The Tireless Pursuit: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Micere Githae Mugo

as Activist, Artist, and Architect of Alternative Sites of Knowledge

Department of African American Studies, Africa Initiative, College of Arts &Sciences Community Folk Art Center, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, The Humanities Center, Tribute Book Sponsors in Syracuse University and in Central New York

Thursday, April 2, and Friday, April 3, 2015

Thursday, April 2

3.00 p.m.: Arrival of Guests

5.00-6:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception (By Invitation)
(At Community Folk Art Center, 805 East Genesee St.)

6.30-8:45 p.m. Mugo Scholarship and Legacy Presentation, followed by Discussion and Tributes.
(At Lender Auditorium, Whitman School of Management, 721 University Ave.)

Moderators: Martin Shanguhyia, and Kofi Appiah Okyere; Assistant Professor, Department of History, and Assistant Professor and Certified Public Accountant, Whitman School of Management, SU

Poetry of Micere Githae Mugo:

• Read by Wangui wa Goro, Independent Scholar, Cultural commentator on Kenya, and Translator

Opening Speaker:

• Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Hon. Senator for Kisumu, Kenya Senate, "Literature and Politics in Africa: The Contribution of Micere Mugo."

Speakers:

• Naana Banyiwa Horne, Professor, Department of English, Santa Fe College, “Biography of Micere Mugo.”

• David Johnson, Associate Professor, City College of New York, “Micere Mugo and the African Studies Enterprise.”

Keynote:

• Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature and English, University of California, Irvine, " Micere Mugo in Kenyan History, Politics and Literature"
Friday, April 3

9.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. The Tireless Pursuit Celebration
(At Drumlins Country Club, 800 Nottingham Rd.)

8.00-8.50 a.m. Registration and Informal Networking

9.00-9.30 a.m.: Opening Ceremony (Main Conference Room)

Steering Committee (in alphabetical order): Horace Campbell, Kofi Appiah Okyere, Herbert G. Ruffin II, Martin Shanguhyia, Kheli Robin Willetts

- Opening performance: “Praise Song” by Arthur Flowers, Associate Professor, Department of English, SU
- Introduction remarks and introduction of Organizing Committee by Horace Campbell, and Herb Ruffin II; Professor, Departments of African American Studies and Political Science, Maxwell School, and Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU
- Welcoming remarks by Chairwoman, Kishi Animashaun Ducrè, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU
- Welcoming remarks by College of Arts and Science Senior Associate Dean Gerry Greenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics; and Director, Humanities Center, SU
- Welcoming remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud, Syracuse University

9.30 a.m.-11 a.m.: Session I, Micere Gĩthae Mũgo as an Architect of New Sites of Knowledge followed by Discussion and Tributes. (*This session is sponsored by Syracuse University’s Humanities Center, and is part of its Spring Symposium Series)

Moderator: Horace Campbell, Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU

Presenters:
- Ousseina Alidou, Associate Professor, Department of African American and African Studies, Rutgers University, “Solidarity statement of Women’s Caucus of the African Literature Association (WOCA), Poem Daughter[s] of [the] People.”
- Miriam Chitiga, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Fayetteville State University
- Lily Mabura, Assistant Professor, Department of English, American University of Sharjah, “The Intellectual Journey of Micere Mũgo.”
- Simon Gikandi, Professor, Department of English, Princeton University, “Micere Mũgo’s contribution to African Literature, Orature as Tools of Emancipatory Intellectual Paths.”
Keynote:
- Willy Munyoki Mutunga, Chief Justice of Kenya and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, “Micere as Mother of Feminist Masculinity.”

11.00-11.15: Break

11.15 a.m-12.15 p.m.: Session II, Micere Githae Mugo between University Spaces

Moderator: Janis Mayes, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU

Presenters:
- Anne Adams, Professor Emerita, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University
- Diane Murphy, Dean, David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, SU
- John Burdick, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, SU
- Kal Srinivas, Associate Researcher and Director for Retention, Office of Academic Programs, SU.
- Renate Simson, Department of African American Studies, SU
- Angela Williams, Librarian, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, SU
- Kheli Robin Willetts, Executive Director, Community Folk Art Center; and Professor of Practice, Department of African American Studies, SU

12:15-1.30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

Featuring Documentary Premiere by Ndirangu Wa Wachanga, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater

1.30-3.30 p.m. Session III, Micere Githae Mugo and Teaching Excellence:

In Memory (1.30-2.45 p.m.)

Master of Ceremony: Kwame Dixon, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU

Student Tributes: Linda Carty, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies; and Co-Director, Democratizing Knowledge, SU

Roundtable, Alumni and Student Participants:

Moderator: Amma Felix, College of Arts and Sciences ’95 and Maxwell School ‘01—Vice President, Strategy at the United Negro College Fund
Participants:

- Adolphus Belk, Jr., College of Arts and Sciences ‘97—Professor, Political Science and African American Studies and Director, the minor in African American Studies at Winthrop University
- Pierce Freelon, Pan African Studies ‘08—The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Founder ARTVSM/Beat Making Lab
- Erica Gonzalez, Newhouse and College of Arts and Sciences ’95—Senior Adviser, Speaker’s Office at the New York City Council
- Dahkil Hausif, Newhouse and African American Studies minor ’98—Film Editor & Voice Over Talent at Spot Welders; and Filmmaker at Sunshowah Films
- Muoki Mbungu, Pan African Studies ’13—Doctoral candidate in African History at West Virginia University
- Clayton Rosati, African American Studies and Political Science ’96, Sociology ’01, and Geography ’05, Associate Professor, Department of Telecommunications, Bowling Green State University
- Gosha Tefera, Pan African Studies ’16—Department of African American Studies, SU

In Performance (2.45-3.30 p.m.)

Director: Ryan Hope Travis, Department of African American Studies, SU; and Director, SU Community Theater Initiative

Artists:

- Omanii Abdullah, Department of African American Studies, SU
- Jackie Warren-Moore, Poet and Teaching Artist, Syracuse
- One World, SU
- Redemption, SU
- Professor Hope Travis, SU

Musical Performance: James Gordon Williams Trio

Performers:

- James Gordon Williams, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU
- William C. “Bill” Horrace, Melvin A. Eggers Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, SU
- Joshua Dekaney, Instructor, Percussion; and Director, Career Development Center, Setnor School of Music, SU

3.30-3.45 p.m.: Break

3.45- 5:15 p.m. Session IV, Micere Githae Mugo, Memories on the Front Lines, and as Community Activist
Memories on the Front Lines Keynote (3.45- 4.30 p.m.):

- **Introduction:** African Students Union, Pan African Studies Graduate Students, and Student African-American Society, SU
- **Keynote:** Ama Ata Aidoo, Distinguished Writer and Activist; and Executive Director, Mbaasem Foundation, Ghana

4.30-5.15 p.m. Statements Community Activists and African American Studies Tributes

**Short Statements (in alphabetical order):**

- Ike Achebe, Visiting Professor, Brown University; and Igbo Dictionary Project
- Ghana Society of Central New York
- Biodun Jeyifo, Professor of African and African American Studies and of Comparative Literature, Harvard University
- Ndri Therese Assie Lumumba, Professor, Department of Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University
- Alamin Mazrui, Professor, Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Rutgers University
- Vincent O. Odamtten, Professor, Department of English, Hamilton College
- Pan African Community of Central New York (PACCNY)
- Eunice Sahle, Associate Professor, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- United Women of Africa Organization (UWAO)
- Betty Wambû, Assistant professor, Departments of Africana and Latino Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies, State University of New York at Oneonta

5.15-6.00 p.m. “Last Word” — Summary and illuminations on the celebration

**Masters of Ceremonies:** (in alphabetical order) Horace Campbell, Herbert G. Ruffin II, and Martin Shanguhyia

**Featuring:**

- College of Arts and Science Dean, Karin Ruhlandt, Syracuse University
- Former Provost & Interim Chancellor Eric Spina, Trustee Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Syracuse University
- The Gĩthae-Mũgo Family
- David MacDonald, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art, Syracuse University Ceramics

6.00-6.15 p.m. Socialization, Networking and Transitional Break

6.15-8.00 p.m. Dinner at Drumlins Country Club