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African Politics Conference Group

The African Politics Conference Group has just been established as a Sponsored Organization within the African Studies Association. It has a similar status as a "Related Group" within the American Political Science Association. About 140 political scientists with special interests in Africa have formed the group in order to enhance the study of the fundamental issues and problems of African politics which the members believe have received insufficient attention within the academy and in world politics generally. A particular concern is that much contemporary theory and policy wisdom in political science continues to be grounded disproportionately on the experience of Europe and North America. The group believes that contemporary African political experience offers many insights that will both enrich the field of political science and strengthen policy-making. The group welcomes the opportunities its status as a Sponsored Group presents for working with others to advance the objectives of ASA, including promoting awareness and appreciation of African experience.

The Conference Group's first panel will be "Current Theoretical and Methodological Issues in African Politics," at the American Political Science Association's meetings in Boston in September 2002.

The group's first meetings were in September at the American Political Science Association and in November at ASA. The group is in the process of developing more specific objectives and welcomes new members and ideas from all within the Association. If you wish to be on the organizations electronic mailing list please write the group's current chair, John Harbeson, at: jwharbeson@aol.com.

Members of the group's present Steering Committee include: John Harbeson (Chair), City University of NY; Nelson Kasfir (Vice Chair) Dartmouth; Catherine Boone, University of Texas; R. Kiki Edozie, Columbia University; Carrie Manning, Georgia State University; Amy Poteete, Indiana University; Donald Rothchild, University of California-Davis; Scott Strauss, University of California-Berkeley; Richard Weisfeld, University of Toledo; Robert White, Humboldt State University; and James Wunsch, Creighton University.

Saharan Studies Association
The Saharan Studies Association (SSA)

was formed at the ASA's Annual Meeting in Seattle in November 1992, following a panel entitled "The Missing Link: the Sahara and African Studies." In the discussion it was agreed that the way in which research tends to be regionally compartmentalized—Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa—is essentially a legacy of colonialism with little scholarly justification. Such a division effectively balkanizes African studies and hinders the pursuit of interregional connections.

While the focus of SSA is the Saharan region, it is intended that the Association will provide a forum for linking the West African Sahel (from the Atlantic to Lake Chad) with North-West Africa, Libya, and Egypt. Broadly speaking, the aim of the Association is to foster collaboration and exchange of information between interested scholars in a variety of disciplines ranging through the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences, as they encounter new research materials, engage with local fieldwork problems, and seek avenues for bringing the results of their research to a wider circle of colleagues. The Association produces a newsletter that is published twice a year and is a forum for the exchange of news about publications, projects, and scholarly debates in our chosen area. Visit the Saharan Studies Association online at www.ssa.sri.com/. The current directors of the SSA are John Hunwick, Northwestern University, and David Gutelius, Stanford Research Institute and Stanford University.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution of the African Studies Association Board of Directors

On April 7, 2002, the African Studies Association voted unanimously to endorse the November 17, 2001, motion of the Directors of Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa (below).

Motion of the Directors of Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa

Motion of the Directors of Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa Passed unanimously November 17, 2001.

We, the directors of the African Studies Title VI National Resource Centers, at our meeting during the 2001 annual meetings of the African Studies Association, vote to reaffirm our previously stated position to oppose the application for and acceptance

of military and intelligence funding of area and language programs, projects, and research in African studies. We note, too, that the African Studies Association has taken a similar stance.

We believe that the long-term interests of the people of the United States are best served by this separation between academic and military and defense establishments. Indeed, in the climate of the post-Cold War years in Africa and the security concerns after September 11, 2001, we believe that it is a patriotic policy to make this separation.

This separation ensures that U.S. students and faculty researchers can maintain close ties with African researchers and affiliation with and access to African institutions without question or bias. Such separation, we believe, can produce the knowledge and understanding of Africa that serves the broad interests of the people of the United States, as well as our partners in Africa. We continue to welcome, in our classes, language training, and programs where we promote knowledge about Africa, all students and visitors from all private and public organizations and all agencies of the U.S. government.

DECEASED 2001 CHRISTOPHER K. VANDERPOOL (1943-2001)

Christopher K. Vanderpool, Professor of Sociology and African Studies Center at Michigan State University, whose involvement in the MSU Sociology Department spanned almost half of its history, died on June 25, 2001, in East Lansing, Michigan, at the age of 58.

Born on June 3, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois, where he grew up in a Polish-American home and graduated from St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois, Vanderpool would become an internationalist with widely ranging interests in comparative sociology after arriving at Michigan State University for his graduate work in 1965. An outstanding student of John and Ruth Hill Useem, Chris earned his M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1970) in sociology at MSU. He would remain there until his death in 2001, save for a brief stint as Assistant Professor of International Relations and Sociology at the University of Denver (1970-1972). But his sociological journey would take him around the globe, to Libya and Senegal,

the Caribbean and South Korea, Italy and Russia, Australia and Japan, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Kuwait and India with a focus on rural development and the environment. Always proud of his Polish heritage, he had a fair command of Polish as well as French, and could read Russian as well. When his productive, creative life was cut short by a sudden and undefined cancer in June, he was about to leave for Ethiopia to give a keynote address, and was brimming with plans for the future.

Vanderpool served on several projects in Senegal as part of the Senegal Agricultural Research and Planning Project, working on issues related to agricultural and fisheries development in Senegal and other African nations. He participated in several linkage programs with African universities, including Senegal, South Africa and Libya. He developed a course on "International Problems of Change and Development," focusing on African development issues. Member of the Ocean Policy Committee of the National Academy of Sciences and participated in numerous collaborative workshops with African scholars on fisheries production, the social impact of marine resource development and coastal zone management in Senegal, and conducted the first assessment of U.S. policy on marine technical assistance, evaluating USAID's program and projects in fisheries and aquaculture primarily in Africa.

On Africa, he published "Food Security and Social Impact Assessment: Agricultural and Fisheries Production Systems in Senegal," *World Congress for Rural Sociology*, 1988; "Issues of Development: A Decade of Uncertainty," in *International Cooperation in Marine Technology, Science and Fisheries: The Future of U.S. Role in Development*, Washington: Academy Press, 1981; "Marine Science and The Law of The Sea," *Social Studies of Science* 13, 1983; "Marine Resource Development and Developing Countries" *The Right to Food*, Montreal, 1987, and other works.

Chris was a mentor and served on the graduate committees of literally dozens of African and Africanist students at MSU, who always found a sympathetic and perceptive advisor. He also was Chair and Associate Chair of the MSU Sociology Department for more than two decades. Staff members who worked with him over the past two decades loved and valued him. Self-effacing and allergic to oppression of any sort, he was a man who believed and practiced the ethic of treating

people fairly and with dignity. His collaborators regarded him as an ideal partner in scholarly activity, always curious, intellectually alert, and scrupulously objective. He had an exciting mind, a gracious presentation of self, a contagious sense of humor, and indubitable loyalty and reliability as a friend.

Chris will be vividly and fondly remembered by his many friends, colleagues, and students at Michigan State University and throughout the United States and the countries in which he left his mark. Above all he will be deeply missed by his wife, Dr. Mariam Sticklen, a professor at MSU; his two sons, Eric and Aaron Vanderpool; his stepdaughter Mitra Sticklen; his sister Gail (Gene) Hoban, niece and nephew Becca and Bill Hoban, and other relatives who will long recall his uncommon kindness and grace.

Submitted by Profs. Rubem Rumbaut and David Wiley, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, March 21, 2002.

CONFERENCES

OCTOBER

October 3-5, 2002—"Kiswahili Language, Literature, and Modern Thought." The University of Nairobi, Department of Kiswahili (CEES), in collaboration with the Department of Linguistics and African Languages (CHSS) & Chama cha Kiswahili cha Taifa (CHAKITA-Kenya), presents an international conference. The conference will cover issues relating to the language and its literature, as well as the study of these issues within the context of wider/global scholarship and discourses. The issues cannot be divorced from dissemination of knowledge/research findings; hence the need to also examine publishing in or on Kiswahili language and literature. The conference languages are English and Kiswahili, although participants are encouraged to use the latter in light of the theme of the conference. For further information contact: Organizing Committee, Kiswahili Conference 2002, Department of Kiswahili, CEES, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi; Email: kiswahili@uonbi.ac.ke.

October 25, 2002—"War and Peace in Contemporary Africa." The African Studies Consortium (comprised of the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore) will host its 10th Annual African Studies Consortium

Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania. There will be a combination of formal and informal panels and/or roundtables and possibly sessions devoted to discussing current initiatives for peace in places such as Liberia, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Part of the program will also be devoted to artistic, literary and musical representations of 'war and peace' on the continent. For further information, contact: Paul J. Kaiser, Associate Director, African Studies Center University of Pennsylvania, Williams Hall 646, Philadelphia, PA 19104; Tel: (215) 898-6449; Fax: (215) 573-7379; Email: pkaiser@sas.upenn.edu.

NOVEMBER

November 7 - 9, 2002—"Africa's Intellectual Caravans: Bilad As Sudan And Al Maghaarib." The founding committee of the Sudanic/Maghaaribi Studies Unit presents its inaugural International Symposium to be held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie New York. Vassar College, The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Mohammed al Khamis University, Rabat, Morocco support the symposium. The Sudanic Maghaaribi Studies Unit (SMSU) will be a research center within the Program in Africana Studies, at Vassar College. The Unit will support scholars who research the historical, linguistic, socio-political, ethnographic and cultural relationships between Maghaaribi and Sudanic Africa. SMSU will publish an electronic and a traditional English/Arabic dual language journal and through it promote collaborative research, coordinate conferences and curricula innovation. For further information contact: Dr. Mohammed Ezroua, Vice Dean College of Arts and Humane Sciences, Mohammed al Khamis University, Rabat, Morocco, Tel/Fax: 212 37 77 33 08; Email: ezroua@arcnet.net.ma or Dr. Constance E. Berkley; Tel: 845-437-7487; Email: coberkley@vassar.edu.

November 22 - 24, 2002—"Gendering the Diaspora Conference: Women, Culture and Historical Change in the Caribbean and the Nigerian Hinterland." The Dartmouth College/York University-UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project/Text and Testimony Collective (UWI-Mona) present a conference at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. The aims of the conference are three-fold. First, it will bring together scholars of the Caribbean and the Nigerian hinterland to examine the experiences of women from both regions in comparative perspective and to historicize the