

# **African Studies Program**

## **History**

Indiana University's African Studies Program (ASP) was formed in 1961 after the receipt of a developmental grant from the Ford Foundation. It has been led by J. Gus Liebenow (1961-71), Patrick O'Meara (1971-1993), Brian Winchester (1993-1995), York Bradshaw (1995-1999), Samuel Obeng (2007-2015), and John H. Hanson (1999-2007, 2015-present). It became an inaugural National Resource Center (NRC) for Africa under Title VI of the National Defense Education Act in 1965 and maintained NRC status continuously for 49 years until 2014. In 2018, ASP regained Title VI NRC status. The African Studies Program has continuously offered Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.

The Program has grown to cover all regions of the continent and to draw on faculty in the arts, humanities, and social sciences as well as ten professional schools, the Eskenazi Museum of Art and the Mathers Museum. Our faculty members are leaders in their fields, and our students have distinguished careers in academia, government service (in Africa and the United States), museums, development work, journalism, and many other professional fields engaging with Africans and the continent. The African collections in IU libraries and museums have been carefully developed over the years: in addition to the extensive Africana collections in the Wells Library, IU has archival collections, including the unrivaled Liberia and Somalia collections as well as the private papers of African literary figures such as Athol Fugard, Nadine Gordimer, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Internationally renowned are the African arts collection of the IU Eskenazi Museum of Art and the African recordings in the Archives of Traditional Music.

## **Vision Statement**

The ASP is committed to being one of the nation's leading programs for the interdisciplinary study of Africa by promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Africa and its people through:

- Innovative research on Africa and its global diasporas.
- Outstanding instruction in African languages and cultures.
- Promotion of the exchange of students, faculty, and materials between the U.S. and Africa in support of research, teaching, and learning experiences.
- Enhancement of the study of Africa in global perspective by building bridges with other area-studies programs, international centers, professional schools, and departments inside and outside IUB.
- Enrichment of the field of African Studies globally through institutional partnerships with African universities (see below for external affiliations).

- Engaging in collaborative activities with other universities and institutions to share resources, for example, through interactive teaching.
- Exposing students to life in Africa through classroom instruction, study abroad, and other activities.
- Promotion of the development of new resources and technologies for teaching and researching Africa, including podcasts, web sites, internet capabilities, interactive instruction (e.g., Zoom; video conferencing), film and print media, and library online services.
- Effective outreach activities to schools, colleges/universities, communities, and businesses.
- Promotion of cultural, artistic, musical, and other activities related to Africa that lead to personal, community, or institutional enrichment by supporting national and international exhibits, performances, and artists.

## Principal Programmatic Activities

- Friday Colloquium: weekly speaker series
- Public presentations by invited guest speakers in the Contemporary Africa graduate seminar (AFRI-A 731)
- Special guest lectures organized by ASP or in coordination with other units
- Special events (including short residencies by scholars and artists from Africa)
- Symposia and workshops on contemporary themes
- Editing the quarterly journal *Africa Today*, published by Indiana University Press
- K-16 language and cultural Outreach to schools, community colleges, businesses, and the community
- Partnerships for internationalizing Minority Serving Institutions (including HBCUs) and community college systems

## Principal Academic Activities

The Program offers African language courses and Africa-focused courses, including lower level non-language undergraduate courses taught by its language lecturers and undergraduate readings and required graduate research methods courses taught by the associate director. The director oversees graduate-level readings, research, and internship courses. The majority of African Studies classes are cross-listed courses offered by affiliated faculty in College departments and in professional schools. ASP organizes academic and career workshops and professional development seminars for students, is involved in the academic advising of our degree and non-degree students, and advises on internships, study abroad, fieldwork and funding opportunities to support pre-professional experiences and academic research for our

students. Opportunities providing professional experiences include the Managing Editor and editorial assistant intern positions with *Africa Today*, and the graduate instructor for *Contemporary Africa* (L232). ASP also provides support for the professionalization of graduate students through the annual Graduate Students of African Studies Conference. Further, ASP staff and lecturers participate in study-abroad orientations, mentoring, and serving as advisors to student groups such as *Books & Beyond*, Graduate Students in African Studies, Graduate Muslim Student Association, and the African Languages Club.

## **Degrees and Certificates offered; 2018 completions and fall 2018 enrollments**

### *Undergraduate Degrees:*

- Certificate in African Studies (0 conferred; 1 enrolled)
- Minor in African Studies (3 conferred; 1 enrolled)
- Minor in African Expressive Culture (0)
- Minor in African Languages (19 conferred; 12 enrolled)
- Major in International Studies with Africa concentration (22 conferred; 55 enrolled)
- Individualized Multi-disciplinary Major on an African topic or issue (0)

NB: difficult to track students who are early in the program and may be pursuing minors, majors, and certificates (we noticed a drop from last year, but our enrollments would not suggest such losses).

### *Graduate Degrees:*

- MA in African Studies (2 conferred; 1 enrolled)
- Dual MA in African Studies and Master of Library Science (MLS) (0 conferred; 1 enrolled)
- Joint MA in African Studies and Master of Public Affairs (MPA) (0 conferred; 1 enrolled)
- Dual MA in African Studies and Master of Public Health (MPH) (1 conferred; 1 withdrew)
- PhD Minor in African Studies (7 conferred; 23 enrolled)

## **Core Staff, including language faculty and student appointments**

### *Office:*

**Director**, John H. Hanson, Professor, Department of History: provides intellectual leadership to the program, develops planning documents, implements policies, and works collaboratively with stake-holders to move in strategic directions. Duties include: developing and submitting proposals for external and internal funding; working with faculty to organize symposia and to develop collaborative research projects; pursuing and fostering partnerships with universities abroad; sustaining and expanding relationships with stake-holders; representing the program within IU, nationally and internationally; serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Africa Today*; supervising

the program's administrative staff, NTT faculty and SAAs; serving as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), and leading the African Languages Program (with the assistance of the African Languages Coordinator).

**Associate Director**, Tavy D. Aherne, PhD: assists in administration, including program planning, implementation, grant writing, and reporting; serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) and coordinator of academic programming; Program's primary contact for visiting scholars; works with office staff in preparing and editing content for weekly bulletins, a webpage, an annual newsletter and other communications; oversees outreach activities; may direct Study Abroad programs; teaches required graduate methods course (AFRI-A 650), and undergraduate topics and readings/research courses; serves as an editor for *Africa Today*.

**Administrative Coordinator**, Marilyn Estep: performs duties of Graduate Secretary, Department Manager, Fiscal Officer Delegate, and Assistant to the Director; manages accounts; develops budgets in Elvira in Elvis; manages personnel records; schedules African Studies courses; supervises support staff; oversees graduate program affairs and records; assists in all grant application preparations; enters data into SIS and Title VI reports; prepares Title VI FLAS report budgets, and USDE report entry. Engages with FLAS awardees to make sure academic and contractual obligations are understood and met; coordinates summer study at other universities or overseas language programs. Supports orientation needs of new international students, including FLTAs. Acts as liaison/resource for all Title VI partners regarding financial and programmatic development queries. Provides essential institutional knowledge for African Studies administration and faculty.

**African Languages Coordinator**, Alwiya Omar, Clinical Professor of Linguistics: serves as African languages coordinator, supervising language instruction and the Associate Instructors; provides pedagogical training; teaches all levels of Swahili, especially Advanced Swahili and Advanced Individual Study of African Languages. Also collaborates with State University of Zanzibar teaching graduate linguistics courses in Kiswahili. Assists Associate Director with African language outreach programming.

**Student Services Specialist**, Wayne Parkinson: resource person for prospective and current students, faculty, and staff; maintains and updates student files, records, and databases; maintains and updates web pages and social media accounts; editor of weekly "Events" and "General Bulletin"; serves as Program photographer and creates all Program advertising for events, programs and courses; assists with annual ASP Newsletter; performs secretarial support services, as assigned.

#### *Language Lecturers:*

**Senior Lecturer**, David Adu-Amankwah, PhD: Teaches all levels of Akan/Twi language courses, as well as Occultism in Africa, Akan Social Life and Cultural Heritage, African Expressive Routines, and Akan Business and Tourism.

**Senior Lecturer**, Betty Dlamini, PhD: Teaches elementary and intermediate Zulu, as well as Gumboot Dance, Reed Dance, and Drama for Development. Participates in ASP outreach activities, as well as pedagogical and creative writing workshops for the *Books & Beyond* program in Rwanda.

**Senior Lecturer**, Amadou Beidy Sow, PhD: Teaches all levels of Bamana language courses, as well as Political Leadership in Africa and Women Political Leaders in Africa. Participates in ASP outreach activities.

*Other:*

**Senior Scientist/Scholar**, Antonia Schleicher: normally teaches one Africa-focused content course each semester (note: newly defined role as of fall 2017; Fall 2018 teaching SGIS course for NELC); and Director of the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC).

**Visiting Lecturer**, Mpolokeng Lesetla: teaches advanced Zulu and assists with other levels.

*Student Academic and Hourly Appointments:*

**Africa Today Managing Editor**, Cynthia Kanko (PhD student in French and Italian): processing submitted manuscripts; tracking reviewers; maintaining reviewer profiles; corresponding with authors and reviewers; processing manuscripts; managing *Africa Today* editorial office; and supervising undergraduate interns; supervised by Editor-in-Chief.

**Africa Today Intern** (hourly), TBA: assists Managing Editor of the ASP journal *Africa Today*; supervised by Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief.

**Associate Instructor**, Victor Alabi (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches intermediate and advanced Yoruba

**Associate Instructor**, Taiwo Ehineni (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches elementary Yoruba.

**Associate Instructor**, Jonathan Henriques (PhD student in Maurer School of Law): teaches AFRI-L232: "Contemporary Africa," required for undergraduate Minor and Certificate.

**Associate Instructor**, Susan Kavaya (PhD student in Public Health): teaches intermediate Swahili.

**Associate Instructor**, Cheikh Lo (PhD student in Folklore and Ethnomusicology): teaches elementary, intermediate and advanced Wolof.

**Associate Instructor**, Richard Nyamahanga (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches elementary Swahili.

**Course Assistant**, Mathew Ajibada (MA student in Linguistics): assists African Studies lecturers with grading assignments in AFRI culture classes.

**Data Collection and Communications Assistant** (hourly), TBA: collects data on student, faculty, alumni and outreach activities for Title VI reporting, impact and evaluation; assists in promotion of ASP activities; supervised by Student Services Specialist.

**Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant**, Ibrahim Odugbemi (non-degree seeking): assists with Yoruba language courses.

**Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant**, Barakaeli Mbise (non-degree seeking): assists with Swahili language courses.

**Kinyarwanda materials development/Outreach Kinyarwanda Language Instructor** (hourly), Simon Munyeneza (PhD student in LCLE, School of Education): develops language learning materials for proposed new language offerings in Kinyarwanda; development of Kinyarwanda for *Bridges* early language program; supervised by associate director.

**Outreach Assistant** (Graduate Assistant), Jennifer Lund (PhD student in School of Education): assists Associate Director with all Outreach activities; supervised by associate director.

**Outreach Swahili Language Instructor** (hourly), Margaret Mwingera (PhD student in School of Education): teaches Swahili language and culture in local elementary schools; supervised by African languages coordinator.

## **Affiliated Faculty**

In addition to four Non-Tenure Track faculty and one Professional Staff (with PhD) in the African Studies Program, the ASP has 84 faculty affiliates in 38 distinct College departments, the Eskenazi and Mathers Museums, and ten IU professional schools. ASP Affiliate Faculty teach 271 Africa-content courses (almost half are 100% Africa-content). Our courses include coverage of all regions of Africa, and reflect the broad country and regional expertise of our faculty.

## **Scholarships for Graduate Students**

- African Students Research Award – 2 annually for up to \$3,000 per awardee\*
- Graduate Student Travel Award – 3 annually for up to \$300 per awardee\*
- Carleton T. Hodge Award – 1 annually at \$500\*\*

\*funded with *Africa Today* royalties; \*\*funded by Patricia Hodge endowment

## **External Funds (2013-present)**

- Department of Education, Title VI National Resource Center, 2018-2022, \$1,027,303.00

- Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies grant, 2018-2022, \$1,032,000.00
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2018-2019, \$25,600
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2017-2018, \$25,600
- Indiana University Press, royalties for *Africa Today*, 2017-2018, \$9,798.19
- OVPIA/CAHI, support for ASP-Berlin conference, 2017, \$25,000
- Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies grant, 2014-2018, \$768,000.00
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2016-2017, \$25,600
- National Security Agency, STARTALK, Swahili Language and Culture, 2016, \$82,791.68
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2015-2016, \$25,600
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2014-2015, \$25,600
- Department of Education, Title VI National Resource Center, 2010-2014, \$2,691,060.00
- Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies grant, 2010-2014, \$1,470,000.00
- Fulbright FLTA Program, support for two FLTAs (Swahili; Yoruba), 2013-2014, \$25,600

## Awards

The ASP NTT faculty and staff received four awards during 2017-2018. Dr. Alwiya Omar received the 2018 NCOLCTL Walton Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Amadou Beidy Sow received the 2018 Indiana Trustees Teaching Award. Dr. Betty Dlamini was admitted to the Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching (FACET) as a 2018 Distinguished Member. Wayne Parkinson received the inaugural School of Global and International Studies Staff Award.

## Future Activities and Programs

The return to Title VI NRC status opens a wide range of activities in academic programming, faculty-student working groups, support for guest speakers in the ASP's graduate seminar on Contemporary Africa (AFRI-A 731), outreach activities, and other initiatives.

The ASP continues to develop non-Title VI initiatives. Some of these activities include:

The ASP's Emerging Areas of Research (EAR) application, "New Media and Global Africa," brought a group of ASP faculty members into productive conversation and set a new research direction. The Program's second EAR application did not receive funding, but Title VI NRC funding will support collaboration with visiting African artists and other working group activities for the near term. Hanson continues conversations with Vice Provost for Research Rick van Kooten and Vice President for International Affairs Hannah Buxbaum about funding a major conference at the IU Global Gateway in South Africa.



The ASP is a core partner in another Emerging Areas of Research application, “The Crisis of Religious Authority in Islam,” led by Islamic Studies Program Director Ron Sela. Hanson is taking the lead to organize a major conference on Africa at the IU Global Gateway in Germany in October 2019.

Hanson is continuing fruitful discussions with the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Bayreuth to expand joint African Studies initiatives in graduate education, conferences, and research. The IAS recently received a major, seven-year grant from the German Excellence Commission to support its African Studies activities and collaborations.

ASP has been collaborating with CLACS on a proposal to create an innovative digital learning tool that would engage K-12 communities in Indiana and beyond. ASP and CLACS applied for an IU Bicentennial grant; however, the project was deemed complex enough to warrant another funding mechanism. ASP and CLACS are in discussions with IDAH, IU Libraries, UITs and the Office of the Provost.

ASP’s African Languages Coordinator, Alwiya Omar, is finalizing the submission of a National Security Agency STARTALK federal grant proposal for the teaching of Swahili to middle and high school students, beginning Summer 2018.

The ASP continues to offer a Friday Colloquium series and supports the visits of other speakers, including those presenting in the graduate seminar on Contemporary Africa (AFRI-A 731).

The ASP has been in conversation with Callum Stewart, Associate Director of Development, SGIS, to identify and secure donors for ASP’s innovative educational initiatives.

## **External Affiliations (including advisors, partnerships, consortiums)**

*Memberships:* Association of African Studies Programs; African Language Materials Archive (ALMA); West African Research Association (WARA).

*Partnerships:* We have MOUs (memoranda of understanding) in Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, and Germany: Cairo University (Egypt); University of Ghana at Legon; University of Cape Coast (Ghana); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana); the University of Pretoria (South Africa), the University of Cape Town (South Africa), the University of Western Cape (South Africa), and the Institute of African Studies at the University of Bayreuth (Germany). A study abroad partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania continues, and we are exploring connections with the State University of Zanzibar. We also have a partnership with the University Cheikh Anta Diop’s School of Education.

*Collaborations/Consortiums:* We have long-term collaborations with other Title VI Africa NRCs focused on nation-wide Outreach initiatives, including teacher-trainings in the US and Africa. ASP also collaborates with, and supports, the consortia work of the Africana Librarians Group.