

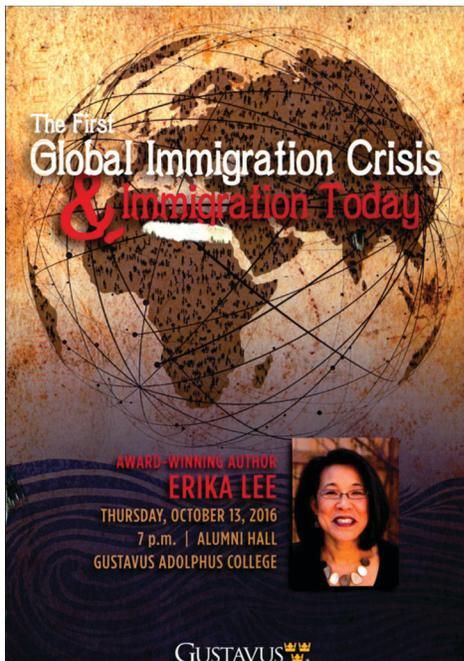


Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Good News: Department of Ethnic Studies

As shown above in the photograph:
From left to right: Mr. Hassan Ghulam, Ethnic Studies undergraduate student, Mr. Ivan Martinez Latino Affairs Graduate Assistant Latino Affairs, award winning author: Dr. Erika Lee, Professor Phan, Ms. Claudia E. Guerrero Barrera & Ms. Paige E. Heinrich, Ethnic Studies graduate students, attended and participated in the lecture on: The First Global Immigration Crisis and Immigration today by Dr. Erika Lee, University of Minnesota. The lecture took place on Thursday October 13, 2016 at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. The lecture was instructive and informative on the Chinese immigration to the United States.



From left to right: Mr. Hassan Ghulam, Ethnic Studies undergraduate student, Mr. Ivan Martinez Latino Affairs Graduate Assistant Latino Affairs, award winning author: Dr. Erika Lee, Professor Phan, Ms. Claudia E. Guerrero Barrera & Ms. Paige E. Heinrich, Ethnic Studies



Minnesota State
University, Mankato

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Academic year 2016–17

Editors: Ethnic Studies Faculty

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Mission Statement

“The Department of Ethnic Studies, an interdisciplinary program, is academically committed to promoting multicultural and ethnic knowledge, skills and values both within and outside the United States and to preparing our students for effective participation in the culturally diverse global community.”

A Message on the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066



EMBRACING
THE HOPES AND
ASPIRATIONS OF
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICANS

Dear Advocate,

Today, we remember the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

With one broad brush, the US government implicated over 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry, including American citizens, and forced the entire population on the West Coast into incarceration camps without due process or proof of espionage. Today's Day of Remembrance is particularly meaningful to me because, as a result of this Executive Order, my family was forced from their homes, farms, and livelihoods just because of their ethnic background.

After the order came down, in a desperate attempt to prove their loyalty, my family burned anything that indicated their heritage: dolls, photo albums, books, tapestry, clothes; generations of cultural history destroyed instantly in a fire made in the backyard. Regardless of these efforts to prove their loyalty, they were ordered to the desolate Minidoka incarceration camp in Idaho, taking only what they could carry, hoping that their cooperation would prove their belief in this country. Once there, thousands of individuals, again, attempted to prove their loyalty by volunteering for the military, going on to becoming the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in

American warfare. But once again, they were handed a questionnaire that served to question their loyalty.

After the war, they returned to find their homes looted, their fields devastated, and an animosity that still cuts deep to this day. It was only several decades later that the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the Executive Order was not justified by military necessity, but rather was the result of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The bipartisan Commission went on to assert that:

"It runs counter to a basic premise on which the American nation of immigrants is built—that loyalty to the United States is a matter of individual choice and not determined by ties to an ancestral country."

An immigrant's loyalty is not proven by a questionnaire or their ethnic heritage; it goes beyond the color of one's skin or religious beliefs. It is often shown through their belief in the American dream, love for their community, and undying sacrifices for each other.

OCA plays a role in our world where we embrace diversity, empower the disenfranchised, and lift each other up to make our voices heard. Our work is critical in standing shoulder to shoulder



OCA Director Kendall Kosai and his grandfather, who was one of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans sent to incarceration camps during World War II

with others within and outside our community to ensure that we learn from the past and provide a voice to the marginalized. We stand on the principals of ensuring the civil rights of our diverse communities, where loyalty is never questioned because of where we come from, and owning our responsibility to speak out on policies that challenge those rights.

As we stand together 75 years after one of the most egregious Executive Orders in history, OCA is ready to stand up to race prejudice when we see it, see clearly through the complications of war, and demand strong political leadership from those who represent us.

Sincerely,

Kendall T. Kosai
OCA National Director

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: CELEBRATING IMPORTANT AFRICAN AMERICAN FIGURES IN U.S. HISTORY

About the Artist:

Jonathan Moore has worked with youth and young adults for over 25 years. From 1996 to 2005, Mr. Moore worked in the juvenile justice system, providing direction, support, and therapeutic interventions to offenders to assist in decreasing recidivism rates, particularly among African American males, and providing behavior and facility management. In 2006 to 2015, he was the Dean of Students at the High School for Recording Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota where he also previously taught art.



Mr. Moore is a former running back for the National Football League, Washington Redskins' practice team and a former running back for the Arena Football League, New Jersey Bull Dogs.

He is the 1998 and 1999 champion of Baltimore, Maryland's Power Lifting Competition. Mr. Moore currently works with the Black Intelligent Gentlemen (B.I.G.), an organization that serves college minority students and its community.

He is a member of the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, which is also a strong believer in building diversity in the art community. Much of his free time is developing art projects that inspire youth to learn about important African American figures in U.S. history. Mr. Moore holds a Bachelor's Degree in Ethnic Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is currently conducting graduate studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Contact Information: jonathan.moore@mnsu.edu

Art Exhibit:

Ms. Harriet Tubman (1820s-1913):

Underground Railroad operator, abolitionist, Civil War spy, nurse, suffragist and humanitarian



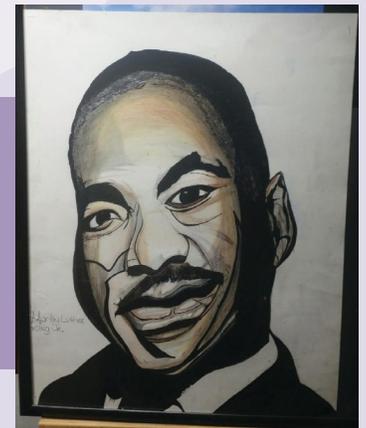
Mr. Malcolm X (1925-1965):

Civil Rights Leader, Black Nationalist and founder of the Organization of Afro-American Unity



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968):

Civil Rights Leader and Apostle of Non-Violence



Mr. Barack Obama America's First Black President (2009-2016)



GOOD NEWS

Department of Ethnic Studies 2017 Graduates: Names & titles of Thesis & APP

1. Mr. Ramiro Alvarez

APP title: "A Critical Analysis of Hip Hop as a Cultural and Artistic Response to Political, Economic, and Social Oppression: From Subculture to Pop Culture"
Advisor: Dr. Kebba Darboe

2. Ms. Claudia Guerrero Barrera

APP title: "A Content Analysis on Two Different Immigrants' Stories in California from Two Novels: A Step from Heaven: a Korean Girl & Esperanza Rising: a Mexican Farmer"
Advisor: Dr. Kebba Darboe

3. Ms. Paige Elizabeth Heinrich

APP title: "Multicultural Education in the K-12 Classroom"
Advisor: Professor Hanh Huy Phan

4. Ms. Bunsavira Lek

APP title: "Adjustment Process and Integration of Cambodian Refugees and Immigrants in the U.S."
Advisor: Professor Hanh Huy Phan

5. Ms. Tierra Spellmon

APP title: "Primetime Television Portrayals of African American Women: A Case Study on their Professional Roles"
Advisor: Professor Hanh Huy Phan

6. Ms. Anne Yung Van

Thesis title: "Black Women and Cosmetics: The Personal is Political"
Committee Chair: Dr. Laura Harrison
Committee members: Dr. Ana Perez and Dr. Kebba Darboe

Academic Year 2016-17: Graduates

- Mr. Jonathan Moore earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ethnic Studies, December 2016. During Black History Month 2017, he did his Art Exhibit to celebrate important African American Figures in U.S. History at South Central College and Minnesota State University-Mankato. The Art Exhibits included, for example, Ms. Harriet Tubman, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Malcolm X, President Barack H. Obama, Tupac Shakur, Native Son, Richard Wright, and Martin Luther King, Jr., etc.
- Ms. Paige E. Heinrich is accepted to pursue a Ph. D. program at the Syracuse University, New York
- Ms. Claudia E. Guerrero Barrera works as an Immigration Advocate for the Law Center in Richmond, Commonwealth of Virginia
- Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO) participates in the book drive: ThriftBooks/Worldwide Book Drive and other community activities, for example, Highway cleaning, etc.



From left to right: Ms. Tierra Spellmon, Ms. Claudia Guerrero Barrera, Dr. Kebba Darboe, Ms. Paige Elizabeth Heinrich, Ms. Bunsavira Lek & Ms. Anne Yung Van

Program Review: 2017

- A Program Review was done in 2017 by Dr. Chia Youyee Vang, External Program Reviewer, Department of History & Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- According to the results of the 2016-17 alumni survey, the majority of our graduates are working in the following sectors
 - ✓ 25% are employed in Higher Education, for example, teaching/administration
 - ✓ 33.33% are employed in Government, for example, social services
 - ✓ 41.67% are employed in Non-governmental Organizations, for example, United Nations, etc.
- Overall, alumni responses are satisfactory regarding their educational experiences and that is very gratifying to faculty members. The value of conducting research with alumni is that they are ideally positioned to offer a unique perspective regarding the educational preparation and employment opportunity after graduation.

Curriculum Development & Initiative

- To update the undergraduate curriculum by adding a new emphasis:
 - ✓ Major Emphasis 4: Racial/Ethnic Communities in the United States
- Rationale: The Racial/Ethnic Communities in the United States emphasis is designed to provide students with an understanding of the histories and contemporary economic, social and political challenges and opportunities of different racial and ethnic groups. This emphasis area strengthens the program's curriculum that reflects Ethnic Studies' commitment to social change and social justice in every community in America.

Notable achievements: Research

- Active involvement of the faculty in research serves not only to make them better professionals but also enhances the quality of both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Many faculty members have collaborated with undergraduate and graduate students in their research efforts. The opportunity to work on basic or applied research is essential for undergraduate students aspiring to pursue graduate study.
- Faculty members regularly attend workshops, for example, Anti-Racism, seminars and professional conferences, for example, Professor Phan attended and participated in the lecture on: "The First Global Immigration Crisis and Immigration today," by Dr. Erika Lee, University of Minnesota.
- In addition, faculty members often take a mentoring approach toward the graduate students with whom they form partnership in research endeavors. Finally, members of faculty do collaborative research with other faculty members from the Departments of Geography and Sociology and Corrections.
- In 2017, Somali Immigrants: In their Shoes by Patricia Hutchison & Content Consultant: Dr. Kebba Darboe, Professor of Ethnic Studies, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- The aforementioned textbook published in 2017 by Child's World, Incorporated. It is written for grades 3-6 schools in Minnesota and other primary schools throughout the world
- Dr. Darboe earned a Certificate of Completion from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research –"Protecting Human Research Participants." on September 04, 2016
- In 2016, Drs. Allen and Darboe have a book contract with Cognella Academic Publishing to write "An Anthology on race/ethnic relations."
- In addition, Dr. Allen is working on another book: Cross-cultural analysis of myth and folklore.

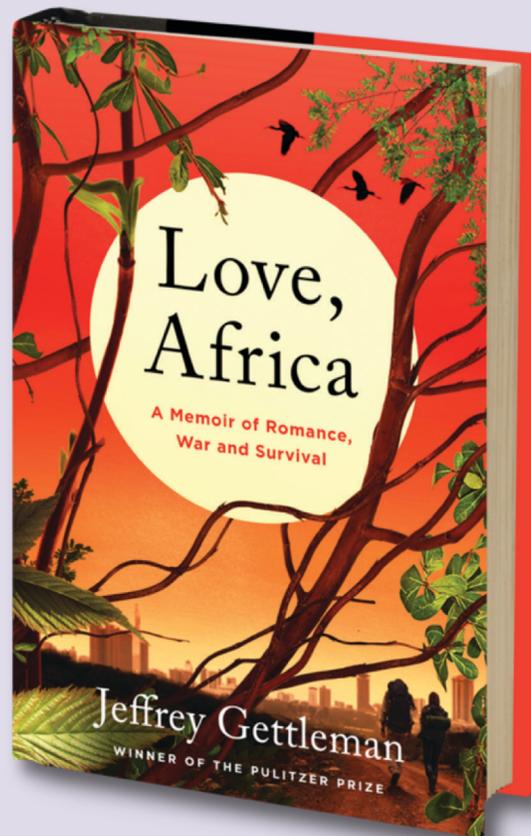
Dr. Kebba Darboe, Chair's Book Review, 2017

By Dr. Kebba Darboe

Love, Africa... book highlights the participants' stories and personal experiences of the author, Jeffrey Gentleman. He is a Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist. He has served, for the past decade, as the East Africa bureau chief for the New York Times. Traveling from the Chicago suburbs to Africa is a fulfillment of his teenage dream. After a careful review, I think it is a good qualitative research—fieldwork because Jeffrey collected data through participant observations, interviews and personal stories to support the proverbial phrase: "Africa is blessed with natural resources but cursed with poverty." The historical perspectives, participants' stories and interviews validate the natural resources and poverty dynamics.

The continent of Africa has 54 independent states-countries and the author visited four countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa. From time immemorial, when the first Arabs came to East Africa, hungry for ivory, spices, fragrant woods and slaves, they needed a way to communicate with the African merchants. A language evolved

called Swahili. The Swahili language is a mixture of "part Arabic, African, Hindi, Portuguese, Persian, English and German," (Gentleman, 2017:19). The Swahili language spoken before any Whiteman—European came to walk in circles (mzungu). Today, it is widely spoken in east African countries and South Africa.



Ethiopia was an empire-never colonized but shortly occupied by the Italian military of Prime Minister Benito Mussolini (1935-36). It is the only country in Africa with its own alphabet. Many Ethiopians claimed to have descended from an affair between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. The horn of Africa includes Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia; and is where Christianity and Islam, black and white meet. It sits at a strategic

intersection: Africa, Arabia, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The superpowers fight for this region: the United States (U.S.) and the Soviet Union increased during the Cold War period. For example, in the 1960s and 1970s, the United States supported the last Emperor of Ethiopia Haile Selasie. Following his death the U.S. stopped arm shipments to

Ethiopia. Subsequently, the Russians started supplying arms. As a result, the U.S. started supporting Somalia.

When Ibn Battuta, the Moroccan traveler, arrived in 1333 in Mogadishu (Mog), Somalia. Mog was a thriving mercantile city. The people had many camels and sheep. In 1972, Somalia introduced its first written language. In 2006, however, when Mr. Gentleman arrived in Somalia, it was in ruins. The story was that an Islamist movement has defeated a band of warlords and taken over much of the country. As a result, in 1991 Somalia came under a new administration, which the Diplomats and United Officials called the "African Taliban" because of its' links to the Islamist and Al-Qaeda. To date, Somalia's challenges include piracy and Al-Shabaab (means "youth" in Arabic), which owes allegiance to the Al-Qaeda terrorist group.

The book has made some significant contributions to qualitative research because of the following observations. According to an anthropological theory /perspective every Whiteman (Mzungu) who arrives in Africa and wants to make a mark falls into one of the three roles (character types) "the Mercenary, the Missionary, and the Misfit," (ibid:175). 1) The Mercenary comes to exploit Africa's natural resources for personal gains. For example, King Leopold II of Belgium, who was obsessed with Congo; 2) the Missionary who brings the gospel—word of the lord; and 3) the Misfit who did not fit back home, so he/she escaped and ran to Africa. The author, Mr. Gentleman has

played each of the aforementioned roles.

In 2007 Nairobi, Kenya, Mr. Gentleman and Ms. Courtenay traveled to all the hot spots, for example, Somalia, Ethiopia, Darfur, Sudan, Burundi, South Sudan, northern Uganda and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. An old-hand expat (expatriate) told us that, "after you go to some of the places you're going to go, you'll get back to Nairobi and think it's Paris," (ibid:250).

A great read!

Reference

Gentleman, Jeffrey. 2017. *Love, Africa: A Memoir of Romance, war and survival.*

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THANK YOU!
Please tear off, fold, and place in an envelope addressed to:
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Or email this information to kebba.darboe@mnsu.edu