



NEWSLETTER

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Networks of Excellence

The communiqué signed this summer by the G8 leaders says the following in section 18b on Africa:

[We will work to help] develop skilled professionals for Africa's private and public sectors, through supporting networks of excellence between African's and other countries' institutions of higher education [HE] and centres of excellence in science and technology institutions.

'Centres of excellence in science and technology institutions' is a well understood category, but what of 'networks of excellence' between African HE and other country HE? What does that mean and how will it be achieved?

Regardless of disciplinary or subject area, a network is going to be doing some or all of the following: linking academics so that they get to know each other personally by means of email, visits, exchanges, meeting at conferences and workshops, in order to collaborate in exchanging research materials, sharing ideas, accessing archives and libraries, undertaking joint or linked research projects, accessing publication outlets and disseminating results.

There are already a large number of existing networks, often based in the North, some of which are narrowly discipline, or sub-discipline focused, and some of which are broad and interdisciplinary. All such networks are sustained by people who share a common subject interest and wish to interact with others in the field, but the base upon which such networks are built is the institutional and funding framework for the core academic activity of research and teaching. The existing institutional and funding framework is one which is 'project oriented'; individual academics, and increasingly groups of academics, put up a project to a funding agency – one of the Research Councils, their own university, a foreign foundation – to undertake a project in collaboration with colleagues in an African university. If it is successful then a link, of more or less duration, will be established between one or two departments in the North with one or two departments in African

universities. The project may be squarely in one academic discipline or, particularly if it is more issue-based, may be multidisciplinary.

One issue for the project funding applicants is always to find the managerial/administrative capacity to run the project over its limited duration: who will arrange the visits, send the books for the library, arrange the training programmes, and do the accounting, among a host of other things? Is it going to be the departmental secretary, or the university research office, or has the funding agency agreed to fund an administrator, or will it be the academic him or herself? Any notion of 'networks of excellence' is going to encounter the issue of how best to ensure the efficient management of the collaborations that the network is looking to establish.

The existing disposition of networks is a further issue that warrants some thought. The G8 communiqué is focused upon Africa, so what is the range of existing networks that will be relevant to this section of the communiqué? A world-wide network of ophthalmologists will have a portion of its membership working on issues to do with Africa, as will many other disciplinary networks ranging from development studies associations to geological scientists. And, of course, the issues for research and teaching in political science in an African university will be precisely as international, theoretical and disciplinary as in any Northern university. But insofar as the focus is upon the study of Africa itself, then specific disciplinary networks are complemented by a range of networks that are more regional and interdisciplinary. The network of the African Studies Association of the UK brings together academics from all over the UK working mostly in social sciences and the humanities, whereas the Society for Libyan Studies has a much more limited focus as its name indicates. While the ASAUK could additionally link up people working on Africa in the sciences, medicine, and technology, so far it has not done so. There will be a need in the coming days to consider how best to create appropriate networks at the UK end to engage with whatever process comes out of the G8 communiqué.

Such networks are broad associations of academics working right across the HE sector. There is another level of organisation within the framework of individual UK universities that has also been important in the establishment of the kind of collaborative research and teaching indicated above. There are a range of 'Centres' and 'Institutes' working within African studies broadly or within a disciplinary sector related to Africa, particularly the Centres of African Studies in London, Birmingham (West Africa), Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh, and the Centre for the Study of African Economies also in Oxford. A number of these are linked up into a European grouping of centres, AEGIS, which has been in existence for some 15 years, and which constitutes a real and functioning network at the European level. We may well be approaching the moment when a European Association of African Studies is required, working closely with AEGIS, or run by AEGIS, to which national associations could be affiliated, or

into which they could be incorporated if they so wished. This would create in Europe a network somewhat parallel to the African Studies Association in the United States.

Networks or institutions in the North will be involved in the post-G8 process to the extent to which African universities have articulated their requirements for such networking for 'renewing the African university', to quote the title of the document prepared by the Association of Commonwealth Universities and Association of African Universities. The necessary institutional and funding framework needs to be in place in partner African universities – time and resources to do research, to write and to attend conferences, staff development programmes, sustainable salaries, good libraries, access to IT resources, access to publishers for the dissemination of results, and cohorts of well-trained students – and these are the necessary infrastructure for the networking to which the communiqué refers. And again, in precisely the same way that such networks in the North will require administrative and managerial underpinning nationally or within individual universities, so also in African countries there will need to be local capacity to assist local and networked academics to undertake all the activities listed earlier, and no doubt more.

How can 'networks of excellence' be achieved? Within the UK, if vice-chancellors consider the degree to which their institutions can support collaboration with African universities, if research councils further strengthen their existing commitments to research and collaboration in and with Africa, if foundations continue to support the renewal of African universities, if student funding for study of Africa is uplifted, if a capacity is created to support and sustain collaboration, if individual academics commit themselves to collaborative work, and if the condition of universities improves rather than deteriorates in Africa and abroad then we can create living rather than dormant networks, excellence rather than mediocrity, and 'an environment where Africa's most capable citizens see a long-term future on the continent' (G8 communiqué, paragraph 16).

Graham Furniss, President, ASAUK

We stand at an historic moment for Africa's universities and institutions of higher education. Since the call in 1996 by Africa's Ministers of Finance for the World Bank to adopt a new approach to support for higher education in Africa, the leaders of Africa have repeatedly emphasised that without a renewal of the continent's universities there will be no sustainable development, the Millennium Development Goals will not be met, and the culture of democracy will not be entrenched. In November 2004, President Mbeki, in his ACU Distinguished Lecture on Universities and Development recognised that: "our entire continent remains at risk until the African University, in the context of a continental re-awakening, regains its soul". "It is clear", he went on, "that there is a crying need for a new compact between the African University and its society". Similar calls

had been made repeatedly by Presidents Mkapa, Obasanjo and Wade to place the intellectual and physical renewal of Africa's universities at the heart of the renewal programme for Africa's development. New investment in science and technology, in part through the creation and development of regional centres of excellence, are an integral part of that new programme. At the same time, there is recognition of the need to develop new curricula in areas central to the future of the continent, perhaps most obviously in the area of peace and security.

The report of the Commission for Africa, *Our Common Interest*, has provided dramatic impetus to the building of support for the call of Africa's leaders for a new approach to higher education. *Our Common Interest* not only embraced and significantly developed the intellectual arguments for the centrality for higher education for Africa's future but also called upon the international community to provide the US\$8 billion necessary to begin to implement the renewal programme. *Our Common Interest* also removed any lingering vestiges of intellectual legitimacy from the approach which has promoted investment in basic education at the expense of secondary and tertiary education. It demonstrated that the necessary goal of basic education for all will not be achieved without an holistic approach which focuses on the construction of a complementary and mutually reinforcing *system* of education. However, *Our Common Interest* went much further. For the first time in a major international report, higher education was made central to the whole development agenda, as, of course, it is central to the national agendas of governments in countries of the North. It placed higher education at the heart of all of its recommendations from new programmes to support agricultural development to programmes in support of the entrenchment of peace and security across the continent. Perhaps, above all, it emphasised that only with a renewed and reformed system of higher education would the new generation of African leaders, so vital to Africa's future, be produced.

But critically significant though the report is, it represents only one part of a much larger historical process. What is true of the Commission for Africa is equally true of the G8 Summit. It should be recognised that the Summit strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Commission for Africa both in higher education and more broadly, though its agenda was inevitably dramatically altered by the terrorist attacks in London. The G8 Summit was not, and should not be seen as, an end point in the process of building a new partnership with Africa and implementing the new programmes in support of African development.

The momentum provided by the Commission for Africa, the G8 Summit and the African Union has been maintained. The African Union and NEPAD are taking forward detailed consultations over the coming months with key partners and stakeholders in Africa and internationally. In the UK, government departments are taking forward discussions with key partners. Similar discussions are taking

place in the Commonwealth, in Europe and with international organisations. Most recently, six American Foundations – the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Ford, MacArthur, Rockefeller, William and Flora Hewitt and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundations – have announced a commitment of US\$200m in support of building capacity in African Universities in seven countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. In doing so they recognised in the words of Judith Rodin, the President of the Rockefeller Foundation, that “knowledge, innovation and talent are critical currencies needed to thrive in today's interconnected world, and Africa's universities are increasingly looked upon to generate the ideas and talent necessary to address Africa's challenges on Africa's terms.”

We may, therefore, be cautiously optimistic that in the coming decade we shall see the necessary investments and innovations that will allow Africa's institutions of higher learning to play their indispensable role in every aspect of Africa's development and to assume their rightful place in the global community of universities.

Dr John Rowett, Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and Professor Akilagapa Sawyerr, Secretary General, Association of African Universities (AAU)

Conferences Future...

UK

‘Child Headed Households Conference’, University of Coventry, 9 December 2005. Following a successful conference hosted by Coventry University's African Studies Centre in December 2004 on Child Headed Households, a follow up one-day conference will be held this December. The conference includes contributions from academics researching the issues of child headed households in countries which include Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia, and also practitioners in the field working with NGOs and similar agencies. Issues to be discussed will include defining Child Headed Households; the rights of children in such households; the difficulties encountered; needs (human, social and emotional), as well as programmes and assistance available (NGO and government). Details from Marion MacLellan: m.maclellan@coventry.ac.uk

‘Crossing Places: A One Day Conference for Graduate Students in African Studies’, University of Nottingham, 27 January 2006. The conference provides a forum in which postgraduates can present their research and meet other students in African Studies across the disciplines, with the aim of establishing a basis for future collaboration. The conference theme of crossing places will be interpreted very widely and papers could address, but are not limited to, the following: intersections; liminal spaces; immigration; diaspora; crossing between identities; cross-cultural experiences; gender crossing; racial passing; crossing between

languages; and borders, boundaries and margins. Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/french/postgraduate/conference.htm Abstracts by 25 November 2005 to Charlotte Baker: afxcab@nottingham.ac.uk or Zoë Norridge: zoe.norridge@soas.ac.uk

African Studies Association of the UK Biennial Conference, SOAS, University of London, 11-13 September 2006. The conference will consist of 48 panels in six parallel series. Each panel will last 90 minutes and will allow three paper-givers 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion each. This call is for people to convene panels around the conference's six parallel thematic areas:

Series A: history, politics, economics and urban studies – 'economic forces and political change: past and present'

Series B: environment, development and human rights – 'development intervention: experience and prospects'

Series C: natural and health sciences – 'challenges to human, animal and plant health'

Series D: anthropology and religious studies – 'dislocation, resilience and new social formations'

Series E: language, literature, film, and the visual arts – 'eclecticism, dynamism and innovation'

Series F: education, books, and late-breaking news – 'education, education, education!'

The ASAUK will consider proposals for panels outside these themes should the need arise. Requests for financial assistance to bring paper-givers from abroad will be considered in early 2006 when the Royal African Society has agreed its allocation of money to the ASAUK for the year. Convenors are invited to indicate the series in which they wish to convene a panel and to provide a preliminary title for the panel they will organise by 1 December 2005 and the names and titles of papers by 31 January 2006. Such information should be sent to the conference organisers: ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG or asauk@soas.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Health, Knowledge, and the Body/Politic in Africa and the African Diaspora', African Studies Association of America 2005 Annual Meeting, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC, USA, 17-20 November 2005. Website: www.africanstudies.org/asa_annualmeeting2005.html

'Climate-Society Interactions – Case Studies from Africa', Fourth Franco-British Seminar for Young Researchers, Paris, France, 9-12 January 2006. The seminar is designed for around 20 'young researchers' – final year Ph.D students, post-docs and recently appointed lecturers. Although the seminar is mainly for

UK, France and African researchers, applications from other European-based researchers will be considered. Conducted in English, the seminar's themes include: managing water resources variability; coastal, lake and wetland-based livelihood systems; socio-economic effects of floods and droughts; adapting to drought in the Sahel; and lessons for adaptation to future climate change. As far as possible, seminar costs will be met by the British Council. Informal enquiries to Declan Conway: d.conway@uea.ac.uk Applicants should write a short note explaining what they would get out of the seminar, a 2 page CV and an abstract up to 400 words describing research relevant to any of the above themes that could be presented. Applications by 4 November 2005 to Sandrine Mahieu: Sandrine.mahieu@britishcouncil.fr

'Re-examining the History Books: Uncovering and Discovering the Black Experience', Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAHRP) Third Annual Conference, Seattle, USA, 4 February 2006. Contact Ed Diaz: conferences@aaahrp.org Website: www.aaahrp.org

'Islam, Terrorism and African Development', University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, 10 February 2006. This conference discusses the challenges posed by terrorism to intra-African and trans-Atlantic relations. Abstracts by 1 November 2005 to Dr Oladosu Afis: afism3@yahoo.com

'Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Knowledge', Accra, Ghana, 14-18 March 2006. Abstracts by 1 November 2005 to J. William Danquah, President and CEO, Africa First LLC: info@africa-first.com Website: www.africa-first.com

'The Igbo and Its Diaspora: Interrogating Culture, History, and Identity', Howard University, Washington DC, USA, 31 March-1 April 2006. The 4th International Conference on Igbo Studies highlights the central role of culture in Igbo life, history and identity. In choosing this theme, it hopes to foster contributions that explore the concept of Igbo culture, history, and identity in varying and transforming ways. Issues include various disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, and the formation and transformation of Igbo culture and identities at individual, group, national, and transnational levels in Africa and the Diaspora. Abstracts by 30 November 2005 to Dr Chima J. Korieh: korieh@rowan.edu

'Images of African Peoples: Photography, History and Culture in Africa and the African Diaspora', Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, USA, 31 March-2 April 2006. This international conference explores topics such as photography and African and African Diaspora identity; photography as a tool for cultural expression and awareness; photographs as sources for historical reconstruction; gender and photography; photography, anthropologists and the black female body; photography, race, ethnicity and representation; social and

political uses of photographs; anti-colonial struggles and the civil rights movements; photographs as visual and cultural memories; African and African Diaspora images in films; photography, black femininity and masculinity; children as photographic subjects; and photography, environmental and ecological history. Abstracts by 30 November 2005 to Dr Onaiwu Ogbomo: cfowo@eiu.edu Website: www.eiu.edu/~afriamer/aadc2006

'Fifty Years After Independence: Sudan's Quest for Peace, Stability and Identity', Seventh International Sudan Studies Conference, Bergen, Norway, 6-8 April 2006. Organised by the SSA (Sudan Studies Association of America), SSSUK (Sudan Studies Society of the United Kingdom) and the University of Bergen, papers will address issues such as the role of women, environment, education, health services, AIDS, history, cultural diversity, Sudanese arts, Sudanese religions, Sudanese languages, and their interaction with peace and stability. Additionally papers relating to the role of the international community and NGOs in relation to the subject of the Conference are also welcome. The SSSUK is offering a limited number of grants to postgraduate students studying in the UK or Eire who are presenting a paper. Application forms and further details: www.sssuk.org Deadline for abstracts is supposed to be 30 September 2005, but any sent immediately after the issue of this newsletter will be considered. Abstracts to: abstracts@sudan2006.org or Professor Anders Bjorkelo, Historisk Institutt, HF-bygget, Sydnestpl. 7, 5007 Bergen, Norway. For other conference arrangements: www.sudan2006.org

'Fifty Years Beyond Bandung: The Linkages between Asia, Africa and the Diaspora', Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, 21-22 April 2006. The April 1955 Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia stands as one of the most significant international gatherings in recent history. More than two dozen sovereign nations used the occasion of the conference to address mutual concerns about self-determination, self-defence, world peace and cooperation, human rights, economic development and cultural diversity, among other topics, and the rest of the world was watching. The organisers invite papers or panels on the 1955 conference, its individual participants and other topics, especially those relating to the legacy of Bandung in the Americas. The list of related topics includes: African/Asian Independence Movements, Pan-Africanism, Pan-Asianism, Black Nationalism, the Civil Rights Movement, Cultural Nationalism, Social/Political History and Religion and Spirituality, the Black Power Movement, the Black Arts Movement, Post-Colonialism, Dialectical Humanism, Black/Asian Studies in the 21st Century, and Economic Empowerment and Community Health and Well-Being. Short abstracts and CV by 15 December 2005 to Dr. Regennia N. Williams: African.diaspora@csuohio.edu

'International Conference on a Development Strategy for the Horn of Africa', University of Texas at Arlington, USA, 28-30 April 2006. This conference features even thematic workshops: macro-economic development, agricultural

and rural development, infrastructure and water development, globalization and international development, healthcare system improvement strategy, women and social development, and environmental issues and sustainable development. Abstracts by 1 November 2005 to Dr Alusine Jalloh: jalloh@uta.edu

'Ethics and Africa', Cape Town, South Africa, 29-31 May 2006. Organised by the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University and the Philosophy Department, University of Cape Town, this is an interdisciplinary conference where scholars present work relevant to the peoples and political context of Africa. Abstracts by 15 December 2005 to Andrew I. Cohen: aicohen@gsu.edu

'Youth in Eastern Africa: Past and Present Perspectives', Nairobi, Kenya, late June 2006. Co-organised by the British Institute in Eastern Africa and the Institut Français de Recherche en Afrique (Nairobi), the conference invites submissions on youth in Eastern Africa, from Tanzania and the Great Lakes region north to Sudan and the Horn. This conference highlights a number of themes: defining youth, intergenerational and gender relations; demography and health; socialisation and control; the political economy of youth; marginalisation and violence; and culture and mentalities. The conference brings together a broad range of researchers and lobbyists with an interest in addressing the position of youth in Eastern African societies. Abstracts and brief CV by 23 December 2005 to Dr Andrew Burton: andrew.burton@africaonline.co.ke *or* by post to The British Institute in Eastern Africa, Box 30710, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya, *and/or* to Dr Hélène Charton-Bigot: ifra2@iconnect.co.ke *or* by post to IFRA, PO Box 58480, 0200 City Square, Nairobi, Kenya.

'Religion and Empire: The Biennial Conference of the Religious History Society', Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 4-6 July 2006. The conference invites papers dealing with all aspects of the relations between religion and empire in any period. It is envisaged that the papers will form the basis for a special issue of the *Journal of Religious History* and paper-givers are invited to send their articles to this journal for consideration subject to the usual refereeing processes. Short abstracts and CV by 31 December 2005 to Professor John Gascoigne: j.gascoigne@unsw.edu.au

'Rethinking Worlds of Labour: Southern African Labour History in International Context', University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 28-31 July 2006. Organised by the History Workshop and the Sociology of Work Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand, the conference has several aims: to foster transnational and regional studies of labour; to rethink the "givens" of South African and southern African labour historiography in light of international processes and linkages, with particular reference to the emergence of labour as a regional process and force and movement in southern Africa, the importance of imperial context and the international flow of ideas and workers,

and labour diasporas, and of comparisons with other regions; to promote develop comparative labour histories with reference to southern Africa, and to comparisons between southern Africa and other regions of the global "South"; and to introduce new approaches and debates within labour history more generally into the field of South African and southern African labour history. Paper/panel abstracts by 30 November 2005: history-workshop@social.wits.ac.za

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Daniel Branch (2005) 'Loyalism during the Mau Mau Rebellion in Kenya 1952-1960', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: David Anderson.

Philip Clark (2005) 'Justice without Lawyers: Gacaca Courts, Reconciliation and Justice in Post-genocide Rwanda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: David Anderson and Henry Shue.

Harold Richard John ["Jack"] Davies (2005) 'Contributions to an Understanding of the Geography of Drylands [Nigeria, Sudan and South Africa]', Ph.D thesis, University of Wales. Supervisors: Professor R. P. D. Walsh and Professor V. Robinson.

Starr Douglas (2004) 'Natural History, Settlement and Colonization: Henry Smeathman and Sierra Leone, c.1770-1808', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Felix Driver.

Ashlee Lenta (2005) 'Tribes of Phalo; Tribes of Nonibe: Political Community and Audience in the Poetry of David Manisi', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Graham Furniss.

Roy A. Maconachie (2004) 'Sustainability under Threat? Urban Pressure and Land Degradation in the Kano Close-settled Zone, Nigeria', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr David Robinson.

Anastasia Nlende Nzume (2005) 'The Anglo-French Border in Cameroon after 1916', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Richard Rathbone.

Lazarus Phiri (2005) 'Brethren in Christ Mission in Zambia, 1906-1978: A Historical Study of Western Missionary Leadership Patterns and the Emergence of Tonga Church Leaders', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh.

Neil A. Rankin (2005) 'The Determinants of Manufacturing Exports from Sub-Saharan Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Christopher S. Adam and Dr Francis Teal.

Mark Patrick Smith (2005) 'Northern Nigeria's Intellectual Elite, 1940-1970', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Richard Rathbone.

Edmund John Andrew Stanley (2004) 'France and Africa, 1944-1990', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Richard Rathbone.

John Stuart (2004) 'Race, Politics and Evangelization: The British Missionary Dilemma in Central and Southern Africa, 1946-1963', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Porter.

Barbara Louise Trudell (2005) 'The Power of the Local: Education Choices and Language Maintenance among the Bafut, Kom and Nso' Communities of North West Cameroon', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Kenneth King and Dr Hugh Trappes-Lomax.

Joel Dean Trudell (2005) 'Bible Translation and Social Literacies among Four Nso' Churches in Cameroon: An Ethnographic Study of Scripture Use', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisor: Professor David Kerr.

Jasmine Marie Waddell (2005) 'Social Citizenship and Social Security in Post-Apartheid South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Michael Noble.

A significant number of the above thesis titles came from the *Theses Register of Research in Commonwealth Studies* at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Students, supervisors and administrators are encouraged to submit information to the editor of the Register, Patricia Larby: commonwealth.register@sas.ac.uk

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

John Hargreaves (2005) *Adrian Adams in Koungani: A Memoir of Letters*. Banchory: Woodend Publishing. 32 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9551397-0-3. £5 or US\$10 (includes postage). Cheques payable to J. D. Hargreaves. Distributor: John Hargreaves, 22 Raemoir Road, Banchory, Kincardineshire, AB31 5UJ.

Ben Knighton (2005) *The Vitality of Karamojong Religion: Dying Tradition or Living Faith?* Aldershot: Ashgate. 366 pages. ISBN: 0-7546-0383-0; £55 (hardback).

David Simon (ed) (2006) *Fifty Key Thinkers on Development*. London/New York: Routledge. Published November 2005. £12.99: ISBN 0-415-33789-5 (paperback); £55.00; 0-415-33790-9 (hardback). This title in the Key Thinkers/Guides Series is the essential guide to the world's most influential development thinkers, surveying their lives and contributions to the contested terrain of development studies. Its coverage of thinkers cross a wide range of disciplines and perspectives from both North and South helps to challenge the pervasive dominance of Euro-American contributions in many development reference works.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Pravina King has retired as the University of Edinburgh's Centre of African Studies Administrator. Pravina is succeeded by Grace Owens, who previously worked in the Graduate School. Grace starts in mid-October and will be shared between the Centres of African and South Asian Studies.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Nomination for Distinguished Africanist Award

In 2000 the ASAUK Council instituted the Distinguished Africanist Award to recognise those whose work has with distinction promoted the cause of academic African Studies in the United Kingdom. The intention is to pay tribute to the African and UK scholars who have done so much to enhance and illuminate our understanding of Africa or who have strengthened links between African Studies here and Africa itself. Past recipients of the award are Basil Davidson, John Fage, Douglas Rimmer, Lionel Cliffe, Eldred and Marjorie Jones, Shula Marks, Roland Oliver and Terence Ranger.

The recipient will be given their award at the 2006 Biennial Conference at SOAS, London. Nominations must come from the membership. They should consist of a concise statement by the nominator, outlining why the nominee qualifies for the award, as well as a short and selective CV and publication list. Nominations by 31 March 2006 to Lindsay Allen, Secretary, The Royal African Society, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG; Fax 020 7898 4389; ras@soas.ac.uk

Nominations for Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer, 2006

The ASAUK is seeking nominations for the Mary Kingsley lecturer for next year. In 2006, the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be held in September, during the biennial ASAUK conference in London. The purpose of the lectureship award is to encourage and support young African scholars. The lecture is to be delivered by an African scholar at an African University. The candidate should be at the beginning of her/his career, and ideally not over 40 years of age; and the content of the lecture should be non-scientific, not-technical and on an African subject. The 2005 Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture was given by Dr Joyce Nyairo, a Kenyan expert in popular music and culture. In 2004, Nigerian political scientist Dr Charles Ukeje gave the lecture.

The allowances are fixed and include an economy return air fare to London, a prize of £500, accommodation and food expenses up to £500 and additionally – requiring receipts/proof of purchase, we give up to £250 for travel expenses to allow the lecturer to travel to other centres of African studies in the UK. If you have a colleague who would be a good candidate for the lecture next year, please

arrange for their CV and a short statement on the topic of their lecture to be sent by 30 November 2005 to: Lindsay Allen, Secretary, The Royal African Society, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG; Fax 020 7898 4389; ras@soas.ac.uk

Third Cadbury Fellows' Programme and Workshop, University of Birmingham

The Centre of West African Studies announces its third annual resident fellows' programme and workshop built around a current theme in African Studies. Two to three fellows will be appointed to participate in a two-month schedule of seminars and discussion groups, culminating in an Interdisciplinary Conference in May 2006, led by Tom McCaskie and Keith Shear. One aim of the Fellowship scheme is to assist new scholars to develop a research paper and bring it to publication, and it is expected that the conference papers will form the basis of an edited book or a special issue of a journal. The 2006 Theme is 'Social Aspirations and Personal Lives', investigating how local and global material and cultural markers of achievement and prestige intersect to shape the desires, life strategies and biographies of Africans. CWAS is particularly interested in case studies of communities and individuals for whom aspirations may be realised in domains and pursuits such as business, media (broadly defined), self-improvement, collecting and owning, design and creation, consumption, travel and emigration, and assuming new national/ethnic/racial identities.

Cadbury Fellowships are for young African scholars who have something to contribute to the theme, and whose research would benefit from a residential fellowship of up to ten weeks at the University of Birmingham. They should be in the early stages of their academic careers and based in an African institution. They should have a Ph.D or be close to completing one. Fellowships will cover return air-fare, accommodation and living costs for a period of up to ten weeks. In order to be considered for the 2006 fellowship, state how you learned about this programme, ensure you are available for up to ten weeks from late March to early June 2006, send a research project description of not more than 1,000 words on the theme, showing what research you have already done and what you would work on during the fellowship, as well as a short CV of up to 3 pages, including two referees. Full details of the programme and how to apply are available at: www.cwas.bham.ac.uk/staff/visiting.htm Applications by 1 December 2005 to Dr Keith Shear: k.s.shear@bham.ac.uk or Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

British Academy Visiting Fellowships 2006-07

The Fellowships promote international scholarship in the humanities and social sciences by enabling outstanding early-career scholars from overseas to undertake short periods of research in British institutions. Although any early-career applicant from outside the UK may apply under this scheme, it is the Academy's intention to give priority to candidates from countries where financial

resources to support visits to the UK are not readily available. Part of the funding is specifically allocated for candidates from Africa and part for those from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The scheme is open to application by any scholar from outside the UK who has obtained a Ph.D within the last five years, or who is of equivalent status. Application must be made in tandem with a UK-based academic sponsor whose home institution is willing to host the visit (UK institutions can apply to the Academy for the full economic cost of hosting the visiting scholar).

Fellows will be reimbursed for international travel and will receive a modest maintenance allowance (£1,500-1,700). Fellowships may be undertaken for two to four months. The closing date for applications is 15 December 2005, for visits to take place after 1 April 2006. Results of the competition will be announced in mid March. Application forms for both candidates and host institutions are available from the Academy's website: www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/visprof or International Relations, The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH; Tel 020 7969 5220; Fax 020 7969 5414; overseas@britac.ac.uk

Obituaries

Professor Martin Lynn was a member of the ASAUK Council from 1996 to 1999.

Professor Martin Lynn (31 August 1951-15 April 2005) has died aged 53. He was Professor of African History at Queen's University Belfast. Martin was born in Lagos, Nigeria, educated in England and met his wife Alice Clark at the School of Oriental and African Studies in 1973. It was through her that he came to Religious Society of Friends [Quakers]. They moved to Belfast in 1980 where they and later their two daughters Hannah and Megan became active in South Belfast Meeting. Martin was, in the parlance of his beloved cricket, 'a good all-rounder'. He was an elder, an inspiring study group leader, a welcoming doorkeeper but also undertook everyday chores in the Meeting.

In the 1980s he served on the Committee of the African Section of Quaker Peace Service, visiting Sudan to look at possible opportunities for service there. However, it was in his ministry and his many talks, stemming from his deep faith and wise counsel, that he gave such exceptional service to Irish Friends. In recent years he gave talks to many other Meetings during which his ability to draw together biblical faith and the deep roots of Quaker understanding was a challenge and inspiration in areas which so often can lead to division. All these qualities, joined with his skills as an historian, were evident when in 2004 he gave the Ireland Yearly Meeting Public lecture 'Children of Light' in Waterford. This celebrated the 350 years of Quakerism in Ireland and Martin was able to make Fox's message entirely relevant to the 21st century and the wide diversity of Friends in Ireland Yearly Meeting. Martin was a kind and humorous person

and his sudden and early death has left us challenged to listen to his teaching but also still at this time bereft.

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Martin Lynn obituary

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Professor Richard Gray, Emeritus Professor of African History at SOAS, University of London, died on 7 August 2005, aged 76. **Polly Hill**, economic anthropologist, formerly of the Universities of Ghana and Cambridge, died on 21 August 2005, aged 91. Full obituaries will appear in the next newsletter.

Apologies to readers of the July newsletter, as it was unfortunately delayed by the Oxford University Press and missed being inserted in the *African Affairs* on time

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 200-400 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK.

All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org **Deadline is 17 December 2005 (for January 2006 Newsletter), 15 March (for April), 15 June (for July) and 15 September (for October)**. Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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