

CONTRIBUTORS

Ihotu Ali, Macalester 2007 graduate, is pursuing an advanced degree at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, in the Global Epidemiology Program. She is focusing on mental health issues of immigrant/refugee/post-conflict populations and women and men of color. She participated as a Get-Out-the-Vote Trainer with the Obama Campaign and worked for U.S. Congressman Tom Perriello (D-VA) in Washington, D.C. (covering constituent concerns regarding the economic stimulus and health care). She also won an intensive six-month fellowship as a New Leaders Fellow with the Center for Progressive Leadership, in D.C. Ms. Ali is on the Alumni Board of the Ron Brown Scholar Program and a member of the African American Unity Caucus.

Maryan Omar Ali is an archivist of Somali popular songs and plays. She collaborated with Professor Lidwien Kapteijns on *Women's Voices in a Man's World: Women and the Pastoral Tradition in Northern Somali Orature, c. 1899–1980* (1999). She and Prof. Kapteijns also published an article for *Bildhaan*, Vol. 2, entitled, "Hassan Sheikh Muumin: The *Hoobal* as Creator, Preserver, and Social Critic of the National Heritage." Ms. Ali resides in Toronto, Canada.

Lee Cassanelli is the author of *The Shaping of Somali Society* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1982), *Victims and Vulnerable Groups in Southern Somalia* (Research and Documentation Center, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa, Canada, 1995), and numerous articles on Somali history and society. His co-edited book with anthropologist Catherine Besteman, *The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia: The War Behind the War*, is currently in its third printing (Transaction Books, 2003). Professor Cassanelli teaches African and World History at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is Chair of the African Studies Committee and Consulting Curator at the University Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology. He is among the academic leaders who established the Somali Studies International Association, as well as a founding member and associate editor of *Bildhaan*.

Mohamed A. Eno is a Senior Lecturer at ADNOC Technical Institute in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. Multiple award winner for Teaching Excellence and Research, he teaches English as a Second

Language in the Academic Foundation Program and holds a Ph.D. in Social Studies Education. Dr. Eno is a multilingual scholar and poet. He has authored and co-authored several chapters in academic books. His volume, *The Bantu-Jareer Somali: Unearthing Apartheid in the Horn of Africa* (2008), embodies a significant contribution to Somali Studies. He is working on a collaborative research project on Somali Bantu/Jareer literature.

Omar A. Eno is an Adjunct Professor in African History and Director of the African Migration and Development Research Program at Portland State University in Oregon. He teaches such courses as The Modern History of Africa and Islamic History. He and his colleagues have just completed the resettlement process of about 13,500 Somali Bantu refugees into the United States. A poet as well as a multilingual scholar, he has presented at international conferences and published several academic articles and book chapters. His latest publications include "Who is an African: Surveying through the Narratives of African Identity" in *Who is an African: Identity, Citizenship and the Making of the Africa-Nation* (2009), edited by Jideofor Adibe, as well as "The Making of a Modern Diaspora: The Resettlement Process of the Somali Bantu Refugees in the United States," in *African Minorities in the New World* (2007), edited by Toyin Falola and Niyi Afolabi.

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Caasho Sheekh Maxamed is a Somali grandmother who lives half of the time in Ottawa, Canada, and half of the time in Minneapolis. She was an astute market woman in Somalia with an extra talent for composing daring *buraanbur*. Her piece is an illustration of that poetic talent.

Yusuf Sheikh Omar received his Bachelor of Education (teaching Arabic) from International University of Africa, Sudan, in 1994; and a Masters of Human Science: Arabic as a Second Language from International Islamic University in Malaysia in 1999. He is currently in the midst of work toward a Ph.D. at the Refugee Health Research Centre of La Trobe University, exploring young Somali Muslim Diaspora per-

ceptions of cultural negotiations, integration experiences, and coping with diversity. He is the founder and first president of the Australian Somali Youth Association. Publishing in Australian newspapers and international journals, he espouses the philosophy of multiculturalism and actively contributes to the dialogue among civilizations, particularly Islam and the West.

Abdi Ismail Samatar, Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography, University of Minnesota, is the author of several books and numerous articles on the state, African development, and Somalia. He is currently working on a two-volume collaborative project on leaders and democracy in Africa. He is a founding member of the Somali National Civic Forum. His book, *An African Miracle*, was a finalist for the Herskovits Award in 2000, which is the most prestigious scholarly recognition conferred by the African Studies Association. Recent publications include "Ethiopian Invasion, U.S. Warlordism and African Union Shame," in *African Political Economy* (2007) and "Somalia: Back to the Future" (London: *BBC Focus on Africa Magazine*, 2008).

Ahmed I. Samatar is the James Wallace Professor of International Studies and Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College. He is the editor-in-chief of *Bildhaan*.