

new slate of officers will concentrate on consolidating and expanding the accomplishments of ACASA's initial years, primarily in terms of enhanced liaison with ASA.

OBITUARIES

MORRIS RIEGER

(The following article from *The Washington Post*, Friday, June 15, 1984, was submitted to *ASA News* by Rebecca E. Rieger.)

Morris Rieger, 65, a retired official of the National Archives, where he specialized in international affairs, and a full-time volunteer with the International Council on Archives, died of heart and lung ailments June 10 at George Washington University Hospital.

Mr. Rieger, who lived in Bethesda, was born in New York City. He graduated from the City College of New York and later did graduate work at Columbia, Johns Hopkins and American universities. During World War II, he served in the Navy.

In 1941, Mr. Rieger moved to Washington to begin his career at the National Archives. Among other duties, he was head of the labor and transportation branch and special assistant on international relations. He had a particular interest in records relating to Africa.

Mr. Rieger retired from the government in 1972 and became a full-time volunteer with the International Council on Archives. He was deputy secretary general and chairman of the committee on archival development of that organization and was elected to honorary membership in it. He lectured in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Southeast Asia on U.S. archival practices.

Survivors include his wife, Rebecca E. Rieger of Bethesda, and a brother, Samuel Rieger of Seattle.

DOROTHY DEE VELLENGA

(The following was submitted by Penelope M. Roach.)

Dee Dee Vellenga (b. Feb. 22, 1937-d. Oct. 3, 1983) began her involvement with African studies when she joined the first Peace Corps group of volunteers who were sent to Ghana in August 1961. Dee Dee taught biology at West Africa Secondary School in Accra until 1963. At the completion of her Peace Corps service Dee Dee began studies for degrees in African Studies and Sociology at Columbia University where she was a Ford Foundation International Fellow. She returned to Ghana where she undertook dissertation research on "Exchange and Control in Family Law." She received her Dip. Certificate in African Studies in 1966 and her Ph.D. in 1975. Dee Dee was also a recipient of a NDFL fellowship and a Social Science Research Council Post-doctoral fellowship. Dee Dee returned to Ghana in 1974 and again in 1975-76 when she continued her research on the economic networks among Ghanaian women farmers. She also carried out research in London and the Basel Archives on patterns of colonialism, legal development and family law in Ghana. Dr. Vellenga has published many articles in journals such as the *International Labor Review* and in *Ghana and the Ivory Coast: Perspectives on Modernization* (1972) on "Attempts to Change the Marriage Laws in Ghana and the Ivory Coast." Her work can also be read in *Female and Male in West Africa*, edited by C. Opong (1983). A recent historical article on missionaries in the Basel Mission in Ghana will be appearing in the *Journal of Third World Studies*, Spring 1985. Dr. Vellenga was completing revision of her manuscript on *Women, Inequality and Conflict in Southern Ghana*. Despite her eight year struggle with cancer, Dee Dee continued to work with students at Muskingum College (New Concord,

Ohio) where she taught from 1972 and continued to research, write and participate in activities which furthered knowledge and engagement with the future of Ghana and African peoples. In October 1983 she presented a paper on "Food as a Cash Crop for Women Farmers in Ghana: The Persistent Search for Profit," at the first meeting of the Association of Women in Development.

MICHAEL IHEONAKARA OKPARA

(It is with deep sadness that we learned from *West Africa*, January 7, 1985, of the death of Dr. M. I. Okpara, Chancellor of the University of Benin since 1982. The following is excerpted from the *West Africa* article written by C. C. Ihekaibeya.)

Dr. Okpara was born on December 25, 1920, in Umuegwu Okpuala, Ohuhu, Umuahia, Imo State, Nigeria. Early education was at the local Methodist school and the Methodist College, Uzuakoli. He went to Yaba Higher College on a scholarship in 1941 and completed his medical studies at the Nigerian School of Medicine in 1947.

At the end of the (Nigerian) civil war in 1970, Dr. Okpara went to Ireland where he remained in self-exile for seven years. Living in very modest circumstances, this great believer in self-improvement who taught himself French in spite of all his ministerial and party duties, went for further studies gaining the medical diploma of the Licentiate of Apothecaries Hall, Dublin. He was installed Chancellor of the University of Benin in 1982.

Dr. Okpara's political reputation and claim to national status lay in his record as Premier of the then Eastern Region of Nigeria. A firm believer in economic progress he presided over a strong industrialization program and, in particular, a vigorous and popular agricultural policy. His "Back to the Land" slogan, and rural farm settlement scheme, increased food production and provided massive employment opportunities for young school-leavers. With his own extensive farm in his home town, Dr. Okpara set a personal example that was embraced by many throughout the region.

Dr. Okpara had an infectious sense of humor, his conversation was full of wit and wisdom. A genuine family man, now survived by Mrs. Adanma Okpara and six children, his wife was also perhaps his closest confidante.

For his immediate family and community, Dr. Okpara's death is a terrible loss and a source of immeasurable pain. He will be missed by his immediate political and cultural constituency who alone will feel the eternal silence of its protective lion, and who alone know, that in the very nature of things, charismatic leadership built on a solid achievement is a rare commodity and hardly repeats itself within a generation. The nation and the developing world beyond will miss a rare and desirable example of competence and achievement mingled with integrity and selfless dedication to the public cause. This is the legacy which today commands this salute to a hero.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVISTA INTERNACIONAL DE ESTUDOS AFRICANOS

This is a new journal prompted by the felt need for an interdisciplinary and international forum for social sciences on Africa, with special reference to Portuguese-speaking Africa. Its purpose is to contribute to stimulating new research, not only at an international level in general, but particularly in Portugal and Portuguese-speaking Africa where African studies programs are just beginning.