



## Thank you Friends of Burkina

BARKA...



C'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que je vous annonce que l'électrification du lycée de Garango est devenu réalité.

Au nom de mes collaborateurs, des parents d'élèves et de tous les élèves, je dirai simplement merci aux amis du Burkina Faso, merci pour les sacrifices consentis pour permettre l'amélioration des conditions de travail, mais surtout l'amélioration des performances scolaires des enfants de Garango.

Je vous prie de transmettre toutes nos amitiés à tous vos membres.

Le Proviseur

Payen Frédéric COMPAÛRE





## OUR MISSION

Friends of Burkina Faso, Inc.

a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization  
affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association

- Maintain a network of RPCVs and friends of Burkina Faso
- Provide funding and assistance to support projects in Burkina Faso
- Improve social interaction, communication and information exchange
- Educate others about the country and culture of Burkina Faso

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FRIENDS...



# FBF funds successful projects

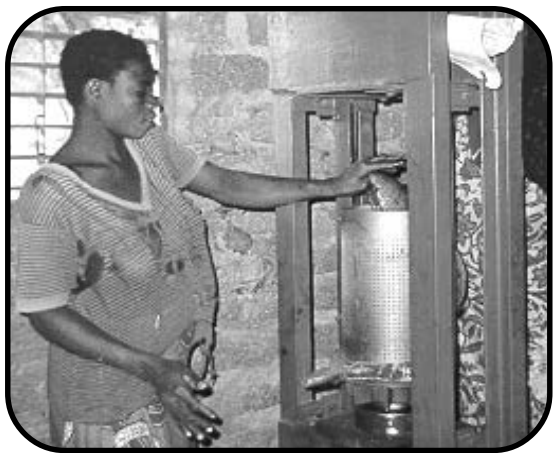
by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70, Projects Committee Chair

This past year, FBF undertook its first serious fund-raising effort, established criteria for developing and assessing proposals (see inset on page 5), and provided financial backstopping to some very worthwhile projects. We have reason to feel good about accomplishments made in support of this great new initiative! Many thanks to all who have generously contributed their time and money. Here's an update:

## Two new projects funded by your contributions

This spring, FBF provided funding to two more projects—the **Karité Cooperative in Babora-Pegora**, near Bobo, and the **Summer Camp** program managed by **FAWE/Peace Corps**.

### Karité Cooperative



Filling the karité oil press

The Karité Cooperative was proposed by **Dr. Salibo Somé**, director of **Africa's Sustainable Development Council** (ASUDEC). The FBF Projects Committee was most impressed with ASUDEC's notion of "passing-on-of-the-gift," the guiding principal underlying this indigenous NGO's approach to sustainable development. (See the reprinted article from the *Atlanta Constitution* about

ASUDEC on page 8). FBF funds were transmitted in March, enabling 35 women members of the cooperative to purchase a hydraulic oil press and to defray costs of materials to build a shelter for the press. Shortly thereafter, a delegation of ASUDEC officials from Ouagadougou called a meeting in Babora-Pegora at which 28 men agreed to assist cooperative members by fabricating the bricks needed to build the shelter. In the future, we hope to be able to provide additional funds to the Babora-Pegora cooperative in support of its micro-credit revolving fund and ASUDEC's institutional capacity building.

### Girls' Summer Camps



*Que serons-nous demain?*

The FBF Projects Committee also agreed to support the **FAWE/Peace Corps Summer Camp** program called "*Que Serons-Nous Demain?*" The principal aim of the camps is to empower female BEPC graduates to lead more successful lives and to equip them with

[Projects — continued on next page]



Tom Vollrath

PROJECTS...





(Projects — continued from previous page)

the necessary skills to become community leaders. The camps are designed to promote self-esteem that underlies critical, intelligent, and healthy decisions. They also expose the young graduates to additional educational and professional opportunities that promise to enhance their personal lives.

We have just received word that 96 teenage girls have been selected to attend camps this summer in **Dedougou, Koudougou, Tenkodogo, Fada N’Gourma, Ouahigouya, Kaya, Dori, and Banfora**. These camps are being run by Peace Corps volunteers working in collaboration with regional directors of education and NGO personnel at the **Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)**. **Mme. Alice Tiendrebeogo**, former Minister of Basic Education for over 10 years, heads up FAWE, a non-governmental organization comprised of eight ministers and 60 eminent educators from 33 national branches.

**Kara Garbe**, PCV manager of Que Serons-Nous Demain? believes that the summer camp program is "an incredibly beautiful thing, among the very best things that Peace Corps is doing in Burkina." Having recently signed up for a third year with the Peace Corps, she has witnessed how the camps have enhanced the girls' opinions about themselves and their self images. The 2003 program is designed to encourage the transfer of basic camp messages back to the schools in the home villages. Kara notes that "every camp will have a session exploring ways in which the girls can go back and help their female *camarades de classe*, through girls' clubs and other activities."



## Update on two previously funded projects

### Lambs Project



Girls enabled to attend school

Last year, FBF funded *l'école mouton* (lambs project) in villages around **Ouahigouya**, sponsored by the Burkinabé organization called **Nimbus, Enfance, Environnement, Education, et Développement (NEEED)**. **Lacine Sawadago**, the lycée professor in Ouahigouya who directs NEEED, has informed us that 131 girls in the **Tangaye** department, who were able to enroll in the six-year primary school program because of FBF contributions, successfully completed their first year of studies and will enter their second year of schooling this next fall.

Monsieur Sawadago also reports that villagers from the northern department of **Oula** have approached him about having young girls from their jurisdiction be eligible to receive financial support via the lambs project. Last year, this support amounted to \$38 per child, with the money being used to purchase school supplies for the first year of schooling and a lamb for the family to raise and sell in subsequent years for school supplies. Personnel at NEEED would like to be able to accommodate the request from Oula. Whether this proves possible depends upon the level of outside funding. A guiding principle of NEEED is the priority put on meeting the educational demands of the villages in which it is already involved. Only should additional



funds be made available will the organization expand its operation to other villages.

This next school year, NEEED hopes to be able to secure sufficient financing to enroll another 200 girls in the lambs project. Should FBF come up with \$7,600 to allocate to this project, recruitment will take place in both the Tangaye and Oula departments during early September. Lacine Sawadago and his colleagues, in consultation with village elders, plan to interview potential students and their parents during September after which selections will be made for the 2003-04 school year.

### Lycée Electrification



Garango students with electricity

Last fall, FBF also funded the electrification of the high school in **Garango** to aid students preparing for the BAC exam. The Projects Committee recently received confirmation from Garango that electricity has reached the local high school and that most, but not all classrooms and administrative offices, now have lighting. On behalf of the local community, **Alain Bambara**, le parain (godfather), and **Frederick Compaore**, le proviseur (principal) thank us for the FBF gift that made it possible to upgrade the infrastructural facilities at the school. (See the letter and photo on page one).

Monsieur Compaore requests additional funds from FBF to equip all classrooms with the necessary wiring and light fixtures.

As you can see, FBF continues to receive requests for additional assistance with projects we currently support (i.e., the Lambs Project, Lycée Electrification, and the Karité Cooperative). The Projects Committee has also received a number of inquiries about supporting other endeavors, including the formation of a cereal bank, financing a grain mill, and underwriting a livestock and garden project. Our ability to continue to assist with grass-roots development efforts in Burkina will depend upon the generous support of our membership and their friends.

We are asking all of you to participate in helping our organization to continue to contribute in meaningful, albeit perhaps small, ways to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in Burkina. Please consider sending us a financial contribution in support of FBF projects!

If you would like to become more involved, please contact me and/or any Project Committee or Board member. Involvement may take many forms and is limited only by your time and imagination.

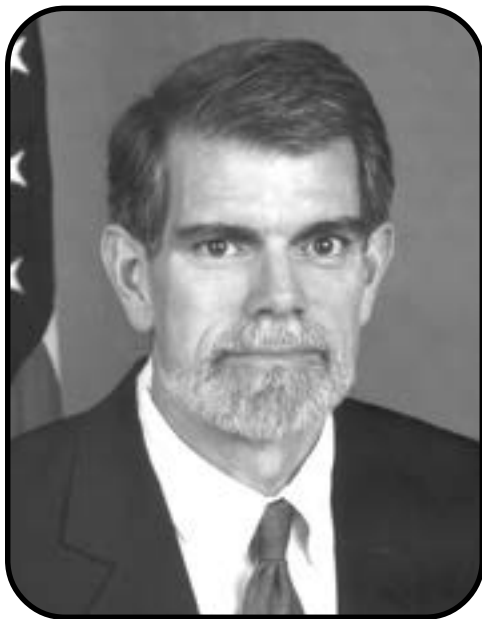
A Projects Manual is now available to guide prospective recipients in our project funding standards and processes. This manual was designed to put everyone, irrespective of geographic or cultural distance, "on the same page" about FBF procedural and selection criteria. Both English and French versions of this manual are available. We are indebted to **Leigh (Woodward) Landrin** and her husband, **Marc**, for the translation into French. 

# PROJECTS





# Field Notes from Tony



J. Anthony "Tony" Holmes  
U.S. Ambassador

## U.S. Aid to Burkina Faso

Even though the USAID mission to Burkina Faso closed in 1995, the United States is still a very significant donor to the Burkinabé people. The bulk of U.S. aid to Burkina Faso — which has averaged \$17-18 million annually in recent years — goes to several large non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as **Catholic Relief Services** (CRS) and **Africare**. Aside from these well-known NGOs and other large but more specialized organizations dealing with such issues as HIV/AIDS, we at the U.S. embassy in Ouagadougou have been able to develop a large number of smaller projects that directly affect the lives of Burkinabé. We do this by tapping a variety of "pots" of money from different areas of the U.S. Government that allow us, for example, to promote democracy, human rights, and improved status of women, which by

nature lend themselves to smaller, more people-to-people activities.

The longest running and best-known program managed by the embassy is the **Special Self-Help Program**, which was established in Burkina Faso in 1974 to facilitate projects begun by local organizations and associations. Burkina Faso was allocated \$129,400 in 2002 and \$124,400 this year, both the highest of any country in Africa. We have funded about 20 projects each year across the country to build schools and health centers, and to assist with grain mills, cereal silos, weaving projects, and even a shea butter production workshop.

Competing with project proposals submitted by our counterparts around the world, we have had good luck in receiving funds to promote democracy and human rights. With about \$200,000 the past two years, we have been able to fund 15 projects designed to both broaden and deepen the accelerating

trends toward a well-rooted and flourishing respect for human rights, an end to the "culture of impunity," and more solid democratic institutions.

Examples include a project with the **Asso-**

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*"... we have been able to develop a large number of smaller projects that directly affect the lives of Burkinabé . . ."*

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**ciation of Burkina Journalists** to establish an identity card for journalists and a network to alert others to violations of freedom of the press. Another involves working with the **Committee for the Fight Against Female Genital Mutilation** to help them with a sensitization campaign by producing exhibitions dealing with FGM and its consequences.

Another "pot" of money set up by USAID's regional program is the

**Ambassador's AIDS Fund**, which allows us to fund directly worthy projects by local groups often too small to be noticed by the major donors. In 2002 the embassy was allocated \$75,000 and selected three programs to fund, including a network of testing and counseling centers, a program that trained individuals to provide home care to AIDS patients, and a program to provide counseling to AIDS patients in villages. We received \$100,000 this year and selected a rapid testing center in a remote province, a micro-credit program for the families of AIDS patients, and a program involving midwives as AIDS prevention counselors.

The **Embassy's Public Diplomacy** fund has allocated over \$41,000 to various groups over the past 18 months, primarily to programs such as the development of women's organizations, English teaching and studies, jazz music, AIDS education, environmental issues, and agricultural development.

The embassy also receives support from the U.S. Defense Department's **European Command**, which has responsibility for Africa. In 2002 it provided \$75,000 for the construction of two schools in **Soum** province and a health center in **Kenedougou** province. EUCOM this year provided excess equipment and supplies valued at \$190,000 to the Ministries of Health and Education.

The embassy received a couple of smaller grants in the past year and a half for other projects. We were allocated \$13,462 for a **Trafficking in Persons** (TIP) grant to provide TIP identification and interdiction techniques to law enforcement authorities. Students will also be taught about the anti-TIP national



legislation that the National Assembly adopted several months ago. We also were allocated \$8,000 last year from the **Business Facilitation Incentive Fund** (BFIF) to host a small workshop on helping Burkinabé businesses learn how to do business with U.S. businesses. We have requested \$7,000 for fiscal year 2003 to host a follow-up workshop to the one held in 2002.

While all these projects have already benefited the people of Burkina Faso, the embassy continues to search for new funding sources and new programs to

implement. We have just received \$100,000 for the **Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program** implemented under the **Education for Development and Democracy Initiative** (EDDI). The embassy has also secured a

\$3.0 million, four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for the prevention of child labor. In addition we will soon receive \$250,000 in State Department **Economic Support Funds** for environmental activities, which will go toward the integration of the large game parks in the southeast corner of the country into a much larger complex that includes the parks on the other sides of Burkina's borders with Niger and Benin.

I continue to be amazed at the overall size and breadth of U.S. Government assistance activities in Burkina Faso, particularly as we have no USAID office and our staff is so small. The reality is, though, that we get an awful lot of mileage out of a fairly modest allocation of U.S. taxpayer funds.




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*"... we get an awful lot of mileage out of a fairly modest allocation ..."*

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U.S. EMBASSY...





# Friends connect for projects



Long-time FBF member Darl Snyder and his daughter, Cherie, meet with Salibo Somé

*[The following is an excerpt from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, by Don Melvin.]*

Naviergane, Burkina Faso —

The farm would be considered minuscule by U.S. standards. But in Burkina Faso, what was accomplished in the past couple of years has been a minor miracle.

The farm was expanded with the help of **Salibo Somé**, another man who began life as a poor villager in southwestern Burkina Faso.

But Somé escaped subsistence farming, earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia and returned home, where he created an organization called **Africa's Sustainable Development Council**, or ASUDEC, through which he hopes to help lift his people out of poverty.

Somé, 45, was born in the village of **Lokpodia** in southwestern Burkina Faso. When Somé was 4, his father died. "The last words he said to me before he died, before he closed his eyes, was, 'They will put you in school,'" Somé said.

Eventually, he graduated from college

in Ouagadougou. He wanted to help people. He had so many ideas. He taught in Ouaga. But still he was not satisfied.

He wrote to ask the advice of a professor he had met at the University of Georgia, **Darl Snyder**, who had been instrumental in starting University of Georgia's African Studies Institute.

Somé went on to create ASUDEC to attack poverty with a holistic approach from many directions.

He wants people to have literacy training and micro-credit. He helps people plant trees to combat deforestation. He wants to chronicle each village's history and preserve its identity.

He wants to educate people about

health, about the environment and about democracy. He wants to teach people about soils, about the dry harmattan winds that blow in from the north in wintertime, even about the solar system. He wants to rid people of the fatalism that stunts ambition.

His plans are being implemented a little at a time. Somé has big ideas but a small budget. So far, ASUDEC is working with 19 villages, comprising about 400 families.

Somé maintains nearly daily contact with Snyder. "Isn't he a gem?" Snyder asked. "He's totally committed, totally honest, he cares for people, and he's dedicated to the future of his country."

It's a good bet that the ideas Somé has hatched so far merely mark a beginning and more are expected to follow.

"Whoo!" he exclaimed, holding his head almost as if he were in pain. "I have such big ideas."



Salibo holding shae nuts at the Karité Cooperative



# Yay, it's Yassa!

by David Marcham, '83-'85

To all Friends of Burkina Faso who are hungry — this is the latest hot biscuit right out of the oven!

Here is **Yassa**, a dish some call the national treasure of **Senegal**. When you invite a special guest you show them honor by serving them this wonderful entrée. Once again this appears courtesy of *The Africa News Cookbook* (Penguin: NY, NY), 1985.

Try not to have too much fun preparing and eating this masterpiece! This recipe is guaranteed to satisfy those friends who like adventurous forays into new culinary territory.

This *bonne recette* serves 8-12 hungry souls. Happy eating and *bon appétit!* À la prochaine! — Frère David.



David Marcham



## YASSA

Serves 8-12

1-2 chickens, cut up, including giblets  
4-5 heads of garlic  
8-10 pounds sliced onions  
1 cup red vinegar  
2-3 fresh chili peppers  
crushed dried chili peppers to taste  
1 tablespoon black pepper  
1-2 tablespoons soy sauce  
oil for frying  
4-6 cups brown or long-grain white rice  
oil to coat pot



Wash chicken pieces; pat them dry. Divide garlic into cloves and crush. In large stew pot, combine onions, garlic, vinegar, and spices. Add chicken pieces. Stir well and let marinate (soak) for at least an hour, or cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight.

When you are poised to cook, remove chicken from marinade and fry in oil until brown. Set pieces aside. Next, remove onions from marinade and fry them in the same oil until they are light brown and somewhat limp. Return onions and chicken to marinade and simmer until you are ready to eat (longer the better!). Add salt, pepper, and soy sauce to taste.

Meanwhile, coat the bottom of another large, heavy pot with a small amount of oil; heat pot and lightly fry rice. Add a little less than two cups of water for every cup of white rice (three cups water per cup if you use brown rice). Bring to boil, cover, simmer and cook for 30 to 50 minutes. Serve by spreading rice a couple of inches deep in a wide, flat platter or bowl. Cool for 5-10 minutes. Distribute chicken pieces evenly over the rice. Pour sauce over dish as desired.

RECIPES...





# Burkina art on exhibit

by Bill Wright, '68-'70



PRESS RELEASE — BELLE MEAD, NEW JERSEY.

**Wright Gallery** announces the opening for its exhibition *Hand and Eye: Ceramics and Photographs of Burkina Faso*.

The photographs of people and places in Burkina Faso were taken by **Patricia Blanchet**, who traveled to Burkina Faso in 2001 and again in April of this year. She has an eye for composition and a strong, subtle sensibility. Using a minimalist yet richly textured aesthetic, her photographs convey a strong sense of place. Her portraits of people in comfortable, relaxed poses possess a serene beauty and grace.

The quality and variety of the ceramics demonstrate the artistic genius of women of Burkina Faso. All of the vessels were used as containers for food, grain, or

water — as functional objects made to fulfill people's daily needs. Wright Gallery appears to have located an artistic nexus in Africa, where ordinary women tap their creative spirits to create extraordinary objects for everyday purposes.

In addition, Wright Gallery is exhibiting an extensive collection of iron art. Most of the objects are also ones used for everyday purposes — hoes, knives, implements of all sorts, as well as bracelets, currency, musical

instruments, and figurative sculpture. Many of the objects have appealing forms, and one becomes aware, as with the ceramic vessels, of how much effort the artist invested to create the best functioning objects. A by-product of the artist's effort is the refined beauty of the object.

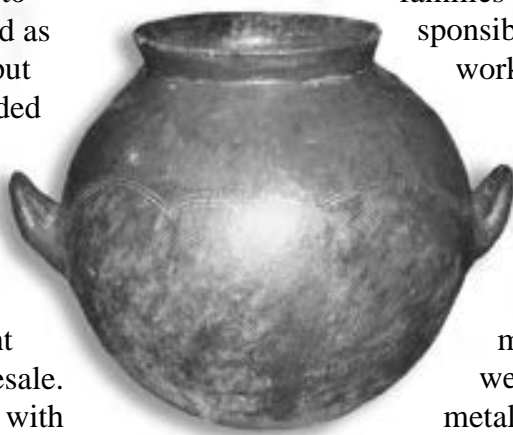
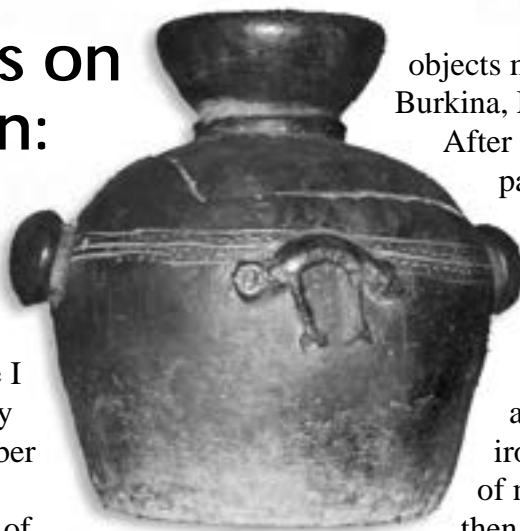


# Afterthoughts on the exhibition:

In the early 1970s I began buying copper alloy (bronze) figures of animals and stylized humans in **Bobo-Dioulasso**. At this time I had a Volkswagen van and my trips to Burkina lasted a number of weeks. Over the course of several trips I visited a group of bronzecasters (blacksmiths) in **Orodara** on the road from Bobo-Dioulasso to **Sikasso** (the old **Dyula** road). I believe these bronzecasters had formerly cast **Toussian** animal pendants though they were now engaged in making larger animal figures for export to Bobo-Dioulasso to be sold as "tourist" art. As their output increased, the group decided to relocate in Bobo-Dioulasso, probably because they wished to be closer to sources of scrap metal and closer to the merchants who bought their bronze objects for resale.

I became more familiar with this bronzecaster group once they settled in Bobo-Dioulasso and filmed a video of them making bronze objects. As I frequented the compound where they worked and spent hours observing activities there, I noticed the women of the blacksmith families were making ceramic vessels which they would leave out to dry in the compound opposite the mens' forge, where activities involving lost wax casting took place. In my readings in later years, I discovered that blacksmiths are oftentimes married to potters.

My exhibition, *Hand and Eye*, featured ceramics from south-central Burkina Faso and a collection of iron



objects mostly from Burkina, Mali and Niger.

After the exhibition passed, I reflected on what I had: upstairs I was exhibiting ceramics, the art of women; and downstairs, iron objects, the art of men. I realized then that a vast

quantity of the art produced in this area of West Africa comes out of a family unit. Besides sharing the role of being artists, looking after practical needs of the community through their work, I realized the men and women of the

families shared another responsibility: both groups work with fire, and through the mastery of fire, they control fire's application in their artistic production.

Fire has about it a mystery. Without fire we would not have metal tools or ceramic

vessels — the material culture of civilized settled life. With it the potters and blacksmith have the power to keep the community on a civilized track.

I propose the following: a future exhibition which would display a high quality, diverse collection of iron objects in conjunction with a collection of ceramic vessels. The exhibition would be accompanied by a display of photographs of potters and blacksmiths at work and at home. The photographs might give insights into the give-and-take in the lives of the family of artists. The exhibition would reflect the context in which art is created in this part of Africa. — Bill Wright



BURKINA ART...





# Field Notes from Julie



Julie Donahue  
Country Director

**G**reetings from Ouagadougou. It has been a busy six months as I adjust to life in Ouagadougou and working with Peace Corps Burkina Faso. After a tumultuous 2002, which saw the addition of a new baby to our family and the three months of medevac that came with that, a return to Peace Corps Cote d'Ivoire (where I was APCD), followed six weeks later by the evacuation of Cote d'Ivoire and two more moves for my family — the stability and calm of life in Ouagadougou has certainly been welcome.

We have also been overwhelmed by the reception we have found here in Burkina from all quarters: the Peace Corps staff and Volunteers to official ministry counterparts to the average Burkinabé on the street — we have felt very welcome in our new home.

Professionally, I have been extremely impressed by the Peace Corps program in Burkina Faso. Having served as APCD in two other West African countries I was floored by the reception I received during my initial courtesy meetings with the Ministers and APCD counterparts in the Ministries of Health and Secondary Education. To hear a Health Minister state

specific project activities that Volunteers are involved in and make recommendations for new geographical areas of intervention was an eye opening experience. To hear the Minister of Education extol the virtues of Volunteer educators was truly heartwarming. The level of involvement that the Burkina government has with our program should be a model for the rest of Africa.

During my first six months much of my time has been devoted to the growth planned for PC/Burkina Faso over the next three years. We have held meetings with the Ministers of Commerce and Tourism to explore the possibility of starting a new **Small Enterprise Development (SED)** project later this year. Based on the results of those meetings we help a participatory project planning workshop with representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to explore the possibilities for collaboration and to set the initial goals for a new SED project. The workshop produced a solid draft project plan and has laid the foundation for our first intake of 15 SED trainees in September.

The SED project will be lead by **Rose Armour**, our newly arrived APCD. Rose has great experience in SED, in West Africa and as essentially an APCD. She is an RPCV from Cote d'Ivoire, where she worked as an Urban Environmental Management Volunteer. Since that time Rose has been working for Americorps in Eugene, Oregon, managing what is essentially a Small Business/Environment project with a strong Ecotourism component. Perfect match for what we are hoping to do here in Burkina.

In addition to the new SED project, which will begin this fall, we are looking at other opportunities for growth. Peace Corps Washington has embraced the President's call to double the size of Peace Corps — to 15,000 Volunteers world wide by 2005. Burkina Faso is one of the



Julie Donahue, the Minister of Commerce, and the US Ambassador  
 • At the opening ceremony of the SED Project Planning Workshop

countries targeted for significant growth as a part of this initiative. In 2002 Burkina Faso received **45** trainees, in 2003 we will receive **60** trainees, and in 2004 we are slated to receive **95** trainees. Over the course of the past few months, the staff and I have been working on creating a strategic plan for this growth. We are hoping that Washington will approve adding two new projects to our current programming department.

One of the new projects will be in the area of **Girls' Education** — geared at the primary school level and working with schools and communities to increase girls' enrollment and retention rates as well as increasing the numbers of girls going on to secondary school.

The other new project we have proposed is in the area of **Agriculture/Environmental Development**. This project is far less defined than the Girls' Education project at this point, but initial meetings with the Minister of the Environment indicate that the government is very supportive of Peace Corps reentering this sector.

Beyond these plans for the future, Peace Corps has continued to march on this year. In June we received the latest group of trainees for the **Health Education and Secondary Education** projects. The 35 trainees have gone through their first four weeks of training and as I type are out visiting their future sites for the week. The group is truly terrific, very motivated and hard working. They have impressed the staff immensely and have even received kudos from the currently serving PCVs.

These trainees will swear in as Volunteers on August 29 at the Ambassador's residence here in Ouaga. Swearing In will be followed three short weeks later by the arrival of our second training group for the year. We expect 25 trainees (15 SED and 10 more Health) on September 24.

Our Girls' Education project is, in large part, an outgrowth of the Girls' Camps activities that Volunteers have been involved with over the past few years. This year, Girls' Camp is a joint venture between the local NGO **FAWE** (Forum for African Women Educationalists) and Peace Corps. PCVs are working with FAWE representatives in eight regions of the country to manage the camps over the week of July 27-August 2. Allow me to thank **Friends of Burkina Faso** for the financial and moral support you are providing to Girls' Camp this year. Friends of Burkina Faso is yet another example of the strong alliances I have inherited that make serving as Country Director in the Faso a real joy.

In more general Burkina news, the rains have been falling fast and furious over the past several weeks. I was in the **Bulsa** area yesterday looking at a Volunteer project and could not believe the height of the millet for so early in the season. *Insha'allah* the rains will continue and Burkina will have a strong harvest this year.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the summer and fall. Thank you for your continued interest. I look forward to continuing the relationship that Nelson and his predecessors had with FBF.



PEACE CORPS...





# Welcome to ABURWA!

by Marianne Bailey

ABURWA, the **Association of Burkinabé in the Washington Area**, was formed on March 16, 2003 as an umbrella organization, bringing together the greatest number of Burkinabé possible to work on common problems and goals. Some of ABURWA's focus areas will be: mutual support in cases of medical, financial, or other problems; outreach to newly arrived Burkinabé; promotion of Burkina's art and culture; and public awareness about Burkina Faso. ABURWA enjoys great support from **Ambassador Zongo** and his staff.

ABURWA had the chance to meet with some FBF Washington/Baltimore area members at a very enjoyable dinner arranged jointly by the two organizations. In addition to good food and conversation, the two groups shared insights about organizational issues such as non-profit status and by-laws, and other matters.

ABURWA welcomes the involvement of all Burkinabé and Friends of Burkina Faso to help them pursue their goals. Ideas and suggestions are welcome and can be sent by email to **aburwa2003@yahoo.com**.

The officers of ABURWA are:

- Président Alex Bambara
- Vice Présidente Fadima Savadogo
- Secrétaire General Sibiri Sawadogo
- Secrétaire Général Adjointe Haoua Twitty
- Trésorier Jean G. Guere
- Trésorier Adjoint Christian Konate
- Affaires Culturelle Samuel Kiendrébéogo
- Commissaire aux Comptes Adissa Barry
- Commissaire aux Comptes Adjoint Prosper Bazié



## ABURWA News Release on the Wrongful Death of Our Brother Ousmane Zongo

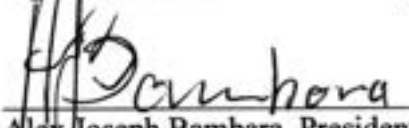
As members of the Association of the Burkinabé of the Washington Area, we were collectively frustrated, outraged and stunned by the killing of our fellow citizen Ousmane Zongo, on Thursday, May 22, 2003. He was inflicted with four lethal shots by New York police officer Bryan Conroy.

A specialist in African art restoration and repair, Ousmane Zongo had no criminal record and was not wanted for any kind of wrongdoing. Moreover, he was unarmed when the shooting occurred. His only crime was to have been found in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and that happened to be his workplace.

Considering this reckless crime, the Burkinabé community of the Washington area joins the mourning Burkinabé community in New York, the sister African communities, all peace-loving, justice-heeding and tolerance-minded organizations in condemning this act of brutality, and demanding undelayed justice and reparation.

Under the current painful circumstances, ABURWA shares the sorrow and reaches out to Ousmane Zongo's loved ones, and extends its deepest sympathy to his family, especially the widow and the two orphans, for the well-being of which he used to work seven days a week, and for whom he went to work that fateful day, in that doomed storage warehouse, where he met his fate.

Signed on behalf of ABURWA,

  
 Alex Joseph Bambara, President  
 Washington DC

# Shoulda been there!

The National Peace Corps Association held its annual meeting and conference in Portland, Oregon August 1-3. The conference featured NPCA Board meeting, workshops and at least a few opportunities to socialize and enjoy Oregon microbrews, wines and music (Pepé and the Bottled Blondes).

Kevin Quigley was introduced as the new President of NPCA. The Advocacy Network, which provides a method for RPCVs to have a voice in important issues, is focusing on congressional adoption of the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century, and funding Peace Corps expansion. The Presidents Forum addressed a list of issues that the RPCV community want to put on the Advocacy Network agenda.

The Peace Corps Domestic Programs Office also participated in the conference. The Crisis Corps, a Peace Corps program for returned volunteers, provides another way RPCVs can stay connected to the Peace Corps experience. Further information about registering for Crisis Corps can be found at the Peace Corps web site.

Our *Burkina Connection* won "Best Newsletter" Award. Only one other BF RPCV was registered for the conference, so FBF activities were mostly limited to reminiscing with Jim Schneider and Dave Edwards, two of the training staff for Upper Volta I.

The National Peace Corps Association will meet again next year in Chicago. The meeting in Portland attracted around 200 RPCVs, but next year's conference will be much larger. Friends of Burkina Faso will have a great reunion at that event.



## Seeking lost person

If anyone out there happens to have a contact address for **Patrick Robinson** I would appreciate it. Pat taught English in **Nouna** 1982-84 (and later worked in Burundi or Rwanda and Benin with Peace Corps).

FYI, I work for the humanitarian organization *Médecins Sans Frontières*, and was recently on a short mission in Ivory Coast. The situation there is quite terrible, particularly for the Burkinabé. They have been chased off the land they developed, attacked, and killed. They have watched their neighborhoods in Abidjan get bulldozed at the snap of a finger. Now they live in fear, constantly worried about aggression and absorbing daily shake-downs by the authorities. By some estimates as many as 350,000 have returned home in the past year. I hope they are able to make things work in Burkina.

— **Marc DuBois**, Nouna/Djibasso, 1983-85: [m\\_ofwood@yahoo.com](mailto:m_ofwood@yahoo.com)



## Get on Board!

Elections are coming up soon for Friends of Burkina board and committee members. You're invited to apply. Throw your hat in the ring. It's a fun and rewarding opportunity. You get to see old friends, make new ones, work on meaningful activities, and fulfill the PCV goal of bringing it all home. We're also seeking newsletter editors, bulk-mailing naabas, webmaster assistants, and project committee members. A nominating committee is taking form. Contact any board or committee member, they'll tell you all about your role. Help keep the Burkina flame alive by continuing to serve. Step forward now.

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