



African Literature Association NEWSLETTER

NKYIN KYIN — CHANGING ONESELF: PLAYING MANY ROLES

SINCE 1975



A Note from the Director of Headquarters

James McCorkle

Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York



As we begin the New Year, our second newsletter includes important reminders: to renew your membership in the ALA and invite colleagues to join, to consider proposing a panel or paper for the upcoming ALA conference in Bayreuth Germany (June 3-6, 2015), and guidelines for applying for one of the travel grants for members traveling from Africa to the conference.

As our next conference will be in Bayreuth, it is very appropriate to include Dr. Pia Thielmann's brief history of the Bayreuth African Studies Series [BASS], the important series founded and published by the late Eckhard Breiting and Reinhard Sander. BASS published not only scholarly articles but has also covered the arts, sociology, religion, linguistics, and education as well as legal and economic issues. The ALA Newsletter hopes to continue to publish upon occasion short histories by the founders of various literary and scholarly series that have published African and African Diaspora literature and scholarship and thus have contributed significantly to contemporary cultural production. I am grateful to Dr. Thielmann for initiating this feature of the Newsletter.

Please consider donating, or requesting your publisher donate a copy of your work to the ALA archives. Additionally, the Newsletter welcomes news of your latest book publications. Please continue to inform Headquarters of up-coming conferences, events, and calls-for-papers that are expressly relevant to the ALA membership.

CONTENTS

ALA 2014 NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS.....	3
IN MEMORY.....	4
SHORT HISTORY OF BASS.....	5
ALA 2015 CFP.....	7

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.....	9
ALA TRAVEL GRANT.....	11
CAUCUS DIRECTORY 14-15.....	12
ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....	13

Director's Note cont.

The ALA Headquarters is grateful for the continuing support by Hobart and William Smith Colleges, the College's Africana Studies Program, and in particular the Provost's Office and Provost Titilayo Ufomata. Their support is instrumental for not only the day-to-day maintenance of the ALA, but also the hosting of the ALA Executive Retreat in October. One of the highlights of the Executive Retreat is the symposium, of which this was the fourth year and continued the theme of exploring new perspectives on African and African Diaspora literature, film, and the arts.

The Headquarters seeks to build its archive of books—and other appropriate archival materials—by ALA members. Please consider donating, or requesting your publisher, to donate a copy of your work to the ALA archives. Additionally, the Newsletter welcomes news of your latest book publications. Please continue to inform Headquarters of upcoming conferences, events, and calls-for-papers that are expressly relevant to the ALA membership. As these are generally time-sensitive announcements, we make every effort to inform the membership at large as quickly as possible via e-mail. None of this would be possible without the continued dedication of our Administrative Secretary, Dot Vogt who balances the needs of the ALA with her responsibilities to a variety of academic departments and programs—from Africana Studies to Writing and Rhetoric—at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Looking ahead, please be alert for the upcoming ALA Elections—one must be currently a member to vote, so please remember to renew your membership! The deadline for the ALA conference has been extended to January 31, 2015, with notification by February 15, 2015.

We wish everyone all the best for 2015—that the year has begun for all auspiciously!



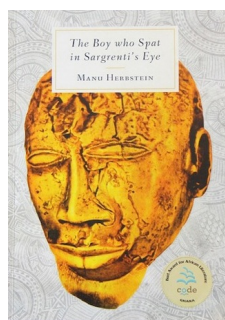
HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



ALA 2014 NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Kadija George (who writes as Kadija Sesay) has been named one of three finalists for the inaugural Glenna Luschei for African Poetry for her debut collection, *Irki* (Peepal Tree Press, 2013). Buy a copy of *Irki* and all profits go to charities helping to fight Ebola in Sierra Leone. Regarding his selection of *Irki* as a finalist, novelist and poet Chris Abani writes, "In this collection, Sesay attempts to make a new homeland for a self and for others who have lost theirs in the complex migrations and emigrations of Africa These poems become the memories – close and haunting – of the reader."

<https://www.facebook.com/IrkiPoetryBook>

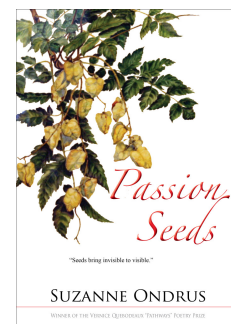


Manu Herbstein's *The Boy who Spat in Sargenti's Eye* (Accra: Techmate, 2014) received one of three literary awards by the Bill Burt Literary Award Foundation in Accra, Ghana. Herbstein's *Ama, a Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, won the 2002 Commonwealth Writers Prize for the Best First Book. *Brave Music of a Distant Drum*, a sequel to *Ama*, was published in Canada in 2011. *Akosua and Osman* won a Burt Award for African Literature in Ghana in 2012. *Ramseyer's Ghost*, a political thriller set in Ghana in 2050, was long-listed in the 2013 Kwani Manuscript Project.

Onyeka Iwuchukwu (nee Onyekuba) has published this past year the following plays *Our Hounourable Member* (2014); *Enough is Enough* (2014); *Choices* (2014), and the children's books, *Emeka* and *Christmas Party* (revised and published in 2014). Earlier works include *Sons For My Son* (1990); *Into the World* (1992); *Regal Dance* (1994); *Whose Fault* (1994); *Like Father Like Son* (1994).

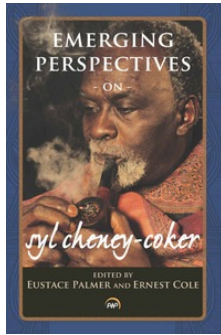
Suzanne Ondrus's poetry collection *Passion Seeds* won the 2013 Vernice Quebec Pathways Poetry Prize and was published March 2014. It is the love story of a Burkinabe man and an American woman, dispelling the notion of a post-racial America. Poet Patricia Jabbeh Wesley writes, "A provocative debut collection that is brave and urgently necessary. It brilliantly brings us into a new world where poetry is neither American nor African, where over and over, the speaker in each poem discovers another world, another America and another Africa, a larger world outside our vision of the world we thought we knew."

<http://littleredtree.com/passion-seeds/>



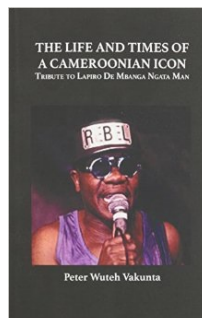
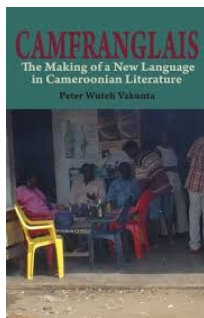
Professor Jasper Onuekwusi of the Department of English, Imo State University is spending 2014 on Sabbatical Leave at the University of Port Harcourt all in Nigeria. In addition to teaching courses to postgraduate students, he is using the time to complete a trilogy that began with *Hassan and the Car Thieves*, a popular children's story set in Nigeria.

News and Publications cont.



Eustace Palmer and Ernest Cole have edited a collection of essays, *Emerging Perspectives on Syl Cheney Coker* (Trenton: Africa World Press, 2014) which provides analyses of the works of Syl Cheney-Coker, as seen through the eyes of different scholars and critics, and offers a comprehensive portrait of the writing of arguably Sierra Leone's leading writer.

Peter Wuteh Vakunta, Assistant Professor of French & Chair of the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Indianapolis, writes that he has published three books this past year: *Camfranglais: The Making of a New Language in Cameroonian Literature* (Langaa, 2014); *The Life and Times of a Cameroonian Icon: Tribute to Lapiro de Mbanga Ngata Man* (Langaa, 2014); and *Speak Camfranglais pour un renouveau ongolais* (Langaa, 2014).



[Please send news of book publications (in the Modern Language Association's bibliographic format), of literary prizes, and other professional news to James McCorkle, ALA Headquarters Director, mccorkle@hws.edu]

IN MEMORY

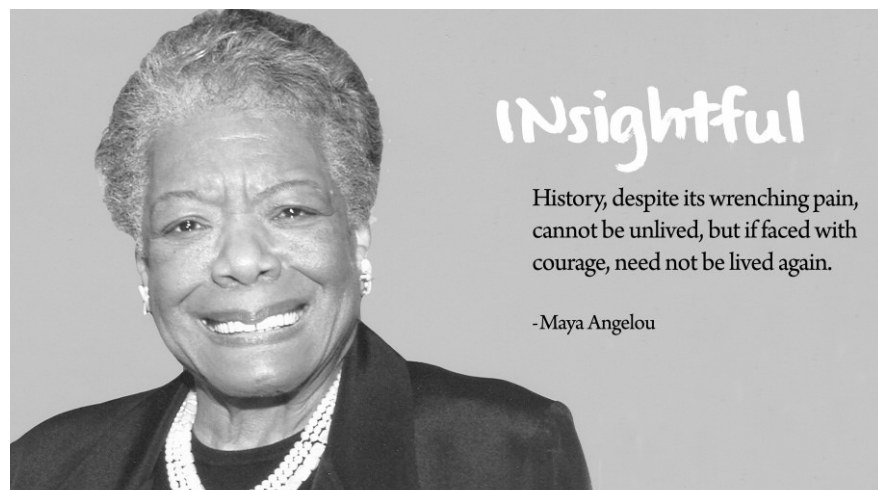
Maya Angelou. Poet, memoirist, activist, the United States.

Daniel Biyaoula. Congolese novelist.

Angela Fubara. University of Science and Technology Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Ali Mazrui. Kenyan scholar and Professor at Binghamton University, New York.

Asenath Bole Odaga. Author, publisher, and activist, Kisumu, Kenya.



A Short History of the Bayreuth African Studies Series

Pia Thielmann, Ph.D.
Eckersdorf, Germany



Since Professor Eckhard Breiting, publisher of the Bayreuth African Studies Series [BASS], passed on in 2013 at the age of only 73, it is appropriate to write a short history of his publishing house, to honor his life's work which has become an institution with a great reputation and an appreciated platform for academic discourse within the field of Black Studies with a focus on African literature and theatre.

When Eckhard Breiting and Reinhard Sander founded the Bayreuth African Studies Series and published the first volume in 1985, their goal was to collect lectures by university guests and have them available in written form for future academic discussions and research. At the beginning, this project was published in co-operation with a special research project, "Identity in Africa" of the German Research Council (DFG) and the then called Africa Area Studies Programme of the University of Bayreuth, Germany. Reinhard Sander, now Professor of English at the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, took up a position at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, for the fall semester



Photo credit: Pia Thielmann

1986 and therefore had to leave the project. His name appears as co-editor/co-publisher in the first eight volumes and in the tenth volume. This name-gap in BASS 9, as well as the not always matching chronology of volume numbers and publication years thereafter was due to the fact that volume numbers and ISBN numbers had to be allocated to a certain project, which then took longer to finish than originally anticipated.

With the expiration of this DFG project, BASS became Breiting's independent, private publishing venture, with all responsibilities and risks resting on his shoulders. The format of the series indicated the change, too. While the first volumes were slim, printed at the Bayreuth prison and featured graphic cover designs, the following volumes became more elaborate and were printed at a regional printer, and later after the closing of Gräbner in Allendorf, switched to Rosch-Buch in Scheßlitz, also in the beautiful region. The new look of the books featured covers with colourful art work by African artists or photographs by the guest editors, or by Breiting, a splendid photographer himself. As

Short History cont.

the target group for BASS worldwide is relatively small and the work was done out of idealism rather than with profit in mind, any money coming in was immediately invested in the next book project. The editors or authors of the individual volumes were now a heterogeneous group, ranging from established international senior scholars and artists to equally international young PhDs who published their (in at least two cases prize winning) dissertations with BASS. Some of them but by no means all were in one form or other attached to the University of Bayreuth while writing or editing their project, but other projects were offered to Breitingner independently, solely based on his and BASS's good reputation. BASS has published mainly in English, occasionally in French, African languages or German. Its focus lies on literature and theater but has also covered the arts, sociology, religion, education, legal issues, eco, economic and linguistics, issues, as well as music. While its main body consists of scholarly secondary literature, it also contains interviews, a novel and poetry; in addition to paper products, there are also CDs with music and read texts. BASS books were widely reviewed in international scholarly journals. Eckhard Breitingner would freely give his permission for republication of BASS books in other countries (when he was asked). He would also co-operate with publishers in Africa in order to simplify the access of the books in African countries. In practice, to my best knowledge and experience with Kachere Series, Malawi, he would put the name and logo of that publisher on the book cover and provide

the publisher with a certain amount of free copies. As a tiny private venture, Eckhard Breitingner, and after he had taken me on board as co-editor in 2003, he and I together, would peddle his wares at (ALA) conferences.

As of today, there are 91 numbered BASS volumes and 16 unnumbered volumes. The official BASS website (www.breitingner.org) has not been updated for a long time. As the owner of BASS now, this will be my long-nights winter project. In the meantime, there is a website at <http://www.uib.uni-bayreuth.de/de/emeriti/eckhard-breitingner/index.html> for and about Eckhard Breitingner that includes a list of all BASS books.

The next BASS volume will be the realization of Eckhard Breitingner's long-planned project: a selection of his own essays. Though he had had the title for years, he had put the work on the back burner for the sake of other scholars' ongoing projects. *Tricksters, Trances, Tragic Muses* shall finally see the light of day in 2015.





41st Annual Conference of the African Literature Association "African Futures and Beyond, Visions in Transition" | June 3rd-6th 2015 | University of Bayreuth, Germany

Call for Papers/Call for Panels

Deadline Extended to January 31, 2015

Colonial fantasies have imagined the African continent as the incarnation of the past, banning it into a “waiting room of history” (Chakrabarty) where it was doomed to eternally lag behind (Western) futures. Those fantasies are conceptualizations that veil other realities and changes that have always been going on—often being silenced, loudly ignored and violently repressed. Cultural and political movements on the African continent and its diasporas have found varying ways to cope with and resist these colonialist fantasies, imagining Black futures of national as well as global agendas. Increasingly, Black visions of the future have nourished and rewritten Western conceptualizations of Africa as well as of Blackness. Moreover, they keep changing the African continent, its diasporas, as well as the rest of the world. Political changes such as the upheavals of the student protests, e.g. in Senegal, Burkina, Maghreb, the end of apartheid, radical changes, e.g., in Rwanda, and the Arab revolution, generate new discourses and cultural changes. Steadily increasing economic growth, growing cooperation with the Asian network, as well as the rise of new middle classes in many countries—open unexpected perspectives. New approaches in literature and the arts create new intertextualities and epistemologies that also welcome interdisciplinary conversations and connections to enrich ways of understanding the world in the humanities. In recent years, emerging technologies and the digitization of the world keep transgressing conventional patterns of communication. In all, global entanglements and interactions are revolutionized, inviting us into a new age. Literature and other cultural means of expression (film, fine arts, performing arts, internet etc.) offer a space that allows us to enter futures thus generated. These conceptualizations of future permit us to imagine the world differently, to intervene in memories and mold the present. In doing so, fiction in general and AfroFiction in particular conceptualizes futures via narration in order to conjure the futures of our common world in terms of new epistemologies.

Possible thematic foci could be

- Conceptualization of future in literature/film/social media
- Visions of the Future in Africa, its Diasporas and beyond
- Entangled Futures: Africa/n Diasporas and Europe/North America
- Africa/Asia↔Africa/Americas: a comparative approach of conceptualizations of future
- Genres for/of the future (e.g. Science Fiction, Neo---polar)
- The future of gender and sexuality/queer futurities
- The future of literary studies in the 21st century
- Utopias, dystopias
- Afrofuturism
- Petro---culture and the energies of modernity: mining and resource conflicts
- The futures of environmental representation and environmental justice: environmentalisms, climate change adaptation and migrations of disease across species and nations

Call for Papers cont.

- Environmental humanities/risk/apocalypse
- Social models
- Rebellions/revolutions—re-loaded/renewed
- Arab Spring/African Spring
- Social media and genre---crossing: African(-Diasporic) literatures and/in the Digital Age
- Preemptive literature
- Littérature d'urgence

We invite papers and panels that contribute to the reflection on the conference theme. However, as is traditionally the case with ALA conferences, other explorations of any aspects related to African and Diaspora literatures are also welcome. To submit proposals, please send abstracts of up to 500 words for individual papers or panels by **January 31, 2015** to ala2015@uni-bayreuth.de. Please make sure to include your name, affiliation, e-mail and paper title with the abstract. For panels, the constituent paper proposals must be submitted along with the proposal for the panel. Notifications of acceptance will be sent beginning late October 2014. According to ALA policy, all presenters are expected to pay membership dues for the calendar year of the conference. Membership dues are separate from conference registration fees. For further information please visit: www.ala2015.com



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH



African Literature Association

Mission Statement

The African Literature Association is an independent non-profit professional society open to scholars, teachers and writers from every country. It exists primarily to facilitate the attempts of a world-wide audience to appreciate the efforts of African writers and artists. The organization welcomes the participation of all who produce the object of our study and hopes for a constructive interaction between scholars and artists. The ALA as an organization affirms the primacy of the African peoples in shaping the future of African literature and actively supports the African peoples in their struggle for liberation.

Remember to Renew Your ALA Membership for 2015!

ALA dues are for the Calendar Year. Membership fees constitute the biggest source of funding for ALA activities; maintaining our status as the world's preeminent organization for the study and promotion of African literature depends on your regular membership support.

Membership Benefits

- ♦ Free subscription to Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA), ALA's scholarly journal.
- ♦ Discounted subscription to Research in African Literatures (RAL), premier scholarly journal in African literary studies.
- ♦ Opportunity to present a paper at the annual scholarly meeting and receive outstanding feedback from peers, juniors, and seniors. (The 2015 conference will be held in Bayreuth, Germany, on June 3-6. See more: www.ala2015.com)
- ♦ Opportunity to compete for scholarly awards such as Book of the Year Award, First Book Award, Best Article Award, and Graduate Student Best Essay Award. There are awards for creative writing such as the Fonlon-Nichols and Book of the Year Creative Writing awards. Travel awards subsidize members based in Africa to attend the annual meeting. Service awards recognize dedicated service to the organization. To learn more, go to www.africanlit.org and click on Awards

There are several other benefits of ALA membership, including serving the organization, nominating someone to serve, receiving up to date professional advancement important information from the ALA listserv (job vacancies, fellowship announcements, conference calls, etc), and more.

New memberships and renewals and reduced rate subscriptions to Research in African Literature should be paid by check or postal money order made out to the ALA and sent to the following address:

Mohamed Kamara, Treasurer
African Literature Association
Department of Romance Languages
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450
(540)458-8475
kamaram@wlu.edu (enquiries)
alatreasury@wlu.edu (payments via PayPal)

Checks should be written in U.S. dollars and drawn on a U.S. bank or a U.S. correspondent bank. We do not accept credit card payments. Payment can be made electronically through PayPal at www.paypal.com; this account will allow you to use money from your bank account or credit card to pay the ALA Treasury directly. In order to utilize PayPal, you must establish your own PayPal account. Once you have done that, you may send the ALA dues to alatreasury@wlu.edu. You will receive an automated receipt stating that your money has been received. Please add \$2 to your dues if paying by PayPal. Save postage money and go online here to renew: <http://africanlit.org/membership/>

Membership cont.

As you renew your membership, please consider donating to the ALA to enable it do even more for all of us and for African literary studies. We increasingly need to spend more on critical things that advance our mission such as publications, awards, travel grants, top-notch website and membership list maintenance.

Your Name: _____

Your Preferred E-mail Address: _____

Your Professional Affiliation: _____

Your Preferred Mailing Address (please include your name, street/Postal Box, City, State/Province, Country, and Postal Code):

_____ (Name)

_____ (Street Address or P.O. Box)

_____ (City)

_____ (State/Province)

_____ (Country and Postal Code)

Membership Rates

_____ African Student in Africa \$10

_____ Sponsor a Student \$20
in Africa or elsewhere
(Give name and email, or let ALA make the award)

_____ Student elsewhere \$20

_____ Income under \$20K \$20

_____ Income \$20,001 to \$45,000 \$50

_____ Income \$45,001 to \$75,000 \$75

_____ Income \$75,001 & over \$100

_____ Institutional Member \$250

_____ Sponsor, Individual \$150

_____ Sponsor, Corporate \$1000+

_____ Life Member \$1500
Payable in 5 annual payments of \$300

_____ Donation to the ALA: \$ _____

_____ Donation to ALA Awards: \$ _____

_____ Donation to ALA Travel Grant: \$ _____

Discounted Individual Subscription rates to
Research in African Literature:

_____ Addresses in the U.S. \$42.50

_____ Other Addresses \$60.50

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



ALA TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

For the 2015 Annual Conference; University of Bayreuth in Bayreuth, Germany

June 3-6, 2015

The African Literature Association (ALA) is pleased to announce the ALA Travel Grant Award which provides three \$1,000 awards to members traveling from Africa to the association's conference. Priority is given to early career applicants.

Eligible applicants should demonstrate 1) scholarship; 2) financial need; and 3) ability to supplement grant award.

ALA Travel Grant Applications must include the following documents:

1. **2 page cover letter** including title and abstract of conference paper to be presented at ALA conference;
2. **2 page Curriculum Vitae** or résumé (including ALA travel grant awards received within the past three [3] years , teaching and/or research experience and interests, professional meetings/conferences attended, with dates, place and titles of papers presented, current university affiliation, if applicable); and
3. **2 letters of recommendation.** Each letter shall be no more than 2 pages, and shall include contact and brief biographical information of recommender. ***Recommender CV or résumé not needed.***

Please send your complete application on or before February 15, 2015 to **both**

Samuel Zadi by email: samuel.zadi@utsa.edu
or mail: Department of Modern Languages
University of Texas San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Patrice Nganang by email: nganang@hotmail.com
or mail: Cultural Analysis and Theory
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794

The 2015 conference will be held **June 3-6, 2015** at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. For more information, visit the African Literature Association website at <http://africanlit.org/>.

Caucus Directory, 2014-2015

Film, Visual and Media Caucus

P. Julie Papaioannou, Chair (Senior Lecturer French & Francophone Studies Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Rochester); julie.papaioannou@rochester.edu

Francophone Caucus

Alix Pierre, Chair (World Languages & and Literature African Diaspora & the World, Spelman College); apierre2@spelman.edu

Christophe Konkobo, Vice-Chair (French & Francophone Literature, Theatre & Film, Austin Peay State University)

Paul N. Touré, Secretary (French and Francophone Studies, Millikin University)

Edgard Coly, Treasurer (French and Francophone Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies)

Graduate Student Caucus of the ALA

Lindsey Zanchettin, Chair (Auburn University); laz0002@auburn.edu

Matthew Omelsky, Treasurer

J. Coplen Rose, Communications Officer

Ella Sonja West, Member-at-Large

Ann Reading, Member-at-Large

Luso-Hispanophone Caucus of the ALA

Ana Catarina Teixeira, Chair (Emory University); ana.teixeira@emory.edu

Véronique Solange Okome-Beka, Vice-Chair (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Libreville, Gabon)

Brianna Medeiros, Treasurer (Brown University)

Pierre Paulin O. Atouba, Secretary (Université de Yaounde)

Translation Caucus of the ALA

Ghirmai Negash, President (term ends in 2015) (Ohio University); negashg@ohio.edu

Moradewun Adejunmobi, Vice-President (University of California-Davis)

Marjolijn de Jager, Treasurer (Translator, Scholar)

Adeleke Adeeko, Secretary (Ohio State)

Women's Caucus of the ALA

Cathy Kroll, President (Department of English, Sonoma State University);

kroll@sonoma.edu



2014 — 2015 Executive Council

PRESIDENT

Tejumola Olaniyan
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Dept. of English, HCW Hall
600 N. Park St.
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 239-1679
tolaniyan@wisc.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Moradewun Adejunmobi
University of California
African American and African Studies
2201 Hart Hall
Davis, CA 95616
(916) 419-4230
madejunmobi@ucdavis.edu

DEPUTY VICE-PRESIDENT

Huma Ibrahim
Comsats/Islamabad
ibrahimhuma81@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Soraya Mekerta
Spelman College
African Diaspora & the World Program
Box 286
350 Spelman Lane, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 270-5531
smekerta@spelman.edu

SECRETARY

Anne Carlson
Spelman College
Dept. of World Languages & Literature
Box 719
350 Spelman Lane, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 270-5559
acarlson@spelman.edu

TREASURER

Mohamed Kamara
Washington and Lee University
201 Tucker Hall
Lexington, VA 2445
(540) 458-8475
kamaram@wlu

JALA EDITOR

Abioseh Porter
Drexel University
Dept. of English & Philosophy
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 895-2448
abiosehp@drexel.edu

ALA 41st Annual Conference

June 3-6, 2015
Bayreuth, Germany

ALA Headquarters: James McCorkle, Director

Hobart and William Smith Colleges
300 Pulteney Street, Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: (315) 781-3491 Fax: (315) 781-3822 Email: mccorkle@hws.edu

The African Literature Association *Newsletter* is published twice a year by the ALA Headquarters.

It publishes matters of record of and for the Association for the sole use of its members.

All inquiries should be addressed to the Headquarters Director, James McCorkle.

The *Newsletter* is designed by Dot Vogt, ALA Administrative Support.

The African Literature Association also acknowledges the support of Hobart and William Smith Colleges.