

# CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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## THE BATTLE OF THE SACRED TREE

By Kenyan Filmmaker Wanjiru Kinyanjui  
Dinner, Movie and Dialogue presented by

The Center for African Studies and  
The Office of Academic Engagement and Programs

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Time: 7pm Dinner (International Lounge)

8pm Film (Center Hall)

Place: Busch Campus Center



Battle of the Sacred Tree still; photo credit Birne-Film



Mark Your Calendar for ASA's Celebration!  
The African Studies Association 50th Annual Conference  
October 18-21, 2007  
Sheraton Hotel and Towers, NYC

**Please consider making a donation to support CAS!**

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## Gordon H. Sato Receives *Doctor of Humane Letters* at 2007 RU Commencement

A lifetime of achievement in the sciences—as an accomplished research biologist and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, author or coauthor of more than 150 scientific papers, faculty member at such institutions as the University of California, and director of the W. Alton Jones Cell Science Center—helped prepare Dr. Gordon H. Sato for one of the most rewarding projects in his life: cultivating mangrove trees along the coast of Eritrea, a drought-stricken African nation. There, in one of the world's poorest and driest nations, sustainable, affordable agricultural practice is a constant struggle, and famine is frequent. Sato recognized that mangrove trees, already growing along some of the country's coast, could be made to tolerate and even flourish in the brackish tidal wash of coastal Eritrea. Beginning in 1988, Sato and his nonprofit Manzanar Project—named after the camp in which he, his parents, and many other Americans of Japanese ancestry were interned during the early days of World War II—have planted thousands of mangroves. The leaves of the plants provide fodder to raise enough animals to feed several thousand people. Local Eritreans use the mangrove branches for fuel, and the roots of the plants create the perfect natural environment for fish farming. There in the shallow water, crab, shrimp, and fish all thrive on the plankton, algae, and organisms that grow among the mangrove roots. Since 1988, Sato has invested more than \$500,000 of his own money in the Manzanar Project. A 2002 recipient of the prestigious international Rolex Award for Enterprise and the 2005 Blue Planet Award, Sato has created one of the world's most remarkable humanitarian projects and is working to help impoverished, coastal Eritrean communities develop a low-technology, sustainable agricultural economy.

