The Center for African Studies (CAS) is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of intellectual debate about Africa on the OSU campus, as well as throughout the greater Columbus metropolitan area, the state of Ohio, and nationally. Founded in 1988, CAS works to expand African studies curriculum across disciplines, increase interaction between Africanists across campus, organize lectures and conferences, and conduct outreach activities with K12, business, government and civic groups. The Center is one of five area studies centers in the Office of International Affairs.

Dr. Kelechi Kalu Director
Professor, African American and African Studies

Ms. Laura Joseph Assistant Director

HTTP://CAS.OSU.EDU

318 Oxley Hall
1712 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
(614) 292-8169
(614) 292-4273 (fax)
cas@osu.edu
EXCHANGE AND INTERACTION

CAS keeps OSU’s Africanist scholars and practitioners connected to one another, fostering collaboration and interdisciplinary synergy at the nation’s largest university. Over 72 OSU faculty conduct Africa-focused teaching and research in 36 different departments, including the Colleges of Arts and Humanities, Agriculture, Behavioral Sciences, Business, Public Health, Law, and Veterinary Sciences. Students from many African countries as well as a sizeable Diaspora student body enrich campus life. CAS serves as a clearinghouse to publicize events, share research, courses and professional opportunities among faculty, students and other Africa specialists. CAS organizes lectures and conferences with community, K12, national, and international participation, on topics such as climate change and livelihoods, territorial origins of African civil wars, and Sudan in the post-referendum era.

ACADEMIC EXPANSION OF AFRICAN STUDIES

An important part of CAS’ mission is its participation in internationalizing OSU curriculum and programs to reflect the importance of Africa to the university’s goals. Over 160 courses with at least 25% African content are offered at OSU. In recent years CAS has sponsored new courses in History, Public Health, Education, International Studies and Anthropology which explore health, conflict and natural resource issues in Africa as well as initiating programs for Somali and Yoruba Studies. CAS seeks to develop new professional degree programs and international exchange opportunities with departments across campus that will enhance OSU’s local and global capacities in African Studies.

OUTREACH

The growth of cultural, economic and other ties with Africa, as well as the dramatic growth of Central Ohio’s African refugee and immigrant communities, have increased the importance of outreach activities. CAS partners with educators, business groups, and community organizations to extend OSU’s academic resources. The Center frequently hosts African trade, diplomatic, and university delegations. It also offers K12 workshops on topics such as Art and Visual Culture, African Livelihoods, and Somali Studies for Educators.