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## Front Matter, Introduction

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University of Dayton  
Alumni Chair in the Humanities

# The 2019 Global Voices Symposium

*January 29 and March 27, 2019*

*Proceedings compiled and edited by Julius A. Amin  
Professor, Department of History  
Alumni Chair in the Humanities*

The Global Voices Symposium is designed to educate, inform, and contribute to ongoing conversations to strengthen global consciousness and awareness on the University of Dayton's campus and the larger Dayton community. It brings together faculty, staff, students, and community leaders to discuss and find ways to enhance global engagement within our community. It is the hope that these conversations will help us to find commonality in the human experience, identify things that unite rather than divide, and enable us to engage one another to learn and be informed. The symposium challenges us to continue to dare as we build a vibrant diverse, inclusive, and multicultural community.

These proceedings contain content provided by the participants voluntarily; some presenters opted not to include their presentation materials in the proceedings. Texts have been edited for clarity.

Compiled and edited by  
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# Symposium Speakers

## **Keynote address**

- Dr. Nwando Achebe (Jack and Margaret Sweet Endowed Professor of History, Michigan State University)

## **Global Voices on Campus: Why the Symposium Matters**

- Chris Agnew, Chair (University of Dayton)
- David Fine (University of Dayton)
- Monica Harris (City of Dayton)
- Miranda Hallett (University of Dayton)
- Fahmi Abboushi (Central State University)

## **Student Voices: Prospects and Challenges of Global Consciousness**

- Bryan Borodkin (University of Dayton)
- Maya Smith-Custer (University of Dayton)
- Jenea Adams (University of Dayton)

## **Alumni Voices: Celebrating Global Engagement**

- Haimanti Roy, chair (University of Dayton)
- Clementine Bihiga (Motivational Speaker)
- Justin Forzano (Cameroon Football Development Program)
- Kwyn Townsend Riley (Writer)
- Matt Joseph (City of Dayton)
- Christine Vehar Jutte (Craig Technologies Inc.)

## **Community Voices and the Impact of Global Awareness**

- Chair, Monica Harris (City of Dayton)
- Arch Grieve (Dayton Council on World Affairs)
- Eugenie Kirenga (City of Dayton)
- Rev. Xavier Johnson (Bethel Missionary Baptist Church)
- Martha-Jeanette Rodriguez (City of Dayton)
- Cyril Ibe (Good Evening Africa)
- Michael Murphy (Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley)

# Introduction

*Julius Amin*

Good evening. My name is Julius Amin. I am Professor of History and Alumni Chair in the Humanities here at the University of Dayton. On behalf of the Global Voices Symposium Planning Committee composed of Drs. Chris Agnew and Haimanti Roy, Mrs. Sangita Gosalia, and Monica Harris I welcome you to this event. Working on the Global Voices Symposium entailed collaboration with colleagues across campus and the larger Dayton Community. Let me take a minute or so to recognize a few people who played a vital role in this effort.

First, I want to recognize UD President Dr. Eric Spina, whose vision that we create a “university for the common good” enabled us to think in bold new directions. We thank you.

I extend my thanks to Dr. Paul Benson, provost of the University of Dayton, and to Dr. Jason Pierce, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who believed in us to get this done. We thank you for the continuous support.

My thanks go to Dr. Amy Anderson, Dr. Daria Graham, and Mrs. Merida Allen, who provided important suggestions to the Planning Committee.

Dr. Juan Santamarina, the chair of the Department of History, was always supportive. We thank you.

The staff at the office of the Alumni Chair in the Humanities was magnificent. Administrative Assistant Heidi Haas and Student Assistant Bharath Kumar Inguva took care of all the arrangements.

Amy Lee of the Kennedy Union helped us to identify space to reschedule events. The staff at Catering and Food Services ensured that everything was done right. Thank you.

I extend my gratitude to all the presenters: students, alumni, and our colleagues from the City of Dayton. Your presentations challenged our students to develop a sense of global awareness. It was a joy to listen to you.

Finally, I want to recognize faculty, staff, students, and all present for buying into the idea that the University of Dayton and the larger Dayton community is a global space, and therefore must continue to search for ways to turn that notion into reality.

This symposium provided an opportunity to gather on campus to learn and to educate each other on the importance of global awareness. All of you will agree with me that this is an important moment in history. Recent and repeated attacks on the diverse nature of the global community should not deter us. Rather they should embolden efforts to continue to create a diverse and inclusive community. By its very nature a university campus demands that its members challenge the dictatorship of ignorance.

Global and intercultural consciousness are at the heart of the University of Dayton's mission. Two years ago, in his inaugural address, President Spina stated that "intercultural excellence" is a must. It was and remains a timely message and calls for a paradigm shift. People from diverse backgrounds must be respected, and not just tolerated.

Roughly 60 years ago, in his commencement speech, President John F. Kennedy exhorted students to take seriously their obligations to promote human understanding. He stated, and I quote:

Let us ... direct attention to our common interests. ... We can help make the world safe for diversity. ... In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit

this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

Whether you come from Washington, D.C., or Beijing, or Accra, or Abuja, or Yaoundé, or Mexico City, or Riyadh, or New Delhi, and yes, or from Dayton, Ohio, we all inhabit the same earth surface. All of us must rededicate ourselves to imploding the diseases of intolerance and hate, which are becoming increasingly infectious. We must celebrate the world's diverse cultures, traditions, religions, and peoples. It is the wave of the future.

