
African Languages Initiative (AFLI) Domestic Intensive Summer Program 2013

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The Center for African Studies (CAS) in collaboration with the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures (LLC) at the University of Florida hosted the AFLI Domestic Intensive summer program for the third time on behalf of the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Structured as an 8-week intensive language program, the program successfully ran from June 6 to August 2 of 2013 under the co-directorship of Dr. Akintunde Akinyemi and Dr. Charles Bwenge. As was in the previous two summers, the 2013 AFLI program was another success story regarding the UF mission that has long recognized and diligently addressed the need for foreign language education by establishing strong foreign language programs which matches well with the AFLI's central mission: "to assist Americans acquire high proficiency in specific African languages in order to strengthen the United States' intellectual and economic competitiveness and enhance international cooperation for economic,

humanitarian, and national security."

The AFLI program is designed to focus on two main levels of proficiency, that is, enabling students at ACTFL's novice level (ILR 0/0+) to move to the intermediate level (ILR 1/1+) and those at intermediate level to advanced level (ILR 2/2+). In this regard, it prepares Boren scholars/fellows for an overseas immersion fall semester and other students for advanced training at their home institutions. Boren's overseas program includes a semester abroad of training in a critical African language, a life-changing cultural exposure, and real-world business experience. The overseas component focuses on enabling participants to reach further proficiency in the chosen African language. A total of six languages were offered in the AFLI 2013. These included Akan/Twi (beginning), Hausa (beginning & intermediate), Swahili (beginning & intermediate), Wolof (beginning), Yoruba (beginning & intermediate) and Zulu (beginning & intermediate). The program attracted 36 students from various universities across the country, 24 of whom

were Boren-funded and 12 were Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS)-funded. We extend our sincere appreciation to all institutions that enabled these students to achieve their educational goals. We were also lucky to have a dynamic and professional team of 10 instructors from various institutions including University of Georgia, Michigan State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Wisconsin.

In addition to the 4-hour morning classroom instruction (Monday-Friday), students participated in practicing their languages at the 2-hour afternoon conversational sessions (Monday – Thursday) which were facilitated by native speakers. Also, language groups participated in turn in preparing and serving meals for every Wednesday's dinner - popularly known as "Africa Eats Night." It was pleasing to see high levels of enthusiasm, motivation, and spirit of cooperation and *umoya* from all participants: students, instructors, conversational facilitators, host families (Saturday visitations), and CAS staff. Indeed, every participant played their part well and in the end it was another success story. We thank them all.

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