I. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE STATUS OF THE DISCIPLINE FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (EMERGING ISSUES AND TRENDS)

African Studies is always an under-supported and under-represented area in American academia, but faculty within it remain remarkably committed and energetic. The African Studies Association continues to thrive, as does the African Literature Association; numerous smaller, sometimes regionally-focused, sometimes disciplinarily-restricted associations and seminars also flourish. In our own region, the South Eastern Seminar for African Studies continues to meet twice yearly. Flagship journals, such as *African Studies Review* and *Research in African Literatures* have been augmented by on-line journals such as the University of Florida-based *African Studies Quarterly* and other Web-based sources such as various H-Net listservs and Michigan State University’s “Africa Past and Present” series of podcasts.

II. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

A. Mission statement

The African Studies Program at the College of Charleston is committed to providing exemplary teaching across the disciplines about the African continent and to drawing the attention of the campus and wider community to issues affecting the African continent.

B. African Studies' highest priorities from the College’s strategic plan

Sense of place—given the Africanness of Charleston.

C. Program goals and their relationship to the college’s strategic plan

By the end of their minor, students in the African studies program at the college of Charleston should have acquired or enhanced the following:

- **knowledge** of key historical facts, cultural practices, traditions and figures;
- **awareness** of the internal diversity among the peoples and traditions of Africa;
- **ability** to read, research, and write about Africa in appropriate and informed ways;
- **critical sensitivity** to representations of Africa in contemporary discourse;
- **habits of attention and responsiveness** to events in and voices coming out of Africa

D. Student learning outcomes of the program

Students will demonstrate their knowledge, awareness, ability, critical sensitivity, habits of attention etc. Described above by successfully completing their courses, and by (among other things) signing up for study abroad courses in Africa, joining the Peace Corps, volunteering for NGO work, etc.
III. NARRATIVE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENTAL OR PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The African Studies Program by its very nature contributes significantly to interdisciplinarity and to internationalization/globalization. Because of the relative paucity of courses offered, individual students frequently work independently with faculty, leading inevitably to high impact, personalized education. This year Marion Mendy offered AFST 202: Special Topics: Women in Contemporary Africa and Simon Lewis offered an HONS 381 course, specifically designated as interdisciplinary on South African literature, politics and culture. The annual Model African Union class (POLS 266) that culminates in participation in the Model AU meeting in Washington, DC, gives students a remarkable opportunity for engaged learning. Even in his supposed retirement, Jack Parson accompanies Abdellatif Attafi in an annual study abroad trip to Morocco that is always popular and universally praised. Because many of those taking African Studies courses are now concentrators within the International Studies major rather than African Studies minors, we have a number of students eager to find study-abroad opportunities in Africa. This summer, in addition to the Morocco courses, we have students independently placed in Ghana, Uganda and the Gambia.

A. Changes in departmental or program enrollments

Fall Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>AFST</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>32</td>
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Spring Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subject Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(graphics courtesy of Office of Institutional Research & Planning)

B. Brief narrative summary of the curricular assessment activities

We are currently working with Shawn Morrison, LCWA’s assessment guru to devise an appropriate plan. The deadline for the submission of this plan is September 2013.

C. Faculty diversity

The African Studies program has no control over recruitment. As of the end of spring 2013, the program had 15 faculty affiliates in the Schools of Humanities and Social Sciences and Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. The core of our regular teaching group is white and male (Carmichael [History], Day [Political Science], Lewis [English]). Abdellatif Attafi (French
Department) is Moroccan. We have recently lost or are in the process of losing Viviane Bekrou (Ivory Coast—unsuccessful tenure review in French Department), Assan Sarr (Gambia—leave of absence from History Department), and Marion Mendy (Gambia—pursuing PhD full-time). Given these teachers’ connections to West Africa in particular, these losses are significant. We have also lost John Walsh (another white male, but one who extended our coverage of the African diaspora to the francophone Caribbean).

List of Affiliated Faculty
Dr. Simon Lewis (English, Director)
Dr. Ghazi Abuhakema (Asian Studies)
Dr. Abdellatif Attafi (French and Francophone Studies)
Dr. Tim Carmichael (History)
Dr. Chris Day (Political Science)
Mr. George Fam (Arabic)
Dr Larry Lepionka (Art History)
Ms. Marion Mendy (adjunct to AFST)*
Dr. Mutindi Ndunda (Education) **
Dr. Jack Parson (Political Science, Emeritus)
Dr. Peter Piccione (History)
Dr. Assan Sarr (History)*
Dr. Andrew Sobiesuo (Hispanic Studies)
Dr. Godwin Uwah (French and Francophone Studies)
Dr. John Walsh III (French and Francophone Studies)*

*leaving at end of 2012-13 AY
**on sabbatical throughout 2012-13 AY

D. Summary analysis of faculty research and professional development
In addition to being active scholars (publishing books and articles, delivering papers at conferences, etc.), faculty have taken on important leadership roles in their respective disciplines:
Tim Carmichael has been advancing the study of the Horn of Africa by helping establish the new H-Horn listserv;
Simon Lewis hosted the 2013 African Literature Association conference in Charleston (March 20-24);
Assan Sarr is the faculty supervisor for Madison Edwards’ SURF summer research grant in the Gambia

Remoteness from the continent, the high cost of travel to the continent and logistical, bureaucratic complications in traveling to or hosting scholars from the continent represent significant challenges. The difficulty of studying Africa, however, tends to create a strong sense of solidarity and fosters interdisciplinarity.
E. Service beyond the department and outreach efforts
Faculty are engaged members of the College and wider community: Tim Carmichael provided expert testimony in seven asylum cases in Department of Homeland Security cases, Chris Day made a presentation on the Lord’s Resistance Army in Northern Uganda for the Unitarian Church’s Forum series in September 2012). Simon Lewis, aided by a massive and wonderful team of volunteers, hosted the African Literature Association conference in March 2013, which included significant contributions by local African American artistic, cultural, and political luminaries. The conference was held March 20-24, 2013, and was widely regarded as one of the best organized and most successful conferences this professional organization had experienced in its nearly 40-year history. With over 400 participants in attendance, the coordination and organization of the conference was no small task but was expertly handled by a small but committed team of CofC employee-volunteers from across campus (the Addlestone Library, the Avery Research Center, African Studies, CLAW) as well as with on-site assistance from student volunteers.

Conference quick facts:
- 4-day conference
- 11 internationally-acclaimed keynote speakers and musicians
- 17 exhibitors and 365 panel participants from more than 20 countries in North and South America, Africa and Asia
- 106 panel discussions
- 20 student volunteers

Simon Lewis was also significantly involved in the planning, organizing, and promoting of the Jubilee Project. This project was first announced on-campus April 20, 2012 with the first advertised event taking place on New Year’s Eve, 2012 (Watch Night). The Jubilee Project is a joint effort which relies on contributions from diverse organizations, academic institutions, religious affiliations and regional locations in offering related events and programs (for example, an exhibition of African art at South Carolina State University). Dr. Simon Lewis was instrumental in organizing and advertising these various events and in collaborating with all involved parties. For full details on all Jubilee Project event offerings, visit: http://jubileeprojectsc.wordpress.com/.

F. Professional development opportunities for faculty
The African Studies program has facilitated some travel to conferences, research sites, etc. Whenever controversy crops up faculty are more than willing to share teaching ideas and resources via e-mail. Our face-to-face meetings throughout the term are always collegial and constructive.

G. Success in meeting departmental, school, and college goals
It’s always a struggle to staff sufficient courses to allow students to meet the requirements for the African Studies Minor. Academic Affairs could support our efforts by figuring out a way to compensate home departments for allowing African Studies faculty to teach AFST courses outside the department. Making a designated African Studies hire (possibly within the
International Studies set-up) would alleviate this problem somewhat. In particular, we require sufficient staffing to be able to offer the AFST 100 course EVERY semester, it is difficult to entice faculty from other departments to teach this introductory course since they already have teaching loads often including intro courses for their home departments.

H. Curricular development and other major changes planned 2013-2016
We will be revisiting the list of courses that can count towards the minor and looking to add some new ones and/or revise existing descriptions (e.g., AFST 220, AFST 302, FREN 452, FREN 320, HIST 230, HIST 270, ARTH 210, FREN 326, FREN 361, POLI 339).

Staffing limitations restrict our ambitions. In fall 2013 we must rely on the help of an adjunct instructor from the French and Francophone Studies department to teach the AFST 100 course. Ideally we should be adding a (West) African language to the College’s list of language tuition. Tim Carmichael will be teaching a pilot-course in elementary Swahili in fall 2013. We are trying to line up the Beninois film-maker Idrissou Mora-Kpai to teach a special topics course in African Cinema in fall 2013, too. It would be great to be able to take full advantage of Mora-Kpai’s presence in Charleston and hire him in a full-time capacity.

We expect to return to school in the fall with a full extra- and co-curricular program in place, including a writing workshop, a study-abroad feedback session, a film screening, etc. Establishing a calendar of events should allow us to maintain a higher profile on the campus and in the community.

We continue to foster connections with the Avery Center and the CLAW program, and outside the College, with the International African American Museum, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, and African-American and Afro-Caribbean institutions. Both the Avery Center the CLAW program host annual conferences which are almost always of interest to faculty and students.

We would like to collaborate in more direct ways with those in the School of Education, Health and Human Performance and the School of Business (e.g., mutindi ndunda and David Desplaces) who have established discipline-specific programs with African partners. It would be great if we could become recognized as a model feeder-school producing graduates ready to move into the top African Studies graduate programs as well as into the Peace Corps, State Department, and for anyone doing business in and with Africa.
IV. SUPPORTING DATA

I. Teaching Data: (data compiled by running Cognos reports for term in question)

Course Offerings Applicable to AFST Minor (Fall 2012):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Professor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFST 101</td>
<td>Intro to African Studies</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 272</td>
<td>Pre-Colonial Africa</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sarr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFST 202</td>
<td>ST in African Studies</td>
<td>Not offered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 352</td>
<td>Major African Writers</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 342</td>
<td>Politics of Africa</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Average class size for courses counting towards AFST minor in fall 2012 = 23
- Average class size for AFST courses only: 0, no classes offered

Course Offerings Applicable to AFST Minor (Spring 2013):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Professor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Core:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>AFST 101</td>
<td>Intro to African Studies</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>HIST 273</td>
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<td>African Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 270</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Piccione</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nubia &amp; Kush</td>
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<td>HONS 381.03</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 266</td>
<td>International Diplomacy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total Average class size for courses counting towards AFST minor in spring 2013 = 21
- Average class size for AFST courses only: 28.5

At the end of the 2012-2013 academic year the AFST minor had nine students and the International Studies major with an area of concentration in African Studies had 17 students.

J. Student (and recent graduate) accomplishments

In spring 2013 the AFST minor graduated three students (Kaitlin Fitzgerald, POLI; Amber Joyner, HIST; Haley Thomas, POLI) and the International Studies: Africa concentration major graduated three students (Anna Cantrell, Samantha Denning and Patrick Giblin. In the summer 2013 term three African Studies minors completed overseas internship/research experiences, one for credit and two for non-credit. Eden Katz traveled to Ghana with the Project OKURASE Village Health Outreach program. She is the second consecutive AFST minor to do so (Clifton Edwards completed an internship/independent study in summer 2012) and will be completing research for credit in an independent study course being
supervised by Simon Lewis (INTL 400). Madison Edwards received a SURF grant to conduct four weeks of research in Gambia and Senegal, Africa. Madison will research connections between the Lowcountry and West Africa and the Atlantic slave trade with help from her faculty advisor, Dr. Assan Sarr (borrowed from the History Dept. blog). Brennan Baylis traveled to Uganda with the Palmetto Medical Initiative where she is helping provide treatment for various medical conditions as well as organizing and hosting health events focused on preventative health education. All three students are keeping blogs to record their experiences and learning outcomes during their time overseas.

From the College of Charleston’s 2013 Graduation Class profile:

**Samantha Denning** (French, International Studies) graduated as a Global Scholar. She studied abroad in both France and Senegal, and while in Senegal she interned with a micro-finance organization. On campus she was active with the Center for Civic Engagement, as part of the Volunteer Corps and was an alternative spring break participant. She has received an appointment through the French government to teach English in the Nantes, France starting in the fall. She hopes to pursue graduate studies in international affairs.

**Kaitlin Fitzgerald** (Political Science) accepted a position with the Farms-to-Schools Program based in Charleston, SC.

**Amber Joyner** (History) received the HSS Scholars Award in History (2013). She plans to apply for a PhD program in African history with a focus on the late colonial period for Lusophone Africa. While at CofC she participated in the Model African Union in Washington, DC (POLI 266.01 with Chris Day) and was researching Mozambican history since her sophomore year.

**Haley Thomas** (Political Science) was a Sustainability Fellow and was involved in Amnesty International. Post-graduation she began working as the Volunteer Coordinator for the non-profit organization World Camp Inc. in Malawi (Southeastern Africa).

**K. Faculty Productivity in and Support of Research and Professional Development**

Since most of this data will appear in individual faculty members’ home departments’ reports, the following list includes only a few highlights:

**Tim Carmichael**

**Book chapter:**


**Presentations:**


Professional Service:
Book Reviews Editor, *Northeast African Studies*

**Simon Lewis**
Edited book:

Articles:


Edited journal:

**John Walsh**
Book:

L. Service and Outreach Contributions beyond the Department
**Tim Carmichael** (HIST) served as Ethiopian country specialist for Amnesty International-USA, and testified as Expert Witness in seven political asylum cases in Department of Homeland Security courts.

**Chris Day** taught the summer Maymester AFST 101 course with 12 students (max enrollment: 30). He also served as faculty advisor for the newly re-launched Amnesty International student organization on campus.

**Simon Lewis** (ENGL) worked on both the Jubilee Project and in organizing the 39th annual African Literature Association conference in 2012-2013.

M. Honors/Awards external to the unit received by faculty or program during review year
**Simon Lewis** received the College of Charleston’s Distinguished Research Award.