



Dr. Waveney Olembo

1.0 Personal Information

- Citizen of Kenya of Guyanese birth
- Born – January, 1944.
- Married
- Female
- Mother tongue – English.
- Contact: P. O. Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. Telephone: (254) 20-8710901(Office), (254) 724 155 085 (Cell). Email: <olembo.waveney@ku.ac.ke>

2.0 Qualifications

- Doctor of Arts (D.A.), English: Idaho State University, U.S.A., 2006.
- Master of Arts in Education (M.A.E.): Ball State University, Indiana, U.S.A., 1973.
- B.A., English and Spanish: University of Guyana, 1970. (A five-year part time programme, post A – level).
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Dip. Ed. of 2 years duration): University of Guyana, 1971.

3.0 Scholarships/Distinction

- Doctor of Arts scholarship, Idaho State University, 2002.
- Fulbright-Hays scholarship for Masters degree study, 1972.
- Government County Scholarship awarded on merit, Government of Guyana, to cover secondary education.
- Distinction in the practice of teaching (one award made in the class of 1971, University of Guyana).

4.0 Employment History

- Senior lecturer, Kenyatta University, Department of Literature, 1986 – present.
- Trainer in the Student Training in Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP) at Kenyatta University, 2012 – 2014 and in Kiambu District in 2014.
- Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Departments of Literature and Communications and Technology, 1976 – 1986.
- Lecturer (English), Kenya Polytechnic, General Studies Department, 1975 – 1976.
- Co-ordinator, English curriculum for secondary schools, Ministry of Education, Guyana, 1973 – 1974.

- Assistant mistress (English, French, Spanish), secondary schools, Guyana, 1963 – 1972.
- Clerical officer, Inland Revenue Department, Georgetown, Guyana, 1962 – 1963.

5.0 Administrative Responsibilities

- Chairman, Literature Department, Kenyatta University, 1992 – 1996 and 2001 – 2002.
- Chairman, Culture Week Committee, Kenyatta University, 1997 and 1998.
- Chairman, Curriculum Committee, Literature Department, 2009 to the present.
- Member, School Curriculum Committee, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kenyatta University, 2012 to the present.
- Mentor, assigned students, 2011 to the present.
- Academic Advisor – continuous.
- Treasurer, Department Welfare Committee, 2014 to the present.
- Member, Senate Executive Committee, Kenyatta University, 1994 – 1996.
- Chairman, Seminars Sub-committee, Culture Week Committee, Kenyatta University, 1994.

6.0 Postgraduate Supervision

- Mwiti, Christopher. “Towards a Poetics of Tony Mochama’s ‘Spoken Word’ Poetry: Study of *What if I am a Literary Gangster?*” 2014.
- Chepngeno, Naomi. “Reconstructing Identity in Velma Pollard’s Creative Works,” 2014.
- Ndirangu, Waiganjo. “Possibilities Projected in the Novels on Ethnic Violence: A Study of Kenyan Long Fiction,” 2014.
- Nyangemi, Bwocha. “Semantic Absurdities and Social Vision in Jared Angira’s Poetry,” 2011.
- Mate, Anthony Mukasa. “The Portrayal of the Father in Five Selected Works of Michael Anthony,” 2013.
- Musumba, Obala. “The Symbolic Presentation of Setting in Barbara Kimenye’s *Kalasanda Revisited*,” 2010.
- Welimo, Margaret. “Forging Individual Identity from Bi-Racial Selfhood in American Autobiography,” In progress.
- Giathi, Kimani. “Biblical Allusions in the Novels of Wahome Mutahi,” In progress.
- Mwai, Catherine. “The Effects of Immigration on Women’s Self-Identity in Selected novels of African Diasporic Women Writers.” In progress.
- Kaaria, Martin M. “Implications of the Mother Imagery in Selected Works of Jamaica Kincaid.” In progress.

7.0 Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops

7.1 Participation/Attendance at Conferences/ Workshops

2016: Participated in a seminar on “The Sublime Politics of Art: Aesthetic Freedom and Political Freedom in Paul Beatty’s *Slumberland*.” A presentation made by Dr. Anita Vrzina of the University of Bayreuth and held at Kenyatta University on 23rd. August.

2016: Participated in a seminar on “Contingent Textualities: The Mobile Text.” A presentation by Dr. Mbugua wa Mungai of Kenyatta University on 15th. September.

2014: Participated in the International Conference on African Languages and Literatures at Kenyatta University.

2014: Chaired two sessions of the International Conference on African Languages and Literatures at Kenyatta University, 6th to 8th August.

2014: Attended information literacy training at the Kenyatta University library in May.

2013: Participated in training workshop on teaching methodology at the Centre for Teaching Excellence and Evaluation, Kenyatta University.

2013: Participated in short training in Grant Writing and Management for research at Kenyatta University in April.

2012: Completed the STEP Train the Trainers Workshop at Kenyatta University in March, under the sponsorship of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM-UNESCO), Leuphana University of Lueneberg, Germany and Kenyatta University.

2011: Participated in a capacity building training workshop on how to deliver the General Methodology Course (PUCU 500) at Kenyatta University.

1992: Attended the Ford Foundation sponsored conference on “Teaching African Studies at the Undergraduate Level,” at St. Lawrence University, New York State.

7.2 Presentation of Papers at Academic and Professional Conferences

2015: Presented a paper on Safi Abdi’s work at the 2nd. Eastern Africa Literary and Cultural Studies Conference, Makerere University, Uganda, August.

2014: Presented paper entitled: “Confinement and Creativity: Dialectics of Prison Poetry in Kenya” at a workshop on “North-South Literary and Cultural Interactions,” at the Freie University, Berlin, 1-5 September.

2014: With Charles Kebaya, presented a paper entitled “Beyond Brutality: Space and Language in Prison Writing in Kenya” at the International Conference on African Languages and Literatures, at Kenyatta University in August.

1993: Presented (with Prof. Julia Gitobu) a paper entitled “The Management of an Academic Department,” at a senior management seminar.

1993: Presented a paper entitled "Lecture as Performance in the Teaching of Literature," at a seminar on "Lecturing at the University: The Communication Skills Perspective," at Kenyatta University.

1992: Presented a paper entitled "Making Relevant the Literature of Other Times and Places," at the Oxford Conference on Literature Teaching, Oxford University, U K.

1986: Presented a paper entitled "Curriculum Realities and their Implications for Teaching Poetry in Kenya," at a conference on English in East Africa, British Council, Nairobi.

8.0 Academic Leadership

- Patron of the Kenyatta University student organization, Moonlight Meet of Poets, from September, 2016.
- Co-ordinated the development of the first curriculum of the Ph. D. Literature programme by coursework, examination and thesis at Kenyatta University, 2015.
- Chief Editor, first two issues of *Chemchemi: International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Former Faculty of Arts), Kenyatta University, 1999, 2001.
- Co-ordinated the first curriculum for the unitized system for the Literature department, Kenyatta University, 1982.
- Served as registration officer and academic counselor for all first year students, Faculty of Arts, Kenyatta University, 1982, 1984, 1985. Received letters of commendation from two deans.
- Established a resource centre for the Literature Department and organized for funds, resources and initial personnel.

9.0 Research and Publications

Olembo, Waveney and Charles Kebaya. "Power and Gendered Identities: (Re)Configuring the Gendered Self in Kenyan Drama." In *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*. Vol. 3 No. 9, (2013): 96 – 105.

10.0 Books

With Emilia Ilieva. Eds. *Making the Best of It: An Anthology of Short Stories*. Nairobi: Longhorn Publishers, 2016.

Ilieva, Emilia and Waveney Olembo. Comps. & Eds. *When the Sun Goes Down and Other Stories*. Nairobi: Longhorn Publishers, 2010. ISBN 978 9966 36 231 2

Olembo, Waveney. Ed. *The Music of Poetry*. London: Edward Arnold, 1986. ISBN 0 7131 8420 5

Olembo, Waveney. Ed. *Words of Magic*. London, Edward Arnold, 1986. ISBN 0 7131 8476 0

11.0 National Recognition

- Jury member for the annual BURT award for African literature, 2012 to the present.
- Member, panel of judges, Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature, 2007.
- Member, Panel of judges for British Council sponsored national poetry competition, Nairobi, 1991 – 1992.
- External examiner, teaching practice, English – University of Eastern Africa Baraton, Kenya. (Three sessions): 1986 – 1987.
- Member of English panel, Kenya Institute of Education, 1986 – 1989. (Services included developing secondary school English curriculum; the preparation of eight radio broadcasts for secondary schools on the text: *Chameleon's Second Delivery*).
- Member of English panel, Kenya National Examinations Council, 1986 – 1989. (Services included setting and marking national examinations in secondary school English)

12.0 Community Service

Elected chairperson, Third North/Luruti Neighbourhood Group, Kahawa Sukari Estate, August, 2016.