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UFAHAMU
JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN ACTIVIST ASSOCIATION

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UFAHAMU accepts contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may include scholarly articles, political-economic analysis, commentaries, review articles, film and book reviews and poetry. Manuscripts must be between 20-30 pages, clearly typed, double spaced, with footnotes on separate page(s). Contributors should keep copies of their manuscripts. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit any manuscript to meet the objectives of the journal. Authors must submit two copies of their manuscripts and a brief biographical note, including position, academic affiliation and recent significant publications, etc. All correspondence - manuscripts, subscriptions, books for review, inquiries, etc. - should be addressed to the Editor - in - Chief at the above address.

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Mazisi Kunene (Ph. D.), who retired from his position as professor of African Literature at UCLA in July 1993, now holds a faculty position at the University of Natal. Professor Kunene is a prolific poet, best known for his epic poems *Emperor Shaka* and *Anthem of the Decades*.

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *Ufahamu* brings my tenure as the journal's Editor-in-Chief to a close. Serving in this capacity has been a very enriching experience, albeit a challenging one. What would otherwise have been a daunting responsibility was transformed into a rewarding learning vocation by the participation of the tremendous team that I worked with. Members of the journal's editorial board were a wonderful group to work with, diligently executing their evaluation and editorial responsibilities even at the oddest times. Working as volunteer students is an invaluable contribution that members of the editorial board made to ensure the continued production of the journal and maintenance of its status as a top student journal in the world.

In the performance of my duties I enormously benefited from individual colleagues, friends, and mentors whom I would like to individually thank for their help. Although there were two other editors-in-chief between him and me, I have continued to benefit from the wise counsel of my friend, Prof. Ali Jimale Ahmed, who has always found time from his crazy schedule as a professor, jet-set peace negotiator, and consultant on the Somali crisis, to evaluate some of our articles, contribute to and solicit papers for the journal, and, quite often, just find out how the journal is doing. Immediately before me was a wonderful lady who not only offered to continue serving on the journal's editorial board, but also frequently called in to actually ask if there was any work I would have liked her to help with. Joyce Boss' extensive experience with the UCLA Graduate Students Association and the University's administrative procedures pertaining to student publications helped me go through the UCLA web of publication bureaucracy with much less difficulty than would otherwise have been expected. *Ahsanta*, Joyce! The person to whom *Ufahamu* shall for ever remain indebted is Yonas Admassu. A long time production editor, Yonas literally carried *Ufahamu* on his shoulders, even during some of the journal's most turbulent times. His was utter sacrifice to the journal. *Bāt'am amäsäginallähu*, Yonas! Our faculty advisor, Prof. Teshome H. Gabriel, has remained as helpful and as resourceful as usual, providing me with advice on how to improve the journal and steering the journal through occasional rough waters to bring it to safe anchor. I wish to sincerely thank all these individuals, members of the editorial board, the two James S. Coleman African Studies Center directors under whom I served, Profs. Merrick Posnansky and Edmond Keller, our sponsors, the African Activist Association, and other benefactors of the journal for their help and cooperation. I also wish to welcome *Ufahamu*'s new Editor-in-Chief, Kier James Riemersma, and wish him good luck in his new capacity.

In 1993, UCLA lost to retirement one of the leading African scholars not only on campus but indeed in the world. Prof. Mazisi Kunene returned to his native South Africa to take up a faculty position at the University of Natal. A leading literary figure, Kunene is best known for his epic poem, *Anthem of the Decades*. While at UCLA he was Professor of African Languages in the Department of Linguistics where he taught Zulu language, and also taught African literature in the Department of English. We wish to dedicate this issue of *Ufahamu* to Kunene for his contribution to learning. As a tribute to Kunene, we have included in this issue his farewell speech and the keynote speech by Prof. Ntongela Masilela of Pitzer College, both of which were delivered at Kunene's farewell party at UCLA. We also thought it fitting for Kunene's literary prowess to include in this issue only articles on literature. We hope our readers will benefit from both Kunene's wisdom and these fascinating articles.

To all the subscribers of *Ufahamu*, its readers, benefactors, and friends, from me it is

**KWAHERI DEHNA HUNU MA'A SALAAMA
HASTA LUEGO GOOD-BYE AU REVOIR**

Angaluki Muaka