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Fall 2010

Editor: Chaitram Singh csingh@berry.edu Berry College Assistant: Anna Miles, Berry College

Special Edition: The 28th Annual Conference

Savannah, Georgia (October 7-10, 2010)

Savannah, Georgia, proved to be an exquisite site for the conference. The weather could not have been more cooperative—sunshine without too much heat and cooler evenings without frigid temperatures. Delegates at the conference plied River Street with almost the same frequency as the container ships on the Savannah River.



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Arrival

A year of separation had only served to accentuate the enthusiasm with which returning scholars greeted each other at the registration desk and at other venues.



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Welcome by Cannon Fire Old Fort Jackson

The first official welcome was rendered at Old Fort Jackson by Dr. Anne Thompson, Vice President of Academic Affairs of Armstrong Atlantic State University and by ATWS President Assefaw Bariagaber. A salute by cannon fire added a regal touch to the evening's proceedings, which included an open air dinner.









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Old Fort Jackson



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Panels

In terms of composition, there were quite a few new members who attended for the first time as well as "old timers" who had not attended the last few conferences. Indeed, the conference brought about the freshness of the "new" and the spirit of ATWS togetherness of the "old."



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Awards

Presidential Award --- Dr. Peyi Soyinka-Airewele Lawrence Dunbar Reddick Memorial Scholarship Award --- Dr. George K. Kieh, Jr., Cecil B. Currey ATWS Book Award --- Dr. Bryan Tilt Toyin Falola ATWS Africa Book Award --- Dr. Patrick Manning. Harold Isaacs Award --- Ms. Melissa T. Williams ATWS Outstanding Leadership And Service --- Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber & Dr. Michael R. Hall



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The Banquet

The banquet opened with a greeting from Dr. Linda Bleicken, President of AASU. The dinner buffet offered a thoughtfully selected array of delectable dishes and music for the evening was provided by the AASU gospel choir. The evening's proceedings were MC'ed by Kalechi Kalu who had performed these duties at the 2009 conference in Ghana.





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By all accounts, the conference was very successful, and this could not have happened but for the dedication and support many of you made and provided. I thank you all! It is especially important to note that each member of the Organizing Committee recognized what his/her duties and responsibilities were and worked harmoniously to bring about a successful conference. In the words of one prominent ATWS member, it was a "highly successful conference ... [well] conceived, organized, and implemented. I have been to every meeting but one, and the conference we just had in Savannah was one of the very best."

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I was gratified to see quite a few new ATWS members at the conference. All of us gained from their drive and dynamism. This was very encouraging. Therefore, if each of us resolves to recruit one – just one – new member, we would have a 100% increase in ATWS membership and about 40% increase in conference attendance driven by newly-recruited and dynamic individuals. Let us, therefore, do our best to recruit new members, and invite those recruited to join us at the 29th Annual Conference of the Association of Third World Studies, to be held in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, on November 21-23, 2011 (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the Thanksgiving Week).

See you all in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil!!

Assefaw Bariagaber, Ph.D. President, Association of Third World Studies Professor and Chair, Whitehead School of Diplomacy and IR Seton Hall University