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FOR AFRICAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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Associate Editor: Beth Pearce

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## FROM THE SECRETARIAT...

As we go to press with this issue, we realize that it will get to our members at about the time many of us are going through a number of demands that come with the beginning of the new school year. Many of us are swamped by the familiar rituals of designing new courses, brushing up on old ones, preparing fall conferences, coping with new computer software, residential and electronic addresses, new assignments, professors, students, friends, and unanticipated demands from colleagues. Swamped by these competing demands, a few of our members barely have the time to look through the October/December issue of *ASA News*, while others miss their copies in the process of moving to new addresses. Incidentally, the October/December issue is usually the gem issue of *ASA News* because it contains the information our members need for the ASA annual meeting. We, therefore, wish to remind our members and friends who will be proposing papers for our meeting in Toronto next year that this issue belongs in the reference section of their libraries.

A related matter is the visa status of many of our members who are not citizens of the United States. Some of us who will unavoidably go through the protocol of applying for a visa to visit Canada should start thinking about it early enough to allow sufficient time for the unpredictable. We just thought we should remind our members of this matter for as the Igbo proverb says, *Onye were ututu tutuba, o wee ututu jue abo ya* (He who starts gathering early in the morning will fill the basket early).

We are reminded at this point to thank our readers who have sent us African proverbs that have appeared in *ASA News*. We have found those contributions invaluable and appreciate the comments of readers who have written to express their interest in the proverbs. It is our intention to continue this feature as we hope that our readers will continue to send us proverbs in African languages with English translations. Our contributor this month, Debra Spitulnik, sees the African language in terms of its dynamics in constructing and defining social roles. She provides us with a set of ChiBemba proverbs that are commonly used in everyday conversation to convey and encode familiar themes.

See you in Boston!