Since the idea of establishing the CAPCR on the CSUS campus was stimulated by the inaugural Africa/Diaspora conference in 1992, themed “Africa in the New World Order,” CAPCR has served as the lead organizer of the campus signature international annual gathering at CSU-Sacramento. The conferences have brought academics from various disciplinary backgrounds, practitioners, diplomats, policy makers, community leaders and advocates of peace and democracy from various parts of the world.

Evidently Africa has made significant progress in peace and development as well as democratization since the many years of our conference exchanges, dialogue facilitation, publications, institutional collaborations, professional networking, and program development. The impact of the learning from the conference exchanges between students and scholars, as well as the networking among young scholars, is also tremendous.

In fact, the annual Africa/Diaspora conference promotes scholarly exchanges, presents a vibrant environment for free and robust discussion of all ideas, as well as stimulates ideas for new program or project and policy propositions. For many faculty members or young scholars who present at the conference or moderate a conference panel, the forum serves a good avenue for professional development and project collaborations.

Continues on page 2
2016 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of CAPCR and a milestone with the 25th anniversary of the annual Africa/Diaspora conference. Also in view of CSUS’s new strategic vision of enhancing global engagement, CAPCR used the moments of the dual anniversary to take stock of its growth and achievements after 20 years, and critically reflected on its key experiences and how position itself to take advantage of new opportunities and meet new challenges as well as leverage its unique contributions and expertise.

Therefore, in 2016, the leadership, in consultation with key officials at the CSUS campus and key partners in Africa, across the United States and Europe, resolved to launch its new “Africa Peace Fellows” initiative, to more effectively position for advanced, innovative contributions in the area of peace and conflict resolution in Africa and her diaspora, particularly through training and research on best practices and emerging issues, and to build the next generation of peace leaders in Africa.

Toward achieving this major goal, we aim to create $25 million endowment—to provide full scholarship for participants from the public and private sectors as well as nongovernmental organizations.

Professor Ernest Uwazie, Executive Director/Founder

April 2016: Teacher Workshop Building Peace, One Classroom at a Time
2016 CAPCR Peace Awards

**Pastor Dr. James Movel Wuye** is the Co-Executive Director of Interfaith Mediation Center, a faith based nongovernmental organization he co-founded in 1995, working to end violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria and beyond. He designed a strategy that helps grassroot communities identify inflammatory situations and provides opportunities to reduce tensions.

**Iman Dr. Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa** is the Co-Executive Director of interfaith Mediation Centre Kaduna Nigeria, a faith based nongovernmental organization he co-founded in 1995, working to end violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria. He has contributed using faith based approach in conflict-resolution in Nigeria and across the world.

**Peace Education Award**

**Mr. Franklin Withrow** is a poet, retired educator and motivator. He was born and educated in Washington, D.C. He went to Fayetteville State Teacher’s College where he received his B.S. degree in Business Education in 1969. He moved to Sacramento in 1972 and received his Master’s Degree in Educational Administration at Sacramento State University. He worked as a teacher and administrator in the Sacramento City Unified School District. Withrow retired in 2004, after 34 years.
Mrs. Tina Roberts is a respected community leader who has proven track record of success administering community-based organizations. With more than 30 years of experience as administrator and program developer. Her professional life has been committed to improving the life situations and children and families she comes in contact with. She was appointed by Sacramento County Board of Supervisor to be a member of a steering committee to address the issue of ALF (America Leadership Forum). She has won several awards on behalf of Roberts Family Development Center.

Mr. Derell Roberts was born in New Orleans, but finished high school in Los Angeles. He received his undergraduate degree from Chapman University and attended graduate school at USC's School of Governmental Relations. He moved to Sacramento in 1982 and has been an active member of his community since that time. In 2001, he and his wife Tina co-founded the Roberts Family Development Center (RFDC) located in North Sacramento. Today the center serves more than 550 children and families each day, providing k-8 after school, health, extra curricular services and summer camp programs to working class families from five different sites. Recently the center opened up a College Bound Babies Preschool in the Twin Rivers Apartment complex.
Synthia Smith is a native Californian and was raised in Fremont, California. Growing up, she always knew that she wanted to be a teacher. She also always knew she wanted to do something that allowed her to work more directly with her community, specifically girls. In 2008, Synthia decided to take a brave leap and resigned from Elk Grove School District to pursue part time employment as an independent study teacher with Heritage Peak Charter School, where she now teaches 12th grade. The purpose of her resignation was also to begin working on a Master’s Degree in Counseling Studies at Capella University.
Dr. Monde Muyangwa's CAPCR 20th Anniversary Lecture

Picture Above:
Dr. Monde Muyangwa, director of the Africa Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, delivered the keynote lecture on the theme of Assessing Africa’s capacity for peace and conflict resolution. Dr. Muyangwa acknowledged the remarkable development of the capacity for peacekeeping by Africans, with increasing involvement of women. However, Africa’s peace activities are not sustainable with only external funding. As she said, “you cannot wage peace on other people’s wallet.”

Picture Above:
Dr. Boatamo Mosupyoie introducing Dr. Monde Muyangwa

Picture Above:
From left to right: Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Dr. Monde Muyangwa, Dr. Maryln Jones, Dr. Data Barata

Picture Above:
Students attend the lecture
Kenya was a British Colony until 1963 when it attained its independence. There has been a continuous shift in the country to assert its independence from Western nations due to what is perceived as neo-colonialism.

Kenya has one of the most progressive Constitutions in the world, the new Constitution having promulgated in 2010. It guarantees freedom of association and non-discrimination based on race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language or birth. It also recognises right to marriage and family similar to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Constitution decrees that any marriage must be between two (2) consenting adults of opposite sex. It does not therefore recognise any marriage between persons of the same sex which is what Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Rights advocate for. Sexual relations between two or more persons of the same sex amounts to an unnatural act which is punishable under the Penal Code. It prescribes imprisonment for upto fourteen (14) years. However, there are obvious difficulties in prosecuting this nature of offence as parties would have consented to the said act.

In many African countries, LGBT rights are frowned upon as being un-African and a propagation of interest by western nations. The religious, social and cultural norms of the African people cannot also be overlooked as they are a very strong sanction to practices that are deemed to have originated from the West. This is of course not entirely true as history does show that homosexuality was this practiced even in the Bible.

The agitation of these rights is what has caused conflict with those who do not agree with its practise. There is need to have constructive dialogue with all stakeholders to ensure that LGBT persons’ rights are protected. It must be handled in a more strategic manner because just like pro-life, death sentences, euthanasia debates are very emotive and rarely do people come to a consensus. This key population must also not ignore the power of the courts in guaranteeing their rights when other arms of government appear to be interfering with their rights.
CAPCR 2016 Diaspora Conference
The opening lunch ceremony, moderated by CAPCR Director Ernest Uwazie, began with African drumming by Augustine G. Basa of the Chinyakare Ensemble and a slide show with images from the previous twenty-four conferences. Welcoming remarks were presented by Jessie Gaston, CAPCR Board Chair, Frank Li the Assistant Vice President of CSUS International Programs and Global Engagement, Boatamo Mosupyoe, the Chair of the CSUS Ethnic Studies Department and the Cooper Woodson College Enhancement Program, and the CEO of Mediators Beyond Borders International, Ms. Prabha Sankaranarayan.

The keynote session, moderated by Dr. Data Barata, commenced when CAPCR Director Ernest Uwazie officially opened the landmark 25th Annual conference, with some highlights in generating critical debates, developing responsive policies and programs, and creating enduring networks and partnerships on peace and conflict resolution in/on Africa. Uwazie cautioned that some, especially our students may find some of the topics of discussion or Africa cultural practices strange or unacceptable by American standards, and reminded the audience to always look forward, and to remember that the actions we take today could have an impact on what the next 25 years would look like when considering the challenges that Africa faces today. Further, he argued that Africa has no monopoly on “abhorrent” laws or practices, and cautioned that there are many tragedies or injustices around the world. Humans or governments of every nation and continent are capable of disrupting peace, and leaders must have a high level of emotional granularity to raise the issues in a manner that inspires change and constructive engagement. Uwazie made the important proclamation that the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution is committed to respectful dialogues about controversies, at home and abroad.

The following speakers Dr. Fred Baldini, the Dean of the CSUS College of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee, the CSUS Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, drew upon the many significant achievements of the CAPCR, and the success of the annual Africa Conference in bringing Africa to the Sacramento area for 25 years, and enriched the CSUS educational experience; both commended the leadership/founders of the CAPCR and 2016 conference planning. Provost Lee also reminded the audience that more often than not, conflict does not meet a peaceful resolution, and the struggle to maintain order and restore peace is a burdensome reality for millions of people around the world.

The CSUS Assistant Vice President of Academic Programs and Educational Effectiveness Dr. Don Taylor introduced keynote speaker Dr. Pauline Baker. Pauline Baker is a member of the Board of Trustees and the former President of the Fund for Peace in Washington D.C. Baker is a UCLA graduate who has dedicated her career to aiding in conflict resolution and management in fragile states around the world. Her work has led her to live in Nigeria for eleven years and hold teaching positions at the University of Lagos, Georgetown University, and John Hopkins University.
Baker opened her address by stating that twenty-five years seems to be a turning point in which people begin to reflect on the past and make provisions for future endeavors. To underscore that idea, she noted four trends in Africa that can serve as a view into what the next twenty-five years could look like. The question is whether these trends represent a “prologue”—forecasting future trends—or a “preamble”—summarizing past performance that it need not necessarily forecast the future, notably: economic development, reduction in interstate conflict, democratization, and growth of organized terrorism and violent terrorism.

Finally, she argues that Africa faces a political challenge. The fundamental choice is not between democracy and dictatorship, even though it is often portrayed that way, but between legitimacy and the lack of it. Governments are not performing. Public service delivery is wanting. Corruption is extensive. Inequality is growing. And the “big men” of Africa are holding on to power for decades.

Where will this lead? It could produce revolutionary change, a new authoritarianism, more terrorism, or greater fragmentation of the state. However, despite the turbulence, many observers are quick to point out that Africa also has many things going for it: polling that shows that African populations continue to aspire for good governance and democracy; Nigeria’s 2015 election in which for the first time power was transferred from one democratically elected leader to another; and the growing strength of civil society, social media, and local election monitoring. Leaders are also beginning to hold corrupt leaders accountable. Movement is being made to curtail illicit capital flows out of Africa. Economies are beginning to diversify. Agriculture is improving with growing grain production. In addition, there are other hopeful trends, such as the continent’s youth, vigorous entrepreneurship, growing purchasing power, diminishing poverty rates, growing literacy, and the use of modern telecommunications.

So, Dr. Baker asked: is the past prologue? Not really, she answered. A more accurate way to view the past is as a preamble, introducing the future, but not predetermining it. African dynamism and innovation may turn around past trends, but success will depend upon good leadership, generational change, and most important of all—improved political legitimacy in the eyes of the people. Baker left the audience to ponder an important point: Africa is on a fascinating journey with a gripping narrative, one that provides a dose of reality for Afro-optimists and a dose of hope for Afro-pessimists. We still do not know how the story will evolve over the next twenty-five years, but she said she could not wait to see how it unfolds.

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Uganda delegation visits CAPCR on a Peace Education project

CFA President Melvin Foote with other participants at a conference on “Peace and Conflict Resolution in Africa” convened on the campus of California State University in Sacramento on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Foote addressed the final plenary session and discussed “Strategies for Diaspora and African Scholars in Helping to Shape US Policy Towards Africa.”
Mr. President, Beware Cultural Imperialism
George B N Ayittey

On April 20-23, at Sacramento State, the Center for
African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) hosted the 25th annual Africa/Diaspora Conference
on “Peace & Conflict Resolution.” CAPCR has provided 25 years of service to aid and assist the
people of Africa. The keynote speaker for the concluding Africa peace awards dinner on April 23,
was to be Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the former president of Nigeria, in recognition of his
peaceful transfer of power to the opposition in Nigeria’s 2015 election that has been widely hailed as
display of statesmanship.

Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the event due to ill health. While president, Jonathan signed a
tough anti-gay bill known as Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act in 2014 --a law which stipulates
imprisonment for gay marriages, relationships, or membership in any gay societies or organizations.
Furthermore, the law punishes those with knowledge of LGBTQIA individuals. Needless to say,
members of the LGBTQIA community geared up to protest Jonathan’s visit.

For his part, the President of Sac State, Robert S. Nelsen, issued a terse memorandum, scolding Jonathan,
although acknowledged the value of his visit to Sacramento State. He wrote, "Personally, I find the
legislation that was passed in Nigeria to be more than abhorrent - it is a travesty against humankind that
must be rectified. I hope that Sacramento State can in some way be, at the very least, a catalyst for that
change...I believe strongly in respect, compromise, mediation, and tolerance - all core values not only of
Sacramento State, but also of CAPCR. And as I have stated in my previous messages to campus, I am
firmly committed to creating an inclusive and safe environment for all of our students. The intentions
behind and the consequences of the legislation passed in Nigeria do not align with our mission or our
vision here at Sac State, and Dr. Jonathan’s presence on our campus should in no way indicate that we,
as a Hornet Family, condone what is happening in Nigeria because of the passage of these laws...It is
difficult for me to understand how someone can stand for peace when it does not include the inherent
human rights of safety and security in religion, partner, sex, race, ethnicity, creed, and gender."

This was contained in the circular, President's Update, dated April 19, 2016, which was distributed to the
Sac State Community. For one thing, the memo read as if Mr. Nelsen was holding Pres. Jonathan
personally responsible for that atrocious law. Governance systems in the US and Nigeria are not the
same. For another, while it is within their rights to express outrage at Nigeria's anti-gay law, extreme
care must be exercised in making cross-cultural inferences. In fact, the issue of same sex relations is still
hotly contested in the US, almost a year after Obergefell v. Hodges(June 26, 2015), in a US Supreme 5-4
split decision legalizing same marriages. The President's message, in particular, was offensive to members
of the African community and others who saw a double standard or lack of a neutral arbiter.
Mr. President, Beware Cultural Imperialism continued...

The dressing down of Jonathan was not only culturally insensitive, but also smacked of cultural imperialism. Ironically, it was precisely that kind of scathing scolding that produced the very law Mr. Nelsen abhors.

In Africa, there is a strong cultural aversion or antipathy against homosexuality – probably because of the emphasis on womanhood and children. Gay people are very rare among African natives. Rarer still are transvestites and other groups. Most Africans regard homosexuality, lesbianism, etc. to be Western phenomena and a gay pride parade would be completely out of place in many African countries. When growing up, I did not meet a gay person until I was 22 years old and in a university. Moreover, he was a Frenchman.

It is somewhat disingenuous to demand rights for people who do not exist. Furthermore, gay people are not molested; they have rights as human beings. Of course, there is much ignorance about gay people in Africa. It may be recalled that when the AIDS crisis erupted in the late 1980s, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and several other African countries, banned homosexuals from entering those countries. Mercifully, it is no longer the case. While gay people have rights in Africa, there would be a blow-back when their rights are thrust in the face of others. Such appeared to be the case that caused a rift between Uganda and the Obama administration, producing an avalanche of anti-gay legislation across Africa.

When the Obama administration dropped hints that respect for gay-rights and access to abortion may be made a condition for US aid, many African leaders were infuriated and saw it as unbridled cultural imperialism. To inoculate themselves, they had their parliaments and national Assemblies pass anti-gay legislation, so that the leaders would not be held responsible. In succession, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Uganda passed these laws in 2014 with the acquiescence of the African Union.

Of course, the rights of gay people must be respected, but so too must the rights of non-gay people. And in pushing for the rights of gay people, one should not trample on the rights of non-gay people. I wish Dr. Nelsen didn’t make the issue personal in his memo, as he also serves as the president of all.

It is tough to be a university president, affirming the rights of groups in a diverse University community. Tougher still is ensuring that in doing so, the rights and sensibilities of other groups are not offended.

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The 25th Annual Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference, Peace & Conflict Resolution in Africa, 25 Years Later: Lessons, Best Practices, and Opportunities, saw two workshops on mediating violent extremism and foreign service careers and internships for students, 23 panel/plenary sessions, and over 50 paper presentations that examined the modern history and future of the African continent and peoples through the lenses of many disciplines. What nearly all the presentation had in common was that they remained hopeful that in the twenty-five years ahead the world will witness a transformation on the African continent that helps foster improved practices of conflict resolution, mediation, as well as peace restoration and good governance. Many presentations were reflective, looking back on the past twenty-five years as keynote speaker Baker suggested, and look at the successes and failures of foreign intervention, aid, and internal security support on the continent as a way to better craft the future. Over the past twenty-five years, the optimism for the possibilities that Chinese investment, oil prices, general natural resources, and the transition to democracy would bring cooled to skepticism. A fair number of presentations begged the questions, in the next twenty-five years how will African countries adapt to perfect democracy? How can religious extremism be curbed in a way that does not toe the line of fear mongering? And how can issues that normally arise among human beings be mediated and resolved in a way that does not erupt into the sorts of mass violence that we have seen in the past?

What became obvious throughout these discussions or presentations was that the future of stabilizing African countries for the upcoming twenty-five years would lie in the hands of social and political movements that come from the bottom up and not the top down, with Africans—at home and abroad—at the fore front. Top down politics have only exacerbated corruption and social upheaval in the past twenty-five years. The next twenty-five years are destined in the hands of people, especially the youth. This sense of optimism and belief in the majority causes one think of early Nkrumah social theories. Maybe in the next twenty-five years we will see African countries where those who are the most numerous and the most industrious will be the bedrock of leadership and hope on the continent. Overall, Africa has witnessed significant progress in peace and development in the last 25 years, with equally serious challenges and promising future.

With the 2016 conference now officially closed, we’re invited to think forward to the 26th annual conference, April 27-29, 2017, on the theme Power, Peace, and Vulnerability in Africa & Diaspora: Towards Social Justice in National and International Development
Upcoming Programs

April 27 - 29, 2017: 26th Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference

June 20 - 23, 2017: Conflict Resolution Training Workshop at CSUS

July 26 - 27, 2017: 5th Peace and Conflict Resolution in Abuja, Nigeria

Zimbabwean born recording artist PIWAI performs at the
26th Annual Africa Peace Awards Dinner
Celebrating African / Diaspora Peace Heroes

April 29, 2017 @ 6:30PM
University Union Ballroom | 6000 J Street | Sacramento
Auction | Awards | Live entertainment | African Cuisine and more!

“Soulful voice, interlaced with catchy, genre fusing melodies and exotically mystifying sounds.”

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Walter & Grace Mulondo
Fred & Persis Kyama

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