



SACRAMENTO
STATE

»»» PEACE MAKING NEWSLETTER «««



CENTER FOR AFRICAN PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION



2023 Peace Making Newsletter

Vol 2 Number 3

About CAPCR

In 1996, California State University, Sacramento, founded the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) with the primary objective of offering conflict resolution and reconciliation services. The center extends its expertise to agencies, governments, institutions, businesses, civil society, community organizations, and various other groups. CAPCR achieves its mission through a comprehensive approach involving training, education, research, and intervention.

MESSAGE FROM CAPCR DIRECTOR

The Director's Report



As we reflect on the vibrant tapestry of narratives woven during the 31st Annual Africa & Diaspora International Conference in April 2023, themed "Alternative Dispute Resolution in Africa, 25 years later," we are reminded of the profound impact of diversity, positive thinking and collaboration in shaping our collective journey toward peace and understanding in Africa and her Diaspora. The conference keynote speaker Ambassador Betty Bigombe emphasized the role of women in mediation and shared keen insights on the complexity of mediating among warlords. In her lunch plenary Ambassador Fatima Balla Abubakar shared crisp analysis of the 2023 national elections in Nigeria, especially the relatively, albeit controversial presidential election.

In celebrating the champions of peace and catalysts of change, we proudly honor the distinguished recipients of the 2023 Peace Awards Dinner Banquet. Mr. Adama Dempster, Dr. Veronica Ufoegbune, Dr. Angelique Rwiyeroka, Dr. Robert Dibie, Ms. Joyce Brown, and Attorney Keith J. Staten exemplify unwavering commitment and tireless dedication to fostering harmony, justice, and reconciliation within our local global communities. We used the occasion of the peace awards ceremony to also recognize the immediate past president of Sac State Dr. Robert Nelsen for his contributions toward diversity and equity.

Our exploration extended beyond borders, resonating deeply with our criminal justice 2022 study abroad program in Ghana during Black History (February) Month. Immersed in the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of Ghana, our participants delved into critical discussions on justice, equity, and the enduring legacy of resilience within the African diaspora. Further, we hosted 2 major speakers: Dr. Ambaye Ogato of the Ethiopian National Peace Commission and Mr. Azim Khamisa, whose commitment to restorative justice from his personal experience of pain and forgiveness is both inspiring and empathetic.

Remarkably, we continued the 2nd successful implementation of a grant from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) with the weekly restorative justice dialogues with a group of male inmates at the California State Prison-Sacramento and facilitation of 3 victim-offender dialogues that were both impactful and redeeming. We've received the CDCR grant for another 2-year cycle through November 2025 and look forward to other opportunities for restorative justice program collaborations in Sacramento and Africa through the CAPCR's Afrocentric curriculum and practice.

As we conclude this chapter, we carry forward the invaluable insights, connections, and aspirations nurtured throughout this impactful journey. The Africa Peace Fellows endowment fund remains our long-term goal for CAPCR sustainable programming and greater achievements. With gratitude and anticipation, we look ahead to the promise of a fruitful conference in 2024, where we will continue to explore, advance, and propose cutting-edge research and practice in peace and conflict resolution through Restorative Justice and Equitable Peacebuilding.

Peace,



Professor Ernest Uwazie, PhD

Director, Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution

STORIES FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDY ABROAD IN GHANA

Summer 2023 | Supreme Court of Ghana

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Dr. Ernest Uwazie with the
Chief Justice of Ghana, Her
Ladyship Hon. Justice Getrude
Torkornoo



February 23, 2023
2:30PM to 3:45PM

CAPCR University Union,
Orchard Suite

Reminders
**The Lasting Impacts of
International Education:
Stories from Criminal Justice
Study Abroad in Ghana**

Hear the Experiences and Key Lessons from Students
who participated in the Study Abroad Seminars in Ghana

Welcome: Dr. Ernest Uwazie
Moderator: Dr. Nicole Fox

**Sacramento State
Martin Luther King
Jr. Scholars**

Cosponsored by
THE MLK CENTER
&
the Division of Criminal Justice

IN SUPPORT OF THE CAMPUS BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

➤➤➤ Photos of Study Abroad in Ghana

With stunning memories in Ghana, crafted in photos, from Seminar at the Conference Hall of the Commission of Human Rights & Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Accra, then Group photo thereafter and lastly, our Board Member, Dr. Nicole Fox with the Chief of Justice of Ghana.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKERS

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Dr. Ambaye Ogato



*Identity, conflict, and the
pursuit of peace: Perspectives
on the Ethiopian experience*

April 13, 2023



CACPR, in collaboration with the Anthropology department and the One World Initiative, hosted a captivating lecture on the role of identities in African conflicts, with a special focus on Ethiopia. Dr. Ogato, an esteemed expert, took us on a captivating journey through the complexities of ethnic identity and its profound impact on unfolding events.

The talk shed light on critical issues that resonate far beyond Ethiopia's borders, underscoring how ethnic identities shape the contemporary world. It also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the One World Initiative to promote dialogue and reconciliation, recognizing them as crucial steps towards achieving equitable, inclusive, and sustainable peace in a region where identities often lie at the heart of tensions.

In recognition of his outstanding service in promoting peace and reconciliation, Dr. Ogato was presented with a well-deserved award by Dr. Ernest Uwazie. The event was made possible through the joint efforts of CACPR, the Anthropology department, and the One World Initiative. This collaboration reflects their commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse communities, both in Ethiopia and beyond. Through their combined expertise and dedication, they have played a pivotal role in advancing the cause of peace and harmony, making a positive impact on the lives of many.



"It's hard to forget, but forgiveness is something you do for yourself"
- Azim Khamisa


Azim Khamisa

CAPCR had the privilege of co-sponsoring an event with the Division of Criminal Justice featuring Azim Khamisa as a guest speaker, where he passionately addressed the Sac State student body and faculty/staff about peace and forgiveness. Azim not only shared his own story of unimaginable loss but also imparted his life experiences. In 1995, he faced the devastating tragedy of losing his son, but instead of succumbing to despair, he founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF.org), a powerful movement promoting forgiveness that has touched millions worldwide.

During the event, Dr. Ernest Uwazie honored Azim with a well-deserved award, recognizing his unwavering dedication to promoting peace and leadership. The accolade highlighted Azim's significant contributions in inspiring individuals and communities globally to embrace the path of peace and forgiveness through the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF.org).

Azim's remarkable story of forgiveness, resilience, and transforming tragedy into positive change left a profound impact on everyone present, inspiring them with his powerful message of peace and forgiveness. The event served as a source of inspiration and motivation for all, emphasizing the potential for healing and reconciliation through the practice of forgiveness.






THE DIVISION OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PRESENTS

**Promoting Nonviolence and
Peacemaking in the Community**

AZIM KHAMISA




The story and the journey provide a way to join Azim on a path of peace and purpose.

**University Union 3rd Floor
Green & Gold Room
April 13, 2023
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. PST
Event is free and open to the public**

Following the murder of his son in 1995, Azim Khamisa founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF.org), which started a subsequent forgiveness movement that has reached millions globally. He has received over 80 local, national and international awards. He is an emissary of peace and an international inspirational speaker with over 700 keynotes and over 1,000 student presentations.

He is the Award-winning author of five books and has been featured countless times in local, national, and international media. In November 2018, Azim spoke for the TEDWomen conference over 1 million viewers.

Scan for more information on Azim Khamisa



Also Sponsored by:
The Division of Social Work,
Visiting Scholars Program,
One World Initiative, and
the Center for African Pe-
& Conflict Resolution





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31st Annual Africa & Diaspora International Conference

April 27-29, 2023

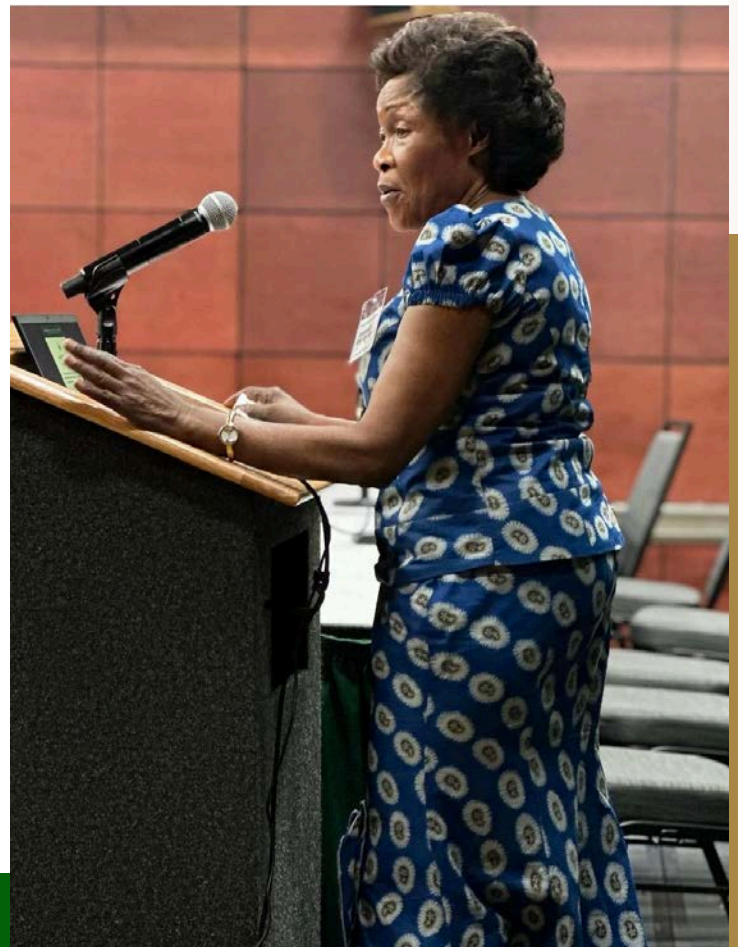


Keynote Speaker

Amb. Betty Bigombe

Inspiring Change and Empowering Minds

As the conference came to a close, the atmosphere was filled with a sense of empowerment and inspiration. Participants departed enriched by the wealth of knowledge shared, and they now carry with them a renewed commitment to driving positive change in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution. The impact of this gathering will undoubtedly resonate for years to come, shaping the path towards a brighter and more harmonious future.



Special Guest Speaker

Amb. Fatima Abubakar



From April 27th to 29th, 2023, esteemed scholars from diverse African countries and various backgrounds converged to present their research on ADR. The conference provided a dynamic platform for thought-provoking discussions, innovative ideas, and invaluable insights. With over 25 years since its inception, the event marked a significant milestone, allowing us to reflect on the progress made, the lessons learned, and the promising future directions of ADR.



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➤➤➤ 2024 Peace Conference

We eagerly invite you to mark your calendars for APRIL 11-13, 2024 and join us once again as we continue this transformative journey. Stay tuned for further updates and exciting developments, as we prepare to come together in pursuit of a more harmonious world.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you for being a part of this incredible conference. Your dedication and passion have truly made a difference.

For more info on the conference



31ST ANNUAL AFRICA PEACE AWARDS DINNER, APRIL 29, 2023



The African Peace Awards Dinner honors peace heroes who have contributed to promoting peace, reconciliation in our community.



GET TO KNOW OUR PEACE AWARDEES

Adama Dempster **Peace & Justice Award**



Adama Kiatamba Dempster is a Liberian human rights advocate, recognized as the 2022 Human Rights Advocate of the Year. He is the Founding National Chairman of Independent Human Rights Investigators (IHRI) and the Secretary General and Co-founder of the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia. With over 15 years of experience, he specializes in human rights, advocacy, and conflict resolution. Adama is also a motivational speaker, having addressed various national and international human rights forums. He represents the Global Rights Tracker - Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) as an Ambassador to Liberia.

Dr. Veronica Ufoegbune **Peacebuilder Award**



Dr. Veronica Ufoegbune is an Expert Educational Leader in Administration and Policies, a Social Justice and Equity Leader on The United Nations Association Board of Directors, and a professor of Education. She is also an Author, Work-Life-Integration Researcher, Facilitator, Mentor-Trainer-Growth Advisor, Moderator, and Motivational Speaker.

Dr. Ufoegbune's dedication extends globally, as she volunteers as an educational expert and plays a key role in building a hospital in Nigeria. As the chair of the Nigerian American Public Affairs Committee (NAPAC), she empowers Nigerian Americans and Africans in the United States through policy impact, education, health, advocacy, and economic empowerment. Additionally, she leads the congressional coalition of Africans in Diaspora (CCAD), fostering partnerships and supporting the community through various initiatives.

Dr. Veronica Ufoegbune is a remarkable resource to her community and society at large.

Dr. Angélique Rwiyereka- Peace Health Award



Dr. Angélique Rwiyereka is an East African medical doctor with 20 years of experience in clinical and public health, primarily in resource-constrained settings. She has a strong background in leadership, management, implementation, and research. Born in Goma, DRC, she delivered HIV services to underserved families and later led UNFPA's youth and adolescents' reproductive health project. Dr. Rwiyereka founded Global Health Issues and Solutions Ltd., a private think tank advocating for research implementation, collaborating with institutions like the World Bank and WHO. Her recommendations have contributed to securing funding for social health protection towards universal health coverage in various countries.

Dr. Robert Dibie Peace Education Award



Professor Dibie is an accomplished academic administrator, scholar, and peace educator with expertise in various areas such as democracy, human rights, nonviolence, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Over three decades, he has been actively involved in conflict resolution education initiatives in the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean, particularly focusing on the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. His book "Women's Empowerment for Sustainability in Africa" showcases his commitment to promoting gender equality and social justice. As Vice Provost of Academic Affairs at Fort Valley State University, he continues to make significant contributions as a peace academic leader, fostering award-winning scholarly presentations and published papers by his mentored students. His extensive experiences at different institutions have shaped him into an exceptional advocate for peace education and social justice.

Ms. Joyce Brown **Peacemaker Award**

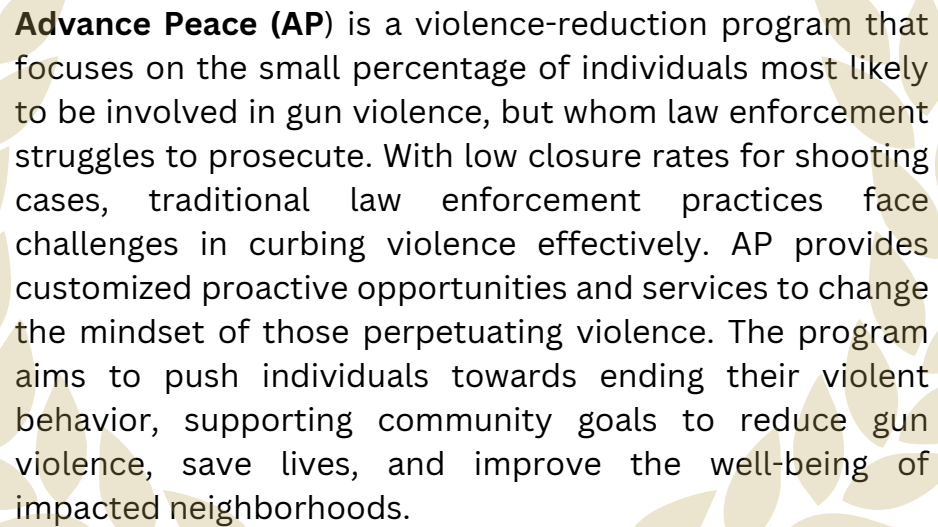


Ms. Joyce Brown is the founding advisor of Laguna Creek High School's Black Student Union (BSU). She has been instrumental in empowering BSU students to advocate for fair dress codes and discipline policies at the district level. Mrs. Brown ensures that students of color have a voice in school and district decisions and are treated with respect in the classroom. She actively promotes representation in the curriculum and provides spaces on campus for students to receive help with homework and express themselves freely. Additionally, she established a parent group for Black students, creating a strong sense of community and support. Through her dedication, Mrs. Brown has made a significant impact in promoting Black excellence, celebrating Black history, and fostering strong relationships between students at Laguna Creek High School and Harriet Eddy Middle School.

Attorney Keith J. Staten- **Peace & Justice Award**



Keith J. Staten is an accomplished attorney specializing in criminal defense. He holds a BS from San Francisco State University and graduated from UOP McGeorge School of Law in 1992. With a successful career, he has been recognized for outstanding case resolutions and mentorship to students. As an Adjunct Professor at American River College, he teaches Criminal Law and Evidence. Keith is actively involved in community programs, offering "Know Your Rights" sessions and organizing criminal expungement clinics. He also serves on the board of Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep High School and participates in local bar associations.

A decorative wreath made of olive branches with leaves, framing the text on the left side.

Advance Peace (AP) is a violence-reduction program that focuses on the small percentage of individuals most likely to be involved in gun violence, but whom law enforcement struggles to prosecute. With low closure rates for shooting cases, traditional law enforcement practices face challenges in curbing violence effectively. AP provides customized proactive opportunities and services to change the mindset of those perpetuating violence. The program aims to push individuals towards ending their violent behavior, supporting community goals to reduce gun violence, save lives, and improve the well-being of impacted neighborhoods.



Highlights



Flavorful Moments



"EMBRACING THE RHYTHM OF AFRICA TOGETHER IN HARMONY"



Highlights



Connection and Togetherness



THE VELJI FAMILY WITH CAPCR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECTS

August 2023 | Sac State University Campus

2023 Restorative Justice Workshop



This 50-hour training is held annually and includes virtual and face-to-face sessions on the campus of the California State University, Sacramento [CSUS], and it is presented by a diverse team of Restorative Justice Scholars and Practitioners. Training covers theoretical views and practical applications or practices of restorative justice, e.g. Victim offender dialogues, victim impact panels, circles, and conferencing. Topics related to victim-centered and offender-sensitive practices, trauma/harm, empathy, accountability, apology, restitution, peacemaking and nonviolence, victimology, prison education/rehabilitation, school/college disciplinary procedures, justice system and criminal sentencing, and forgiveness

Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)



Victim (Schemia) participated shared her experience with the Sacramento Observer after participating in a Victim Offender Dialogue at the Folsom State Prison-California with the man who killed her father in the 1980's



Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)

Victim Offender Dialogue with Gunner (victim) and offender (Josh) at the Valley State Prison-California.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

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The Velji Family with CAPCR Student Scholarship Awardees.

From left: Dr. Ernest Uwazie (CAPCR Director), Dr. Dreg Shaw (Associate Dean, Operations, HHS), Dr. Pari Velji (Donor), Amanda DeLaby (Recipient), Robert Gonzalez (Recipient), Dr. Anvar Velji (Donor), Dr. Robert S. Nelsen (Sac State President, April 2023), Dr. Data Barata (CAPCR Board Member)

Recipients

Amanda DeLaby

Kimberly Moreno

Maria Soto Mora

Lauren Barnes

Robert Gonzalez

Varneisha Vaughn

Departments

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice

Social Work

Political Science

Sociology

AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MIXER



October 25, 2023

➤➤➤ PHOTOS FROM THE MIXER

CAPCR organized a heartwarming event to welcome all new and continuing students of African or Black descent. Students shared their campus experiences and semester expectations while enjoying some African cuisines

Acknowledgements

2023 Conference Collaborating Partners

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)

African Peacebuilding Network (APN)

The Institute of Peace & Conflict Resolution - Nigeria (IPCR)

JAMS Foundation

Ghana Association of Certified Mediators & Arbitrators (GHACMA)

Pan African Global Trade and Investment Conference (PAGTIC)

Africa House, Sacramento

2023 Conference Planning Committee

Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Chair and Director of CAPCR

Dr. Data Barata, Co-Chair and CAPCR Board Chair

Dr. Nicole Fox, Board Member

Dr. Sylvester Bowie, Board Member

Dr. Elizabeth Mukiibi, Board Member

Dr. Maria da Luz Alexandrino, Board Member

Dr. Theresa Abah, Board Member

Dr. Tina Abena Jordan, Board Member

Dr. Davies Sasere, Board Member

Ms. Tina Kebede, ASCI/Program Assistant

Student Assistants

Kira Marchek

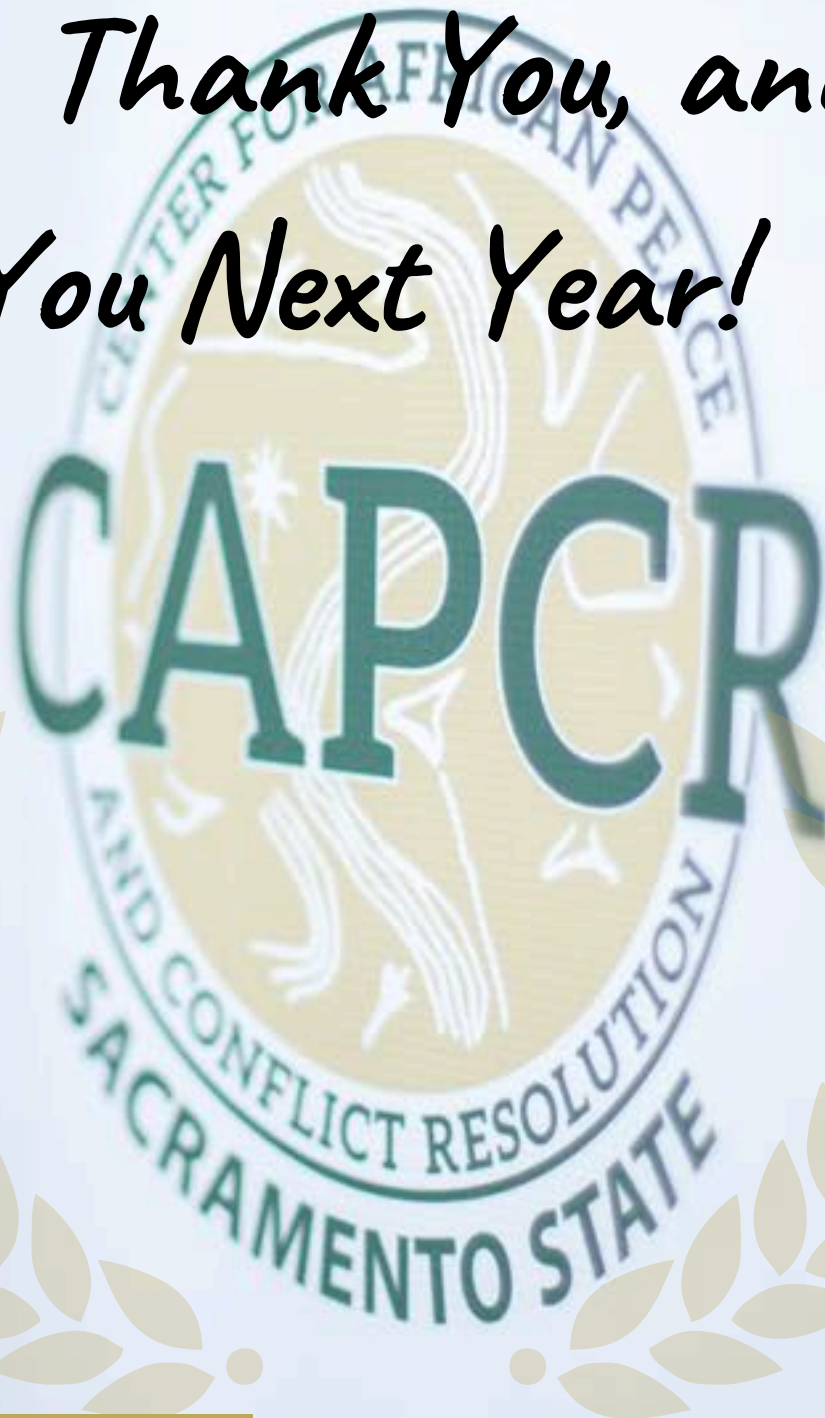
Dean Vincent

Sarah Dominic-Cluck

Frank Oppong Kyekyeku

Redefine the Possible

*Grateful for the Memories we
shared. Thank You, and See
You Next Year!*



Designed By

Frank Oppong Kyekyeku

Graduate Student Assistant (2023-2024)