

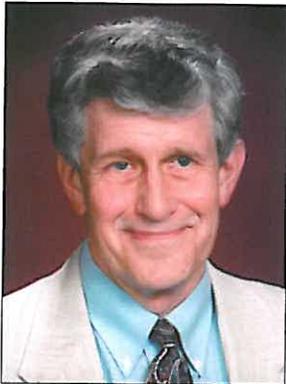
## African & African American Studies

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*Dr. Allen R. Dyer*

### Report from Rwanda

by Dr. Allen R. Dyer

Dr. Allen R. Dyer, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at ETSU, led a health care and medical education delegation of colleagues to Rwanda, from March 20-April 2, 2008. The purpose of the delegation was to: (1) Analyze the health care / medical system in Rwanda, (2) Compare and contrast medical

practices, theories, and health care objectives in the U.S. and Rwanda, (3) Review educational programs and career opportunities for medical professionals in Rwanda, and (4) Share information on public health concerns in the U.S. and Rwanda.

was a medical doctor by profession, but he was also a soldier, an explorer, a scholar, a poet, and an avid naturalist. For his home, he chose a site opposite Mount Kigali from which the city later inherited its name. This first colonial building has been turned into a Museum. Today, the **Kandt Museum** hosts exhibits of the life of Kandt as well as a small collection of natural history.

The first two days of the trip were spent in flight from New York to London and then to Kigali, Rwanda. Dr. Dyer's report, for this article, begins on day three, when the delegation arrived in Kigali.

**Saturday, March 22 — Day 3  
Kigali, Rwanda**

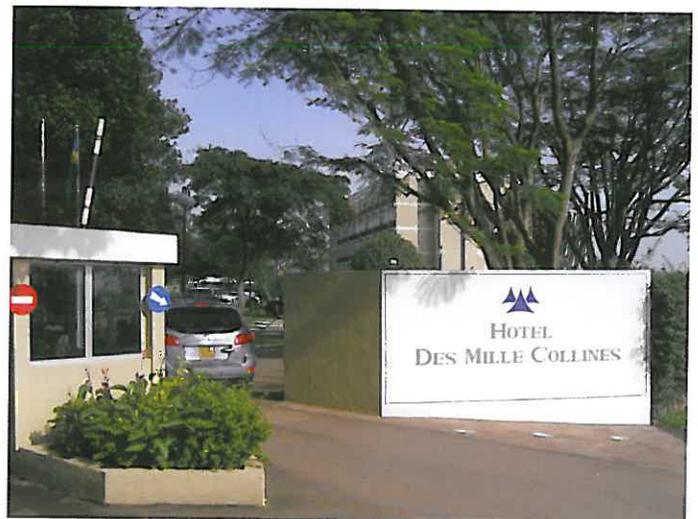
#### Arrival in Kigali at midday.

Kigali is the capital of Rwanda, situated almost in the center of the country. The city is built on interlocking hills, which progressively converge and are separated from each other by large valleys giving them oval shapes. At the time of independence in 1962, only about 4,000 people lived here. Since then, Kigali has grown rapidly and, today, harbors almost one million inhabitants. Rwanda is the land of a thousand hills and a million smiles.

#### Kigali Serena Hotel

*The Kigali Serena Hotel, situated in Central Kigali, is the city's pre-eminent meeting place for diplomats and business people. A meeting is held by the pool at the hotel for a welcome and orientation briefing.*

This afternoon the delegation explores city landmarks from before, during, and after the Genocide. Kigali was founded in 1906 by the first German imperial resident governor, Dr. Richard Kandt. This fascinating personality



*Hotel Rwanda*

Our historical journey passes the older parts of Kigali, especially the old commercial quarter, the Quartier Mateus, the Central Prison and the Muslim Quarter of Nyamirambo. We also visit the Hotel des Mille Collines (Hotel Rwanda).

City orientation continues with a visit to the **Camp Kigali Genocide Memorial**, the government office section of Kigali, and a drive by the new American Embassy demonstrating the strategic importance of Rwanda in this unstable part of Africa.

We stop at Camp Kigali, the venue of the massacre of 10 Belgian UN Blue Berets on the first day of the Genocide. Under the command of Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, they were deployed to guard the house of moderate Prime Minister Agatha Uwilingimana. After the violence began, Presidential Guard soldiers invaded the home, disarmed the

Belgians and transported them to Camp Kigali where they killed them. Today, the Camp is a Belgian commemoration site that hosts a small museum and provides a first introduction to the horrible events of 1994.

Camp Kigali is directly across the street from the impressive new Hotel Serena which, at the time of the Genocide, was the site of the prime minister's residence and murder, shortly after the President's plane was shot down over the Kigali Airport.

**Sunday, March 23 — Day 4  
Kigali, Rwanda**

**Kigali**

Easter Sunday, optional services for Catholics (at St. Michel) and Protestants (St. Etienne).

This afternoon, we spend some special Easter Sunday time with the street children of **Les Enfants de Dieu** in Ndera, about 20 minutes from Kigali. This unique project is modeled after the Rwandan government. Children are elected to seven ministerial offices forming a government of children. The government makes all decisions regarding the running of the farm, education of the population, and other issues regarding the day-to-day operation of the project.



*Les Enfants de Dieu*

Rafiki Callixte, the project coordinator, meets the delegation and explains the concepts. The organization is secular—nevertheless it included the word God in its name to signify the protective qualities of all religions and spiritual movements. Its mission is to effect a transformation in the lives of Rwandan street children by alleviating their hardships and providing them with the opportunities to mature into valued and respected individuals who can be reintegrated into society and be able to contribute their skills, knowledge, and ideas. In Rwanda, as a compound effect of war, poverty, and HIV/AIDS, the number of homeless children exceeds the capacity of adoptions and community support groups. Additionally, children living on the streets are severely traumatized and unable to adapt immediately to social life. It is to this situation that Les Enfants de Dieu responds. The organization aims to act as a rehabilitation center that prepares the children to be reintegrated into their society.

Delegates paint Easter eggs with the boys, which confused as much as amused them. No one was able to give

a good account of why we paint eggs at Easter or the origins of the Easter Bunny. The lunch menu did include rabbit as well as goat. Rabbits and fish are raised at the orphanage.

Dr. Maggie Zraly, an anthropologist from Penn State and a college classmate of Will Dyer, was in Kigali for a conference and joins us for dinner. She gave a very informative paper/discussion on Collective Sexual Violence (genocide-rape) and how people are coping with what they experienced in the Genocide. She observed that people often commented on how helpful it was for them to be able to discuss what they had experienced. She identified three words used by people in Kenya and Rwanda to describe stages they go through in dealing with grief: The three cultural-linguistic concepts that she found to be similar to “resilience” in the post-Genocide Rwandan social context are: Kwihangana: to withstand, involving patience and enduring suffering until it passes; Gukomeza ubuzima: to continue life, to keep living every day; Kwongera kubaho: To live again, with the indirect implication that a death of sorts has occurred—specific meaning with the community of Genocide survivors.

**Monday, March 24 — Day 5  
Kigali, Rwanda**

**Butare and Gitarama**

Activities today center around exploring the cities of Butare and Gitarama. Butare is well-known for its distinct atmosphere that comes from being a university town and center for culture. Gitarama is the second-largest city in Rwanda, and is situated in the center of the country, to the west of Kigali.

This morning we visit the **National University of Rwanda (NUR)**. NUR is the largest university in Rwanda. It is located in the city of Butare. In 1963, it was established by the government in cooperation with the Congregation of the Dominicans from the Province of Quebec.

When it was established, the NUR had three divisions (Faculties of Medicine and Social Sciences, and a Teacher Training College). It had 51 students and 16 lecturers. The University suffered tremendously during the Genocide and it had to close in 1994; but it reopened in April of 1995. At that time English was introduced as a medium of instruction, along with French.



*National University of Rwanda (NUR) Pediatrics Unit*

Its commitments include the development of a gender-balanced society, sound citizenship values, life-long academic skills, research programs relevant to Rwanda, and strong community-focused studies in all disciplines. Over 4,000 students have graduated since 1995, and they are making a great contribution to the post-Genocide reconstruction in various sectors, including the judicial system, health, economics, governance, banking, agriculture and ICT. Today, the University hosts over 8,000 students and over 400 lecturers. It has 9 departments or divisions: agriculture, law, education, medicine, economics and management, social/political/administrative sciences, arts and humanities, science, and applied sciences. It has 3 schools: journalism and communication, modern languages, and public health. And it has 7 additional centers.

The University is in the process of instituting a new modular curriculum. Although NUR has the Rwandan medical school, its hospital has very limited facilities.

All Rwandans are eligible for health insurance, which costs a few thousand francs (a few dollars) per family. Even so, not everyone can afford it. Many Rwandans work in substance agriculture, although the country is being transformed into a cash economy.

For more information on this subject, visit:  
<http://www.nur.ac.rw/>

As a professional delegation, we visit the faculty of medicine, receive an introduction to medical education at the University, meet with administrators, professors and students, and share a lunch with them at Le Petit Prince Hotel.

After lunch the delegation enjoys a brief stop at COPABU, an exemplary local handicrafts cooperative that offers an introduction to the diverse Rwandan arts and crafts.

The last stop of the day is a visit to the **Urukundo Home for Children**. Founded by Arlene Brown, a seventy-seven-year-old Pennsylvanian, the Urukundo Home for Children is a safe refuge for orphans of the Genocide and HIV/AIDS. Arlene shares her life story with the delegation as well as her plans for expanding the home to accommodate more than 100 children. The delegation enjoys dinner with the children of Urukundo.

One of the delegates, Trevor Burnett from Toronto, provides Urukundo children with musical instruments: guitar, violin,

harmonica, trumpet, and enough recorders for everyone. After dinner at the home, the children sing and dance for our benefit.

**Tuesday, March 25 — Day 6  
 Kigali, Rwanda**

**Gisozi**

A burial site with over 250,000 victims of the Genocide is located in Gisozi, a suburb of Kigali. It includes a main historical exhibition, a children's memorial exhibition, and an exhibition on comparative genocide. It has over four acres of memorial gardens containing ten mass graves. Rwandans are in the process of institutionalizing their history and in formalizing their educational mechanisms.



*Gisozi Genocide Memorial*

Today, we have the opportunity to approach the Genocide and its legacy in more detail. After breakfast, we visit the country's main **Genocide Memorial Center** in Gisozi. New material on the Genocide continues to emerge from the gachacha courts, and mass graves as well as family graves are still being discovered. Families frequently decide to bury their loved ones in Gisozi, and mass burial is expected to continue to be a feature of the site for many years to come as more bodies are discovered.

This was perhaps one of the most impressive and difficult aspects of the trip. The Gisozi Genocide Memorial Center was designed by brothers Stephen and James Smith. The Memorial was based on the Holocaust Memorial that the Smith brothers developed in Nottingham. It is quiet, dignified, and overwhelming. In gardens around the center are mass graves for over a quarter of a million people—victims of the Genocide from Kigali alone. Thousands more are being found and buried here on extensions of the grounds. One of the aspects of reconciliation is that lesser sentences are given by the courts if the perpetrators of the Genocide, the Genocidaires, identify the locations of the slain bodies.

We found each room more difficult than the previous. Background, history, politics, videos of survivors, perpetrators, clothes of the victims, human remains, skulls,



*Arlene Brown and Dr. Sheila Burns from  
 Edinburgh, Scotland*

long bones, pictures of the children, and brief bios, along with a statement about the means of their death.

We found the memorial quiet, dignified, and serene. However, a week later during the week of mourning, an episode of violence undermined the calm. A grenade exploded, killing a police officer and injuring another.

But Rwandans are also eager to move on. The remainder of the morning is dedicated to learning about the mechanisms that the country has established for reconciliation.

Reconciliation measures are absolutely fundamental in Rwanda. They are “attempts at striking a balance between justice and healing, vengeance and forgiveness.” In Rwanda, they include diverse mechanisms such as formal and informal justice, activities of the **National Unity and Reconciliation Commission** (NURC), as well as forms of cultural reconciliation.

As an introduction to the subject of reconciliation, we meet with representatives of the **NURC**. Created in early 1999, the Commission focuses on civic education, peace building and conflict management, as well as the dissemination of information. Organized meetings and conferences culminated in two national summits with participants representing all levels of society. About 720 trained voluntary community animators are traveling the country. The Commission is further responsible for ‘solidarity’ camps called *Ingando*, and the training for youth and women groups and persons of integrity. Representatives of the NURC give a presentation of their work.

During the afternoon, we visit the country’s best private hospital, King Faisil. This 200-bed hospital was built in the early 1980s with the help of a donation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It has active departments in Accident and Emergency, General Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dentistry, Dermatology, and Otolaryngology. The Outpatient Department is well constructed with well furnished consultation rooms. The Intensive Care Unit is equipped to high standards and the Laboratory services are of high quality. The Radiology Department has facilities for CT-Scan, Echocardiography, Ultrasound and Fluoroscopy, and MRI. The well-equipped Physiotherapy Department is also on site. Currently, the government has plans to upgrade the hospital to a tertiary referral center of excellence for the whole country.

This evening, we attend a networking dinner at the hotel with approximately 25 invited guests, including Rwandan officials and representatives of NGOs—some American medical students doing projects in Rwanda.

### Wednesday, March 26 — Day 7 Kigali, Rwanda

Today offers unique insights into the challenges that the country must overcome to reach its development goals, achieve poverty reduction, and sustain development. We visit the **Millennium Village** in the Bugesera District, which is about 45 minutes south of Kigali and we explore the **Nyamata Church Genocide Memorial**, where 10,000 people, who had sought refuge in the church, perished when bulldozers demolished the building.

The UN Millennium Villages Project is a partnership of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the



**Millennium Village Project**

Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise, a variety of donors, 10 African governments and their respective local representations, and a few country-specific partners. Their objective is to show how the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be achieved in only 5 years and to offer these insights to the global community as best-practice case studies. Altogether, there are 12 Millennium Villages in 10 African countries, representing the full range of agro-climatic environments available on the continent.

In Rwanda, the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) has been working since December 2005. The government has designated Mayange in Bugesera District to become the site of the Project. This choice made it particularly challenging because of historical and geographic difficulties. Not only is the District traumatized by generations of horrific genocides since the 1950s, but it is in search of land for the vast number of refugees and returnees. The government has also cleared the trees from the once fertile region, which had abundant rainfall and bountiful harvests. This deforestation has created an ecological disaster: soil erosion, decreased and erratic rainfall, periods of drought, and famine. Thus, the residents of this region have been severely affected by the genocide and environmental destruction, adding to their burden of extreme poverty.

The MVP has become such a huge success that the government has decided to request the poorest village in every Rwandan district to duplicate the Project under the title *Vision 2020 Umurenge*. Something else is unique about the Rwandan Millennium Village: National and international experts and pro-poor tourism have created an excursion that focuses entirely on supporting the development of villages and the successful efforts of the MVP. They have created over 250 micro-enterprise opportunities for the villagers who now present their own experiences with the Project to interested visitors. This way, guides, intervention interpreters, food preparers, weavers, dancers, and many others have become involved in MVP activities.

We have the opportunity to experience this unique excursion. It includes visits to farms and gardens, a terracing and dam project, a primary school, a health center, a micro-enterprise development project, and a cultural get-together in a modern government settlement called *Imidugudu*. Most importantly, we have the opportunity to talk in detail with

the doctor and his staff at the health center in order to learn about the challenges and successful interventions of health care in rural Rwanda.

A local lunch as well as snacks and the typical banana juice and sorghum beer are served during the excursion. But, beyond participation in the excursion, we are also allowed to look behind the scenes of the tourism component of the MVP because our local guides are responsible for these poverty-reducing activities. It is a model of sustainable development.

The day of our visit was the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Millennium Village Project and New Dawn Associates, fostering visitors' tours for the mutual benefit of the tourists and the villages. There were special festivities on this occasion.

### **Dinner back in Kigali at Indian Khazana.**

A special guest of Dr. Walter Hull was Dr. Jean Baptiste Habyalimana, President of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. I was privileged to eat with him and ask many questions. For me, this was one of the main reasons for coming to Rwanda—to learn about the psychological and political means of reconciliation and how a country moves beyond retributive justice to reconciliation. I couldn't help but think about what Iraq must go through,



*Michael Grosspietche, Allen Dyer, Jean Baptiste Habyalimana*

as I listened to what Rwanda has been through.

Dr Walter Hull, a member of our delegation, had spent twenty-five years at a mission hospital in the Congo; thus, he had many comparisons to draw upon. He mentioned, in particular, the fistulas caused by arrested deliveries with resulting incontinence. Women were grateful when these fistulas could be surgically corrected. Notable in the twenty-first century are the fistulas created by collective sexual violence and rape with weapons—horrors of the current civil war in the Congo.

**Thursday, March 27 — Day 8  
Kigali, Rwanda**

Because three of our delegates were interested in mental health, an early morning side trip was arranged to take us

to the only psychiatric hospital in Rwanda: the Frères De La Charité Hôpital Neuro-psychiatrique, Caraes Ndera. It has 177 beds and 240 patients. Because of the stigma associated with psychiatric disorders, it is located on a hillside outside Kigali. It is administered by two Belgian-trained psychiatrists. Our dominant impression was that it was clean and dignified. The gardens were immaculate. We saw one patient who “was having some difficulties” and indeed he was treated gently and with kindness. This was in stark contrast to a television special *Al Jareeza* was running on psychiatric treatment in Africa, which portrayed a patient chained to the bed (which I have seen in Nepal).



*CCHIPS Health Center in Bisate*

One of the manifestations of the stigma associated with psychiatric patients was that they were not given anti-retroviral drugs for HIV even though many of them are HIV positive, remain sexually active and at risk not only of infection, but also of spreading infection.

Following this visit, after a delay due to a police road block to find stolen Toyotas, we depart for the north of the country to learn about CCHIPS—Comprehensive Community Health Initiatives & Programs—a grass roots primary health care strategy. CCHIPS's mission is to provide and improve primary health care services by upgrading infrastructures and increasing human capacities in close collaboration with local communities. The goal of this pilot project is to develop a cost-effective sustainable and replicable model for additional health centers.

### **Bisate**

CCHIPS derived out of a partnership between the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) and Wyman Worldwide Health Partners (WWHPS). Ro Wyman, member of the Board of Trustees of DFGFI since 2000, decided that she wanted to make a difference. She realized, however, that it is hard to convince people to protect their environment when they are struggling to survive. As a result, she and her organization recognize that the survival of gorillas in the wild depends on the health, education, and economic success of the local people in surrounding communities. CCHIPS' pilot project brings improved health care to Bisate, a rural village in northern Rwanda with a population of 20,000.

After a 2½-hour drive to Ruhengeri, we meet with Laura Clauson (from Dartmouth), the Director of Field Operations for CCHIPS. She introduces and tells us about the enormous progress that Bisate has seen since the launching of CCHIP in September 2006. Most of the health care at the center is provided by high-school-level nurses, who work eight hours a day, seven days a week. For many of these nurses, it takes one to two hours to walk to work each way every day. After having lunch with Laura, we drive to Bisate for a first-hand experience with this innovative project.

## Lake Kiva

Later in the afternoon, we transfer to Gisenyi, on the shores of Lake Kivu. From Bisate, it takes 2 hours to reach the delegation hotel, which is located directly at the shores of the beautiful Lake Kiva, one of the 20 deepest and most voluminous freshwater bodies in the world. Formed about two million years ago around the end of the Tertiary period due to heavy tectonic activities, its surface has an altitude of 1,470m. The Virunga volcanoes created a natural dam in the north and isolated it from the more northern lakes of the Albertine Rift Valley. In the south, it is connected with Lake Tanganyika by the Rusizi River. Countless bays, inlets, and islands are characteristic features of the Lake Kiva. Deep in the lake is a reservoir of methane gas, which is harvested to run a major factory, and which has the potential to provide energy for the region.

### Friday, March 28 — Day 9 Gisenyi, Rwanda

This morning the delegation strolls down the old beach promenade to the border shared with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There, Dr. Tharcisse from the Gisenyi Hospital, provides a professional program that deals with border-related health issues, particularly diseases such as cholera and Ebola as well as specific problems of refugees. After a brief introduction to the border procedures, we proceed to the Hospital where Dr. Tharcisse provides a theoretical presentation as well as a tour of the various sections of the Gisenyi Hospital.

After lunch, we visit a traditional healer who has a little private clinic in town. He explains traditional medicine and, afterwards shows us some of his plants and implements



*Traditional Healers*

(potions, antler horns, etc). Traditional healers are still very popular in some rural areas in Rwanda. In most cases, they are serious doctors and do not practice any voodoo or similar activities. Their medical gardens are frequently little highlights because you can learn about the curative effects of a variety of local plants.

We meet several healers, one of whom gives a fairly extensive exposition. He had learned his skills from his father and started practicing when he was twelve. He indicated that he prepared remedies for GI disorders, breathing problems, heart problems, sexual problems (ejaculatory problems and infertility), undoing poisons and evil spells. As we return to the bus, we are approached by one young man, who is fairly intrusive and not particularly coherent. Our guide indicates that he was not all right and was a patient here, probably suffering from bad spirits.

It was hard for our interpreter to keep a straight face as he translated some of the comments of the patient, and he later told me that he censored some of the comments that seemed too gross. However strange some of this seems, we must recognize that American medicine is similarly empirical in its matching of remedies to symptoms, and we are not without magical thinking and belief in supernatural powers in healing.

### Saturday, March 29 — Day 10 Depart

The main delegation departs this morning for Kigali. Before leaving, our bus driver, Edmond, age 29, tells us about how he and four of his friends swam to the Congo to escape during the Genocide. Sitting on the restaurant patio, overlooking Lake Kivu, we listen intently to Edmond Ndungasto's story.

### Edmond's Story

"My father was a mathematics professor. My mother had died when I was three from complications of an appendectomy. They didn't sew up the wound very well and she went into a coma and died. My sister is one year younger than I am, and she was always one year behind me in school.

"My father was Tutsi; my mother was Hutu. My father said, 'if anything happens in Rwanda, run away and don't come looking for me.' He told me if anyone asks if I were Tutsi, say you don't know.

"The day the killing started, I said to four other boys in my dormitory, 'we must go to the Congo.' At night we went down to the water, not in a group, but four or five meters apart. Every twenty meters or so, we would raise a hand and the next fellow would raise a hand, like we did in scouts, leave a piece of paper so they would know where we went.

"Two of the boys were Hutu, three of us were Tutsi. We came across a family of four. The mother couldn't swim. The family tried to decide whether the father should take the mother across first or take the children first. I suggested that we help the family. One of my friends said we shouldn't. To convince my friends to help the family, I said maybe the family knew someone in the Congo that could help us.

"It was hard to get people to take us in once we reached the Congo because we were five boys and ate a lot. However, because I said I wanted to be a mechanic, eventually people

taught me to drive and allowed me to take care of their vehicles.”

Edmond provided a lot of details about going from one place to another, being polite, evasive, and self-reliant. As soon as he could, he went back home to look for his father and sister. His father was never found, but his sister had gone with an auntie. She had the features of a Hutu, short and strong. She survived and is now married with two children.

**Saturday, March 29 — Day 10  
Gisenyi, Rwanda**

This evening features sundowners with traditional dinner and traditional dancing at the hotel in Gisenyi, Rwanda.



*The Ngangango Volcano Speaks*

**Sunday, March 30 — Day 11  
Kivu Coffee Experience**

Our coffee experience begins with an early morning boat pickup from the hotel. The boat, provided by the Rwandan Army, takes the delegation to an island in Lake Kivu to visit the plantation of a leading coffee cooperative. Coffee raised on this island is among the rarest of all coffees. Each coffee plant is hand raised and cared for by the farmer. The special care taken in the raising of this coffee and the volcanic soils of the island give the coffee a full bodied, yet non-acidic flavor. The program includes a full explanation of how coffee is processed from washing to roasting. After the visit to the island, we proceed to the cooperative's coffee washing station, which is a bustling experience with scores of coffee growers participating in the various steps that are necessary to reach the highest possible quality of coffee.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

Gisenyi, Rwanda is just across the border from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Congo is placed in contrast to the model country of Rwanda, and makes it clear how much Rwanda has accomplished compared to its neighbors. The Congo is chaotic, dangerous, and corrupt. Many Congo officials have not been paid a salary in years and they have no means of support, except extortion. Goma, once a colonial outpost on the shores of Lake Kivu, is now host to a huge UN Peace Keeping Force that is trying to minimize the suffering associated with the



*Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

current civil war. Goma also serves as host to thousands of refugees and would-be refugees. Life here is desperate. No one smiles. When the volcano erupted in 2002, it created a refugee crisis that led to the flight of a million people into Rwanda.

**Monday, March 31 — Day 12  
Gorilla Trek**

The evening before, March 30, dinner was held at the hotel with guest speaker, Cecile, a biologist who discussed her research on gorillas. This morning we receive a 3:30 wake-up call, followed by a short drive to the ORTPN Kinigi headquarters at the foot of **Volcanoes National Park** for a mountain gorilla trek. We meet with local guides and trackers who give us a briefing on trekking gorillas.

The hike then proceeds to the area where the gorillas were located the previous day, and then the trackers start their work to locate the gorillas once again. There are only about 700 mountain gorillas left in the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. The gorillas are seriously endangered by loss of habitat, disease, and poachers—a dangerous combination of the influx of guns and monetary incentives.

Fees for trekking pay salaries for park rangers, protection, and conservation efforts. Our group trekked to the Hirwa group of gorillas, a silverback of about 22 years, five mothers, five babies, and one other female without child. These gorillas are quite habituated to humans and went about their business with only idle curiosity about the visitors a few feet away.

Lunch is provided at the Gorilla Nest Lodge this afternoon, before we return to Kigali and check-in at the Kigali Serena Hotel. Staying in the Presidential Suite is occasion to reflect on other recent guests in these lavish accommodations, including the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>th</sup> presidents of the United States. While sitting in the suite's business office sifting through e-mails, from three continents, about Iraq, I reflect on United States foreign relations and her many diplomatic lapses. I now have a new appreciation for the work of People to People and the role of Citizen Ambassadors in what is now being called “cultural diplomacy.” This group contains delegates from fifteen states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, two Canadian provinces, and Scotland. We represent a number

for an amount of time, without giving a reason for the imprisonment.

Gunn looked at United States history to justify his work as Chief Defense Counsel for the detainees. Thomas Paine stated in *Common Sense*, "He who has his own liberties must protect his own enemies who are oppressed." John Adams, before becoming the second president of the United States, courageously defended British soldiers who killed five colonists during the Boston Massacre in 1770. Gunn used these examples of defending the enemy, in keeping with United States policies of fairness, to justify his acceptance of the appointment as Chief Defense Counsel for the detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

Guantanamo Bay is located on the southern edge of Cuba. The United States government leases the land from Cuba. The United States gained the authority to lease the land after the Spanish-American War in 1898. The future of the Guantanamo Bay Detainees Center is unclear, but it seems likely that the Center will be closed. However, Gunn informed his audience that President Obama has appointed a committee to examine all the questions involved in closing the Detainee Center and moving the detainees to other locations. When the committee has completed its work, it

will make a report to the President, who will make a final decision about the future of the Center and its detainees.

After the formal lecture, there were many questions, which provided an opportunity for Colonel Gunn to provide even more valuable information about the detainees, government policies, and the political issues related to the controversy. The question and answer period provided as much valuable information as the formal presentation. The dialogue was so interesting that it hardly seemed possible that a full ninety minutes had passed before the moderator had to bring closure to the program, with the promise that members of the audience could speak informally with Colonel Gunn after the program ended.

Listening to Colonel Gunn was a great experience. I believe that nearly everyone present was moved by his speech. He is one of the most amazing persons I have ever met, and it was a complete thrill to hear him talk.

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Aaron Owens is a student in the Honors Program at East Tennessee State University. He was recently enrolled in an African American history class, in partial fulfillment of the Honors Program requirements. He is classified as a junior and his major is history.

## AFAM FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Marian Whitson and Dr. Elwood Watson. Dr. Whitson, an Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice, is the 2009 recipient of the Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Whitson teaches Race, Gender, and Crime for the AFAM Program.

Dr. Elwood Watson, a professor of history, is the 2009 recipient of the Research Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Watson teaches several courses related to African American studies for the AFAM Program.



*Dr. Elwood Watson*



*Dr. Marian Whitson*

## The AFAM Scholarship Program at ETSU

### History Of The AFAM Program:

In 2005, the AFAM Scholarship was founded by a community-based committee that was organized by the AFAM director, Dr. Dorothy Drinkard-Hawkshawe. In the following year, upon the recommendation of one of the scholarship committee members and approval of a majority of committee members, the AFAM Scholarship was named the Betty Hill Goah AFAM Scholarship, in honor of Betty Hill Goah, who was a lifetime resident of Johnson City, Tennessee, although she was born in Laurens, South Carolina.

Ms. Goah dedicated her life to public service. She helped to improve the quality of life for individuals in her immediate community; but she served the whole Tennessee region. Her work included service on the

Johnson City Development Authority; Johnson City Downtown Clinic; Appalachian Community Fund, Knoxville, Tennessee; Tennessee Regional Health Department; Washington County Health Department; Greater Kingsport Ministerial Alliance; and the Commission on Religion in Appalachia.

Because of Ms. Goah's commitment to helping others, the recipients of AFAM Scholarships are expected to embrace the philosophy of community service and to use their talents to help others whenever and wherever possible.

Anyone who is interested in applying for an AFAM Scholarship may complete the application below.

# Criteria and Scholarship Award:

**Criteria:** The applicant must be a matriculating student at East Tennessee State University, declare African and African American Studies as a minor field of study, take at least one AFAM course per semester until the minor is completed, and maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average.

**Award:** The Betty Hill Goah AFAM Scholarship is \$2,000.00, which is paid in installments of at least 500.00 per year, over a maximum period of four years, as long as the recipient maintains a 2.5 grade point average and enrolls in at least one AFAM class per semester.

## AFAM Scholarship Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Year at ETSU:     Fr.     Soph.     Jr.     Sr.

In 50 words or less, please tell us why you wish to minor in African and African American Studies.

**Return this form to:** c/o Dr. Drinkard-Hawkshaw  
East Tennessee State University  
AFAM Program  
Box 70672 (Room 104 Rogers-Stout)  
Johnson City, Tennessee 37614-1709

**Deadline: December 1, 2009**

For more information call (423) 439-6688 or e-mail to [drinkard@etsu.edu](mailto:drinkard@etsu.edu)

***Betty Hill Goah***  
*January 14, 1936–March 7, 2006*



# 2009 AFAM Course Schedules

## Spring 2009

AFAM 3989 Cooperative Education  
AFAM 4950 Senior Seminar  
CJCR 4760 Race, Gender, and Crime  
ENGL 4032 African Literature  
HIST 3270 History of Africa  
HIST 3901 African American History  
Since 1877  
MUSC 1035 History of Jazz  
PSCI 4030 Black American Political  
Thought

## Fall 2009

AFAM 3989 Cooperative Education  
AFAM 4900 Special Studies  
AFAM 4950 Seminar (The Harlem  
Renaissance)  
ENGL 4047 African American Literature II  
HIST 3900 African American History  
to 1877  
HIST 5010 The Harlem Renaissance  
MUSC 1035 History of Jazz  
SOC 3110 Minorities



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