

The Consortium on Africa, University at Albany *presents*

AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA: AGENTS FOR CHANGE

An Interdisciplinary Conference

Friday March 24th, 2006

Campus Center Ballroom

Also in recognition of Africa, Africa Week, International Women's Day, Women's History Month, International Water Day, and the U Albany Reading Project

University at Albany, Uptown Campus
1400 Washington Ave,
Albany, New York 12222

Directions to the Campus

http://www.albany.edu/about_the_university/visit_us/directions_car.html

Free and Open to the Public - Free parking for off-campus guests at Visitor Parking Sites

Conference Schedule

8:00 am - 8:30am Poster Session Set-up

8:15 am Refreshments

8:30 am Multi-Media Images, Kawther Elmi, Margaret Reich

8:40 am Dr. Shirley Jones, Moderator, *The Consortium on Africa Initiative: Contributions to Sustainability in Africa and Beyond: What We Can Do!*

Official University Welcome: **Frank D'Andraia**, Dean and Director of The Libraries

9:00am - 10:00 Panel I — Meanings and Experiences of Gender in African Diasporas

Dr. Iris Berger, UAlbany, Professor of History, Africana Studies, and Women's Studies, *"Whose Wife Is Going To Do It?": Gender and Modernity in Mid-Twentieth Century South Africa*

Dr. Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Africana Studies, *These Laws Should Be Made by Us: Marriage, Divorce, and Adultery Law in Colonial Gabon*

Dr. Gariba Abdul Korah, College of Saint Rose, Assistant Professor of History and Political Science,
Migration, Gender, and the Family Economy among the Dagaaba of Northern Ghana: Shifting and Contested Relationships

Dr. Patricia Pinho, UAlbany, Assistant Professor of Latin American, Caribbean, and US Latino Studies
African-American Women Searching for Africa in Brazil

10:10 - 10:25 Discussion

10:25 am **Margaret Reich**, Director, Office of International Student Services, Announcements, Poster Session Procedures

10:30 - 10:40 Break

10:45 am Dr. Shirley Jones, Acknowledgements of Consortium Members and Co-Sponsors, Presentation of Awards

10:50 Introduction of Keynote Speaker,
Dr. Eloise Briere, French and Francophone Studies, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, member of Consortium, Institute for Research on Women (IROW) co-sponsor, University at Albany

11:00am - 11:30 am

Keynote Speaker Dr. Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi, Professor, University of Southern Mississippi, *English Is Your Friend: Cameroon Anglophone Postcolonial Narratives*

Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi, also known by her pen name Makuchi, was born and raised in Cameroon. She was educated at the University of Yaounde, Cameroon, and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She is a writer and literary critic, and currently, Professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, where she has lived since 1995.

Dr. Nfah-Abbenyi is author of *Gender in African Women's Writing: Identity, Sexuality, and Difference* and a book of short stories *Your Madness, Not Mine: Stories of Cameroon*. Her fiction has appeared in *Callaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters*, *The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Thamyris*, *Worldview* and *Asian Women*. Her many scholarly publications include book chapters, articles, and essays in journals. Her work has been reprinted in such anthologies as *The Anchor Book of Modern African Stories*, *Canadian Woman Studies: An Introductory Reader* and *African Gender Studies: A Reader*.

11:30 - 11:45 am

Discussion

11:45 am **Deborah M. LaFond**, Social Sciences Bibliographer, University Library
Announcements

12:00 Pre-reserved Lunch - CC Ballroom

12:15 **Panel II. Resistance, Reconciliation and Resilience**

Introductions: **Carol Whittaker**, Assistant Dean, School of Public Health

Dr. James M. Statman, Executive Vice President, Aurora Associates International
Washington, DC/Johannesburg, *South Africa Burning for Bafana: Symbol and Sacrifice
in South African Transition*

Dr. Kevin Hickey, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies, Albany College
of Pharmacy, *Healing History: African Women Writers Salving the Future*

12:45 - 1:00 pm Discussion

12:50- 1:45 POSTER SESSIONS — Assigned *time to interact with poster presenters
but posters will be displayed from 8:30am to 4:00 pm*

Dr. Jennifer Browdy de Hernandez, UAlbany Department of Languages and
Literature, *Women Writing Resistance in Africa*

Crystal Z. Campbell, UAlbany, Graduate Student, Africana Studies, *The Optimistic
Diasporan African Body Posing with Its Opposition: A Visual Essay*

Renee Lucier Decelle, UAlbany, Office of International Education, *Study Abroad:
Opportunities in Africa and the Diaspora*

Kawther Elmi, UAlbany Graduate Student, Department of Art, *Images of Native North
Africans in the United States - Real or Constructed*

Ebony Harris, UAlbany Graduate Student, Africana Studies and Women's Studies, *How
Race Acts as a Performance Model in the Classroom: Changing Behavior of Students
and Teachers*

Nefertitti Jackmon, UAlbany, Graduate Student, Africana Studies, *When is Enough
Enough?*

Dr. Shirley Jones, UAlbany, Professor Emeritus, *U.S.-Africa Partnership for Building
Stronger Communities Project*

Deborah M. LaFond, UAlbany, Social Sciences Bibliographer, University Library, *Supporting and Sustaining Library and Publishing Capacity for African Diaspora Research: Associations, Programs, and Community*

Marsha Mortimore, UAlbany Graduate Student, and SUNY Youth Construction Program, *Initiative Program Grappling with South Africa's High Unemployment Rate and Black Economic Empowerment: Investigating GEAR and ASGISA Initiatives*

Margaret Reich, UAlbany Office of International Student Services, Director, *An Amateur's Guide to Africa: How I Approached Learning About Africa as an Adult.*

Gabrielle A. Robles, UAlbany Graduate Student, School of Social Welfare, *HIV/AIDS Education, Prevention, and Care of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired in Sub-Saharan Africa*

John Adamu Seidu, Graduate Student, Auchi Polytechnic Edo State, Lagos, Nigeria, *Afro-Pessimism: The Future of the Day Before*

Katharine Sullivan, UAlbany Graduate Student, and Barbara Rio, Field Education Director, School of Social Welfare, *UAlbany/Rwanda Service Learning Partnership: Collaborating to Support Genocide Survivors*

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BAZAAR

African Reflections, Maria Poole

Fonkoze, Anita VonWellsheim

Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (CHABA), Susannah Grannis and Helen Crenshaw

Save Africa From AIDS (SAFA) Campaign, Nickeisha Frazer

Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc., Benita L. Law-Diao

1:55 pm Introductions: **Kawther Elmi**, Graduate Student, Department of Art

2:00 - 3:00 Panel III. STUDENT PANEL

Orpha K. Ongiti, UAlbany Graduate Student, Educational Administration and Policy Studies, *Policy Recommendations for Stemming Gender Crisis in Kenyan Education*

Karen M. Caraker, UAlbany Graduate Student, School of Social Welfare, *The Treatment of Indigenous Peoples in Botswana and the United States of America*

Monette Fils, UAlbany Graduate Student, Educational Administration and Policy Studies, *Origins of Haitian Culture and Its Preservation*

Kwame Ntiamoah, UAlbany Graduate Student, Africana Studies, *Structural Adjustment Program: The Obstacle to Real Economic Growth in Africa*

2:45-3:00 Moderator of Discussion **Nefertitti Jackamon**, Graduate Student, Africana Studies

3:00 pm Refreshments - (Fireside Lounge/Assembly Hall)

3:15- 4:30 ROUND TABLES (Assembly Hall)

3:15 pm - 4:00 - I. Sustainable Leadership and Governance: Efforts and Lessons for Legislative Reforms and Democratization Worldwide

Dr. Helen Desfosses, Interim Dean, Rockefeller College, Panel Moderator

Dr. Helen Desfosses, *Legislative Consulting in Kenya: Findings and Challenges*

Dr. Denis Zunon, *Capable States and Good Governance: Burkina-Faso*

Addy Augbin, UAlbany Graduate Student, Department of Africana Studies, *The (In)Effectiveness of Sanctions*

Dr. Robert Compton, SUNY Oneonta, Department of Political Science

Henry Ndlovo, Parliament of Zimbabwe, Fellow, Center for International Development Zimbabwe

Contributions of African Parliaments to Democratization: South Africa and Zimbabwe

4:00 - 4:15 Discussion

4:15 pm

II. Sustainable Environments: AIDS Prevention, Micro-Credit, and Water

Dr. Marcia Sutherland, *HIV/AIDS and the Criticality of Partnerships with Africa*

Brandon Boyle, M.A. Public Administration - Fonkoze, *Microcredit in Haiti*

4:30 pm - 5:00 **Amy Hart**, UAlbany School of Public Health, Film maker and producer, *Water and the Future of Africa*

WATER FIRST - Living Drop by Drop

5:00 Discussion Moderator **Dr. Kwadwo Sarfoh**, UAlbany Associate Professor, Africana Studies and Department of Geography

5:15 Closing Remarks - **Carol Whittaker**, UAlbany Assistant Dean, School of Public Health

WATER FIRST

Living Drop by Drop

A 25 minute documentary film by Amy Hart with Questions & Answers

Water First was shot in Malawi and South Africa and highlights the importance of water in relationship to other issues such as disease control, education for girls, population control, women's liberation, human rights and the care of HIV/AIDS patients. The film was the only documentary short made by an American filmmaker selected to be screened at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City this month. Ms. Hart will just be returning from the Forum, where 8,000 people will be gathered to talk about global water issues, and will share what she has learned about current water concerns in Africa.

7:00 pm *Assembly Hall*

UAlbany Amnesty International, Student Chapter *presents* Daoud Salih, to speak on Darfur, Sudan

(Africa Consortium - Co-sponsor)

We Gratefully Acknowledge:

Co-Sponsors: University at Albany - Libraries, Institute for Research on Women, Office of Student Success, Office of International Education, School of Public Health, School of Social Welfare, United Auxiliary Services, Department of Women's Studies, and Department of Africana Studies

Technical Assistance: Scott Birge & Campus Center Staff, Chartwell's Dining Service and Staff, Colleen McAllister, University Library, Gail Pawlowski, Science Library, Brian Doubleday, University Library, Elnur Aghamirzayev -Web Page

Graphic Design: Linda Reeves, University Library and Suzanne Lance, The Writers Institute of New York State

Conference Program Coordination: Deborah M. LaFond, University Library

Conference Committee, Iris Berger, Eloise Briere, Renee Lucier Decelle, Kawther Elmi, Nefertitti Jackamon, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Godfrey Mwewa, Kwadwo Sarfoh, Margaret Reich, Denis Zunon, Carol Whittaker

This conference is intended to serve as a catalyst within the Capital District to unite scholars, educators and community members who contribute toward knowledge and sustainability of Africa and the African Diaspora.

The conference intends to show how discussion and research on literature, gender studies, social welfare, public health, leadership and governance as well as water rights, economy & micro-credit are all inter-connected and important to sustainability. Sharing our individual projects and goals will strengthen our respective scholarship as well as offer educational opportunities and positive models for outreach, pedagogy, advocacy, and change. In this way we act as agents for change increasing our understanding of the people, culture, and economies of Africa.

This conference showcases the work of University at Albany students, staff, and faculty, as well as scholars, independent researchers, and community members from the Capital District who challenge Afro-pessimism. The Consortium on Africa endeavors to support equitable and sustainable projects in Africa and the African Diaspora. Consortium members have reflected on the question, "What can we each do to support these goals?" We meet the second week of every month. Our meetings are open to all those interested.

Consortium on Africa Website <http://www.albany.edu/intled/africa/>