The 17th Annual Meeting of the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies was hosted by the Black Studies Program at the University of Missouri—Columbia. The conference was held October 28-29, 2011 in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center on MU-Columbia’s campus. The conference theme was “The African Diaspora: Past, Present, and Future.” MAAAS warmly acknowledges and appreciates the support provided by MU’s Black Studies Program Director, Dr. Wilma King.

Many of MU’s Black Studies Program’s faculty, staff, and students participated in the conference. The conference was well attended with presenters from Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas. Highlights included a keynote address and town hall meeting.

The Keynote Address was presented by Dr. Tanya Golash-Boza, University of Kansas on her book Yo Soy Negro: Blackness in Peru. Dr. Golash-Boza has a joint appointment in Sociology and American Studies at the University of Kansas. Her areas of research include African-descended Peruvians, Latino and Latina identities, and human rights and immigration policy.

Dr. Stephanie Shonekan, University of Missouri-Columbia moderated the Town Hall Meeting on the topic “Bridging the black Atlantic: Exploring the Connections and Confusions amongst Black Folk.” A panel of MU-Columbia students, who represented several African countries and her Diaspora, provided in depth discussion and engaged an enthusiastic audience.

The Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award for 2011 was presented at the 17th Annual Meeting. Several stellar papers were submitted and reviewed by the Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award Committee. Dr. Glenn Adams, MAAAS Vice President, presented the award to Ms. Angellar Manguvo, graduate student, University of Missouri-Columbia. She was presented the award for her paper, “The Role of Volunteerism on Social Integration: A Case Study of Black African International Students at a Mid-Western University in the U.S.”
Regional Events in Africa & the Diaspora

University of Texas at Austin:

2013 Africa Conference
Theme: Social Movements, Religions, and Political Expressions in Africa
Dates: March 29-31, 2013
Venue: the University of Texas at Austin
Convener: Dr. Toyin Falola
Deadline for submitting proposals is November 30, 2012. Proposals should include:
1. A 250-word abstract and title
2. The author’s name (underline the last name)
3. Postal Address
4. Telephone Number
5. E-mail Address
6. Institutional Affiliation
Submit Abstracts to: ToyinFalola@mail.utexas.edu

University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign:
Summer Institute for the Languages of the Muslim World 2012
This Institute is hosted by the Department of Linguistics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in collaboration with the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Center for African Studies, CIBER, Center for Global Studies, European Union Center and REEEC.
For more information contact the SILMW Committee at:
Toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu
and
Ryan Groves:
rdgroves@mail.utexas.edu
Lady Jane Aquah:
ljane26@gmail.com

African Studies Association:

55th Annual Meeting: “Research Frontiers in the Study of Africa”
November 29 – December 1, 2012
Philadelphia Marriott
Downtown
Philadelphia, PA
Africanstudies.org

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SAVE THIS DATE:
MAAAS 2012
November 2 & 3, 2012
Hilton at the Ballpark Hotel
St Louis, MO

Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) is pleased to announce it is partnering with the Midwest International Studies Association (ISA) for its 2012 conference. This year’s conference is set for November 2 & 3, 2012. The venue is the Hilton at the Ballpark Hotel in St Louis, Missouri. This is the second time that MAAAS has partnered with ISA and we anticipate an exciting time as scholars from a range of disciplines and locations gather for MAAAS 18th Annual Meeting and Conference, This year’s theme is “Africa and Her Resources.” This theme may address “resources” from a range of perspectives, including, but not limited to the social sciences, natural and applied sciences, fine and performance arts, education, gender studies, language and literature. How has Africa’s resources contributed to her histories and the World’s history? How are these resources presented and utilized? What has their presence meant for Africa and her Diaspora?

Scholars from all disciplines are welcome to submit paper proposals to Dr. Glenn Adams, MAAAS Vice-President at adams@ku.edu.

Watch for the MAAAS Conference online application form at http://associations.missouristate.edu/maaas/default.htm

If your institution has an upcoming event, please send event information to Jamaine Abidogun at jamaineabidogun@missouristate.edu

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Department of Linguistics, 4080 Foreign Language Building 707 S Mathews Avenue, MC-168 Urbana, IL 61801 Phone: 217-333-3563 Fax: 217-244-8430 Email: deptling@illinois.edu

Regional Events in Africa & the Diaspora

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Dr. Garth Myers, Past President, recently accepted the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Formerly he was a professor in the Geography Department at the University of Kansas and the Director of KU’s Kansas African Studies Center.

Dr. Phia Salter, President, assistant professor, joint appointment in Africana Studies and Psychology, Texas A&M University. Her research combines her interests in culture, psychology, and social issues. Her work examines the relationship between collective memory, cultural constructions of identity, and the implications of these phenomena for perceiving systems of oppression, endorsing anti-racism policies, and motivating social action. She is developing a research project that examines cultural variation in relationship construction in Ghana and the consequences for giving and receive material and social support.

Dr. Glenn Adams, Vice President/President Elect, associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kansas. While in graduate school, he spent more than two years in Ghana pursuing African Studies training and conducting empirical research that provided the foundation for his dissertation on cultural-ecological foundations of relationship. He continues to build upon this foundation in his current research on neocolonialism in education and science. His interests include postcolonial studies and a sociocultural analysis of racism and oppression inspired by the theoretical perspective of liberation psychology.

Dr. Stephen Harmon, Treasurer, associate professor of history, Pittsburg State University. He earned his M.A and Ph.D. in History at UCLA, where he researched French colonial rule in Islamic West Africa. He has published recently on Democratization in Mali and on Islamic radicalism in North and West Africa.

Dr. Margaret Buckner, Secretary, professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Missouri State University. She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Paris X. She is particularly interested in African cultures, linguistics, ethnomusicology, and medical anthropology. During Summer 2011 she is faculty sponsor for a study away program in Ghana.

Dr. Nadia Brown, Member at Large, assistant professor, Political Science and African American Studies, St. Louis University. She has a recent publication, co-authored with Jane June, “What revolution? Incorporating intersectionality in women and politics” In Political Women and American Democracy, eds. Christina Wolbrecht, Karen Beckwith, and Lisa Baldez. New York: Cambridge University Press. She is currently working on a monograph, Black Women and Legislative Decision Making, which contends that a politician’s race and gender creates representational differences.

Paula Roper, Member at Large, reference librarian at Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia. Her subject specialties are Education and Black Studies. She is currently working on a comprehensive guide to the field of Black Studies to assist students and scholars alike.

Dr. Peter Ojiambo, Member at Large, assistant professor in African & African-American Studies, University of Kansas. He has several published articles and book chapters. One current project is an educational biography, “Called to Educate: The Story of Joseph Gikubu, Starehe Boys Centre and School and the Growth of Kenyan Youth Education.”

Z. Hall, Ph.D., J.D., Member at Large, independent scholar. Her specialties include: rhetorical criticism, public speaking, writing, Middle East, Arab World, Muslim World, North Africa, Maghreb, marketing, branding and identity.
Mid-America Alliance for African Studies

The Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS) is an organization for the promotion of African Studies in mid-America, including in particular the region between the Mississippi River and the frontal range of the Rocky Mountains. Founded at the University of Kansas in 1995, MAAAS seeks to encourage scholarship and teaching in African Studies regionally and sub-regionally through conferences, seminars, workshops, consortia, faculty and student exchanges, cooperative relations between libraries, and promotion of African language teaching, among other endeavors. MAAAS is open to all with an interest in scholarship and teaching within an African Studies focus, and it seeks especially to provide a forum for far-flung Africanists in the middle of the U.S., where great distances exist between relatively small pockets of African Studies enthusiasts.

Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Contest 2012

Ken Lohrentz was the Africana Bibliographer for the University of Kansas for twenty three years from 1984 to 2008. Ken received his PhD in history from Syracuse University in 1977. He has dedicated his work to the Africana Collections at KU – 78,000 volumes of African fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, maps, newspapers, and periodicals in various languages.

Ken was also one of the founding members of MAAAS. The Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award was established in 2007. The first award was presented at the 2007 MAAAS Conference held at the University of Kansas. All interested African Studies Graduate Students are encouraged to submit papers for the 2012 Ken Lohrentz Graduate Paper Award.

Guidelines for Graduate Paper Submission:

• Topic on Africa related to the conference theme, “Africa and Her Resources” from any academic field.
• Include your full name, contact information and your graduate program name on the title page.
• Faculty sponsor signature required. Your faculty sponsor’s signature should appear on the title page with his/her name typed below it along with your institution’s name and date.
• Papers may be no more than 30 pages, double spaced using size 10 or 12 font minimum.
• Conference attendance is mandatory to receive this award. Make certain you submit your registration form and payment.
• Awards include: one 1st place award of $100.00 and two honorable mention awards.

Winners announced at the 2012 MAAAS Conference. Check our website for further information.

Photo Source: Kansas African Studies Newsletter (Spring 2007)

Ken Lorentz, African Studies Librarian, Bibliographer, and Regional Librarian, University of Kansas