From the ASRF’s President’s Corner

The ASRF’s 20\textsuperscript{th} Meeting, which was held jointly with the Association of Global South Studies at Indiana University-Southeast, Richmond, Indiana, from November 2016, provided a unique opportunity for both stock-taking, and for charting the future direction of the organization for the next 20 years plus more. Frankly, the meeting was the most frank and critical self-introspection in the history of the organization. There were two resulting major benefits, which bore very well for the future of the organization. First, some of the major shortcomings, as well as the successes of the organization during its first two decades were articulated. This was quite laudable, because the admission of shortcomings is not a common human trait. Nonetheless, by so doing, the ASRF recognized that all human endeavors are fraught with shortcomings, no matter how well intentioned the undertakings might be. Second, the organization made a firm commitment to learn from the shortcomings, build on its successes, and to forge a new path in the continual pursuance and fulfillment of the organization’s mission. I would like to thank the members of the ASRF, who participated in that historic meeting.

So, as we embark upon the next 20 years plus, I would like to unequivocally state that my colleagues and I in the leadership of our venerable organization are determined to pursue the path that was charted at the organization’s historic 20\textsuperscript{th} Meeting. In this vein, we will formulate and implement projects that advance the organization’s three core pillars of service, activism, and scholarship. Therefore, we implore all of the members of the ASRF to continue to work with us, as we endeavor to move our association forward.
Finally, we thank you again for the confidence you have reposed in us to lead our organization, until new election is held. We will endeavor to justify the confidence through our individual and collective performance.

Cordially,

George Klay Kieh, Jr.
President, ASRF

ASRF’S FORUM TO DECIDE ON CONTINUALLY HOLDING JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF GLOBAL SOUTH STUDIES

During the historic 20th Meeting of the ASRF, which was held at Indiana University-Southeast, in New Albany, Indiana, the Forum (The General Membership), the organization’s highest decision-making body, has mandated the interim leadership to organize and conduct a referendum to decide whether the ASRF will continue to meet jointly with the Association of Global South Studies (formerly Association of Third World Studies), as has been done during the past 20 years, or meet independently. The decision was made after a productive meeting during which the pros and cons of the ASRF meeting independently or continuing to meet jointly with the Association of Global South Studies were discussed.

Against this backdrop, the new interim leadership of the ASRF will conduct the referendum as its first activity. Given the importance of the matter to the continual viability of the organizations, members are being encouraged to weigh all of the angles and information, including advantages and disadvantages, as they decide on the direction of their votes.

NEW LEADERSHIP CHOSEN TO LEAD ASRF FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD

The Forum, the highest decision-making body of the ASRF, has decided to cancel the holding of the organization’s election of officers (for the 2016-2018 term), which was scheduled to be held during the ASRF’s 20th Annual Meeting, which was held at Indiana University-Southeast, New Albany, Indiana, from November 20-22, 2016. The rationale for the decision was that the organization needed to undertake the process of critical reflection and stock-taking, before holding the election. Hence, the meeting, in part, was devoted to this critical exercise.

Meanwhile, the Forum unanimously elected the following officers to serve during the interim period from 2016-2018: George Klay Kieh, Jr. (University of West Georgia) (President), Ishmael Munene (Northern Arizona University) (Executive Secretary), and Christine Mathenge (Austin Peay State University) (Treasurer). In addition, the Forum authorized the interim leadership to choose a Director of Research and Publications, who will also serve as Chair of the Research and Publications Committee. In this vein, Abdul Karim Bangura (American University & The African Institution) was chosen. Also, Peyi Soyinka-Airewele (Ithaca College) was chosen as the Chair of the Awards Committee. Further, the leadership appointed other members of the Research and Publications and Awards Committees as follow:

The Research and Publications Committee
Doyin Coker-Kolo (Indiana University-Southeast)
Ciyata Coleman (U.S. Department of the Treasury)
Kehbuna Langmia (Howard University)
Samuel Zalanga (Bethel University)

The Awards Committee
Theodora Ayot (North Park University)
James Gire (Virginia Military Institute)

ASRF TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE INDEPENDENTLY
The results from the Referendum on the ASRF’s Annual Conference, which was conducted in January 2017, showed that the majority of the membership voted for the organization to hold its annual conference independently in March of each year. The decision means that the organization will end the two decades old arrangement of holding its annual conference simultaneously with that of the Association of Global South Studies (formerly the Association of Third World Studies).

Meanwhile, the ASRF’s Executive Committee has put out a “Call” for the submission of proposals for a host for the 22nd Annual Conference of the organization, which will be held in March 2018. Part of the plan for the holding of the organization’s annual meeting is to alternate the venue between the United States and the African Continent.

ASRF'S MEMBERS’ SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

JOHN AGBONIFO (OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA)

Journal Articles

Paper Presented at Professional Conference

Research Grants
Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), Nairobi, Kenya, for the project on “The Role of Civil Society Organizations in the empowerment and promotion of social and political action for accountability in extractive industry in Nigeria: the case of two CSOs,” 2017.

Others
A.B. ASSENSOH (INDIANA UNIVERSITY & UNIVERSITY OF OREGON)

Books


Lecture Delivered


Others


JOHN ALIE CONTEH (WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY)

Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Papers Presented at Professional Conferences

Collaborative ways communities can tackle the heroin epidemic (with H.A. Bashir), paper presented at the Addiction Studies Institute (ASI) Conference, Columbus, Ohio, July 21, 2016

GEORGE KLAY KIEH, JR. (UNIVERSITY OF WESTGEORGIA)

**Book Chapters**


**Journal Articles**


**Conference Papers Presented**


**Conference Panel Chaired**


**Awards**

JOHNSON MAKOBA (UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO)

Paper Presented at Professional Conference


EGODI UCHENDU (UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA-NSUKKA)

Books


Book Chapters

Gender and the Construction of the Nigeria-Biafra War Scholarship,” in Toyin Falola and O. Ezekwem (eds.), Writing the Nigeria –Biafra War, Boydell and Brewer, 2016, pp. 403-422.

Journal Article


Papers Presented at Professional Conferences


“Interrogating Islamic Propagation (Da’awah) in Eastern Nigeria” (with Emmanuel Ibuot and Chukwuemeka Agbo), paper presented at the 17th Annual Africa Conference at The University of Texas, Austin, March 31 – April 2, 2017.

Awards

University of Nigeria Staff Award for the Top Ten Most Punctual Lecturers, 2016.

“The Wangari Maathai Award for Innovative Scholarship and Leadership,” The University of Texas at Austin, 2017.

Research Grants

Others

“The Nigerian Civil War: Gender Echoes 50 Years Later”, Keynote Address at the First International Conference of the Center for Gender Studies, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, March 6-8, 2017.

Hosted the public seminar of the African Humanities Research and Development Center (AHRDC) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, on “Patterns of Islamic Da’awah (Propagation) in Eastern Nigeria,” held July 27, 2017.

E. IKE UDOKU (APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY, USA)

Paper Presented at Professional Conference


Awards


OLUFEMI VAUGHAN (AMHERST COLLEGE, USA)

Book


Others

Appointed Alfred Sergeant Lee ’41 and Mary Ames Lee Professor of African Studies, Amherst College, 2017.

Appointed Senior Editor, Oxford Encyclopedia of Methods, Sources and Historiography in African History.

Appointed Associate Editor, Oxford Encyclopedia of African History.

Appointed Co-Editor, Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Nigeria.