

Emir of Kano to give ISITA conference keynote

by Rebecca Shereikis

His Highness Muhammad Sanusi II, emir of Kano, Nigeria, will be the keynote speaker at the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa's April 23–24 conference, "Global Islam in Africa: African Muslims in the World, Muslim Worlds in Africa." While on campus, he will also address students and faculty at the Kellogg School of Management.

Muhammad Sanusi II embodies seemingly disparate identities—traditional religious authority, Islamic scholar, reformist banker, public intellectual, and outspoken social critic—that reflect Nigeria's complex, plural society.

Trained as an economist, Sanusi was an influential banker in Nigeria prior to his selection as emir. He holds BA and MA degrees in economics from Ahmadu Bello University and a degree in Islamic law from the International University of Africa, Khartoum. He entered the banking profession in 1985, working first at Icon Limited, then at the United Bank for Africa and First Bank of Nigeria (FBN). In 2009 he became the first northern Nigerian to be appointed CEO of FBN. During the global financial crisis in 2009, Sanusi was appointed governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the country's central monetary authority. Sanusi is credited with stabilizing the economy during the crisis, implementing massive reforms, and investigating and dismissing many top bank executives.

In 2014, when Sanusi reported that some \$20 billion in revenues from the state-owned oil industry were missing from federal coffers, President Goodluck Jonathan moved swiftly to suspend him from the Central Bank. Four months later, Sanusi assumed the hereditary position of emir, Kano's religious leader.

As emir, Sanusi has continued to be an outspoken public figure. Northern



Emir Muhammad Sanusi II (photo courtesy of chief of staff, Emir's Palace, Kano)

Nigeria's emirate system dates to the early 19th century, and members of Sanusi's lineage have served as Kano's religious authorities for over 200 years. Seeing his role as both religious and sociopolitical, Emir Sanusi has advocated for ending child

marriage and restricting polygamy, among other reforms. He also denounced the jihadist militant organization Boko Haram, provoking a retaliatory attack by the group on Kano's Central Mosque in November 2014. (Sanusi was away from Nigeria at the time of the attack.)

"I am so thrilled that the emir accepted Northwestern's invitation," says ISITA director Zekeria Ahmed Salem. "He embodies the transformations affecting Islamic religious authority and its exercise in a globalized Africa." Ahmed Salem says he also invited the emir to give the ISITA conference keynote address because "most religious authorities are obviously Islamic practitioners and experts in their own right. Therefore, they are at least partly our peers, and certainly our partners. They may no longer be regarded as merely objects of study, informants, or sources in the orientalist vein."

Conference participants from Africa, Europe, and the US will explore how the meaning of Islam and how being African and Muslim are negotiated at the intersection of local, regional, and global narratives, perceptions, and exchanges. Emir Sanusi will deliver the keynote at 3 p.m. on April 23 in Harris Hall.

Inside

Library news	2
PASstories	6
Viewpoint	9
Community news	10

Exhibit highlights PAS's enduring legacy in Africa

by Florence Mugambi, LaRay Denzer, and Gene Kannenberg Jr.

During 2018 a series of exhibits in the Herskovits Library is focusing on different aspects of the 70-year history of the Program of African Studies. Since its 1948 founding by Melville J. Herskovits, PAS has brought together scholars, activists, and artists from all over the world, making Northwestern an international hub for research on Africa and the diaspora.

The winter exhibit highlights eight PAS alumni from Africa whose careers and scholarship influenced socio-economic and political developments in their countries and on the continent.

Pius Nwabufo Okigbo (economics PhD 1956), an economist, returned to Nigeria after completing his PhD and became economic adviser to the Eastern Nigerian regional government. Later he conducted negotiations that established Nigeria's relations with the Common Market. In 1994 he headed an official investigation of the Central Bank of Nigeria that exposed government mismanagement of oil revenues. An erudite scholar, he has written extensively about Nigeria's economic development and banking system as well as the African economic system. In celebration of his achievements, PAS organized the 2003 conference "Vision and Policy in Nigerian Economics: The Legacy of Pius Okigbo" and published the proceedings in its Working Papers Series.

Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane (sociology PhD 1960) was a revolutionary who became the first president of the Mozambican Liberation Front (Frelimo) in Tanzania in 1962. Before taking that role, he taught briefly at Syracuse University and helped establish its East African Studies Program. He published *The Struggle for Mozambique* in 1969, the same year he was assassinated in Dar es Salaam. His ideas inspired resistance movements in Portuguese-speaking Africa and elsewhere. In his honor, the Universidade de Lourenco Marques in Maputo was renamed Eduardo Mondlane University, and the African Initiative at Syracuse University administers a lecture series bearing his name.

Victor Chikezie Uchendu (anthropology PhD 1966) was an anthropologist and administrator who influenced the reorientation of African studies in the US, Nigeria, and elsewhere in Africa. While pursuing PhD research on the Navajo, he published *The Igbo of Southeast Nigeria* (1965), which became a foundational text in Igbo studies and was widely used in US African studies courses. He had a diversified career in teaching and research in the US and Africa, including a stint as founding director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's African Studies Center and as president of the African Studies Association. He returned to Nigeria in 1980 and headed the University of Calabar's sociology department until 1986. He later established two foundations to support education and the training of medical practitioners in Nigeria. He also participated in local politics, gaining election as *Eze* (king) of his town. He died by assassination in his home in Umuahia on December 7, 2006.

Isaria Ndelahiyosa Kimambo (history PhD 1967) was still a third-year PhD student when he joined the history faculty of University College Dar es Salaam, then an affiliate college of the University of London, in 1965; four years later he published his dissertation, *A Political History of the Pare of Tanzania, ca. 1500-1900*, and succeeded Terence O. Ranger as history department chair. When University College was reconstituted as the University of Dar es Salaam in 1970, Kimambo was appointed chief academic officer, a position he held for the next 12 years. He oversaw the Africanization of the institution and helped transform it into one of Africa's academic meccas. Kimambo authored, coauthored, and coedited many books on the political and cultural history of Africa in general and of Tanzania in particular. From 1971 to 2000 he was a member of the UNESCO International Committee for Drafting the General History of Africa.

Amos Claudius Sawyer (political science PhD 1973) is a Liberian scholar, activist, and politician. Returning to Monrovia after completing his Northwestern degree, he unsuccessfully campaigned as an independent in the mayoral election. He was a founding member of the Movement

Celebrating 70 Years of the Program of African Studies
The PAS Legacy in Africa



Winter Quarter 2018 Exhibit
 Curated by Florence Mugambi
 with LaRay Danziger
 and Gene Kinniburgh, Jr.

Northwestern LIBRARIES
 Melville J. Herskovits Library
 of African Studies

Celebrating 70 Years of the Program of African Studies
The PAS Legacy in Africa

Throughout 2018, Herskovits Library exhibits will focus on different aspects of the 70 years of the **Program of African Studies** here at Northwestern.

Since 1948, the Program of African Studies has brought together scholars, activists, and artists from all over the world, making Northwestern University the international hub for research on Africa and the Diaspora.

In this winter exhibition, we highlight PAS graduates from Africa who have returned to Africa at some point in their life, as well as their publications. We have made effort, to the extent possible, to spotlight major events in their careers as well as their scholarship.

Among these alumni are revolutionary leader **Eduardo Chivambo Mondlane** (Sociology 1960), first president of Mozambique's FRELIMO movement; leading Nigerian economist **Pius Nwabufo Okigbo** (Economics 1956), who has written extensively about his country's economic development, banking system, and the African economic system; and **Isaria Ndelahiyosa Kimambo** (History 1967) of Tanzania, whose tenure as Chief Academic Officer, University of Dar es Salaam, saw that institution become known as the academic Mecca of Africa.

More recently, making international news are **Attahiru M. Jega** (Political Science 1985) who, as the Independent National Electoral Commission chairman of Nigeria, administered the elections of 2011 and 2015; and **Godwin Murunga** (History 2006) from Kenya, the Executive Secretary of Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.



for Justice in Africa and in 1983 founded the Liberian People's Party. Following the assassination of President Samuel Doe on November 22, 1990, Sawyer was appointed interim president, a post he held for four years during Liberia's civil war. In 1994 he stepped down as part of the peace process. When conflict flared up again, Sawyer went into exile and joined the faculty of Indiana University. When peace was restored, he returned to Liberia and chaired the Governance Reform Commission (now the Governance Commission). Sawyer's book *Beyond Plunder: Toward Democratic Governance in Liberia* (2005) explores the evolution of multiparty democracy in the country.

Attahiru Muhammadu Jega (political science PhD 1985) returned to his undergraduate alma mater, Bayero University in Kano, Nigeria, after completing his Northwestern PhD. He worked in various capacities before becoming Bayero's vice chancellor, a position he held from 2005 to 2010. Jega is the author or coauthor of many works, including the volume *Election Management in Nigeria: Selected Commentaries on the Evolution of the Nigerian Electoral Process, 2010-2015* (2015). He has earned acclaim as a public intellectual who does not hesitate to oppose government policy. In 2010 he was named chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission, a position he held until 2015, and he administered the elections of 2011 and 2015.

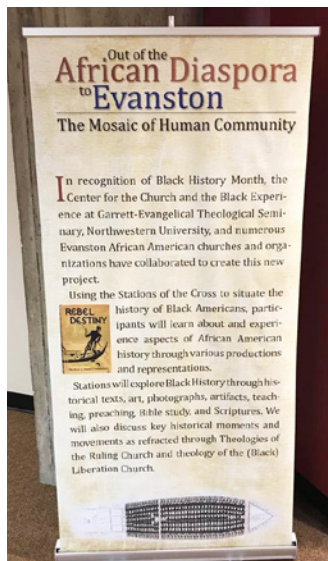
Joseph E. K. Adjaye (history PhD 1981) was an educator in Ghana for nine years before his 1972 yearlong appointment as Teacher Ambassador to the US in the Vermont-based Experiment in International Living program. He stayed in the US to pursue graduate study at SUNY-Binghamton and Northwestern. In 1987 he joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, where he chaired the Africana studies department from 2000 to 2004. His research interests include pan-Africanism, African cultural and diplomatic history, Akan cultural and linguistic history, and Caribbean history. He has authored or coauthored several books and articles; his book *Diplomacy and Diplomats in 19th-Century Asante* (1984; reprinted 1996) was nominated for the African Studies Association's Herskovits Prize.

Godwin Murunga (history PhD 2006) returned to the history faculty of Kenyatta University in Kenya in 2006. After a 2010-13 stint as deputy director of the African Leadership Centre in Nairobi, he joined the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. He has written extensively on issues of urbanization, governance, women's political participation, and Kenyan politics, and in 2017 he wrote a weekly column for the *Saturday Nation*. Murunga was recently appointed the executive secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal.

Library, PAS participate in Black History Month events

During Black History Month the Herskovits Library was one of several collaborators on an Evanston community-based project spearheaded by the Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Titled “Out of the African Diaspora to Evanston: The Mosaic of Human Community,” the project focused on key historical moments and movements in Black history—from humankind’s origins to the present, represented as a sequence of “stations”—through teaching, preaching, Bible study, and scripture as well as historical texts, art, photographs, and artifacts.

Throughout the month of February, visitors to the reference area of the Herskovits Library could explore the exhibit’s first station, titled “The Beginning: Africa and the Origins of Humankind.”



The exhibit highlighted several ideas, historical events, and other phenomena discussed in Melville J. Herskovits’s *Rebel Destiny* and *The Myth of the Negro Past*—namely, Africa as the cradle of humanity, the Middle Passage, and African influences on the new world. At the February 3 exhibit opening, Melanie Zack (Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College) presented a workshop that combined discussion with singing and dancing to provide an overview of the trans-Atlantic migration of African musical styles, traditions, and practices and their historical, cultural, and social contexts.

Also in February, PAS outreach coordinator Amy Settergren and Africana librarian Florence Mugambi gave presentations at the Black History Month celebration at Dawes Elementary, a K-5

Remembering Maidel Cason (1928–2018)

by David L. Easterbook



Maidel Kittrell Cason,

African documents librarian at the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies from 1976 to 1986, died in Evanston on January 8. Her significant contributions to African studies librarianship had an impact both at

Northwestern and within the African Studies Association’s Africana Librarians Council (ALC).

Maidel arrived at Northwestern with 20 years of experience as an educator in Liberia and with a just-completed MA in librarianship from University College London. At

Northwestern she worked to strengthen both public services and collection development. In addition to providing research assistance to many Africanist faculty and graduate students, she was active in the antiapartheid and divestment movements on campus in the mid-1980s. Her commitment to racial and economic justice, combined with her skills as a librarian, led to the creation of library handouts highlighting information in the library that related to the movements.

In 1979 she headed up a government-funded Title IIC project that resulted in the first Herskovits Library conference paper index and the 1982 publication *The Africana Conference Paper Index; Compiled and Published by the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies*. A 1994 Title IIC grant moved the process and catalog into the online era. (The 1982 catalog provided access to approximately 12,000



Visitors explore the "Africa and the Origins of Humankind" exhibit at the Herskovits Library.

school in Evanston. As part of Dawes's One Book One School initiative, every Dawes student read the book *The Water Princess* by Susan Verde and Georgie Badie. In keeping with that theme, Mugambi created a slide show and selected books and materials from the Herskovits Library pertaining to all aspects of water on the continent. Eleven classrooms, comprising 202 students, visited the exhibit and presentation, the highlight being Mugambi's discussion of her own childhood experiences walking to the river near her Kenyan hometown to collect water for her family. Dawes students were captivated by her story and her demonstration of how she carried water on her back. Her story generated many questions and conversation about water access and conservation on the continent.

PAS and the Herskovits Library will host spring visits by Niles North High School global history students and by a group of 25 fifth-graders from Brass Community School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, who will spend time examining Arabic manuscripts from West Africa and learn about Arabic language traditions in Africa.

conference papers; by 2014, the year I retired as curator, the number of papers in the online index exceeded 145,000.)

In fall 1979, Maidel undertook the last of Northwestern's major African acquisitions trips funded by the Program of African Studies. She spent two months in Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, acquiring materials and building interlibrary cooperation.

Maidel also contributed to the work of the ALC, serving as chairperson in 1982–83 and holding committee and subcommittee assignments in both the ALC and the Cooperative Africana Materials Project. She spearheaded the ALC's experimental cooperative acquisitions project in the early 1980s.

I remember encountering Maidel at the April 1980 ALC meeting at Boston University, during what was a momentous

week for Africa: Zimbabwe had won independence on April 18, and celebrations marking the occasion were taking place at BU's African Studies Center. Maidel, however, was absorbed by the week's earlier events—the assassination of Liberian president William Tolbert and its impact on the country where she had lived, worked, and raised her family over two decades. During those few days in April, I learned more about Maidel, her passion for Africa, and her life in Liberia than I did at any other time in our long friendship.

A detailed obituary written by Maidel's four children can be found at maidelcason.wordpress.com.

David L. Easterbrook is the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator Emeritus of the Herskovits Library of African Studies.



Students at Evanston's Dawes Elementary school attend a Black History Month presentation by Florence Mugambi of the Herskovits Library.

Title VI outreach activities continue

PAS's Title VI-sponsored outreach program has continued to make connections with Chicago-area teachers, expanding partnerships and promoting African studies curricula in local classrooms. Through our work with the Herskovits Library, we are making Northwestern's rich Africana resources available to a wider audience and sponsoring K-12 classes for on-campus visits.

Last fall, in addition to organizing the Teacher Workshop of the African Studies Association's Outreach Council, the PAS outreach program gave presentations at a school-wide professional development session at the Montessori School of Englewood, a K-8 public school in Chicago. We also shared resources, curricular materials, and teaching ideas with attendees of the Illinois Council for the Social Studies' October conference at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

PAS and Chicago's Newberry Library are cosponsoring a full slate of African studies seminars as part of the

Newberry's 2017-18 teacher education programming. PAS outreach coordinator Amy Settergren taught two seminars: a daylong Teachers as Scholars program for Chicago Public School teachers on the Scramble for Africa and a Newberry Teachers Consortium (NTC) seminar on the history of South Africa. Sean Hanretta (history) gave the comparative NTC seminar "Does Death Have a History? Teaching the Changing Nature of a Universal Experience." Jonathon Glassman (history) is teaching the NTC seminar "The Swahili Coast and the Indian Ocean: Some Lessons in World History" this spring.

For a second consecutive year, Settergren and Africana librarian Florence Mugambi gave a presentation at the Black History Month celebration at Dawes Elementary, a K-5 public school in Evanston (see photo above and story on pages 4-5). PAS and the Herskovits Library are looking forward to visits by students from two other area schools this spring.

PAS to host summer orientation for Fulbright fellows

PAS has received a grant to host a July 8–13 Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO). More than 150 Fulbright fellows from all over the US will convene at PAS for lectures, workshops, and group activities that offer logistical, cultural, and academic preparation for undertaking a year of teaching English and/or conducting research in Africa.

Given its long history, location near Chicago, and superb resources—including, notably, the Herskovits Library, the largest separate Africana collection in the world—PAS is uniquely qualified to host the PDO. Fellows will have access to PAS's

expert faculty, staff, and graduate students and an extensive network of program alumni who are familiar with or citizens of Fulbright host countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Preceding the PDO, a workshop for English-teaching assistants will be directed by two teacher trainers: Susan Barduhn, professor emerita at Vermont's School for International Training and a cofounder of the Language Center in Nairobi; and Dana Horstein of Northeastern Illinois University, an expert in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and cofounder of the TESOL Diversity Collaborative.

A major aim of the PDO will be to cultivate a shared sense of Fulbright identity among the fellows by linking them to the worldwide network of Fulbright alumni and to experts in their fields of interest. Such contacts can be sources of practical knowledge and personal connections—assets that are especially valuable for fellows who aspire to longer-term collaboration and engagement with African societies and institutions. In this way, PAS and its PDO partners seek to promote mutual understanding and lasting links between Africa and the US through shared enterprise and personal and institutional relationships.

New study group focuses on contemporary African politics

Graduate students in the political science department have formed a Governance and Development Study Group that is exploring power politics and prospects for electoral democracy in Africa at a time of global instability and during an American presidency that disavows the promotion of democracy and human rights.

The group invited several speakers to campus winter quarter. James Gathii (Loyola University) joined Rachel Riedl (political science) in a discussion on Kenya on January 23. Michael Bratton (Michigan State University) presented "Power Politics to Democratic Elections? Zimbabwe 2018" on February 20. On March 13 the group held the forum "African Politics in the Age of Xi, Putin, and Trump," followed by the panel discussion "State Capture, Political Participation, and Popular Resistance: The Cameroon Experience," featuring presenters Richard Joseph (political science), Yonatan Morse (University of Connecticut), and Landry Signé (Stanford University) and discussant Martha Wilfahrt (political science).

Several key themes and questions have already emerged for the study group and will be the focus of ongoing discussions in the spring. In particular, the group is concerned with the likely pathways forward for South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Uganda, Zambia, and Ethiopia—all countries where elections are "election-like" events at best and where pervasive corruption and differential access to resources along ethnic lines have led to political impasse.

In South Africa and Zimbabwe, discredited heads of state have been forced to resign. In Kenya, the opposition alliance has opted for direct confrontation following the disputed 2017 elections. In Ethiopia, the prime minister has had to step aside after months of protests. Cameroon's Paul Biya, after 35 years in power, is now Africa's longest-serving leader. Will the current wave of protests lead to a political transition in Cameroon? Could Cameroon play a role in continental affairs congruent with its critical geographical location, multiple colonial legacies, and rich cultural repertoires?

ISITA participates in joint conference on caliphate history

“The ‘Caliphate of Hamdallahi’: A History from Within,” an international conference convened by the Center for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in collaboration with ISITA and PAS, took place at UIUC on April 6-7. The event was part of a series of collaborative programs on Islam in Africa organized under the auspices of the Illinois-Northwestern Consortium for African Studies and funded by a shared US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

“The ‘Caliphate of Hamdallahi’” examined the history of the 19th-century Islamic state founded by Muslim reformer Ahmad Lobbo (d. 1845) on the inner Niger Delta. Although the Hamdallahi caliphate left a deep imprint on Malian history, it has been largely neglected in the scholarly literature, especially in comparison with other 19th-century West Africa Islamic states like the Sokoto caliphate and Tukolor empire.

Organized by historian Mauro Nobili (UIUC), postdoctoral fellow Ali Diakite (UIUC), and senior researcher Mohamed Diagayete (Institut des Hautes Etudes et de Recherches Islamiques Ahmed Baba de Tombouctou), the conference brought together established and emerging scholars. Using unexplored written and oral sources, conference papers examined intellectual, political, and economic aspects of the caliphate while placing it in a broader regional perspective.

PAS to host visiting scholars



Solomon Fikre Lemma, a PAS visiting scholar this spring, received his PhD, LL.M., and LL.B. degrees from the University of Warwick, Erasmus University, and Addis Ababa University, respectively, and has served as dean of Addis Ababa University’s College of Law and Governance Studies. Lemma’s research interests include law and devel-

opment, particularly the use of land, business, and property laws as tools for addressing poverty and fostering economic development in developing countries. His experience as a volunteer at two United Nations-administered camps for Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia contributed to his research interests in the treatment of women, children, refugees, and other vulnerable groups under international and Ethiopian laws.



Zachary Wright (history PhD 2010) will spend several weeks on campus as a PAS visiting scholar this summer. He currently is associate professor in residence at Northwestern University in Qatar, with joint appointments in history and religious studies. His publications include the books *Living Knowledge in West African Islam: The*

Sufi Community of Ibrahim Niasse and *On the Path of the Prophet: Shaykh Ahmad Tijani and the Tariqa Muhammadiyya*. He has also translated a number of West African Arabic texts into English, including writings appearing in the forthcoming book *Jihad of the Pen: Sufi Scholars of Africa in Translation* (with coauthors Rudolph Ware and Amir Syed); *The Removal of Confusion Concerning the Sainly Seal*, the first English translation of a major text of the Tijani Tariqa; *Pearls from the Flood: Select Insight of Shaykh al-Islam Ibrahim Niasse*; and *Islam, the Religion of Peace*. His current research concerns 18th-century Islamic intellectual history in North Africa.

VIEWPOINT

Nigeria's proposed NGO regulation threatens civil rights

by Elise Meyer

The Northwestern Access to Health Project, an interdisciplinary health and human rights project that seeks to leverage academic partnerships to maximize healthcare access in communities in the developing world, is collaborating with the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights to oppose pending legislation in Nigeria that would restrict the functioning of nongovernmental organizations in the country. Juliet Sorensen, director of the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law's Bluhm Legal Clinic, and I examined the proposed bill and have drafted a detailed legal analysis that will be published by the ABA.

The NGO Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Bill would create an NGO regulatory commission and a registration process whereby all persons operating NGOs in Nigeria are required to register for a certificate from the commission. Anyone operating without a certificate risks imprisonment

plethora of other monitoring regulations and arbitrary rules.

The legal analysis establishes that the proposed NGO bill, if enacted, would directly violate both domestic and international law regarding freedom of association and expression. Freedom of association is limited by the burdensome registration and licensing requirements, the absolute discretion granted to the government to grant or deny NGOs' applications, and the ban on operating without such registration. Freedom of expression is directly constrained by the onerous registration and approval requirements for every NGO project.

While the drafters of the NGO bill have cited NGOs' funding of terrorist organizations and the lack of a regulatory framework to govern NGOs in the country, both claims are patently false. First, no substantiated case of an NGO funding a terrorist organization has been provided. Second, the NGO bill duplicates a thorough, existing legal framework that governs NGOs under Nigeria's Companies and Allied Matters Act. Further, specific legislation targeting money laundering and financing of terrorism also applies to NGOs. For instance, the Terrorism (Prevention) Act criminalizes, under threat of the death penalty, the support of terrorism and contains specific provisions targeting NGOs.

The Northwestern Access to Health project began working in Lagos in 2016, building a holistic program supporting local partners to increase health literacy, access, and rights through community-nominated health educators. Through this work, ATH has witnessed the tireless effort of its local partners and the NGO community to better the lives of Nigerian people. The NGO Regulatory Commission Bill is a direct threat to civil society and represents a global trend of authoritarian laws seeking to eliminate dissent.

Elise Meyer is Schuette Clinical Fellow in Health and Human Rights at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

“The proposed NGO bill would directly violate both domestic and international law regarding freedom of association and expression.”

for up to two years. Registration must be renewed every two years, and the commission may cancel or suspend an NGO's certificate with little process and for little reason.

The requirement for registration and renewal is in direct opposition to international best practice outlined by the United Nations. In addition, all NGOs must register and gain approval for every project they implement in Nigeria, disclosing to the government detailed minutiae of their projects at every step. To gain approval, projects must “be in line with government programs.” Further, NGOs are subject to a

Community news

An article by ISITA director **Zekeria Ahmed Salem**, titled “‘Militants aux pieds nus’: Les transformations du mouvement des Haratines de Mauritanie,” was featured in *Virtual Issue Retrospective on Trends and Transition: The First Fifty Years*, a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*. The issue is available at explore.tandfonline.com/rcas-50th-anniversary-vsi-trends-and-transitions.

In January **Doris L. Garraway** (French and Italian) gave a keynote address, “Raising the Dead in Postrevolutionary Haiti: The Case of the Monarchy of

A fond farewell to Michael Wairungu

Michael Wairungu, assistant professor of Swahili instruction, has accepted a position with the Nairobi program of New York’s St. Lawrence University. His responsibilities there will include teaching anthropology and engaging in research. In his two years at Northwestern, he established a Swahili language table and gained an enthusiastic following among a diverse group of students. PAS wishes him success in this new venture!

Henry Christophe,” at the conference “Liberty and Death: Pirates and Zombies in Atlantic Modernity,” organized by the International Research Center for Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation selected *Feasts and Riot: Revelry, Rebellion, and Popular Consciousness on the Swahili Coast, 1856–1888* by **Jonathon Glassman** (history) for inclusion in their Humanities Open Book program. Open Book gives a second life to outstanding out-of-print books in the humanities by turning them into freely accessible e-books. Glassman’s 2011 book *War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar* was the subject of a book forum in *Cultural Dynamics* 28, 3 (2016); his own contribution was “The Varieties of Cosmopolitanism: A Reply.” In March 2017 he delivered the Stephen Allen Kaplan Memorial Lecture at the University of Pennsylvania and gave a paper, “Toward a Comparative History of Racial Thought in Africa: Historicism, Barbarism, Autochthony,” at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Center for African Studies.

Participants in last October’s second annual Conference on Health Awareness in Africa, convened by PAS and the Chicago-based nonprofit **Golden Hope Foundation**, gave presentations on Golden Hope’s recent medical missions in Africa and the diaspora. Topics included the *dibia* healing system of the Igbo, obesity,

the use of herbs in healthcare, cardiovascular disease, and the mental state of African children in the US.

Raevin F. Jimenez (history PhD 2017) was named a Mellon postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern’s Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies.

Political science graduate student **Jahara “Franky” Matissek** presented the paper “The Rise of Strong Militaries in Africa: Defying the Odds” at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the British Army’s initial officer training center, in February. In addition, Matissek’s collaboration with PAS director **Will Reno** was noted in the article “Not Your Grandfather’s Militaries” on northwestern.edu/international-relations/news.

Arabic instructor **Ragy Ibrahim Mikhaeel** received a Provost’s Fellowship for Digital Learning for his project to create an interactive online tool to aid students in analyzing texts from the Herskovits Library’s Arabic Manuscripts from West Africa Collection.

Christine Tolbert Norman, the mayor of Benton City, Liberia, and a Northwestern alumna, visited the Herskovits Library on February 20. In addition to touring the library, she donated materials related to Liberia’s recent presidential election and inauguration.

In January **Will Reno** (PAS director, political science) gave a presentation on aspects of conflict in Africa for the

Department of Political Science
at the University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign.

David Schoenbrun (history) contributed the article “Early African Pasts: Sources, Interpretations, and Meaning” that appeared in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*.

Noelle Sullivan (global health studies) published the article “International Clinical Volunteering in Tanzania: A Postcolonial Analysis of a Global Health Business” in *Global Public*

Send your news updates to laray.denzer@northwestern.edu so that PAS can share word with the Africanist community at Northwestern and beyond.

Health 13 (2018): 310–324. Her op-ed “When Volunteering Abroad Does More Harm than Good” ran in the *Huffington Post* in February.

Marlous van Waijenburg (history PhD 2017) is currently a Michigan Society of Fellows postdoctoral scholar and assistant professor at the University of Michigan.

Martha Wilfahrt (political science) published two articles: “Precolonial Legacies and the Contemporary Politics of Public Goods Provision in Decentralized West Africa” in *World Politics* 70(2): 1–35; and “The Politics of Local Government Performance: Elite Cohesion and Cross-Village Constraints in Decentralized Senegal” in *World Development* 103 (2018): 149–161.

SWAHILI CORNER

Throughout my life I have struggled with the fact that I am half black and half white. The son of a white mother and a black father, I look black—yet I have always lived in and attended schools in predominantly white communities. I make an effort to merge myself with black and African culture, and in a way I am in an ideal position to accomplish this: Because I occupy dual roles myself, I can connect with people across a broad range of experiences.

My Northwestern Swahili classes have helped me identify with and embrace African culture.

Seeing how Swahili culture is expressed in daily life, in church life, and even in clothing, I can compare it with the culture I was raised in and see multiple distinct connections between the two. When I was younger, I attended a school connected to an Episcopal church and was raised Christian. I knew only the traditions of the church I grew up in. But when my Northwestern



Swahili class took a field trip to a Swahili church outside Evanston, I saw how embracing and connected church members could be. The church really emphasized the all-inclusiveness of Swahili culture.

When our class viewed the Africa’s Response to Obama Collection at the Herskovits Library, I immediately connected the Obama-themed *khanga* textile that was on display to clothing I had purchased a year ago, sold by the New York–based brand Supreme (see photo). When Supreme released its Obama collection, I immediately fell in love—but I always wondered where the cloth-

ing design came from. When I saw the *khanga* at the library, I quickly made the connection. Learning about Obama’s roots and what he symbolized for Kenyan culture—and then relating my own clothes to the African textiles—was really fascinating. It was because I took Swahili that I made the connection.

—Adam Montgomery, class of 2021

Events calendar

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at PAS, 620 Library Place, Evanston.
For updates, check the PAS website: www.northwestern.edu/african-studies.*

APRIL

- 4 4–6 p.m.**
ISITA Perspectives Series.
“Jihad and Its Enemies: New Perspectives from West Africa,”
Lamin Sanneh (Yale Divinity School) and **Alexander Thurston** (African Studies Program, Georgetown University).
- 11 noon–1:15 p.m.**
“Reinventing a Colonial Language to Tell an African Story,” **Lwanda Sindaphi** (Lingua Franca Spoken Word Movement, South Africa).
- 12 noon–1:30 p.m.**
“The Many Parts of Ourselves We Embed in Our Poetry,” **Katleho Kano Shoro** (Lingua Franca Spoken Word Movement, South Africa). University Hall 201, 1897 Sheridan Road.
- 13 5–7 p.m.**
“Elevating the Mind beyond Social Ailments,” **Javier Perez** (Lingua Franca Spoken Word Movement, South Africa). 2122 Sheridan Road.
- 18 noon–1:15 p.m.**
ISITA seminar. “Congo’s Islamic Borderland,” **Ashley Leinweber** (political science, Missouri State University).
- 23 through April 24**
ISITA conference on Global Islam in Africa. Keynote address by **Emir Sanusi**, 3 p.m., April 23, Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road.

- 25 noon–1:15 p.m.**
Alumni Lecture Series.
“The Metaphysics of Modernity: Globalism, African Art, and Ontologies of Being,” **Sylvester Ogbachie** (history of art and architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara).

MAY

- 2 noon–1:15 p.m.**
“Breadlosers: Nollywood, State Television, and the Stakes of Masculine Melodrama,”
Matthew H. Brown (African languages and literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison).
- 9 noon–1:15 p.m.**
Alumni Lecture Series.
“The Road to the Two Sudans and the Untold Story of Sharia in Sudan,” **Richard Lobban** (anthropology and African studies, Rhode Island College) and **Carolyn Fleuhr-Lobban** (anthropology, RIC).
- 16 noon–1:15 p.m.**
Alumni Lecture Series.
“The 1591 Moroccan Invasion of Songhay,” **Lansiné Kaba** (history, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar).
- 23 noon–1:15 p.m.**
“Formal and Nonformal Land Rights in Africa: The Ethiopian Case Study,” **Solomon Fikre Lemma** (law, Addis Ababa University; PAS visiting scholar).

- 23 4 p.m.**
Alumni Lecture Series.
With **James W. Fernandez** (anthropology, University of Chicago). Herskovits Library, 1970 Campus Drive.
- 30 noon–1:15 p.m.**
“Wither Nollywood? The Future of Popular Media in Africa,”
John McCall (anthropology, Southern Illinois University).

JUNE

- 6 noon–1:15 p.m.**
“State of Rebellion: Violence and Intervention in the Central African Republic,” **Louisa Lombard** (anthropology, Yale University).
- 8 4–6 p.m.**
Annual PAS picnic.

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