



Calendar: Center for International Understanding Fall 2015

The events marked (*) are open are scheduled as part of an East African project funded by the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Project with supplemental funding provided by the South Asia and Middle East National Resource Centers (NRCs) of the University of Pennsylvania. Roundtable Discussions are open to all faculty and staff.

September

Thursday, September 3 PD Week 10:30-11:45 W2-47 *Models for Bridging Cultures: Scholarly and Pedagogical Reflections from South Asia.* David Prejsnar and Lakshmi Gudipati [NEH South Asia Project Open Meeting]

1:30-2:30 S2-3 *Bridging Regional Divides: An Invitation to Join A Project Exploring Connections Among East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.* Fay Beauchamp: PowerPoint presentation on Zanzibar.

2:45-2:45—4:30 W2-47 *Open Meeting of the Center for International Understanding*

The meeting began with brief faculty reports on four study-abroad programs of Spring 2015 and previewing sessions when study abroad students will present on their projects: 1) Italy program to Rome, Florence; 2) Belize Archeology; 3) Belize Tropical Ecology; 4) Title VI David Prejsnar, Laurant Genovesi reported briefly Abroad program;

Title VI Japan participant presented her PowerPoint Module Communication, Humanities, and Elizabeth's presentation encouraged on the past through images and memorialize the Hiroshima and [painting by Elizebeth Catanese



Cindy Giddle and on the Japan Study

Elizabeth Catanese for Inter-Cultural other courses. students to reflect photographs that war. from her module.]

Christopher DiCapua, previewed the schedule for World Cultures and Languages Days: November 5 and 6, 2015, with sessions on Swahili, Chinese, Japanese, and the Middle East.

4:30-5:30 Further Information regarding the NRC Cross-Regional Project

(*) September 18, 1:45-3:15 Meeting with the External Evaluator, Audrey Mbeje. B2-2. We reviewed the Title VI Abstract and objectives; the roles of the Area Studies Coordinators and the Study Abroad Coordinator; the plans for the World Cultures and Language Days; four upcoming roundtable discussions, plans for speakers on Arabic, Indian Ocean Trade, Economics and Politics, “African Independence”, The Study Abroad selection process for students; discussion of the Tanzania itinerary. Invited participants: Ashley Brenner, Ravyn Davis, Lucia Gbaya-Kanga, Debonair Oates Primus.

(*)Monday, September 21, 2:00-3:30 Round-Table Discussion: Ravyn Davis will lead discussion of the article: “Race and Caste in the Politics of Zanzibar” Faculty Center Teaching and Learning (FCTL).

(*)Wednesday, September 30, 2:00-3:30 Debonair Oates-Primus will facilitate discussion of Abdulrazah Gurnah’s novel *Paradise* set in Tanzania. This beautifully written novel explores inter-cultural interactions in the early 20th Century. Room: FCTL.

Co-Sponsored by the African Reading Group, Title VI and the Crossing Borders NRC Project. The first sections of this novel are available; please contact fay.beauchamp@gmail.com if you do not have a copy.

October

October 1-3 PaCIE meeting in Pittsburgh. Presenting on Study Abroad concepts and issues: Connie Watson, Ravyn Davis, Debonair Oates-Primus, Lucia Gbaya-Kanga, and Randy Libros. Christopher DiCapua PaCIE Board Member.

ADDED: Tuesday, October 6, 2:45 – 4:15 .D.K. Wu, Fulbright Researcher, will offer a talk: “China, Your Opportunity” for students, faculty and staff. If you are interested in Study Abroad programs to China, come and join discussion with Mr. Wu who is the founding leader of ChinaNOW that promotes Chinese students coming to U.S. community colleges before transferring to a B.A. degree and American students attending community colleges in China – both the mainland and Taiwan. Room TBA.

October 9 and 10 Asian Studies Development Program Board meeting in Phoenix.



(*) October 16 Professor Richard Mshomba, LaSalle University. Room S2-3. 10:20-11:20 Public Lecture open to classes “Contemporary Tanzania: The Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Development”; 11:20-12:20 continued Q & A and Discussion with Title VI / NRC East Africa/Crossing Borders Study Group and interested students & staff.

This lecture will explore how Tanzania, has sought economic development as a way to reduce poverty and solve social problems. The region had been colonized first by Germany in the 1880s and then by Great Britain. After its formation as an independent country in

1964, Tanzania’s founding President Julius Nyerere helped first to establish a socialist form of government, with a one-party system promoting education and the nationalization of resources (rather than capitalist private ownership). After 1992, Tanzania became more democratic with many political parties and changed its economic systems.

To prepare for the lecture, students might explore questions such as "Why do countries want economic growth? How might economic growth not reduce poverty and social problems? What does “human development” mean as a goal, and how can one measure it?

In Professor Mshomba's lecture with Tanzania as a case study, we will see how health, education, equity, freedom of choice, and protection of natural resources for future generations can be measured to judge the progress of both economic and human development. How energy resources can be utilized is one factor."

(*)Wednesday, October 21, 2:00-3:30. Continued discussion of Gurnah’s *Paradise*. FCTL. Co-sponsored by Title VI, NRC, and African Book Reading Groups.

(*) Friday October 23: 10:20-11:20 Documentary Film “*Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*” Room: S2-3. The College has recently purchased the DVD which is available to others. *Taking Root* tells the story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy—a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration. See: <http://takingrootfilm.com/about.htm>

***Thursday, October 29 1:00- 2:30 Professor Salam al Kuntar, “The Situation in Syria Today and the Preservation of Near East History” Dr. Al Kuntar (Ph.D. Cambridge University, is a Syrian archeologist who is a consulting scholar at the Penn Museum and a co-director of “Safeguarding the Heritage of Syria and Iraq” in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute. Sponsored**

by the Middle East NRC.

World Cultures and Language Days

November 4, 5 and 6

November 18, 19, and 20, 2015

With a focus on

East Africa, The Middle East, And

Foreign Languages Offered at Community College of Philadelphia.

Winnet Building (17th Street between Spring Garden and Callowhill Streets)
Room S2-19

Wednesday November 4:

Lecture: 1:50-2:50; Continued Q &A to 3:20

Dr. Ali Ali-Dinar, University of Pennsylvania,

"Why Learn Arabic to Understand Today's Africa? The historic spread of Arabic and its current status in East Africa today."



Dr. Ali B. Ali-Dinar is the founder of "Darfur Information Center", an online source about Darfur, Sudan. From the 1990s to 2015, he served as the Associate Director of the African Studies National Resource Center at the University of Pennsylvania, and the manager of Penn African Studies website. Dr. Dinar is a board member of the African Studies Association and past president, Sudan Studies Association.

At Penn, Dr. Dinar teaches courses on Sudan, Darfur, and Sudanese Arabic. Among his publications: "The Darfur Conflict: A Natural Process or War by Design?", in: *Darfur and the Crisis of Governance in Sudan: A Critical Reader*, Cornell University Press, 2009; "Historical Perspective on Darfur Geopolitical Status in the Context of Modern Sudan," in *Darfur Political Economy: A Quest for Development*, 2014. His Ph.D. in Folklore is from the University of Pennsylvania, and his BA in Archeology from the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Thursday November 5: S2-19

9:40-11:10 Lecture by Dr. Lee Cassanelli, past Director, African Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania and Associate Professor of History. Topic “Education to Improve Women's Lives in Eastern Africa”

**Introduction of Dr. Cassanelli by Professor Debonair Oates-Primus, College of Philadelphia Title VI East Africa Project Participant.
Response by Dr. Audrey Mbeje, Coordinator African Languages, University of Pennsylvania.**

Professor Cassanelli's lecture will discuss examples of good practice of community work in Africa, and will focus on Edna Adan Ismail, director of the Edna Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Edna was the first Somali woman sent to London for training in Nursing and Midwifery in the 1950s, and now at 78 years old is working to train 1000 community midwives, to improve science education for women at the secondary level, and to empower women more generally to take the lead in health education in East Africa. In May 2014, Edna received an Honorary Degree from Penn along with the inaugural Penn Nursing School Renfield Award in Global Women's Health. Dr. Cassanelli will talk about her work, and then give examples from other parts of East Africa.



BIO: Dr. Lee Cassanelli teaches African history and historiography, the history of foreign aid in Africa, and comparative world history, as Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania. His research interests focus on the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) from the 18th to the 20th century. Books and monographs include *The Shaping of Somali Society 1600-1900*; *Victims and Vulnerable Groups in Southern Somalia*; a co-edited collection on *The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia: The War Behind the War*; and *'Hosts and Guests': A historical interpretation of land conflicts in southern and central Somalia*.

He is currently working on a collection of essays on the uses of the past in contemporary political and cultural debates in the Horn of Africa, exploring how individuals and communities rethink and remake their histories in times of war, displacement, and resettlement. This includes research on history and memory in Somali refugee and diaspora communities in eastern Africa and overseas. His Ph.D. in African History is from the University of Wisconsin.

Thursday, November 5, continued. All events in Winnet, S2-19

**11:20-12:50 Lecture by Dr. Feride Hatiboglu, University of Pennsylvania.
“The popularity of Turkish Soap Operas across the World and
Current Events in Turkey.”**

Turkish TV Serials are popular not only in the Middle East, but also in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Scandinavia. They also give insight into daily life and social and political concerns.

Introduced by Cynthia Giddle, Associate Professor, English Department



Born in Ankara, Turkey Dr. Feride Hatiboglu earned a law degree from Istanbul University Faculty of Law. Her Ph.D. in Banking and insurance is from Marmara University in Istanbul. She joined the University of Pennsylvania to start a Turkish language teaching program, which in a few years became a successful multi-leveled language program. She is Treasurer of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic, member of Penn Language Center, and American Research Institute in Turkey. She has Certification for Turkish from American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and is a consultant to American Councils in International Education.

1:00-2:30 PM Professor Stan Walling, Anthropology, Community College of Philadelphia. “The Maya of the Merida, Mexico and Belize: A Creative Resilient Culture”



See information next page

THURSDAY, Nov. 5, Continued. S2-19

1:00-2:30...Professor Stan Walling has conducted literally “ground-breaking” work investigating how the Maya lived outside centers of power that gave rise to the dramatic pyramids and temple complexes. He will share how his research demonstrates how the Maya “commoners” lived day to day and both maintained traditions and innovated up to the present time. His presentation will explain Maya ruins near Merida, Mexico, and the archeological work in Belize, conducted with the help of CCP students in recent years.

The 1:00-2:30 PM session is designed for students who may be interested in the College’s study abroad program in Merida, Mexico or in Belize to take part in archeological investigation.

2:40-4:10 Session with Professor Beatrice Bolger, Swahili instructor, Community College of Philadelphia, who will introduce Swahili with her students singing East African National anthems and sharing proverbs. Then a dance group “Culture Shock” will perform.

Beatrice Bolger received a Library Science Certificate from the Kenya Polytechnic University in Nairobi, attended Community College of Philadelphia before receiving her B.A. from Penn State and a M.A. in Higher Education from Jones University in Colorado. She developed CCP’s Swahili courses in 2009 and teaches Swahili at the University of Pennsylvania as well as at the College. She is part of the Title VI faculty team leading a Study Abroad Program to Tanzania in June 2016.



University of the Sciences' "Culture Shock" serves to promote the advancement of cultures underrepresented in most U.S. college campuses. By way of performance, the audience will join students on an imaginary voyage through the Middle East and the beautiful lands of Tanzania and Kenya with a vibrant Swahili culture.

Friday November 6: S2-19

9:10 – 10:10 Renowned scholar of China, Professor Victor Mair, University of Pennsylvania, will talk on "The Impact of the Internet and IT on Language & Society in Today's China". 10:20-11:00 Continued Q&A, and discussion with Professor Mair.

Introduced by CCP instructor of Chinese, Professor Lan Xu.

There is much coverage of Chinese governmental review and response to internet conversation in China. But Chinese resilience finds new ways to skirt around control. This talk will discuss the impact of the internet and IT on Chinese language and the effects on the larger society in today's China. How does the internet help or curb freedom of speech?

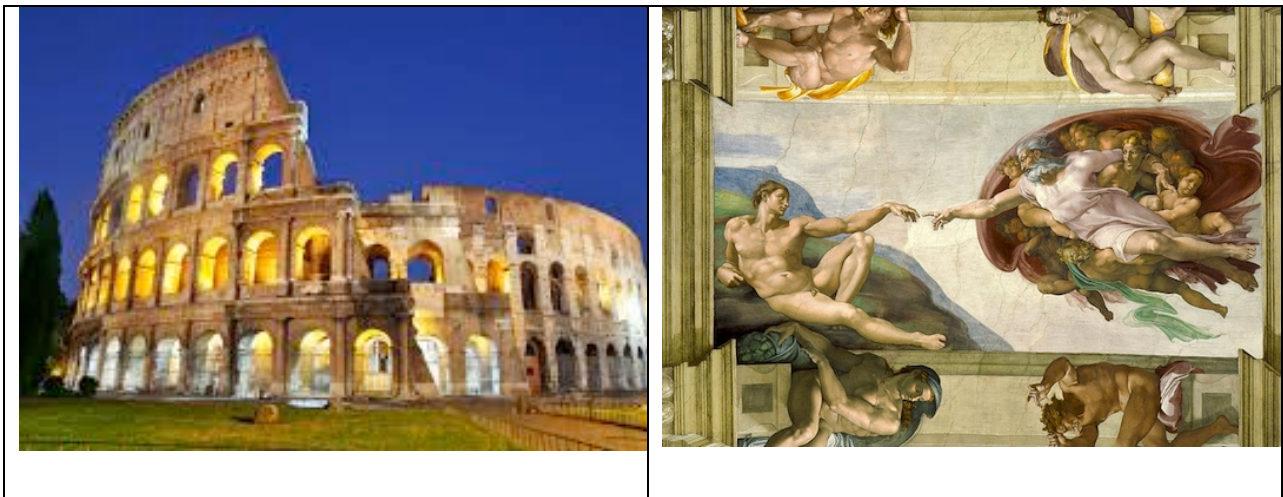


Victor H. Mair, Professor of Chinese Language and Literature, received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and an M.Phil. degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London). Throughout the 1990's, Dr. Mair organized an interdisciplinary research project on the ancient mummies of Eastern Central Asia. Among other results of his research were three documentaries for television

(Scientific American, NOVA and Discovery Channel), a major international conference, numerous articles, and a book, "The Tarim Mummies: Ancient China and the Mystery of the Earliest Peoples from the West" (2000).

We thank Victor Mair for the support he has given events organized at Community College of Philadelphia in the past, for example, being a key-note speaker at an Asian Studies Development Program National Conference hosted by the College in 2009, and a National Endowment of the Humanities Workshop on Bridging Cultures in 2013.

12:40-1:40 From the Roman Days to the Renaissance: Student Reports from *Italy!* Hosted by Sarah Iepson, Art History, and Massamo Musumeci, Foreign Languages department, who led the StudyAbroad Program to Rome & Florence in May 2015.



3:00-4:30 FILM SHOWING of the Japanese ANIME “Grave of the Fireflies” Professor Akiko Mori, Foreign Languages Dept. will give background information and introduce “*Grave of the Fireflies*” which narrates the experiences of two children who live and die in isolation after the WWII American firebombing of Kobe. The 1988 film was based on the 1967 semi-autobiographical novel of the same name by Akiyuki Nosaka.

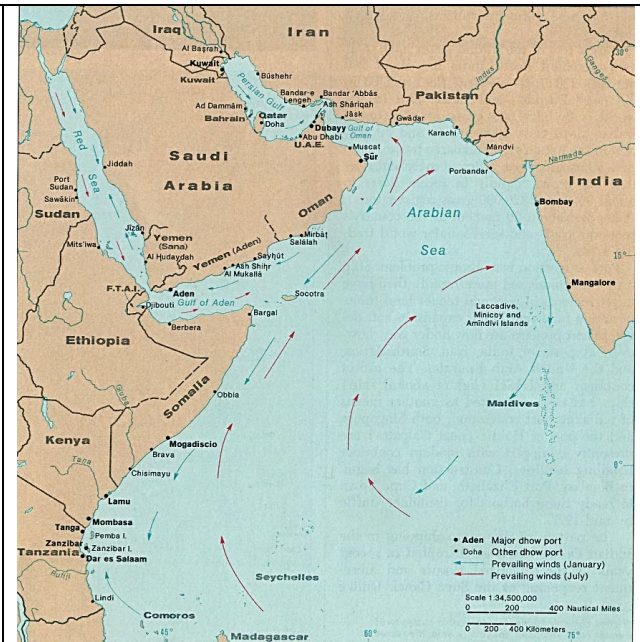
Professor Akiko Mori is a U.S. Department of Education Title VI participant and was a Co-leader of a CCP study abroad program to Japan in June-July 2015. She teaches Japanese 101 and 102 at Community College of Philadelphia. She has presented numerous papers at the Japan Studies Association conferences.



Crossing Borders:

The Maritime World Connecting

East Africa,
the Middle East,
and South Asia



Wednesday, November 18 Lecture: 9:10 -10:10 a.m., Continued Q & A and Discussion 10:20-11:30. Winnet Building, S2-19

Cheikh Anta Babou, Associate Professor, History Department; Affiliated Faculty, Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

“The Spread of Islam into East Africa: History, Diversity, and Trade”

Introduced by Professor David Prejsnar, Religious Studies, Community College of Philadelphia

Dr. Babou teaches African History and the History of Islam in Africa. His research focuses on mystical Islam in West Africa and Senegal, and the experience of West African Muslim immigrants in Europe and North America. He most recently presented at a September

2015 conference held by Columbia University on “Islam and World Peace: Perspectives from African Muslim Nonviolence Traditions.”

Thursday, November 19, 2015 7:40-9:10 PM Room S2-3

Cathlyn Mariscotti, PhD., Professor of History, “Crossing Borders: East Africa, the Middle East, and Asia in Indian Ocean Trade, 1000-1500”
Introduced by Professor Millie Savard, History and Humanities, Community College of Philadelphia

In 2014, Dr. Mariscotti was project scholar for a National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association series entitled “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys—Connected Histories Discussion.” Professor of History at Holy Family University, 2008-2015, she is the author of *Gender and Class in the Egyptian Women’s Movement: 1925-1939 Changing Perspectives* Syracuse University Press, 2008).

Friday, November 20, 2015 Room W2-48 10:20-11:15

Introduced by John Braxton, Biology Department, 2015 Faculty Co-Leader
Tropical Belize Study Abroad Program.

Student Reports from the May 2015 Tropical Belize Study Abroad Program!

Quote from one of the students: *“This program to Belize increases the consciousness about the environment, ecology, cultural implications, governments and their stance / position about the environment and what we could do to protect it. I came back with more than pictures. I came back with an understanding of the people and the environment around me.”*

Students interested in our 2016 Tanzania, East Africa Study Abroad program: See the schedule for Speakers: Ali Ali-Dinar Nov. 4; Lee Cassanelli and Beatrice Bolger, Nov. 5; Cheikh Babou, Nov. 18, Cathlyn Mariscotti, Nov. 19.

Students interested in the 2016 Archeology-Belize program or the Merida, Mexico Program, should attend Stan Walling’s presentation Nov. 5 and/or the program Nov. 20.

For Istanbul: see the program for Feride Hariboglu Nov. 5!

Sponsored by
Center for International Understanding, Community College of Philadelphia
The Middle East National Resource Center, University of Pennsylvania
The U.S. Department of Education Title VI UISFL Project: East Africa

With an additional thank you to: Community College of Philadelphia's
Sharon Thompson, Division for Strategic Initiatives,
David Watters, The Office of Student Life
Christopher DiCapua, The International Studies Degree Program
Oscar Cabrera, Faten Baraka, Lan Xu, Beatrice Bolger, Dept. of Foreign Languages
Ashley Brenner, Study Abroad Coordinator
Lyn Buchheit and Cynthia Giddle, English Department
Title VI Participants: Debonair Oates Primus, Lucia Gbaya-Kanga, Ravyn Davis

For more information. please see contact Fay Beauchamp, Director, Center for International Understanding (fbeauchamp@ccp.edu)

Study Abroad:

Tanzania — June 2016!!!!



Tentative Travel Dates: June 9-23, 2015

Basic Cost: \$850 for Selected CCP Students

,What you'll be doing:

- ❖ Experience the interplay of cultures of this East African nation, and learn about the challenges of development and sustainability.
- ❖ Explore the streets of Stone Town on the island of Zanzibar, where the Spice Trade has connected Africa, Asia and the Middle East for centuries.
- ❖ Take a brief safari to see a wide range of wildlife and to understand environmental issues.
- ❖ Discover the arts, education, and language diversity of today's Tanzania.
- ❖ Try out Swahili!

Information Sessions for CCP Students:

Friday, November 20, 2015: 12:30 – 2 p.m. in Room B2-26

Monday, December 7, 2015: 2:00 - 3:30 in Room B2-22

For more information and applications see [Study Abroad | Community College of Philadelphia](#)

www.ccp.edu › *Campus Life*