

The Africa Institute

Newsletter

Congratulations to these Winners of the 2018 Proteus Pitch Competition!



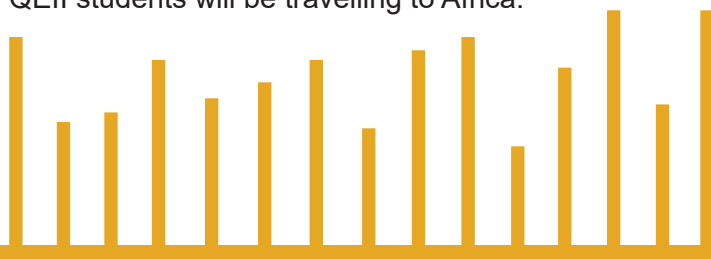
Congratulations to Reshele Perera (MMASc GHS-A '17), Spencer Yeung (MMASc GHS-A '17), Stef Wisofski (MMASc GHS-A '17) and Jason Knapp (MSc Micro/Imm and Collaborative GHS-A Candidate) for their winning pitch on a Diagnostic Method for Zika Virus. They placed as one of three groups to win the competition held in March.

"Specializing in Global Health Systems during the MMASc program really prepared our group for the challenging task of creating a business plan to bring a Zika Diagnostic Tool to market. During the Proteus competition, our understanding of marketing, finances, and the implications of operating in a Global Health context helped shape our recommendations and pitch to an expert panel of judges and we're happy to say that without the MMASc degree, our task would have been much harder."

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholars Prepare for Summer in Africa



On March 7, some of our outbound QE II students from the Global Health Systems in Africa Master's program had the opportunity to meet with Jeanne Gallagher from Universities Canada to find out more about the QEII program and how to connect with other scholars around the world. This summer these students pictured will travel to Uganda for 10-week practicum placements with local organizations. In 2015, The Africa Institute was awarded this prestigious scholarship to support incoming African scholars and outgoing Western students to Africa. This summer a total of 25 outgoing QEII students will be travelling to Africa.



Reflections from a QE II Scholar

Yinka Olanrewaju-Olawepo



Yinka Olanrewaju-Olawepo studied at Western University as a Visiting Research student from May – October 2017 as a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholar. She arrived from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria to work with Professor Isola Ajiferuke in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. Yinka's research focuses on assessing the health information literacy of rural women of reproductive age in Nigeria.

Why did you decide to come to Western?

I had heard so much about Western University, so, when an opportunity for a global health collaborative research at Western presented itself, I was eager to apply and even more excited when my application got approved. I felt coming to Western would provide me with the exposure and resources I would need to carry out this research and also help me understand the best practices in both rural and urban health information systems in the developed world. I must confess that my expectations were far exceeded, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Can you tell us about any difficulties you may have encountered?

I found Canadians very polite and friendly, so it was not difficult to blend in at all. I underestimated the weather especially in the fall/ early winter season, but I was lucky to have made great new friends who helped me with tips on how to survive the extreme weather conditions.

What was the best part of your experience?

It is difficult to choose a highlight of my experience at Western, however, one experience I cannot forget in a hurry would be the International Summer program organized through a collaboration between the Africa Institute and Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Schulich International Summer Program is an intensive 2-week course featuring speakers globally recognized in their fields, covering a variety of topics related to global health. Seven other incoming QE II students participated in this opportunity.

What were the most important lessons or skills you gained from your experience?

Prior to coming to Canada, I assumed that such developed countries as Canada would have almost perfect healthcare systems. This assumption was faulted during my stay here. I discovered the importance of “context” in research especially in regards to the healthcare system as every country faces similar problems albeit in varying contexts and these contexts must be considered critically if lasting solutions are to be developed. This explains why despite the huge grants and aids being sent to most developing countries in Africa, the public and primary healthcare development outcome is still way behind. Most solutions are westernised and not tailored to the local interplaying factors.



What advice would you give incoming African scholars and what can they expect?

Going for this program remains one of the best decisions I have made. I had so many wonderful and exciting experiences I would not trade for anything in the world. I also got to make incredible friendships and connections from several countries of the world, most of whose lasting impact I have already begun to feel. Indeed, this experience as well as feedback I received through the process has helped me to grow and be a better person, both as an individual and as an aspiring academic/professional.

Global Health Systems Summer 2018 Practicums in Uganda

The MMASc Global Health Systems in Africa 2018 cohort are ready to embark on their summer practicum and field-school in Uganda. This summer we have 15 students who will be working with local organizations such as the Joint Clinical Research Centre, Makerere University – John Hopkins University Research Collaboration, the Uganda Kidney Psychosocial Support Organization, and more, to put the tools they learned in their courses into practice.



During their time in Uganda, they will also work in collaboration with local communities on a number of community engagement projects to create financially and environmentally sustainable initiatives. Some of last year's projects included the students helping a to create a Pig Farm and a Bee Farm in collaboration with different communities across Uganda.

To help support amazing projects like these, they have started a GoFundMe campaign with all donations going directly to creating these projects in Ugandan communities. You can find the link at: www.gofundme.com/59j8dqq

MMASc in Global Health Systems in Africa

APPLY TODAY!

Deadline: July 1, 2018



Are you interested in becoming a global leader working with partners to combat poverty, hunger, disease, and environmental degradation, locally and around the world? An MMASc in Global Health Systems in Africa could be a great fit for you!

- 12-month professional program
- combines courses in communications and management with specialty topics in global health
- real-world experience through a summer field school and practicum with local African organization

For more information, visit: www.uwo.ca/africainstitute/programs/MMASc

Funding Opportunities

● Visiting University Scholars Program (VUSP)

Over the last several years, the Africa Institute has been very pleased to offer our members additional support to host visiting scholars associated with their African partnerships. We are pleased to announce a new round of funding for 2018-2019.

This past year we were able to host three scholars: Dr. Janet Adekannbi from University of Ibadan (co-hosted by Faculty of Information and Media Studies); Dr. Judith Kinnaird from University of Witwatersrand (co-hosted by Faculty of Science); and Dr. Jean-Damascene Ntawukuliryayo a Rwandan Politician (co-hosted by Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry).

We are now seeking nominations for future Visiting University Scholars for 2018 - 2019 for the Africa Institute. The Institute will contribute \$3000 so that the total amount of funding available through the Visiting University Scholars Program (VUSP) would be \$9,000

CAD (\$3,000 from Western International, \$3,000 from the Africa Institute and \$3,000 from the home Department).

For further information on the Visiting University Scholars Program (VUSP) and the application, please visit [Western International's VUSP section](#).

If you are interested in bringing a colleague from a partner institution in Africa to Western, for a few weeks up to a whole term, please email africain@uwo.ca with their name and how they could positively contribute to the Africa Institute by May 30th, 2018. We will review nominations during June, and announce successful hosts so that visiting arrangements can be made to begin anytime during the academic year after July 1st, 2018 to June 30th, 2019.

● Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund

The Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund is open to Western graduate students who meet the eligibility requirements. Students may apply for the research fund grant to receive up to a maximum of \$2,000 CAD to defray expenses incurred for their thesis research and/or other activities associated with graduate research and knowledge translation that fall within the domain of African-related scholarship.

Application Deadline

Applications (to be submitted electronically) will be assessed on a rolling basis, every 8 weeks, until the pool of funding is completely allotted for the current year. The total funding pool for 2018 is \$10,000.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be currently enrolled as a Western student;
- The applicant must be past their Comprehensive Exams;
- The applicant must be directing their request towards research funding;
- The applicant's research must be related to the continent of Africa.

For more information on eligible expenses, application requirements and submission details please [view our guidelines](#).

Western announces Jane Goodall Research Award



The Jane Goodall Research Award (JGRA) focuses on providing financial support to graduate students investigating great ape populations in Africa or Asia. Preference will be for: female researchers just starting their careers (i.e. ‘the next generation of Janes’); students from Canada, Africa, or Asia; and projects investigating how community conservation efforts undertaken by the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada (JGI) are impacting great ape populations. It is expected that by funding these researchers and projects, it will be possible to better determine great ape conservation priorities, support the professional development of primatologists, and quantify the effect of work done by the JGI on the health and wellbeing of sympatric communities of great apes and humans. For further eligibility and application requirements please visit: http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/student_finances/goodall.html

Western News

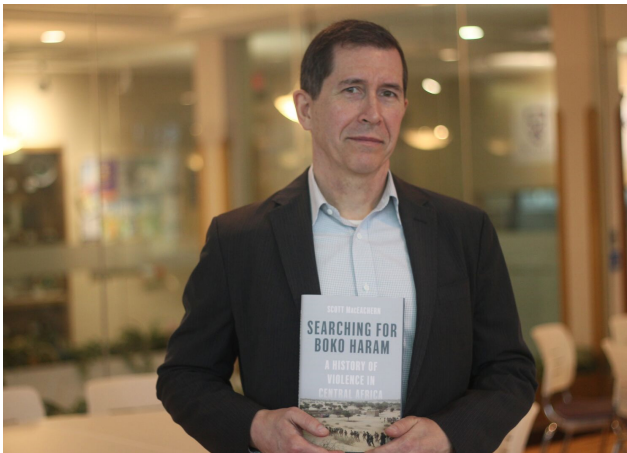
- Goodall: Our head, heart must work in harmony
- Paving a way for gender justice in Sierra Leone
- Crossing ‘Borders’ for global understanding
- An Ivey MBA student gets firsthand experience on doing business in Africa
- Western reduces tuition for international PhD students to same level as domestic PhD students

Community Engagement

Past Events

● The Landscapes of Boko Haram, Scott MacEachern, Bowdoin College

March 29, 2018



MacEachern's talk examined the deep history of Boko Haram, a contemporary Islamist terrorist organization, but one that is rooted in a long tradition of frontier violence, banditry, and smuggling in Central Africa. His 2018 book, *Searching for Boko Haram*, is grounded in 30 summers of archaeological fieldwork in Cameroon and Chad.



Co-sponsored by Western University's Africa Institute, the Social Science Student Donation Fund, and the Departments of Anthropology and History.

● From the Field to the Classroom: How to Turn your African Field Experiences into Teaching Cases

March 23, 2018

This case writing workshop, led by Dr. Patrick Shulist went over steps that students can take to turn their African field experiences into teaching cases for the classroom. Students who attended the workshop and have field experience in Africa are eligible to receive support in writing a case and up to \$1,000 per case from The Africa Institute.

● AI Graduate Committee Spring Speaker Series – Behind the Scenes: Sharing Experiences of Doing Research in Ghana and Madagascar

March 27, 2018

The first speaker series run by the Africa Institute Graduate Committee brought together faculty and students from a variety of disciplines to discuss their research experiences. Their reflections on the most rewarding moments and biggest challenges provided invaluable takeaways for everyone present. Re-watch the conversation on our YouTube Channel.

Speakers:

Research in Madagascar

Dr. Andrew Walsh, Anthropology
Mingyuan Zhang, (PhD Candidate), Anthropology

Research in Ghana

Dr. Patrick Shulist, Ivey Business School
Siera Vercillo (PhD Candidate), Geography

Facilitator

Uche Ikenyei (PhD Student), FIMS

AI Seminar Series: Ernest Yanful

April 26, 2018



Dr. Ernest Yanful is a Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Associate Director of the Geotechnical Research Centre at Western University. He is also Provost of KNUST - Africa Institute of Sanitation & Waste Management, in Accra, Ghana. Yanful discussed how he helped to establish the Institute of Sanitation and Waste Management to train global leaders in environmental health and policy, science and engineering and how this process could be replicated to develop Centres of Excellence in other African countries.




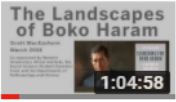

Get in Touch

Our Africa Institute Seminar Series has finished for the semester but we are in the process of lining up speakers for the fall. If you are interested in delivering a talk or would like to recommend someone to speak, please reach out to us.

Our summer issues of our newsletter will feature some of Western's African partners. If you have a partner who you would like to see profiled, please send us an email at africain@uwo.ca so we can get in touch.

Event Re-cap Videos

Did you miss one of our in-person events from the past few months? Check-out recap videos on our YouTube Playlist to catch up on everything you missed [here](#).

- 1  AI Seminar Series: Bridging the Gap - SDG #3 Good Health
Western University
- 2  AI Seminar Series: Bridging the Gap - SDG #4 Quality
Western University
- 3  AI Seminar Series: Bridging the Gap - SDG #17
Western University
- 4  AI Seminar Series: The Landscapes of Boko Haram
Western University
- 5  Sharing Experiences of Doing Research in Ghana &
Western University

AI Graduate Committee Blog Competition

Our AI Graduate Committee Blog Competition, "Conversations with Africa," has now closed for the semester. Read all the amazing entries we received, on our blog, before we announce the winner at the end of May. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry! [Read the Blog](#).



Free Symposium on Health Through Food and Microbes



Global Health Lecture on "Food for 9.7 billion people"

Western University, Arts & Humanities Building, Room 1R40

Please note admission is free but room is limited to 450 attendees on first come basis.

FRIDAY
MAY 4
2018

- 12:45 p.m.** **Welcome** from *David Hill, Lawson Health Research Institute and Michael Strong, Western University.*
- 12:55 p.m.** **Setting the scene.**
Gregor Reid, Western University & Lawson Health Research Institute.
- 1:00 p.m.** **Reality check from a conflict zone. A Doctor without Borders.**
Bing Gan, Lawson Health Research Institute.
- 1:30 p.m.** **New ways to manage infectious diseases.**
Dawn Bowdish, McMaster University.
- 2:00 p.m.** **Microbes and nutrition for infant development and cognitive function.** *Kristin Connor, Carleton University.*
- 2:30 p.m.** **Saving the planet with microbes for people, bees, soil, and processing waste.** *Greg Gloor, Western University.*
- 3:00 p.m.** Break
- 3:30 p.m.** **Probiotic fermented food for 250,000 people in Africa.**
Remco Kort, Yoba-for-life, Netherlands.
- 4:00 p.m.** **The business case for empowering the poor.**
Nicole Haggerty, Western University.
- 4:30 p.m.** **Gairdner Global Health Lecture:**

Introduction: Janet Rossant, President, Gairdner Foundation.

Food for 9.7 billion people. Rob Vos, Director Markets, Trade and Institutions, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C.
- 5:30 p.m.** **Open Forum**
- 5:45 p.m.** **Displays from local fermented food companies.**
- 6:30 p.m.** **Close.**

The Africa Institute is pleased to be a sponsor for this event.

