Logos designed by

Jason Benitez Union College and Jill Tominosky, Union College

HISTORY OF NYASA
The beginning of NYASA is inextricably linked with a whole series of events: the cold war; the independence of the countries of Africa; the civil rights movement in the U.S. and locally, the evolution of the SUNY System, the internationalization of the curricula at SUNY New Paltz, and the formation of the SUNY African Studies Faculty Association.

As we know, the 1950’s and 1960’s saw the height of the cold war. And beginning with the independence of the Sudan in 1956 and Ghana in 1957 it also was the era of the great unchaining of Africa from its colonial bondage.

In U.S. higher education, it was an era that saw the development of the concept of area studies, and the growth of African studies programs with Title VI funding. Fanned by the flames of the cold war and the realization by the American government and American scholars that a major continent was stirring that we knew little about, major African studies programs emerged at such universities as Northwestern University, UCLA, the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, and Boston University.

Meanwhile, in New York State there finally was the recognition of the need to augment the private universities through the development of a public university system that would help meet the needs of its people. The 1960’s saw a tremendous growth in public university education as young scholars in particular flocked to the SUNY system from all across the United States and elsewhere with new Ph.D.s in hand.

Leaders in New York State at that time also recognized the need to international their thinking. At the high school level it resulted in the infusion of information on Africa, Asian and Latin America. Hence, you had introduced into the 9th grade curricula a half year on Africa.

At the university level SUNY Central created ISWA, an International Studies and World Affairs unit within the administration, with modest funds to initiate and support SUNY faculty associations which included African studies. Thus, a conference of various units of the State University of New York was held on June 1, 1968, at SUNY New Paltz where the decision was made to form the State University of New York African Studies Faculty Association (SUNY-ASFA).

It was no accident that that meeting was held at SUNY New Paltz. During most of the 1950’s and 1960s the president of New Paltz was a man of unusual perception, Dr Haggerty, whose vision reached beyond the Europhile nature of American education to instruction that would encompass the world. Within the college library he established the World Study Center with its own special collection on French colonial history. And
for the college as a whole he instituted a requirement that every student, every student!, must take at least two courses within the fields of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. What evolved as a consequence was the largest undergraduate African studies program in the United States, which at its peak had 15 faculty from a wide diversity of disciplines. Paralleling New Paltz was Buffalo University with its graduate program in African studies.

I was among those drawn to New Paltz during that era, arriving in January of 1968 with my wife, Corinne, and family from research in South Africa and earlier in the Sudan. Almost in tandem with my interests, Corinne, an international relations major at the undergraduate level and a librarian, become the director of the World Studies Center at New Paltz in 1972.

But most of us in the SUNY system and at SUNY New Paltz who sought to broaden the horizons of our students were innocent of how quickly times could change. The commitment to area studies soon faltered at the state level, partly as a result of financial problems facing state government, and 1973 was the last year that the area studies faculty associations were funded.

That same year the executive of the SUNY African Studies Faculty Association (SUNY-ASFA), of which Corinne and I were a part, made two important decisions: (1) to cosponsor with Syracuse University the national ASA conference to be held at that university in early November of 1973, (2) to hold a special meeting at the conference to “sponsor the formation of a statewide African Studies organization.” The latter decision was partly in recognition of the growing financial exigencies within the SUNY system and partly a concern for greater cooperation among all teachers and scholars in New York State with an interest in Africa and the diaspora, whether at public or private institutions, and whether at the postsecondary or secondary level.

At the founding meeting of November 2, 1973, it was the consensus of those present that the New York African Studies Association should be created. Later that same evening the SUNY-ASFA executive met and made several decisions: to establish a NYASA newsletter, to develop a suitable logo for NYASA and the newsletter, and to seek representatives for the NYASA Steering Committee (later to be known as the NYASA Executive) to augment those currently on the SUNY-ASFA Executive.

The Chairperson of the first NYASA Steering Committee was S.J.S. Cookey, who was then chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies here at SUNY Binghamton. The first NYASA conference was held at SUNY New Paltz in 1974, organized by Corinne, Parbati Sircar, and myself, with considerable help from Abdul Nanji, a student at New
Paltz at the time. It was an exhilarating event with about 250 people in attendance. At that conference, the decision was made by the executive that Corinne and I should co-edit the NYASA Newsletter. The following year saw NYASA receive its nonprofit status through the efforts particularly of Tom Henriksen of SUNY Plattsburgh and Evie Rich of the African American Institute in New York City.

New Paltz’s special place in the evolution of NYASA, unfortunately, was short-lived. President Haggerty retired in 1967. For a time all went well, but with student protests affecting colleges and universities nationwide, including New Paltz, the administration made the decision in the early 1970’s to do away with most required courses, including those on Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Enrollments in area studies plummeted and in the face of serious financial constraints, the college administration at New Paltz in 1976 dissolved the African Studies and Asian Studies departments and the Latin American Studies program. All but the most senior of the faculty were retrenched. As a junior faculty member I left to become an administrator at SUNY Central. In 1978 a further decision was made to dissolve the World Studies Center within the college library.

Fortunately, with the support of the major private institutions and the growth of African and African American programs elsewhere in the SUNY system, NYASA has survived and prospered while other regional organizations have failed. Our conferences have criss-crossed the state from St. Johns University on Long Island to RIT in western New York, to SUNY Plattsburgh in northern New York. We have held joint conferences, regular conferences, and mini-conferences with sites as diverse as Adirondack Community College, Cornell University, and the Mohonk Mountain House in the Shawangunk Mountains. Our leadership has been drawn from a great diversity of institutions, even from out of state.

It’s been 36 years since NYASA held it’s first conference and 35 since we achieved our nonprofit status and we’re still going strong!

Tom Nyquist

March 27, 2010

NYASA Founders

Percival Fatola Borde S.J.S. Cookey Lazarus Ekwueme
Rawley Farley Joseph Harris Thomas Henriksen
J. Congress Mbata Kodwo Mensah-Brown Abdul Gulu Nanji
Corinne Nyquist  Thomas Nyquist  Evelyn Jones Rich.
Warren Weinstein  Claude Welch, Jr.

NYASA

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Cheryl Sterling, City University of New York City College

PAST PRESIDENT
Mecke Nagel, SUNY College at Cortland

VICE PRESIDENT
Abdul Gulu Nanji, Columbia University

SECRETARY
Connie Anderson, Hartwick College

TREASURER
Jerry Persaud, SUNY College at New Paltz

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Seifudein Adem, Binghamton University
Kevin Hickey, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Cheikh Ndiaye, Union College
Sybille Ngo Nyeck, Clarkson University
Jean Richard Severin, Union Institute & University
Locksley Edmondson, Africana Studies & Research Center Cornell Univ.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAIRS
Kevin Hickey, Albany College Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Cheikh M. Ndiaye, Union College
NYASA NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS
Dr. Roger Gocking "Emeritus" Mercy College
Dr. Thomas E. Nyquist, Nyquist Foundation

SECRETARIAT
Corinne Nyquist, SUNY College at New Paltz
Jerry Persaud, SUNY College at New Paltz

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Kwame Akonor, Seton Hall University
Seth Asumah, SUNY College at Cortland
John Marah, SUNY College at Brockport
Mecke Nagel, SUNY College at Cortland
Abdul Nanji, Columbia University
Samuel Osei-Afriye, SUNY College at Oneonta
Jerry Persaud, SUNY College at New Paltz
Cheryl Sterling, CUNY City College

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES
Dziffa Ametam, CUNY Lehman
Rachelann Copland, SUNY College at Cortland

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Dr. Kevin Hickey, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Dr. Cheikh M. Ndiaye, Union College
Dr. Deidre Butler, Union College
Dr. Peter Halewood, Albany Law School
Dear NYASA 2015 Participants:

The Organizing Committee of the 2015 New York African Studies Association conference welcomes you all to the capital region of New York State. It has been an honor for us to co-organize this special conference that marks the 40th NYASA conference. We would like to thank all students, colleagues, staff members, and the leaders of our three institutions - Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Union College, and Albany Law School – for their amazing support.

We look forward to an exciting conference at both personal and intellectual levels.

Dear Participants:

Welcome to the 40th annual NYASA conference. This is indeed a historic event in having three institutions simultaneously hosting the conference, Albany College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences (ACPHS), Albany Law School, both in Albany, New York, and Union College, Schenectady, New York. I would like to extend our thanks to the President of each of the institutions who have graciously agreed to host us - Gregory Dewey of ACPHS, Penelope Andrews of Albany Law School, and Stephen Ainlay of Union College. Our appreciation also goes out to conference conveners Dr. Kevin Hickey and Dr. Cheikh Ndiaye, and their co-conveners, Dr. Deidre Butler and Dr. Peter Halewood. This conference promises to be one of the best that NYASA has hosted and to that effect, our Distinguished Africanist and Keynote Speaker is one of the leading human rights advocates, the renowned Dr. Makau Mutua from the Law School, University at Buffalo.

We are planning for the future and we have tentatively schedule the 2016 NYASA Conference at Columbia University in New York, in collaboration with The City College, CUNY, under the theme Music and the Arts of the African World.

I would like to dedicate this conference to Professor Ali A. Mazrui. In his passing, we have lost a great intellectual, statesman, mentor, and friend of NYASA and our closing plenary will be a memorial to his life and contributions.

With this, I would like to say Karibu, Akwaaba, É Káabbo, Ak Si Leen Ci Jam!!

NYASA President Dr. Cheryl Sterling
conference and are excited to share what promises to be a remarkable experience with you.

Stephen C. Ainlay, Ph.D.  Penny Andrews, LL.M., LL.B.  Gregory Dewey, Ph.D.
President        President            President
Union College       Albany Law School   Albany College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

CONFERENCE SITE on FRIDAY APRIL 3rd at UNION COLLEGE (College Park)

9:00 AM-5:00 PM    Registration at College Park Building, Union College

9:00 AM-9:50 AM    NYASA E-Board meeting
                   College Park Building, Servery Room

10:00 AM-10:50 AM  NYASA Business Meeting including
                   Elections for NYASA Executive Board 2015-2016
                   College Park Building, C 107 (Ballroom)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM  Panel Session I
Session I Panel A: **Roundtable: The State of Africana Studies in City University of New York, State University of New York, and Private Colleges and Universities in New York State**

**Room Aime Cesaire, C107 (Ballroom)**

Chair: Jerry Persaud, State University of New York, College at New Paltz, Chair, Media and Communications Department

Deidre Hill Butler, Union College, Africana Studies Program Director

Cheryl Sterling, City University of New York, City College, Chair, Black Studies

Kwame Akonor, Seton Hall University, Political Science Department and Africana Center Director

Jerry Persaud, State University of New York New, College at New Paltz, Chair, Media and Communications Department

Abdul Nanji, Columbia University, Middle East, South Asia, African Studies Department

Kathleen O’Mara, State University of New York, College at Oneonta, Africana & Latino Studies and History Departments

Session I Panel B: **Union College Roundtable on Students Leadership**

**Room Maya Angelou, M101 (2nd floor)**

Chair: Kenneth Aslakson, Union College

Bisiayo Fashemi, Union College, African Students Association

Natasha Scott, Union College, Black Students Union Co-President

Victor Murphy, Union College, African Latin American Student Association Co-President

Kim Ferguson, Union College, Black Students Union Co-President
Adrian Morgan, Union College, African Students Association

Session I Panel C: Performing Art and Africa

Room Ali Mazrui, M102 (2nd floor)

Chair: Lorraine Cox, Union College


“The Community, Our Strength.” spoken word and interactive presentation on community restoration. Darian Gooden. Agnes Pala Bukhala. Independent scholars

*A song by Ugandan artist Halima Namakula, Zimba Youth Africa. Makerere University, Uganda

Session I Panel D: Media and Africa

Room Chinua Achebe, M107 (2nd floor)

Chair: William Garcia, Union College, New York


“From Street Sentiments to Online Sentiments: Ethnic Forums on Social Media Platforms during Election Campaigns in Kenya.” Joyce Omwoha Technical University of Kenya, and Anne Cheboi.
Session I Panel E: Students Global Awareness: Union College Mini Term Programs

Room Mariama Ba, C108 (Ballroom)

Chair: Melinda Lawson, Union College

“Civil Rights Union College Mini Term,” Dioni Daley.
“Egypt Union College Mini Term,” Stephanie Delorenzo.
“Senegal Union College Mini Term,” Erika Steuer.
“Senegal Union College Mini Term” Rachel Refkin.
“Senegal Union College Mini Term” Mike Presendieu

12:30 - 2:00 PM Conference Opening Plenary Session: Welcoming Remarks and Introductions
College Park Ballroom, Union College

Chair Cheikh Ndiaye

1:00pm - 1:20pm: Cheryl Sterling NYASA President
Kevin Hickey Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Conference Chair
Cheikh Ndiaye Union College, Conference Chair
Deidre Butler Union College, Conference Co-Chair
Stephen Ainlay Union College, President
Penny Andrews Albany Law School, Preside
Peter Halewood Albany Law School, Conference Co-Chair
Bisiayo Fashemi African Student Association Union

1:20pm - 1:50pm: Keynote Address “Is the Age of Human Rights Over?” by Professor Makau W. Mutua, State University of New York Distinguished Professor and Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar, University at Buffalo

1:50pm - 2:00pm Q and A

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM Panel Session II
Session II Panel A: Gender Identities and Ethnic Identities in Africa

Room Aime Cesaire, C107 (Ballroom)

Chair: Connie Anderson, Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY

“Gender and Ethnicity in Nigeria: Post-Colonial Societal Constructs on Culture and Class.” Remi Alapo, University of Phoenix, Arizona

“The Impact of Religion on African Society: Senegambia.” Momodou Bah, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar/Senegal

“The State, Culture, and the Crisis of Governance in Africa.” Mojibayo Fadakinte, University of Lagos, Nigeria

“To Choose a Tribe or Not: Identity Choice in Gaborone, Botswana and Harare, Zimbabwe.” Phyllis Puffer. Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Kentucky

Session II Panel B: Sustainable Development in Africa: Challenges and Prospects

Room Mariama Ba, C108 (Ballroom)

Chair: Kwame Akonor, Seton Hall University, Political Science and Africana Center Director


“Sustainable Solutions for Development of Rural Areas in West Africa: Benin Case Study.” Flavia Vaccher, Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia, Italy


Session II Panel C: City University of New York, City College Students Panel

Room Ali Mazrui, M102 (2nd floor)

Chair: Cheryl Sterling

“From Baldwin’s ‘Dark Room’ to Mabanckou’s Black Bazaar: Redefining the African Diaspora.” Imani Cooper, City College, New York City.

“Madness: A Form of Suppression.” Orubba Almansouri, City College, New York City.

"Processes of Feminism Approach a Decolonized Mentality in Julia Alvarez’s How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents.” Sophia Monegro, City College, New York City.

“The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao: Junot Diaz Towards a Creole Aesthetic.” Wendylinz Martinez, City College, New York City.

Session II Panel D: Union College Student Research Panel

Room Chinua Achebe, M107 (2nd floor)

Chair: Claire Mouflard, Union College


Session II Panel E: Education and the African Diaspora

Room Maya Angelou, M101 (2nd floor)

Chair: Daniel Mosquera, Union College, New York.
“The Myth of the Academic Achievement Gap.” Janice Mwapaga, New York State Education Department.


"Interrupting and De-Colonizing Education Pedagogy: Introducing Indigenous Perspectives on 'Child Development' to Pre-service Teachers.” Deborah LaFond, University at Albany, New York.

3:30 PM- 3:55 PM       Coffee and Refreshment Break

4:00 PM- 5:15 PM       Panel Session III

Session III Panel A:     Natural Resources and Politics in Africa

Room Aime Cesaire, C107 (Ballroom)

Chair: Tom Nyquist, The Nyquist Foundation, New Paltz, New York


“Why is it taking so long? Solving the oil extraction equation in Uganda.” Andrzej Polus and Wojciech Tycholiz, University of Wroclaw, Poland.


Session III Panel B:     Gender and Sexuality in Africa

Room Chinua Achebe, M107 (2nd floor)
Chair: Deidra Butler, Union College

“Unpacking the lingering gaze of patriarchy: Educating the Girl-Child in Nigeria.” Joan Osa Oviawe, Cornell University, New York


“Sexualities in West Africa: Queering Regions” Kathleen O’Mara, State University of New York, College at Oneonta.

**Session III Panel C: African Identities**

**Room Maya Angelou, M101 (2nd floor)**

Chair: Jeff Witsoe, Union College


**Session III Panel D: Union Students Senior Research Projects**

**Room W.E. Du Bois, M103 (2nd floor)**

Chair: Robyn Reed, Union College


**Session III Panel E: Global Ali Mazrui**

**Room Ali Mazrui, M102 (2nd floor)**

Chair: Seifudein Adem, Binghamton University, New York


**Session III Panel F: African Teachers in Residence at College of St Rose Discuss Teaching in Africa.**

**Room Mariama Ba, C108 (Ballroom)**

Chair: Abdul Nanji, Columbia University

Thomas Udimal             Saboba, Ghana
Adeline Nyabu             Tamale, Ghana
Simon Akena               Gulu, Uganda
Dick Arimumikonooye       Kabale, Uganda
Salah Ben Hammou          Beni Mellal, Morocco
Mohamed Belbacha          Taourirt, Morocco

5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Africa Visual ART and Reception at Nott Memorial

Live Painting by Ugandan artist Roland Tibirusya with Grace Nakabugo and Drucilla Mbabazi
Photos exhibit from Africa by Union College students:

**Beyond What You See: UNION in Africa**

In conjunction with the 40th annual New York African Studies Association (NYASA) Conference, the Wikoff Student Gallery holds an exhibition of photography by Union students and alumni who have participated in term abroad programs and Minerva Fellowships in Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda. This exhibition seeks to highlight students’ experiences in Africa that promote global awareness, beyond a touristic eye. The photographs depict unique experiences in Africa for students’ personal and intellectual growth. Evident in many of the students’ descriptions is the desire to hold onto what they have learned as they move into their careers and roles in the future.

Student Photographers: Dylan Cline (‘16), Alexis Deeb (‘12), Stephanie Delorenzo (‘16), Sam Hunter, Rachel Refkin (‘15), Anabel Reyes (‘16) and Adam Stolz (‘15).

**LIVE MUSIC on April 3rd from 9:30PM-1PM**

Jermaine Wells, Coordinator for Learning Environments Services & Special Events/Conferences, Union College, has a band and will be playing at the Centre Pub (walking distance from conference site) on April 3rd from 9:30PM-1PM. So music from our own Jermaine and dinner at the Centre Pub (308 Union Street. Schenectady, NY 12308). To know about Jermaine and his band, please visit:

www.illfunk.com  www.jermainewells.com

**Rob KING, Head of ESPN SPORT CENTER** speaks at Union College on Thursday, April 2nd, 2015 at 5:30Pm in the Nott

**If you’re staying at a hotel in Schenectady on Friday April 3rd, please see below pick up time on Saturday April 4th for drop off in Albany:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pick Up Time</th>
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| Saturday April 4 | 7AM  | Stockade Inn  
1 North Church St.  
Schenectady, NY  
12305  
Tel. 518 346-3400 | Albany Law School  
80 New Scotland  
Ave, Albany, NY  
12208  
Tel. (518) 445-2311 |
|-----------------|------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday April 4 | 7:15AM | Hampton Inn  
(Main Entrance on  
State Street)  
450 State Street  
Schenectady, NY  
12305  
Tel. 518 377-4500 | Albany Law School  
80 New Scotland  
Ave, Albany, NY  
12208  
Tel. (518) 445-2311 |
| Saturday April 4 | 7:15AM | Parker Inn  
(Main Entrance on  
State Street)  
434 State Street  
Schenectady, NY  
12305  
Tel. 518 688-1001 | Albany Law School  
80 New Scotland  
Ave, Albany, NY  
12208  
Tel. (518) 445-2311 |

CONFERENCE SITE on SATURDAY APRIL 4th at ALBANY LAW SCHOOL (1928 Building) and ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

7:00 AM: Participants depart from hotels in Schenectady to go to Albany Law School, 80 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208

8:00 AM-1:00 PM  
Registration--1928 Building (Main Building) in East Foyer  
Albany Law School
8:00 AM - 8:55 AM    Continental breakfast at Albany Law School (1928 Building)

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM    Panel Session IV

Session IV Panel A    Dynamics of Identity and the Practice of African Diaspora

Room 200

Chair: Dahouda Kanate, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, New York.


“(Re) writing Identity: Devoir de Mémoire envers Ahmadou Bamba.” Cheikh M. Ndiaye, Union College, New York.


Session IV Panel B    Coming to America: Borders and Identity

Room E116

Chair: Sarah Rogerson, Albany Law School

“Rethinking the African Immigrant Experience in North America: Some Preliminary Insights from the Ghanaian Community.” Thomas Owusu, William Paterson University, New Jersey.


Session IV Panel C       Africa: Education and Business in a Globalized World

Room E115

Chair: Jerry Persaud, State University of New York, College at New Paltz, Chair, Media and Communications Department

“Bridging the Higher Education –Industry Divide in Africa.” Nuha Mwesigwa, Makerere University, Uganda.

“Africanizing Education and Developing the Continent: Culture, Human Capital, and the Education of Women in Ghana.” Adeline Nyabu, University of Education Winneba, Ghana.

“Africa and the Consequences of Business as Usual.” Kelly Ndubuka, Independent Scholar, New York, NY.

A Review Of The Confusion In The Early Benin-Edo Translations Of The Words “History” And “Proverbs” by Jacob Egharevba and Other Early Benin Writers.” Uyilawa Usuanlele, State University of New York College at Oswego.

Session IV Panel D       Pan African, Global Africa

Room E117

Chair: Kwame Akonor, Seton Hall University, Political Science Department and Africana Center Director


“Osiris Rising Revisited.” Tsegaye Wodajo, City University of New York, Bronx Community College, New York.

Session IV Panel E       Africa and Approaches to Justice
Room: East Wing Classroom

Chair: S. N. Nyeck, Clarkson University

“Leadership and Death: Martyrdom in Call Me Kuchu and God Loves Uganda.” Matthew Durkin, Duquesne University, Pennsylvania.

“African Child-Soldier Narratives Rhetorical strategies as Human Rights Discourse in Novels and Memoirs.” Parfait Kouacou, Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York.

“From the United States to Ghana: What is The Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Access to Justice?” Phyllis Williams Kotey, Florida International University, Florida.

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM   Panel Session V

Session V Panel A       African Diaspora: Identity in a Globalized World

Room 200

Chair: Jean-Francois Briere, Emeritus University at Albany


“Globalization, Knowledge Transfer, and Remittance Flows.” Assefaw Bariagaber, Seton Hall University, New Jersey.


Session V Panel B       Culture and Health in Africa

Room E115

Chair: Ray W. Chandrasekara, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences


**Session V Panel C: African Migration: Survival and Resilience**

**Room: East Wing Classroom**

Chair: Betty Wambui, SUNY College at Oneonta

“Resilience in the Face of Adversity: African Immigrants and the American Shock!” Adeyinka M. Akinsulure-Smith, City University of New York, Graduate Center.

“We Are Refugees”: Analyzing Experiences of Eritrean Transnational Migrants.” Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo and Adiam Zerisenai, State University of New York, College at Cortland.

“Does the Survival of People in the Diaspora Depend on their Characteristics and Integration Strategies or External Variables at Place of Destination?” Owino Ndede, East African Community Organization.

**Session V Panel D African Nations and Laws**

**Room E116**

Chair: Peter Halewood, Albany Law School


“Regime Type, Human Rights Violation and Conflict Escalation in the Niger Delta of Nigeria.” Nathaniel Umukoro, Delta State University, Nigeria.


Session V Panel E  ____Conflict Resolution and Human Rights: Africa and its Diaspora

Room E117

Chair: Daniel d’Oney, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“The Underground Railroad in Western New York.” Michael Boston, State University of New York, College at Brockport.


Session V Panel F  ____Children and Africa

Room 209: Rochester Moot Court Room

Chair: Eloise Briere, Emeritus, University at Albany, New York

“Structural Adjustment And Children’s Health In Zimbabwe.” Ryan Peters, State University of New York, College at Oswego

“Child Soldiers In Africa: Recruitment, Growth And Effects.” Sonia Agokeng, State University of New York, College at Oswego

11:45 AM - 12:10 PM Coffee Break at Albany Law School

12:15 PM- 1:30PM Panel Session VI

Session VI Panel A African Identity and Black Experience

Room: East Wing Classroom

Chair: Kenneth Blume, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, New York

“Rethinking African-centeredness in Teaching the African Experience.” David Agum, University at Albany.

“The Talented Tenth Searches for its Place in the Atlantic World: The ‘Black Niagara’ Confronts the ‘White Problem.’” Kenneth Blume, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, New York.

“Roxane Gay’s *Untamed State*: The Liminality of Haiti's Trauma.” Rachelann Lopp Copland, State University of New York, College at Cortland, New York.

Session VI Panel B African Identities in the Western Tradition

Room E115

Chair: John Karefah Marah, State University of New York, College at Brockport

“Views on Africa and Africans in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*.” John Karefah Marah, State University of New York, College at Brockport.


Session VI Panel C  Justice and Gender in Africa and Beyond

Room E116

Chair  Donna Young, Albany Law School

“Laws And Marriages Among The Konkomba Of Northern Ghana.” Thomas Bilaliib Udimal, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana.


Session VI Panel D  Identity Politics in South African Art: Visual Effects of Apartheid Law

Room 209: Rochester Moot Court Room

Chair: Joseph Underwood, Stony Brook University


Session VI Panel E  Black lives Matter: HipHop Connections

Room E117

Chair: Deidre Butler, Union College, New York

Deidre Butler, Union College, New York

Jermaine Wells, Union College, New York

Session VI Panel F  Laws and the State of South Africa
Roundtable Discussion

Room 200

Chair: Penny Andrews, President, Albany Law School

Penny Andrews, Albany Law School, New York
Locksley Edmondson, Cornell University, New York
Neville Choonoo, State University of New York, College at Oneonta

1:45 - 3:00 PM  Closing Award Luncheon at Albert M. White Gymnasium of Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Greetings from Albany Law School President Penny Andrews
Greetings from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences President Gregory Dewey
Acknowledgement of sponsors, supporting groups, and individuals at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and at Albany Law School
Acknowledgement of Local Organizing Committee
Announcement of NYASA 2016 Conference location
NYASA Election Results

Awards:

1. The NYASA Distinguished Africanist Scholar 2015: Makau W. Mutua, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar, Law School, University at Buffalo.


3. The Thomas and Corrine Nyquist NYASA Service Award 2015: Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region.

4. NYASA K-12 Distinguished Teacher Award 2015: Patricia Mackey, Guilderland High School emeritus.

5. NYASA Local Organizing Committee Philanthropist Award: Charles Touhey and The Touhey Family Foundation.

Honoring NYASA members who have passed

Election Results

3:15 - 4:45 PM  Special Memorial and Plenary Session on the Life and Importance of Ali A. Mazrui to Africana Studies and NYASA

Acknowledgement of Mrs Pauline Ali A. Mazrui and Family

Mama Halima Namakula (Chairperson of Women At Work Intl.; Director of No-End Entertainment; Founder of Zimba Youth Africa) with Grace Nakabugo and Drucilla Mbabazi (all of Uganda) performing:

a song composed in the memory of Professor Ali Mazrui

“Africa Yetu” (“Our Africa”)--this song earned Halima Namakula a nomination as Best East African Female Artist at the KORA AWARDS.

Zurphar Nsiyona (Uganda) performing a tribute poem to Ali Mazrui.

**Plenary Roundtable On the Life and Importance of Ali A. Mazrui to Africana Studies and NYASA**


Ndirangu Wachanga, Wisconsin University.

Nuha Mwesigwa, Makerere University and Secretary General, Ali Mazrui Foundation Inc.

N’Dri T. Assié-Lumumba, Professor, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University.

Makau W. Mutua, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Floyd H. and Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar, University at Buffalo, New York.

Roger Gocking, Co-editor *NYASA Newsletter*.

Tom Nyquist, Co-editor *NYASA Newsletter*.

**4:45 PM  End of Conference**

NYASA E-Board Meeting #2 in Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Boardroom, O’Brien Building.

**TEACHER WORKSHOP PROGRAM**
As a regional organization, The New York African Studies Association promotes the visibility and advancement of the discipline in New York State and surrounding areas, and offers opportunities for the scholarly and professional development of educators, and enhanced education for community members, leaders and activists.

The NYASA 2015 Conference hosts K – 12 Educators who participate in a Teacher Work focusing on Thinking and Teaching About Africa in K- 12 grades.

The workshop is free for K- 12 Educators and those who work as administrations are also welcome to attend. In addition K – 12 Educators are welcome to attend the NYASA Conference at Union College on Friday April 3rd, 2015.

At the end of the workshop, all participants will receive a certificate from the NYASA Executive Board.

PROGRAM

Saturday April 4th 2015

8:00am – 8:50am: Registration and Refreshments

All Teachers Workshop Sessions 9:00-1:55 are in Room W120, Albany Law School 1928 Building (main building), 80 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208

9:00am – 10:15am: Session 1: Thinking and Teaching About Africa

Professor, Locksley Edmondson, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University

Teaching African Culture Through African Literature

Professor, John Marah, Department of African and African American Studies, SUNY College at Brockport

10:30am – 11:45am: Session 2: Writing Across Content

Richard Severin, New York City Department of Education

Allison Taitt, New York City Department of Education
12:00pm – 1:15pm: Session 3:  
**Teaching Gender in Africana Studies**

Professor N’Dri Assie-Lumumba, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University.

Professor Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo, Department of Geography and Africana Studies, SUNY College at Cortland

1:20pm – 1:55pm: Session 4:  
**The Use of Key Africana Studies Online Resources for Teaching and Research**

Eric Acree, Director of The John Henrik Clarke Library at The Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University

**Presenters at The Workshop**

**Dr. Locksley Edmondson**, Professor in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University since 1983, is a political scientist with specializations in international relations (especially concerning Africa and the Caribbean) and race relations (especially concerning the Black World).

**N'Dri T. Assié-Lumumba** is a Professor of African and Diaspora education, comparative and international education, social institutions, African social history, and the study of gender in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. She has been a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science since 2006. In 1996-1997 she served as Director of the Cornell Program on Gender and Global Change (GGC) and in 2010-2011 as Director of Graduate Studies of Africana Studies at Cornell University. She is also a member of four other Cornell graduate fields: Education; International Development; International Agriculture and Rural Development; the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA).

**Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo**, a professor in the College’s Geography Department, will be honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. She received the prestigious award during the 2010 Undergraduate Commencement on Saturday, May 22, in the Park Center. Promoted to full professor in 2002, she becomes the ninth member of the SUNY Cortland faculty to receive the award, which recognizes her continually evolving and expanding research interests throughout her almost 22 years at the College.

Eric Kofi Acree is currently Director of the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library and Coordinator of the Fine Arts and Music Libraries at Cornell University. He is the African/African American subject specialist for Cornell University Library and is responsible for providing reference and library instruction/consultation in the area of Africana Studies.

Richard Severin is an educator at the New York City Department of Education. He has a doctorate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with focus on public policy and social issues at Union Institute & University, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Allison Taitt for the past seven years been teaching in New York City public school but has been an educator for twenty seven years. Her teaching population spans from kindergarten to college MBA students and is planning to work as an administrator in school supervision.

Recipient of the 2015 NYASA Distinguished Africanist Award: Professor Makau Mutua
Professor Makau Mutua is the former Dean at SUNY Buffalo Law School, The State University of New York, where he continues to be SUNY Distinguished Professor and the Floyd H. & Hilda L. Hurst Faculty Scholar. Professor Mutua has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain, Addis Ababa University, the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, among others. He was educated at the University of Nairobi, the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and at Harvard Law School, where he obtained a Doctorate of Juridical Science in 1987. Professor Mutua is a former Vice President of the American Society of International Law (ASIL). He is the author of several books including *Kenya’s Quest for Democracy: Taming Leviathan* (2008), *Human Rights NGOs in East Africa: Political and Normative Tensions* (2008), and *Human Rights: A Political and Cultural Critique* (2002). He has written dozens of law review articles on international law, human rights, and religion. Professor Mutua has spoken at conferences around the world, including giving the Abiola Lecture at the ASA in 2007. He has been a regular columnist for the Sunday Nation and the Sunday Standard, East Africa’s most influential papers. He is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and sits on New York State’s Committee on New Pro Bono Requirements for Admission to the Bar. He was a member of the Moreland Commission appointed by Governor Cuomo of New York to investigate corruption. In 2003, Professor Mutua was appointed by the Government of Kenya Chair of the Task Force on the Establishment of a Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission. He was also a delegate to the Kenya National Constitutional Conference. He is the Chairman of the Kenya Human Rights Commission. He sits on several boards and is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Rome-based IDLO (International Development Law Organization). Currently, he is at IDLO in Rome as a Scholar in Residence and Advisor to the Director General during his sabbatical.

**Recipient for the 2015 NYASA Book Award:**
**Dr. Ndirangu Wachanga**
Dr. Ndirangu Wachanga holds a PhD in information science from the University of North Texas. He is Associate Professor of Media Studies and Information Science at the University of Wisconsin.

Wachanga is the authorized documentarian biographer of Prof. Ali A. Mazrui, Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong’o, and Prof. Micere Mugo. His documentary projects seek to preserve East African memory by capturing raw voices using visual and audio technology. By creating an open access repository of the interviews, his project democratizes production of and access to knowledge. His work has been presented at Yale, Princeton, Rutgers, Cornell, Witwatersrand, SUNY-Binghamton, University of North Texas, and the University of South Africa. He has written for media in different continents. His academic work has appeared in peer reviewed journals such as the Journal of Mass media ethics, Journal of African media studies, South African journal for communication theory and research, and African communication research. His journalistic work has appeared in the Daily Nation, East African Standard, Business Daily, North Texas Daily, and BBC.

Wachanga’s expertise has been sought by the US State Department, and he has appeared on VOA and BBC to discuss media, ethics, and technology. Wachanga is an analyst for the Freedom House’s freedom of expression global index.

Wachanga is working on two monographs:

a. Non-Western approaches for analyzing ethical dilemmas in participatory journalism, popular culture, and social media, and
b. The role of clandestine media in Africa’s liberation struggle.
Distinguished Teacher Award: Awarded by the NYASA Local Conference Committee to an outstanding K-12 teacher from the region of the conference site. Recipient for the 2015 NYASA Distinguished Teacher Award: Patricia Mackey

Patricia Mackey recently retired after a 40-year career teaching Afro-Asian History at Schalmont High School before moving to teach World History and Geography at Farnsworth Middle School, and later Guilderland High School. In addition to a teaching career that emphasized Africa, Ms. Mackey’s record includes the following: working for the District Council for Social Studies as president and as liaison to the Africana Studies Department at SUNY Albany; working with the American-South African Peoples’ Friendship Association (ASAPFA) helping to organize workshops on African culture and the anti-apartheid movement; and involvement with a variety of groups and activities against racism. Patricia Mackey has won two GE Star Awards, the Robert J. Neiderberger Award in 2002, the YMCA Outstanding Education Award in 2010, and the Guilderland Employees Recognition Award in 1982 and again in 2013.

The Thomas and Corrine Nyquist NYASA Service Award. Recipient for the 2015 NYASA service: The Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region (URHPCR)
URHPCR: Learn the Past, Be the Present, Create the Future®

Mission

Underground Railroad History Project researches and preserves the local and national history of the Anti-slavery and Underground Railroad movements, their international connections, and their legacies to later struggles, engaging in public education and dialogue about these movements and their relevance to modern society.

Current Programs

The three major initiatives of URHPCR include (1) the restoration of the historic Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, a documented Underground Railroad site in Albany, New York, (2) the organizing of an annual public history conference focusing on Underground Railroad history and its relationship with us today and (3) the conducting of The Young Abolitionist Teen Scholars’ Institute. Additional activities include developing a garden of heritage plants through which local Underground Railroad history can be taught, providing public presentations to diverse groups, tabling at community events, conducting tours of The Myers Residence and other documented Underground Railroad locations in Albany and Troy, New York, publishing a newsletter three times a year, and managing a website and Facebook page.

Recipient for the 2015 NYASA Local Organizing Committee Philanthropist Award:
Charles Touhey and The Touhey Family Foundation.
Charles Touhey is a leader in community service in the Capital District. He has developed affordable housing, encouraged quality education, and promoted economic development. It is the mission of the Touhey Family Foundation to support efforts to address the impacts of poverty, racism, and other forms of social injustice and empower those adversely affected by this legacy. The Touhey Family Foundation has also provided support for college students to participate in studies abroad in Senegal (students participating in a three-college program of the University at Albany, Union College, and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) as well as financial support for the creation of a documentary film about this program https://vimeo.com/81786020

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