
PANDEMIC EDITION: 2019-2021 | A COMPREHENSIVE ISSUE

THE AFRICANIST

African Studies Institute Newsletter

CATCH UP WITH US

THE YEAR OF
CHANGE



Man wearing a face mask
Credit: Canva



African Studies Institute

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

From the Director's Desk

By Akinloye A. Ojo



And so it was, that the world shut down for nearly a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, when we were heading off for Spring break, there were already reports of a transmittable virus spreading widely around the world. Even then, it was nearly impossible to predict the subsequent pandemic and its damaging impacts on the World. The World literally came to a halt due to the Coronavirus and the restrictions to stop its spread. Instruction moved online and most activities of our institute were canceled or postponed. ASI is forever grateful to the faculty (Aderibigbe, Hovland, Maganda, Whitney, Ojo), graduate teaching assistants in both the institute and the African Language program (Akindipe, Sanu, Ajayi, and Kimario), staff (Jameelah Jones), and the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (Shamsuddeen Bello, Bukunmi Ogunsola, and Madina Mahat) of the institute who successfully dealt with the health crisis and worked hard to ensure that we completed offering our full slate of courses. Even after the resumption for Fall 2020, the pandemic was still raging and once again, the ASI team successfully managed the crisis with no cut in the number of AFST classes offered and all institute programming holding as scheduled. Of course, all activities of the institute moved online including the Fall lecture which was delivered by Dr. Alexander Fyfe, a teaching fellow at the University of Edinburgh, England. Dr. Fyfe was scheduled to join our institute and the department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies in Fall 2020 but his arrival was affected by the pandemic. He will be joining us in Fall 2021, which

incidentally will mark thirty-four years of African Studies programming on the University of Georgia campus.

As we look forward to this anniversary (and do our best to forget the pandemic-induced challenges of the thirty-third year), we send our best regards to all the core and affiliated faculty and staff members of the institute who have superbly supported the institute through these last two sessions. Service on committees has remained consistent, especially with the institute's curriculum committee. Thanks to this committee, the institute has been able to provide needed updates and reviews on our two academic programs undergoing review in the system. Even with online committee meetings and virtual core and affiliate faculty meetings (in Fall 2020), the business of the institute has proceeded excellently. We sincerely appreciate everyone affiliated with ASI. Notwithstanding the delays to the publication of the Africanist newsletter, we are devoting sections in this publication to recognize and acknowledge some of the awards, recognitions, and achievements of the affiliated faculty and staff. Our gratitude goes to the Franklin College for the administrative support, particularly Dr. Martin Kagel, the Franklin College Associate Dean charged with overseeing our institute. I will be ungrateful if I do not thank all the Deans, Directors, and Heads of colleges, departments, and other units on campus that have continued to support ASI. I am confident that we will continue to work harder together to raise the profile of our institute and provide increased learning opportunities about Africa for our students.

Spring 2021 has also been affected by the pandemic but the dedication and incredible resilience of the ASI team continues to amaze me, especially as we have continued to offer a full slate of AFST courses and programming. Our biweekly APERO Africana Brown bag lecture is back with a full slate of presentations along with the attached Africa Seminar course. Likewise, the Afrowood film series is back with the monthly screening of different African movies. These events continue to be held virtually and kudos to the program organizers, Bukunmi Ogunsola (for APERO) and Olumide Ajayi (for Afrowood).



With the support of affiliated students, faculty, staff, and administration, the institute was able to celebrate the academic achievements of associated students and faculty with the successful hosting of the Annual Spring Lecture events on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The events featured a Certificate in African Studies Recognition Ceremony and a virtual Annual Spring Lecture. At 2 pm, seven undergraduate students (Ryan Kendall, Camron Sohn, Sydney Thompson, Hope Dockweiler, Ebony Upshaw, Lidya Ghedamu, and Anna Sewell) who had completed the requirements for the Certificate in African Studies (CAS) were recognized and virtually presented their Certificates. Faculty associated with the program were also recognized. The 2021 Spring Lecture took place at 3:30 pm. The virtual public lecture was delivered by UGA alumnus, Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, Ghana's Nana Ofori Peko-Bekoe III, and President of Millersville University, Pennsylvania. The title of the lecture was "Rethinking Hierarchy: Perspective on Servant Leadership as a King and University President." It was quite exciting to see participants joining the webinar event from across the United States, Africa, and Europe. The Institute looks forward to a productive working relationship with Millersville University following Dr. Wubah's lecture.

The pandemic has drastically changed how we do our business but the African Studies Institute continues to adapt to all the changes including this delayed edition of the Africanist. Our two proposed academic programs (Major in African Studies and Graduate Certificate in African Studies) are undergoing curriculum reviews at various levels within the system. We continue to host the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants including two this year (Abu-Ubaida Sanni for Hausa and Elizabeth Mutunga for Swahili).

The University and our Institute have once again been awarded the Mandela Washington Fellowship (MWF) grant for 2021 from the U.S State Department. The program, which was suspended and partially moved online last summer is scheduled to hold virtually this summer. Our institute will be virtually hosting twenty-five Civic Engagement fellows from across Africa. Please look out for your invitation to join us in the virtual institute. More information on the program will be forthcoming. Finally, our congratulations to Dr. Dainess Maganda and the program in African Languages for the approval of the Minor in Swahili language and culture.

With the fast-tracked development of vaccines and the increasing number of vaccinated people, we look forward to resuming in full in the nearest future. Summer classes and events in the institute will continue to be online but Fall 2021 is already setting up to be a productive semester for ASI. We urge you to join us in ensuring the success of all our programs. Together, we must continue to build up our academic programs to offer increased opportunities to more undergraduates and to expand scholarly opportunities to graduate students and scholars at the University. We must also continue to focus on our goal of increasing faculty participation. Let me once again end this note by restating my now-familiar call for your continued and increased support in lifting the institute higher. Our institute and all of its activities are only sustained and grown by each individual's intellectual, physical, and financial contributions. We strongly urge you to make (or increase) your individual contributions to the growth of our African agenda at UGA. I hope you will enjoy the following pages of our brand new newsletter, the Africanist.

*Áfírikà á gbè wá o!

(Blessings from Africa to us all!)



African Studies Institute

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

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HIGHLIGHT REEL


The past academic year, ASI has hosted multiple events and had the honor of hosting some renowned African scholars

AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

SPRING 2021 LECTURE

TOPIC-RETHINKING HIERARCHY: PERSPECTIVES ON SERVANT LEADERSHIP AS A KING AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:30 PM
Location: Zoom




Speaker: Dr. Daniel Wubah (Professor of the Sciences) President, Millersville College Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Daniel A. Wubah is the 15th President of Millersville University. He came to Millersville with a distinguished record of service as a senior-level administrator at Washington and Lee University, Virginia Tech, University of Florida, and James Madison. He has been a dedicated professor, mentor, and scholar in microbiology and botany for over three decades. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the African Scientific Institute. Dr. Wubah is active in professional organizations and the community. He serves on several boards including the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health Board of Trustees, and the Governing Council of Academic City College, Ghana. Dr. Wubah received a B.Sc. (Honors) and Dip Ed from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, a M.S. from University of Akron, and a Ph.D. from University of Georgia.

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PRESENTS **2019 AFRICAN STUDIES SPRING LECTURE**



Niyi Osundare


Distinguished Professor of English
University of New Orleans

"The Dire in the Diaspora: African Relocations and the Perils of Displacement"

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Special Collections Library @ 3pm

"EVENING OF POETRY WITH NIYI OSUNDARE AND FRIENDS"
MARCH 4, 2019
7:30PM CINE, DOWNTOWN

Co-sponsored by:
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; Institute of Native American Studies; Willson Center for Humanities and Art; Institute for Women's Studies; Department of English; The Graduate School; Department of Romance Languages; Department of Language and Literacy Education; Creative Writing Program; Institute for African American Studies; Comparative Literature Department, and Multicultural Services and Programs.



Franklin Visiting Artist/Scholar

DR. AMA ADUONUM

UGA Residency March 1-5, 2020


AFRICAN DRUM & DANCE WORKSHOP
Monday, March 2 & Wednesday, March 4
11:15 am-12:05 pm | Rm 200

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK
Tuesday, March 3
11 am | Room 355

AFRICAN STUDIES SPRING LECTURE
Tuesday, March 3
3 pm - 5:30 pm | Ramsey Hall

MESA SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE
Thursday, March 5
12:30 pm | Edge Hall

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!
Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Institute of African Studies, African American Studies Institute, Department of Religion, Women's Studies Institute, UGA Department of Religion, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, History Department, Dr. Steven Valdez, Dr. Martha Thomas, Phil Smith, Musicology/Ethnomusicology Student Association



2020 ASI Fall Lecture Speaker

Dr. Alexander Fyfe

Teaching Fellow
University of Edinburgh
United Kingdom

2020 African Studies Institute Fall Lecture
Virtual event via zoom
Thursday, October 29, 2020 3:30pm
[Link Here](#)

"Humanism Beyond the Subject: Early African Prose Fiction and the Politics of the Human"

Alex Fyfe received his PhD in Comparative Literature and African Studies from Penn State. In broad terms, his research is concerned with the relations between politics and literary form in modern African literatures. His articles have appeared in *Research in African Literatures*, *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, *Interventions*, and elsewhere. In 2020 he edited a special issue of the journal *African Identities* entitled "Marxism and African Literatures: New Interventions." Alex will be joining African Studies Institute and the Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies in August 2021

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HIGHLIGHT REEL

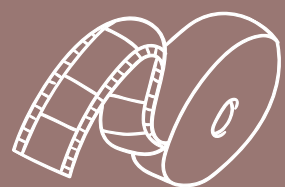
While we could not physically convene and take pictures at events, enjoy some highlights from 6th International Conference on Africa and Its Diaspora (2019)

A group of participants at the conference



David Olali, Ph.D. (Religion)
Critical Comparative Scriptures

Dr. Ademola O. Dasylva
Professor of African Literature, Oral
Poetics, and Performance



2019-20 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHING ASSISTANTS (FLTA)

- **Ms. Madina Mahat**
 - Kenya
 - African Studies Institute
- **Mr. Shamsuddeen Magaji**
 - Nigeria
 - African Studies Institute
- **Mr. Bukunmi Ogunsola**
 - Nigeria
 - African Studies
 - Current Ph.D. student- Department of World Languages

2020-21 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHING ASSISTANTS (FLTA)

- **Ms. Elizabeth Mutunga**
 - Kenya
 - African Studies Institute (Swahili)
- **Mr. Abu-Ubaida Sani**
 - Nigeria
 - African Studies Institute (Hausa)

2019-20 VISITING FULBRIGHT
SCHOLAR

- **Dr. Nouhr-Dine Akondo (Senior Lecturer, Université de Lome, Togo)**
 - Department of Theatre & Film Studies and African Studies Institute
 - Faculty Host: Dr. Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin, Department of Theatre & Film Studies

Apero Lectures & Afrowood Screening

Like many of the events following March 2020, our TA's continued to host Apero Lectures and Afrowood movie screenings but did so via Zoom. Here are a few highlights:

AFROWOOD FILMS PRESENTS
 Day: Wednesday November 18, 2020
 Time: 6-8PM
 Venue: MLC ROOM 147 (With 10 people limit) and via Zoom
 A brief discussion will proceed film

Host: Bukunmi Ogunsola
 African Studies Institute Graduate Assistant

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a Netflix film based on a true inspirational story about a boy, against all odds, who saves his village from famine through innovation.

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND



APER0
 AFRICAN BROWN BAG LECTURES
 TOPIC: The "When", "How", and "Where of Hausa Marital Rites

HOST: Abu-Ubaida Sani
 Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
 AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE


WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2021
 In person/Zoom @12:20pm |[Link Here](#)



Discussion about marital traditions within the culture of the Hausa, a vast ethnic group in Nigeria.




AFROWOOD FILMS PRESENTS Host: Olumide Ajayi
 ASI Graduate Assistant
 Day: February 22, 2021
 Time: 5:45-8:00
 Venue: Holmes-Hunter Academic Building Room 217(8 person capacity)/[Zoom](#)




DIFRET

Difret is based on a true story of a 14-year-old Ethiopian girl and a resolute lawyer involved in a clash between cultural traditions and their country's advancement of equal rights.


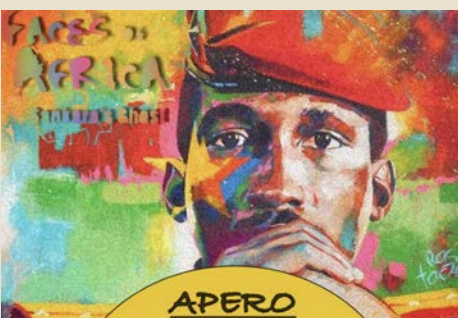


AFROWOOD FILMS PRESENTS Host: Olumide Ajayi
 ASI Graduate Assistant
 Day: March 15, 2021
 Time: 5:45-8:00
 Venue: Holmes-Hunter Academic Building Room 217(8 person capacity)/[Zoom](#)



CITATION
 A KULE AFOLAN FILM

The Citation movie highlights power play in educational establishments where whoever wields the most power has the stronger voice.

APER0
 AFRICAN BROWN BAG DOCUMENTARIES
 DOCUMENTARY: FACES OF AFRICA SANKARA'S GHOST
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
 Zoom @12:30pm
[https://zoom.us/j/926882440](#)

HOST: OLUMIDE AJAYI
 GRADUATE ASSISTANT
 AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF THOMAS SANKARA, A MAN WITH AN AMBITIOUS DESTINY FOR HIS COUNTRY, BURKINA FASO.

APER0
 AFRICAN BROWN BAG DOCUMENTARIES
 DOCUMENTARY: Innovate Africa - Science Africa


HOST: OLUMIDE AJAYI
 GRADUATE ASSISTANT
 AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE



INNOVATE AFRICA

WEDNESDAY, October 28, 2020
 Zoom @12:20pm

"Innovate Africa - Science Africa" dives into the technological advancements occurring in Africa from space development to finding new cures for diseases. This documentary focuses on a nation capable of great feats and the great African minds behind these innovations.



Recognitions

- **William Kisaalita (Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Engineering)**
 - Appointment as *University Professor*
- **Dr. Valentine Nzengung (Professor, Environmental Geochemistry)**
 - Featured in the *Georgia Groundbreakers* series
- **Dr. Alex Kojo Anderson (Professor, Nutrition)**
 - Finalist, UGA Ghana Service-Learning Study Away program 2020 PIEoneer Real Life Learning award
- **Dr. David Okech (Associate Professor, Social Work) and the UGA African Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES)**
 - Co-hosted the *Reduction Innovation Forum*
- **Prof. Rose Chepyator-Thomson (Professor, Kinesiology), Dr. Akinloye Ojo (Associate Professor, Comparative Literature & African Studies), Dr. Karim Traore (Associate Professor Emeritus, Comparative Literature & African Studies), and Katja Sonkeng (PhD. Candidate, Kinesiology)**
 - Publication of "Youth, Globalization, and Society in Africa and Its Diaspora"

Retirements and Departures

- **Dr. Jeremiah Saliki**
 - Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, and Director, Athens Diagnostic Lab
 - Service: 14 years and 8 months
- **Dr. Leara Rhodes, Associate Professor, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications-Journalism department,**
 - Service: 25 years, 10 months.
- **Dr. Kojo Mensa-Wilmot,**
 - Professor and Chair, Department of Cellular Biology, Appointed Dean, College of Science and Mathematics, Kennesaw State University beginning August 1, 2020
- **Dr. Amma Y. Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin**
 - Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Film Studies and Institute for African American Studies. Departure from UGA for personal reasons
- **Dr. Gabriel Ayoola**
 - Instructor, Department of Comparative Literature & Intercultural Studies and the African Studies Institute, Appointed Lecturer, Department of AfroAmerican and African Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



ASI PROGRAMS

**Certificate in African Studies
(Undergraduate)**

**Minor in African Studies
(Undergraduate)**

**Minor in African Languages
and Literatures
(Undergraduate)**

**Program in African Languages
Manding; Swahili; Yoruba**

**Model African Union
(Undergraduate and
Graduate)**

Service Learning Program

UGA Library (ASI contact)

**African Graduate Students Forum
(AGSF)**

African Students Union

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THANK YOU

*for being an invaluable member of the ASI
COMMUNITY!*

VISIT US

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