This spring marks the publication of *Five Windows into Africa*, an interactive CD-ROM on African art and culture, co-produced by Indiana University Bloomington’s Teaching and Learning Technologies Lab (TLTL) and Indiana University Press. *Five Windows* was co-authored by Patrick McNaughton, IUB professor of African art history; John Hanson, IUB associate professor of history and director of the African Studies Program; dele jegede, supervisor of the Art Appreciation Program at Indiana State University; Ruth M. Stone, IUB professor of folklore, ethnomusicology, and African Studies; and N. Brian Winchester, director of IUB’s Center for the Study of Global Change. The project was partially funded by an initial National Endowment for the Humanities grant written by McNaughton, who also directed the project.

The authors’ fieldwork in Africa informs the five core events of the CD-ROM: a dancer’s role in Mande culture (McNaughton); funeral rites in Liberia (Stone); the politics of Zimbabwe’s “war of liberation” (Winchester); Muslim traditions and rituals in Wa, Ghana (Hanson); and urban life in Lagos, Nigeria—one of Africa’s largest cities (jegede). *Five Windows* combines spoken narration, text, music, and visuals—from photos and video shot onsite by the authors, to historical images from news sources, and maps and charts created by TLTL designers.

While all the sections of the CD-ROM share a general overall design and common functionality, each “window” has a unique flavor, from the colors chosen to the kind of images that predominate. Schematics illustrate the stages of dancer Sidi Ballo’s performance, for example, while video footage documents the funeral of a native Liberian man, whose body travels from Atlanta, Georgia, to be interred in his home country.

Because of its innovative interface, *Five Windows* allows users to explore core events as discrete units, or investigate cultural themes as manifested in the specific instances drawn from all the core events; users can switch back and forth from either mode without returning to the main menu and starting over. Further, through the “Scene Palette” and “Related Topics” features, users can customize sessions to focus on elements that interest them most.

Although the press will market *Five Windows* with the textbook, *Africa* (3rd edition), edited by IUB professors Phyllis Martin (History) and Patrick O’Meara (Political Science and SPEA), the CD-ROM can be purchased separately and will likely have a broader use than the book. Primarily targeted for an undergraduate audience, *Five Windows* also will appeal to secondary schools, libraries, and individuals.

TLTL’s director David Goodrum led the technical development of *Five Windows*, Dan FitzSimmons was responsible for user inter-
Five Windows' authors (clockwise from top left): Brian Winchester, Patrick McNaughton (project leader), dele jegede, John Hanson, Ruth Stone.

face engineering, Frank Morris—who was involved in the project from start to finish—served as project manager for the Lagos segment and designed the main menu. Mike Price worked on the introduction, and Julia Walsh designed the "Getting Around" segment and led final testing. William Yang and Gail Rathbun also served as project managers for the core events. At IU Press, Senior Editor Janet Rabinowitch worked with Assistant Editor Dee Mortensen, and Marketing Manager Susan Havlish to produce the final project.

Five Windows was a collaborative project from the beginning. The Office of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties, which oversees Instructional Support Services (ISS) of which TLTL is a unit, was interested in broadening opportunities for faculty publication, in taking advantage of the talent in the newly formed TLTL, and in making IU faculty's pedagogical efforts more visible. IU Press shared the desire to explore new areas in publishing, in particular multimedia projects, and expressed interest in designing a product that would complement Africa, one of its most successful textbooks. A brainstorming session with faculty members, including several of Five Windows' eventual authors, launched the project.

Five Windows is the most ambitious project to date for TLTL, which has developed two other multimedia CD-ROMs focusing on Africa, Investigating Olduvai: Archaeology of Human Origins, produced with IUB archaeologist Jeanne Sept and published by IU Press in 1997, and Music and Culture of West Africa: The Strauss Expedition, developed with Gloria J. Gibson (professor of folklore and associate vice chancellor for Multicultural Affairs) and IU's Archives of Traditional Music, to be published by IU Press this fall.

Scenes from a funeral in Liberia, with accompanying fieldnotes.