

# The Africa Institute

## Newsletter

### Africa-Western Collaboration Day 2019

Achieving Ubuntu: Opportunities and Challenges for  
Institutional Collaborations



*Pictured above from left to right: Charles Lagat, Moi University; Nicole Haggerty, Director of the Africa Institute; H.E. Mr. Tarig Hassan Sulieman Abusalih, Ambassador to Sudan; Jean Bosco Rusagara, University of Rwanda; and Abeba Mengistu, Addis Ababa University.*

This year's Africa-Western Collaboration Day was a huge success. Our keynote was a panel titled "Achieving Ubuntu: Opportunities and Challenges for Institutional Collaborations", chaired by Dr. Nicole Haggerty, Director of the Africa Institute. Our keynote speakers included three of Dr. Haggerty's [Ubuntu Management Education Initiative](#) partners: Dr. Charles Lagat from Moi University, Dr. Jean Bosco Rusagara from University of Rwanda, and Dr. Abeba Mengistu, from Addis Ababa University. Our other distinguished guest of the evening was His Excellency Mr. Tarig Hassan Sulieman Abusalih, Ambassador to Sudan. The event also included poster presentations from the many graduate and undergraduate students across Western campus doing research within an African context, as well as programs across campus that include travel or research within an African context.

## Director's Message

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are already into 2020 and planning for lots of summer activities. But I must thank several people for their work over the fall – Aislinn Adams and Uche Ikenyei are invaluable helpers with the Africa Institute and its work with the community of faculty, graduate students and visitors to Western University. Africa Western Collaboration Day in November was very successful as a result of their efforts as we welcomed scholars – Dr. Charles Lagat, Moi University, Dr. Abeba Mengistu, Addis Ababa University and Dr. Jean Bosco Rugusara, University of Rwanda to our university to discuss the opportunities and challenges of international collaboration to build capacity for case-based educational practice at universities in Africa. Further, the Africa Institute graduate student committee enjoyed a delightful discussion with Ambassador Tarig Hassan Abusalih from the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, whom we welcomed as an honored guest that day.

Since then, the AI has hosted two Case Writing Workshops welcoming faculty, staff and graduate students across campus including from Western Heads East, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Engineering, Global Health Systems MMASc students, as well as some of our external community members. Our first workshop on October 2 had six in attendance, but our second workshop on January 17 brought in over thirty participants!

Participation has been excellent and this work contributes our goals for knowledge translation and application by building teaching materials that capture real world challenges and match them with evidenced based discussions and practice. This effort aligns well with many programs across campus including the Health Equity in Context (HEIDI) Interdisciplinary Initiative project, Western Heads East work, and my own program – the Ubuntu Management Education Initiative at Ivey.

We have also learned, with excitement that [Academics Without Borders](#) has successfully partnered with Mastercard Foundation and is working to find projects and faculty volunteers. Many at Western are collaborating with this organization as an opportunity to advance capacity building with partners in Africa. I and my partners, from the Ubuntu Management Education Initiative, are pursuing the most recent call for proposals to put forth a project that will improve our African partners' capacity for case-based management education. While the Ubuntu Management Education Initiative specifically targets African students, this project with Academics Without Borders would target faculty. We are very excited at this opportunity to continue to pursue bringing case-based education to African higher education institutions!

We have much to do this term and look forward to welcoming our colleagues from the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) at the Social Science and Humanities Congress in June of this year. With help from our graduate students, faculty and staff at Western, this is sure to be a successful event! So save the dates June 3-5th, 2020!

Best,  
Nicole



[Dr. Nicole Haggerty](#)

Associate Professor, Ivey Business School

Director [Africa Institute](#), Western University

Director [Ubuntu Management Education Initiative](#), Ivey



*Dr. Charles Lagat, Associate Professor of Marketing & Logistics at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Also Director of International Programmes, Linkages & Alumni.*



*Dr. Abeba Mengistu, Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Information Systems, College of Business and Economics (she also serves as the Head of the College) at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.*



*Dr. Jean Bosco Rusagara, Programs Coordinator for the School of Business at the University of Rwanda.*

There were external community members who were able to come and display the work being done more broadly across the London community, as well as other programs or associations here at Western that work or collaborate within an African context. Check out some of the photos on the next couple pages to learn more!

Our visitors who came for the duration of International Week at Western University were also able to partake in numerous other opportunities around campus. They were able to sit in on a few Ivey case-based lectures to see first hand how the case based method is used. They were also able to work on developing future project applications for funding as well as interact with the broader Western community.

Prior to the Africa-Western Collaboration Day event, we were able to host a small informal gathering for our Africa Institute Graduate Student Committee, to meet with our guests of the event. They were able to participate in an open dialogue about where Africa stands and what the future for Africa may look like, as well as interact with our guests on a more personal level. Check out page 7 to read more about the Africa Institute Graduate Student Committee!

A huge thank you goes out to our supporters, which included Western International, Western Heads East, Global Health Systems Program, and King's University College! We hope if you were able to attend our Africa-Western Collaboration Day that you enjoyed the programming, and if not, stay tuned for next years event!



Director of the Africa Institute, Dr. Nicole Haggerty, who was MC and the panel convenor for the event.



Gabrielle Bruser presenting her Pecha Kucha presentation, "The Impact of Geospatial Barriers on Adherence to HIV Treatment in Kampala, Uganda"

On the right you can see photos of [our Pecha Kucha presentations](#), which were done by students presenting their research projects. Pecha Kucha presentations are fast-paced slide presentations, where you have 20 seconds per slide and 20 slides. These presentations were a great way to learn even more about the work being done by Western students!

Below is a photo of a special performance we had at the end of the night, which was a great way to end off our event!



Amber Silva presenting her Pecha Kucha presentation, "Kitchens of Freedom: A Women's Empowerment Movement in Tanzania".



Club REMA, a Burundi dance group who performed some dances to end off our annual Africa-Western Collaboration Day!



Toby Le presenting his Pecha Kucha presentation "From Benchside to Community Research: Development of Affordable and Accessible Probiotic Foods in East Africa".



This group of King's students and Dr. Erin Hannah, Chair of the Political Science at King's, joined us to share their experience on their Ghana Field School. On this experiential learning trip, Dr. Hannah, Dr. Tiekou and several students spent ten days in Ghana, learning about the global supply chain and complex issues that surround it. You can read more about this trip [here](#).

Aimee Utuza, pictured on the right, is a PhD candidate here at Western University. Furthermore, her and her sister have two non-profit organizations called Living With Happiness and Rwandan Mother Team. Originally from Rwanda, Aimee is here to study in the public health program. We were grateful to have her be able to join our event, and also for the amazing hand-made Rwandan goods that were for sale!



The [Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign](#) is a part of the [Stephen Lewis Foundation](#), which is a foundation working towards turning the tide on HIV/AIDS. The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign works in solidarity with African grandmothers caring for children orphaned by AIDS. The London chapter has been a regular participant of our annual Africa-Western Collaboration Day, and we were so glad they could join us again for this years event!



The poster session gave students the opportunity to discuss their research with those in attendance, as well as the other students presenting. A huge thank you to the students for putting such great work into their posters and dedicating an afternoon to sharing their research with the Western and London community!



## Africa Institute Visiting Fellow

From November 10th to January 10th, we were delighted to host Dr. Jean Bosco Rusagara from the University of Rwanda. Below is a short paragraph he wrote about his time and experiences here at Western University!

Jean Bosco Rusagara is Programs Coordinator, University of Rwanda at the College of Business and Economics, School of Business, Huye Campus, Rwanda who took the opportunity to go to Canada at the University of Western Ontario at Ivey School of Business, Canada and learned a lot, not only from academics, but also from the positive socio-economic values that characterize people in Canada, especially in London, Ontario, where people invite each other to share dinner. Here is a great lesson on the intercultural dimension - the best experience from his first trip to a huge country and a beautiful country, Canada.

Jean Bosco was so happy to learn that his candidacy had been accepted, thanks to the direct and indirect contact of various people who have contributed to this effort. It is pretty good to appreciate one another.

The credits went to Professor David Cechetto, Associate Professor Nicole Haggerty, the amount of time they had to invest in this visit to Western and contributed a lot; Aislinn Adams, Ellena, Nina for their help in various ways. Thanks to the members of the Africa Institute at Western, to professor David and his family, to associate professor Cynthia Kenyon and to George her husband who welcomed him, to professor Yolanda Babenko, to professor Henry Boyi, to the Rwandan students at Western, to Mr. John Ruhinda, who represents the Rwandan diaspora, and the people who work at the Ivey restaurant.

During this trip, Jean Bosco experienced some Canadian cultures such as the celebration of Christmas Eve and the Christmas festival.

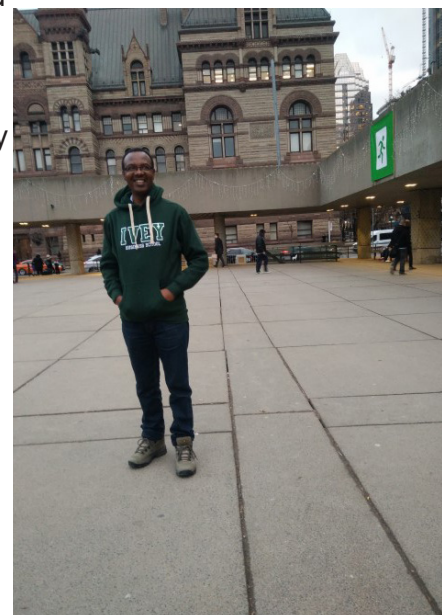
The more words coming several times is thank you, it is in this respect that thanks go to different personalities, hence the credits go to the Ivey community, in particular to Publishing Unity, Nicole for her time for constructive ideas in writing articles and her suggestions for moving impatient Jean Bosco to reach his goals in the near future.

Appreciation also for the trip it is sincere-He greatly appreciated working in a group of dynamic students in their group work, effective communication in order to obtain feedback. The sharing of the dinner was also very appreciated.

During this visit, there were challenges like winter time as a first experience, which is another lesson for him! Wear lots of clothes to avoid freezing! Use the map to find out where you want to go!



*Dr. Jean Bosco Rusagara, of the University of Rwanda.*



*Dr. Rusagara sporting an Ivey sweatshirt and doing some sightseeing in Toronto!*

## Funding

### Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund

We are happy to announce seven successful applicants from our funding call!

1. **Benoite Umubyeyi**, Faculty of Nursing, *"Supporting Nursing Students Professional Development in Rwanda"*
2. **Aimee Josephine Utuza**, School of Health Studies, *"The Potential Relevance of Trauma and Violence-Informed Care (TVIC) in Addressing Teen Pregnancy in Rwanda"*
3. **Chinelo Ezenwa**, Department of English, *"Stifling Local Agency through Translation"*
4. **Isaac Bayor**, Department of Political Science, *"How do Customary Responses to Armed Conflicts Achieve Measures of Non-repetition?"*
5. **Assumpta Yamuragiye**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Science, *"Exploring interprofessional collaboration for the management of obstetric and neonatal emergencies in selected district hospitals in Rwanda"*
6. **Erynn Monnette**, School of Health and Rehabilitation Science, *"Global Health Research Equity Analysis Tool"*
7. **Christelle Niguieu Toukam**, Department of Linguistics, *"Wh-movement in Nda'nda"*

## Africa Institute Graduate Student Committee

The [Africa Institute Graduate Student Committee](#), or AIGSC, began in 2017.

The Committee's focus is to help support students who are either doing research in any capacity in the African context, and to also be a community and network for students who call Africa home, or hold African citizenship.

AIGSC hopes to offer students opportunities such as career talks, opportunities and aid with knowledge translation, such as the AIGSRF, networking opportunities, such as the small informal meet and greet held prior to our Africa-Western Collaboration Day, with our guests and visiting Ambassador to Sudan, and much more.

Furthermore, it hopes to be a place for people to gather, make friends, and build their own support networks. Stay tuned for more AIGSC programming this semester!



A photo from the informal mixer event prior to our Africa-Western Collaboration Day, where our graduate students were able to sit down and speak with our visitors and the Ambassador to Sudan.

Are you interested in joining the Africa Institute Graduate Student? Do you do research within an African context, or are from Africa, or are interested in learning more? Contact Uche Ikenyei, at [uikenyei@uwo.ca](mailto:uikenyei@uwo.ca)

Canadian Association  
of African Studies



Association Canadienne  
des Etudes Africaines



The Africa Institute is very excited to host the [Canadian Association of African Studies](#) for their [annual conference](#), this year taking place at the Congress of Social Science and Humanities. While Congress will run on campus from May 31 to June 5, 2020, the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) will be having their annual conference from June 3rd to 5th.

[Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) is held annually at universities across the country, to bring together academics, researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to share findings, refine ideas, and build partnership that will help shape the Canada of tomorrow. This year's theme for Congress is Bridging Divides: Confronting Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism.

The CAAS theme for this year's conference is Achieving Ubuntu: Reframing Equity, Partnership and Social Change. The conference will have a wide variety of topics, and we look forward to updating you with further programming as it is finalized!

If you are interested in attending the conference, read and find out more [here](#). You can also learn more about Congress [here](#).



## Other Upcoming Events...

City Symposium: Gender Equality

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Grand Theatre, Spriet Stage

Free Admission, All Welcome

Event begins at 7 pm

If you have an event you would like us to promote, please feel free to reach out and send an email to [africain@uwo.ca](mailto:africain@uwo.ca)! We are always happy to promote community and Western events.