

International studies and programs: Africa.

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NEWS TIPS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

News & Information Service
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*International Studies + Programs
Africa*

Dec. 7, 1992

TO: Reporters, editors, news directors
FROM: Jeff Iseminger, (608) 262-8287
RE: Somalia

Since the Somalian relief effort will be a major story for weeks to come, we wanted to tell you of some people at UW-Madison who could provide background for your stories:

Omar Ali Mohamud is a Somalian native and graduate student who maintains daily contact with three organizations working within Somalia. He also is organizing the Somali Aid Fund, which will be directed to the areas of Somalia not yet reached by relief efforts. You may call him at home, (608) 274-6209, but he also uses that number for his fax, so you may need to fax him if you hear an electronic screech at the other end.

Herbert Lewis, an anthropologist, has done fieldwork in both Ethiopia and Somalia. Phone (608) 262-1802 or 262-2866 (O) or 238-3796 (H).

Michael Schatzberg, a political scientist, specializes in the politics of sub-Saharan Africa. Phone (608) 263-2392 or 274-9182 (H).

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Release:

Immediately

7/14/89

CONTACT: Susan Disch or Nancy Gebert at 262-2115

GHANIAN SCHOLAR TO TEACH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COURSE AT UW-MADISON

MADISON--A world expert in environmental law, Fui Tsikata of Ghana, will be teaching a new five-week course, Comparative Law of Natural Resources, at the UW-Madison Law School, July 24-August 27.

The course will examine the different ways countries handle their environmental problems, focusing particularly on water rights and land use. It is open to any student with graduate standing, as well as to Guest Students (audit-only) with the instructor's permission. It will meet from 10:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays.

For additional course or registration information, contact Joan Rundle, Room 236, Law Building, 975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706; telephone (608) 263-8094.

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SIERRA LEONE'S AMBASSADOR to Washington, George B. Carew, foreground, meets with UW-Madison's 1989-90 exchange student Steven Salm, left, and International Studies and Programs Acting Dean Fred Hayward, center.

UW's exchange program in Sierra Leone continues

WI. Week 4/19/89
By Barbara Wolff

As UW-Madison prepares to send its second group of undergraduates to study abroad next fall in the western African country of Sierra Leone, the acting dean of International Studies and Programs says many goals remain for scholars in both countries to pursue.

Fred Hayward says that UW-Madison has been sending graduate students to work at Fourah Bay College in the capital city of Freetown since 1958. In addition, UW-Madison has trained many of Sierra Leone's government officials and at least a dozen University of Sierra Leone faculty members. However, this year marks the end of the first year of a formal agreement that allows undergraduates as well to experience an African education.

The seven 1989-90 exchange students' introduction to the country and its people began last week, when Hayward arranged a meeting between them and Sierra Leone's ambassador to Washington, George B. Carew.

Carew told the students to expect a more formal teaching arrangement at Fourah Bay. He added that Sierra Leone's colonial heritage has resulted in a tendency for educators to favor memorization over understanding in their classrooms, but that professors and students regularly remind each other to focus on deeper issues rather than the absorption of facts.

Carew said that one of the main tasks facing the country is keeping its university graduates from leaving.

"Less than 10 percent of our population is able to go to university. Those that do often are given scholarships and other special treatment, and sometimes do not realize their duty to aid in the development of their country," he said.

Consequently, Carew said that exposure to American students, whether at UW-Madison or Fourah Bay, provides a good model for the elite students in Sierra Leone. The fact that Americans often work while pursuing a college education shows that students can become an integral part of their country's economy as well as study.

Hayward added that UW-Madison's students also benefit from the exchanges. In addition to exposure to another culture and country, they will find fertile ground for research in Sierra Leone, he said.

"Projects last year ranged from collecting oral traditions to a study of names in several languages to a survey of the recent elections. In fact, the current president of Sierra Leone, Joseph Momoh, invited the 1988-89 scholars to spend some time with him.

"Consequently, I'd like very much to see our exchange program expand to include more students, both from Sierra Leone and Madison, and more African nations as well. I have been absolutely delighted with our students' experiences there," Hayward said. ■

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NOTE TO EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS: A complete list of the tour participants and their schools is included at the end of this story.

CONTACT: Joseph Adjaye (608) 263-2171

TOUR PARTICIPANTS SHARE ENLIGHTENMENT ABOUT 'DARK CONTINENT'

By PATRICK DORN
University News Service

MADISON--Sixteen public school educators from around Wisconsin are developing coursework they hope will dispell myths about the "Dark Continent," following participation this past summer in a six-week Africa study tour.

The group spent its time in the country of Sierra Leone, located on the western coast of Africa. The tour was sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison African Studies Program in collaboration with the state Department of Public Instruction.

Tour coordinator Joseph Adjaye, UW-Madison African Studies Outreach director, said the educators will develop curricula for use in their school districts and to shared with districts throughout the state.

Adjaye said the tour was divided into three two-week sessions, the first consisting of lectures at the University of Sierra Leone in the capital city of Freetown. The second session included field trips to provinces where rural life was observed, while the third allowed participants to plan their own activities and develop teaching materials.

He said tour members met with the nation's police chief, a number of local chiefs and even outgoing Sierra Leone President Dr. Siaka Probyn Stevens. "And those are rare opportunities even for Sierra Leoneans," Adjaye remarked.

Add 1--africa tour

Tour member Booker Gardner, principal at Madison's Van Hise Elementary School, called the trip "one of the best things I've ever done in my life."

Gardner's specific interest is viewing culture through art, and he is organizing a multidisciplinary unit on West Africa for first and second graders. The unit will include information about art, West African literature, other aspects of the society and music that Gardner obtained on the tour.

"Hopefully, the students will learn more about our society by looking at another one, and at the same time learn a lot about the other culture," Gardner said. Van Hise students and those from two schools in Freetown also have become pen pals, he said.

James Harris, another tour member and principal of Rothschild Elementary School near Wausau, also is developing course plans for elementary students.

Harris is author of the kindergarten-through-second grade social studies curriculum to be published in 1986 by Holt, Reinhart and Winston. He said he is producing a supplemental unit on Africa for that program and plans to have it ready for use in his home district by January.

"Over the course of the year I think elementary teachers should be looking at other cultures," Harris said. The Africa supplement will simply be another tool for them to do that, he said.

For Ed Benedict, a seventh grade geography teacher at James Madison Junior High in Appleton, the trip was his first opportunity to travel abroad.

"Fantastic is the word I can use to express it," Benedict said. A 20-year teaching veteran, he said what he observed in Sierra Leone was "about the same" as what he had read, "but I didn't have an in-depth feel for things. I know a lot of things now that you can't get out of books."

Benedict said he will use the trip experience to enhance his geography course. He is contributing slides for a filmstrip the tour group will include in its curricula, and is writing a computer program that will require students to match the proper climate, commercial crops, natural vegetation and dwelling

Add 2--africa tour

types with randomly-selected locations in Africa.

All tour participants contacted expressed some surprise at the friendliness of Sierra Leoneans.

"Contrary to popular belief, they love Americans there," Benedict said.

Harris said: "I really felt the people were the highlight of the trip." Of the 30 to 40 foreign countries he has been in, Harris said, Sierra Leone was the friendliest toward Americans "hands down."

Along with the people, Gardner was impressed with the country's school system and steps the Sierra Leone government is taking to improve it. As in the British system, he said, citizens must pay fees to attend school, and many are unable to afford it.

Yet, the country's high illiteracy rate is declining and, Gardner said, the government played an active role this year in making text books available free to primary level students.

Members of the tour group have contacted the U.S. Information Service in Freetown about ways American schools might send text books to Sierra Leone. The cost of mailing books makes it impractical, Gardner said, but he is hopeful an alternative will be found.

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--Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2560

Add 3--africa tour

Editor's Note: The following is a listing, by home town, of African study tour participants. Phone numbers provided for tour participants are home numbers.

TOUR COORDINATOR: Joseph Adjaye, UW-Madison African Studies Program
outreach director, (608) 263-2171.

APPLETON - Ed Benedict, James Madison J.H.S., (414) 739-0287.

BELOIT - Mary Francis, Lincoln J.H.S., (608) 365-1097.

FOND DU LAC - Dave Zitlow, Whitefish H.S., (414) 963-3958.

MADISON - Booker Gardner, principal Van Hise Elem., (608) 267-4282.
Gerald Parrish, Randall Elem., (608) 267-4221.
Julia Frohreich, Elvehjem Elem., (608) 838-3146.

MILWAUKEE - Linda Alston, Greenfield Elem., (414) 647-2767.
Barbara Ellis, Victor Berger Elem., (414) 873-1969.
Rita Lohmeier, Kosciuszko Middle School (414) 277-9297.
Ella Washington, district music supervisor, (414) 354-3757.

MONROE - Paul Schoenike, Monroe J.H.S., (608) 328-9120.

MOSINEE - Darwin Gregorson, John Muir J.H.S., (715) 845-2191.

OSHKOSH - Shirley Grunloh, Franklin Elem., (414) 424-0078.

RACINE - Mary Soley, Jeff. Light. Elementary, (414) 639-0428.

SCHOFIELD - James Harris, principal Rothschild Elem., (715) 355-1309.

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--Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650



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CONTACT: Joseph Adjaye (608) 263-2171

PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS TO VISIT AFRICA THROUGH UW-MADISON PROGRAM

MADISON--Fifteen public school educators from Wisconsin and one from Illinois will spend six weeks studying in Africa this summer under the sponsorship of the University of Wisconsin-Madison African Studies Program.

The educators were chosen from more than 160 teachers, librarians and administrators who applied. They will travel to Sierra Leone, located on the western coast of Africa. The tour is scheduled for June 23-Aug. 2.

The emphasis of the trip will be on curriculum development, according to Joseph Adjaye, UW-Madison African studies outreach director and tour coordinator. In addition to acquiring first-hand experience of Africa, participants will develop instructional units and collect materials for use in the classroom. The program will include instruction, field study and cultural activities.

Adjaye said the tour developed out of African studies' long-standing commitment to public service.

"We have had a very active outreach program for more than 10 years," he said. "We try to inform the public about Africa and eliminate stereotypes about the continent."

Participants will undergo a three-day orientation before flying to Sierra Leone. After returning to their classrooms this fall, they will evaluate the program.

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Add 1--Africa tour

The study tour is funded through a grant from the Fulbright-Hays Program, and was organized by African studies in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The 16 participants include three principals, a librarian, a social worker and 11 elementary and secondary school teachers. Their names and hometowns are:

Linda Alston, Greenfield; Ed Benedict, Appleton; Barbara Ellis, Milwaukee; Mary Francis, Beloit; Julia Frohreich, Madison; Booker Gardner, Madison; Darwin Gregerson, Mosinee; Shirley Grunloh, Oshkosh; James Harris, Schofield; Rita Lohmeier, Milwaukee; Gerald Parrish, Madison; Paul Schoenike, Monroe; Mary Soley, Racine; Ella Washington, Brown Deer; Dave Zitlow, Fond du Lac; and Bernadette Anderson, Chicago.

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--Barb Kucera (608) 262-8292



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Africa*

Release: Immediately

5/23/85

CONTACT: William H. Tishler (608) 263-8973,
Peter P. Dorner (608) 262-2851/262-2852

UW-MADISON AND AFRICAN UNIVERSITY AGREE TO COOPERATIVE LINK

MADISON--An agreement to exchange faculty, students, research and international public services between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the National University of Benin, Africa, has been signed by representatives of UW-Madison and the government of Benin.

The cooperative tie was agreed to at ceremonies here Tuesday (May 21) by Guy Hazoume, ambassador to the United States from Benin, and Peter P. Dorner, dean of International Studies and Programs. Dorner's office will coordinate the programs at UW-Madison.

The agreement includes plans for joint projects on economic development, historic preservation and restoration, agricultural research and training, preventive health programs and ethnic science and technology.

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-- Mary Ellen Bell (608) 262-8287



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

Immediately

10/4/84

Release:

CONTACT: Paul Beckett (608) 262-2380

U.S. GRANT TO FUND EXCHANGES BETWEEN UW-MADISON AND AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

MADISON--Faculty exchanges between University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Burundi in Africa are expected to result from a three-year grant to UW-Madison from the United States Information Agency.

The \$50,000 grant will finance travel and stipends for the faculty exchanges and promote long-term cooperation between the two institutions, said Paul Beckett, associate director of UW-Madison's African Studies Program, which will coordinate the university's activities under the grant.

"The primary focus is institutional development," Beckett said. He said exchanges between the two universities are significant because they signal a move by Burundi -- a French-speaking nation in east-central Africa -- to establish contacts with institutions in English-speaking nations.

"Officials at the University of Burundi feel their university could benefit by widening its perspective and establishing contacts with the United States," Beckett said. "We think our program stands to benefit as well."

Officials from the Burundi university have already visited UW-Madison and three Burundian students are finishing doctorates here, Beckett said. A member of the Burundi university faculty may visit UW-Madison during the spring semester in the first exchange under the grant program.

The grant is one of four the USIA has made this year to promote linkages between U.S. and African universities, Beckett said.

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-- Rich Hoops (608) 262-2650