



THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE
EDUCATING PEOPLE • CONNECTING WORLDS

PRESS RELEASE
September 20, 2004

Contact: Mamadou Jallow
Phone: (202) 667-5636
E-mail: mjallow@aaionline.org

SIX AFRICAN SCHOLAR/ACTIVISTS AWARDED U.S. FELLOWSHIPS

Washington, DC, September 20, 2004 – The Africa-America Institute (AAI) today announced the fourth round of Claude Ake Memorial Award fellows, commemorating one of Africa's leading voices for democracy by supporting six African scholar/activists in their efforts to address the continent's developmental challenges. AAI administers the Ford Foundation funded program in collaboration with the African Studies Association (ASA).

The fellows will each receive one-year, \$6,000 stipends to further their innovative and practical research into promoting Africa's development. Fellows will travel to the United States in October to participate in 3-week study tours tailored to their specific research interests. The scholars will then attend and present their findings at the 47th Annual Meeting of the ASA, which will be held November 11-14, 2004 in New Orleans, Louisiana. AAI will publish their research findings and distribute it to academic and other audiences.

"Claude Ake's intellectually inspired advocacy for democracy and economic development in Africa finds its descendants in this fourth round of Ake Scholars. Concerned with a range of modern-day challenges, from managing the oil rich resources of the Nigerian Delta to the impact of new technologies on African political institutions, each scholar is dedicated to finding thoughtful solutions to critical problems facing the African continent," said AAI president Mora McLean.

Ake, a Nigerian scholar of global standing and activist for democracy, established the Centre for Advanced Social Studies in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Throughout his professional life, he was at the forefront of scholarship that championed social justice, economic development and democracy. He challenged African intellectuals to help construct an African conception of development that would facilitate African solutions to African problems.

THE 2004 AKE SCHOLARS ARE:

Ms. Leah Kimathi – Kenya

Coordinator, Africa Peace Point

Research Title: "Traditional Non-State Political Organization as a Basis of State Reconstruction: The Case of Southern Sudan"

Mr. Monga Alphonse Maindo – The Democratic Republic of Congo

Independent Researcher

Research Title: "Militia Recruitment in the Democratic Republic of Congo: the restructuring of the local political ground by way of violence"

Ms. Ogochukwu Nzewi – Nigeria

Independent Researcher

Research Title: "Sounds and Voices: Very Open Inspiring Communication: expending the scourge"

Mr. Francis Orech – Kenya

Post-Graduate Student, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology

Research Title: "The Domestication and Promotion of Nutritious and Safe Traditional Leafy Vegetables in the Farming Systems of Nyang'oma Division, Bondo District, Western Kenya"

Mr. Kudzai Shava – Zimbabwe

Consultant/Independent Researcher

Research Title: "The Use of Peer Education and its Impact on HIV/AIDS Awareness Among Visually Impaired Adolescents at Copota School for the Blind in Masvingo, Zimbabwe"

Dr. Paul Tarus – Kenya

Senior Lecturer, Kenyatta University

Research Title: "Search for Bioactive Phytochemicals with Antimalarial Activity from Selected Kenyan Indigenous Medicinal Plants from the *Euphorbiaceae* Family"

An award committee comprised of noted Africanists from ASA and senior AAI and ASA staff members selected the fellows from a pool of more than 90 applicants.

Sandra T. Barnes, President of the ASA said, "The ability to exchange knowledge with our African colleagues that is made possible through the Claude Ake Memorial awards fulfills one of the most valued traditions of the African Studies Association. The ASA is deeply committed to establishing working relationships with our African counterparts and the institutions they represent, and this fellowship program contributes significantly to these goals. The ASA is pleased to collaborate with AAI in this important program, and will be honored to welcome the Claude Ake scholars at the 47th Annual Meeting, November 11-14, 2004 in New Orleans."

The African Studies Association was founded in 1957 as a nonpartisan organization open to all individuals and institutions interested in African affairs. With more than 2,500 members worldwide, the ASA is the leading North American organization that brings together people with professional and scholarly interests in Africa. The Association is hosted by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The mission of The Africa-America Institute is to promote enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education, training and dialogue. For almost 50 years, AAI has mobilized resources and administered programs that have enabled over 20,000 Africans to pursue advanced degrees and technical training. The Institute conducts informational programs that seek to shape and inform the debate over U.S. policy toward Africa in ways that highlight African perspectives and promote American engagement. Founded in 1953, AAI is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, nonprofit organization with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., and program alumni in 50 African countries.