

Nyamweru Publishes Two Reports on Volcano

by K.C. Fuller

Celia Nyamweru, associate professor of anthropology, has published two annual reports on the eruptions of Ol Doiyo Lengai volcano in northern Tanzania.

In the "Bulletin of Volcanic Eruptions" of the Volcanological Society of Japan, Nyamweru published reports of her 1988 and 1989 research on the changes and descriptions of the crater.

Ol Doiyo Lengai, which is translated "mountain of God," is the only active volcano in East Africa, as well as the only volcano in the world that extracts carbonatite lava.

Since 1983 Nyamweru has climbed Lengai four times. She observes the changes in the crater by taking measurements of the different sizes of the lava accumulations, temperatures, and the viscosity of the lava.

"Volcanoes are like acne," Nyamweru said, explaining that the lava creates pimples inside the crater. Because Lengai is located in a portion of the Great Rift Valley, the shifting of the valley is continuously causing changes in-

side the crater.

Nyamweru has many friends that are pilots and climbers in Kenya who keep her updated on the volcano's changes through questionnaires, photographs, and outlines. She says she is excited because, as of last semester, the St. Lawrence University Kenya Program has included a climb of Lengai in their itinerary. Now students' observations can be apart of her analysis.

Mike Ferguson ('92) participated on the SLU Kenya Program last fall, making the strenuous 6,000 foot climb on October 9, 1991. Ferguson returned photographs of the volcano for Nyamweru.

Not everyone on the program completed the climb because they did not have adequate water supplies and it is an especially tough climb because the ground is loose and powdery and the slope is steep.

The last explosive eruption of Lengai was in 1966-67. For the next 16 years, the volcano was believed inactive.

Nyamweru became especially interested in the volcano in 1983 when she



Celia Nyamweru, associate professor of anthropology, recently published a report on the eruption of a volcano in Tanzania. Photo by Dave Fleishner.

learned of some previously unreported volcanic activity.

A doctor attending one of her lectures on Lengai brought to her attention an ash eruption from the volcano which he witnessed in January of that year.

Nyamweru wrote to scientists in Kenya and Tanzania inquiring about the eruption, but no information was available anything.

She sent out a number of questionnaires to local people of the area near Lengai as-

king for their observations. With their positive feedback, she was able to put together a record of this current volcanic activity.

Nyamweru said it was not surprising that the volcanic activity in 1983 occurred without being recorded, as the volcano is located in an isolated and sparsely-populated area.

Since the 1983 eruption, Nyamweru has noted many changes in the volcano. She says the volcano formerly

resembled a deep crater with a saddle dividing the crater into two sections of unequal depth. The deeper part of the volcano has since filled with lava, which has spilled over to the higher section, leveling the crater's floor. Nyamweru estimates a 100 foot rise in volcanic lava since 1983.

Nyamweru continues collecting research and has been issued a grant from SLU to return to Nairobi this summer. She plans to climb Lengai again in July.



Buckle Up For Spring Break

CHISHOLM: From Page 1

said Chisholm. "We believe that these activities erase the guilt that we have, and we never really try to heal the wounds and bring ourselves together."

Chisholm focused on students as a way to change the current trend of racism that she sees forming again in this country.

"I don't put my faith in my own generation anymore," she said. "I put it into the young people."

However, while Chisholm puts her faith in students to initiate change, she also said that young people of all races must first change themselves.

"Your education is a complete failure if it fails to open your hearts," said Chisholm. "You will never succeed in this country if you continue to have an attitude of racism."

Chisholm closed by encouraging the audience to take action, and to demand from the government equal justice under the law.

"Continued pressure will bring about social change; the time has come when we can no longer be passive and complacent," said Chisholm. "If we have the courage of our convictions, we will stand up and be counted."

ENCOURAGES
YOUNG PEOPLE TO
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COLLISIONS

