

**ASG - Newsletter  
2004 Annual Report**

**Mission:** To enhance the standing of African Regional Geography and to promote better representation of African Scholarship.

**ASG Officers**

**Chair:**

Florence M. Margai, 2002-2005

Department of Geography

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**Directors:**

Francis Owusu, (Sec/Treasurer) Iowa State University, 2002-2005, [fowusu@iastate.edu](mailto:fowusu@iastate.edu)

John Benson, University of Minnesota, 2002-2005, [bensonj@mnstate.edu](mailto:bensonj@mnstate.edu)

Godson Obia, Eastern Illinois University, 2002-2005, [cfgco@ux1.cts.eiu.edu](mailto:cfgco@ux1.cts.eiu.edu)

**Student Directors:**

Leo C. Zulu, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Francis T. Koti, West Virginia University, Morgantown

**Membership Dues 2003**

Faculty and Non-Students \$10.00 a year

Student members \$5.00 a year.

**Members at Large:**

Based on the report received by the AAG in 2003, there are 202 registered members of the group.

**The ASG Newsletter:**

The newsletter is published twice a year, Fall and Summer. It is edited by the Chair, Florence Margai with assistance from the one of the Co-directors, John Benson. It is sent to members via a listserv that is hosted by Georgia State University at:

<http://mailbox.gsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/africa-aag>

**African Geographical Review Journal**

The ASG is also the owner of the African Geographical Journal, which is published once a year, in

December. All of our registered members receive a copy of the journal as part of the \$10.00 membership dues paid to the specialty group. The former editor was Jonathan Bascom, Calvin College, whose term expired in October 2003. Editorial board members include: Abdi Samatar, Jeffrey Popke, Joseph Oppong, Ben Ofori-Amoah, Godson Obia, Asefa Mehretu, Mike McNulty, Gary Gaile, Jonathan Crush, Susan Craddock, Tom Bassett, Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo, Ezekiel Kalipeni and Sam Aryeetey-Attoh. Currently, Florence Margai is serving as interim editor of the 2004 issue, and a new editor will be appointed during the AAG Denver meeting.

### **Accomplishments**

***Listserve:*** The ASG listserv was updated in Summer 2003 and roughly 250 members are now on the list.

**2004 ASG Sponsored Sessions:** The African Specialty group was successful in putting together several sessions at the 2004 AAG conference. Listed below are the sessions that were sponsored by the ASG. The majority of the paper presentations focused on a principal theme, notably *success stories* in Africa. All of the sessions were well attended, the rooms were packed with limited space available for seating. Given the increasing interest and visibility of the ASG, one of our goals for next year is to ensure that larger rooms are assigned to the ASG sessions to accommodate the audience.

- Coupling Land and Climate Systems: Linkages to completing the critical loop In East Africa
- Africa in the Post-911 World
- Making Change: Improving Africa's Food Security
- Making Change: Reinventing Africa's Political and Economic Development
- Making Change: Reinventing Africa's Rural Development
- Making Change: Reinventing Africa's Spatial Organization
- Making Change: Reinventing Urban Management and Planning in Africa
- Mentors and Mentorees: Immigration and International Geographers in North American Academia
- The Role of Geographic Methods, Approaches and Perspectives in Addressing African Development Challenges
- The State of Geography in Africa: Past, Present and Future.

The last session "The State of Geography in Africa" was based on a presentation by Prof. Reuben Udo who kindly accepted our invitation to join us for the Centennial meeting from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Thanks to the generous contributions of several members, the ASG received \$990.00 to support Prof. Udo's Travel to the Centennial meeting.

**The Financial Report:** During the 2003/2004 Academic year, the ASG generated funding from three sources:

- a. Membership Dues (The major source of revenue)
- b. Journal subscriptions from Libraries (Limited but one of our goals is to improve marketing of the journal to increase subscriptions)
- c. Contributions from its members to fund the international travel of the invited speaker.

A summary of financial report received from the AAG on August 31, 2003 showed that the group's account was \$4,085.00,. In addition, \$990.00 was raised for international travel of the invited speaker. The group expenses were incurred in three major areas:

- a. Publishing and mailing the African Geographical Review (Dec 2003 issue);
- b. Financial support for the AAG International scholar's reception; and
- c. Funding Prof. Udo's travel to the 2004 AAG conference.

We hope to receive a complete update of our financial report from the AAG in the upcoming weeks.

### **Future Plans and Directions**

The ASG business meeting was held during the AAG 2004 conference on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in the Marriot Hotel. During this meeting the following plans were made:

1. To update the web page for the African Specialty group.
2. To continue publishing the journal. An agreement was reached to charge the editorial board with the following responsibilities: a) to produce a marketing plan for the journal; b) to inquire and get estimates from different publishers; c) to provide justification, if any, for increasing membership dues to support the journal.

### **Planning for 101st Annual Conference (April 5-9, 2005)**

The next item of business was the discussion of potential topics for 2005 AAG conference in Colorado. Listed below are the topics suggested by ASG members:

- Maternal and Child Health care (in memory of Dr. Iyun's work)
- African Growth Action
- Poverty Reduction strategies
- Education and Resource Generation in African Universities
- Impact of Oil and other Resource Exploration Efforts
- Agriculture and Changing Landscapes in Africa

Plans are currently under way to organize these sessions for the conference.