

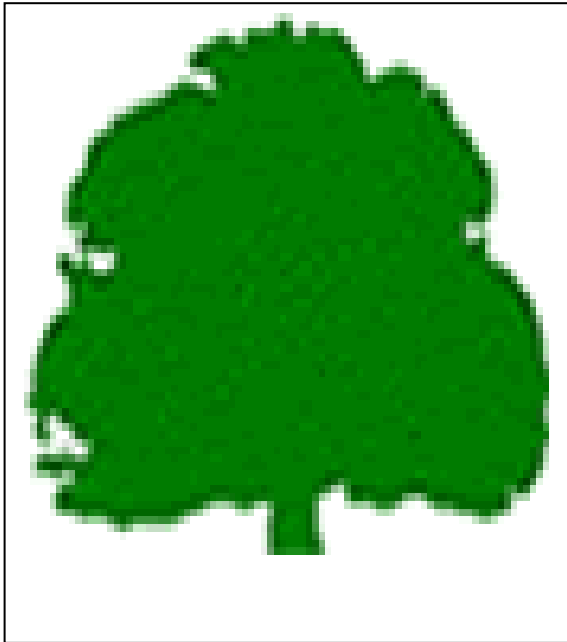
# OSA Newsletter

**Oromo Studies  
Association**

## **In This Issue:**

- 1. A Message from OSA President**
- 2. Papers! Papers!**

O  
S  
A  
  
O  
S  
A  
  
O  
S  
A



D  
e  
c  
e  
m  
b  
e  
r  
2  
0  
0  
6

**OSA OSA OSA**

## 1. A Message from OSA President

Dear OSA Family,

I am writing to you about two important items that need your immediate actions. Actually, both issues are about papers. Among others, OSA is measured by number of conference attendees, quality and quantity of presentations and publications. Hundreds of Oromos and non-Oromos have been attending OSA conferences every year for the last twenty years. OSA has been producing conference proceedings and many volumes of Journal of Oromo Studies (JOS).

OSA conferences have attracted academia, Oromo nationalists, social, political and environmental activists, human rights advocates, health care professionals, historians, anthropologists, diplomats, women and youth groups, artists, and many people from all walks of life. Even though each OSA conference has a theme, the underlying focus has been the Oromo people. The missions and objectives of OSA also emanate from Oromo culture, history, politics, and all things that affect Oromo. OSA exists for all Oromo causes.

Oromo studies are no more a periphery topic to mainstream researchers and intellectuals. As Dr. Mohammed Hasen reported in the OSA Newsletter of October, “Interestingly, an American scholar, who in 1985 attacked the very idea of Oromo Studies as a transient project of few individuals and predicted that will disappear within few years, admitted in front of several scholars, including this writer, that Oromo Studies has come of age, that it has established itself on firm scholarly ground and above all that it needs to be taken seriously. This is an

encouraging development, the outcome of collective efforts over the past two decades by scholars committed to Oromo Studies”.

The just causes of the Oromo people, their physical existence in space and time and the persistence of Oromo intellectuals to rewrite distorted, deleted and blanketed Oromo history have earned international recognition. OSA conference is not a two-day annual ritual. It is where pieces of Oromo culture, history, current problems, outlooks, and personal experiences are brought to live through many presenters. OSA conference is special because it is about forty million Oromos who are yearning for freedom, equality and justice. OSA presentations have become voices for those who have become voiceless and an advocate for a population taken hostage by a brutal dictator. OSA conference is a revival of Oromo soul, spirit and body. Please be part of this historical event by presenting a paper that will reveal the many “undiscovered and unknown” facts about the Oromo people who populate the Horn of Africa.

## 2. Papers! Papers!

First, I would like to thank those who have already sent me their titles. Please give yourself a high five for accomplishing this very important task. Those of you who did not send me your title yet, you still have four days or until February 28, 2007. My recommendation is simple and similar to the popular Nike commercial, but with “now” added and reads as “just do it now”. No Oromo issue is exhaustively discussed and needs no more discussion or no Oromo issue is undiscussable. Bring it on A to Z anything Oromo and the surrounding peoples and share with very receptive audience.

Human rights abuses, unlawful imprisonment, killing, deliberate environmental degradation, ecological imbalance, political suppression, poverty, development, conflict resolution, war, empowerment, forging common front, Oromo history, Gada democracy, siqee, Oromo demography, education system, qubee, standardization of afaan Oromo (Oromiffa), Oromo Diaspora, analysis of the recent elections, Oromia's potential energy resources, agricultural resources, land tenure, health care, women and youth issues. These are just a few of the potential subjects you may consider but the list could go on and on as much as you could imagine. There are many sources of data including literature search, Oromia regional government, UN organizations, NGOs working in Oromia, personal communications and contacts. Of course, you may choose your presentation topic depending on your interest and/or formal training for deeper elucidation.

You all know that OSA conference takes place in a conference hall. The size of the hall depends on the numbers expected presenters and attendees. OSA Conference Organizers can plan ahead of time for such accommodations if only they know what to expect. That is one of the main reasons I have been asking you for your panel and/or title NOW. If you want to present anything, you need to send your title now and an abstract later on. Please do send yours to my e-mail ([hulukgo@auburn.edu](mailto:hulukgo@auburn.edu)) today. This is the final call for a conference title. If you do your part, OSA Conference Organizers will do theirs and make your presentation and attendance an enjoyable experience.

My next request concerns those who made presentation last year at OSA Annual Conference. It is also an early advice for those who are planning to make presentations this year. OSA produces annual conference proceedings and the Journal of

Oromo Studies (JOS) annually and/or semi-annually. OSA puts together the proceedings of the past year's conference, abstracts of the current conference, and distributes to conference attendees every year. This practice can be realized if those of you who presented paper last year send in your manuscript to Dr. Beyan H. Asoba at ([bhasoba@msn.com](mailto:bhasoba@msn.com)). Again, I will like to thank many of who have already sent your paper. We do understand your trying workload and please let Dr. Beyan know about it that you are working on it.

OSA Annual Proceedings and JOS are inseparable from the existence of OSA. OSA is proud of its dedicated members who have done their best and produce a quality material to share with OSA publication readers. Unfortunately, accessibility of these publications is limited to OSA members and/or conference attendees. We live in a digital world where the number of hits generated by a web search engine testifies to our existence in the digital database. OSA has a space in the cyberworld, but did not capitalize on the universal accessibility and equalizing power of the internet. I believe it is time that we digitize OSA publications and make them available for worldwide audience. If you have original file/s of any of these publications (OSA Proceeding, JOS and/or other OSA documents), please send it to me for immediate to OSA website. Longevity and scholarship have been the hallmark of OSA and I believe these will continue for many years to come and your are part of it.

Together, we can do more!

Nagaan,

*Johana Huluka*

OSA President

(<http://www.romostudies.org>)