

AFRICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH FORUM(ASRF)

NEWSLETTER

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THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Ishmael Munene, Editor
George Klay Kieh, Jr., Member

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George Klay Kieh, Jr., President
Richard Yidana, Vice President
Ishmael Munene, Executive Secretary
Theodora Ayot, Treasurer
Kelechi Kalu, Director of Research and Publications
Guy Martin, Chair, Standing Committee on Award
Mueni wa Muiu, Chair, Standing Committee on Projects

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Indeed, it is an honor and privilege for me to formally launch the “maiden issue” of the ASRF's Newsletter. Although, it should have originally been published in January 2009, the transition from one administration to another and the associated chores warranted a delay. Accordingly, the decision was made to combine the “maiden

issue”(Fall 2008) with the Spring 2009 one in the combined “Fall/Spring 2008/2009, Vol. 1, No.1 Issue.

Clearly, the publication of the maiden issue of the ASRF’s Newsletter is the fulfillment of the organization’s determination to provide a regular outlet for promoting its activities, and serving as a medium of communication with its members. The pages of this premier volume are filled with news about the continual laudable strides the organization is making to continue its tradition of excellence that was firmly established during its founding in 1995. As well, the sections on the promotion of members to various professional positions in the academy and the various scholarly activities, including the publication of books, book chapters, and journal articles, and the presentation of papers at various professional conferences attest to the respect which members of the organization have earned due to their outstanding work ethic, outstanding performance, and established records of productivity. On behalf of the leadership, I congratulate those members who have been appointed to new positions for their achievements. Also, I extend kudos to those members who continue to pursue active scholarly agendas. To our new members, I say a “big welcome,” with the assurance that your membership in the ASRF will be one of the most fulfilling and rewarding experiences of your professional lives!

Last but not the least, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Ishmael Munene, our outstanding Executive Secretary, for providing the leadership as the Editor of our Newsletter. As usual, it was a pleasure working with him in putting this “maiden issue” together. I am looking forward to working with him in the publication of the Fall 2009, Vol. 2, No. 1, and Spring 2010, Vol. 2, No. 2 issues.

George Klay Kieh, Jr.
President, African Studies and Research Forum

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

During its 14th Annual Business Meeting held on October 2008, during the Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies held at Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania, the ASRF elected its new corps of officers for 2008-2010. Those elected were:

President: George Kieh, Professor of Political Science and African and African American Studies, Grand Valley State University, Michigan

Vice-President: Richard Yidana, Assistant Professor of Sociology and African and African American Studies, Grand Valley State University, Michigan.

Executive Secretary: Ishmael Munene, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Northern Arizona University

Treasurer: Theodora Ayot, Professor of History, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois
Director, Research and Publications: Kelechi Kalu, Professor of African and African American Studies, Ohio State University

THE CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEE AND THE COORDINATORS OF INITIATIVES APPOINTED

The chairs of the various Standing Committees and the Coordinators of the various Initiatives have been appointed for a two-year period(2008-2010). Those appointed as chairs of the Standing Committees are:

Guy Martin, Professor of Political Science, Winston-Salem State University, Chair, Standing Committee on Awards.

Mueni Wa Muiu, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Chair, Standing Committee on Projects.

The Coordinators of the various Initiatives are:

Yvette Alex Assensoh, Dean of Women Affairs, Indiana University, Coordinator, Female Members' Professional Development Initiative

Abdul Karim Bangura, Professor of Political Science, Howard University, Coordinator, Members' Publication Assistance Initiative

Assefaw Bariagaber, Chair, Department of International Relations, The Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University, Coordinator, Members' Tenure and Promotion Assistance Initiative

Mojubaolu Okome, Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College, City University of New York, Coordinator, Partnership with African Universities and Research Centers and Institutes Initiative

THE "PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2008-2010"

The Forum, the highest decision-making organ of the ASRF, has approved the "Plan of Action for 2008-2010," which was submitted by the new administration. The "Plan" has the following major elements:

The Formalization and Institutionalization of ASRF: The ASRF has moved towards institutionalizing and formalizing its presence and operations in order to have an effective and visible presence in addressing matters germane to the development of Africa both at academic, policy and practical levels. Towards this end, the leadership has taken steps to formalize the organization along with producing documents that guide its operations. Among these are: 1) The registration of ASRF as a not-for-profit organization in the state of Michigan; and 2) The application for tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. This will allow members to get tax deduction for the payment of their annual membership dues, as well as for making donations to the organization.

The "Initiatives"

"The Female Members' Professional Development Support Initiative:" This is designed to employ the reservoir of knowledge in the ASRF in order to provide advice and counsel to the female members of the African Studies and Research Forum on

matters relating to their professional development—job search, publication (preparation and issues of access), tenure, and promotion, etc.

“The Members’ Publication Support Initiative:” This would entail the provision of advice and counsel to the members of the ASRF on the various issues related to publication, including manuscript preparation for books, monographs, book chapter and journal articles, publication outlets for books, monographs and journal articles, and the related issue of access to these publication outlets.

“The Members’ Tenure and Promotion Support Initiative:” This would entail the provision of advice and counsel to the members of the ASRF, who are applying for tenure and promotion at their respective institutions.

“The Partnerships with African Universities and Research Institutes Initiative:” The thrust of this activity is to develop a relationship with various universities and research institutes across Africa that would focus on undertaking various joint and other activities. This ‘Initiative’ seeks to establish partnerships with ten (10) African universities—two each in Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern, and West Africa—and four research institutes over the period 2008-2010..

“The Summer Institute for Graduate Students at African Universities Initiative:” Under this “Initiative,” the ASRF will organize and conduct an “Institute” each summer focusing either on a particular discipline or a cluster of disciplines for selected graduate students at various African universities. The venue of the “Institute” will rotate each year among the various regions of the continent.

Publications: The organization has decided to continue one existing publication and to establish three new ones. The existing publication is “The ASRF Book Series.” Under the “Series,” the ASRF will continue to commission the publication of books by its members. The Publication and Research Committee has formulated and promulgated guidelines for the submission of book proposals by members. The three new publications are: “The ASRF Monograph Series” and the Journal of African Studies and Research. “The Monograph Series” will serve as an outlet for the publication of manuscripts that are longer than journal articles, but shorter in length than a book manuscript. Also, the Publication and Research Committee has developed and published guidelines for “The Monograph Series.” The journal will be an online(e-journal) publication, which will be managed by an editorial board to be headed by the ASRF’s Director of Research and Publication. A quarterly newsletter will be published. Its purpose would be to disseminate information about sundry issues—news about members’ publications, tenure, promotion, and new positions, teaching, research and publication opportunities, among others.

THE ASRF’S AWARDS RECIPIENTS FOR 2008/2009

“Excellence in Scholarship Award, 2007-2008:” The recipient was Ishmael Munene, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Northern Arizona University.

“The Presidential Awards, 2007-2008:” The recipients were Harold Isaacs, Professor of History Emeritus, Georgia Southwestern State University, and John Mukum Mbaku, The William Eccles Professor of History and John Hinckley Fellow at Weber State University. The award is given in recognition of distinguished service rendered the ASRF and the academic profession.

MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NEW PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Yvette Alex Assensoh, Associate Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, has been appointed Dean of Women Affairs. Yvette is the first Black woman to be appointed to this important leadership position.

Assefaw Bariagaber has been appointed Chair of the Department of International Relations in the School of International Relations and Diplomacy at Seton Hall University.

Doyin Coker-Kolo has been appointed Associate Dean of the School of Education at Millersville University, Pennsylvania.

Kelechi Kalu has been appointed Director of the Center for African Studies at The Ohio State University.

George Klay Kieh, Jr. has been appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of West Georgia

Femi Vaughan has been appointed the Geoffrey Canada Professor of Africana Studies and History and Director of the Africana Studies Program at Bowdoin College, Maine.

ASRF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The ASRF welcomed has welcomed several new members working at various academic institutions in Africa, Europe and the United States. The new members are:

Ike Odimegwu, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Uduma Oji Uduma

Ezeani Majesty Ignatius, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria

Emmanuel Umezinwa,

Egodi Uchendu, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Michale Butcher, Northern Arizona University.

Franklyn Taylor, Northern Arizona University (Franklyn).

Edward Lama Wonkeryor, Temple University).

Angela Ndinga-Muvumba, Africa Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes-
ACCORD, South Africa).

Elijah Onsomu)

John Agbonifo, Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands)
Sabella Abidde, Howard University).
Aje-Ori Agbese, University of Texas-Pan American).
Teresia Awour

MEMBERS' SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

**PHILIP AKA(ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, CHICAGO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Culturally and Linguistically Competent Public Services in an Era of English-Only Laws(with Lucinda Deason), in Mitchell Rice(ed), *Diversity and Public Administration: Theory, Issues, and Perspectives*, :M.E. Sharp, 2009, pp.

Ben O. Nwabueze." In Toyin Falola & Adam Paddock(eds), *Emergent Theories and Methods in African Studies: Essays in Honor of Adiele E. Afigbo*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2009, pp. 369-99.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Sara E. Davies, *Legitimizing Rejection: International Refugee Law in Southeast Asia*, *Journal of African and Asian Studies*, 8(1-2), 2009, pp. 187-191.

CONFERENCES PAPERS PRESENTED

"Professor Adiele E. Afigbo and African Intellectual Traditions," 51st Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois. November 13-16, 2008.

AWARDS

"Faculty Excellence Award for Outstanding Contributions in Research, 2008," Chicago State University.

**GEORGE KLAY KIEH, JR.(PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, GRAND VALLEY STATE
UNIVERSITY)**

BOOK CHAPTERS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

**ISHMAEL MUNENE(ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, NORTHERN
ARIZONA UNIVERSITY)**

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Changing the Course: Equity and Risk amid Policy Shift in Higher Education Financing in Kenya”(with Wycliffe Otieno) *Higher Education*, 55, pp. 461-479.

“Privatizing the Public: Marketization as a Strategy in Public University Transformation. *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*, 13(1), pp. 1 – 17.

EGODI UCHENDU (SENIOR LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA)

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Are African Males men? Sketching African masculinities,” in Egodi Uchendu (ed.), *Masculinities in Contemporary Africa*, Dakar: CODESRIA, 2008, pp. 1-17.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Female Political Participation in the 2003 Elections in Nigeria,” *Asian Women*, 24 (1), 2008, pp. 51-74.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

“Researching Islam in Southeast Nigeria,” International Conference in honor of Prof. Adiele Afigbo, University of Nigeria, Nsuka, Nigeria, December 8-10, 2008.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Research Fellow, 2006–2008.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Book and Equipment Grant, 2009. Award: 5630 Euro.

Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Return Grant Award, 2008-2009. Award: 6500 Euro.

EDWARD LAMA WONKERYOR (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY)

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

“Political Communication and Globalization: Their Role in Shaping the Developing of Democracy in Liberia,” 41st Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association, Monrovia, Liberia, May 13-15, 2009.

“Neo-Imperialism’ in Post-Independence Africa: Globalization and its Role in Shaping the Development of Democracy in Africa,” Conference on “Neo-Imperialism” in Post-Independence Africa: Definitions, Case Studies and Human Impacts”, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, March 27-28, 2009.

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY MEMBERS

Pita Ogaba Agbese and George Klay Kieh, Jr(eds), *The State in Africa: Issues and Perspectives*, Ibadan, Nigeria: Kraft Books, 2008.

Abdul Karim Bangura, *African Peace Paradigms*, Kendall Hunt, 2008,

Kelechi Kalu and Peyi Soyinka Airewele(eds), *Socio-Political Scaffolding and the Construction of Change: Constitutionalism and Democratic Governance in Africa*, Africa World Press, 2008.

George Klay Kieh, Jr., *Liberia’s First Civil War: The Crises of Underdevelopment*, New York: Peter Lang Publishing Co., 2008; *Africa and the New Globalization(ed)*, Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2008; and *Africa and the Third Millennium(ed)*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2008.

John Mukum Mbaku, *Corruption in Africa: Causes, Consequences and Cleanups*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2008.

Mueni wa Muiu, *The Pitfalls of Liberal Democracy and Late Nationalism in South Africa*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Mueni wa Muiu and Guy Martin, *A New Paradigm of the African State: Fundi wa Afrika*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Peyi Soyinka Airewele and Rita Kiki Edozie(eds), *Reframing Contemporary Africa*, Congressional Quarterly Press, 2009.

Egodi Uchendu, *Masculinities in Contemporary Africa(ed)*, Dakar: CODESRIA, 2008.