

The 19th biennial conference of the Society of Africanists Archaeologists was held in Frankfurt, Germany from September 8 to 11, 2008. This was a very successful meeting with 260 participants and 195 papers, and the organizers, from the J. W. Goethe University, are to be congratulated.

The members attending the meeting agreed to hold the next SAfA conference in conjunction with the 13th Panafrican Association of Prehistory and Related Disciplines, tentatively scheduled for November 1 to 7, 2010 in Dakar, Senegal. Ever since 1996 when the conference was held in Poznan, Poland, SAfA has met in a cycle of once in North America, once in Europe. We are going to try another cycle, adding the Panafrican Association meeting. If this works, there will be a six-year cycle: a meeting in North America, then two years later, a meeting Europe, and then two years after that, a meeting along side of the Panafrican Association, somewhere on the African continent.

The new executive is composed of: Paul Lane (President), Jeff Fleisher (Treasurer), Ibrahima Thiaw (Organizing Secretary, for the next meeting), Pamela Willoughby (Recording Secretary), Susan McIntosh (Webmaster), Diane Lyons (Editor of *Nyame Akuma*), and members at large Pamela Eze-Uzomaka (representing Africa), Eric Huysecom (representing Europe) and Genevieve Dewar (representing North America). Student representatives will be Didier N'Dah from Benin and Dana Rosenstein from the USA.

I am stepping down as Editor of *Nyame Akuma*, effective with this issue. It has been a long time since I started (with the December 1994 issue). The biggest change has been with the technology. Now most articles are submitted electronically, and most of the production and layout is done with a computer. With the internet, all issues are available at the SAfA web site (http://safa.rice.edu). I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the society. I have enjoyed working with the members and various executives over the year, as well as with the authors of the individual papers. I would also like to thank my assistant, Ms. Geri Kolacz, who has produced the layout for *Nyame Akuma* for many years.

Dr. Diane Lyons of the University of Calgary takes over starting with the June 2009 issue. You can contact her at this address: Dr. Diane Lyons, Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4. Her office phone is (403) 220-6370 and her email address is dlyons@ucalgary.ca. I thank Diane for taking on this responsibility. For myself, I am happy to see that *Nyame Akuma* is going back to the department where it was founded by the late Professor Peter Shinnie.

This issue presents the proceedings and abstracts of the SAfA meeting in Frankfurt. There are also four research papers. One is by Humphris and deals with iron production in precolonial Rwanda. Two papers by Edwin Lyaya discuss Iron Age and historic archaeology in Tanzania. Fidelis Masao discusses Middle and Later Stone Age occurrences discovered during a cultural resource management study in Shinyanga, Tanzania.