WELCOME NOTE FROM CENTER:
Welcome to the 12th Newsletter from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA), a collaborative training and research center, with collaborators from Case Western Reserve University, Makerere University, the Joint Clinical Research Centre, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, SABRES/IDI/SPH, among others. The CeSSRA office is always open Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. It is located in Seminar Room 7 in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University main campus.

The center's aim is to train social scientists to carry out social science research on HIV/AIDS collaboratively and also conduct a longitudinal study on the social context of HIV/AIDS treatment. Under the fellowship component, the Fellows are reviewing their individual mentoring plans and are concretizing their areas of research interest. They are currently participating in an ongoing research design course. Fellows continuously receive free-critique as they present their research work. This will enable them publish papers in scientific journals and prepare grantable proposals.

RECENT EVENTS:
CeSSRA presented a paper titled ‘Maybe my husband is on ARVs, but I cannot tell him that I am on them’: Gendered patterns of HIV disclosure and treatment experience in urban and rural Uganda at the 5th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention between the 19 and 22 July 2009, in Cape Town, South Africa.

The paper was presented by Dr. David Kaawa-Mafigiri.

David works as an Associate Director with the Centre for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA). He has a doctoral degree in anthropology from Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree in public health from Makerere University. He has been a part of many studies in Uganda and conducted his own research on social networks and tuberculosis treatment in Kampala, funded by the World Health Organization.

A dissemination workshop/ mini-conference was held by SABRES on 17th July 2009 to present findings from their three ongoing research projects. CeSSRA as a sister organisation was invited to present from our study as well.

An overview type of presentation was given and the main focus was put on the Introduction/Methods, Demographics/study population and the results of the study. Meg Winchester went through the introductory part and Florence Namutiibwa discussed the Demographics, study population and results of the CeSSRA study.
Florence during the mini conference held by SABRES

UPCOMING EVENTS
Makerere University (Mak) will honour and recognize in perpetuity Professor Ali A. Mazrui, Africa’s illustrious scholar, globally recognised as “one of the world’s top 100 public intellectuals”. He is one of Makerere’s most renowned former Professors and Deans who credits Makerere for being the cradle of his global scholarship and fame. This was conceived by Makerere University Private Sector Forum (MUPSF) a new initiative established to bridge the linkage between the University and the Private Sector in fostering competitiveness in the value chain.

He will be inaugurating an East African Ali A. Mazrui Centre for Global Studies at Makerere University.

The University council passed a policy on the creation of centers of Excellence. These centers are intended to direct focused attention of the university in areas of critical importance in the National Development plan such as governance, economic policy and entrepreneurship, AIDS research and infectious diseases. They write, for example the “Faculty of Social Sciences has already established a Centre of Excellence known as Centre for Social Science Research on AIDS. (CeSSRA)”

National Institute Allergy and Infection Diseases (NIAID) Division of AIDS (DAIDS), is to hold the DAIDS Regional Training Event between, 06-11 September 2009 in Kampala, Uganda. This event will offer a range of training topics to support the skill development of clinical and laboratory. The deadline for registration is 28 August; please email daidscrstrntteam@ppdi.com.

The Annual African Regional Course in Research Methods in Reproductive Health & HIV/AIDS is to be held between 3rd and 28th August 2009. For more details visit their website at http://www.rhru.co.za

CeSSRA is to again hold monthly public lectures, resuming in September 2009, featuring Dr. Stella Alamo of Outreach Mbuya and Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze among the first presenters. Other details will be communicated later. Please contact the CeSSRA office if you have any HIV scholar or researcher you would like to see present in future lectures.

Manuscript writing workshop will be held in September 2009, organized by USHS. Dates are to be communicated later.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For any questions regarding this newsletter or CeSSRA activities, please contact the CeSSRA office:
Makerere University main campus
Faculty of Social Sciences
Seminar Room 7
Kampala, Uganda
P.O. Box 7062 Kampala (U)
Tel. 256-414-540650
cessra@ss.mak.ac.ug
http://www.case.edu/artsci/anth/CeSSRA.html