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BOREN FORUM NEWSLETTER

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By John Marshall Klein (Fellow '98) and Stacia Falat (Scholar '00)

SNAPSHOT: Madagascar '03



Sandy Smiles – Scholar **Phoebe Chi** catches kids playing in the sand at “at a beach where we walked along to go to class” at Fort Dauphin in southeast Madagascar.

Dear Alumni:

Welcome to the Boren Forum’s third newsletter! This month we travel to Africa to share alumni memories and experiences in the great Motherland.

Our goal is to better connect Boren alumni and promote their impressive range of achievements. Send us an email and keep in touch with Scholars and Fellows across the globe. We encourage you to suggest alumni to profile (even yourself!), your favorite restaurants, bands, recipes and more that represent the country where you studied. On the job front? Share your experiences, job search tips, inside connections and more. Email info@borenforum.org. *Stay in the know* with the Boren Forum!

- *The Boren Forum Staff*

MEET AN ALUM

Terrence Blackburne is a 1999 Scholar to South Africa, and is a Program Examiner for the Office of Management and Budget.

Terrence Blackburne knows that the “thing-that-cries-in-your-pocket” is not a mini monster in search of a therapist. It’s the literal translation of the Zulu term for a cell phone. Terrence learned this while a Boren scholar at the University of Pretoria, the “M.I.T. of Africa,” from 1999 to 2000.

Serendipity and mercenaries brought Terrence to South Africa. He knew that he wanted a different kind of study abroad experience, and the University of Oklahoma’s programs in either Ghana or South Africa seemed an excellent way to achieve this goal. Terrence chose the latter because he loved the anti-apartheid novel,

In This Issue: Scholar of Zulu at OMB; King Leopold Talks; African Tunes; Best Eats; In History; Agency Spotlight: ACSS; Photo Album; Resume Advice and more.

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton, and he could pursue his senior thesis: “Privatization of Security in South Africa.” He also thought that acquiring Zulu would help him learn other Bantu languages, preparing him for a possible Foreign Service career in sub-Saharan Africa.



University of Pretoria campus

The soldiers-of-fortune proved surprisingly normal, not like characters out of a spy novel at all. Their security companies bore prosaic names like “Executive Outcomes,” and they focused on training government forces in other African countries. This was partly because international law forbade them from fighting in foreign conflicts. More importantly, Terrence found that these veterans-turned-mercenaries were usually practical family men with little interest in dangerous adventures. Teaching troops in Sierra Leone how to aim while keeping their eyes open was challenge enough.

Terrence made the most out of his time in Africa. He bought a car and drove with friends through Namibia, Mozambique, and Botswana as well as large sections of South Africa. He had extra time to travel because semesters in the Northern and Southern hemispheres do not match up. Terrence enjoyed his courses, but the best part of the university experience was observing the intense political discussions about South Africa’s future that were prevalent among the student body. The optimistic tenor of these debates made Terrence hopeful about the country’s direction. Despite many

problems, South Africa had come a long way in a short time.

Terrence continued his interest in foreign affairs at Stanford through an MA in international policy studies. Taking advantage of faculty strengths, he concentrated on strategic studies and Russia. Naturally, he kept up his South Africa awareness as well – aided by the fact that he dated a woman he had met while in South Africa, to whom he is now engaged. Stanford’s emphasis on economics and quantitative analysis drummed in a message that would also shape his future: “follow the money.”

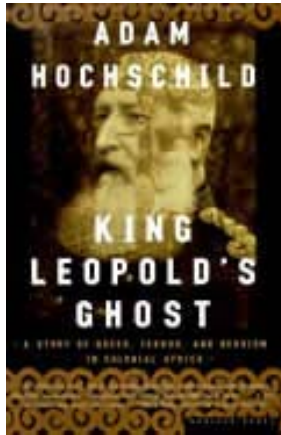


Terrence is a Program Examiner at the National Security Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). He landed the position through the highly competitive Presidential Management Fellows Program. Before coming to D.C., he had not known that much about OMB, but was impressed by the caliber of former employees like General Wesley Clarke and current NASA Director Sean O’Keefe.

Despite its dull-sounding name, OMB has proven anything but. Terrence is responsible for examining programs worth \$20 billion dollars to ensure that budget requests fit presidential policy. His portfolio includes items such as Defense Department schools and our allies’ funding requests for the war on terror. The OMB serves as the institutional memory of the presidency, providing statements of administration policy on all bills that pass Congress. The fast-paced work environment can get quite intense at times, but Terrence enjoys the responsibility and the opportunity to learn about the government’s inner workings.

BOOK NOTES

King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa by Adam Hochschild, (New York, First Mariner Books, 1999), pp. 366.



King Leopold's Ghost provides a thoughtful and engaging look at the explorers, exploiters, and would-be defenders of the Congo in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Author Adam Hochschild explains how King Leopold II of Belgium schemed his way into personal

possession of a vast portion of central Africa, cloaking genocidal exploitation with "humanitarian" pieties. The heroes mentioned in the title are the Africans and pioneering international human rights activists who fought back, albeit with mixed results.

Hochschild's interest in the Congo began with a footnote. He stumbled across a brief mention of Mark Twain's participation in a worldwide protest movement against the millions of deaths caused by Leopold's brutal colonial system. The author was stunned by how little he knew about this period, despite being a human rights expert. He had even visited Leopoldville in 1961 just a few months after Patrice Lumumba's assassination. Hochschild decided that he needed to write a history of the world's "first major international atrocity scandal."

King Leopold's Ghost brings to life a fascinating cast of characters, such as the African-American traveler and journalist George Washington Williams who was the first foreigner to raise the alarm about Congo atrocities. Where the sources permit, Hochschild presents interesting

psychological insights into the motivations of key figures like explorer Henry Stanley (sensitive about illegitimate birth, prone to self-invention) and his patron King Leopold II, a lonely unloved boy who took refuge in stories about Spanish conquistadors and grew up to become a profit-obsessed entrepreneur. To his credit, Hochschild does not overdo this kind of analysis. He readily admits that it is "harder to fathom" where E.D. Morel, a shipping official who became Leopold's principal opponent, got his passionate impulse for reform.



Hands were often cut from the Congolese so Belgian soldiers could claim them as killed. Brutality such as this was often a result of failure to meet a daily rubber quota.

The author shows considerable sensitivity in his use of sources. He incorporates African voices where possible but recognizes that most of his materials came from European and North American observers and require careful filtering. Indeed, some of his most gripping descriptions are taken from the journals and letters of colonial administrators. Their matter-of-fact recounting of how they tortured, kidnapped, and murdered African subjects in the pursuit of ivory and rubber offer chilling testimony to the banality of evil. Hochschild also gives a well-balanced treatment of current scholarly debates about how many Africans died in the Congo before noting the consensus figure of about 10 million.

The subject matter is necessarily grim at times. The descriptions of hacked-off hands



and savage floggings are not for the faint-of-heart. However, the narrative never drags, and the book offers excellent insights into media duels between exploiters and activists, the fickle “politics of empathy,” and the insidious “politics of forgetting.” Hochschild concludes with a comparison of the similarities between King Leopold’s governance of the Congo and that of the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko (the long-time ruler of Zaire, until recently the post-independence name for the Congo). Hochschild admits that one cannot blame all of Africa’s modern problems on European colonizers, but suggests that King Leopold’s “ghost” still casts a distorting shadow on the Congo’s political culture.

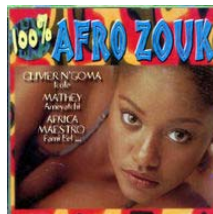
LISTEN IN: African Tunes



We asked alumni to recommend their favorite CD’s by African artists to showcase the continent’s vibrant and diverse contemporary cultures. Here are some of the responses that we received.

“In Madagascar, I purchased a CD of African artists called ‘100% Afro Zouk.’ It features a variety of artists, making it perfect for those who want a broad sampling. Track #2 has my personal favorite, ‘Ameyatchi,’ by Mathey. Its groovy rhythm and the female singer’s mesmerizing voice make it a beautiful song. You’ll want to get up and dance and relax at the same time. All of the songs on this CD are great.”

- **Phoebe Chi** (2003 Scholar, Madagascar)



Can’t find it? Visit <http://nrgmusic.com>.

“I recommend Issa Bagayogo of Mali whose CD’s are released in the U.S. by Six Degrees Records. The music is well produced and beautifully performed with a mix of traditional and modern elements. I particularly like ‘Timbuktu.’ People who enjoy music and dancing will simply feel good after hearing this CD. For more info go to www.sixdegreesrecords.com.”

- **Kapil Gupta** (2003 Fellow, India)



Issa plays the kamele n’goni (the young Malian’s guitar)

“*Gnawa* (also *Gnaoua*) refers to both a particular genre of music and its trance-like participatory performances, which are best compared to raves. The term can also be used for Berber Bedouin musicians whose cultural roots draw on the traditions of sub-Saharan Africa and arabo-Islamic traders. *Gnawa* runs the gamut from traditionally tribalistic sounds to synthesized Afropop and house music. It is now most closely associated with Morocco and the city of Essaouira, the place where Jimi Hendrix landed in North Africa. The traditional virtuoso is Mahmoud Ghania, known as ‘*El Maleem*’ (the Master). Some classic crossovers include the ‘Master Musicians of Jajouka,’ documented by the Rolling Stones’ guitarist Brian Jones, and the ‘Trance of the Seven Colors.’ Discover some of the infectious rhythms at www.festival-gnaoua.co.ma. The compilation CD from this international festival provides a great overview of *Gnawa*’s diverse sounds.”

- **Bronson Lee** (1999 Scholar, Argentina)

AGENCY PROFILE:
Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Did you know that the Department of Defense hosts educational seminars with African leaders? The **Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS)** is one of NSEP's sister institutions at the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington D.C.



Established in 1999, ACSS is one of the Defense Department's regional centers, which are academic institutions for

foreign military and civilian leaders. Participants come from nearly every African country to attend seminars and conferences designed to open the pathways of communication on the military's role in a democracy. ACSS does not focus on teaching democracy, but provides a forum for African leaders to discuss issues on their own.

Military officers, government leaders, leaders of NGO's and others nominated by African governments or U.S. embassies participate in ACSS's programs in civil-military relations, national security strategy and defense economics. ACSS purposely diversifies discussion groups to create a receptive environment to find new solutions to the challenges facing Africa.

Most of ACSS's programs take place in Africa by invitation and with full participation from African hosts. A significant portion of adjunct faculty is African, and other U.S. government agencies, European governments, and NGO's help shape Africa Center

programs. Ultimately, ACSS promotes the ideal of good governance and transparency, civilian control of the military, respect for human rights, and responsible management of government resources.

The effectiveness of the Africa Center can be measured by its participants; more than 1,200 Africans have taken part in ACSS's programs. Many continue their ACSS experience by maintaining communication with African colleagues met at seminars, and some volunteer as guest speakers at future ACSS events. Others spread the knowledge shared at seminars with colleagues in their home country.



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (right), originally from Liberia, at an ACSS seminar. Ellen ran against Charles Taylor in the 1997 Liberian Presidential election. There has been speculation that she will run for the presidency again.

The Africa Center is not a traditional school that American students can enroll in, but it seeks qualified individuals to join its staff. If you are interested in the Africa Center for Strategic Studies visit <http://www.africacenter.org/> for more information. To keep up with current African events, check out the site's excellent "Media Center" for news releases and articles.

Be green: April 22
is Earth Day.



JOB SEARCH TIP: Resumes

Thanks to the Partnership for Public Service



Federal Resumes are a bit different from your regular run-of-the-mill resume. To get your resume noticed by hiring officials be sure to include the following:

- Job information from the job vacancy announcement, with the vacancy announcement number and the position's title.
- Personal information, including your name and complete address, e-mail address, Social Security number, country of citizenship and whether you are eligible for veterans' preference.
- Education, including from where and when you graduated high school or college.
- Work experience specifically related to the position for which you are applying. You will also be asked to indicate salary earned.
- Other qualifications, including job-related training and certificates, skills, and special accomplishments such as published works or awards for on-the-job performance



GET HIRED!

For more information on how to write a federal resume check out [The Federal Resume Guidebook: Write a Winning Federal Resume to Get In, Get Promoted, and Survive in a Government Job](#) by Kathryn Kraemer Troutman. Or visit OPM's online resume guide at <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/of0510.pdf>.

IT'S HISTORIC

Many key African anniversaries take place in the summer and fall, but some important commemorative events occur in April and May.

Organization of African Unity, Formed 25 May 1963. In 2003, it became the African Union.

Rwanda – Hutu and Tutsi Genocide, 7 April 1994

Togo – Independence, 27 April 1960

South Africa – First Election with Universal Suffrage, 27 April 1994

Zimbabwe – Independence, 18 April 1980



Zimbabwe's Independence
Day celebrations are particularly significant. Long-time authoritarian ruler Robert Mugabe has invested

considerable resources in promoting this national holiday. He has used it to bolster his credentials as an independence-era fighter and to fan popular resentment against white farmers who remained in the country after Rhodesia became Zimbabwe.

Check out www.123independenceday.com for Zimbabwe Independence Day e-cards and other official propaganda. For a brilliant analysis of post-colonial historical memory in Zimbabwe, see Richard Werbner's chapter "Smoke from the Barrel of the Gun: Postwars of the Dead, Memory and Reinscription in Zimbabwe" in [Memory and the Postcolony: African Anthropology and the Critique of Power](#) (New York: Zed Books, 1998).

PHOTO ALBUM

The Boren Forum Photo Album is now online at <http://www.borenforum.org> in the Members Corner. Email your study abroad pictures to info@borenforum.org. Be sure to include brief captions to your pictures.

Boren Scholar **Phoebe Chi**, a student of biology and French, studied ecology and conservation in Madagascar in 2003. Here she shares some of her photos with us.



A sunset lights up a beach in Ifaty, a village in southwest Madagascar.



Phoebe (right) gets dance lessons from her host sister in a village in Faux Cap, Madagascar. "I lived with a village family for a week," she said. "And at the end we had a little dance recital for the amusement of what seemed like the entire region of southern Madagascar!"



Phoebe shows off a baobab tree, a unique symbol of Madagascar. During periods of drought, because of its water-filled trunk, baobabs fall victim to herders who need to keep their *zebu* (cattle) alive.



A pretty girl sells beautifully colored and versatile *lambas*, which are often printed with thought-provoking proverbs. *Lambas* characterize and distinguish the different Malagasy ethnic groups.

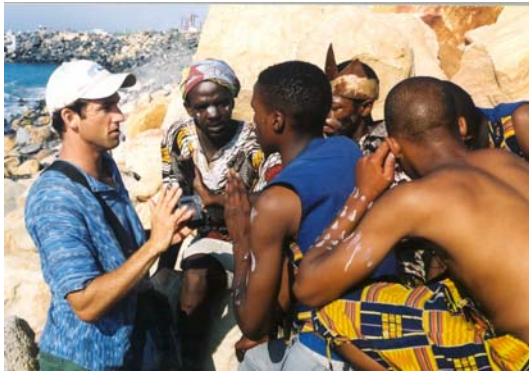


Villagers of Ifotaka watch closely through a fence that divided living quarters, unaware that the American students were even more curious than they were.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Many Boren alumni develop a taste for international travel when they return from studying abroad. **Justin Perkins**, a 1997 Scholar to Brazil, shares his experience in South Africa.

Abavuki is a group of 15 young Xhosa musicians from Langa, a township near Cape Town, South Africa. *Abavuki's* mission is to preserve the Xhosa culture through live performance “with peace and respect in a dignified manner.” Their shows, featuring marimbas, drums, horns, and dance, are energetic and exhilarating.



Justin talks with members of *Abavuki*.

Recognizing the potential for *Abavuki* to expand their music business beyond playing for spare change on the streets with borrowed instruments, Scholar **Justin Perkins** and his fiancée Ayari De La Rosa sponsored and produced a full-length compact disc for *Abavuki* to sell at their live shows in tourist areas in 2002.

Abavuki sold their first 70 CDs on the street in three days. Through continuously reinvesting the profits, they produced and sold more than 1,600 cds in one year. The band purchased its own instruments and produced a second album through collaboration with a band in Cape Town.

Justin Perkins is a Research Associate at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy at the National Defense

University, and lives in D.C. with his wife Ayari, a foreign syndications coordinator at *Foreign Policy Magazine*.

GOOD EATS: Ethiopian



Bukom Café in Adam's Morgan, 2442 18th Street NW, Washington D.C.

“I walked by this place probably hundreds of times and never gave it a second glance. My mistake! I was introduced to **Bukom** by an international nutrition consultant who often comes to D.C. for conferences. The décor is sparse, but don't be misled. The West African food is simply excellent and is served in a warmly hospitable fashion. The food is inexpensive, the portions generous, and the atmosphere relaxed.”

- **Kapil Gupta** (2003 Fellow, India)

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

The Boren Forum hosted Happy Hour at Gordon Biersch in Washington D.C. in March. Members enjoyed conversation in the elegant atmosphere of the Old Riggs Bank building.



Fellow **Ann Ulrich** and Scholar **Jennifer Archibeque** relax and chat at the third Boren Forum Happy Hour at Gordon Biersch in Washington D.C.

