

## AMERICAN CORNER CIRES ACTIVITY

*Topic: Thanksgiving Celebrations in the U.S.*

*Guest Speaker : Jewel Huligar, Director of the Mapoubi Ba Cultural Project*

*November 24, 2007*

On November 24, 2007, American Corner CIRES organized a program discussion on Thanksgiving Celebrations in the U.S. as part of its **Perspective on America** program.

Perspective on America is a monthly program designed to give Ivoirians the opportunity to learn more about the United States and practice their English. It is also a great way for members of the American community to exchange views with Ivoirians and share experiences about an aspect of American life.

The Director of the Mapoubi Ba Cultural project, Ms. Jewel Huligar, was the guest speaker. She talked about the Thanksgiving celebration in the United States.

Ms. Huligar started by exploring the origins of Thanksgiving. She explained the role it played from the colonial era to the present time, and how it is diversely interpreted today. She also looked at similarities between Thanksgiving celebrations and some African and Ivorian festive events like Easter in the Baoule ethnic group and Tabaski in Muslim communities.



*Ms. Jewel Huligar, Director of Mapoubi Ba Cultural Project*

PAO Sharon White gave opening remarks and contributed to the success of the program with a very nice Thanksgiving song which delighted the audience.



*PAO Sharon White and Cultural Affairs Specialist*

The Mapoubi Ba dancers favored the audience with a wonderful performance.

Over 70 people attended the program, among which the Head of the English Department of the Teacher Training School of Cote d'Ivoire, doctors, graduate students, and professionals (all members of American Corner).



*A view of participants*

The presentation went very well. The audience engaged in rich discussions with the American speakers, and left with a better understanding of Thanksgiving celebrations. At the end of the program, the American Corner Team offered roasted chickens to share.