilliams, Ms. Stacey Shepperson, and Dr. Afiya Zakia—through the International Studies Research Lab, sponsored by the Center for Global Studies in conjunction with CAS.

CAS continues to make its mark in the classroom and in the community. Through the leadership of Maimouna Barro and with the support of the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Program (U.S. Department of Education), CAS offers language classes in Wolof and Swahili. Outreach programs and community events, most notably the Coffee, Tea & IP series organized by CAS Outreach Coordinator Adéyínká Àlásadé, featured lively conversations about African Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property, from UI alum Dr. Boatema Boateng of the University of California, San Diego, and Dr. Chidi Oguamanam, University Research Chair in Sustainable Bio-Innovation, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Global Knowledge Governance of the University of Ottawa.

As my term as CAS Acting Director ends, I would like to give my special thanks to Teresa Barnes, Maimouna Barro, Adéyínká Àlásadé, and Sam Ham, our new office specialist, for making my time so enjoyable. CAS looks forward to another exciting year in advancing the study of Global Africa.

# New CAS staff and members to the CAS community

**Sam Ham** is an Office Support Specialist for the Center for African Studies and the Center for South Asian & Middle Eastern Studies. Sam has been in the Champaign community since elementary school and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's in industrial design. After graduating, Sam was given an opportunity to start a cafe business on campus called Caffè Bene. After 10 years, he sold the business to support and spend time with his newborn daughter. During his spare time, he likes to play basketball at the ARC and travel to visit family and friends.



**Vieux Touré** joined the CAS community in the fall Semester of 2023 as the new Wolof Instructor in the Department of Linguistics. He also teaches Introduction to Modern African Literature. Mr. Touré hails from Senegal, West Africa. He holds an M.A. in African Studies, and an M. A. in French from the University of Ohio. His most recent article "Decentering the White Gaze in African Filmscape" is published in the forthcoming 2024 Handbook of Social Justice in the Global South. Edward Elgar Publishing.





**Dr. Herman Vonn Hesse** is Assistant Professor of Art History in the College of Fine & Applied Arts School of Art & Design. He is an affiliate with the Center for African Studies. His research focuses on the nexus between the material cultures of the African Atlantic world, the Black Diaspora and early modern European imperial and capitalist expansion and the contemporary legacies of these historical processes. He is an interdisciplinary scholar. His research and training straddle the disciplines of African history, art history, architectural history, and anthropology.

**Kevin Wamalwa (Ph.D.)** is Lecturer; Director Sub-Saharan African Languages Program and Coordinator for the Swahili Program in the Department of Linguistics. He is a cultural anthropologist and scholar of African cultural studies. Kevin studies resource-based conflict and post-violence memory in Africa and examines how people cope with traumatic experiences in ways that are particular to their sociocultural settings. His research examines embodied memories of sociopolitical, ethnic, and recourse-related conflict in Mt. Elgon, Kenya. His work highlights how small-scale conflicts and those that involve marginalized communities provide a vantage point to understanding people's agency in how they remember and talk about trauma, reconcile, and heal without state mediation. Kevin is also a passionate Swahili poet, educator, translator, and Swahili scholar.



# Introducing

## Center for African Studies Students

**CAS welcomes a new cohort of CAS MA students in 2024-25.**

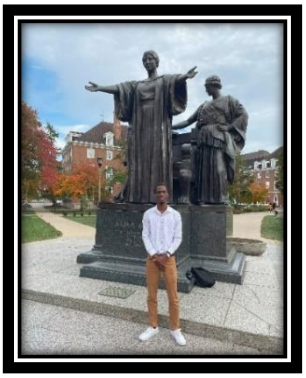
**Stay tune for a few details on who they are later in the semester.**

**CAS also welcomed back Prof. Teresa Barnes from her sabbatical!**




Fangyong Kuma's research interests encompass sociocultural and contemporary issues related to participatory governance, human rights, community development, grassroots mobilization, and information literacy in African cities, with a specific focus on West and Central African cities. He is researching the impact and challenges of Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) on the introduction of mobile money services and how it facilitates women's financial inclusion in rural areas in Cameroon and Senegal. Fangyong is fluent in Pidgin English and Kom, the native language of the Kom "Fondom" in the Northwest region of Cameroon. He is also studying Wolof.

Fangyong aspires to work in archiving and special collections to preserve and curate Indigenous knowledge systems and historical materials. He aims to ensure that valuable Indigenous knowledge, cultural artifacts, and documents are accessible to future generations while also contributing to documenting and safeguarding Africa's rich heritage.



Maiga Muga earned his BA in Education from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and a Master's in African Studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He is currently pursuing a PhD in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership. He also serves as a Teaching Assistant for the Swahili language, where he teaches elementary and intermediate courses. Additionally, he teaches and mentors students participating in study abroad programs in East Africa to get firsthand experience of the region. Before joining the master's program at UIUC, Maiga participated in an international exchange program where he worked in Illinois, gaining invaluable cross-cultural and educational experience.

His academic journey is marked by a profound commitment to education policy, power dynamics, and technological innovation in learning. His research interests delve into the intersections of these areas, aiming to foster a more equitable and innovative educational landscape. Beyond academia, he is actively involved as a board member of Tanzania Development Support, a nonprofit organization committed to addressing education challenges in the Mara region of Tanzania, where he grew up.



Brian Ndumila is a graduate student at the Center for African Studies (CAS). He holds a Bachelor of Education Arts degree from Kibabii University, Kenya, and a diploma in Teacher Education Arts. Brian's professional journey includes considerable experience as a high school teacher in Kenya, where he taught Swahili. He is a graduate assistant at CAS and actively engages in outreach events and activities. His position as a student and GA in CAS has provided him with valuable exposure to critical global issues, particularly those impacting continental Africa and Africans in the diaspora, through insightful dialogues and conversations.

Brian's scholarly interests revolve around education, specifically curriculum and instruction. He advocates for developing culturally relevant and culturally sustaining pedagogies, which involve incorporating students' cultural backgrounds and experiences into the learning process. His involvement in multicultural activities in schools within Urbana-Champaign under the outreach program in CAS has further fueled his passion for promoting inclusivity in education. Looking ahead, Brian is eager to delve deeper into library science and pursue a doctoral program in the College of Education.

# Alumni News



## Peter Floss



I received my interdisciplinary MA degree in 2022. I am studying for the paralegal certification exam, which I will take in the very near future. African Studies prepared me well for the paralegal coursework necessary to become a certified paralegal. As a student in the African Studies program, I learned how to do research which could be a useful skill as a paralegal. When I can, I still enjoy visiting the African collections at the Spurlock Museum and the Krannert Art Museum. I read some of the writings of Adulrazah Gurah this past year. I am about to start a book by the Ethiopian-born writer Abraham Verghese. I am reviewing Swahili and planning to become more active in attending Center for African Studies events and programs. I enjoyed my time as a student in African Studies at the University of Illinois.

## Mor Gueye



I returned to Senegal after graduating from the University of Illinois in the fall of 2020 with an MA in African Studies and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction. After briefly working as an English teacher at Lycée Français Jean Mermoz in Dakar, I joined Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis where I currently teach in the Department of Applied Foreign Languages. As I am writing this update, I am visiting Illinois to attend the 20th conference of the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Drawing from doctoral research I conducted while in Illinois, my presentation focuses on "Foreign Language Teacher Mentoring: Metaphors and the Significance of Indigenous Cultural Knowledge". Coming to Illinois is always an enriching academic and community experience. In fact, on April 20, the Center for African Studies organized a discussion I was very honored to co-animate with Dr. Maimouna Barro, Associate Director of the Center, and Mr. Vieux Alassane Touré, the Wolof Lecturer in the Linguistics Department. The exchange was centered on the topic "Recent political development in Senegal: Insights from the field." It was also a great occasion to reconnect with so many wonderful people I knew during my decade-long collaboration with the Center that was so helpful for the intellectual growth of generations of graduate students and teachers of African languages in the United States. Interestingly, a week before arriving in Urbana, I attended the ALTA conference at Indiana University (Bloomington) where I presented on the topic "Culture, Translatability, Cultural Borders, and the Journey of Meaning: A Th*ree-language Analysis of Mariama Ba's So long a letter in Wolof, French, and English".* The conference was organized by the National African Language Resource Center.

# Alumni News

## Lauryn Lehman



After graduating from the program in 2018, I spent a handful of years working as an academic librarian at colleges in both Michigan and Illinois. During this time, I spent the summers teaching an Introduction to Africana Studies course at Augustana College, sharing all the knowledge I gained in the African Studies program and getting a chance to work closely with students from all programs of study on campus. Eventually, I was given the opportunity to become an academic advisor at Augustana College and I came to deeply love working one-on-one with students of all backgrounds, helping them to reach their academic goals. Realizing this passion, I have since returned to the University of Illinois as an Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Undergraduate Affairs in the School of Information Sciences (iSchool). I am looking forward to being an integral part of the development of this next generation of human-centered, socially conscious information professionals.

## A CAS Affiliate's Journey through Scholarship, Music, and Fiber Arts



**Dr. Boatema Boateng**

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). I joined the department after receiving my Ph.D. in Communications from the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2002.

During my time at the university, I also completed a graduate minor in Women's Studies, and gender has always been an important part of my scholarship and teaching. One of the courses I currently teach was first developed for the Women's Studies Program (now the Department of Gender and Women's Studies) at UIUC in 2000. I taught it then as African Women, Feminism, and the Media, and now teach it as Black Women in Feminism and the Media.

My closest relationship with the Center of African Studies (CAS) during my student years was in spring 1999 when I served as Visiting Specialist in Education with responsibility for outreach activities. Maimouna Barro, Associate Director of the Center, whom I have known since our graduate student days, has kept me connected to the center across the years while former Director, Jean Allman, was one of my strongest mentors and advocates from my graduate student days well into my career at UCSD.

For many semesters during my graduate student years, I was a member of the Black Chorus, a university choir specializing in music in the African American spiritual and gospel music traditions. For a few years I also hosted a weekly African Music show at the local independent radio station, WEFT. One of the high points was in 1998 when WEFT co-hosted the African music festival, Africa Fête, in Urbana-Champaign during its U.S. tour and I had the honor of meeting Cheikh Lô and other artists.

Away from the world of music, and thanks to the generosity of the late Nadine Neucks, I became a quilter. Nadine was my first quilting teacher and did everything by hand. I still make quilts today, mostly by machine, but many of the basic principles I follow come from the foundation Nadine gave me all those years ago. Since coming to San Diego, I have been a member of a couple of quilting groups including the San Diego People of Color Quilt Guild.

My doctoral research was on the use of intellectual property law to protect so-called traditional knowledge, using Ghana's copyright protection of Ghanaian "folklore" as my case. That project developed into my book, The Copyright Thing Doesn't Work Here: Adinkra and Kente Cloth and Intellectual Property in Ghana, which was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2011. Most of my scholarship has been on intellectual property law in relation to the knowledge and culture of Ghana and other parts of the global South. With my immersion in the world of quilting since those first lessons with Nadine Neucks, I have also been looking at copyright and quilting in the U.S. In a departure from intellectual property law, my current project is on Black indigeneities in Africa and the diaspora.

# News of Note:

# Prizes and Awards in 2024

**Salutations to *Professor Herman Von Hesse* for winning an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship**

***Professor Von Hesse* also won a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.**

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**Salutations to *Professor Erik S. McDuffie* for winning the 2024 Bruce D. Nesbitt African America Cultural Center "Faculty Member of the Year" Award.**

***Professor McDuffie* also won the 2024 Department of African American Studies Excellence in Teaching Award.**

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# Reflections on Intellectual Freedom and the Pan-Africanist Agenda

Dr. Maimouna Barro, Associate Director, Center for African Studies

As I represented the Center for African Studies (CAS) at the 16th General Assembly of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) held in December 2023 in my home of Dakar, Senegal, I was enlightened and struck by the vulnerability of intellectual freedom in the face of various authoritarianisms, whether on college campuses or other domains of the public sphere, nationally or globally. My attendance reminded me of the importance of intellectual freedom as we continue to grapple with deepening anti-intellectualism across our world which, as we come out of a post-COVID pandemic time, has experienced some of the worst wars and human calamities it has ever gone through. Despite where we may be situated with respect to our intellectual positions and convictions, our social responsibilities as scholars continue to be tested.

First, I would like to provide some background. Very often international organizations play significant roles in political debate and social change. CODESRIA is the largest scholarly organization based on the African continent, and the choice of Dakar as its headquarters since its establishment in 1973, was mainly justified by Senegal's relative political stability. Senegal has a unique position as one of the very few countries that has never experienced a military coup and where despite some setbacks in its democratic trajectory since independence in 1960, has held regular elections, experienced peaceful transfers of political power, and has stayed resilient in the process of building and maintaining peace and social consensus rooted in religious and ethnic pluralism. These are all supported by the power of the over 18 million Senegalese people, among whom 75% are 35 years or younger.

The government of Senegal has provided CODESRIA diplomatic status and provided a space for intellectual freedom and engagement for Africanists on the continent and their counterparts at universities and research institutions outside of Africa. As the General Assembly was meeting, however, the country was going through one of its most serious constitutional crises, with key opposition leaders in jail, scheduled presidential elections postponed, and an entire country fearing the worst political upheaval it had ever experienced. All of this was occurring amid serious crises and violent outbreaks within the Sahel region and in Senegal's neighboring countries.

Senegal's institutions and its people reacted in the most peaceful and institutionally binding way to urge president Macky Sall, who has led the country since 2012, out of his 12-year presidency and push him to fulfill his promise to respect the constitutional limit of two terms in office. The March 24 presidential vote then resulted in forty-four-year-old President Bassirou Diomaye Faye being elected. This was just ten days after President Faye and his mentor and now prime minister Ousmane Sonko were released from prison. The resounding electoral triumph of President Faye over the former prime minister and ruling government party led by Mr. Amadou Ba has shown some light of hope on Senegal and other African nations.

The phrase "good governance" is a key theme in several CODESRIA research institutes, workshops, and publications. We are encouraged to act on the concept of "virtuous governance" echoed through many speeches in Wolof as Jub, jubël, jubbënti.

As to my own journey twelve years ago and as noted in a piece I wrote titled, "Democracy in Senegal Tested: A Personal Reflection: https://afrst.illinois.edu/democracy-senegal-tested-personal-reflection, the same kind of euphoria was the general feeling in the country when the presidency of Abdoulaye Wade

(2000-2012) was celebrated at the beginning of the Millennium and who was credited with being an exceptional leader in post-independence Africa.

Furthermore, as a Senegalese American working at a major US African Studies program and whose intellectual and professional journey has been influenced by key Pan-Africanist thinkers from Africa and the global African Diaspora, I consider CODESRIA a safe intellectual home. Many of us hope Senegal's newly elected government's commitment to work toward a stronger regional integration and Pan-Africanism offers CODESRIA the space to continue to push forward the principles of the 1990 Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility.

To conclude, as a Senegalese-American, I join other Senegalese both at home and in its Diaspora, as well as other African peoples, in our renewed hope that the ten-year-old and newly elected party, "Patriotes Africains du Sénégal pour le Travail, l'Ethique et la fraternité (PASTEF): "African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity," will respond to the many expectations of Senegalese people, especially the youth who have heard Africa's youngest president vow to work hard to govern with humility and transparency and to endeavor to end youth unemployment and systemic corruption.



Professor, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Director, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University and Dr. Maimouna Barro at the CODESRIA General Assembly in Dakar, Senegal, following up on discussions on Pan-Africanism just a few weeks after Prof. Diagne's participation at the 2023 Center for African Studies (CAS)/ Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) Teacher's Workshop. "The Living Sahara: New Horizons in Teaching Africa and the Middle East"

# CAS/ISRL Fellows Brief

The Center for African Studies had the pleasure of hosting four research fellows during the week of June 9th in association with the Center for Global Studies (CGS) International Studies Research LAB (ISRL) 2024.

The program supports the advancement of global and area studies curricula development, library collection development and the establishment of international education programs at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI).

Following the center's collaborations with colleagues from African(a) Studies institutions/organizations, and Florida A&M University we invited scholars to participate in the ISRL.

CAS-ISRL Fellows pursued a range of research in African/African(a) Studies: The African Diaspora in Europe, Black Thinkers in the Development of Psychology, the Enslavement Trail of Africans from Benin to Alabama and the Impact of UIUC Alum Dr. Mack H. Jones on Black Political Science.

It was indeed and intensive week of networking and research productivity.





**Center for African Studies (CAS) and Center for Global Studies (CGS) ISRL Fellows group session.**



**Members of the CAS community welcomed CAS-ISRL Fellows: Dr. Na'Imah Ford, Mr. Robert Mc Williams, Ms. Stacey T. Shepperson and Dr. Afia Zakiya for a spicey Thai lunch, June 13, 2024.**

# Academic Year Programs/Events Highlights

The academic year began and ended with an array of captivating programs and events inspiring social and intellectual curiosity, joyous explorations and deep engagement with Africa and Africa related content. To start the fall semester CAS and CSAMES joined to recognize the season of harvest with fine company (constituents and friends), tasty foods and good music. Our collaboration did not end there. CAS and CSAMES forged ahead with a K-14 teacher's workshop titled "The Living Sahara: New Horizons in Teaching Africa and the Middle East" before moving on with our centers' separate agendas. A major theme of the workshop centered on transculturation, developing a transnational understanding of Africa and the Middle East in which the Sahara is approached not as a boundary, but as a geographical space that brings together a multitude of shared linguistic and cultural phenomenon interconnected but not always neatly intersecting.

Program highlights included a string of brown bags, outreach programs, collaborative projects with the International and Area Studies Library and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts along with other center events and programs. Topics and activities included African folk storytelling, multilingual/multicultural poetry readings, conversations on the arts, current events in Africa, the Gaza Strip, Black indigeneities and African Indigenous knowledge. The Krannert Art Museum's (KAM) Global Africa Community Forum co-sponsored this year with CAS and the African Students Organization (ASO) explored museum decolonization in a spectacular three-day program titled "Reckoning, Restitution and Repair." The program offered lectures, panel discussions, a short film screening, a community soccer game and African-style, soccer ball making demonstrations. Other significant program activities included lunch with a griot, a special brown bag with State Representative Carol Ammons about her travels to Ghana as a Black Legislator, and the hosting of research fellows from Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI).

A few featured guests this year included: Dr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Dr. Robin Kelly, Dr. Chidi Oguamanam, Dr. Boatema Boateng, and Kora Virtuoso/ Griot Ballaké Sissoko. As the adage has it "a picture is worth a thousand words." Here are a few pics.

**Professors Teresa Barnes and Wail Hassan welcome guests to CAS/CSAMES Fall Reception.**





# The Living Sahara:
# New Horizon's in Teaching Africa and the Middle East.

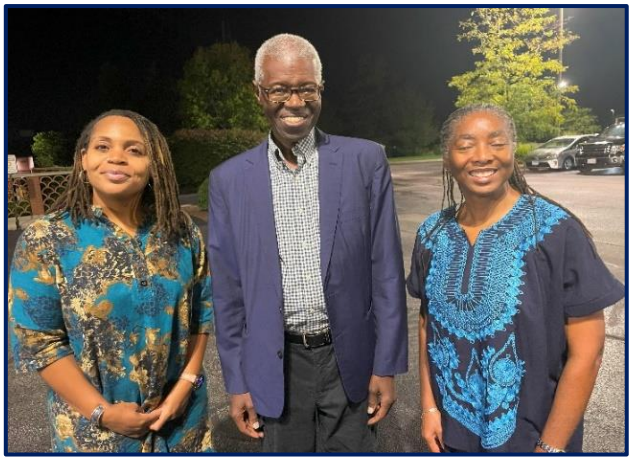


## A Teacher's Workshop Sept. 29-30





**Dr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne giving Keynote Address to workshop attendees "On the Trans-Saharan Routes" Disrupting Area Studies.**





**Workshop Speakers Shayla Monroe (Post-Doctoral) fellow and Debora Heard (Doctoral Candidate) with Dr. Diagne.**





**Teachers in breakout sessions.**





**Day two of the Living Sahara featured a Desert Blues\ Sahelian music performance with Bourema Ouedraogo accompanied by Jason Finkelman Sept. 30.**



**Workshop presenters Debora Heard, Liz Matsushita, Shayla Moore, Vieux Touré, Bourema Ouedraogo and Jason Finkelman with CAS\CSAMES team**

**An entertaining evening by the proverbial fire in a signature outreach program - Passing on stories: African Folk Storytelling. Participants share wisdom teachings from across Africa through story. The stories end with memorable messages and offer guidance in addressing a range of problems encountered in everyday living. This season the program was co-sponsored by the new Salaam Center. Sept. 26**














**In the Brown Bag series audiences engage in lively conversations on multiple topics from music, art, and international relations to country specific current events and more. Fall/Spring 2024**



*Sierra Leone's Traditional Knowledge Systems* with Prof. Francis Sowa, Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone.



*Africa Agency & the future of Africa-China Engagement* with Prof Kwame Tsikudo, Jefferson University



*Integrating Music Performance, Research and Pedagogy at the University of Cape Town* with Prof. Rick Deja, University of Cape Town S. Africa

**Brian Ndumila, G A outreach, engages a captive audience of kids and parents at local elementary schools. Spectators learn about the cultures of Kenya and are given instruction in easy Kenyan crafts to make.**







**An elementary school student donning the Maasai necklace he made.**

**The annual celebration of international voices through poetry and language(s), Word is Seed, featured 2023 Urbana Poet Laureate Ja Nelle Davenport Pleasure. The program showcases African language poetry and celebrates poetry in languages from around the world.**

**Poetry lovers this season enjoyed poems in Wolof, Kiswahili, Yoruba, Urdu, Arabic, Bengali, Portuguese, Spanish, French and English. Oct. 26**



**2023 Poet Laureate**
**Ja Nelle Davenport Pleasure**











**Bitter Kola Tastes Sweet. In a celebration of global Black voices, participants read favorite historical speeches, prose, orations, and humorous commentaries from Black writers around the world. The program was held in association with the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the Douglas Annex. Feb. 28. Remembering Black History.**













**Dr. Robin D. G. Kelly** visited our campus on February 21. He gave a riveting presentation in a hybrid program of four hundred in-person and online attendees.

**"Gaza: What would MLK Do?"**

**CAS thanks all co-sponsors of this program.**



**If you missed Dr. Kelly's presentation and you'd like to see it – click on the link below:**

https://afrst.illinois.edu/news/2024-02-29t175020/gaza-what-would-mlk-do

**Dr. Chidi Oguamanam visited our campus to keynote the outreach Tea Talk series on African products "Coffee, Tea and IP"- the titled talk this year *Indigenous Knowledge, Intellectual Property, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities for Africa* explored the importance of repositioning African Indigenous Knowledge, as an element of continental, regional or local science, technology, and innovation (STI) strategies to enhance Africa's participation and ability to benefit from all facets of knowledge production under the 4(IR) Fourth Industrial Revolution.**

**Dr. Oguamanam visited with students in the College of Law and with members of the African Students Organization.**

**Chidi Oguamanam is a full professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. He has authored several works on indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, technology, and knowledge governance.**

**Critical Communications scholar, UIUC alum Dr. Boatema Boateng also graced us with her presence to help tackled critical questions on the topics at hand. She was equally generous with her time in speaking with students in the department of African American Studies.**



**Dr. Chidi Oguamanam**






**Dr. Boateng and Dr. Oguamanam respond to questions, in-person and online.**



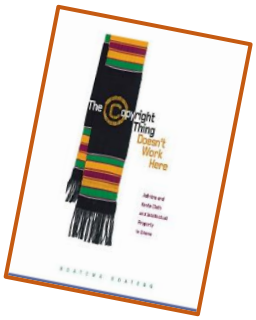


**Attendees offer compelling commentary, questions. Oluwakemi Adeyemi (College of Law).**



**The speakers, CAS staff, friends of CAS.**




***Books by Drs. Chidi Oguamanam and Boatema Boateng***

**An enchanting spring afternoon of African classical music with Kora virtuoso Ballaké Sissoko, in collaboration with the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the International Area Studies Library for our program "Lunchtime with a Jeli" - Mar. 22**

**Very special thanks to Abdel Akim Adjibade (Eastern Illinois University) who came on board to translate for Sissoko's talk.**









**Derek Gripper, S. African classical guitarist joined us to share a bit of his passion for the kora and motivation to collaborate with Sissoko.**






**Atoma Batoma, African Studies Librarian**



**UIUC and CAS representation at the Africa Women Transformative Summit in Nairobi Kenya. June 26-27**



## *A few interesting reads in African/Africana Studies from the Outreach Desk*

**Modern Sudanese Poetry: An Anthology**. Adil Babikir (Editor/translator). University of Nebraska Press (2019)

**Breaking the Silence: Anthology of Liberian Poetry**. Patricia Jabbeh Wesley (Editor). University of Nebraska Press (2023)

**Fear of Black Consciousness**. Lewis R. Gordon. Picador Paper (2023)

**Against Decolonisation: Taking African Agency Seriously**. Olufemi Taiwo. Hurst (2022)

**The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Recolonisation of Africa: The Coloniality of Data.** Everisto Benyera. Routledge (2021)

**African Women in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Change, Policies, and Approaches (Routledge Studies on Gender and Sexuality in Africa)**. Tinuade Adekunbi Ojo, Bhaso Ndzendze (Editors) Routledge –forthcoming (Dec. 2024)

**Afro-Catholic Festivals in the Americas: Performance, Representation, and the Making of Black Atlantic Tradition (Africana Religions)**. Cécile Fromont. Penn State University Press (2021)

**The Language of Beauty in African Art**. Constantine Petridis. Art Institute of Chicago (2022)

**The Second Battle for Africa: Garveyism, the US Heartland, and Global Black Freedom**. Erik S. McDuffie. Duke – forthcoming (Dec. 2024)

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**Books for Children**

**Sankofa: A Culinary Story of Resilience and Belonging** by Eric Adjepong and Lala Watkins. Penguin Workshop (2023)

**A is for Agbada: An African Alphabet Adventure** by Udhedhe Olakpe. Agbada Books (2022)

**Kwame Nkrumah Midnight Speech for Independence** by Useni E Perkins. Africa Access (2022)

**Chicken in the Kitchen** by Nnedi Okorafor and Mehrdokht Amini. Lantana (2015)

## About the Cover

Images from top right to bottom right:

**Calabash Bowl** Modern West Africa Museum of Anthropology, Wayne State. University.

**Adinkra Symbol: Wawa Aba.** Symbol meaning hardiness, perseverance.

**Prestige Cloth: Asante Peoples**. New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

# HABARI

Newsletter of the Center for African Studies


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