



# Brazza Buzz

U.S. Embassy Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

September 2, 2008

## ARUN KAPIL

Dr. Arun Kapil, who hails from Madison, Wisconsin, visited Brazzaville for four days to meet with local ministers and members of the local electoral commission to discuss the U.S. elections and the electoral system—how it evolved and why it works. He also held a number of presentations with Congolese youth, members of the diplomatic community and local NGOs to educate them about the current elections in the U.S. and the importance of civic participation.

Dr. Kapil has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago and currently teaches at the Catholic Institute in Paris.

## Inside this issue:

What's Up At Villa Washington	2
September Calendar	4

## COMMUNITY

### LIAISON OFFICE

CLO: Trudy Wong-You

Office Hours: Mon.—Frid.

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tel: 770-0014

Wong-youTL@state.gov

# WHAT'S UP AT VILLA WASHINGTON

## MALIAN ASTROPHYSICIST SPEAKS TO CONGOLESE YOUTH

Cheick Modibo Diarra, a Malian astrophysicist, accepted Cindy Gregg's request to speak with a select group of Congolese youth at Villa Washington on August 22. Diarra was in Brazzaville to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the local government, which stipulated that Microsoft will provide technological assistance to the government, if and when needed.



Diarra was born in Nioro du Sahel, and after graduating from high school in Mali, he studied mathematics, physics, and analytic mechanics in Paris at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie. Afterward, he went on to study aerospace engineering at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he was recruited by Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. There, he played a role in several NASA programs, including the Magellan probe to Venus, the Ulysses probe to the Sun, the Galileo spacecraft to Jupiter, and the Mars Observer and Mars Pathfinder. Diarra later became the director of NASA's "Mars Exploration Program Education and Public Outreach."

In 1999, NASA gave Diarra permission to work part-time in order to devote himself to education development in Africa, where he founded the Pathfinder Foundation. Diarra took a further sabbatical in 2002 to found a laboratory in Bamako, Mali for the development of solar energy. In 2000 and 2001 he also served as a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO. In 2002 and 2003, he served as CEO of the African Virtual University, based in Kenya. Diarra is currently the chairman of Microsoft Africa.

Diarra's presentation at Villa Washington was very well received and many attendees were honored to have the opportunity to meet and speak with a Malian born inter-planetary navigator.



# WHAT'S UP AT VILLA WASHINGTON

## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, September 1, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Special Movie Night

Thursday, September 4, 2008

5:30—7:00 p.m.

English Club (*Speaker: Basile Marius Ngassaki, Marien Ngouabi University*)

Saturday, September 6, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Reading Group (*The Removal*)

Monday, September 8, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Movie Night (*National Treasure—Part 1*)

With Nicolas Cage, this high-stakes crimes caper is the most exciting treasure hunt you've ever experienced...

Thursday, September 11, 2008

5:30—7:00 p.m.

English Club (*Speaker: Benoit Sobi, Lycée 1er Mai*)

Monday, September 15, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Movie Night (*National Treasure—Part 2—Book of Secrets*)

Will take you on a globe-trotting quest full of adrenaline pressing twist and turns, all leading to the final clue in a mysterious and highly guarded book containing centuries of secrets...

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

5:00—9:00 p.m.

INCEF Special Reception

Thursday, September 18, 2008

5:30—7:00 p.m.

English Club (*Speaker: Mr. Talati, Creative Teacher and Director of the Special English Classes Center and Author of "English in 3 levels"*)

Saturday, September 20, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Reading Group (*Thirteen Moons*)

Monday, September 22, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Movie Night (*Love Don't Cost A Thing*)

Nick Cannon portrays Alvin, a big fat zero, off the charts but who has a plan to go from geek to elite, from shy boy to fly boy, from misfit to mack daddy.

Thursday, September 25, 2008

5:30—7:00 p.m.

English Club (*Speaker: TBA*)

Monday, September 29, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Movie Night (*The Gods Must Be Crazy*)

The peaceful co-existence of a small Bushman community is destroyed when a Coke bottle falls from the sky. They have never seen as strange an object and think it a gift from the gods.

# September 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>Villa Washington (VW) Special Movie Night</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p><i>VW English Club</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p><i>VW Reading Group</i></p>
<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p><i>VW Movie Night</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p><i>VW English Club</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>
<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p><i>VW Movie Night</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p><i>INCEF Special Reception</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p><i>VW English Club</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p><i>VW Reading Group</i></p>
<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p><i>VW Movie Night</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p><i>VW English Club</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>
<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p><i>VW Movie Night</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>				