NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

This will be a very short letter, as I am scrambling to get ready for my annual trip to our overseas research center in Dakar. This trip promises to be very stimulating in view of the excitement of seeing our electronic connectivity project, otherwise known as RED (Regional Electronic Database), in the final stages of its implementation. As you may recall, this is a joint WARA/MSU (Michigan State University) project and our WARA Vice-President, David Robinson, wearing here at least two different, but very compatible hats, has been very instrumental in making it happen. David is also traveling to Senegal and West Africa in a couple

continued on page 5

EXCERPTS FROM THE WARC/CROA DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The month of December was fairly quiet due to the arrival of Ramadan on the 9th of the month. In spite of this, however, quite a bit of work was carried out in preparation for the New Year. Work on the WARC website continued. The RED center was completely equipped by November. However, it was found that a 12 watt, rather than a 9 watt, transformer was necessary. Since this piece of equipment had to be ordered from the States, it had not yet arrived by the end of December. During December, correspondence went out to all AROA members calling them to a General Assembly in January. Members of Women Writing Africa continue to use WARC as a base. Also during December, I met with a contact from the World Bank, Mr. Claude Salem. Mr. Salem suggested that WARC consider submitting a proposal to the Foundation of Institutional Capacity Building in Africa. This foundation, which is headquartered in Zimbabwe, was founded as a result of an initiative of the African Governors at the World Bank. It also receives funding from other sources, such as the ECC and the ADB. Mr. Salem suggested that we consider asking for a “matching fund.” That is to say, an amount comparable to existing investment, which comes to about $120,000/annum.

2000 WARA Fellowship and Internship Awards

We are happy to announce the following 2000 WARA awards:

Three (3) WARA Minority Student Internships were awarded for Summer 2000 to:

1. Rhondale-Marie Barras, Clark Atlanta University, Senegal
2. Shana O. Ntiri, Boston University, Ghana
3. Angela Brown, Yale University, Senegal

Alternates:
1. Ravi Howard, University of Virginia, Ghana
2. Kyan Celise Thornton, University of Minnesota, Ghana
3. Zebulon V. Miletsky, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Senegal

and two (2) WARA Fellowships for Summer/Fall 2000 were awarded to:

1. Monica Lorine Belmonte, Georgetown University, Nigeria (doctoral candidate)
2. Jonathan Reynolds, Northern Kentucky University, Nigeria and Ghana (assistant professor)

continued on page 2
2000 Awardees - continued from page 1

Alternates:
1. Stacy E. Holden, Boston University, Senegal (doctoral candidate)
2. Ronald K. Barrett, Loyola Marymount University, Ghana and Senegal (professor)

and one (1) Collaborative Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship award was given to:

1. Stephen Golub, Swarthmore College and Ahmadou Aly Mbaye, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal

This year WARA decided to broaden its competition and include both strong doctoral and post-doctoral applicants. This practice will be continued next year.

CAORC FELLOWSHIPS FOR REGIONAL RESEARCH 2001-2002

Open to U.S. doctoral and postdoctoral scholars proposing research in the fields of humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences. Research should have regional significance in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and/or South Asia, and must be conducted in more than one country, at least one of which holds a participating American overseas research center. CAORC member centers include the American Academy in Rome, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, American Institute of Indian Studies, the American Institute of Iranian Studies, American Institute for Maghrib Studies, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, American research center in Egypt, American Research Institute in Turkey, American School of Classical Study at Athens, Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, and the West African Research Association. Fellowship tenure must be of at least three months' duration. Eight small grants of up to $6,000 will be awarded, each of which carries an additional $3,000 for travel expenses. Scholars may apply individually or in teams. Contact the Council or their web site for application forms and information.
THE COUNCIL OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS RESEARCH CENTERS

Regional Research Program
Smithsonian Institution
10th & Constitution St., NW
NHB - East Court Room
CE-123, MRC 180
Washington, DC 20560
E-mail: caorc@caorc.org
URL: http://www.caorc.org

Attn: Ms. Julia Pilson
Telephone: (202) 842-8636
Fax: (202) 786-2430

Deadline: Dec. 31, 1999

2001 WARA/WARC Collaborative Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship Program

We are hereby announcing the 2001 Fellowship Competition with the hope that the information will reach a large number of potential candidates. The announcement will also appear on the WARA website in the near future (see website address at the end of this announcement).

The West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal, is offering fellowships, each of which will support a pair of researchers (one researcher based in a West African institution and one based in a North American institution). The two pairs of researchers will spend 2-3 months at the Center as scholars-in-residence in order to collaborate on their joint project. Priority will be given to scholars who have already initiated collaborative projects and who require work time together in order to finish a manuscript such as a book, book chapter, or journal article.

Eligibility: Scholars must have a doctorate or an equivalent terminal degree (i.e., an MFA, etc.) and hold a permanent faculty or research position at a West African or a North American institution of higher education, and have a scholarly record in their field of collaborative research.

Terms and conditions: Each fellowship will cover round trip air fare from the scholars’ home institution to Dakar, a maintenance stipend for two to three months’ residency ($5,000 for each researcher) in Dakar, and a supplementary $500 stipend for materials (books, software, photocopies, etc.) for the two West African fellows. Fellows are required to be in residence at WARC where they will be given office space with adequate research equipment and Internet access for the duration of the fellowships. They will also be required to conduct scholarly seminars on their research projects at the Center and to be available for consultation with other scholars associated with the Center. The Center and the Fellowship Program must be acknowledged in any publication resulting from the collaborative project.

Applications: Joint proposals, of no more than ten (10) pages in length, written by each pair of applicants, should be submitted to the WARA office in Madison, Wisconsin or the WARC/CROA office in Dakar, Senegal by the deadline date. Proposals should, in concrete terms, describe the history of the collaboration between the two scholars on the project at hand, summarize the significance of the research, the planned methodology, and the resulting publications. Curriculum vita and three (3) letters of recommendation for each applicant should be submitted to:

WARC/CROA
B.P. 5456 (Fann-Residence)
Rue Exé Léon G. Damas
Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: 9-011-221-8-24-20-62
Fax: 9-011-221-8-24-20-58
email: atoure@mail.ucad.sn

or

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-262-2487
Fax: 608-265-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html

A detailed report, separate from the ultimate publication, must be submitted to WARA at the completion of the Project for publication in its newsletter.

Deadline for applications: December 15, 2000
WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION, SUMMER 2001*

(Please note that pre-doctoral applicants are now eligible to apply for these fellowships.)

- Two (2) research fellowships are being offered for Summer of 2001 in West Africa with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. These fellowships are open to both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral candidates who wish to conduct research for a 10-12 week period in order: 1) to prepare a doctoral research proposal; 2) complete or elaborate upon earlier research; 3) enhance their understanding of a particular topic in order to improve teaching effectiveness or broaden course offerings.

The competition is open to U.S. citizens who teach or are enrolled in graduate programs at institutions of higher education in the United States.

Each fellowship will provide round trip travel to a West African country and a stipend of $5,000 to cover cost of living expenses. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist with academic contacts and affiliations and recommendations for lodging in the country chosen by the fellow.

Candidates must submit an essay of no more than eight (8) pages describing the concept, methodology and significance of their research project to their academic field or teaching profession. Supporting materials must include three (3) letters of recommendation by professors (for pre-doctoral candidates) or established scholars in their field (for post-doctoral candidates); a curriculum vitae; and college transcripts (for pre-doctoral candidates).

Upon completion of their research, fellows are required to submit a detailed report of their work and findings. This report will subsequently be published in the WARA/WARC newsletters. Please direct inquiries and submit all relevant materials (one original and three copies) to:

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-262-2487
Fax: 608-265-4151
e-mail: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html


WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
MINORITY STUDENT INTERNSHIP COMPETITION, SUMMER 2001*

- Three (3) Summer 2001 Minority Student Internships are being offered in West Africa in an effort to increase the active participation of minorities in international affairs (African-Americans, Eskimo or Aleut, Native American Indians, Mexican Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, Puerto Ricans). Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the competition is open to U.S. citizens who are enrolled in the M.A. program of an accredited college or university in the United States. We strongly encourage students from HBCU’s and those without previous foreign travel experience to apply.

Each internship will provide round trip travel to the indicated West African country and a stipend to cover the cost of living for 6 to 8 weeks. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist selected interns to locate lodgings, identify and establish in advance an appropriate intern affiliation with an agency, university or other suitable organization. Applicants, who have already established contacts with suitable agencies or institutions, should keep WARA well informed of their arrangements.

Applicants should submit a 4-6-page statement describing 1) the kind of internship they would like to carry out, including the field of activity (e.g., education, rural development, health, etc.); 2) the country they wish to work in; 3) the contribution such an experience would make to their academic and later professional career; 4) the academic, linguistic and/or other background they possess that prepares and qualifies them for this work; and 5) any previous international experience. In addition to this personal statement, each applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from professors, a resume, and college transcript(s) with his/her application.

Upon completion of their internship, interns are required to submit a detailed report of their work experience. This report will be subsequently published in the WARA/WARC newsletters. Please direct inquiries and submit all relevant materials (one original and three copies) to:

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-262-2487
Fax: 608-265-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html

Deadline: December 15, 2000

* For a list of awardees for the 1999 competition, please see pages 1-2.

**WARC TRAVEL GRANT**

The West African Research Center is now offering travel bursaries of up to $2000 to West African scholars and graduate students. These funds may be used to:

1) Attend and read papers at academic conferences relevant to the applicant's field of research;
2) Visit libraries or archives that contain resources necessary to the applicant's current academic work.

Applications will consist of the following:
- a description (7 double-spaced pages maximum) of the applicant's research and how the proposed travel is relevant to this work;
- CV with research and teaching record when applicable;
- an abstract of the paper to be read and a letter of acceptance to the conference (for those wishing to attend meetings);
- a description of the collections to be consulted and their significance to the applicant's research (for those wishing to travel to libraries or archives).

Graduate student applicants should, in addition, submit a letter of recommendation by the professor overseeing their research.

Travel funds will become available October 1, 2000. Applications should reach the West African Research Center at least 3 months before the travel date. Submit applications to:

WARC/CROA
B.P. 5456 (Fann-Residence)
Rue E x Léon G. Damas
Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: 9-011-221-8-24-20-62
Fax: 9-011-221-8-24-20-58
email: assist@mail.ucad.sn

Edris Makward - continued from page 1

of weeks. We definitely plan to connect there and work together toward a harmonious completion of the task ahead. Wendy Wilson-Fall, our now well-adjusted WARC Director, and her staff are also actively involved in this task.

As usual, the summer is a busy season for the Center with numerous individual and group visitors and programs from the United States and elsewhere. There are also a good number of graduate students from institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Boston University, Yale University, Clark-Atlanta University, Georgetown University, and Loyola-Marymount University who will by carrying out research projects in the region this summer and early next fall and who will be affiliated with our Center in Dakar. Several of these graduate student researchers have received WARA and/or CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) fellowships or internships. In addition, we also have experienced scholars affiliated with WARA/WARC who will be working in the field this summer. One remarkable innovation this year is the WARA Collaborative Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship Program with the participation of Professor Stephen Golub of Swarthmore College and Professor Ahmadou Aly Mbaye of UCAD. Both are economists and their project topic is: “Senegal’s International Competitiveness: Case Studies of the Groundnut, Fishing and Textile Sectors.” This Collaborative Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship Program is funded through our USIA/CAORC grant. We hope to be able to allocate funding for two other pairs of distinguished West African and U.S. scholars from a variety of disciplines next summer. I would therefore like to close this letter with an invitation to all of you to spread the word around, in the U.S., as well as overseas, regarding this very important Fellowship Program. I also urge you to consider entering into such collaborative relationships with appropriate counterparts and applying for one of these sets of Fellowships.

I wish you a very fruitful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual WARA membership meeting at the ASA convention in Nashville, TN, next November (16-19). Please check your ASA final program for the exact date, time and location.

Edris Makward
WARA President
We submitted a pre-proposal to the Foundation and were notified that it has been received. We requested $500,000 over a five-year period, representing a matching grant to our current budget. The proposal has also been sent to WARA President, Edris Makward.

I also met with the PAO and the CAO of the Public Diplomacy Office (PDO) of the American Embassy (formerly USIS). The PDO agreed to lend WARC its projector for use with a computer in order to project H-Net West Africa images during our WARC/AROA dinner in January. The purposes of the dinner, paid for with Center-earned funds, were 1) to stimulate membership; 2) bring the RED center to the attention of our community; and 3) to foster exchange between our current American and West African Researchers. The WARC hosted an exhibit of art by a Congolese artist in November. In December, due to Ramadan, we did not hold an exhibit. However, in late December and January, we hosted a display of artisanal work done by artisans from Fatick and from Thies, in cooperation with the Peace Corps.

Also in December, two Junior Researcher meetings were held. This is a WARC activity initiated by Fiona McLaughlin. I also met with a Senegalese researcher, Ibrahim Seck, regarding the possibility of beginning a "Diaspora Network," which would promote exchange between Senegalese students of the African diaspora and Americans working on the same subject.

In terms of current researchers at the center, we have had several Fulbrighters as well as other researchers from various institutions. In the Fulbright program, in Fall 1999, we had Jill Jupiter-Jones (New York University) and Erin Augis. In 2000, we have Bess Buggenhagen (University of Chicago), Brett M. O'Bannon, (Indiana University) and Tim Magin (Columbia University). We have had an informal rapport with Fulbright lecturer, Dr. James Ephraim Gaasch, as well as other visiting junior scholars who became AROA members (such as Charlotte Ashamu (Wellesley), Hodan Farah (Minneapolis), Jessica Davis (Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania) and Hilary Jones (Michigan State University)).

We also received visits from the new American PAO, Chris Datta, as well as the CAO, Grace Brunton, and from Mangone Niang, Director of CELTHO in Niamey (Centre des Etudes de Linguistiques et de Traditions et Histoire Orale), Mr. Ryan Luster, Research Assistant at Utah State University in the Department of Rangeland Resources, and many others.

In the first half of January, we held the WARC dinner. We were happy to have the participation of Fiona McLaughlin and her husband, Leo Villalon, who had just arrived from the University of Kansas. The Center hosted more than 100 people for the event, which was serenaded by Zal Seck and his orchestra. We are sure that it would have gone far into the night had it not been for the cold. As it was, the chilly clime chased us all back home by midnight. Since the dinner, WARC has registered 30 new members, and has also registered the return of several old members who were not current in their payment. Also in January, AROA held its first General Assembly for the year. I attended and participated in the discussions.

The RED room is set up and waiting to go but requires a 12-watt transformer, as mentioned earlier. In the interim, I print out various H-Net West Africa messages and discussions and post them on the Center bulletin boards. During this period, we have also begun intense activities with Library. At very little cost, and by using only a portion of library earnings, we were able to create an office for the Head Librarian (Abdoulaye Niang) by erecting one wooden wall, changing a door, and adding one door. This permits space for stocking books in the process of being entered into the system, and for the librarian to concentrate, without being disturbed by library visitors. We have received a grant of $1,000 from CAORC to continue our work on an NGO inventory of organizations in the West Africa sub-region, and this is progressing. We have received a contribution of four (4) books from IRD Senegal. The librarians have also re-organized some of the books, so that there are now easily identifiable subject sections, such as "African literature," "Afro-American studies," etc.

In January, CAORC also allocated $1,000 so that WARC could be represented at the "Bamako 2000" Internet conference. Although I was scheduled to attend, I asked Madiama Mbaye to represent WARC as he is responsible for the RED, the development of our brochures, and our website.

Plans continued for the conference on cities in West Africa. Oumar Ndongo, President of AROA, Nene Diop, the WARC secretary and receptionist, and I attended a conference in Saint Louis held by the Euro-African Association of Anthropologists for Development (APAD) on the same subject, at the invitation of their Vice-President, Abdou Salaam Fall. Paul Pelissier and Olivier de Sardin presided, and the meeting was interesting. WARC distributed brochures and gained several new members from France, Niger and Senegal. APAD Senegal section has agreed to help organize the May conference at WARC on urban centers. Themes chosen will reflect outstanding topics from the St. Louis conference. One WARA researcher, Cheikh Babou, presented a paper at APAD.

In February, AROA member, Charles Becker, presented a paper summarizing the main themes of his newly published book "Experiencing and Understanding AIDS in Africa." This conference was well attended, and we had many people from the outside the usual WARC community, including NGO and Peace Corps representatives.
In addition to these activities, WARC established a program for Black History Month. The program, held on February 16th, consisted of six presenters who presented in panels of two scholars.

Wendy Wilson-Fall
WARC/CROA Director

MEMBERS’ ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Allen F. and Mary Nooter Roberts, UCLA, have a book and exhibition program tentatively titled “Passport to Paradise: Visualizing Islam in West Africa and the Mouride Diaspora” scheduled to open at UCLA’s Fowler Museum of Cultural History in Fall, 2002, and traveling thereafter. Arts illustrated and discussed in the exhibition and website include urban murals and related ephemerae, devotional portraits, calligraphy and healing arts, architecture, contemporary “gallery” arts, and music. The Fowler Museum has launched a website for the exhibition program that WARA members are encouraged to visit. The address is: <www.fmch.ucla.edu/passporttoparadise.htm>.

Editor’s note: Allen and Polly Roberts have now moved from the University of Iowa to UCLA where Polly is Chief Curator at Fowler and AI is Professor in the interdisciplinary Department of World Arts and Cultures (AI is on leave during the 1999-2000 academic year).

- Harold Scheub, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has several items to share with WARA members. He has a new book, A Dictionary of African Mythology: The Mythmaker as a Storyteller, which is a collection of 400 African myths. He also has two entries in reference works:

Last, but certainly not least, Harold’s book, Story, has been selected by the judges for the Chicago Folklore Prize as the second-place winner for 1999. The Chicago Folklore Prize is the oldest international award for a monograph in the field of folklore. The prize has been awarded since 1928 by the University of Chicago.


- Barbara Josiah, Howard University, presented a paper entitled “African American Sailors and Tattoos in United States Civil War Navy, 1861-1865: Cultural and Occupational Identities” at the World Marine Millennial conference held at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts from March 29-April 1, 2000. Her panel was titled “Black Men in Navy Blue: Black Sailors during the Civil War Era.”

Abstract:
During “the long nineteenth century” one of the most significant events nationally and internationally was the American Civil War of 1861-1865. Many African Americans actively participated in the military, either in the army or navy. Some of the enlisting navy men were identified by the tattoos they bore on the various parts of their bodies. Others acquired this distinctive mark during their sojourn in the navy. Similar to so many other sailors, tattoos held tremendous appeal for some naval African Americans as part of a seafaring culture.

Evidence of the origins of tattooing go as far back as the Stone Age. This world-wide practice is also observed across continental Africa, among the Kru mariners, and in some African American communities while slavery existed in the United States and elsewhere in the Americas. Tattoos on African Americans in the United States Civil War Navy represent a blend of cultural knowledge and the need for occupational acceptance. This paper examines not only the dynamics of tattooing as forms of cultural and occupational identities, but also analyzes the ways in which names conferred on Africans everywhere failed to perpetuate a disconnection with Africa over time and space. Tracing the evolution of Africans in the Americas through maritime history is also a focus of this paper.

- Henry Drewal, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was co-curator of the Beads, Body and Soul: Art and Light in the Yorùbá Universe exhibit at the Elvehjem Museum of Art. This exhibit is an exhibition of a LIVING artistic tradition. The Yorùbá say of their culture that “it is like a river that never rests.” With its source in the ancient African past, it has spread and transformed in dynamic ways in the Americas.

As part of the Beads, Body and Soul exhibit, six extraordinary bead artists demonstrated their work at the Elvehjem Museum of Art. Representing many techniques and traditions of beadwork from Nigeria to Haiti, Cuba, and the United States, the artists offered community members the opportunity to observe the creative process and to experience directly the unique artistry of beading. The demonstrations were free and open to the public, with all ages welcome. In addition, the artists shared their work with the community’s
children through demonstrations at local high schools. Funded by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute, the residencies and demonstrations enriched the outreach of the exhibition to students and the public alike.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

• WARA-sponsored Panel at November 2000 ASA Meeting. The West African Research Association is organizing a panel at the 2000 ASA meeting on the topic of African immigrants in the United States. The panel's current title is *The New Diaspora: African Immigrants in the U.S.* The chair is Leigh Swigart, from the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, and WARA.

Africans have long constituted an important presence in the Americas. However, the United States has recently seen an unprecedented and ever-increasing surge in new immigration from Africa. The population of African immigrants in the U.S. has quadrupled since 1970 to an official total of 522,000 Africans in 1998, over half of whom have arrived since 1990. These immigrants represent a wide variety of nations, cultures, languages, religions, and immigrant experiences. Some are voluntary immigrants seeking their fortune and a better life in the United States. Others come as students and remain to work as professionals. Still others flee political or economic turmoil in their countries of origin and resettle in America as refugees or exiles. Whatever their reasons for coming and staying, their businesses, social networks, and lifestyles are rapidly transforming the fabric of urban neighborhoods where their numbers are sizeable.

This panel will explore the experience of African immigrants living in the United States. Issues addressed may include: How do African immigrants organize themselves so as to ensure the smoothest adaptation to their host society? What are the strategies of particular ethnic or national communities for disseminating necessary information to group members upon their arrival in the U.S.? Where and how do African immigrants go about filling in any gaps in education or training that may act as barriers to their socioeconomic success? In what ways do they maintain economic and political ties to their country of origin? What are the particular health issues of African immigrants and how are they being addressed? What kinds of social dynamics characterize the relations of African immigrants with their American neighbors? What are the challenges of raising second generation “African” children born in the U.S.? And what are the best methods of producing and disseminating visual and written documentation about immigrant communities? In looking at these and other topics, this panel seeks to shed light upon the lives of a group of “new Americans.”

• Communal Conflict Management in Africa: An Article by Dr. Ben K. Fred-Mensah

The end of the Cold War has given conflict management a different dimension. Conflicts have become more proliferative and ubiquitous, thus expanding the role and activities of researchers, national governments, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations in the management of conflicts. This has called for the need to develop new conflict resolution concepts and methods to improve the existing ones in order to cope with the changing conflict situations. My own contributions in this regard have been embodied in a project I have launched for myself and been working on since 1990. It is entitled, “State-Society Interactions and Policymaking.”


While the first two articles generally presented basic data on the traditional conflict management system of the Buem sub-chiefdom, the *World Development* publication adopted a more pragmatic, hands-on approach to communal conflict management in Africa. This article used Ghana's legislative and judicial decentralization programs as a framework for a proposed communal conflict management forum. This was done by integrating aspects of the existing conflict management methods and skills of the national government and those of the country's ethnic groups. Couched in the language, and underpinned by the basic philosophy that underscores contemporary alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems—an ideological shift in conflict resolution from adversarial forums of the courts to alternative forums in which mediation and negotiation are dominant—the article aimed to bridge the perceived gaps between the philosophical underpinnings and practical operations of statutory and customary laws and practices in Africa. In doing so, this article goes beyond most of the existing works on African capacity discourse which, though analytically sophisticated,
tend to shy away from proposing practical frameworks for operational test.

As a holistic approach to conflict management, the following viewpoints, among others, are central to the project:

(i) **Conflict Management** or **Conflict Resolution:** While some of the conflicts engage national, and in some cases, international attention, some occur in the hinterland and are never reported, though they contain the seeds of escalation. In most cases, these conflicts are open-ended claims that entail continuing negotiations and maneuvering. For this reason, the term “conflict management” is preferred to “conflict resolution.” Conflict management here refers to the various methods, mechanisms, and forums that can be employed to resolve, monitor, prevent, or control conflicts. Second, a better understanding of most of the large-scale conflicts in Africa can be gained by understanding the nature, causes, and dynamics of communal conflicts.Instances in West Africa have demonstrated that the development of most of the large-scale conflicts that Africa has witnessed in the past decade can be likened to the developmental processes of great rivers, the sources of which are small and hidden in remote areas, hardly noticeable but exhibiting expanded sizes and intensity and engaging international attention during their mature states. Communal conflict management is thus viewed in this project as a strategy for monitoring and preempting what would otherwise develop into large-scale intra- or inter-state conflicts.

(ii) **Need for Conflict Monitoring:** Conflicts have relatively long gestation periods because they take some time to manifest themselves. Thus, early detection of warning signals can be instrumental in containing them. By the time a dispute has become a full grown one, it has already reached the fighting stage. The parties to the conflict will fight one another if there is the slightest opportunity. The continuing feuds between the Kokomba and their neighbors in the northern section of Ghana, the ongoing conflicts between the Beydanes (Arabs) and Haratines (Black Africans) in the Senegal River Basin, and the sporadic outbreak of violence in many communities in Nigeria attest to this view. It must be noted that the war which broke out in the northern section of Ghana between the Kokomba and their neighbors in 1994 was sparked by a quarrel between three individuals over the price of a guinea-fowl—a common domestic bird found in the grassland regions of West Africa. This war, which started in February, had, by March 1996, massively devastated both urban and rural activities, claimed over 1,000 human lives, destroyed 18,900 heads of domestic animals and birds, and brought social and economic activities to a standstill in 144 villages.

(iii) **Economic Development and Conflict Management:** Economic survival is at the core of most of these communal conflicts. This is because job creation in most African countries has been stagnant over the years, and the few available ones have been lost under the government’s retrenchment policies under contemporary structural adjustment programs. Migration of people from rural communities to the urban centers in the region as a means of seeking better socioeconomic welfare does not offer any better hope. Since most of these conflicts are related to access to land, the creation of nonfarm jobs provides viable economic options. This calls for the need to develop policies that would change occupational structures in these communities. This will help to transform not only the structure of communal economies, but it will also help people transcend the notion that social and economic security can only be assured in land-based income-earning activities.

Ben K. Fred-Mensah
Assistant Professor of Government and African Politics
Hamilton College

- The **National African Language Resource Center** (NALRC) will be hosting a three week long Summer Institute on the UW-Madison campus June 19th, 2000 through July 7th, 2000. The institute will train fellows in a number of crucial areas central to the effective design and operation of an African Language Program. It will consist of intensive introductions to a) program development, coordination, and evaluation; b) curriculum development and evaluation; and c) material development and evaluation. The institute fellows, along with five institute leaders, will work together to formulate guidelines for each of these areas. More information on NALRC can be obtained by visiting its website at <http://african.lss.wisc.edu/nalrc/>.

- **Call for papers. Voices. The Wisconsin Review of African Literatures.**

    **Voices** welcomes the submission of articles, essays, book reviews of recently published works, translations, and original creative works such as short stories, poetry, cover art, drama, and renderings of oral narratives written in the languages of Africa (as well as English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, German).

    **Format:** Four (4) copies of typed, double-spaced manuscript up to twenty (20) pages; include one copy of a 100-150 word abstract (in English and in the language of submission). Please remove author’s name from 3 of the 4 copies. If the work is accepted, a copy of the submission on a 3.5 floppy disk and a one (1) paragraph biography of the author will be requested.

    **Voices** is a biannually published forum for exploring issues of written and oral artistic production in Africa and the Diaspora in relation to the continent. Submissions that stretch
and challenge such disciplinary boundaries are welcome and will be considered for publication. The staff of Voices invites submissions from writers world-wide. Voices is complemented by a website with the aim of cultivating a broad readership and interactive academic network. Voices appears in June and December of each year.

Subscription Rates (per issue):
- U.S. Institution $20
- U.S. Individual $15
- African Institution or Individual $7.50

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* Tokyo workshop on slave soldiers in Africa and the Middle East. A workshop on slave soldiers and officials in Africa and the Middle East was held in Tokyo on 10-11 October, 1998 at the Institute of Oriental Culture, the University of Tokyo, with fifteen panelists and more than fifty participants from Japan and abroad. This was the first workshop of the Islamic Area Studies Project (headed by Tsugitaka Sato, Professor of the University of Tokyo) This project was set up in 1997 with a five year Grant-in-Aid for scientific research from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, to develop new methods for understanding the Islamic World. More information on the project can be obtained from the project website at <http://www.iu-tokyo.ac.jp/IAS/>. This project is taking advantage of e-mail and the World Wide Web to organize and to facilitate the exchange of information among scholars.

These elite slaves contrast with slaves in Europe and America, where slaves never had power over free persons. Modern studies of slavery have been dominated by studies of New World slaves, which has given these studies a Eurocentric bias. Specialists on the Middle East, in turn, have often regarded the presence of powerful slaves as a sign of backwardness in the Islamic Middle East to be overcome by modernization, not considering the causes of this system and its function in society.

The Slave Elites workshop has a dual origin in African and Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Sato, the Project leader, first thought of the idea after a meeting with the late Professor Ulrich Haarmann in autumn 1997. These scholars are famous for their work on mamlukes in the Middle East and occupy leading positions in Middle Eastern studies in Japan and Germany, respectively. Independently of this proposal, John Philips and Sean Stilwell came up with a similar idea of discussing slave elites from a comparative viewpoint after participating in an international conference on the Nigerian slave trade at York University, Toronto (also in 1997). These two ideas converged into one workshop.

Reflecting the dual origin of this workshop, we wanted to combine, as far as possible, what had hitherto been separate literatures, one a predominately ethnographic literature concerned with slave soldiers and officials in West Africa as an exclusively African phenomenon, the other concerned with slave elites as a phenomenon of Islamic civilization, sometimes to the neglect of the African phenomenon. The tradition in area studies of specialists concentrating on discrete areas has resulted in a neglect of the important role of interactions between areas of the globe which have never really been isolated from each other. This tradition of specializing in a single region has also obviated comparisons between regions. In this workshop we were able to bring together specialists of two areas, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, to discuss a topic of common interest and share information and perspectives to mutual benefit.

The workshop was organized largely through e-mail. Almost immediately after the initial announcement, applications came from all over the world. We regret that, due to budgetary constraints we were unable to invite all who applied. The papers presented are in the process of being published by Kegan Paul International and will be distributed in the US by Columbia University Press. More information about the book is available at: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/catalog/data/071030/0710306601HTM>.

Slave soldiers are conspicuous in many regions of the Islamic World from the Abbasid period on. In West Africa this phenomenon of elite slaves is found even outside of the Islamic area, although the relation of this institution in West Africa to the Islamic system of slave soldiers is a matter of debate.
This book will be the first volume in a projected Islamic Area Studies Series. Interested individuals may contact the Project through the above website address or via the following mailing address:

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WARA Institutional and Individual Memberships

We are including in the individual membership list only those members who are paid up through 9/00. We know that there are many more of your colleagues and friends of WARA whose support and recognition are precious. We are therefore urging you to please send us your renewal check upon receiving your Spring 2000 WARA newsletter, if you have not already done so. Although we are sending out several newsletters to members who are behind in their dues, because each membership is important to us, we cannot continue to supply complimentary copies of our newsletter to members who do not renew their subscriptions.

We also urge our institutional members' contact persons to please intervene gently . . . but firmly to have their respective institutions send us their membership renewal notice checks for 1999/2000 if they have not already done so.

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E.M.
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