On May 17 and 18th, 2011, the U.S. Department of State hosted its first Global Diaspora Forum in Washington, D.C. With an overall focus on diaspora, diplomacy and development, the forum was organized around three stated goals: recognize and celebrate the contributions of diaspora communities to U.S. relationships with their countries of origin and ancestry; foster diaspora-centric partnerships and models; encourage intra-diaspora collaboration and learning. Creatively appropriating the language of diaspora, the International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdEA), a partnership platform launched at the forum, identified five modes for new diaspora engagement:

**Diaspreneurship:** Support diaspora entrepreneurs in investing and building enterprises as well as stimulating trade in countries of origin.

**Diasplomacy:** Strengthen the natural role of diasporas in diplomacy, advocacy, and peace building via non-traditional media such as sports, arts, and culture.

**Diaspora Corps:** Encourage the proliferation of platforms that facilitate diaspora volunteerism in countries of origin.

**Diaspora 2.0:** Foster innovative communication and information technologies such as mobile banking and diaspora social networks to enhance and deepen engagement.

**Diasphilanthropy:** Cultivate diaspora giving in areas of education, health, nutrition, and disaster relief in countries of origin.

Within a few months of the U.S. State Department’s forum, the William J. Clinton Institute at University College of Dublin (UCD) sponsored a two-day conference entitled “Diaspora Strategies: Encouragement, Evolution and Engagement,” evidently linked to the comment made in 2010 by the Secretary of State at the National Gala of the American Ireland Fund. Calling attention to the economic and diplomatic potential of the many diaspora communities in the U.S., Secretary Clinton stated that the goal of the new initiative on global diaspora engagement was to enable other diaspora communities “…to do what the Irish American Community has done: to reach back, to make contributions, and to assist on the road to peace…”

Recognizing the contributions and actualizing the potential of diaspora communities in the U.S. and elsewhere is laudable. However there is scholarship that sees this new “claim” to diaspora as an intentional “analytical slippage” that conﬂates the idea of long-distance identiﬁcation with a homeland with state sponsored strategies to establish and maintain relationships with their elite emigrant populations in selected parts of the world (Ho 3). The rationale is that elite business and professional migrants can help their countries of origin and ancestry develop global economic opportunities and become more competitive on a global scale. But this relatively new practice of deploying the concept of diaspora to frame sending state strategies for global competitiveness, some scholars argue, needs to be not only identiﬁed but also problematized. Because these “extraterritorial citizenship strategies” are focused primarily to business and professional emigrants, individuals in science, technology, engineering and business, one problematic is that the extension of special privileges and rights can enable these same groups to advance transnational capitalism but avoid citizenly responsibilities. Another problematic is that these strategies can create a “neglected” group of emigrants deﬁned by differences not just in class but in regions and hometowns of origin as well as by intersections of gender, ethnicity, political afﬁliation and religion. Then too, some emigrants simply resist constructed diaspora imaginations while others may claim belonging to two or more countries (Ho 8). Consider the Ghanaian-born businesswoman, educated in Kenya, who began her entrepreneurial enterprises in Zambia and now runs a business in Washington, D.C. Given the context of the new international diaspora engagement and the complexities of citi-
Another World is Possible

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News from the WARA and WARC headquarters

From WARA President

We extend a warm WARA/WARC welcome to our new board members, Pearl Robinson (Tufts University), Tarshia Stanley (Spelman College) and Michael Gomez (NYU). We also express sincere and appreciative WARA/WARC gratitude to Marame Gueye and Ugo Nwokeji who completed their three year term. Congratulations to Ugo for winning the 2011 Melville J. Herskovits Book Award for his book, *The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra: An African Society in the Atlantic World*. WARA/WARC are proud of this accolade.

The ripple effects of the current fiscal shake up in the country (budget reductions/program eliminations, etc.) have not spared organizations like ours that depend on federal funding for parts of their administrative and operational activities. The threat to Title VI funding is very serious. It has created a climate of uncertainty, but it has also made us redouble our efforts to create and develop additional funding and revenue streams that will enable us to stand on our own and thrive.

Our Finance and Development Committee has been working hard on the *Draft Development Plan* that was accepted unanimously by the board at the meeting in November, 2011. Many of us on the board responded positively with generous contributions to the appeal for individual donations to WARA. This is an example that I hope the general membership will follow. Jennifer Yanco and her assistant, Stephanie Guirand, have stepped up efforts to reach out for new institutional members, particularly, HBCUs, and we should heed and act on their plea for all WARA members to urge their institutions to become members.

These are challenging moments that require all of us to be creative and active in terms of how to ensure that our organizations stay strong and sustainable. We take comfort and pride in the continued demand, need, success and quality of our programs and services, in spite of tough times. The profile of WARC continues to elevate with increasing demands for its facilities, services and expertise. Thanks to the work and commitment of our US WARA and overseas WARC directors, the board and the support of CAORC, we are engaging these tough moments with resolve and determination, and we are confident that WARA/WARC will continue to thrive.

*Mbye Cham*
WARA President
Dear WAR A Members,

Greetings! As you can see, this year we are issuing one double issue instead of our usual fall and spring issues. This is a result of programming constraints and we intend to return to our regular schedule with the next issue. Meanwhile, we hope you will enjoy reading about the research and other activities of WAR A and its members, both here in the US and in West Africa.

As most of you probably know by now, recent budget cuts to the Department of Education’s Title VI Programs included the elimination of the AORC (American Overseas Research Centers) program. WAR A has been a recipient of Title VI AORC funding over the past several years; this operating grant provided important administrative support for WAR A and WARC, covering such things as staff salaries, WARC energy cost and maintenance, as well as providing funds for board and staff travel to meetings. Over the last cycle, WAR A received just short of $130,000 per year in Title VI funds. Clearly, it is a challenge to replace these funds. We have been working closely with CAORC and other partners to find other sources of funding to cover our expenses for this coming year and beyond. Fortunately, we have managed to set aside some reserves, which will help us get through the coming year, but not without the support of members and friends. While I am optimistic that we will be able to continue our activities, it is crucial that all of us who are committed to WAR A’s mission join in this effort.

Please make sure that your membership is up to date; having a robust membership counts when applying to foundations and private sources of funding. You can also help by persuading your institution to become a member of WAR A; annual institutional membership dues are modest at $250 and come with several benefits including eligibility for the WAR A Residency Fellowship and preferential access to WARC facilities and coordinating services for summer programs.

I urge you to consider making a contribution to support the work of WAR A. Your gift will assure that we continue to provide high quality programs and services for scholars of West Africa during these lean times.

As we go to press, the situation in Mali is deeply troubling. We stand with our Malian colleagues and wish for the end of the violence and a peaceful resolution to the conflicts. As a community of scholars, we are also concerned about the fate of one of the great treasures of humankind: the thousands of manuscripts held in Timbuktu’s libraries and private collections. Wishing you all a productive rest of the academic year.

Jennifer Yanco
Director, West African Research Association (WAR A)

Dear WAR A Members,

The month of December 2011 witnessed the grand finale of the WAR A/WARC Peace Initiative Project in the Cape Verdean capital, Praia. Such a great project is now about to be wrapped up with the final reports on the various aspects of its implementation. The various activities conducted as part of its execution have certainly contributed to further entrenching the West African dimension of WAR A/WARC and confirming them as very serious and reliable partners for all institutions (government and non-government) operating in West Africa in fields such as academia, research, culture etc. . . .

Meanwhile, WAR A/WARC are about to launch another US State Department-funded project focusing on youth entrepreneurship and the promotion of civic awareness among West African youths as a strategy to contribute to preparing young African leaders and entrepreneurs to better face their responsibilities in the development drive on the continent.

It is to be hoped that this new project will indelibly post WAR A/WARC on the West African map of active and innovative research institutions, bring new additions to WARC infrastructures, facilities and equipments for the Center to confirm its ranking as a premier research center in these parts of the continent.

At the time when this pen is being committed to paper, WARC is already offering its contribution to the celebrations world-wide of the achievement of the Black People. Indeed, a series of film shows, a panel on the Black Diaspora in the United States and a workshop on slavery entitled “Droit, Societes et Esclavage dans l’Empire Francais. Le cas de l’Afrique de l’Ouest” (in collaboration with CREPOS and the UCAD Department of History) are on our agenda for Black History Month this year.

The Center truly remains the rallying point in Dakar for all those who are eager to cultivate and elevate their minds. Their thirst for knowledge is regularly being quenched here through the celebrated public lectures, the presentation and signing of new publications and the holding of various international seminars, workshops and fora.

Indeed, we are laboring under trying circumstances with the number of budget cuts already recorded but everything, including the relentless efforts of CAORC and WAR A, gives us good reasons to be hopeful and confident in a bright future.

From W ARA Director

Jennifer Yanco
Director, West African Research Association (WAR A)

From WARC Director

Ousmane Sène
Director, West African Research Center (WAR C)
The African Ajami Library Project

The African Ajami Library (AAL) is a collaborative initiative between Boston University and WARA/WARC, funded by the British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme. The African Ajami Library project is led by Dr. Fallou Ngom (Associate Professor of Anthropology & Director, African Language Program, African Studies Center, Boston University). AAL is envisioned as a digital “Library of Alexandria” for Islamized Africa, a continental open access public repository of aggregated Ajami materials.

The first step in building AAL occurred this past summer. Dr. Ngom and Mr. Roger Brisson, Head of Metadata Services of Boston University, traveled to Senegal to lead a workshop at WARC focused on digitization techniques for endangered Wolof Ajami manuscripts. Five people were trained in the workshop, including Mr. Ablaye Diakite (AAL-Team Member), Mr. Birane Gassama (AAL-Team member), Mr. Abdoulaye Niang (WARC Administrative Director), Mr. Aliou Badara Sarr (WARC Assistant Librarian), and Mr. Ali Diop (an independent scholar).

Although written records are rarely regarded as part of sub-Saharan Africa’s intellectual heritage, important bodies of Ajami literature have existed in Oromo, Somali, Tigriigna, Kiswahili, Amharic, and Malagasy in East Africa, and Bamankan, Mandinka, Kanuri, Yoruba, Berber, Hausa, Wolof, and Fulfulde in West Africa for centuries. In South Africa, Muslim Malay slaves produced the first written record of Afrikaans in Ajami. The neglect is due to a number of factors, including the lack of an Ajami public depository, the limited number of individuals with the linguistic skills and cultural background required to analyze Ajami documents, and a lack of interest on the part of the few qualified scholars, as many Europeans and Arab scholars with the linguistic competence to study these materials have often deemed their insights of little scholarly interest. Most assume that sources of useful knowledge on Africa are either oral or written in European languages. Yet, Ajami traditions of Africa are centuries-old and are quite varied, consisting of satirical, polemical and protest poetry, as well as biographies, eulogies, genealogies, talismanic resources, therapeutic medical manuals, family journals, business transactions, historical records, speeches, texts on administrative and diplomatic matters (correspondence between Sultans and provincial rulers), Islamic jurisprudence, behavioral codes, grammar, and even visual arts.

The primary goal of AAL is to ensure that these materials are no longer treated as footnotes, but as major sources of local African knowledge, without which a holistic and in-depth understanding of Islamized Africa will remain elusive.
As a WARA Residency Fellow, I left my home university, University of Buea, Cameroon, for a short stay at the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, University of Wisconsin, Madison, from June 30 to August 14, 2011. The key purpose of the residency was the acquisition of molecular techniques, specifically molecular signaling of snails towards their host. This involved molecular studies using snails of Lymnaea and Helisoma species. Some of the methodologies used included the hatching of *Fasciola magna* eggs into miracidia: new batches of eggs from different tubes were tested to determine the number of eggs per tube and their hatching rates.

**Procedure**

100ul of eggs was removed from each tube using sterile pipette tips into sterile eppendorf tubes. They were washed 3 times with sterile cold pond water, 1ml of water for each wash and centrifuged at 1000rpm for 30secs. After the last spin, 1ml of sterile pond water was added to carefully suspend eggs. Eggs were then removed and put into a well of sterile 9 well Pyrex plate. Plate was covered with Para film and incubated for 20mins at 33°C. Number of miracidia were checked after 20mins using a dissecting scope and then plate was left on the bench for 1–3 hrs for continues hatching. After maximum hatching miracidia were carefully transferred using a dissecting scope into 48 well culture plate containing 500ul of conditioned and unconditioned medium. The plate was cultured at 26°C and observed at intervals of 1hr, 2hrs, 24hrs, and 48hrs. Results were registered in terms of number of miracidia:

- swimming in conditioned/unconditioned medium.
- not swimming
- transforming
- transformed.

**Observation**

Transformed miracidia have irregular shapes with plates lifted and posterior end sort of trailing. Miracidia lose their cilia.

Those that are beginning to transform are immobilized, eye spots and cilia still seen, body shape still cylindrical.

**Bleeding of snails**

Snail shells were wiped off thoroughly with 70% alcohol using Kim wipes. All the water and mucus around the head foot of the snail was carefully wiped too using Kim wipes. Bleed snails through head foot retraction. Collect blood using 100ul pipette and place in sterile eppendorf tubes on ice. The blood was later centrifuged and supernatant (plasma) collected. The plasma was used in different dilutions for toxicity experiments. Miracidia were added into 48 well culture plate containing plasma and CBSS at different dilutions. This was cultured at 26°C and observed at different time intervals 30mins, 1hr, 2hrs, 24hrs, and 48hrs.

**Molecular filtration and toxicity experiments**

Molecular filtration was done using different filters >300kd, >100kd, >50kd and >10kd. After bleeding snails, plasma was diluted 1:1 with CBSS and filtered using the different filters in order to get concentrate and filtrate. The concentrates were then diluted with CBSS and put into a 48 well culture plate. Using a 10ul pipette miracidia was collected using a dissecting scope and added into the wells. The plate was incubated at 26°C and observed at different time intervals 30mins, 1hr, 2hrs, 24hrs, and 48hrs.

**Observation**

The rate and time of killing and immobilization of miracidia in the different protein concentrations was noted. The techniques and knowledge obtained during the residency period is of great importance as this will be transferred to colleagues and students.

*Judith Mbuh, University of Buea*

WARA Residency Fellow at University of Wisconsin-Madison

judithmbuh@yahoo.com
Mon séjour à Boston était important à cause de sa diversité et de son importance sur le plan pédagogique et culturel. Ma résidence à Boston University African Studies Center (ASC) au mois de novembre 2011 a été rendue possible grâce à un Residency Fellowship qui m’a été accordé par le West African Research Association. Le but de ce Residency était d’exposer mon travail à Sherman Gallery avec l’exécution d’une peinture murale permettant aux visiteurs de me voir à l’œuvre, des lectures (conférences) et d’animer des workshops.

J’ai partagé mon expérience en tant que calligraphe mais aussi en tant qu’expert en Islam spécialisé dans la Muridiya Sufi order avec un large public d’intellectuels dans l’environnement universitaire. J’ai également profité de mon séjour pour visiter plusieurs musées (y compris le Museum of Fine Arts et l’Institute of Contemporary Art a Boston), ce qui m’a beaucoup enrichi dans le domaine de mon métier ; les causeries avec les professeurs et les étudiants des autres institutions m’ont montré d’autres facettes de la vie universitaire aux États-Unis, au Sénégal et à Boston en particulier.

Des mon arrivée à Boston, je suis allé directement à Boston University, à Sherman Gallery. L’après midi est consacré à l’achat du matériel de peinture utile à l’exécution de la murale. Le lendemain, je suis aux ASC, présenté à Monsieur Roger-Claude Liwanga, Directeur Exécutif de Promote Congo, une ONG qui travaille sur la problématique de la violence faite aux femmes et aux enfants congolais. Avec l’aide de Lynne Cooney, Directrice de la Gallery Sherman, nous avons pu installer l’exposition et commencer le travail sur la murale.

Le 10 Novembre, juste avant la vernissage de l’exposition « African Calligraphy in Action », j’ai présenté une conférence, « Understanding Murid Art in Senegal » appuyé d’un powerpoint savamment mis à jour par le Dr Cynthia Becker. L’exposition est restée ouverte jusqu’au 16 décembre.

Pendant mon séjour j’ai eu l’occasion d’intervenir dans plusieurs contextes. J’ai présenté dans la classe du Dr Allen Roberts sur la lecture de la veille, une série de questions-réponses sur la calligraphie, et sur mon activisme. J’ai aussi présenté dans la classe du Dr Mary Nooter Roberts avec PowerPoint, le débat à été enrichissant, les étudiants ont beaucoup apprécié. A UCLA, j’ai visité le Fowler Museum où il y avait beaucoup de collections exposées, j’ai visité également Homeboy Industries. La soirée était festive avec la cuisine sénégalaise de Mme Mbaye. Nous avons passé la journée de Thanksgiving chez les Roberts ; la dinde rotie de Polly une merveille, la fête est belle avec la présence de beaucoup d’invités.

Je suis de retour à Boston le 26 Novembre. Mardi j’ai fait une séquence de photos à la Gallery pour des reportages. L’après-midi je pars avec Stéphanie Guirand de WARA à Arlington High School où j’ai réalisé une murale pour le Constructing Acceptance Project, le titre est « Pas de contrainte en matière de religion ».


Samedi le 3 Décembre, c’était le départ de Boston, après une résidence extraordinaires, séjour instructif à plus d’un titre grâce à une riche programme concoctée par une équipe sérieuse et dynamique composée d’éménants professeurs de la WARA et du Boston University ASC : Drs Timothy Longman (Director), Jennifer Yanco (WARA Director), Cynthia Becker (Art History), Fallou Ngom (Anthropology), Alex Zito (African Studies), Lynne Cooney (Sherman Gallery Director), les professeurs Allen et Mary Nooter Roberts qui ont trouvé les moyens d’ajouter du sel dans la marmite avec ce voyage à Los Angeles. Vouloir citer toutes les personnes qui ont contribué à la réussite de ma résidence à Boston serait hasardeux tant le nombre est impressionnant. J’ai communiqué sur le l’ONG Village Pilote au cours de mes différents lectures et aussi sur l’opportunité de mon projet de création de l’Institut Africain de Calligraphie de Gandiole au Senegal qui est innovateur en Afrique. J’ai beaucoup apprécié la discipline du peuple américain dans la rue, dans les transports publics (trains, bus etc…), les lieux publics (restos, magasins etc…) et aussi le cadre universitaire dans lequel j’ai évolué pendant un mois. Vivement une prochaine résidence…

Mr Yelimane Fall
WARA Residency Fellow at Boston University
In furtherance of the objective of the WARA in “enhancing transatlantic exchange” its residency fellowship for 2008 was awarded to the James S. Coleman African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to host me as a West African Visiting Scholar from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Professor Andrew, Apter Director of JSCASC and a noted specialist of south eastern Nigerian languages, cultures and histories (though on sabbatical leave at the time of my visit) agreed to host me as a WARA resident fellow “as part of a larger initiative of encouraging more active exchanges with African Visiting Scholars on campus”. On November 3, I took a bus from my comfortable and quiet apartment (that provided opportunity for deep thinking and writing) to the JSCASC and was welcomed by the center administrator Sheila Breeding and other support staff who were happy to hear of my safe arrival to the United States. The next day, I was introduced to the Acting Director of the Center, Professor Francoise Lionnet, who provided me with an office space, desk, computer, email account as well as UCLA Bruin card to enable me have full access to University library and on-line research data base.

With assistance from Ruby Bell-Gam, UCLA Africana bibliographer, I devoted some weeks to library research focusing on social policy formulation and implementation, with particular reference to gender, rural development, equity and empowerment, health and education policy. Within a short period, I made a number of professional and academic visits to gather information on how social programs on poverty are conceived and implemented in the United States. I also took an active part in the intellectual life of the Center, participated in the regular African Studies Monday Seminars where I learnt so much from graduate students and faculty who were working on similar issues that provided rich resources for my research.

Summary of Research Findings
The visit provided me the opportunity to appraise the documentary content of NEEDS program of former president Obasanjo as a poverty reduction strategy, to determine the suitability of its policy recommendation and implementation in an oil rich, yet poor democracy. My investigation reveals that developing countries are continuously experiencing crashes with poverty reduction programs. A major cause of this crash stems from the prevailing policies and implementation strategies of poverty reduction programs that are insufficiently responsive to the dynamic forces of poverty. Although empirical occurrence of this ‘phenomenon’ seems valid in Africa, the emerging democratic countries of Sub-Saharan Africa are noteworthy in this respect. Nigeria provides a good case example and illustrates some of the more negative quality of poverty reduction programs and their attendant implications for economic growth, political stability and democracy on the continent. Though richly endowed with natural resources, poverty amidst plenty is a striking feature of today’s Nigeria. Over the past two decades, this problem has assumed a dimension that is socially unacceptable.

Since the late 1970's, successive military and civilian regimes in Nigeria have initiated various programs, all of which have proved unsuccessful in alleviating poverty. A recent UNDP survey shows that 34 of such programs were established between 1980 and 2002. When the Obasanjo administration stepped in for a second term of four years in 2003, it was quite obvious that there was “something fundamentally wrong with poverty reduction measures in Nigeria for failing to achieve their overarching objective”. A year later, the Obasanjo administration established the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) as a poverty reduction program that articulates a long-term plan of generating employment, wealth creation and value re-orientation.

A critical look at NEEDS shows that although its objectives are far reaching, it fails to consider a comprehensive and coherent policy thrust and does not provide an effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework. An appropriate policy mechanism required for the successful implementation of the goals of the reform is not well articulated. An assessment of the NEEDS document reveals that the content and language drew inspiration from the World Bank and IMF development polices. However, the Obasanjo administration no doubt was convinced that once it drives the economy in a sustainable way, poverty will be reduced. In attempting to achieve this ultimate objective, NEEDS fails in its policy recommendations to articulate a workable process of reducing poverty in Nigeria. It does not address how the government will take care of the numerous challenges and problems that negate socio-economic development in a democracy. Thus, with the depth and high rate of political crises especially of insecurity and systematic corruption in the Obasanjo administration, it was doubtful whether much progress could have been made in meeting the objective of the NEEDS program.

The even more specific criticism of NEEDS is my second assessment of its implementation framework. I do share the view that though some results were achieved in the context of the NEEDS target, its implementation strategy was dogmatic, ineffectual and quite inadequate. My suggestion is that NEEDS should have focused on the bottom-up rather than the top-down development boondoggles that have failed in Nigeria. The more popular perception is to see the policy and implementation deficiencies of NEEDS as essentially emerging from the underlying socio-economic problems and political
structures that generate marginalization, pervasive poverty and social exclusion in Nigeria; for the latter provides the background or social environment in which these deficiencies arise and in terms of which the solution to them must eventually be framed. In my opinion, a thorough identification and understanding of the dynamics of poverty based on the constraints of political realities, socio-economic challenges and opportunities in Nigeria should have been the operational instrument of NEEDS policy. While its focus ought to have tackled the many socio-political factors that contributed to poverty and socio-exclusion, a clear framework for implementation, monitoring and evaluation should have been put in place. This, would have provided a critical link between appropriate polices and more effective implementation strategies. In this way, the prognosis on which NEEDS was established in making a fundamental break from the mistakes of previous poverty reduction programs would not have been a matter of blind faith. It is such perception, I believe that made the Yar’Adua/Jonathan administration discontinue the NEEDS program.

Benefits to Home University
My study visit to the University of California, Los Angeles under the W ARA residency program has enabled me refresh, enhance and update my teaching and research skills. My proactive and innovative work in philosophy connecting public policy with ethics and epistemology and my own effort to expand this new intellectual and professional horizon is extremely beneficial to the University of Port Harcourt. Based on my experience in the US, I am presently working on a proposal to my University to establish an Institute of Public Policy Research that will strengthen its leadership and capacity in policy formulation, analysis and implementation.

Acknowledgement
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the realization of my study visit to UCLA. I am particularly indebted to the authorities of UCLA for providing the enabling environment for serious academic work and to W ARA, under the able leadership of Dr. Jennifer Yanco, for providing the financial resources and support that made my stay in the US so productive. The enormous assistance and special party organized by Professor Andrew Apter and family afforded me a new fundamental exposure that has broadened my perspective on American social life. My acquaintance with Moses Adegbola did help shake off the initial attempt to settle down. His recharge card gifts and other favors to me were enriching and supportive. Special thanks to Ruby Bell-Gam UCLA Africana bibliographer, whose own family heritage and current professional activities lie in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria, for being helpful with the library work. Many thanks to Professor Francoise Lionnet who was the then acting Director of JSCASC for all her help and support. Finally, this report would not be complete without mentioning the affectionate care of my spouse Mrs. Sarah F. Minimah and my son providence whose sacrifices, deep love, concern and understanding were of immense emotional service that made me psychologically stable in the US. For this and other factors, I am extremely grateful.

Dr. Francis Israel Minimah, University of Port Harcourt
WARA Residency Fellow at James S. Coleman African Studies Center, UCLA
f_minimah@yahoo.com
The following is an interview that Moses Abiala, WARA Resident Scholar at Kent State University, gave to the faculty/staff newsletter (E-Inside) there during his tenure there in fall 2011. Mr. Abiala, a soil microbiologist from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, spent his residency working in the laboratory with Dr. Christopher Blackwood.

**Interviewer:** Why did you choose to come to the U.S. and specifically Kent State University (KSU)?

**Moses Abiala:** I choose to come to USA based on so many factors. First, I came to USA for a collaborative research work based on molecular identification challenges of a particular soil/rhizosphere microorganisms called Actinomycetes. The research facilities, scientific expertise and funding is not really available for this research work in my country (Nigeria).

Second, KSU is among the universities that WARA is collaborating with to host visiting scholar from West Africa. Another major reason for choosing KSU is because the American scientist that can handle my area of research is KSU’s Dr. Christopher Blackwood, Department of Biological Sciences. The laboratory of Dr. Blackwood has all the research facilities that can handle my research work. In-line with this, Dr. Blackwood is encouraging with his motivational teaching, practical experience, and his readiness to address my research challenges.

Finally, the e-mail and interaction I had with Professor James Blank, Professor John Stalvey and Dr. Wendy Wilson-Fall while I was still in Nigeria was most encouraging and friendly.

**Interviewer:** How long is your research/stay here at Kent State?

**Moses Abiala:** My stay here at Kent is for two months based on the fellowship, though my research work could be longer than these two months.

**Interviewer:** What’s the purpose of your research work/what is it about?

**Moses Abiala:** The purpose of my research work is to develop indigenous biological fertilizer to enhance the growth of maize and some other major cereal crops in Nigeria as a sample (Pilot) study for West Africa. Also, another major reason of my research work is to find alternative to NPK chemical fertilizer, chemical pesticides, to enhance nutritional qualities of maize and other food crops. Lots of my research work has been done in Nigeria. The contextual basis of my work in USA is basically that we cannot release all this potential biofertilizer to the field (farmers) without proper molecular identification which has been established to be more superior to morphological and biochemical identification. The soil bacteria known as actinomycetes have potential to enhance growth of major food crops in Nigeria but they have not been studied in this region. This collaborative research investigates the identity, genetic relatedness and diversity of phyto-beneficial actinomycetes within and across the ecological zones in Nigeria. This collaborative research is also aimed at providing insight into the safety and reliability of these phyto-beneficial actinomycetes ultimately to developing indigenous biofertilizers that will support food security in Nigeria and other West Africa countries, thereby supporting Millennium Development Goal of food security in West Africa.

**Interviewer** How does your research benefit your country/who benefits from your research work?

**Moses Abiala:** My research visit fulfills the goals, objectives, mission and vision of WARA, which is basically to enhance research quality and intellectual resources between West African and American researchers for international development and contribution of international community to West Africa developments. It also contributes to skills and knowledge in the research community in West Africa. The direct experience in molecular microbiology and bioinformatics I have gained here will be transferred to others at University of Ibadan. Also, the results will be presented at International conferences and published in scientific journals related environmental microbiology and sustainable agriculture of which WARA and KSU will be acknowledged.

This will also add value to Kent State University in the context to their contribution to International developments most especially on Millennium Developments Goals.

Moses Abiala, University of Ibadan
WARA Residency Fellow at Kent State University
Mos4me@gmail.com
Pharmacy, Gender and Entrepreneurship in 20th Century Senegal

Thanks to a WARA Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, I spent June, July, and August (2011) conducting research in Dakar, Senegal. I conducted follow up research for my book manuscript, Expanding Professional Horizons, Pharmacy, Gender and Entrepreneurship in 20th Century Senegal, which examines the creation, development, and expansion of African biomedical professionals. It highlights Senegal’s pharmacists, who first gain training in 1919 and become prominent members in Senegal’s biomedical health sector by the mid-20th century. This book project shifts the focus of my earlier work from female pharmacists specifically to a project that looks more broadly at the professionalization of both men and women. It builds on earlier studies on public health, gender, and professionalization by exploring the training and historical contributions of professional African entrepreneurs. The book will be the first to consider the historical significance of pharmacists in Francophone West Africa and the prominent role played by female pharmacy owners.

The objectives of my summer fieldwork were to conduct additional research at the Senegalese National Archives, conduct follow-up interviews with some key informants, visit a few important sites, and make contact with new informants. I was especially interested in interviewing more male pharmacists. During my first two weeks in the country, I laid the foundation for my summer research. I visited and met with the staff at the West African Research Center (WARC) where I also picked up my research clearance. I connected with several pharmacists who were instrumental during the period of my dissertation research, several pharmacy organizations, local scholars, and friends. Of course, before traveling to Senegal, I had constructed a detailed work plan and contacted a few key people in advance. As many of you know, something unexpected always occurs when conducting research in West Africa. I’ve long learned to adapt and I increasingly find joy in the unexpected shifts in plan.

There were protests during my visit in response to controversial presidential decisions and widespread electrical outages. These protests continued throughout the summer and are expected to continue through spring 2012.

A Pharmaceutical Forum was held in early July. I was granted access to the meeting as a guest of Senegal’s National Order of Pharmacists. Apart from attending myriad presentations on pharmacy practice, I was able to meet pharmacists from around the continent.

Throughout the research trip, I met with pharmacists, visited sites, and made trips to the Senegalese National Archives. My interviews were informative. I interviewed current and retired pharmacists. I also made discovery trips to pharmacies to observe new pharmacological innovation and also made visits to non-formal pharmaceutical vendors including a return trip to Keur Serigne bi, a market specializing in pharmaceuticals that are traded in parallel networks.

Finally, I spent considerable time in the archives, revisiting some material related to the history of medical practice in French West Africa and Senegal. In addition to work on the book manuscript, I am also completing one peer-reviewed article and one peer-reviewed book chapter. One of the publications is related to material found in the archives on the history of drug trafficking in West Africa.

Again, I must thank WARA’s Fellowship Committee and Board of Directors for generously funding this research trip. I am also grateful to numerous institutions and people in Senegal who were instrumental in helping to facilitate this project especially the National Order of Pharmacists, Dr. Cheikhou Omar Dia, Liliane Traoré, Dr. Maimouna Diop, Prof. Ousmane Sene, Diarra Sonko, and Awa Hyzagi.

Donna A. Patterson, WARA Post-Doctoral Fellow
Wellesley College
dpatters@wellesley.edu
A 2011 WARA Post-Doctoral Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to spend ten weeks in Ugep, Cross River State Nigeria, to conduct follow-up research for a book manuscript tentatively entitled, *Postcolonial Yakurr Studies: Tradition in Transition*. The research for this already diachronically-focused study of Yakurr Culture, the bulk of which I conducted between 1998 and 2002, quite suddenly and unexpectedly took on a new dimension in 2005, when former Cross River State Governor Donald Duke resolved to turn the state’s capital Calabar into a free trade zone akin to that of Dubai (UAE), and to change the economic prospects of the state as a whole by implementing a tourism agenda. The objective of my summer research was to assess the impact of government-mandated changes to the Leboku festival on Yakurr culture and to document the meta-narratives surrounding changing “traditions.”

In particular, I was interested in finding out whether the priest-Chiefs of Ugep, the traditional rulers and custodians of the culture, who previously used their festival practices to display an insurgent attitude towards the Nigerian state, and to reach an international audience with their concerns about a globalizing world, had found a way to subvert the government’s agenda and to further their cause, or if they had been dazzled by the prospect of economic gain and caved in. What I found on the ground was of course much more complex than the either/or scenario I envisioned.

The Leboku festival in Ugep, first documented by Daryll Forde who visited Ugep (then called Umor) in the 1930s, is a new yam rite which takes place over a period of two months, between the beginning of July and the beginning of September. Dozens of rites lay out themes that interweave concerns with the agricultural calendar, local religion, human fertility and gender roles, political authority, and the society’s external relationships. Thus the festival structure, when the sequence of events is examined carefully and considered as a whole, i.e., start to finish, reveals that it stages a fictional, victorious war fought against an unspecified enemy.

In 2005, the Cross River State’ governor introduced “Yakurr International Day,” locally referred to as “Donald Duke’s Own,” which requires Yakurr priest-Chiefs and other cultural performers (e.g. various initiation and warrior societies and their masquerades) to present condensed versions of their “authentic” festival performances in Ugep Peace Stadium for consumption by tourists. Part of the logic at play entails an agenda to create peace and unity amongst various Yakurr villages, which are prone to fight each other in bloody wars over land disputes, for the “Yakurr International Day” pertains to all citizens of Yakurr Local Government Area, not merely to Ugepians. In addition to this newly invented festival day and its massive parade, the government, assisted by MTN, a South Africa-based telecommunications firm, introduced “star prizes” given to the winners of competitions, some of which have a basis in the culture (e.g., female wrestling), some of which lean on, but undermine pre-existing cultural institutions (e.g., a best harvester contest) and yet others that are alien to the culture (e.g., a Mr. and Miss Leboku beauty pageant). The prizes are designed to promote participation in the culture. They are substantial and involve such things as brand new vehicles (worth 1.8 million Naira, roughly $12,000), motorcycles, hair salon equipment, sewing machines, standing fans, DVD players, etc. Further innovations, which were not initiated by the government, but inspired by the state’s measures, have included a town-wide soccer competition replete with real nets and proper balls, team jerseys,
referees and sports commentators; an art exhibition; an opening thanksgiving service held at churches of various denominations on a rotational basis; and an inaugural lecture series.

The population overwhelmingly embraced these changes. People usually cited two factors. First, dwindling participation in the culture due to Christianity had reached the point of threatening the festival altogether; the star prizes helped to reinvigorate involvement in the culture. Particularly Christians’ critique of festival maidens’ seductive attire had led to significant decline. Second, the prospect of tourism provided economic opportunity to hoteliers, motorcyclists (who provide transportation), restaurants, food vendors, farmers with surplus produce, and artisans. Some of these benefits had already been felt.

Although nobody mentioned it, I observed that particularly young men, who expressed that festival rituals were inaccessible to them and irrelevant to their lives, suddenly took an interest. They used their cell phones to photograph events and to post them on Facebook and Twitter; numerous individuals used digital cameras to produce archives; videographers created documentaries which they later offered for sale to expatriates; and several men self-published accounts of the festival that were heavily inflected by Christianity and the Tourism Board’s propaganda. In a similar vein, young women, who refused to participate in the festival as maidens, nevertheless frequented photographers’ studios, where they posed in traditional attire to take private ownership of their cultural heritage. Further, the Mr. and Miss Leboku contest, which leans on Calabar Carnival and on Mr. and Miss Universe pageants, although heavily contested, spoke to young people who are avid consumers of global culture. The point here is that, given the culture’s struggle for survival, my initial research question regarding the priest-chiefs’ resolve to defy Nigerian identity had become meaningless. The Okpibili of Ugep, the town speaker, Cornelius Ikpi Edet, voiced this quite clearly when he talked about my work: “Because we alone cannot develop Ugep. Someone coming all the way from America, she is going to preserve our custom. Because our traditions alone will not survive unless we try to reduce it into doctrine.”

While there were many positive changes—everybody tried just a bit harder than before—the government’s agenda also seemed detrimental to Leboku. The “Yakurr International Day” disturbs the logical sequence of events. As one example, Yabunga, young men who demonstrate their prowess by uprooting trees with their bare hands, appear in a parade on the government-sponsored day before they have been properly initiated into the Yabunga cult and “come out” during the traditional festival. The emphasis on prizes and commercial ventures, too, is antithetical to the egalitarian society’s moral values. Yakurr tended to ignore or vehemently refute these negative consequences. They resolved contradictions by conceptualizing the “traditional” Leboku Festival and “Yakurr International Day” as strictly separate, even though they were clearly intertwined. Awards earned during the “traditional” Leboku festival, for example, were given out by the governor on “Yakurr International Day,” thereby shifting the climax of the festival from the ceremonial entry of priest-chiefs in front of Umor Otutu palace and their witnessing of the Ekoi war dance, to the “Yakurr International day” in the stadium, all eyes on the governor.

Lastly, of great interest to my larger book project was the lack of cooperation from the Tourism Board, on whose invitation I travelled to Nigeria. These men, special advisors to the governor and their staff members, went through every antic imaginable not to provide me with any information about the recent developments. “As a scholar, a female at that,” I was told by a political science major at the University of Calabar, “you are the politicians’ worst nightmare.” They handle all of the funds allocated for the promotion of the Leboku festival and did not want me to find out how they make their money. Consequently, I learned a lot about corruption in Nigeria and therefore about the context in which this culture is trying to survive.

Towards the end of my stay I visited the University of Uyo to begin a conversation about an exchange program with Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon, where I will take up a position in August 2012. This type of exchange across oceans, an explicit mandate of the West African Research Association, is of course invaluable and I am very grateful for the support I have received. The opportunity to observe the recent changes to Yakurr culture has reinforced my conviction that “tradition” plays a synthesizing function. Via it Yakurr resolve the contradictions inherent in their postcolonial society and carve out their own version of modernity and globality.

Gitti Salami, WARA Post-Doctoral Fellow
Assistant Professor African Art
University of Kansas
gittisalami@yahoo.com
Migration as a Strategy of “Authentic” Development? The Case of Senegal.

A WARA Pre-Doctoral fellowship allowed me to conduct fieldwork for my dissertation on the impact of migration and development in Senegal. During the course of my three month stay in Senegal, from June 1st to August 30th, I conducted a total of 19 interviews, sixteen formal and three informal (spontaneous).

In addition to conducting interviews and collecting newspaper articles relevant to my research topic from the country’s major newspapers: *l’Observateur*, *Le Soleil*, *La Populaire*, and *Walfadjri*; I also visited the poor suburbs of Dakar, a Plan REVA farm located in Ngomène, and two rural communities: Louga and the village of Ndem. The purpose of my site visits were to better understand the conditions that have led many young Senegalese men to leave their communities for Dakar or for the prospects of a “better” life in Europe, to assess whether the positive externalities of migration in forms of remittances and real estate investment have improved the living conditions in the rural areas and in Dakar’s poor communities, and to witness firsthand the grassroots initiatives that are taking place to address the problems of rural exodus and clandestine migration.

Like the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and many developing nations, Senegal too is affected by some of the same problems such as energy shortages, food security, rural-urban disparities, and uneven provision of social services. The lack of basic public services also highlights the problems of rural-urban disparities and widespread socioeconomic inequalities in terms of access to resources. Not only are most of the country’s resources like education, government services, and commercial activities concentrated in Dakar; but within Dakar, there is a large disparity between the affluent and the poor neighborhoods. Finally, there is the concern of food security not only in Senegal but also throughout the African continent since most African countries consume what they do not produce and produce what they do not consume, which only leaves them the option of having to import most of their foods and basic necessities from abroad.

Despite the problems mentioned above, both the Senegalese government and various local NGOs and grassroots organizations have taken action to combat the phenomenon of clandestine migration and rural exodus. One of the highlights of my research in this country was visiting a Plan REVA (Return to Agriculture) farm in Ngomène and conducting an interview at the office of the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN). Even though the Plan REVA project has only been in existence for three years, this project has been successful in terms of motivating people to stay in their communities and bringing basic infrastructure like electricity to rural areas. This in turn has created steady employment opportunities and even some temporary ones for the local villagers since they can now work on the farms and prepare their exports to markets in Dakar and other major cities throughout the country.

In addition to Plan REVA, Program TOKTEN addresses the issue of migration, particularly the problem of brain drain, by encouraging skilled and professional Senegalese immigrants residing in the industrialized nations to return and participate in their home country’s socioeconomic development process by contributing their knowledge and expertise in the fields of higher education, civil society, public administration, and private sector development.

Despite reports and stories of desperate Senegalese/West African migrants risking it all on dangerous pirogue (small wooden fishing boat) voyages for uncertain futures in Spain or Italy, if the opportunities and circumstances are in place, they prefer to stay in their communities of origin. There is no doubt that migration, especially in the form of remittances, real estate investment, and transfer of knowledge has changed many people’s lives. Notwithstanding the positive impacts, migration as a sole strategy for a nation’s socioeconomic development has its limitations since so far, it has not improved the overall living conditions for the majority of the Senegalese population nor has it addressed some of the fundamental economic issues affecting the country.

Jau-Yon Chen, WARA Pre-Doctoral Fellow
Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of African Studies
Howard University
jauyon@gmail.com

Fruit syrups produced for sale at Yacine Mboubou Economic Interest Group in Kebémer.
Biomasse énergies et les stratégies d’écodéveloppement au Sahel : étude comparée Sénégal / Mali


L’objectif de ce voyage d’étude est de faire des stages dans toutes les structures de recherche intervenant sur les stratégies d’exploitation et de valorisation de la biomasse énergie au Sahel. Donc l’intérêt est de montrer l’intervention multisectorielle de la biomasse énergie (avantages, inconvénients, espaces exploités, espèces exploitées et valorisées, techniques utilisées, produits obtenus en quantité par an; en qualité, vendus -consommés et/ou exportés ou non) pour mieux poser la problématique des politiques énergétiques au Mali. Et surtout de démontrer l’efficacité de ces stratégies de réponse dans la création d’activités génératrices de revenu et dans la conservation pérenne des écosystèmes maliens.


Ces stages ont été complétés par des entretiens que nous avons eus avec des personnes ressources, c’est-à-dire avec les représentants du PNUD, du Mali- Tilé, du GIZ et au niveau du groupe de recherche et d’application Technique (GRAT) à Bamako. Enfin, une formation au niveau de l’Association des Femmes ingénieurs du Mali (AFIMA) a été faite.

Au Mali, au-delà d’un effet de mode, la biomasse énergie est à plus d’un titre comme une énergie d’un très grand intérêt, dans le cadre de stratégies alternatives ou de diversification de l’approvisionnement énergétique. Dans ce contexte, la recherche est essentielle pour obtenir l’information nécessaire pour capitaliser des expériences et pour permettre une meilleure redéfinition des stratégies de politiques énergétiques.

C’est dans cette perspective que le voyage d’étude a été très utile. Nous avons pu avoir accès à plusieurs documents ayant un rapport avec la valorisation de la biomasse énergie au Sahel, nous avons, également, effectué des missions dans trois régions du Mali (Sikasso, Koulikoro, Ségou), et participé à des ateliers et formations. Ce présent rapport illustre bien toutes les activités et les différents enseignements que nous avons pu en tirer.

Ce voyage a permis donc de nouer un contact avec le milieu professionnel malien. Cela a renforcé nos connaissances sur les méthodologies de recherche.

Nos remerciements vont d’abord à l’endroit du West African Research Association, qui grâce à ses fonds, nous a donné les moyens de la recherche. Nous voudrions aussi remercier notre famille d’accueil (Maître Alhassane Sangaré, Madame Sangaré Anna Traoré et toute la famille Sangaré) ; Professeur Mouhamadou Mouldou Diakhaté, notre Directeur de Thèse ; Professeur Famagan O. Konaté de l’Université de Bamako; et le Directeur National de l’énergie du Mali, M. Sinalou Diawara. Nous adressons enfin nos sincères remerciements à tous nos encadreurs et Maîtres de stage

Abibatou Banda Fall, WARC Travel Grantee
Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis
Lettres et Sciences Humaines
Section de Géographie
bibaminata@yahoo.fr

Obs: The full version of this report is available by request from WARA.
Quality of life among people living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana

I am a Ghanaian native and currently a fourth year social work PhD student, and have completed course work and qualifying exam requirements as of October 2011. My research trip was in preparation for my dissertation project in December 2011.

I traveled to Accra, Ghana, in the month of August, 2011, to conduct field research in Social Work. Little is known about differences in socio-demographic, social support, and quality of life (QoL) among people living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana. Using cross-sectional study to collect data from Ghanaians diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, this study aims to determine whether QoL or perceived social support differ by socio-economic characteristics and whether socio-economic characteristics and perceived social support are predictive of QoL. My main goals in traveling to Ghana were to seek a written permission for data collection from the setting, and to pretest the original English and culturally adapted versions of the QoL and social support instruments.

Preliminary Findings
I received the permission to collect data later in December, 2011 for my dissertation project. Results from the pretesting of instruments suggested that the participant preferred to use the original English version of the instruments to the culturally adapted measures. This is because the participants verbalized that they are used to participating in research studies conducted in English, given that English is the official language in Ghana.

This grant helped me travel to the research site (in Ghana) and to pretest the instruments for my dissertation study. The field experience gained has helped me finalized the decision on using the original English versions of the QoL and social support instruments. This trip helped me to establish relationships and networks with individuals within the intended research sites. These relationships may enhance my ability to achieve my long term goal of conducting studies that use data from individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Ghana.

My trip to Ghana has also contributed to WARA’s mission in diverse ways. For example, sponsoring African scholars to conduct research studies in Africa is central to the mission of WARA. By sponsoring my trip to Ghana to conduct a preliminary study, WARA’s goal of supporting African scholars to conduct research in West Africa is accomplished.

Tina Abrefa-Gyan, WARC Travel Grantee
PhD student in social work
University of Maryland, Baltimore
tabrefa-gyan@sw.umd.edu

Commerce à longue distance de la kola et pénétration de l’islam en Côte d’Ivoire (XVe-XIXe siècle)

Du 7 août au 30 septembre 2010, j’ai effectué un séjour de recherche à Bamako (Mali) « Commerce à longue distance de la kola et pénétration de l’islam en Côte d’Ivoire (XVe-XIXe siècle) » grâce à une bourse de voyage (WARA Travel Grant) dont j’ai été bénéficiaire au titre de l’année académique 2009/2010. Cette recherche était un travail d’enquête de terrain et de prospection en archives (Archives Nationales du Mali). L’objectif était d’approfondir mes connaissances sur les voies de pénétration et d’expansion de l’islam en Côte d’Ivoire. Les résultats préliminaires que j’ai obtenus me permettent, en l’état actuel de mes recherches, d’avancer et de soutenir la primauté de la voie commerciale qui est par ailleurs la principale hypothèse qui sous-tend mon travail. En effet, l’action des Jula m’a paru de prime à bord comme la principale voie de diffusion de l’islam dans cet espace resté plus ou moins réfractaire, dans sa partie forestière notamment, à l’avancée de la foi musulmane. Les pays qui forment la Côte d’Ivoire actuelle, contrairement aux pays sahéliens tels que l’actuel Mali ou encore l’actuel Sénégal, n’ont pas enregistré une quelconque « guerre sainte » où jihad au cours de leur histoire. Le prosélytisme des conquérants de la foi s’est estompé aux portes de la forêt donnant ainsi force à l’ingéniosité des Jula et en conséquence à la voie marchande dans la pénétration et l’expansion de l’islam en terre ivoirienne.

L’étude vise à terme au renforcement des connaissances sur l’islam en Côte d’Ivoire à travers la publication d’articles scientifiques qui demeurent l’objectif de la recherche que j’ai entreprise et conduite au Mali.

La bourse de voyage du WARC m’a permis de récolter les informations complémentaires nécessaires à la rédaction de ces articles sur l’islam mais également sur les échanges marchands entre les pays de la Côte d’Ivoire et du Mali depuis le XVe siècle. Le WARC recevra une copie de tout article que je publierais avec les données recueillies lors de mon séjour malien. C’est encore le lieu pour moi d’exprimer à nouveau ma profonde gratitude et mes sincères remerciements au WARC pour la subvention qu’il a bien voulu m’accorder dans le cadre de cette recherche au Mali. Cette subvention de voyage, dans sa conception, est incontestablement un moyen efficace d’appui aux chercheurs africains. L’initiative WARA Travel Grant est donc à saluer et à encourager pour la simple et bonne raison qu’elle contribue à la promotion de la recherche ouest-africaine en Sciences Sociales.

Dr. Brahima Ouattara, WARC Travel Grantee
Assistant au département d’histoire
FLASH/Université de Cocody-Abidjan
kanfolo@yahoo.fr
Improving Tomato Yield in Wilt-Endemic Areas of Nigeria and Ghana

As a WARC Travel Grantee, I had the opportunity to conduct research at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana, from 12 to 24 September 2011. The purpose of travel was mainly to visit tomato farmers in Asante Region of Ghana, extract genomic DNA from forty-one varieties collected in Ghana, and to present a paper at the Ghana Institute of Horticulturists.

Tomato is one of the world’s most important crops due to the high value of its fruits both for fresh market consumption and in numerous types of processed products. A major constraint to tomato cultivation is damage caused by diseases; the most devastating being bacterial and fungal wilts. Wilt leads to an average yield loss of 50% in tomato. It reduces farmers’ income and family’s intake of vitamin A. It constitutes serious threat to food security in sub-Saharan Africa. This project will apply molecular marker technique to breed wilt-resistant tomato lines for farmers in Nigeria and Ghana and will train scientists from NARS and agro-industries on this technique.

My research in Ghana can be divided in three major components. First, it was related to the extraction of genomic DNA of tomato plants and wilt pathogens. The DNA extraction kits brought from Nigeria facilitated the work. I extracted DNA from forty-one tomato lines/varieties and two pathogens. The research was facilitated—and I am thankful—by the cooperation of the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, KNUST, and the lab attendant of Biotech Lab. They virtually left their lab for us to use. The DNA extracts are now in our lab in UNAAB awaiting molecular screening for resistance to wilt pathogens.

The second component was more in loco observation. As to meet the tomato farmers before they spread out to their various farm locations, we travelled from Kumasi as early as 3:00 in the morning. The high points of the meeting with the farmers were: first, the insistence of farmers on a particular variety for any reintrogression [hybridization] work the project is planning. They gave us the preferred variety, and they made it abundantly clear that any wilt-resistance not integrated into that particular variety would not be welcome. Second, we distributed cutlasses to farmers. This gesture was appreciated by the farmers. Third, we promised to sponsor a representative of the farmers and their Extension Agent to Nigeria to attend the Second Training Workshop which would introduce the improved wilt-resistant lines to the farmers.

In overall, my colleagues and I concluded that the visit was a success. The only negative was our inability to conclude the report writing of the field survey conducted in Ghana. We observed this could have been achieved, but for the bereavement of a key figure in the field survey—Dr. Harrison Dapaah. He lost his father during this visitation and was busy with burial arrangement.

While in Ghana I also attended the 14th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of Ghana Institute of Horticulturists, which took place on 14 through 16 September. I presented a paper titled “Molecular and Phenotypic Screening of Tomato Genotypes for Resistance to Fusarium Wilt.” The paper, a collaborative work of several scholars (A. R. Popoola, M. R. Ercolano, P. D. Kaledzi, F. Ferriello, S. A. Ganiyu, H. K. Dapaah, D. K. Ojo, D. A. Adegbite, Y. Falana and O. B. Adedibu) is a report of work done in Italy and it was prepared for publication in Ghana Journal of Horticulture.

A. R. Popoola, WARA Travel Grantee
Senior Lecturer and Deputy Dean, College of Plant Science and Crop Production Department of Crop Protection, University of Agriculture, Nigeria
Docakinpopoola@yahoo.com
La Gestion Politico-Administrative des Risques Alimentaires: Politiques Publiques de Santé des États Membres de l’OMVS

Nous avons entrepris par voix terrestre du 23 avril au 25 mai 2011, grâce à la bourse du W ARA, une enquête de terrain en République du Mali (24 jours), de Guinée Conakry (et 6 jours) ainsi que celle du Sénégal (en cours) sur la gestion des risques alimentaires. Cette enquête entre dans le cadre de la recherche d’informations complémentaires en vue de la préparation de ma thèse de doctorat d’État.

Au Mali plus de huit responsables de structures étatiques de gestion des risques ont été interviewés, deux responsables d’associations des consommateurs et deux professionnels qui évoluent dans l’industrie agroalimentaire.

Malheureusement, l’étape de Conakry a tout simplement été un échec du fait particulièrement des bouleversements socio politiques qui avaient cours dans ce pays à cette période. De ce fait, aucune autorité n’a pu être rencontrée et aucune documentation n’a été obtenue.

Enfin au Sénégal pour l’heure plus de 18 responsables de structures ont été interviewés parmi lesquelles la DPV, DNH, DNSV, ASN, SOS consommateur, ITA, SOGAS, SECNSA, DCE, DNS, Centre anti poison ainsi que ceux des restaurants collectifs et des points de vente de viande et de poisson.

Nous ignorons pour le moment si l’étape de la Mauritanie sera réalisée du fait que le reliquat à ma disposition ne me permettra sans nulle part de couvrir toutes les charges y relatives.

Nous avons pu aussi obtenir, au cours de ce périple, mis à part des manuels spécialisés comme les codex Alimentarius et ceux de l’UEMOA, des documents statistiques, législatifs, réglementaires du Mali particulièrement, qui exploités pourrons nous permettre d’affiner la place de la gestion des risques dans la politique de santé publique des États respectifs, qui est souvent tributaire de niveau de compréhension de l’enjeu.

S’y ajoute que nous avons observé et analysé les comportements des consommateurs dans les trois pays ainsi que l’environnement de production, de stockage et de distribution des produits alimentaires qui sont tous facteurs de qualité.

Notre enquête, en dehors du Sénégal, où le travail de terrain s’effectue aussi bien dans les capitales régionales que dans les campagnes, s’est réalisée exclusivement dans les capitales.

Dans cette tâche, nous avons rencontré beaucoup de difficultés parmi lesquelles celles statutaires. En effet les autorités administratives, surtout maliennes, exigeraient, en dehors de notre statut de doctorant, des documents officiels d’une autorité ministérielle du Sénégal.

Malgré ces difficultés, il ressort de l’analyse des documents et de l’observation que des pas de géants sont entrain d’être faits par les autorités étatiques. En fait elles ont entrepris de démocratiser la gestion des risques alimentaires en associant la société civile dans l’élaboration des normes alimentaires.

En outre les capacités institutionnelles de prévoyance, de contrôle et surveillance ont été renforcées. Ces renforcements visent à déterminer le profil de consommation générale (habitudes alimentaires, culturelles, hygiéniques, etc.) des consommateurs locaux ainsi que leurs comportements d’achat et d’utilisation par rapport à une catégorie donnée de produits (fréquence d’achat et d’utilisation).

Il faut souligner le renforcement de la sécurité sanitaire par la création des agences de sécurité sanitaire des aliments déjà effective au Mali et en cours d’installation au Sénégal.

L’entreprise en tant que moteur de production, de distribution et de stockage mais surtout vecteur de risque de toute sorte, dans un sursaut de complémentarité, a désormais fait de la qualité des produits alimentaires une exigence et l’autocontrôle le crédo en matière de service, d’emballage et d’hygiène.

Cependant tout ce qui précède ne devrait point occulter le fait dans ces pays respectifs, que la question de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments reste entière. En effet, l’abattage des animaux s’il n’est pas toujours clandestin continue hors les normes de sécurité alimentaire.

De même, la vente d’aliments de la rue ainsi que la culture maraîchère à base d’eaux usées sont des habitudes persistantes.

Les différents efforts des États et des associations de consommateurs ne semblent pas éradiquer les comportements alimentaires à risque des populations des États de l’OMVS dont le principal souci reste moins la sécurité sanitaire que celle alimentaire.

Yaya Badji, WARC Travel Grantee
Doctorant en droit
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
djicolloshotmail.com
Bottom-up Approach to Sustainable Solid Waste Management in Cameroon

I travelled to Cameroon early 2010 for research activities for my PhD thesis on approach for sustainable solid waste management. My research investigates the role of women as a key group for daily life management including education, housekeeping, with benefit to appropriate waste management. It aims to create increasing awareness and consciousness among people via multipliers like family heads and religious leaders. My justification being that there is a geometric rate of population growth in Buea, as a result of the University of Buea and other tertiary institutions, and a lack of space for proper waste disposal and management. At the same time, the region also lacks the necessary technology for collection, transportation and processing of waste for useful purposes.

My arguments are based on the fact that waste management is not purely a technical issue. At national as well as community levels people exhibit different practices of waste management on the basis of land availability, financial resources, level of education and available technologies. Different habitat scales were identified in Buea. These include household level, neighborhood level and city level.

This study is based on the 2010 primary data survey. A total of 80 households were interviewed with the help of questionnaires in the geographical area of Buea, classified in 3 zones (see Table 1). These questions were related to waste disposal methods, types and composition of solid waste, and public awareness. I also made use of published and unpublished literatures and articles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat Scale</th>
<th>Collection &amp; Disposal System</th>
<th>Resource Recovery System</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household or premise level</td>
<td>Storage at Source (F)</td>
<td>Prevention (F)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Primary collection (E)</td>
<td>Separation (E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter or Neighborhood Level</td>
<td>Temporal storage (T)</td>
<td>Reuse at Source (E)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary collection (E)</td>
<td>Primary collection (E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer storage (N/E)</td>
<td>Sorting &amp; pre-treatment (N/E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>City level</td>
<td>Tertiary Collection (N/E)</td>
<td>Reuse (E)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final Disposal (E) and</td>
<td>Recycling (N/E)</td>
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<td>treatment (N/E)</td>
<td>Composting (E)</td>
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A typical waste management system in Buea city in particular can be described by the following elements: household waste generation, reuse and composting on household level, primary waste collection and transport to communal bins, secondary collection and transportation to waste disposal site, waste disposal in open field (open dumping).

My stay in Cameroon offered me a great opportunity to interact with other waste managers and share information with students at the University of Buea and other campuses through Jubilee academic forum on theme, “Maximizing Academic opportunities.” I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to WARA. Your support was invaluable to me.

Asi Eugene Ndum, WARA Travel Grantee
P Ph.D. Candidate
Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus – Germany
asindum@yahoo.com
Thanks to a WARC Travel Grant, I was able to travel to The Gambia in May 2010 to conduct dissertation research. WARC’s financial support facilitated my travels from the US to Dakar, Senegal and onward to Banjul, The Gambia. In The Gambia, I conducted archival research in Banjul and carried out oral interviews in Banjul, Kombo, and in Niumi.

My dissertation, “Islam, Gender, and Authority: Social and Religious Transformations in the Muslim Court of The Gambia, 1905 – 1970,” focuses on the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Islamic, colonial, and gender history of the Senegambia region of West Africa. I combine the use of oral sources with a largely unstudied body of archival records generated by Muslim courts since their creation by the British in 1905. I am interested in how the court resolved disputes between men and women over divorce, child custody, maintenance, and property rights issues. I demonstrate that the creation of the Muslim court by non-Muslims as an instrument of conflict resolution brought changes to relations within Gambian households. Women took advantage of opportunities provided by the British colonial administration to challenge existing systems of patriarchy.

By examining the context, nature, and consequences of the Muslim courts, my research sets new standards in the study and interpretation of Islam and African interactions with colonialism. A broad body of scholarship focuses on the history of Islam, the role of clerics and the nineteenth century religious uprisings in West Africa. My research highlights instead the complexities of Euro-African relations, and in particular relationships between larger Islamic groups and colonial officials in negotiating the legal terrain set up by the British.

The project follows recent historiographical trends that underline the importance of using judicial records to better understand social history.

My study seeks to answer a number of questions: To what extent did the Muslim courts serve as instruments of conflict resolution (between individuals, families, and communities) in a predominantly Muslim society even though non-Muslims established these courts? What were the limitations of the Muslim courts, if any? Did the Qadi courts serve as mechanisms that legitimated change in terms of rights or responsibilities between men and women or did they reinforce inequalities between men and women? To what extent did the British appeal court influence the decisions taken at the Qadi courts and how did the appeal court create opportunities for equal rights of Muslim men and women? How did Islamic law influence the nature of the interactions between the Muslim population of The Gambia and the Qadi courts in the early twentieth century? How did this Muslim population construct and interpret its history through contacts with Islam and European colonialism?

Bala S. K. Saho, WARC Travel Grantee
PhD Candidate, Department of History
Michigan State University

Production and Efficiency of NERICA Rice Varieties in North Central Nigeria

The areas for this study are Kaduna and Nasarawa states of Nigeria. They are located in the savannah zone of the country. The reason for the choice of these states is their participation in the Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) trials in 1999 and 2001. Also, two of them (Kaduna and Nasarawa) were among the states that participated in the Multinational NERICA Rice Dissemination Project (MNRDP) in 2003. Upland and lowland rice production are the predominant production systems in these areas. The adoption of NERICA varieties was over 20% in the study areas.

**Collection of Data:** This study made use of both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected from upland rice farmers in the two states based on their production activities. The primary data was collected with the use of structured questionnaire which was administered to the farmers. Secondary data was collected from the states’ ADPs (Agricultural Development Projects), Project Coordinating Units, and other relevant agencies.

**Sampling Techniques:** This study made use of multi-stage random sampling technique. Firstly, the two states were selected using purposive sampling. Secondly, five villages were randomly selected from each state; such villages must be those places where NERICA dissemination activities have successfully taken place. Thirdly, there was a random selection of 25 farmers from each village.

**The Major Findings from the Study**
These include the following: % the size of land has a negative impact on the paddy productivity in the study areas; % Labour input, quantity of seed, quantity of fertilizer and herbicides are observed to have significant positive impact on paddy output in the study areas; % there is an observation of technical efficiency in the production systems in Nasarawa and Niger States, while there is technical inefficiency in the production system in Kaduna State; % Nassarawa State has...
From Our Fellows

the highest managerial efficiency followed by Niger State. Kada-
una State has the lowest managerial efficiency; % the pro-
duction functions for NERICA rice production in the study
areas are characterized by increasing returns to scale; the farm-
ers in all the States are observed to be operating within a re-
region of less than unity total cost elasticity; % the production
of NERICA rice by the selected farm-
ers in the study areas is observed to be cost inefficient; % it could be ob-
served that there is room for expan-
sion in the production of NERICA rice
by the farmers in the study areas to-
ward optimum production; % farming
experience, extension contact, credit
utilization, level of farm commercial-
ization, level of formal education and
level of technology adoption all of
which have positive effects on the
production of NERICA rice by the se-
lected farmers in the study areas; %
land tenure system, family size and
membership in a cooperative society
are observed to have an impact on the
production of NERICA rice by the
selected farmers in the study areas,
especially in Niger State.

Suggestions based on major findings
The following could be suggested for improvement in the farm-
ers’ productivity:

1. Focus should be placed more on the small scale rice
farmers than on the medium and large scale rice farm-
ers;

2. Every necessary avenue should be explored to en-
sure that farmers have adequate access to factors of
production such as labour, seed, fertilizer and herbi-
cides, as these would contribute towards significant-
lly increasing NERICA paddy output in the study ar-
eas. Government should establish a reasonable sub-
sidy program for NERICA seed, fertilizers and herbici-
des so as to ensure the accessibility of inputs, and
reduce the cost incurred by the farmers thereby im-
proving the cost efficiency. This subsidy program
would also enable the local rice production system to
potentially and adequately compete with imported rice.

3. Timeliness of inputs delivery to the farmers through
efficient distribution system is very important in en-
hancing the farmers’ efficiencies.

4. Government should institutionalize a program for an
accelerated promotion of NERICA rice technology
particularly in the study areas so as to improve the
efficiencies of the farmers, and generally in all the rice
producing states of the country.

5. Emphasis should be put on the improvement of ex-
tension services in such a way that there would be
increased extension contact with the rice farmers in
the study areas toward improving level of NERICA
rice technology adoption.

6. Credit facilities should be made available within the
reach of rice farmers in the study areas, and with af-
fordable conditions.

7. All formal and informal institutions within the soci-
ety, such as co-oporative societies, financial
institutions and e x t e n s i o n
agents should be involved in en-
couraging the farmers
place more em-
phasis on com-
mercialization
rather than on
consumption of
farm produce.

8. The extension agents should be of help in institution-
alizing formal educational programs among the farm-
ers as this seems to enhance an improvement in total
factor productivity of the selected farmers in the study
areas.

9. Government should review the land tenure system to
make way for access to land for agricultural produc-
tion; if possible land tenure system should be dis-
couraged in order to enhance necessary improvement
in total factor productivity among the NERICA rice
farmers in the study areas.

10. Farmers’ cooperative societies should be equipped
with information, and involved in trainings which could
serve as instruments for enhancing the improvement
of the productivity of their members who are involved
in NERICA rice production.

Omobilande Marcus Oluwasegun Nosiru, WARC Travel Grant-
ee
Department of Agricultural Production and Management Scien-
ces
Tai Solarin University of Education
marcbonos@yahoo.com

Obs: The full version of this report is available by request from
WARA.
From March to December 2011, I conducted field research for my PhD dissertation in two West African states—Nigeria and Ghana. Seeking to collect both primary and secondary data, during the months of March and April I conducted research in the cities of Lagos, Kaduna, and Port-Harcourt, all in Nigeria. Then, I moved to Ghana, where, from May through December, I researched in the capital city of Accra and Cape Coast. I had in mind four main objectives: to examine the relationship between taxation and governance in cross-national perspectives; to inspect the political economy of tax administration in Nigeria and Ghana between 1990 and 2009; to analyze the legal, institutional and procedural mechanisms for tax administration in Nigeria and Ghana; and to assess the effect of tax administration on the burden of governance in Nigeria and Ghana.

Preliminary Findings
The results showed that beyond the function of revenue-generation, taxation influenced governance positively by creating the expediency of transparency and responsiveness in government as well as a corresponding psychology of responsibility and political awareness among the citizenry. However, the study found evidences of lack of recognition of taxation as key in the political and governance agenda of Nigeria and Ghana; despite the huge contributions of tax revenues to national income averaging 92% between 1990 and 2009 in the latter. The results also revealed that a very important factor affecting the political economy of tax administration in Nigeria during the study period was the overbearing contribution of about 93% oil revenue to the national income; a situation that, in turn, led to low capacity building among tax revenue agencies and poor tax culture amongst the citizenry. Moreover, 65.6% of the respondents indicated that the political economies for tax administration in Nigeria and Ghana differ in view of the different revenue profiles of the two; Nigeria dominated by oil revenue, and the Ghana by tax revenue from commodities largely produced by the citizenry. In addition, whereas majority of the respondents (82%) expressed the view that the legal frameworks for tax administration appeared similar in Nigeria and Ghana, the institutional and procedural mechanisms differed fundamentally in terms the tax types and methods of tax collection. Finally, using integrated descriptive data for percentage agreement analysis, the study established a strong relationship of mean (µ) 3.45 and standard deviation (σ) 0.79 between tax administration and burden of governance in both countries; with a caveat that the relationship appeared stronger in Ghana than in Nigeria. The study concluded that effective tax administration was critical to alleviating the burden of governance in Nigeria and Ghana.

Other Activities
While conducting research, I also engaged in other scholarly and non-scholarly activities. It suffices here to mention three of these. I had participated in class activities to teach the students of institutions based in the study area the relevance of taxation to viable public finance. I also took part in talks and lectures in various areas of public administration, both in Nigeria and Ghana. And, lastly, I attended a cultural presentation at Accra in Ghana during the data collection period.

Contribution of the WARC Travel Grant to my Research
The grant assisted tremendously in taking timely decisions to travel to the study location in Nigeria and Ghana, which were far and wide. I didn’t need to think about how to raise fund to embark on the long journey. The grant has no doubt contributed to my career by speeding up the completion of my PhD thesis. I completed the thesis on record time of exactly six semesters and got upgraded, according to the University rule, to the rank of Lecturer Grade I. A million thanks to WARA.

Taiwo A. Olaiya, WARC Travel Grantee
Lecturer, Department of Public Administration
Obafemi Awolowo University
Ile-Ife, Nigeria
olaiyapoju2@yahoo.co.uk
Gender-based analysis of vulnerability and adaptability to climate change among smallholder farmers in semi-arid Nguru Area, Northeastern Nigeria

This research was conducted from November 2010 to March 2011 in the Nguru Local Government Area (LGA), Yobe State, Nigeria. The main objective underlining this research is that gender relations and social institutions shape individual vulnerability and adaptation practices which in turn determines the shifting pattern of adaptation practices. In order to understand how adaptation can be facilitated, supported, and ultimately sustained in societies at risk from climate change, an understanding and recognition of the gendered system within which individuals operate is needed. The specific objectives of this research were:

• to analyze how the impact of drought differs between women and men in the study area
• to document and analyze the changing pattern of adaptation practices during the last 30 years
• to examine how gender and social institutions influence adaptation
• to explore women’s and men’s natural and social resources that enable the shift in adaptation strategies

Data were collected through key informant interviews, focus group discussions with farmers, and household surveys. Relevant secondary data available from scientific reports, maps and statistical abstracts were also used to supplement the primary information.

Preliminary findings
The general perception of the communities in Nguru LGA is that over the years, there has been a steady increase in temperature, particularly during the summer season. The rains have also been less frequent and more sporadic, and since climate status is the single most important determining factor for arable rain-fed agriculture, reduced rains have led to reduced rain-fed agricultural yield for the farmers. The rainy season has also changed, causing confusion amongst farmers regarding first rains and planting times. Most elderly reported to have experienced a receding flood plain over the years and extreme drought in some years. All these changes, perceived or real, have led to reduced agricultural yield, particularly in Nguru LGA where the majority of people are engaged in agricultural activities. Furthermore, increased temperatures and reduced rainfall have been blamed for the few and isolated cases of ruminants animal death in the villages.

Ecosystem resources from the Hadejia-Nguru Wetlands play an important role in shaping the livelihood activities of the people living along the river. The collection of reeds and grass, the making of baskets and fishing are three of the most important activities undertaken in Nguru through the direct use of natural resources. These activities are also some of the most gendered activities found among the inhabitants of Nguru LGA. The impact of climate change on these ecosystem goods and services could not be established; however, noted changes to these ecosystems will certainly impact on people’s livelihood given the current challenges of climate change and climate variability. These are seen as additional stressors that will have an impact on people’s livelihood options.

Prior my fieldwork, I attended three international courses, Research Methods in Climate Change and Health, 21 June - 2 July 2010 in Bergen, Norway; Building Resilience to Climate Change, 13 September - 1 October 2010 in Tokyo, Japan; and Second International Student Training Workshop on Health and Environmental Change, 10-16 October 2010 in Beijing, China. During the fieldwork, I also attended the Anglophone African Regional Writeshop to Support Developing Country Publications on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change, 7 - 11 February 2011 in Accra, Ghana. These courses and trainings enabled me to meet with scholars and engage them on issues pertaining to my research. The opportunities of fruitful exchanges with scholars working on topics similar to mine were invaluable in helping me refine and sharpen my research.

I am very grateful to the West African Research Association for the travel award which enabled me to conduct my research fieldwork in Nigeria. I am presently working on a journal article to be submitted to an international refereed journal as well as writing my dissertation.

Jummai Othniel Yila, WARC Travel Grantee
PhD Student, Gender and Development Studies (GDS)
School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD),
Asian Institute of Technology (AIT),
jummai.yila@ait.ac.th
The Third Conference on Peace and Security in West Africa took place in the capital city of Praia, Cape Verde, December 12, 13 & 14, 2011. The two first conferences were held in Dakar 2009 and Freetown 2010. Like the previous conferences, the Praia gathering brought together a range of West African scholars, journalists, community organizers and other stakeholders to discuss, debate and exchange ideas and notions about peace, democracy and political stability in the region.

Cape Verde has been hailed as one of the successful cases of democracy and political stability in Africa. Thus, its choice as a venue for the conference was most fitting.

The Praia Conference was an example of transnational cooperation insofar as its success was the product of hard work and cooperation among three different working groups: the W ARA and W ARC offices in Boston and Dakar, respectively, and the Cape Verdenan working group, in Praia. Importantly also, the Government of Cape Verde, through its representatives from the Prime Minister, Ministry of State Reform, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs offices, embraced the project from the beginning and worked to create an atmosphere conducive to open debate on current issues pertaining to the sub-region.

The contributions to the substance of the conference made by current president of the Republic, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, in his closing address, and two former presidents through their participation as keynote and panel chair, was a tribute to the excellent organizing efforts of the Cape Verdenan group.

The conference was comprised of three major blocks, each of which took a day. Day One was devoted to reports on the work of 12 research fellows funded through the West African Peace Initiative. They hailed from seven West-African countries (Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, and Senegal) and included not only academic researchers but artists, as well.

The first panel was entitled “Tools and Actors for the Promotion of Peace,” and was chaired by André Corsino Tolentino. Rosa Gomes discussed the role of women in the Casamance conflict, noting that literature on the conflict in that region has been silent on the role of women in peace and conflict resolution. She argued that women’s civil society organizations, particularly the religious ones, contribute significantly to the peace process in the region. Sékou Diawara’s presentation linked language and politics and described the extent to which the former may impact the latter. Ifeanyi Onwuzuruigbo presented on the failure of what he called the “liberal peace programme” in resolution of African conflicts, and argued for a mechanism of conflict resolution that is rooted in the community’s history and culture—more specifically the ikono mme ritual. The panel’s last presenter was Reverend Joseph Turay whose paper mapped out diverse strategies, based on what he termed “cultural negotiations,” for creating a new type of media that would play a role in preventing conflict in the region.

The second panel “Making Peace across Borders,” was chaired by WARA President, Mbye Cham. Chris Kwaja analyzed the extent to which the retreat of the state, particularly in its utmost important function—that of providing security—had created the propitious terrain for the boom of the Private

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Military/Security Companies operating in West Africa. In his paper, Severin Kouame addressed the question of rebuilding state legitimacy through concrete measures directed toward socio-economic integration and community rehabilitation. Niger-Thomas Atim Evenye (whose paper was read by Prof. Fatou Kiné optimistically argued that Bakassi women could play politically significant roles in post-conflict politics, as did Rwandan women in the post-genocide period. According to the presenter, in spite of the fact that women are exposed to interrelated violence during conflicts (physical, sexual and psychological), they are the backbone of a stable and peaceful society.

The day’s third and final panel, “Action for Peace at Home,” had four presenters. Goin-Bi Zamble reported on the surveys he had conducted among Ivorian school teachers to gauge their conceptual knowledge of key norms and values related to a culture of peace. Mariètou Mbaye talked about “Ateliers d’Ecriture Pour la Paix.” Against the backdrop of the surge in violence in West Africa, this writing workshop included West African people of different social backgrounds who had been involved in conflicts, both as the victims and perpetrators. In his presentation, Moussa Diaw addressed the political crisis in Mauritania resulting from the 2008 coup d’état that ousted the democratically elected President Abdallahi by the chief of the presidential security, General Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. The panel’s last presenter was Olawunuyi Oluwaremilekun whose paper explored the program disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the context of the crisis-ridden Niger Delta region.

The final event of the day was a roundtable on publishing academic research chaired by Abu Bakarr Bah, the editor-in-Chief of African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review (ACPR). Suggestions and tips on publishing in peer-reviewed journals were offered by different members of the roundtable as well as by those in the audience.

Day Two of the Conference, organized by the Cape Verdean task force, brought a microscopic analysis of the domestic socio-political conditions in Cape Verde. The block was divided into two panels. In the first panel, moderated by the country’s former President, the Honorable António Mascarenhas Monteiro, the key topic for discussion was democratic experience. Roselma Évora presented on “Democracy in Cape Verde,” a suggestive title recalling de Tocqueville’s observations on the 1830s USA. Mixing the culturalist and institutionalist approaches to democracy, she defined two critical junctures in recent Cape Verdean political history: independence in 1975, and the transition to multi-party electoral democracy in 1991. Her major point was to link these two political events and the extent to which the first had influenced the latter. Fernando Rodrigues, director of AfroSondagem, a private social research firm in Cape Verde, presented new survey data on the people’s feelings towards the country’s experience with democracy. João Resende-Santos talked about the theory of democratic peace—that no two democratic states have fought each other in an armed conflict—and its application to the regional West African context. Notwithstanding the wealth of information about political practices and ideas regarding the Cape Verdean democratic experience, the panelists did not present a definition of the key concept, that of democracy, so as to clearly establish the conceptual boundaries within which one must think the subject.

The second panel, chaired by Colonel Antonio Matos, centered on ‘politics from below,’ that is, politics at the level of the common citizens and their relationship to the state. Odete Pinheiro shared some ideas about social peace, emphasizing the development of what she called “the culture of peace,” to be promoted and practiced by political decision-makers as the sine qua non for effective and durable domestic peace. Redy Lima, a young sociologist, presented a different radiography of the political condition in the islands. Lima’s paper delved into the issue of urban youth criminality and the growing gap between the “haves” and “have-nots” in the country. Basing his paper on the available socio-economic data, Lima argues that “newest wars” were developing in the urban areas. Major Graça, from the Cape Verdean Army, talked about the role of the security forces in establishing a culture of peace. He proposed the establishment of what he called the “Solidary Security Program,” which should involve the agents of the state, continued on page 26
the various ministries, as well as members and organizations of civil society, whereby the latter would be called upon to identify key security concerns for the former to act upon. Zélia Leita, the coordinator of the state’s National Program for Volunteers (PNV), described the role and functions of the recently created agency and the impact of such a program in establishing domestic peace.

Following the Cape Verdean sessions, in the afternoon, the conferees were all invited for a courtesy visit to the islands’ UNESCO world heritage site, Cidade Velha, where a luncheon, replete with live music, was held in their honor. As a town rich in Cape Verdean, Imperial and Atlantic histories, the various constructions and monuments in Cidade Velha testify to the fact that the town was at one point a key intersecting point of the Atlantic world. The conferees visited the famous, or perhaps infamous, Pelourinho (the pillory) in the town’s main plaza, a vestige of the long history of violence and slavery. At night, the conference members were received by the Mayor of Praia, Mr. Ulisses Correia e Silva. The mayor invited the group for a passeata in the pedestrian thoroughfare of July 5th Street. There, a military band playing Holiday Season songs, greeted the conferees. Afterwards, the mayor hosted a reception at the City Hall, where he thanked the organization for having chosen Praia for such an important academic event.

Day Three of the conference was reserved for reports by the 12 journalists who had been part of the Peace Journalism Institute in Dakar. They included journalists from Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin and Côte d’Ivoire. While space does not allow us to report on all of these presentations, we found particularly compelling Mamadou Biaye’s presentation on the Malian state, the Tuareg rebellion and the AQMI (Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb); Ndèye Kadhy Lo’s report on the conflict in the Casamance region; and Matthew Tamba’s account of the failure of conflict prevention mechanisms to stop the civil war in Sierra Leone. At 5:00 pm a roundtable and plenary discussion took place about a “constructive dialogue” between the researchers and journalists. The roundtable was followed by the closing ceremony, which featured a speech by Cape Verde’s President Fonseca, who closed the third cycle of the Peace Initiative in West Africa conference. His speech centered on two core values, that of peace and democracy. Referring to president Senghor’s idea of interculturality as a sine qua non for peace, President Fonseca maintained that “the dialogue of civilizations can be, effectively, a motor of peace.” Relative to the issue of democracy, the Cape Verdean President stressed that democracy is not static, but rather it should be faced as a dynamic process, as an “unfinished process, depending on the affirmation of the civil society and a pluralist dimension of power.” He further highlighted that the source of a true democracy is the society and not the state: “only a truly democratic society is capable of guaranteeing democracy.” Proceedings of the conference will be made available by the West African Research Association (WARA). Those interested in the project may also find interesting the news coverage of the conference by Africa24tv (www.africa24tv.com/section/les_emissions_anr/11698).

Abel Djassi Amado is a PhD Candidate at Boston University Department of Political Science. In the past four years, he has worked as the WARA’s graduate assistant.
Beatrice Mtetwa was awarded the Inamori Ethics Prize at Case Western Reserve University on September 7, 2011 for her human rights work in Zimbabwe. The prize provides a monetary award, which is to enable the recipient to continue her work. The annual Inamori Ethics Prize is to celebrate ethical leaders; Mr. Kazuo Inamori of Japan established it. The first award was given in 2008.

Mtetwa was honored for her courage and tremendous perseverance in resisting President Robert Mugabe’s regime’s injustice. She has defended both Zimbabweans and foreign journalists in Zimbabwe, despite encountering physical violence and threats to her life. In the face of such blatant injustices as the government disregarding justice court, Mtetwa has continued to document injustices and prosecute.

Before the awards ceremony, a public academic symposium dealing with injustice in Zimbabwe was held. On the panel, in addition to Beatrice Mtetwa and moderator Shannon French, Inamori Professor of Ethics at CWRU, were present: Peter Godwin, Zimbabwean author and foreign correspondent; Tom McDonald, former U.S. ambassador to Zimbabwe; Andrew Meldrum, deputy managing editor and regional editor for Africa, Global Post; and Rhonda Y. Williams, Director of social Justice Institute and Associate Professor of History at CWRU. CWRU taped the symposium and all may watch it through the link: http://case.edu/events/inamori/watch.html.

A key point of the discussion was that race had been used by Mugabe as an emotional tool to incite soldiers to repossess land. Mtetwa pointed out that Mugabe had no plan for the farms’ operations after their possession by the militia. As a result, the nation that is capable of feeding all of sub-Saharan Africa, is presently encountering food shortages. Mtetwa suggested that there should be a limit on the number of farms owned. She called for land audits, caring for the needy and giving money to farmers to manage their farms.

Another special aspect of the symposium was a partial pre-view of the soon to be released film Making The Case by Laurie Conway, which is about Mtetwa’s work in Zimbabwe. This film said that Mtetwa is synonymous with justice; the Inamori committee also believes this and thus chose her for this year’s award. As a side note, it was announced that Conway is seeking funding for her film. A final key point raised by the symposium panel, was that we here in America, can learn from the fight for democracy elsewhere. We can learn why we should sustain our own democracy. Another presence at the symposium was the organization DIGNITY! Period. They collected funds for sanitary products for women in Zimbabwe.

At the awards ceremony Mtetwa stressed “human rights and business can actually meet.” She said, “Inamori shows that business and human rights go hand in hand.” So, hopefully business will regard human rights and democracy as essential for financial success. Mtetwa mentioned that she is the oldest practicing human rights lawyer in Zimbabwe; it is not a lucrative field, so young lawyers shy away from it. She hopes through receiving this award to show to young people that one can do good and be recognized for it by the community.

Suzanne Ondrus, Ph.D. student in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at The University of Connecticut.
This book is a cross-sectional descriptive investigation on traditional Hausa architecture, focusing on royal kingship groups, their houses, city walls and gates. For centuries Hausa masterbuilders have acquired and practiced their craft in building houses for the people and royal inhabitants of Northern Nigeria. In cities, towns and villages of Kano, Zaria and Gumel, there has been a building culture and social structure that is specific to the Hausa. The book explains the traditional masterbuilders’ professional skills and intelligence in using local building materials such as mud, azaras (heavy rigid timbers), tubali (sun dried bricks), bulo (adobe bricks), and thatch in designing royal palaces, city walls and gates. It is a product of research that was presented to the American Institute for Maghreb Studies (AIMS) and West African Research Association (WARA) international conference in Niamey, Niger Republic.

The Akan Diaspora in the Americas
by Kwasi Konadu

"Lately, the study of the African Diaspora has taken a cultural turn, and the social and demographic aspects of it are being replaced by studies of religion, medicine, language and the like. These studies are beginning to move us away from the focus on slavery as a legal and social institution, and on things like plantation management that grew out of the study of social history. This book is squarely in company with this new set of books. Konadu’s strength is his competence on Akan culture and his ability to see, convincingly, Akan roots in cultural manifestations in the Americas without stretching the evidence. He makes a meaningful contribution to the dialogue about the nature of African culture and its transfer and transformation in the Americas.”—John Thornton, professor of history, Boston University

Across the Atlantic: African Immigrants in the United States Diaspora
by Yewah, Emmanuel and Dimeji Togunde (eds)

The book offers an understanding of African immigration to the United States diaspora, by analyzing how media and literary portrayal of the United States create impressions of America and thus the desire to migrate. It expands on how pre-departure characteristics including socialization experiences, religious traditions, and practices such as African foods, cultural festivals and African languages impact African immigrants’ adaptation and coping mechanisms amid challenges at the country of destination. It brings to the fore how African immigrants’ ethnic group identities at the country of origin determine ethnic relations and cultural integration in the society of encounter. Additionally, it explicates how the social organization of the African family influences remittance flows. Finally, the book elucidates on how Africans in Diasporas impact the reconstruction of homelands’ political identities as well as the effect of African Diaspora cyber-citizenship and cyber political activities on the conception of African national identity. (Adapted from http://ondiversity.com/2010/12/09/3280/)
WARA Member Publications
We have compiled a list of recent scholarly publications of our members.
Names of WARA Members are in bold.

Articles in Scholarly Journals


Books/Book Chapters/Edited Books


The Midwest Institute Diffuses Information on Africa in Community College Classrooms

This summer I attended the Midwest Institute’s weeklong workshop on Africa. The Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan and affiliated with Kalamazoo Valley Community College, aims to infuse community colleges with global knowledge. The institute sponsors fully funded seminars for instructors in any discipline to learn about a specific region in Africa, and disseminate this knowledge in his/her classroom. After the workshops, attendees write a two-week module incorporating information on Africa into the curriculum. These modules are then published on the Midwest Institute’s website for the purpose of aiding fellow community college instructors. This year’s participants were Norma Rosales, Coordinator of the Multicultural Center at Indian Hills College, Iowa, Laura Dull, Professor of History at Delta College, Michigan, and Professor Earl Anthony White of Criminal Justice at Illinois Central College.

The workshops were enriching and thought provoking. Theo Sypris of the Midwest Institute spoke on globalization and higher education, drawing attention to budget cuts for international studies. The international roster of speakers included sociologists, theologians, musicologists, economists and historians from Ethiopia, Malawi, Swaziland, as well as the United States. Alice Sigfrids of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College spoke on healthcare in southern Africa. The topic of challenges for democracy and peace in the Horn of Africa was presented by Sisay Asefa of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College spoke on healthcare in southern Africa. The topic of challenges for democracy and peace in the Horn of Africa was presented by Sisay Asefa of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College spoke on healthcare in southern Africa. The topic of challenges for democracy and peace in the Horn of Africa was presented by Sisay Asefa of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College spoke on healthcare in southern Africa. The topic of challenges for democracy and peace in the Horn of Africa was presented by Sisay Asefa of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College spoke on healthcare in southern Africa.

Wiley called for a need to research the rhetoric of the collapsing British Empire. Many speakers presented facts that should elicit students’ attention:

- Africa is three times the size of the U.S., 11.6 million square miles, compared to 3.79 million square miles.
- Africa has a billion people, compared to the U.S. with 310 million people.
- Africa is the second largest continent (Asia is number one).

- Africa has fifty-four countries and over a thousand languages and ethnicities.
- Each year the U.S. spends $1.5 billion on the Egyptian army, which exceeds total U.S. aid to the whole of the continent of Africa.

Several lecturers demonstrated various pedagogical approaches to dealing with prevalent stereotypes of Africa as a poor continent. One suggestion was to deal with stereotypes right away through asking students to generate key words associated with Africa. Another strategy was to present a series of juxtaposed images that challenge students’ preconceived ideas of life in Africa: cities vs. villages, Western clothes vs. traditional attire; outdoor markets vs. grocery stores; and paved vs. unpaved roads. Likewise, maps of Africa that show how China, the U.S., and Europe all fit inside it, challenge students’ conceptions instantaneously. Lecturers demonstrated the effectiveness of analyzing the representation of Africa through examining American portrayals of Africa occurring on magazine covers, in film-clips, and on the news.

I found the workshops from the Midwest Institute to be worthwhile and highly encourage you to attend. There are a variety of workshops, focusing on different geographical regions. Each workshop accepts fifteen participants, and the application is simple and free. The Mid West Institute’s next workshops on Africa will be August 17-21, 2015. Summer 2012’s geographical focus will be on the Middle East and Asia; summer 2012 there will also be workshops titled “Trade, Finance and Globalization” and “International Conflict and Cooperation,” which might address Africa. (learn more: www.miiie.org)

Suzanne Ondrus
English Literature Instructor at Lakeland Community College
Ph.D. student in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at The University of Connecticut
Albany, Union College and ACHPS visit to Senegal.

From June 14th to July 8th, a group of students from Albany, Union College and ACHPS, visited Senegal. The group was composed of 16 students and three program directors (Cheikh Ndiaye, Kevin Hickey and Eloise Brière) representing each institution. After 2 days of orientation including a tour of the city, a trip to Gorée Island and a discussion about Senegal and what to expect in host families, the students were placed in host families by group of twos.

The group spent another twelve days in Dakar and its surroundings, attending lectures on topics such as Wolof, French, religion, traditions, education, etc. They visited Keur Moussa monastery and Pink Lake. They also had a three day internship. According to their interests, students interned in schools, health centers, artist studios, women’s associations, dance groups. This internship component was a very valuable aspect of the program but to the regret of most students too short to be fully rewarding.

The group also had a tour of other regions of Senegal. They stopped by Toubab, Tene Toubab, Joal, Toubab Dialaw and Saly. In Toubab they saw the mosque and the library; in Tene Toubab they had the pleasure of meeting Prof Ndiaye’s family and discovering life in a very small village. In Joal they visited Senghor’s house and the island of Fadiouth. In Toubab Dialaw and Saly they relaxed and enjoyed the beautiful beaches.

From the evaluations given by the program directors and the students it can be concluded that the program was a success. However few recommendations were made on both sides and will be taken into account for the program’s next session.

Appalachian State University Summer Program in Senegal

From July 3-31 and in collaboration with WARC, a group of 12 current and pre-service teachers from all over North Carolina and 2 professors from Appalachian State University visited Senegal. This program was funded by a Fulbright-Hays grant. The first few days the participants visited various landmarks in Dakar. They visited Gorée Island and were touched by the beauty and the story of the island. They went to Keur Moussa Abbey listened to some beautiful music and enjoyed fruits grown by the monks. Participants also had several lectures on topics such as Hip-hop, identity, gender issues, filmmaking, art and education. During those lectures and despite the constant flood of new information given to them, they were able to appreciate the knowledge and expertise of the lecturers. They also had an opportunity to confront their ideas with those of the lecturers.

After a week in Dakar, the group travelled to various locations. They went to Saint Louis, Touba, Toubab Dialaw, Ndondol, Toubacouta and Joal. Participants had the opportunity to see different faces of Senegal. They discovered religious Senegal in Touba, touristy Senegal with the sandy and marvelous beaches of Toubab Dialaw and Saint Louis, Senegalese village life: its hardship, simplicity and Teranga in Ndondol and the Green and culturally diverse Senegal with the luxurious vegetation, the mangrove and the cohabitation of the Mandingo and Sereer cultures in Toubacouta.

The program was challenging particularly for foreigners experiencing the African summer for the first time. Participants were taken out of their comfort zone from time to time, but in the end they very satisfied with the trip and full of projects. They went back home with a whole new perspective and many ideas for teaching Senegal to their students. They were asked by WARC’s staff to become the ambassadors of Senegal and they will be through their teaching of Senegal and the various talks and presentations they will give once back to America.

Saginaw Valley’s immersion program in Senegal.

From May 28 to June 18, 2011 took place Saginaw Valley’s immersion program in Senegal. This program was a component of a class taught by Dr Scott Youngstedt and Dr Sara Keough. The group was composed of 2 professors and 13 students from Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan. Prof. Ousmane Sène, Director of WARC, served as the resident director. Program support included Bigué Sané and Mariane Yade.

The group spent most of their time in Dakar. They lived in a house in the Amitié neighborhood, at fifteen minutes walk from WARC. The program started with a week of orientation during which students had a city tour, an orientation and lectures on various subject to get familiar with the realities of the country. Those lectures were on Islam, women and Islam, urban geography, the set-setal movement and Senghor’s poems.

As part of the program students had to present a landscape project. For that matter they chose by group observation sites predefined by their two accompanying professors with the help of the program assistants and spent there few hours a week writing down everything they saw. At the end of the program they did a presentation on their observation site, analyzing what they had seen day after day.

The group did various fieldtrips in Dakar and its outskirts on the colorful car rapides which they called jokingly the “Toubab bus”. They also travelled to Toubab Dialaw and to Joal to escape the city, rest and get a sense of what life outside of Dakar was.

There were challenges and the main one was the lack of electricity. However students enjoyed their stay and left with a lot of wonderful memories, bags full of masks and souvenirs of all kind, promising to come back to Senegal as soon as they can.
New Dimensions of Diaspora (continued from page 1)

...citizenship, had she attended the State Department’s Global Diaspora Forum, to which sending state strategy would she adhere? Which diaspora community would she have claimed?

Fortunately, the diaspora strategies deployed by many African countries have historical resonance beyond the recent elite mobility “claims” to diaspora and have been substantively different from the sending state strategies of countries like China, India, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. For the Republic of Ghana, for instance, the “claim” to diaspora and the use of diaspora strategies have been on-going and multifaceted. Such strategies may be said to have begun with Ghana’s unique transnational linkages with African descended people in the U.S. from late 19th century throughout the 20th century with men like Joseph Casely Hayford who participated in the 1912 Conference of the Negro organized by Booker T. Washington and Kobina Sekyi who, photographed in traditional Fanti dress, appeared in Nancy Cunnard’s *Negro along with excerpts from his seminal work, *The Anglo-Fanti*. Both Casely Hayford and Sekyi, Ghanaians who helped to frame pan-africanist and black internationalist thought, interrogated British imperialism and colonialism, Sekyi most famously in his satirical drama, *The Blinkards*, also addressed issues of displacement and identity. More important, both men engaged in the “practice of diaspora” as reciprocity and, as Brent Hays Edward discerns, helped to frame a modern identity for both Africans and African descendents under the sign of race (Edwards 116). These two men were important predecessors who laid the foundation for the later work of Kwame Nkrumah, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kofi Awoonor, Maya Angelou, Ayi Kweh Arma, Efua Sutherland, Ama Ata Aidoo and a host of others who helped to create the certain discourse of diaspora and the politics of memory that are being deployed today to address the internal and external issues of identity, the legacy of the slave trade and the importance of heritage tourism to bring healing, reconciliation and socioeconomic redemption to Africans on the continent and in diaspora. So in the context of recent diaspora claims for elite mobility and global engagement, it is useful to consider that, for Ghana, historic linkages and the strategies of heritage tourism and commemoration constitute a new and different dimension of diaspora that has its own potential for diplomacy and development.

Alma Jean Billingslea Brown
Spelman College

Works Cited

African Studies Association 2012 Annual Meeting
(Philadelphia, PA, November 29-December 1): Research Frontiers in the Study of Africa

The West African Research Association: Multi-Disciplinary Research in Action

Established in 1989, the West African Research Association’s (WARA) multi-disciplinary, regional approach continues to open new frontiers in the production and dissemination of knowledge on West Africa and the diaspora. Through its fellowship programs; the organization of conferences and workshops; regional and collaborative projects such as the West African Peace Initiative and the Saharan Crossroads Initiative; the promotion of African languages through the African Language Materials Archive; and through the considerable wealth of resources and programs at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal, WARA encourages discussion and debate across disciplines, and among scholars from throughout the region and beyond. This roundtable provides a retrospective on WARA’s 20+ years of activities, and a look to the future of scholarship on the region.

Moderator: Mbye Cham (WARA Board President, Howard University)
Wendy Wilson Fall (Kent State University)
Leonardo Villalon (University of Florida)
Ousseina Alidou (Rutgers University)
Ousmane Sene (Universite Cheikh Anta Diop)
Jennifer Yanco (Boston University)
WARA is very pleased to announce the newest institutional members to our family. You will find below a list and a blurb of the new Universities and Colleges that adhered to our organization. Please consider persuading your organization to join if they have not done so.

### School of International Service (SIS) at American University

The School of International Service (SIS) at American University is pleased to become an institutional member of WARA. Founded in 1957, SIS is committed to a broad and interdisciplinary approach to the study of international affairs that values public service, environmental stewardship, human rights, and social justice. SIS grants bachelors, masters, as well as doctoral degrees. While its 60-plus tenure-line faculty members focus on varied aspects of international affairs, a number locate their research in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly West Africa. These include Deborah Brautigam (China’s involvement in Africa, including Nigeria and Sierra Leone); Maria De Jesus (health and the Cape Verdean diaspora); Daniel Esser (urban politics and resilience in Sierra Leone); Carl LeVan (democratization and civil society in Nigeria); Rachel Robinson (population and HIV/AIDS in Nigeria and Senegal); and Susan Shepler (youth and conflict in Sierra Leone). SIS also played an integral role in founding American University Nigeria, an American-style institution in Yola, Nigeria, and hopes to develop study abroad programs in several West African countries in the near future. SIS looks forward to collaborating with WARA. Learn more about the School of International Service at [http://www.american.edu/sis/](http://www.american.edu/sis/).

### Bridgewater State University

Since the time of its founding in 1840, Bridgewater State University has remained steadfast in its commitment to empower individuals and to instill in its students and faculty a deep appreciation for the public good. Upon this enduring foundation are built the following strategic priorities for the 21st century: fostering a rigorous and dynamic academic environment marked by intensive student-faculty engagement; establishing regional leadership in preparing students for challenging and emerging careers and graduate study; enhancing campus participation in diverse and global society; strengthening institutional relationships with regional partners; and developing sufficient resources for an attractive, well-staffed and technologically updated campus. http://www.bridgew.edu/AboutBSU/

### New York University

Founded in 1831, New York University is now one of the largest private universities in the United States. Of the more than 3,000 colleges and universities in America, New York University is one of only 60 member institutions of the distinguished Association of American Universities. The center of NYU is its Washington Square campus in the heart of Greenwich Village. One of the city’s most creative and energetic communities, the Village is a historic neighborhood that has attracted generations of writers, musicians, artists, and intellectuals. NYU, in keeping with its founder’s vision, is “in and of the city”: the University – which has no walls and no gates – is deeply intertwined with New York City, drawing inspiration from its vitality. http://www.nyu.edu/about.html#below
New Institutional Members

Northern Illinois University

Chartered in 1895, Northern Illinois University first opened its doors in 1899 as the Northern Illinois State Normal School solely to prepare college-educated teachers. The university has since grown into a world-class university that attracts students from around the globe while still serving the northern Illinois region, and yet two traditions established in 1895 remain paramount today: We are deeply committed to preparing teachers and providing an excellent and affordable higher education to Illinois families. The Illinois General Assembly granted NIU its own governing board in 1996. The university also operates education centers in Hoffman Estates, Naperville and Rockford to offer many of NIU’s programs at times and locations designed to accommodate the needs of its vital service region. http://www.niu.edu/about/index.shtml

Spellman College

Profile: Private, independent, liberal arts, historically Black college for women, founded in 1881.
Goals: Our goals include integrating and globalizing learning, teaching creatively and rigorously, leading from our authentic core, living sustainably, improving ourselves continuously, and collaborating to better our city’s quality of life. These ambitious GOALS and others build on our accomplishments as the premier historically Black college for women and one of the finest institutions for undergraduate education nationwide. http://www.spelman.edu/about_us/glance/

Southern University and A&M College

The Southern University and A&M College is the only historically black university system in the U.S. It boasts a history of success that has defied our meager beginnings on Calliope Street in New Orleans in 1880 and our move, in 1914, to a single building in Baton Rouge. Our first president, Dr. Joseph S. Clark and later his son, Dr. Felton G. Clark set the foundation for an institution that would unlock the doors of higher education for generations of young, inquisitive African Americans. While still true to our original mission, Southern University is now a global community with students and faculty representing more than two dozen countries. SU graduates now sit in the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, are successful entrepreneurs, educators, and work as scientists and engineers at major laboratories and industries around the world. Remarkably for a small urban campus, 10 of our students have become generals in the United States military. (adapted from http://www.subr.edu/index.cfm/page/548/n/10)

Tufts University

As we shape our future, quality will be the pole star that guides us. We will seek quality in our teaching and research and in the services that support our academic enterprise. Our programs will be those that meet our own high standards, that augment each other, and that are worthy of the respect of our students and of scholars, educators, and the larger community. For students, our search for quality will mean opportunities both in and beyond the classroom to become well-educated, well-rounded individuals, professionals, and scholars. For faculty and staff, it will mean opportunities to realize their talents in the service of Tufts’ goals. Fulfilling our vision of quality will mean choices. No university can do everything for everyone, and we will seek to do those things in which we can excel. Nor is quality static, and we will therefore welcome change and innovation, continually improving quality in every aspect of the University. (from Tufts Vision Statement http://www.tufts.edu/home/get_to_know_tufts/vision_statement/)
Dakar Applied Research and Training Program

DART is a project funded through a grant from the US Embassy. The project will provide support to the efforts of exceptional young leaders in the region. 11 participants, from a range of countries in West Africa, including Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, Cape Verde, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire, were chosen for the two-month training program that will take place this summer at WARC. Selected participants come and include groups working in the arts, environment, agriculture, women’s issues, and the rights of marginalized groups. The training will focus on strengthening new technology skills, preparing grant proposals, project management, civic engagement, financial management, marketing, communications, and English language skills. Over the course of the training, each of the 11 participants will prepare a business proposal for his or her organization, and all will be eligible to receive funding to implement the proposal following the training.

The DART project training will take place at WARC in June and July. The project, which also includes an extension of the main WARC building to house the project, as well as improvements in its library, is made possible thanks to a grant from the United States Embassy in Senegal. Below, you find the list of the participants as well as a summary of their projects.

Ahmadou Sall, Federation Nationale des Albinos au Senegal (Albinos), Senegal
This organization seeks to address issues of albinos in Senegal on many fronts. They teach albinos about skin cancer, to take care of their skin using specific products, with the help local and international dermatologists they organize spaces for albinos to feel accepted because they are often shunned in society for being different. They also support albinos who live in the street because the sun is dangerous for them. They teach communities to accept them and understand their conditions.

Mohamed Sylla, Groupe Image et Vie, Senegal
Groupe Image et Vie seeks to promote Senegalese and African culture both traditional and contemporary, locally and abroad. They promote pride in Senegalese culture through visual arts (painting, photography, dance, theater, and cinema) and music. They promote the work of local up-and-coming artists, teach contemporary artists to use modern technology to promote themselves and improve their work, and teach local youth in their communities about African art history.

Gérémy Kaly Bianquinch, l’Association Nationale des Elèves et Etudiants Bassari (ANEED), Senegal
ANEED is comprised of students who are organizing around the difficulties of being a student of Bassari origin in Dakar and in Senegal today. By organizing, they are giving themselves political weight and making their issues known. They are working together to create a community and providing support for each other. This organization is simultaneously promoting Bassari culture and preserving it.

Abibatou Banda Fall, Amigos de Doñana, Senegal
Amigos de Donana borrows its organizational structure and mission from the a group of the same name in Spain, which organized an environmental mission to preserve and study issues in Senegal. The community, especially the students in the area who participated in the mission, decided to continue the work. They seek to do scientific research on environmental issues in the region of Saint Louis and to educate the community—both young and old—about the preserving nature. So far, they have been organizing around the effects of deforestation and the many uses of cow dung. They seek resources to grow their mission to include more environmentally related community issues and to learn new methods of disseminating their message.

Touwendida Zongo, Journal Mutations, Burkina-Faso
Mutations was created by a group of students at the suggestion of a journalism professor. They were reading journals from their perspective; the journals they were reading did not have a critical analysis of youth culture nor did the news examine how national issues were really affecting the youth. They pooled their efforts and resources to create this journal that
makes the voices of young people heard and that examines the issues that plague youth culture in Burkina Faso.

**Fatima Camara, Cadre de Concentration des filles/femmes des partis politiques de Guinee, Guinea**

This organization’s mission is to include women and girls in conversation about politics in Guinea. They organize discussions and political debate for women to familiarize themselves with the system of politics so that they may be better qualified to run and organize politically. This organization focuses its attention on female politicians in West Africa. They hope that by supporting female politicians, they can keep them honest, have their voices heard, and begin to even out the playing field between male and female politicians.

**Zakari Hassabe, Association Potentiel Terre, Niger**

Potential Terre is an organization that seeks to use fertile land in Niger for creating a base for agricultural revival. They have done their research, and with a background in agronomy, the members of this organization are prepared to rehydrate potentially fertile land, to employ youth to work and learn about the potential of the land, and to create a local food economy that is sustainable. This work will benefit Niger in many ways, and they hope to fight against youth unemployment, reduce youth related violence, and create a future of adults who are conscious of the potential of the land.

**Neves Selma, Renaissance Africaine- Association des Femmes de l’Afrique de l’Ouest/Cellule Cap Vert (RAAMAO), Cape Verde**

Renaissance Africaine – Association des Femmes d’Afrique d’Ouest is a feminist organization whose purpose is to create a space for women to advance in society. Their goals are to gather their members around their interests and values to promote economic, social, and cultural development in Cape Verde for women. They aim to mobilize women of this generation to solve their own problems, fighting for better education, and against poverty, discrimination and violence against women in all its forms. They support the women of Cape Verde in reaching reach positions of responsibility and growth. They have already begun to establish and develop cooperative relations and exchanges with similar organizations, national and foreign.

**Paylo Da-Do Yram, Sève-Togo, Togo**

La Seve- Togo is an organization formed out of the need to support students in the Lome, Togo community where there are high levels of school dropout rates. This organization seeks to provide financial support for students who would otherwise have to leave school. They organize academic camps to keep students from regressing during the summer vacation. In their program they also teach social awareness, the rights of individuals especially those of women, and the importance of community involvement.

**Adidjangnimou Evariste Aohoui, Programme Assainissement – Recyclage Ordures (PARO), Côte d’Ivoire**

PARO is an organization that works in the environmental field, more specifically in recycling. They teach about pollution and recycling. They employ youth to clean up their communities and to recycle; in turn the youth develop a sense of investment in the community and take ownership of the work by keeping their neighborhoods clean. They believe that this is only the beginning, that this investment will manifest itself in mobilizing youth around other issues in their neighborhoods. They hope to grow their organization to disseminate their message more effectively, to allow their community to have environmentally safe products, and to teach community awareness.

**Abdoul Rachid Mamadou Kollo, Association des Jeunes COFRAIR, Niger**

COFRAIR is a youth organization comprised of musicians and artists who are attempting to create a positive and progressive hip hop culture in West Africa. Their objective is to create music that teaches young people about the issues that plague Niger such as HIV / AIDS, illiteracy, delinquency , pollution, racism, and sexism. They have partnered with other organizations to teach West African rappers about these issues and they have organized a rap festival where all of the rappers write , record, and perform songs that have to do with these issues. COFRAIR hopes that rather than singing the useless lyrics of American rappers, that they will proudly rap the progressive lyrics of West African rappers and that they will use the knowledge wisely.
WARA 2012 Grantees
Congratulations to our new grantees!

Pre-Doctoral Fellows

Yetunde Olaiya (Princeton, Architectural History, Theory and Criticism)
*The Technopolitics of Postwar Architectural Production in French West Africa, 1945-75*

John. J. Hames (University of Florida, Cultural Anthropology)
*Cultural nationalism at the margins: A look at the Trans-border ‘Radio Communities in the Senegal River Valley*

Brittany Anne Sheldon (Indiana University, History of Art and African Studies)
*Visualizing Cultural Identity: Tradition and Innovation in Wall Paintings by Women in Northern Ghana.*

Nijah Noel Cunningham (Columbia University, English Literature)
*Dakar 66: Negritude, Nationalism, and the Idea of a Black Aesthetic*  
(alternate) Catherine Pauline Bishop (Indiana University, Anthropology and Geography)  
*Culture and Technology in the African Oil Palm Belt*

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Augustine Agwuele (Texas State University – San Marcos) for research in Nigeria  
*Non-Verbal Communication among Seeing and Blind Yoruba Speakers*

Gloria Chuku (University of Maryland, Baltimore Country) for research in Nigeria  
*Confronting the Silences: Gender, Ethnicity, and the Biafra-Nigeria War*

Travel Grantees (fall competition)

Olakunle Michael Folami (University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, UK) for research in Nigeria. “The gendered construction of Redress in Niger Delta, Nigeria”

Gueye Ndiaye (Ecole Doctorale/EDEQUE/ UCAD, Dakar, Senegal) for research in Senegal and Guinea Bissau. “SIG teledetection et connaissance de ‘environnent des aires protégés en Afrique de l’Ouest”

Hadji Sissokho (Universite Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal) for research in Mali, Guinea, Gambia, and Liberia. “The Mande empire and its influence in the West African mindset”

WARA Residencies

Ohio University, African Studies Program & E.W. Scripps School of Journalism  
To host Kojo Acquah Yankah, African University College of Communication, Accra, Ghana  
“A Year for African Journalism”

Ohio State University, African American & African Studies Department  
To host Dr. Siendou Konate of the University of Cocody-Abidjan  
“Violence in African-American Fiction: A comparative study of violence in Richard Wright’s *Native Son* and *Billy by Albert French*”

WARC Library Fellow

Jonathan Adam Clemons (Indiana University, African Studies/Library Science)
WARA Officers and Board of Directors

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Vice President: Scott Youngstedt, Saginaw Valley State University
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Ibrahima Thioub, President, Association de Recherche Ouest Africain (ex-officio)

Institutional Members of WARA

- American University
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- Brandeis University
- Bridgewater State University
- Colorado College
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- DePauw University
- Earlham College
- Emory University
- Five Colleges African Studies Center
  - Amherst College
  - Hampshire College
  - Mount Holyoke College
  - Smith College
  - University of Massachusetts Amherst
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- Spelman College
- Tufts University
- University of California – Berkeley
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- University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Minnesota
- University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
- University of Victoria
- University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Wells College
- Willamette University
- Yale University

The West African Research Association is a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) based at the Smithsonian Institution. WARA is the only Sub-Saharan African member of CAORC. More information on CAORC is available at the following website: www.caorc.org.