The AFSAAP Executive are pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 conference postgraduate essay prizes.

The winner of the $3000 AFSAAP / Monash University Postgraduate Prize for is Christopher Hills, for his paper “Gendered Reintegration in Liberia: A Civilized ‘(Kwi)’ Failure?”. Christopher is enrolled in a PhD at Sydney University and will travel to South Africa in April to conduct fieldwork, and present his paper at the Monash South Africa campus. AFSAAP would like to acknowledge Monash University for the special sponsorship of this prize since 2010.

The winner of the $500 AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize for 2014 is Thomas McNamara, for his paper – “The Intersection of Witchcraft and Development in Malawi”. Thomas is enrolled in a PhD at the University of Melbourne.


AFSAAP 2014 conference proceedings

Papers received from presenters for the 2014 conference proceedings are now online at the conference website. This is the last call for conference papers to be submitted for the proceedings. Please submit your paper as a word doc by February 10 2015 to secretary@afsaap.org.au.

ARAS co-editor – expressions of interest

Nominations are sought for the position of co-editor for the Australasian Review of African Studies (ISSN No: 1447-8420, Online ISSN No: 2203-5184), the official journal of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP). The term of office is three years, commencing on March 1st 2015.

The Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS) aims to contribute to a better understanding of Africa in Australasia and the Pacific. It is published twice a year in June and December by AFSAAP. ARAS is a multi-disciplinary journal (ERA ID 18727) that seeks to provide critical, authoritative and accessible material on a range of African affairs that is interesting and readable to both academic and non-academic audiences. All articles are double blind peer-reviewed by two independent and qualified experts prior to publication – see http://afsaap.
The appointed co-editor will work with the editor in chief, Dr. Tanya Lyons (Flinders University), and co-editor Dr. Jay Marlowe (University of Auckland). We are specifically looking for a co-editor who will assist the editorial team to promote the journal, provide expert editorial advice, lead the process of peer-review and manage all aspects of the communications with authors and peer reviewers.

The co-editor will be a scholar with a demonstrated interest in African Studies, and/or the African Diaspora in Australia, New Zealand or the world. The appointed co-editor will also work with AFSAAP executive members to ensure the timely production of this bi-annual journal.

AFSAAP is an international network of academics, students, consultants, activists, diplomats, artists, community leaders, and others who share a mutual interest in the promotion of African Studies in the Australasia and Pacific region. AFSAAP is based in Australia and was founded in 1978. It is a not-for profit association, and as such all roles are voluntary. Further information can be found at www.afsaap.org.au

Potential candidates are asked to submit a short statement (no more than 1000 words) identifying their relevant experience and understanding of African Studies and the journal ARAS, indicating how they would like to take ARAS forward over the next 3 years.

If you are interested in taking on this role then please supply a statement demonstrating your:

- Publications.
- Editorial experience (including journal editorships, edited books, guest editorships and membership of editorial boards).
- Indication of support from your University Department or School / Faculty for this role to be undertaken.

Applications will be considered by the AFSAAP Executive and current ARAS Editors.

Deadline for submissions is February 20 2015. Email to secretary@afsaap.org.au

**Forthcoming conference**

**Natural Resources: The Key to Western Sahara’s Future**

19-20 March 2014, Melbourne

Jointly hosted by the Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights at Deakin University and the Australia Western Sahara Association.

Conference web site - [http://www.trybooking.com/FRCK](http://www.trybooking.com/FRCK)

A dinner will be held at the William Angliss Restaurant in Little Lonsdale Street on Thursday 19 March and the conference itself will be held on Friday 20 March at Deakin Edge on Federation Square. A very advantageous concession rate of $55 (including the dinner) is offered to students.

Submitted by Cate Lewis, Australia Western Sahara Association, awsa.org.au
Australia’s Place in the World

Nikola Pijovic is influencing Australian Foreign Policy toward Africa – see “Australia’s Place in the World: Middle power, significant power, or top 20 nation?”. Click here to read the story- http://www.policyforum.net/australias-place-world/

Jessie Webb Travel Record “Cape Town to Cairo” 1922, by Margaret O’Callaghan
This monograph describes a journey undertaken from Cape Town to Cairo, from April to December in 1922, by Jessie Webb and her friend (and fellow University of Melbourne colleague) Dr Georgina Sweet OBE, who was a parasitologist. Material has been transcribed from the handwritten diary and letters, and includes her photographs. An introduction, maps and references have been added by Margaret O’Callaghan 2013. Click here to read more- http://margocall.wordpress.com/2014/11/03/capetocairo/

Finding Fela Kuti

Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney (Taxi To The Darkside, The Armstrong Lie), “Finding Fela” is a colourful look at the life and music of the father of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti.

“As far as Africa is concerned, music cannot be for enjoyment, music must be for revolution, music is the weapon” – it was this political ideology that Fela’s music conveyed which made him dangerous to the Nigerian government, but still he had no fear. In fact, Fela wielded so much power when he came out of jail in 1986 many believed he was the second most influential African in the world, after Nelson Mandela. Despite passing away in 1997, the power of Fela’s music still reverberates to this day.

“Finding Fela” is two-hours of inspiration for anyone interested in politics, African history, revolution, or the power of music. To be screened at 6pm at the Shadow Electric outdoor cinema and bar in the Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne on February 1 and February 6.

Submitted by Graeme Counsel, AFSAAP Secretary

Daniel Baldino has reviewed Mickler and Lyons (2013)

New engagement: contemporary Australian foreign policy towards Africa- Click here to View PDF
Retirement of AFSAAP member Dr David Tothill

PHOTO: From Left: David Tothill, Gareth Evans and Nelson Mandela, on the occasion of Mr Mandela’s arrival at Fairbairn Airbase, Canberra, late in the afternoon of 22 October 1990.

The AFSAAP executive notes the retirement of Dr David Tothill, a long-standing AFSAAP member. Dr Tothill’s list of achievements are many. He joined the South African Department of Foreign Affairs in 1959, and was Head of Office in Pretoria from 1959-1964. From 1964-1970 he was a member of the South African Mission to the United Nations, returning to the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1975-1980. From 1980-1984 he was both the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and the Ambassador to Argentina. He returned to the Head Office at the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1984-1988, and was appointed as the Ambassador to Australia from 1988-1992. In 1995 he completed his Doctoral thesis on South African-Australian Diplomatic Relations 1945-1964. In recognition of his work The National Library of Australia awarded him a Harold White Fellowship.

Dr Tothill’s publications include:


http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09592290412331308711


http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09592290500533833

The AFSAAP Executive thank Dr Tothill for his years of service to the advancement of African Studies, diplomacy, and history, and we wish him the very best in his retirement.

AFSAAP 2014 conference minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 26th November 2014, at the University of Otago, Dunedin. 9.30am to 10.45am.

Present
Dr Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe. La Trobe University/African Think Tank Inc., Victoria (Minutes)
Professor Helen Ware. University of New England, NSW
Assoc. Professor David Lucas. Australian National University, ACT
Dr Tanya Lyons. AFSAAP President, Flinders University, SA
Dr Alec Thornton. AFSAAP Vice President, University of New South Wales, ACT
Dr Jean Burke. AFSAAP Treasurer, Australian Catholic University, NSW
Dr Samantha Balaton-Chrimes. Deakin University, Victoria
Prof. Tony Binns. Otago University, New Zealand
Dr Marcelle Dawson. Otago University, New Zealand
Mohammed Sulemana. Macquarie University, NSW
Yuna Chirwa. Flinders University, SA
Brigita Makenya. Flinders University, SA
Modolem Femin, University of Canberra, ACT
Maria Bautista. Childfund New Zealand
Dr Lillian Mwanvi. Flinders University, SA
Rene Sephton, RMIT University, Victoria
Jackie Benschap, Massey University, New Zealand
Mar Kelly, Deakin University, Victoria
Thomas Antoni Bosiakoh, Macquarie University, NSW
Jane Manne, University of Canberra, ACT
Tom Minyara, University of Melbourne, Victoria
Michael Adu-ayanfi
Rebecca March, La Trobe University, Victoria
Fungai Mhlanga, Massey University, New Zealand
Tom McNamara, University of Melbourne, Victoria
Buol Juuk, Flinders University, SA
Ibolya Losoncz, Australian National University, ACT
Gastor Lyakurwa
Stephen Okello, Flinders University, SA

In attendance
Prof. Adam Idris Tanko, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria
Prof. Philip Hill, First holder of the Chair of International Health at the University of Otago, New Zealand

Apologies
Dr Graeme Counsel, Assoc. Professor Geoffrey Hawker, Haileluel Gebre-Selassie, David Mickler, Peter Wakholi, Sam Makinda.

Minutes of 2013 AGM
Accepted as a true record of what took place on the 29th November 2013 at Murdoch University South Street campus, Perth between 9am to 10am.
Moved by Jean Burke, and Seconded by Tanya; all carried.

Business arising from the Previous Minutes
3.5 Constitutional change, an amendment for inclusion of “pensioners” and “concession holders” as additional separate categories for membership. These membership fees will be less than the fees for regular membership. Tanya proposed the matter, an amendment was proposed, and Alec seconded. The motion was unanimously carried.

Other business
David Lucas, requested AFSAAP to work on a strategy for proceeding with the development of the “African Study Centre in Australia”. He noted that the matter remained critical, and it keeps coming up in various forums like this one. For example, during the “Australia Africa Conference 2014: Promoting Strategic
Engagement and Partnership between Government, Academia, and Business” co-hosted at the Crawford School of Public Policy; Australia National University, together with the Australia Business Council, African Diplomats in Canberra, Australian Government, and Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) that was held 14-16th July 2014. Also, the same matter was central to the 1st Australia-Africa Dialogue Symposium on “Advancing an African-Australian Agenda: Prospects and Challenges held on 28th June 2014 at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

Apollo followed on and reported that the above mentioned symposium of 28th June 2014 at La Trobe University concluded with three key proposals for serious considerations and implementation, which are that:

- as Africans are non-homogeneous people, it is important and strategic to adapt referring to them using the hybrid label of “African-Australians” as a collective identity of the immigrants from Africa. Though some groups from the background may not highly favour the term, the reference will help a lot in addressing a number of challenges faced by these groups in Australia.

- efforts be exerted for developing an “Australia Africa Institute” as an independent NGO to serve various purposes including “evidence building” to support dealing with various issues faced and other diaspora matters as those of enhancing the Australia-Africa relationship.

- it is vital to develop a unified voice status of the “Africa-Australian Diaspora” both in and outside Australia as well as in regard to developing linkages with the African Union (AU) especially in its “Renaissance Roles”.

The 2014 AFSAAP AGM Suggestions:

- AFSAAP should follow up based on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with the Countries of Africa.

- AFSAAP should further examine the issues in regard to “developing the African Studies Centre in Australia” for a firm action.

AFSAAP Conference 2015

Dr Samantha Balaton-Chrimes and Max Kelly (with Tim Budge) of Deakin University, Melbourne, volunteered to host the 2015 AFSAAP conference, 28-30 October.

Executive Reports were presented and tabled
Presidents Report (Tabled)
Vice-President’s report (Tabled)
Treasurer’s Report (Tabled and Motion)

- A motion to increase AFSAAP Membership fees by $5 for each category was proposed: Jean Burke (Treasurer) raised the motion and Lilian Mwanvi seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Secretary’s Report (No secretary’s report)
Postgrad Representative Report (Aime Saba)

- Noted the importance of strengthening the liaison relationship between African domestic and international students especially those at tertiary level.

ARAS Editor’s Report (Tabled)
Elections of Office Bearer
As all office bearer vacated their seats, and Professor J A (Tony) Binns took over to act as a returning officer. Elections went as follows:

President: Dr Tanya Lyons (unanimous)
Vice President: Dr Alec Thornton (unanimous)
Treasurer: Dr Jean Burke (unanimous)
Secretary: Dr Graeme Counsel (unanimous)
Post Graduate Representative: Rebecca March (unanimous)

Ordinary Committee Members:
Mohammed Sulemana, Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe, Samantha Balaton-Chrimes, Max Kelly, Haileluel Gebre-Selassie, and Thomas McNamara (unanimous).

AOB
Tanya as a President Elect, thanked Apollo for taking minutes, and the conference organisers for the wonderful conference. Tanya as Chief Editor of ARAS thanked the members of the International Editorial Board and welcome Prof Tony Binns as the new Chair of the Board.

The meeting closed at 10.20am Dunedin/Otago New Zealand time.