

Forum: Progress in Africa often goes unnoticed

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Many African nations are known for their problems – extreme poverty, disease and human rights violations.

At the same time, some of these nations also are making advances that can benefit them far into the future.

These and other issues were discussed Monday in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota as part of one of the regular International Forums.

Dr. Moses Ikiugu, a native of Kenya and a member of USD's School of Health Sciences, said that while positive changes are occurring, they do not get as much news coverage.

For example, Kenya implemented at new constitution in 2010 that was based on that of the United States.

"Already because of those improvements, we are seeing a lot of positive developments," Ikiugu said.

For example, Kenya has seen an annual 5-6 percent growth in its GDP, he said.

With the discovery of oil in

places like South Sudan, some nations now find themselves drawing the attention – and business – of countries like China.

However, problems also can arise from this and other relationships, said Dr. Benno Wymar, retired economics professor of both USD and the University of Nairobi.

"In the past there were often complaints that especially Western countries would go there and take advantage of Africans by paying low wages," Wymar said. "There are some complaints on the African side that the Chinese are taking advantage of the Africans."

"The Chinese have set up their own manufacturing centers manned by Chinese. Some people say they should employ more Africans. This is a common problem worldwide," he said.

Countries like Mexico have sidestepped this issue by passing laws requiring a certain amount of Mexican-born supervisors be employed by foreign-owned companies, he said.

Wymar said these nations

could take advantage of their low wages by manufacturing cheap goods for export, with room for growth in terms of product quality.

Germany did something similar with its automobile industry after World War II, he said.

"The VW bug was the cheapest car you could buy," Wymar said. "It's now exporting Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes, et cetera."

Ikiugu agreed, adding that in the 1980s Japan geared its auto industry toward the requirements of the world economy.

"They knew what people needed. People needed economical cars that were no gas-guzzlers," he said.

Along with oil, nations like Kenya are among the biggest resources of minerals such as chromium and gold.

Because the United States does not have a long-standing relationship with these nations, Ikiugu said these resources will "go to China, which will then send them to the U.S."

However, just because a country has a resource other nations need, there is no



Dr. Benno Wymar (right) discusses his time in Kenya as Dr. Don Pryne and Dr. Moses Ikiugu listen during an International Forum Monday afternoon at USD.

(Photo by David Lias)

guarantee it will be.

Wymar pointed out that like Kenya, oil has been discovered in Nigeria, but because of long-time political and social problems the

country sees limited benefits from it.

"It should be one of the richest countries in all Africa, but what a mess that place is," he said. "Who wants to go

there? It's terrible. Most of the people live there on less than a dime a day."

The event was sponsored by the Beacom School of Business.

THIS WEEK IN S.D. NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

By CW5 Duke Doering (Ret.)
SDNG Historian

In recognition of the South Dakota National Guard's 150 years of service to the state and nation from 1862-2012, the SDNG will be publishing significant dates in the history of the organization all year long for the media's use in your publications or broadcasts.

For more information on these events, please contact the SDNG Historian, CW5 Duke Doering at (605) 737-6581, or e-mail duke.doering@us.army.mil.

On this date in SDNG history:

April 3, 1945

On this date in SDNG history - 2nd Lt. Clarence A. Thompson, 147th Field Artillery, was killed at the port of Legaspi, Albay, the Philippines during World War II. Thompson, the first 147th officer lost in combat operations in more than a year, was killed by shell fragments while adjusting fire during the night. Japanese troops had occupied the area since 1942. American forces, with artillery fire from the 147th, supported the Filipino liberation forces and Bicolano guerrillas in successfully liberating Legaspi in 1945.

April 4, 1937

On this date in SDNG history - The 2nd Battalion, 147th Field

Artillery was commanded by Lt. Col. Leslie Jensen on this date in 1937.

Jensen was a very interesting Soldier who had a long and distinguished career. As a young man, he was a cadet at Culver Military Academy. He had been the regiment supply officer for the 4th South Dakota Infantry on the Mexican Border in 1916-17. Jensen was adjutant of the 147th Field Artillery Regiment in France during World War I. In 1936, he was elected governor of South Dakota. He retained his assignment as battalion commander, and for two years, had the unique distinction of being - at the same time - a battalion commander and his own commander-in-chief as governor. There may have been some conflict of interest in this dual-status, but the question

was never raised. When the 147th Field Artillery was called to active duty in 1940, he went with the regiment to Fort Ord, Calif., as the regiment executive officer. When Col. Foster was relieved, he succeeded to command of the 147th Field Artillery, and as a colonel, led the unit in the South Pacific in World War II. The unit had left Pearl Harbor on Nov. 30 and was on the way to the Philippines on Dec. 7, 1941. After the Japanese attack, the unit was diverted to Darwin, Australia. Jensen continued in command until 1944 when he became a senior staff officer on Gen. Kruger's staff. Gen. Kruger was the overall ground commander in the Pacific Theater. After the war, Jensen returned to Hot Springs to resume management of his family-owned telephone company.

April 5, 1991

On this date in SDNG history - Several South Dakota National Guard units in the Black Hills region were called to provide air and ground assistance to 580 firefighters who were called to put out the Horse Creek fire 12 miles west of Rapid City. "I think nearly all the units in the Hills area are involved somehow in this operation," said Lt. Col. Dennis Pike, military support officer for the South Dakota National Guard. Trucks, fueling equipment and dozers supported the ground effort while UH-1 "Huey" helicopters flew more than 60 dousing missions. "Flying in a fire is tough enough, but if the wind is strong it becomes a real challenge," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bill Waeckerle. The Huey's flew directly over the fire and dumped water with a

140-gallon "Bambi Bucket," which was filled from local lakes. The fire claimed an estimated 1,510 acres.

April 6, 2004

On this date in SDNG history - The 740th Transportation Company had been in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nearly one year - they had arrived in Kuwait on April 20, 2003. On April 6, 2004, nearly one year later, they were considered "mission complete." They were to turn the mission over to a new unit and prepare to return to their home stations in Milbank and Brookings. The 740th was within five days of returning to the United States when on April 9 Capt. Dan Stapleton learned that all re-deployment operations had been put on hold. The unit was told that they were needed to help the 1st Armored Division,

1st Cavalry Division, 1st Infantry Division and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force on haul missions into Iraq because of the deteriorating situation. It seems there was an increase in violence and uprisings in Iraq. This push was supposed to last two to three weeks. It was July before the final, and real, "mission complete" was announced. The 740th departed Kuwait on July 27 for return to Fort Carson, Colo. Staff Sgt. Robert Weinmeister's log reported that during their tour they had logged more than 2 million miles on nearly 400 missions. They completed haul missions to 41 different camps to every area of the country. They encountered several incidents when convoys were hit with IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and small arms fire, but there were few injuries and most of those were not severe.



THANK YOU!

It is a great honor that we have been selected as Vermillion's 2011 United Way Volunteer of the Year. We would like to thank everyone involved. We also would like to recognize all of the other volunteers within our community-they truly do make Vermillion GREAT!

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Dave & Nikki Stammer

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Acclaimed Subject of the Book,
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Frank Abagnale

Lecture

Monday,

April 16, 2012

7 p.m.

Aalfs Auditorium

Slagle Hall

These Events are Free and Open to the Public

Frank W. Abagnale is one of the world's most respected authorities on forgery, embezzlement and secure documents. His rare blend of knowledge and expertise began more than 40 years ago when he was known as one of the world's most famous con men. This was depicted most graphically in the movie *Catch Me If You Can*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks.

Between the ages of 16 and 21, Abagnale successfully posed as an airline pilot, an attorney, a college professor and a pediatrician, in addition to cashing \$2.5 million in fraudulent checks. He served five years in prison before being released on the condition that he would help the federal government by teaching and assisting federal law enforcement agencies.

Abagnale has now been associated with the FBI for more than 30 years. More than 14,000 financial institutions, corporations and law enforcement agencies use his fraud prevention programs.

catch me if you can

April 12, 13 and 14 — 7 p.m.

Beacom Hall, Room 133

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