The Tireless Pursuit

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Mīcere Gĩthae Mũgo

Thursday, April 2
6.30 p.m. – 8.45 p.m.
Lender Auditorium
Whitman School of Mgmt.
Syracuse, New York

Friday, April 3, 2015
9.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Drumlin’s Country Club
800 Nottingham Road
Syracuse, New York

Organizers

Steering Committee (in alphabetical order)
• Horace Campbell, Professor, Department of African American Studies and Department of Political Science, Syracuse University
• Kofi Appiah Okyere, Assistant Professor and Certified Public Accountant, Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University
• Herbert G. Ruffin II, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Martin Shanguhyia, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Syracuse University
• Kheli Robin Willetts, Executive Director, Community Folk Art Center, and Professor of Practice, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University

Faculty, Staff, and Community Volunteers
• Omanil Abdullah-Grace, African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Kwame Dixon, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Mumbi wa Mũgo, President, United Women of Africa Organization
• Ryan Travis, African American Studies, Syracuse University; and Director, SU Community Theater Initiative
• Angela Williams, Librarian, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
• James Williams, Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University

Student Volunteers
• Megan Iris Crawford, African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Sharlene Diamond, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Vivian Guenthler, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Winnie Ivy Cherop Kiru, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Miriam Kyomugasho, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Margaret CherIoveless, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Ayondela McDole, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Goshu Tefera, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University
• Renée Wilks, Pan African Studies, Syracuse University

AAS Front Office
• Kishi Animashaw DucreChairwoman, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Doreen Latrecen Blenman, Office Coordinator, Syracuse University
• Ajaie Brown, Administrative Assistant/Graduate Academic Advisor, Syracuse University
• Regina Cole, Office Coordinator, Syracuse University
• Anju Franklin, Office Assistant, Syracuse University
• David Mwanza, Office Assistant, Syracuse University
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. Mũgo Scholarship and Legacy Presentation, followed by Discussion and Tributes.
(At Lender Auditorium, Whitman School of Management, 721 University Ave.)

Moderators: Martin Shanguhuya, 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 Mũgo:
• Read by Wangũi wa Goro, Independent Scholar, Cultural commentator on Kenya, and Translator

Opening Speaker:

Speakers:
• Naana Banyiwa Horne, Professor, Department of English, Santa Fe College, “Biography of Micere Mũgo.”
• David Johnson, Associate Professor, City College of New York, “Micere Mũgo and the African Studies Enterprise.”

Keynote:
• Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature and English, University of California, Irvine, “Micere Mũgo in Kenyan History, Politics and Literature”

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

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

Special Thanks to Sponsors
• Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University
• Africa Initiative, Syracuse University
• Cold Case Justice Initiative, Syracuse University
• The College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University
• The Community Folk Art Center, Inc., Syracuse University
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• Department of Communications & Rhetorical Studies, Syracuse University
• Department of Religion, Syracuse University
• The Ghana Society of Central New York
• The extended Githae Family
• The Humanities Center, Syracuse University
• Kenyan Embassy, Washington D.C.
• Larry Martin, Vice President, The Office of Program Development, Syracuse University
• Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professors, Syracuse University
• Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, Syracuse University
• Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library Staff, Syracuse University
• Njeri Kii and Mümbi wa Mũgo
• Omari Abdullah-Grace, Department of African American Studies, Syracuse University
• The Pan African Community of Central New York
• Phi Beta Kappa, Syracuse University
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• The Slutsker Center for International Services, Syracuse University
• The Southside Coalition
• The South Side Initiative, Syracuse University
• SU Abroad, Syracuse University
• The United Women of Africa Organization
• The Writing Program, Syracuse University
• Women’s and Gender Studies Community, Syracuse University
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, and Pan African Studies Graduate Students, SU

**Keynote:** Ama Ata Aidoo, Distinguished Writer and Activist; and Executive Director, MbaaSEM Foundation, Ghana

4.30-5.15 p.m. Statements Community Activists

**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. Odumtten, Professor, Department of English, Hamilton College
- Pan African Community of Central New York (PACCNY)
- Eunice Sahlé, Associate Professor, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- United Women of Africa Organization (UWAO)
- Betty Wambui, 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:** Horace Campbell, Herbert G. Ruffin II, and Martin Shanguhyia

**Featuring:**

- College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Karin Ruhlant, Syracuse University
- Former Provost & Interim Chancellor Eric Spina, Trustee Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Syracuse University
- The Githae-Mugo Family
- David MacDonald, Professor Emeritus, Department of Art, Syracuse University Ceramics

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; 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 Ducre, Associate Professor, Department of African American Studies, SU
- Welcoming remarks by College of Arts and Sciences 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 Githae Mugo 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 (WOCALA), Poem Daughter[s] of [the] People.”
- Miriam Chitiga, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Fayetteville State University
- Lily Mabara, Assistant Professor, Department of English, American University of Sharjah, “The Intellectual Journey of Micere Mugo.”
- Simon Gikandi, Professor, Department of English, Princeton University, “Micere Mugo’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 Gitjhe 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 “Rennie” 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 Ndargu Wa Wachanga, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater

1.30-3.30 p.m. Session III, Micere Githe 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, 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
- Dahkli Hausi, Newhouse and African American Studies minor ’98—Film Editor & Voice Over Talent at Spot Welders; and Filmmaker at Sunshotah Films
- Muoki Mbunga, 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
- Goshu 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-Grace, 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