

# Vilas and Faculty

## New Professor Compares Education Systems in U.S. and Kenya

By Christy Currie

A new associate professor joined the Anthropology department this semester. St. Lawrence was able to offer Dr. Celia Nyamweru a staff position due to a grant the school received from The Ford Foundation in order to develop the African Studies program.

She arrived from Africa with one of her daughters, Wambui, who presently attends one of the Canton schools. Her other daughter, Wanjiru, will come to New York after swimming in the All-African Games in Cairo. At 13, she is the youngest member of the team.

Nyamweru attended Cambridge University and continued her education in Kenya doing work for her Ph.D. She specialized in the areas of physical geography and geology. Nyamweru has since spent much of her life in Kenya teaching at Kenyatta University. In the spring of 1985, she began to teach for the SLU Kenya Program.

Nyamweru said that

SLU's Kenya program is "very impressive." After being involved with other colleges' programs, she firmly believes that SLU's is the best.

She commented on the fact that other schools have their own professors teach the students while in Kenya, possibly because they want to "filter out what the students hear."

SLU students learn from Kenyans and Nyamweru found this important. The fact that students entered community villages within the first three days of their arrival impressed her as well.

The educational systems in Kenya and in the United States differ tremendously, according to Nyamweru. She said, "There is an incredible amount of pressure to succeed in Kenya." Kenyan families have to struggle for education due to its expense and consequently, it is not taken for granted.

Serious competition arises at early levels of education and due to a mandatory



Celia Nyamwera is a visiting professor of anthropology.

Photo by David Fleischer

exam, there is a big dropout rate after the eighth grade, according to Nyamweru.

In the U.S., Nyamweru spent fifteen minutes regis-

tering her daughter in school while in Africa, it took one year. She said that even kindergarteners must go through tests before being accepted.

Nyamweru feels that, "When it comes to looking at a nation-wide education system, the U.S. does quite well."

## Professional Standards Committee Decides Fate of Six Professors

By Hilary Grunert

This year six St. Lawrence faculty members applied for tenure. Their cases will soon be reviewed by the Professional Standards Committee.

The six faculty members requesting tenure are: Larry French, Chemistry; Sid Sondergard, English; Steven White, modern languages and literatures; Grant Cornwall, philosophy; Karen Johnson, Physics; Erica Polakoff, sociology.

The guidelines for tenure are set up by the American Association of University Professors and adapted by each college or university. The purpose of tenure is to guarantee academic freedom.

At SLU, faculty members are hired as assistant professors and most already have their Ph.Ds.

After three years at SLU, professors undergo a review. This review is based on teacher evaluations, scholarship and community service.

By the time a professor has completed six years at SLU, he or she is subjected to a four part tenure review.

The tenure candidate puts together a package that in-

cludes a resume, the candidate's recent publications and a summary of the teacher evaluations. The candidate must finish his or her case by October, 15.

The first part of the candidate's review takes place within the department. The candidate's tenured department members prepare individual recommendations and together they prepare a consensus recommendation. At this time student recommendations are solicited.

The finished cases are submitted to the Professional Standards Committee. The committee is made up of seven tenured faculty members and the Dean of Academics.

This year's committee members are: Robert Schwartz, dean; Allen Rogerson, chair; Tom Coburn, vice chair; Tom Greene, secretary; Peter Bailey, case minutes secretary; Dante Giarrusso; Sandy Hinchman, Mike Sheard.

One committee member is assigned to each case. The committee meets once each week. At these meetings the candidate's department chair

is called in to interpret questioned information. It must be noted here that when the committee is reviewing a case, student letters are read very carefully.

Cases are voted on by secret ballot and the dean doesn't vote. After the vote, candidates are informed of the Committee's decision and the results are sent to the president.

The president reviews the individual cases and speaks with the candidates. If the president disagrees with the committee, they work out the discrepancies and the final decision is sent to the Board of Trustees.

The Faculty Handbook states that "Final authority in all matters relating to tenure rests with the Board of Trustees."

Faculty members who are granted tenure are automatically awarded associate professorship. If tenured, the professors have an open ended contract with SLU. Their position can only be terminated with just cause. The Faculty Handbook also states that, "Adequate cause for the termination of tenure

is related directly and substantially to the fitness of a faculty member as a teacher or scholar and is defined as professional incompetence,

neglect of duty, mental or physical incapacity, or gross personal or professional misconduct."

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