

OSA Newsletter 7

February 2006

The Oromo Studies Association

Two Decades of Service and Scholarship

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A message from OSA president: Mid-year Seminar

On: "the Viability of the Economy of Oromia"; Saturday, March 18, 9:00 AM

The Oromo Center
811 Upshur Street NW
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 722-1274

OSA members recall that Adde Qabanne (bkholcomb@aol.com) was tasked with creating and leading the Review Team to look into long and short term ways of increasing OSA's activities and improving its performance. The short term goal of this team included organizing a mid-year OSA seminar (OSA Newsletter 1).

I am pleased to inform that a Mid-year seminar is now planned for March 18 in the Oromo Center, 811 Upshur Street NW in Washington, DC 20011. Any interested OSA member is invited to attend this one day-long seminar which will begin to explore in depth the economy of Oromia - the nature of its resources, the availability of reliable data pertaining to Oromia, the current programs for resource utilization, the prospects for development of a viable economy for the land and people of Oromia.

This seminar is in line with last year's resolution of OSA General Assembly to hold a mid-year seminar with a topical focus for the purpose of encouraging intellectual exchange among OSA members engaged in scholarly research of interest to the Association. At least one and possibly three research paper(s)

prepared on the topic will be presented by their authors and then discussed in detail by those in attendance. Papers benefiting from the seminar discussion will be revised and presented in final form as part of a panel on the Economy of Oromia at the July 2006 OSA conference.

This Seminar will be the first of its kind. Attendance will be limited to 12 participants. Recommended contribution is \$35 to cover seminar expenses.

If you can arrange to attend, please send an email confirmation to Bonnie Holcomb at bkholcomb@aol.com or Asafa Jalata at ajalata@utk.edu. All who confirm will receive an advance copy of the paper(s) to be discussed.

Nagaan,
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OSA President

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OSA 2006 Annual Conference

The 2006 OSA annual conference has been announced to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 29, and July 30 2006 under a general theme of "OSA: Two Decades of Service and Scholarship." As promised earlier (OSA Newsletter 6), there will a number of feature presentations and lectures by a

keynote speaker and also by several respected scholars who have shown interest in attending this year's OSA conference. Some of these new and rare but not so new speakers who have committed to attend include:

- Dabbasa Guyyo (Keynote speaker)
- Amb. David Shinn
- Prof. Ed Keller (UCLA)
- Prof. Said Samatar
- Amb. Goshu Wolde
- Dr Beyene Petros
- Dr. Marara Gudina
- Mr. Bulcha Damaqsa
- Prof. Ephrem Isaac
- Prof. D. Levine
- Prof. Abdi Samatar

This list of course is not complete and it does not include the high caliber Oromo scholars who have always been the backbone of OSA. So, by not listing these assets of Oromo scholarship, I am not in any way implying that they occupy any less forum or regard at OSA 2006. I am merely recognizing some of our guests and giving you the flavor of our plans and expectations. Many of these scholars, Oromos and Non-Oromos alike, have already submitted abstracts of their presentations and progress is underway to create some panels as suggested in the introduction to the upcoming mid-year seminar above. So, if you plan to be part of this year's OSA conference, please send me your abstract asap.

Submission of Papers: For submission of papers and due days please refer to OSA Newsletter 6. Deadline for abstract has been extended to March 30, 2006.

Please, refer to our web site <http://www.oromostudies.org/> for

further information on venues, logistics, and other related information



Ad hoc committee updates

As you note above, we have some serious plans undergoing, many of which require finance which will surely burden our meager resources. Dr. Bahiru Dhuguma's Fund-raising project is going well, but it is stuck now at about 60% of our goal. **Please send your contribution to OSA treasurer** listed below under **Donations and membership dues.**

Dr. Misgana's Membership project is going well. So far, his team has recruited about 22 new members. It is remarkable achievement. If you have new potential candidates, please contact Dr Misgana at mkmuleta@yahoo.com.

Dr. Asafa Jalata's Unity project has shown good progress. We have been assured there will be tangible accomplishment before OSA 2006. Dr Asafa is also part of the Review team and he is busy co-organizing the Mid-year seminar.

As I stated in my previous report (OSA Newsletter 6), the "OSA in Oromia" project has also shown concrete progress. I will submit a more detailed plan on expanding OSA in Oromia at OSA 2006.



Update from other committees:

Please send your manuscripts of 2005 OSA annual conference to Dr. Gobana Huluqa, hulukgo@auburn.edu as soon as possible. We prefer Microsoft Word. Please make sure you include the version and name of the software you used and provide your email, telephone, and mailing addresses. Collecting last year's conference papers has been going slow and Dr Gobana has promised to be relentless about getting these papers.



♣ **Special Call to Oromo Women Scholars (Repeat of Newsletter 6)**

The number of Oromo women attendants at OSA conferences has slightly risen over the years. This is certainly good news. However, the number of Oromo women panelists has been dwindling, and if I recall correctly, there was none at OSA 2005. I have been made aware of this alarming situation by Adde Qabbane and Dr. Caltu. I want to thank both for bringing this to our attention. OSA without the Oromo women is only half OSA. This serious matter is the Oromo man's business as much as it is the Oromo woman's. I call upon all Oromos to encourage Oromo women scholars to participate in the growth and shaping of Oromo scholarship by fully participating in OSA activities. You may also drop me names

and emails of those who you believe should be invited to OSA 2006.



Please email your views and opinions to OSA president:

abeyene@rohan.sdsu.edu

for inclusion in this section of the newsletter. Texts may be edited for space and format consistency.



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

Please note that all contributions are tax deductible.



Please, visit our web site:

<http://www.romostudies.org>

[org](http://www.romostudies.org)

for further information on OSA 2006 conference venues, logistics, and other related information.

