

Never Lost for Words: The Pan African Essence

As the editor of The Journal of Pan African Studies (JPAS), I think what we do in the arena of publishing a free open access African centered on-line journal is unique. But as I review the favorable comments of our subscribers and evaluate publications like the 2009 issue of *Magazines for Libraries* (ISBN: 978-1-60030-116-2), I am even more convinced that we are doing a good job in providing quality content on all the major dimensions of the African experience. However, we are open to suggestions so we can better serve our readership, therefore we encourage you to contact us at jpanafrican@yahoo.com.

Never lost for words to explain, understand or critique the African world community experience, this issues like the many voices that cry out for acknowledgement, presents an inside look at the soul of the African condition. Thus we begin with the origins of Pan-Africanism in the Black Atlantic world by Tracy Flemming which focuses on the critical role social and cultural adaptations played in the life of Denmark Vesey; second we address the issue of a United States of Africa utilizing an Ubuntu-clustering approach couched within the tenets of Ubuntu to initiate networking for all participants in a value-added chain, authored by Abdul Karim Bangura. We next move to a paper based on a survey of 3600 senior citizens from nine provinces of South Africa to investigate the contribution senior citizens can make in the alleviation of poverty and unemployment presented by Nana Adu-Pipim Boaduo FRC, Joseph Mensah and Saline Monicah Babitseng; Continuing Osagie Festus Amayo examines the critical dimensions of challenging parenting practices with a look at Nigerian immigrants in the U.S. with a special focus the ways Nigerian immigrant parents prepare their children for college; We also take a look at the experience of refugee resettlement in the U.S. via a family from Burundi and how a generalized refugee resettlement policy idealized ethnocentric ideas of self-sufficiency while creating barriers to empowerment presented by Graham R. Sowa; Lae'l Hughes-Watkins provides a biographical assessment of Fay M. Jackson, an African American woman who broke traditional barriers by serving as the first African American foreign correspondent for the Associated Negro Press (ANP), and the only African American female reporter of the ANP to cover the coronation of King George VI in 1937 used this to report on the sociopolitical affairs of Black people in Europe while specifically underscoring the Italo-Ethiopian conflict of 1935-1936; As fascinating as the life of Fay M. Jackson, we also engage the work of Ulysses Jenkins, an artist in the Los Angeles area of southern California who has set the qualitative standard for new genres of visual art as he combines mural painting, performance art, video production, and music to present his stories and ideas, presented by Paul Von Blum;

We next have a quantitative examination of the demographics and profile of the 2009 *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* annual study of the most cited Black scholars in the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities in the U.S. organized by Amadu Jacky Kaba; Moving to literature, Christopher Joseph Odhiambo engages us in a deconstructionist's criticism of Okot p'Bitek's *Song of Prisoner*, an approach provoked by the 'undecidability and disagreements' presented by critics on certain semantic expressions. To conclude, we host a book review by Kwame Essien of Saidiya V. Hartman's autobiography *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*.

This celebration seems to echo a statement (speech) by Thabo M. Mbeki during his term as Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. On behalf of the African National Congress during the adoption by the Constitutional Assembly of "The Republic of South Africa Constitutional Bill 1996" in Cape Town, South Africa, held May 8, 1996, Mbeki said:

My mind and my knowledge of myself is formed by the victories that are the jewels in our African crown, the victories we earned from Isandhlwana to Khartoum, as Ethiopians and as the Ashanti of Ghana, as the Berbers of the desert.

Hence, may the Pan African essence of mind and self, form the jewels of our multi-directional victory.

Sincerely,

Itibari M. Zulu, Sr.
JPAS Senior Editor