LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In September 2011, I returned to Stanford after two inspiring years at the White House, where I had the privilege of serving on President Obama’s national security staff. While I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play a role in shaping U.S. policy on issues of global poverty and democracy and human rights, I am thrilled to return to Stanford, to resume my research agenda on African political economy, and to take up the leadership of the Center for African Studies.

The momentum I see in the growth of African Studies at Stanford is extraordinary. Just in recent weeks, former Prime Minister Tony Blair and Bill Gates have spoken to packed audiences of Stanford faculty, staff, and students about the changes underway in Africa. Blair described his innovative approaches to tackling governance, offering up a new model of partnership designed to help reformers deliver the transformation their citizens are demanding. Gates expressed his excitement and optimism about trends in Africa, and described concrete things people are doing that are changing millions of lives on the ground. These high-profile speakers are furthering the already tremendous growth in student interest on campus, and making clear the contribution that Stanford has to make – through our research, teaching, and service – in addressing the many challenges and opportunities on the African continent.

I am privileged to inherit the Directorship of a Center that is thriving, and appreciate the tremendous leadership of Richard Roberts over many years and the indispensable Laura Hubbard, our valued and beloved Associate Director. Together, our community has embraced a set of ambitious goals that will guide our efforts in the years ahead: a focus on preparing students to engage Africa, a commitment to fostering greater intellectual exchange on campus, new initiatives to connect Stanford with Africa and Africa with Stanford, and the creation of new opportunities for student research and service.

In support of this exciting agenda, I am thrilled to share the news of the Center’s first major endowment gift. Susan Ford Dorsey has made an extraordinary gift of $2.5 million to endow the Directorship of the Center for African Studies and a permanent graduate fellowship to support dissertation field research in Africa. Her leadership gift will be matched with $1.7 million in matching funds from the School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford, made possible by the Hewlett Foundation. Susan has been a strong supporter of the Center in recent years, and this gift is a signal of her deep commitment to growing Stanford’s global footprint through our teaching, research, and practical impact.

I am inspired by the progress we have made in building the Center for African Studies, and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. This year we have welcomed new faculty in Economics (Pascaleine Dupas) and the Business School (Katherine Casey), who put us at the forefront of the research frontier in economic development and global health. Our community of graduate students continues to grow, with students from across the university competing for summer research funds to undertake dissertation fieldwork in Africa. Our overseas program in Cape Town is blossoming, and this summer the Center will support eleven Stanford undergraduates who wish to turn their academic experience into a summer service fellowship. And we have undertaken a wide-ranging review of graduate and undergraduate curriculum, with the goal of making concrete changes that respond to the imperatives outlined in the recent, university-wide Study of Undergraduate Education at Stanford (SUES).

This is an exciting time to be a part of African Studies at Stanford. Best wishes for productive summer, and I look forward to another year of intellectual excitement, continued growth, and new possibilities.

The lively office of The Center for African Studies (CAS) is located in Encina West 209 and serves faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and community members with an interest in Africa. The center is at the heart of an ever-growing Stanford community of scholars and students working in Africa and facilitates connections and collaborations across the campus. CAS also functions as a hub of information about events and opportunities for research and service in Africa. The center is the place to visit if you are interested in studying an African language, conducting fieldwork for a research project, or are passionate about service in Africa. CAS offers a diverse array of fellowships for MA, PhD, and undergraduate students to encourage rigorous field research and meaningful service in Africa. Staff members and other students are always on hand to advise and discuss the many opportunities to engage with Africa at Stanford. Graduate students and undergraduates of all backgrounds find support, mentoring and a stimulating and warm community at the center. The office is run by Associate Director, Laura Hubbard, an anthropologist focusing on youth, media and development in Southern Africa, whose expertise and enthusiasm are invaluable and contagious. Stop by to meet her and the rest of the CAS family – all are welcome!

SUSAN FORD DORSEY FELLOWSHIP FOR FIELD RESEARCH IN AFRICA

The Center for African Studies is excited to announce the launch of a new fellowship for PhD students made possible with generous support from Susan Ford Dorsey. Open to candidates from any department or program within the School of Humanities and Sciences, the fellowship is directed toward PhD candidates whose dissertation research engages with contemporary issues and debates of importance to the African continent. The fellowship supports a full academic year of fieldwork and is a critical addition to CAS fellowship offerings which focus on pre-dissertation research and advanced language training.

AFRICAN STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS:

2. African Service Fellowship: Fellowships with Haas Center for Public Service offered to enrolled undergraduates
3. Susan Ford Dorsey Fellowship for Field Research in Africa: 9-12 month dissertation field research fellowship for PhD candidates in H&S
4. Summer Research and Language Fellowship: Graduate research fellowship; intensive African language fellowship for graduate and undergraduate students
5. Cape Town Summer Fellowship: CAS fellowship for undergraduates who have participated in the BOSP Cape Town program in Winter or Spring quarters for community based research in Cape Town.
PASCALINE DUPAS, Assistant Professor of Economics

Do people always use things that they get for free? We have all heard stories about free mosquito nets that were turned into curtains, fishing nets, or even wedding veils. But does this mean it is always better to charge people for products that are likely to greatly improve their health? Research by Pascaline Dupas, Assistant Professor of Economics at Stanford University and faculty affiliate of the Center for African Studies, has shed light on this important question.

In perhaps her most influential work to date, Pascaline finds that providing free bednets and other health products gives people an opportunity to learn about how useful these products are. “Until a few years ago,” Pascaline says, “the policy world was concerned that such free distribution wouldn’t work because people wouldn’t value (and hence wouldn’t use) products they get for free.” While her initial work on this topic examined bednet use in Kenya, a number of other scholars have replicated her results with a variety of products in many different countries.

Some of her other work examines how information affects health behavior, and why it is so difficult for households to save for health. Many people want to invest in health, but formal and informal saving networks) had a big impact on household saving for health. For example, Pascaline found that providing information to adolescent girls in Kenya about the relative risk of contracting HIV from different kinds of partners (teenage boys versus older men) resulted in a significant change in their sexual behavior. In another study, Pascaline found that providing information to adolescent girls in Kenya about the relative risk of contracting HIV from different kinds of partners (teenage boys versus older men) resulted in a significant change in their sexual behavior.

The series began with the presentation by Michael Eze (Visiting Scholar in African Studies), “Meaning and Politics of Identity in Contemporary South Africa.” Eze led a discussion on the concept of ubuntu, used by prominent leaders and thinkers in South Africa to invoke a shared sense of national community. It concluded with a seminar led by Catherine Cole (Theater Studies, UC Berkeley, Professor), “Reverberations of Testimony: Father Michael Lapsley and South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” Cole’s case study of Lapsley’s testimony was a reflection on evidence at the TRC, and especially the means by which it was publicly delivered, archived and otherwise represented.

Several of the themes discussed at workshop events overlapped with presentations at the Stanford Archaeology Center’s conference, “Heritage and Human Rights”, held in the spring. A number of other scholars have replicated her results with a variety of products in many different countries.

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Work by Pascaline and others has changed basic assumptions about the way people behave with regard to their demand for-and use of health products. The research on health behavior helps scholars and practitioners alike better understand how and why people seek and use health products and services that prevent illness and potentially save lives.

- Melissa Pittas Izana (PhD Candidate, Political Science)
CAS 2011-2012 MA STUDENTS

KOFFI BIERHOFF KOHIA explores development, democracy, political economy and security in Africa. His current work analyzes the impact of conflicts on regional stability on the continent with emphasis on the horn of Africa. He graduated in 2008 from California State University East Bay with a BA in Political Science and Sociology. He was born in Liberia and has lived and studied in Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone. Some of his favorite activities are playing soccer, watching European soccer leagues and listening to NPR.

CHAD MCGLYMONDStudies small state foreign policy, international organization and the role of Africa’s global perception. He also examines the ethics of humanitarianism and the use of media as a tool for development. Chad earned his BA in international relations from San Francisco State University. He studied at the University of Ghana, Legon, and worked with the Centre for Democratic Development in Ghana to conduct research on election-related violence in Ghana’s 2008 election. He also worked in West Africa’s film industry, broadcast television, and theatre.

VANESSA WATTERS is a MA student in the Center for African Studies at Stanford. Her research interests center on questions of visual culture and religiosity. She is curious about the production of hope and orientation of knowledge in the context of Islamic West Africa. Vanessa is a former Peace Corps Volunteer, where she spent two years in the north of Ghana. Prior to her time in Ghana Vanessa worked for the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, with the AMNH Expeditions Program. She holds a BFA in Modern Dance Performance from TCU in Fort Worth, Texas. Horned Frog for life.

SARA CONKLINGraduated with a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from Florida International University in 2011. She is now an M.A. student, specializing in global health, culture and society. In 2009, Sara traveled to Arusha, Tanzania with the nonprofit organization, Support for International Change and conducted research on HIV/AIDS education in the Kilimanjaro district and developed an HIV awareness campaign. In 2010, studying abroad with her university, Sara wrote ethnographic entries on globalization and heritage tourism in Senegal and The Gambia. Sara intends to continue research in global health and infectious disease, particularly targeting health education initiatives for at-risk communities in East Africa.

ANNE WHEAT is a third year joint degree student at Stanford, where she is pursuing a JD and MA in African Studies. Annie has worked on reviewing mining and natural resource legislation in Malawi, and editing a book on constitutional law and women’s rights issues across sub-Saharan Africa. At the law school, she is also Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of International Law and Co-President of the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. Prior to Stanford, Annie served as an Ensign in the United States Navy, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation, Annie will continue serving in the Army as a Judge Advocate General and hopes to be assigned to the U.S. African Command. In the long term, Annie wants to work on legal development in Africa.

CAS 2011 SUMMER RESEARCH HONOREES

MELINA PLATAS IZAMA is PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science. Her research interests center around comparative politics, social service provision, and political development. Living and working, on and off, in Uganda since 2005, Melina has conducted research in the field of health care provision as well as writing and reporting for several publications. She currently contributes as a columnist to The Independent (Rwanda Edition). As a CAS 2011 Summer Fellow, Melina conducted research on the topic of maternal health, exploring opportunities to implement incentive-based health programs in collaboration with the Ugandan government. She presented her findings at the Center for African Studies in “Incentivizing Health: An Experiment in Results-Based Financing in Uganda.”

KEN OPALO is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science. His work focuses on political economy and African legislatures. Thanks to a CAS summer fellowship, Ken spent last summer conducting preliminary research on the Zambian legislature. During his time there Ken managed to gain access to the library of the Zambian parliament and start the process of affiliation with the University of Zambia. Ken’s planned dissertation will be on the politics of legislative development in Africa, prospectively titled “Institutions and Political Change: The Politics of Legislative Development in Africa.” The results of the last summer’s research and other earlier work will be published in a forthcoming article in the Journal of Democracy.

JESS AUERBACH is a second year PhD student in Anthropology. Thanks to a grant from CAS, she spent five weeks in Angola conducting preliminary research on the contemporary connections between Angola and Brazil, finding out how people in both Portuguese-speaking countries are increasingly relating to one another, and investing in one another’s growth. Jess’ research focuses on how the shared past of linguistic and colonial inheritance is influencing exchanges of people through travel, rather than the slavery of the 1500’s, goods and ideas. That said, Angola is also playing an increasingly significant role in Southern African geopolitics, leveraging the power of its oil reserves in order to negotiate with its neighbours, and the country is transforming at rapid speed. South Africans by nationality, Jess was often confronted with warnings that her country was soon to be overtaken by Angola as the continent’s powerhouse. On the level of energy, at least, that’s very likely true.

JESS AUERBACH

KERRY RUSSELL’s exploratory research in Mozambique this past summer was possible through a CAS-funded research fellowship. As part of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, he helped to complete a 1,600-household impact evaluation of an ongoing rural water improvement project. Kerry specifically studies how improved levels of water supply service impact the calorific cost of water fetching within rural Mozambican communities. As part of this evaluation, data on anthropometrics, terrain classification, GPS points, water container volumes and much more were collected for synthesis into his greater research goals. Additionally, Kerry trained students and site monitors from the Universidade Lúrio in Nampula, Mozambique to perform water quality testing of both source water and stored water for E. coli.

KEN OPALO
Learning African languages is a central aspect of work and study in Africa. This year students studied eight different African languages: Amharic, Arabic, Swahili, Somali, Tswana, Twi, Yoruba and Zulu. While some students focus on language training to deepen regional expertise and strengthen research, many take Swahili in particular to prepare for summer internships in East Africa. Another set of students are “heritage learners.” Twi professor Kwame Assenyoh describes these students as those that “don’t necessarily want to study in Ghana, but their parents are Ghanaians, and they were born in the diaspora - they learn Twi in order to claim some part of that heritage.”

A remarkable aspect of the African language classes is their emphasis on situating linguistics in a broader socio-cultural context. As Swahili professor Samuel Mukoma remarks, “when you teach language there is no way you can do it alone; you have to teach culture at the same time. You teach the students so that they can be able to act in culturally appropriate ways and familiarize them with things like dress, social interaction and different types of food.” The Twi and Swahili language classes emphasized this importance through “cultural nights” where students across the campus shared food, games, songs and language skills. As Twi student, Anna Nti Asare commented, “A language does not only teach us words but teaches us different ways of looking at situations and expressing feelings. Learning Twi has allowed me to gain a deeper connection with Ghanaian culture.”

SASA started in 1979 with the goal to liberate and develop Africa. Quite a bit has changed since then, and because of the dynamic nature of the shifting executives, each year brings unique visions and ideas to SASA’s student programming. For example, this year was focused on adding more perspective through participation in the arts: film, media, music, etc. Our highlights included the SASA Cultural Show featuring Trevor Noah, a South African comedian, and “Afrique Fest,” headlined by Ghanaian hiplife group “VIP”. We also hosted “Africa Week” which included a Google Africa conference, dance workshops, African films and dining events. This year’s theme was “Breadbasket Africa,” a call to further the African presence by spreading awareness and creating opportunities.

SASA is committed to fostering cultural, political, and social awareness about the African continent, promoting dialogue on pertinent issues effecting the continent, creating an intellectual and social space for Africans and those interested in Africa at Stanford, and fostering cultural and social ties with people of African descent in the Bay Area community at large. From the onset of our organization’s founding in 1979, which is reflected by our acronym “SASA” (which means “now” in Swahili), SASA has been seeking to convey the urgency and importance of not only African issues, but also the African presence throughout the world.

- Tanaska Mawindi (SASA Co-president, Junior, BA Comparative Literature)
CAS ON CAMPUS

Kenya Exchange Conference

On October 12, 2011, CAS facilitated the ‘Kenya Exchange Conference,’ to bring together officials of the Kenya Information and Communications Technology (ICT) board, members of Kenya’s parliamentary Committee on Energy, Communications and Information, Stanford faculty and students working in ICT projects in Africa, as well as Bay Area Kenyans and other professionals interested in ICT entrepreneurship in Kenya. For the Kenya ICT board it was an opportunity to solicit feedback on their ambitious master plan, as part of Kenya’s Vision 2030, from the academic and professional communities in Silicon Valley. For Stanford students and faculty it was an opportunity to form partnerships with members of the Kenya government with whom they might work on ICT projects, and for Bay Area Kenyans it was a chance to learn about opportunities back home and to interact with members of their government.

Stanford Professors Terry Winograd, Joshua Cohen and Eric Roberts spoke about some of the work they are doing in Kenya. Kenya’s legislators James Rege and Samuel Poghosio spoke about Kenya’s government support for ICT development and Kenya ICT Boards’s Engineer Kariuki and Kaburo Kobia shed light on Kenya’s progress in broadband network and plans for the Konza Technology City and efforts to mobilize ICT investments from external and diaspora sources. According to participants of the event, it was an immense success as judged by the quality of presentations and discussions.

- Eric Mlibau (Graduate Student, Computer Science)

The Stanford Association for International Development (SAID) is a student organization dedicated to promoting awareness of international development on campus. This year’s conference, “Rethinking Reform: Innovations in Improving Governance,” was based on the premise that the strength, stability, and quality of state institutions is developing nations is a crucial causal factor in achieving broad-based development.

The keynote speaker was John Githongo, the former Permanent Secretary for Government and Ethics to the President of Kenya, who delivered stirring remarks that pointed to corruption and poor governance as causes of political instability and ethnic conflict. The conference featured insights from top-level representatives of the World Bank, Global Fund for Women, and the Nigerian Federal Government.

- Jonah Reser (Senior, BA International Relations)
The Stanford Forum for African Studies (SFAS) is a graduate student organization dedicated to promoting positive intellectual discourse on Africa. Membership is composed of graduate students from departments and professional; undergraduates are also encouraged to participate. SFAS complements the activities of the Center for African Studies by creating new spaces for students to present research or projects and receive constructive feedback from their peers.

In September of 2011 SFAS hosted the conference, The Black Atlantic: Colonial and Contemporary Exchanges. An interdisciplinary conference, papers presented examined the vestiges of the slave trade, along with the resulting economic and cultural exchanges, both from and within Africa. Professor Bruce Hall of Duke University and Professor Pius Adesanmi of Pennsylvania State University provided keynote addresses. Consistent with the theme of exploring the triangular interaction of the Black Atlantic (Europe, Africa and the Americas), the conference sought to shed light on the effect of forced and voluntary migration on identity and culture, on social, economic, and political development in Africa and in the African Diaspora. Panel themes covered aesthetic politics of cultural production, representation and belonging, and colonial and contemporary constructions of race.

The Stanford Africa Forum (SAF) is a multinational and multidisciplinary group of Stanford students who share a common passion: a firm belief in the potential and promise of the African continent. SAF encourages collaboration among students from various disciplines including business, engineering, humanities and law to address critical economic challenges facing African countries. SAF also seeks to attract and engage professionals across the globe with an interest in Africa.

The 2012 SAF conference Innovating Towards a Sustainable Africa drew over 400 participants. The conference was hosted by the Stanford Graduate School of Business as one of the year’s key featured events. Our keynote speakers, Dr. James Mwangi and Mr. Danladi Verheijen, are innovators in the banking and private equity industries, respectively. Dr. Mwangi is the founder of Equity Bank, a provider of traditional banking services to previously unbanked/economically disadvantaged.

Girma Fantaye is a current John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford University. The Knight Fellowship brings journalists from all over the world together to focus on innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership in the rapidly changing field of journalism. A native of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Fantaye began his career in journalism after graduating from University College of Commerce. In 2007, he co-founded Addis Neger, a weekly newspaper covering current affairs. Fantaye wrote on politics and human rights, analyzing both national and regional issues. When the government began putting intense pressure on Addis Neger and in December 2009, Fantaye and his co-founders left the country. They began publishing an online version of Addis Neger from their exile in Uganda. Here at Stanford, Fantaye is exploring mechanisms to make exile media sustainable, and to ensure their relevance and significance.

...And I saw a cabbage in my dreams!” she told me, one respected radio producer whom I met here at Stanford. As a recipient of a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship, I have had the chance to meet many people with dreams, those who dream to change world and even those who dream of cabbage. Plenty of people I talk to, while struggling to listen to my Ambaric- burdened English accent, love to hear about “my country”, Africa. Eh...in some of the conversations I had, I was forced to get along with the ugly sense of pity. Pity, as lacking the spirit of fraternity. I was never attracted to this myopically articulated “African identity.” In the words of Chimamanda Ngozi “I did not consciously identify myself as an African.” Thousands of miles away from Africa, I became an African. As some of my friends here at Stanford are Kenyan or Ghanaian, I have been only just an Ethiopian. I only think of Africa during the World Cup or when the AU Leaders come to Addis Ababa for their yearly gathering to chase us from the streets. America truly gave me the perspective to consider myself as an African, at least, in the sense of shared future destiny. Here at CAS, I was lucky to listen the gospel of good hopes and analyze trends across the continent. Due to CAS I have many more dear friends from various countries, African and otherwise. The more I listen to them, the more I am stirred by the profound similarity of our shared destiny. As an ‘African’ and as a human.”

Girma T. Fantaye
This annual student and faculty retreat, sponsored by the Center for African Studies, kicks off the Autumn Quarter by bringing together students just returning from their summers of research and internships in Africa. Led by Stanford faculty, David Abernethy, Helen Stacy and Jeremy Weinstein, this evening allows students to reflect on their summer experiences and explore ways to incorporate those experiences into academic work and on-campus activities. Coming from departments and disciplines across the University, Back From Africa provides Stanford students with resources and networks to keep active their connections to Africa as they continue their academic careers. Students tackle such questions as “What do you value most from your summer experience?”, “What surprised you in your work and research?” and “How can you stay connected to these places and organizations throughout the year?”

Our faculty members provide invaluable insight in considering these questions, and guide students as they make the transition from “in the field” to “back on the Farm.”

Professor Jeremy Weinstein engages graduate students in discussion.

Professor Helen Stacy speaks with undergraduates.
CAS Cape Town Summer Fellows:
KEITH CALIX
Junior, International Relations

ALIZA GAZEK
Junior, Human Biology

FRANCISCA GILMORE
Junior, History

ALLISON JOHNSON
Junior, Human Biology

HANA KAJIMURA
Sophomore

MARCUS LEAKS
Junior, Psychology

TUMISANG MADIGELE
Junior, International Relations

HANNA RICH
Junior, Human Biology

AMY SHOWN
Freshman, Human Biology

ANNIE SMARTT
Junior, Human Biology

RACHEL TERRELL-PERICA
Junior, Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity

TIFFANY WYCHE
Senior, Sociology

Summer Language Fellowships:
JACOB DOHERTY
PhD Candidate, Anthropology, Luganda

BRI EVANS
Junior, Anthropology, Moore

REBECCA GILSDORF
PhD Student, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Luganda

STEPHANIE QUINN
PhD Student, History, Bemba

CAS Summer Research Fellows
DARIN CHRISTENSEN
PhD Student, Political Science
Living in the City: Urban Bias in the Use of Repression

SALLY EMBREY
MS/PhD Student, Civil and Environmental Engineering
An Examination of the Impact of Loans for Water and Sanitation Services on Health and Hygiene Practices of Two Communities in Peri-Urban Kenya

JESSICA GREMBI
PhD Student, History
Politics and Personalities: Contemporary Memories about Fode Kaba Dumbuya from the Casamance/Gambia Borderlands

TOUMA KUNJO
PhD Student, History
Politics and Personalities: Contemporary Memories about Fode Kaba Dumbuya from the Casamance/Gambia Borderlands

VIVIAN LU
PhD Student, Anthropology
International Travel and Class Mobility of Nigerian Entrepreneurs

SARAH QUESADA
PhD Student, Iberian and Latin American Cultures
Transforming Relationships: Benin-Senegal and the Cuban African Diaspora

ANGELA RICE
PhD Student, Engineering
Source Tracking Stored Water Fecal Contamination

KATHRYN TAKABVIRWA
PhD Student, Anthropology
Powers in the Everyday: The Case Study of Chegutu Residents and Zimplats Mine