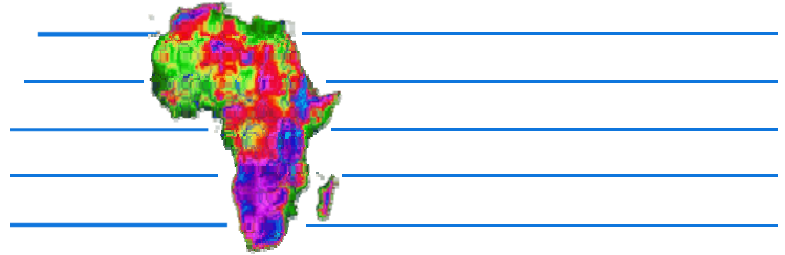


# ASG

## Newsletter of the Africa Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers



2007 / 2008, Issue No. 1

Abigail Amissah-Arthur, **EDITOR**

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### 2008 AAG MEETING

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the AAG will be held in Boston, April 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. The call for papers is out, and abstracts may be submitted online from August 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The website is <http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/index.htm>

### EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue is loaded with a lot of juicy, exciting, informative and unfortunately sad news.

- The African Geographical Review is making waves and getting a much deserved recognition. Article submission is up. Great job Ian and Bill!
- Our student members are also making us proud. Good news from two Sarahs. Sara Nelson received an award and Sarah Smiley finished secured a faculty position.
- Our chair person Francis Owusu was promoted to an associate professor. More feathers to your cap!
- Our group's profile is higher than ever at the AAG annual meetings. Our sessions are now scheduled in primetime. Thanks to all of you. Keep up the good work!

However, it is with sadness that I announce the untimely passing away of our dear colleague Kwadwo Konadu Agyemang. He will be missed but fondly remembered.

### AWARDS

The award for this year's student paper competition went to Macalester College senior, Sara Nelson. The title of her paper was "'Farming on the Fringes: Changes in Agriculture, Land Use and Livelihoods in the Peri-Urban Zone of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania". The award ceremony took place during the ASG business meeting at the 2007 annual meeting of the AAG in San Francisco, CA. Congratulations Sara!



Sara (right) receiving her award certificate from Abigail Amissah-Arthur (left) student paper award committee chair. (Picture courtesy: Florence Margai).

## 2008 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The Student Paper Awards Committee of the AAG's Africa Specialty Group (ASG) invites students to participate in the 2008 Student Paper Competition. The ASG will give one or more awards in recognition of outstanding student papers in any area of physical, social, economic or political geography of Africa. The award is designed to support college and university student career development in the above academic areas related to Africa. The award is financially supported by the ASG Funds.

Paper must be based upon original work done as an undergraduate or graduate student. Students do not have to be members of the ASG to enter the competition.

**Applications:** Applications for an ASG Student Paper Award must consist of the following:

1. A copy of the full paper to be presented or presented at the conference in Word or .rtf or PDF format;
2. A letter requesting consideration for the award and indicating the applicant's present status as a student as well as the following (a) Applicant's name, (b) Address, (c) School (College), (d) Current degree sought (i.e., PhD, MA, BA), (e) Advisor, (f) Advisor's Phone # and (g) Title of Paper.

In the case of papers already presented, evidence of the presentation of the paper, such as, for example, a copy of relevant pages of the program or proceedings including clear identification of the specific event at which the applicant presented the paper; OR In the case of papers yet to be presented, evidence of acceptance of the paper to the specific event selected by the applicant for presentation of the paper, clearly identifying the name and dates of the conference.

**Submissions:** Send electronically by March 1, 2008 to:

Dr. Abigail Amisshah-Arthur  
Dept. of Geography, Geology and the Environment  
Slippery Rock University  
Slippery Rock, Pa 16057  
Email: [Abigail.Arthur@sru.edu](mailto:Abigail.Arthur@sru.edu).  
Phone: 7247382390.

**Award:** The Student Paper Award shall consist of \$150 plus the opportunity to have the paper considered for publication in the *African Geographical Review*, the refereed journal published by the African Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The award recipient will also receive recognition in the ASG Newsletter and possibly the AAG newsletter. Recipients must attend ASG Business Meeting in Boston, 2008 to collect the award. For further information please contact Drs. Amisshah-Arthur, Bill Moseley, Seth Opoku.

## Appointment

**Sarah Smiley**  
(Ph.D. Geography 2007,  
The University of Kansas)  
**one of our student directors  
is now an Assistant  
Professor in the department  
of History and Geography,  
Morgan State University  
Baltimore, MD.**



**Sarah, we wish you all the  
best in your new position.**

## Recent Publications

- Amisshah-Arthur, A.** and Jagtap, S. 2007. Soybeans in sub-Saharan Africa: Modeling Possibilities and Potential. *Interdisciplinary Environmental Review (IER)* vol.9(1) 44-54, June 2007.
- Appiah-Opoku, S.** 2007. "Indigenous Beliefs and Environmental Stewardship: A Rural Ghana Experience", *Journal of Cultural Geography*, Vol. 24(2)79-98.
- Carmody, P. and Owusu, F.,** 2007. "Competing Hegemons? Chinese versus American Geo-Economic Strategies in Africa." *Political Geography* 26(5):504-524
- Moseley, W.G.** 2007. "Collaborating in the Field, Working for Change: Reflecting on Partnerships Between Academics, Development Organizations and Rural Communities in Africa." *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*. 28: 334-347.
- Moseley, W.G.** 2007. "Neoliberal Agricultural Policy versus Agrarian Justice: Farm Workers and Land Redistribution in South Africa's Western Cape Province." *South African Geographical Journal* .89(1): 4-13.
- Moseley, W.G.,** D. Lanegran and K. Pandit (eds). 2007. *The Introductory Reader in Human Geography: Contemporary Debates and Classic Writings*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Press. (ISBN 978-1-4051-4922-8).
- Nast, H. J.** (forthcoming) Royal concubines and indigo-dyeing in northern Nigeria, circa 1500 to 1807. In *Court Women around the World*. University of California Press, 2008. .
- Owusu, F.,** 2007. "Conceptualizing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities: Planning and Development Implications of Multiple Livelihood Strategies." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 26(4): 450-463
- Owusu, F.,** (forthcoming) "Post-9/11 U.S. Foreign Aid, the Millennium Challenge Account and Africa: How many Birds can one stone kill?" *Africa Today*

## Website of Interest

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

US-NIGERIA International Workshop: Exploring Strategies for Managing Drought Using Climate Forecasts and Local Knowledge. November 13-16 2007. Bauchi, Nigeria. Abigail.arthur@sru.edu

Immigration, Minorities and Multiculturalism in Democracies. Public Conference. October 25 – 27, 2007. Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, Montréal. Open conference. Thanks to Luna Vives for this information. She reports that there will be several panels on blackness in Canada, African Migration, ethnic conflicts in Africa, ethnic identities in Africa, the African diaspora, and migration, citizenship and xenophobia in post-Apartheid South Africa, among others. <http://www.edg-gde.ca/program.html>.

Expert Consultation on Biotechnology Applications in Cotton. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. 29-31 October, 2007.

Thanks to Brian Dowd for this information.

[http://www.icac.org/meetings/biotech\\_2007/english.html](http://www.icac.org/meetings/biotech_2007/english.html)

## CARTOON



Here's one Kenyan cartoonist's view of Africa's chances of meeting the UN Millenium development goals. (Submitted by Kefa Otiso).

[Science in Africa](http://www.scienceinafrica.co.za) claims to be the first popular science online magazine for Africa. Scientists in a broad range of disciplines report on their research, give expert views on topical issues in science. Their focus is to promote local and international awareness of science conducted in Africa; encourage debate on scientific issues; and further science communication among African countries. [www.scienceinafrica.co.za](http://www.scienceinafrica.co.za)

## NOTE

### Alabama in Ghana - Study Abroad Program (Summer 2008)

For the fifth year, GY 444/544 "Field Studies in Africa," directed by Dr. Seth Appiah-Opoku is enrolling UA students for the summer 2008 trip to Ghana.

This is a two week, 6-credit hours experiential learning program that is open to **all majors**. Site visits include a diamond mine, slave castle, monkey sanctuary, safari, traditional priest, beads-making factory, cultural drumming and dancing, and a canopy walk in a rainforest.

<http://bama.ua.edu/~ghana-al/photo.html>

Students are immersed in a foreign culture and learn how to adapt to their new environment. In the words of a student participant, "it's an adventure but a life-changing experience that makes learning exciting and fun".

The course is organized through the Capstone International. Duration: May 29 – June 12, 2008  
Financial Assistance: Financial aid, PACT, National Merit etc. [sappiah@bama.ua.edu](mailto:sappiah@bama.ua.edu)

## WANTED

Assistant Professor in the International Studies Program of DePaul University. An Africa focus would be most welcome.

Please see the AAG newsletter for details.

Submitted by Heidi Nast

# **Africa specialty Group, AAG Annual Business meeting, San Francisco, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2007**

This is a shortened form. Details in the annual report  
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~asg/newsletter.htm>

1. Meeting started at 7.05pm.
2. A moment of silence was observed in honor of the Virginia Tech massacre victims.
3. Introduction: The chair of ASG, Dr. Francis Owusu introduced other executive council members: Dr. Abigail Amissah-Arthur, Dr. Seth Appiah-Opoku and Dr. Calvin Masilela.
4. Chair's report: The chair presented his report on a. the sessions for the AAG 2007; b. budget statement; c. operating budget from dues collected; d. expense items included publication of journal, student award.
5. The 2007 student paper award: Dr. Amissah-Arthur reported that the committee for the student paper award received several entries. She noted that the paper submitted by Sara Nelson of Macalester College was the best paper in quality and therefore would be given the student paper award. The award was subsequently presented to Sara Nelson.
6. Africa Geographical Review: The chair introduced the editors of the journal, Ian Yeboah (editor) and Bill Moseley (associate editor). Dr. Yeboah reported on the improved capability of the journal and that this was achieved by building up the journal website to include detailed information on requirements for publication; expanding circulation of the journal by signing a contract with EPSCO. He also mentioned that he has been working on getting an ISI rating for the journal. He mentioned that he is targeting having 2 issues of the journal per year. He mentioned the need to have special issues of the journal by using papers presented at sessions organized by the group. He also informed the meeting that PDF documents of all articles ever published in the journal are now online at [www.macalester.edu/AGR](http://www.macalester.edu/AGR). Dr. Yeboah hopes to ensure a quick turnaround in the review and publication of submitted articles. He therefore urged members who have been requested to review articles quickly to achieve this objective. Altogether, the quality of papers accepted for publication in the journal has improved over time.
7. Benneh foundation: Dr. Joseph Oppong observed that the setting up of the foundation is an effort to recognize the contributions of distinguished geographers on the continent. The foundation was formed to keep the work of Prof. Benneh alive. He noted that the easiest way to generate fund for the effort to go through the AAG to set up a tax exempt foundation to collect money for the foundation. A committee of three has been formed comprising Drs. Godson Obia,

Joseph Oppong and Calvin Masilela are to coordinate the foundation. The chair then gave a brief biography of Prof. Benneh. He noted that the expectation is that the foundation would provide scholarship to students to attend conferences etc. More information will be communicated to members later.

8. 2008 AAG meeting: Dr. Calvin Masilela observed that the ASG was contributing to 9 sessions during the 2007 meeting. He noted the need to start early to develop sessions for next year. The following sessions were suggested by members: hydro power issues, water privatizing, urban planning problems in Africa, health, transportation, poverty, women and development, HIV and women. Members were informed that ASG has to maintain a critical mass of sessions in order to be maintain and be allotted time slots in prime time.
9. Others: The chair informed the members that the AAG would like to see cross disciplinary collaborations between geographers and other groups. AAG is willing to provide some support for efforts along these lines.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Amissah-Arthur, director of Communications.

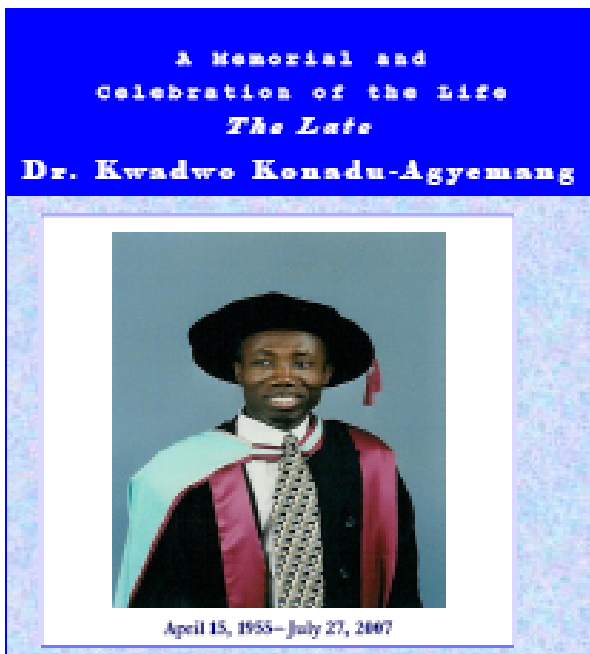
## **Newsletter**

The ASG Newsletter is issued twice a year by the Africa Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The purpose of this newsletter is to exchange ideas and news about research, events and happenings about or relating to Africa, and to foster improved communication within our community of scholars. The editor welcomes information from our members on the following

- a. books published
- b. significant article in a journal
- c. awards
- d. promotion
- e. new hires (Africa focus)
- f. fellowships/grants secured
- g. election to a major office
- h. information about major conference/workshop in or about Africa
- i. information about grants/fellowship for work in or about Africa

Also, consider contributing something to the Research, Course, or Field Notes sections. Please spell-check and proofread your submissions, and send them in the body of an email unless there are pictures which can be attached.

[abigail.arthur@sru.edu](mailto:abigail.arthur@sru.edu)



## Eulogy to Kwadwo

Courtesy of Calvin Masilela.

This tragic occurrence provides us an opportunity to note that there are times when we celebrate success and good will. While this loss saddens all of us, it also affords us a moment of reflection and the comfort that we will endure and overcome. Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Professor Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang fought a good fight. His passing on is overwhelming at different scales. We have lost a friend. Africa has lost yet another young dynamic mind. And above all we have lost a husband and father. His children will never get to benefit from the wisdom all fathers impart to their off-spring as they prepare for life's challenges, among other things. But, Kwadwo's fight and loss should not be in vain. In his short life, he gave so much to so many.

Reflecting on Kwadwo's legacy in a recent email to the Africa Specialty Group community Professor Samuel Attoh writes "Professor Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang leaves a legacy of versatile scholarship and dedicated service to his profession. His research on the social and spatial implications of structural adjustment programs, along with its interdisciplinary and holistic nature, appealed to scholars internal and external to the field of geography. His research provided a major contribution to our understanding of urban/ national systems development and the effectiveness of global and local initiatives in achieving social and economic justice." Ensuring that his legacy endures is no small challenge to us all.

To the Africa Specialty Group family, Professor Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang was an outstanding educator, mentor and colleague who represented and served his profession well. The outpouring today reflects

that. How are we going to perpetuate the legacy of this outstanding educator and good citizen?

**Kwadwo** where ever you are, you touched us in profound ways, your endearing personality and beaming smile of hope and optimism will be greatly missed. Rest in peace friend!

### Notice

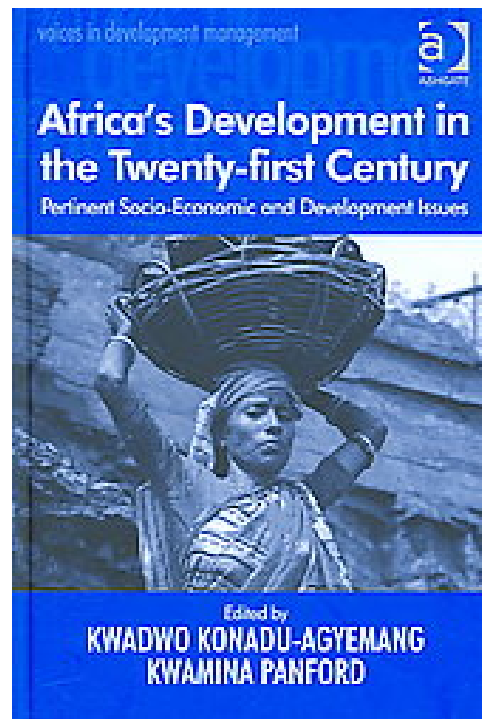
A bereavement fund was set up for his family. I want to take this opportunity to remind members to make their contribution to the bereavement fund. To do so, please make a check payable to

**Konadu-Agyemang Family**  
and mail it to:

Dr. Abigail Amissah-Arthur  
326 Advanced Technology and Science Hall  
Slippery Rock University  
Slippery Rock PA 16057

Contributions will be accepted till the end of the year.

**Among Dr. Agyemang's contributions is the book below.**



A Special session on Kwadwo's works is to be organized at the 2008 AAG meeting.  
Details: [fowusu@iastate.edu](mailto:fowusu@iastate.edu)

## AFRICAN GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

The editors of the *African Geographical Review* invite submissions for future issues. We welcome articles from any sub-field of geography, as well as contributions that are theoretical, empirical or applied in nature. The journal features five different types of articles: 1) commentaries, 2) research articles, 3) methodological or field notes, 4) featured reflections, and 5) book reviews. Original research contributions are requested, especially submissions from scholars in Africa. Articles should be submitted to Ian Yeboah at Miami University of Ohio via email ([yeboahie@muohio.edu](mailto:yeboahie@muohio.edu)). Enquiries can be made via email or phone (513-529-5013). <http://www.macalester.edu/geography/agr/index.htm>

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# African GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

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The *African Geographical Review* is a refereed journal published by the African Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The *African Geographical Review* continues to provide a medium for the publication of geographical material relating to Africa. It seeks to enhance the standing of African regional geography and to promote a better representation of African scholarship. The Ugandan Geographical Society at Makerere University founded this journal in 1963. First published as the *East African Geographical Review*, it was renamed and broadened in scope in 2000.



## Journal Subscription

Subscriptions are included in the membership dues collected by the AAG for the African Specialty Group. The subscription rate for individuals, who are non-members of the specialty group, is \$16 a year, \$30 for two years, and for libraries is \$32 a year, \$60 for two years.

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