

Annual Report 2016



2016 Ideas Matter Doctoral Fellow, Gloria Tetteh-Kubi (University of Cape Coast, Ghana) is developing pest resistant strains of key food crops in the region. Here, she is working on black-eyed peas.

The West African Research Association (WARA) is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered at Boston University's African Studies Center. A consortium of some 50 US colleges and universities with interests in Africa, WARA's mission is to promote research on West Africa and its diasporic communities and to facilitate exchange between West African scholars and their counterparts in the region, in the US, and elsewhere.

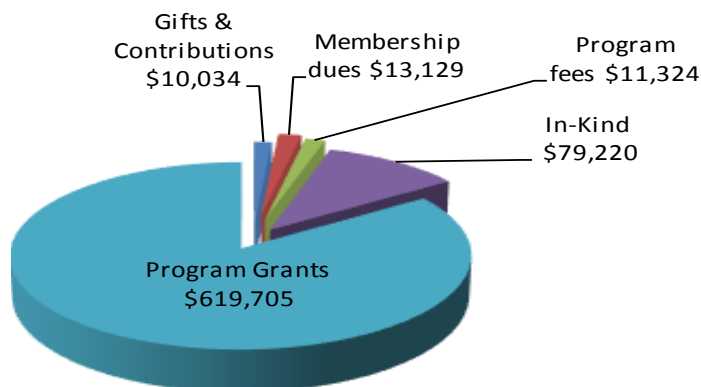
WARA's overseas headquarters, the **West African Research Center (WARC)**, located in Dakar, Senegal, is a vibrant hub of academic and cultural activity, providing a range of resources to individual researchers working in the region and institutions wishing to conduct programs in West Africa for their faculty or students.



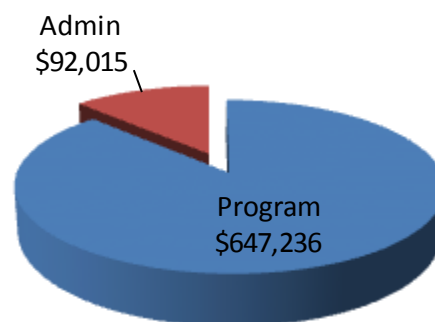
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West African Research Association

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



EXPENDITURES



WARA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The West African Research Association has a number of programs and collaborates with a range of institutions to support and enhance their West Africa programming. Below is a listing of our major programs and projects. A more detailed account can be found on the WARA website.

THE WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN DAKAR, SENEGAL

WARA's overseas office, the West African Research Center (WARC), located near Université Cheikh Anta Diop, in the Fann Residence neighborhood of Dakar, Senegal. WARC provides an institutional presence and lends continuity and stability to programs sponsored by postsecondary US institutions and serves as a point of scholarly contact and exchange for scholars from throughout the region and beyond..

Research Library

The Mohammed Moustapha Kane Library and Documentation Center at WARC includes over 5,000 titles, in addition to journals and periodicals and access to online databases such as JSTOR. WARC's librarians provide invaluable assistance to US, West African, and international researchers.

Computer Lab

WARC is equipped with Wi-Fi throughout and has 15 work stations for researchers' use. The computer lab also has copy, printing, and fax machines available for scholars.

Video Conferencing Center

WARC's new state-of-the-art conference center is an excellent venue for in-person or video-conferencing meetings.

Seminar and Classrooms

WARC has several conference rooms with TV, VCR, DVD player, digital projector, and an onsite technician. Small classrooms are ideal for language classes and other small groups.

Coordination of Study Abroad & Study Tours

WARC organizes and coordinates study tours for students and faculty, providing customized programs to meet the needs of each group. Programs include lectures by West African scholars, artists, and activists; field trips to key sites; and opportunities for service learning.

Café

WARC's onsite café allows researchers to eat breakfast or lunch in a congenial environment. The WARC café serves a wide range of West African and Western specialties.

WARA is a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, an affiliate member

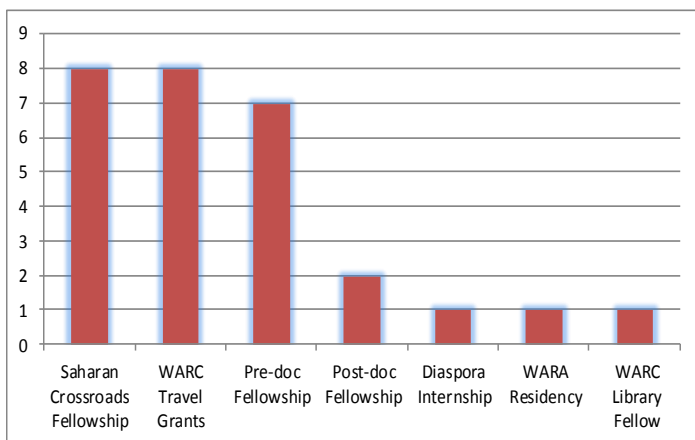
West African Research Association



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

WARA promotes scholarship and knowledge production on West Africa and the diaspora through our fellowship program. WARA offers fellowships for both US citizens and West African nationals through annual competitions for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships, a diaspora graduate internship, WARA Resident Fellowships, the WARC Library Fellowship, and WARC Travel Grants. The Saharan Crossroads Initiative also includes fellowships for researchers. Over the past five years, WARA has supported the research of 100 scholars in a wide range of disciplines. WARA's Fellowship programs are supported by the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the US State Department and the US Department of Education's Title VI Program.

FY 2016 WARA FELLOWSHIPS



SAHARAN CROSSROADS INITIATIVE

Saharan Crossroads is a joint project of WARA and the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS), in collaboration with the Saharan Studies Association (SSA). Through conferences, publications, and support for research, Saharan Crossroads is strengthening the cultural, artistic, and historical links among the peoples living within and across the Sahara Desert. Proceedings from the 2014 conference in Oran, Algeria, *Views from the Desert Edge*, were published in 2016.

WEST AFRICAN ACQUISITIONS PILOT PROJECT (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

The West African Acquisitions Pilot Project collects published material and ephemera in eleven West African countries. A collaboration with the US Library of Congress and the Council for American Overseas Research Centers, WAAPP is headquartered at WARC and collects materials in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Chad, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

AFRICAN CONFLICT & PEACEBUILDING REVIEW

Established in 2010 in partnership with Indiana University Press, ACPR has grown to be a most respected journal in its field. It's focus on providing support and mentoring to African colleagues is a key part of its mission.

WEST AFRICAN COLLABORATIVE ACQUISITIONS PROJECT (WACAP)

Initiated in September 2014, WACAP offers WARA member institutions the opportunity for timely acquisition of current African imprints for their Africana collections. This cooperative acquisition project builds on our experience collecting for the Library of Congress. We hope to expand this project to other institutions.

AFRICAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS ARCHIVE (ALMA)

A joint project of WARA and Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa, ALMA is a web-based electronic archive of original text and multi-media materials in 20 different African languages. This ever-expanding archive can be accessed on the ALMA website.

<http://alma.matrix.msu.edu/>

RELIGION IN WEST AFRICA

Religion in West Africa: Cosmopolitanism, Faith Communities and the Social Fabric is a lecture series jointly sponsored by WARA and Boston University's African Studies Center. Initiated in 2010, the series features semi-annual lectures exploring the diversity of religious practice across West Africa and the diaspora.

Future Challenges



WARC Travel Grantee, Idowu Omowumi at her research site in Bayelsa State. Ms. Idowu's research examines the effects of environmental degradation on food security

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WARA and WARC have become the leading resources for the collaborative production and dissemination of knowledge on West Africa and the African Diaspora. Over the past five years, WARC has grown dramatically, as have the range and frequency of events it offers. WARC coordinates professional development and study tours for a growing number of WARA member institutions, and WARC's film screenings and book signings regularly draw large crowds. These increased activities mean increased costs for equipment, personnel, communications, and transportation. More than ever, **we need the support of our members and friends** to ensure our ability to maintain the quality services and programming for which WARC has become known.

Because of continuing cutbacks in federal government funding, **we must increase private philanthropic support for both WARA and WARC**. We are working to establish partnerships with the private sector that will allow us to continue to provide the quality research services we are known for and to expand our fellowship and outreach programs.

WARC's video-conferencing center (see above) represents a significant contribution to the scholarly community as well as being part of a larger strategy for building our financial well-being. WARA is excited about building diverse new partnerships with private sector partners and we welcome and encourage all WARA members to join in this effort. **Your gifts, in addition to your membership support, send a strong message to others that you value the work of WARA.**

Institutional Members

Africa Network
Allegheny College
American University
Boston University
Bridgewater State University
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Columbia University
Dakar Institute of African Studies
Florida International University
Georgia State University
Harvard University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Howard University
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Lesley University
Michigan State University
New Jersey City University
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Northwestern University Library
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Rutgers University
Saginaw Valley State University
Santa Clara University
Smithsonian Institution
South Dakota State University
Southern University and A&M College
Temple University
Texas A&M University

Tufts University
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University of California at Los Angeles
University of Chicago
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University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Western Michigan University
Willamette University
Yale University