Welcome to the African Studies Center’s Newsletter and list of upcoming events, speaker presentations, tea times, conferences, jobs and other exciting opportunities.

Please feel free to visit our website for more information: http://www.africa.isp.msu.edu

Eye On Africa Speaker Series

To learn more about Eye on Africa, http://www.africa.isp.msu.edu

We regret to inform you that all events with Dr. Fends have been cancelled!!

Special Eye on Africa

Dr. Fenton Sands
Senior Food Security Officer at USAID/Ghana
Wednesday, January 27, 2016

ALSO:
Student Forum:
Thursday, January 28, 2016

January 28, 2016
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Room 303 International Center
(please note: 11:00 a.m. Student forum in room 305)

"China’s Growing Security Relationship with Africa" Eye on Africa with Ambassador David Shinn, former U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.
ALSO:

Student Forum with Ambassador Shinn (BEFORE the talk)
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Room 305 International Center

February 4, 2016
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Room 201 International Center


ALSO:

February 4, 2016 -
Africa Youth Conference:
Meeting Global Challenges of the Future
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Room 303 International Center

With Panelists:
Professor Mwenda Ntarangwi - Vice President for Advancement and Communications at Theological Book Network, Grand Rapids, MI

Lorraine Weatherspoon - Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition, MSU

Susan Wyche - Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Information

Nathalie Mensope - Assistant Professor, Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics

Pauline Wambua - Graduate Student, Public Policy, MSU

Watch Past Episodes
http://eyeonafrica.matrix.msu.edu/

African Tea Times - Open to Everyone
An opportunity to learn and share about first-hand experiences on the African Continent
Learn, Share, Engage!
(427 N Shaw Lane, Room 303 International Center, East Lansing, MI)

**January 28, 2016**
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center
Countries: Botswana & Namibia

**February 11, 2016**
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center
Countries: Liberia & Sierra Leone

**February 25, 2016**
4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Room 303 International Center
Countries: Benin, Gambia, Togo

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AT MSU

2016 Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series: Slavery to Freedom

**February 11, 2016**
5:00 p.m. Kellogg Center, Big Ten Room B/C
Edwin Black, Award-winning, New York Times bestselling author whose work explores issues related to such topics as human rights, genocide and hate, corporate corruption and historical investigation.

**February 18, 2016**
5:00 p.m. Kellogg Center, Big Ten Room B/C
Cornel West, Philosopher, social commentator and academic, will share his story. The author of more than 20 books; he's best known for Race Matters and Democracy Matters. West's work examines the crossroads of race, gender and class in American society.

**February 25, 2016**
5:00 p.m. Kellogg Center, Auditorium
Ernest Green, As one of the Little Rock Nine, he and eight classmates were the first to integrate Little Rock Arkansas's Central High School in 1954, for which they later received the Congressional Gold Medal from President Clinton. he went on to earn his bachelor's
and master's degrees at MSU and has held a career in both the public and private sectors, working to address inequalities in labor and education.

**MSU ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship**

*Intensive African Language Summer 2016 and Academic Year 2016-17*

**Application Deadline:**
February 5, 2016

The African Studies Center invites applicants for the FLAS fellowship for the study of African Languages:
- FLAS Fellowships come with a tuition award and a stipend
- Both graduate and undergraduate students may apply
- Fellowships are awarded to qualified students in programs that combine the study of African languages with advanced training and research in an African focused academic or professional area
- The FLAS fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI program for the study of African languages and African area studies

For additional information, visit: [http://africa.isp.msu.edu/flas/](http://africa.isp.msu.edu/flas/) or email Dr. Ann Biersteker at bierstek@msu.edu; or call (517) 353-1700.

**Announcing the 9th Annual MSU Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan**

March 18-19, 2016

**Call for Papers**

**Submission deadline: February 15, 2016**

The 9th Annual Africanist Graduate Student Research Conference at Michigan State University is soliciting submissions on innovative approaches to the study of Africa and the African Diaspora. The conference will be held at Michigan State University on 18-19 March 2016.

This conference seeks to bring together graduate scholars who study Africa at all stages. In past years the conference has generated intellectually stimulating exchanges across disciplinary lines. The conference aims to generate dialogue and debate about the past, present, and future direction of Africanist scholarship.

As an interdisciplinary conference interested in promoting exchanges and connections across departments and fields, proposals based in any disciplinary and methodological framework, both quantitative and qualitative are invited. Submission of full panels, are particularly encouraged. Examples of potentially successful submissions are those based

Submission Information and Guidelines:
The deadline for submission of proposals is February 15, 2016. Proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis, and early submissions are encouraged. Send all submissions to msuafricanistconference@gmail.com. Final papers will be due to the conference organizers by March 8, 2016 (approximately 10 double-spaced pages-- equivalent of 15 minutes). For individual submissions, please send an abstract of no more than 250 words and a 1 page CV. Include the paper's title, your name and school affiliation, and a list of 3-5 keywords which you feel categorize your research. For panel submissions, please send a single abstract of no more than 500 words, relaying the connections between papers and the individual description of each paper. Send a 1 page CV for each presenter. Include the panel's name, the names and school affiliations of all presenters, and paper titles of all presentations.

African Graduate Students Association (AGSA)
1st Annual Research Conference
April 2, 2016, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Breakfast and lunch (African Cuisine) will be served at 8:30 am and 12:00 Noon
Room 115, International Center

Call for Abstracts
Submission Deadline: January 29, 2016
The African Graduate Students Association (AGSA) at MSU will host their first annual research conference on the theme:
Creating and Strengthening Strategic Alliances between African Researchers, Decision Makers and Civil Society in Africa.

AGSA is calling for abstracts from all African MSU students and Africanists, from different disciplines, conducting research in Africa with a focus on the following sub themes: Education, Health, Food Security, Agriculture, Environmental Issues, Leadership and Governance and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Submission guidelines - Abstracts are invited from completed research or research in progress. As this will be a multidisciplinary conference, presenters are urged to put emphasis on the significance and impact of their research in their respective study areas and addressing the problem(s) of focus. Abstracts should be a maximum of 250 words and should include the broader problem in which the research is situated. The presenter's nationality, the country in which the research is conducted, the department at MSU and name of the academic supervisor should be indicated on the abstracts. Accepted
submissions will be allotted oral or poster presentation, both of which are equally significant. Please direct inquiries, as well as abstracts to: agsa@msu.edu.

All submitted abstracts will be subjected to a blind peer review process and authors will be notified of abstract acceptance by March 2, 2016.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boston University African Studies Center
Study African Languages Summer 2016

Study Swahili in Tanzania or Arabic in Morocco. Or study Amharic, Igbo, or Zulu in Boston.
To apply and for course details, go to: bu.edu/africa/summer.

Dates:
Amharic, Igbo and Zulu classes at Boston University run June 13 until August 5
Zanzibar: Swahili Language & Culture in East Africa Program runs July 3 until August 12
Rabat Arabic language & Service Learning Program runs May 26 to July 21

African Studies Association Board of Directors Nominations

The Nominations Committee of the African Studies Association is soliciting nominations from members to be considered as candidates for positions on the Board of Directors of the ASA. If elected, board members serve for three years starting at the Fall Board meeting in the year in which they are elected and continuing through the Fall Board meeting of the third year.
Their responsibilities are the following:

* To serve and advance the interests of the ASA as a whole
* To attend all scheduled Board meetings (usually one in the fall and one in the spring)
* To serve on one or two Board committees that serve and carry out the interests of the ASA including the Annual Meeting, the Executive, Publications, Finance, or Nominations Committees
* To review the budget of the ASA
* To work productively with the Executive Director and staff of the ASA

If you would like to be considered as a potential candidate for the Board, please send an email to kathryn@africanstudies.org indicating your interest in running. Please attach a one page statement only that includes a short bio and an explanation for why you would be a good candidate for such a position (this may include past service to the ASA, other positions you have occupied, any relevant experience, etc.).

Submissions must be received by Monday, February 15, 2016 to be considered by the committee.

CONFERENCES
African Feminist Initiative - Penn State University

Call for Papers
Deadline: June 1, 2016

The African Feminist Initiative (AFI) at Penn State University will host a small conference on current debates in African feminist thought from September 23 to 24, 2016 at the University Park campus. This will be the first in a series of conferences and workshops at which scholars and graduate students interested in the burgeoning field of African feminist studies can present their work. Scholarly and artistic presentations that highlight state of the art feminist theory, activism, and practice on the continent and beyond are welcomed. Please send abstracts consisting of 250 words and a list of works cited, and brief CV or bio, to gxb26@psu.edu and acdecker@psu.edu by June 1st, 2016.

The African Feminist Initiative was established in April 2015 as an intellectual hub for African feminist research and teaching in North America. In addition to sponsoring scholarly and creative presentations, the AFI will host an annual conference focusing on critical and emerging themes in African feminism. They will also engage in research projects and capacity-building activities with colleagues, both in the United States and at various African universities.

Gabeba Baderoon and Alicia C. Decker, Associate Professors in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the African Studies Program at Penn State, are co-directors of the African Feminist Initiative. The Steering Committee consists of the co-directors and five additional Penn State scholars who work in the area of African feminist thought: Maha Marouan, Hoda El Shakry, Ebony Coletu, Rosemary Jolly and Iyun Osagie. The AFI Advisory Board includes leading African feminist scholars from around the world. Current members include Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Theresa Barnes, Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Mary Hames, Amina Mama, Patricia McFadden, Awino Okech, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Fatima Sadiqi and Sylvia Tamale.

Limited funding will be available to offset costs for selected participants.

Please send abstracts consisting of 250 words and a list of works cited, and brief CV or bio, to gxb26@psu.edu and acdecker@psu.edu by June 1st, 2016.