

OSA newsletter 3

October 2005

The Oromo Studies Association *Two Decades of Service and Scholarship*

In this Issue:

- A message from OSA president:
 A renewed call for Oromo scholars
- OSA at ASA
- 2006 OSA annual conference
- OSA fundraising launched
- A message for OSA 2005 panelists

A message from OSA president:

A renewed call for Oromo scholars

As I stated in OSA newsletter 1, OSA is an Oromo success story with a track record covering the last two decades. Its humble accomplishments are real and given the fact that many Oromo scholars remain observers of Oromo academics, OSA's accomplishments per active Oromo scholar has to be rated high. Given the few who attracted high visibility to Oromo scholarship, I therefore believe that OSA's performance is efficient. On the other hand, given the tasks awaiting us, this level of performance is not sufficient. So, OSA is efficient but not sufficient. This is the reason why I make a renewed call for Oromo scholars allover, to increase if not boost the power of Oromo scholarship - because knowledge is power.

Customarily, as OSA members, as activists of a political organization, or as members of a political party/front, we wish and expect our beloved organizations to succeed. In fact, many of us are frustrated when the performance of our organization is slow or poor. But such success is a reflection of the cumulative contribution of its members, its society, etc. The success of OSA or any organization therefore has to be judged in light of the support, consistency, and determination of its members and supporters. If we evaluate the performance of Oromo

organizations based on this simple formula, we will observe that the few who carry the torch are overburdened while the many that stand on the sides remain on the sides. If we wish to assure the qualitative as well as quantitative growth of our organizations, it is important therefore that we enhance our contributions for qualitative growth and also invite more individuals to become members for quantitative growth because a large number of Oromo scholars still remain observers. Joining OSA is a small but sure way to contribute scholarly, regardless of political belongings or beliefs. In this sense, I challenge all OSA members to contribute more by submitting publications, recruiting members, supporting financially, joining one of the many ad hoc committees, or in any other creative way.

OSA's performance is efficient but not sufficient

OSA Ex. C. is manned by highly dedicated and determined professionals. I am honored and proud to have such colleagues who make my role easy and enjoyable. But the Ex. C. has only five members, and the academic growth of a whole nation can not entirely rely just on five Ex. C. members. OSA has more than one hundred and fifty active and inactive members. Even if half of this number volunteers just only few hours a month or each member offers a minimum contribution in a format of her or his choice, we will sure see unprecedented growth of OSA. So I ask each and every Oromo scholar: have you done enough to be proud of Oromo

scholarship? What will you do to boost OSA's performance?

Nagaan,
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Thank you and good job to
all OSA panelists at ASA!

OSA at ASA

This year OSA members will be participating in African Studies Association's (ASA) Annual Conference in Washington DC. The ASA annual conference will be held under a theme of "Health, Knowledge, and the Body/Politic in Africa and the African Diaspora" at Marriott Wardman Park Hotel from November 17-20, 2005. The OSA panel topic at ASA is "**Politics, Disease, and Public Health: The Case of the Oromo in Ethiopia**". Panelists are:

1. Guluma Gemed, U of Michigan - Flint, "Coping with Epidemic Diseases under Political Domination: the Case of the Oromo".
2. Mohammed Hassen Ali, Georgia State U, "Menelik's Conquest and the Impact of the Great Ethiopian Famine of 1880s-1890s on the Oromo".
3. Getahun Benti, Southern Illinois U, "Migration, Disease, and the State of Public Health Services in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), c.1941-1974".
4. Ezekiel Gebissa, Kettering U, "Physical Health vs.

Socioeconomic Well-Being: The Dilemma of Growing and Consuming Khat in Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia".

5. Bichaka Fayissa, Middle Tennessee State U, "Internal and External Sources of Vulnerability against the HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia: the Case of the Oromo".



In addition to the above, Prof. Asafa Jalata will participate in another panel: "**The Political Economy of Sudan: Old and New**" in another panel. Here are Prof. Asafa's and his co-panelists':

- Lako Tongun, Pitzer College, "Contending Conceptualization of the New Sudan: SPLM/A and NIF Regime".
- Benaiah Yongo-Bure, Kettering U, "The Dual Banking System and the Transformation of the Sudan Economy".
- Asafa Jalata, U of Tennessee, Knoxville, "State Terrorism and Globalization: The Cases of Ethiopia and Sudan".
- Philip Roessler, U of Maryland, "Neopatrimonialism and State-Dissident Bargaining in Africa, with Evidence from Sudan".

We urge all Oromos, especially those from the DC area, to attend ASA and OSA panels at the ASA annual conference. **Thank you and good job to all the panelists!**



2006 OSA annual conference

The 2006 OSA annual conference will be held around end of July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Preparations for this conference are underway. The organizing committee will soon make its first meeting to design strategies and coordinate the venues.

OSA fundraising launched

Dr. Bahiru D. (bahiruduguma@aol.com), chair of the fund raising ad hoc committee has launched a campaign to improve OSA's financial standing. The target is to raise \$5000. As stated in the previous newsletters, OSA account is near zero, and the 2005 Conference income can barely cover upcoming OSA journal and proceeding publications let alone conference hall rental and other miscellaneous expenses. Please send your check or money order today.

Note: See next OSA newsletter for updates on other ad hoc committee activities.

Donations and membership dues:

Those who want to pay OSA dues, join as new members, or want to donate to OSA, please send your pledge to:

OSA

P. O. Box 7508

Silver Spring, MD 20907.

Note that all contributions are tax deductible.

Another call to OSA 2005 panelists:

Please send your manuscripts for OSA Proceedings to Dr. Gobana Huluqa, hulukgo@auburn.edu as an attachment separated as TEXT, TABLE, FIGURE, and REFERENCES before October 30, 2005. Microsoft Word is the preferred software, but you may use whatever software at your disposal. Please make sure you include the version and name of the software you used and provide your email, telephone, and mailing addresses.