

# The Africa Institute Newsletter

## Africa Western Collaboration Day!



Africa Western Collaboration Day was held on November 15 and was a great success! The key-note speaker this year was [Dr. Lola Dare](#), the Chief Executive Officer of the [Centre for Health Sciences, Training, Research and Development](#), which is a not-for-profit based in Nigeria, with offices in the UK and USA. She delivered her keynote speech "Through Their Eyes: Complex Issues, Disruptive Solutions for Trafficking in Persons and Forced Migration in Africa".



Dr. Dare also had the opportunity to sit in with the [Global Health Studies students](#) on her visit to Western, pictured on the right. A huge thank you to all of the Western Community, Western Heads East, African Student Association, as well as our external participants such as the Women's Advocacy Network, Grandmothers to Grandmothers, and ACFOLA! We are already getting excited for next year!

## Director's Message

On Friday March 8th, I had the pleasure of meeting a young entrepreneur named Chalo who runs a Commercial Cleaning business in Zambia. Sponsored by Engineers Without Borders, Chalo had been visiting three cities in Canada including the London EWB chapter at Western in order to build his knowledge about business, entrepreneurship and his central concern - learning how to get ready to scale his business and finance it. He asked me a question I've been reflecting on since our conversation - what did I think about the future of Africa and the 'hype' around its growth and the "Africa Rising" label. After 7 years of engaging with partner organizations on the continent of my father's birth and having taken up considerable opportunities to discuss particular initiatives of Africa Institute's members, I've come to several hypotheses in answer to Chalo's question.

The first is that the notion of "Africa Rising" - while portraying well earned success and hope for those living on the continent, the moniker also perpetuates a frustrating homogenization at the same time - as if Africa were one country rather than a vast geography with 54 countries and fundamental differences in culture, economy, environment, politics and social issues. Many countries on the continent - particularly sub-Saharan Africa - are experiencing strong economic growth and income gains for segments of their population. But this should not detract from challenges including rising income inequality and youth unemployment - both issues which deserve attention and action in order for the Africa Rising moniker to be well earned.

The second area that requires action in order for African countries to rise to their full potential is substantive advancement in the quality and quantity of post-secondary education. The foundation of any economic growth story must at least in part, rest on the educational opportunities and attainment of its youth - particularly in areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship, management and leadership. The Ubuntu Management Education Initiative at Ivey is one form of partnership for capacity building with that aim. Additional investments must be made to support innovation and entrepreneurship education at all levels of schooling in mechanisms including collaboratives, innovation hubs, microenterprise business model development and microfinance.

Finally, I have seen the value of local economic growth stimulated by African's for Africa - as others have noted, trade, not aid, could provide a sustainable foundation for country level impacts. A key issue is to reduce barriers to getting businesses started, to generate policy which accelerates microenterprise growth into small and medium size business, and to identify education and innovative business model acceleration which will usher small enterprises from the informal to the formal economy. In short, there is much to be excited about in the economic advance of African countries, but that growth is not universal and may not be sustainable and valuable across local populations unless localization, education and formalization are pursued.

I hope you enjoy the stories in our newsletter representing our last several months of work. The Africa Institute and its members work to advance collaborative research across campus and with African partners, we've funded graduate students and their research, undertaken to build funding proposals and participated in significant interdisciplinary initiatives.

Onward!

Nicole

[Dr. Nicole Haggerty](#)

Associate Professor, Ivey Business School

Director [Africa Institute](#), Western University

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

The Africa Institute is pushing forward on its mandate to seek ways to create value for members and our African partners through spearheading joint funding applications, creating unique Graduate Student Funding awards to assist graduate students with research and knowledge translation activities and supporting colleagues in their own interdisciplinary initiatives.

## Rwanda: Culture, Society & Reconstruction



In the centre is Prof. Henri Boyi with Nicolette Nsabimana to his left, surrounded by four students.

This year, the International Experiential Course, Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction, which started on January 7th, will take 12 students and their professor, Henri Boyi to Kigali, Rwanda for five weeks, from May 19 to June 23, 2019. A&H Associate Dean Academic, Dr. Tracy Isaacs, will also join the team for close to two weeks.

UWO students have actively participated in major activities such as family planning and sexual health education, teaching English and social sciences and preparing and organizing campaigns on fighting gender-based violence against young girls in local Advocacy Days. In 2015 the Advocacy Day was centered around “Who Really Pays the Price of Domestic Violence?” and in 2016, “Child Rights Violation: Who To Blame?” where we were joined by the Chief Gender Monitor to discuss children’s rights advocacy in Kigali.

Centre Marembo opened its doors in 2003 to provide young street girls and boys with access to education, healthcare, safety and love. In 2012, their mission shifted towards focusing exclusively on the needs of women and girls and currently, they are the only organization in Kigali who support and shelter only girls. They have two houses, the Abatuje House and the Harakeye House. The Centre also recently opened a clinic, in order to be able to provide adequate healthcare to the girls it shelters.

## Testimonials

“During the 2014-2015 academic year, Anita and Rachel helped organize a conference with Centre Marembo to address gender-based violence in Rwanda and to empower young girls who are survivors of gender-based violence. Having the opportunity to work alongside these girls who have persevered through sexual assault, sexually transmitted infections, spousal abuse, and so much more, was unequivocally the most inspiring experience that we had ever had the privilege to be a part of. We owe these experiences to Professor Boyi and his passion for continued collaboration and partnership with these organizations.”

(Students Anita Dabirzadeh and Rachel Goldstein, January 2018)



Students helping to build the future clinic for Centre Marembo, which is now open and operational.

“The four students worked very hard every single day, from 9am to 4:30 pm, with a tremendous amount of commitment and enthusiasm. They taught English, arts, songs and dances, and many other activities including recreation. On June 28, they organized the Children Advocacy Day, which was attended by many people from community, government, and police representatives, as well as NGOs and local partners. In very special ways, this unique team from Western University and their professor taught all of us how to be more human and helped us learn to face life challenges with care, understanding, and modesty.”

(Nicolette Nsabimana, Executive Director, Centre Marembo, June 2015)

## Funding

The Ivey Business School's Ubuntu Management Education Initiative (UMEI) has put forward three grant proposals with three schools in Eastern Africa.

The first is titled Expanding the Ubuntu Management Education Initiative at Addis Ababa University. This proposal is in collaboration with the School of Commerce at Addis Ababa University, and the partner is Dr. Konjit Hailu, the Director of UMEI Initiative at SC-AAU. This proposal is looking to expand case based education at SC-AAU to improve soft skills and work readiness. The goal is to build an Ethiopian case library so that SC-AAU can develop their capacity to deliver a case-based education.

The second proposal is titled Gender-Sensitive Soft Skills Training & Digital Jobs for Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. This proposal is in collaboration with Moi University in Kenya, and the partner is Joyce Komosop Komen, the Associate Dean for the School of Business and Economics (also team members include Dr. Josephat Cheboi, Dr. Patrick Limo, Dr. Naomi Koske, Mr. Joel Tuwey, and Dr. Charles Lagat). This proposal is also in collaboration with the UMEI initiative, and is looking to develop frameworks for imparting digital skills and to develop gender-sensitive models for imparting soft skills using case method pedagogy. This proposal was designed in order to attempt to combat the problem of youth unemployment in Kenya.

The third proposal is titled Bridging Soft Skills Gap Through Digital Learning in East Africa. This proposal is in collaboration with Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT), and the partner is Dr. Rukia Atikiya, who is a lecturer in their College of Human Resource Development as well as the Direct of UMEI at JKUAT (the rest of the team comprises of Prof. Waweru Mwangi, and Dr. Alice Simiyu). This project is looking to come up with a sustainable solution to the current obstacle faced by many African businesses, which is their lack of digital readiness, as well as lack of proper equipment, funding, skills and approaches. The goal of this project is to establish scope for using case based study and to develop a suitable model for capacity building of the teaching staff.

### Funding for Road Traffic Injuries in Western Kenya

The Africa Institute was able to provide funding for Bojana Rodan to complete her pilot project in Western Kenya this past summer. Below are a few words from Bojana on the project and Kenyan partner:

"My project is trying to quantify the impact that road traffic accidents have on the hospital emergency ward in Kisumu City, Western Kenya. Road traffic injuries (RTIs) and fatalities are a HUGE issue in many low- and middle-income countries. For example, Kenya has a little over 3000 deaths annually solely attributed to RTAs, and it's estimated that for every one RTA-related death, there are 20 more injuries. For this project, I'm working with my Western PI, Dr. Mike Shkrum, who brings in the technical expertise as the Research Director for the Motor Vehicle Safety (MOVES) Research Team, funded by the Ministry of Transport. Our Kenyan partner is Dr. Japheths Ogendi, a Professor of Epidemiology at Maseno University, who has a strong interest in road traffic safety and data, and hopes to create a regional database in Western Kenya for this public health burden."

# Community Activities

## QES Scholars hosted by Lieutenant Governor

On March 1, three of our QES scholars attended an event hosted by the Lieutenant Governor to celebrate the QES program. Emmanuel Ndyashime, Katherine Yu, and Tahani Dakkak attended the event.



"Being one of the two students to give a speech on this great event hosted by Her Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, was one of greatest moments in my life. I feel so proud of being a QES scholar at Western University. I always say, "You will never reach where you want to go unless you start moving." QES program has given many people like me that opportunity to start moving.

The QES program has been a cornerstone of every great thing that has happened to me since I came to Canada. As a QES scholar, I have established research collaborations with other scholars around the world and we share ideas on how to improve global health systems through different projects we are involved in. Together with my colleagues, Darshit Prakashbhai Patel, Jason Philip Knapp, and other QES scholars at Western University, we started a charity foundation for collecting funds to help people in Uganda. We support most in need HIV infected patients at Joint Clinical Research Center, Kampala, Uganda, with funds to buy medications and for starting income generating projects. Since we started this initiative, we have raised over 10,000 CAD.

The QES program has helped me realise that if we work as a team irrespective of our social, cultural, and economic differences, we will rise together or fall together but always together as people created to make a difference."

- Emmanuel Ndyashime, QES Scholar



" We are living in the era of globalization where it is important to exchange knowledge across borders to promote worldwide development. The QES program plays a critical role in achieving this through giving Canadian young leaders an opportunity to travel abroad and share their knowledge to promote worldwide development and prosperity. " - Tahani Dakkak, QES Scholar



## World University of Canada Roundtable, November 2018

In November, Dr. Nicole Haggerty participated in the World University Service of Canada's (WUSC) annual roundtable discussion. This year's theme was Social Enterprise and Higher Education Institutions: Optimizing Development Impact. The goal was to determine the role that higher education institutions in Canada can do to play a role in social enterprise initiatives with its partners in the Global South. The roundtable discussion generated ideas for roles that Canadian higher education institutions to be able to facilitate the scaling up of social enterprises globally. It also generated partnership options for future collaboration, and roles for WUSC itself to help to be able to support optimizing the development of social enterprises.

## Canadian Association of African Studies: Visa Advocacy Campaign

The Canadian Association of African Studies is currently running an advocacy campaign on visa refusals for African Scholars, many of whom have gone through frustrating, time-consuming and costly experiences to ultimately get rejected for their visas. The full advocacy statement can be read at the following link: <https://caas-acea.org/caas-statement-on-visa-refusals-2/>. They are looking for any African scholars willing or interested in sharing their experience with the visa application, whether successful or not, to fill out a questionnaire.

If you have personally applied for a visa, or know of an African scholar who has applied for a visa to attempt to come to Canada for a conference or other events/programs of study, and who would be interested in sharing their experience, please email [africain@uwo.ca](mailto:africain@uwo.ca). Please note that participation is completely voluntary and only required if comfortable sharing your experiences.

Furthermore, if anyone is interested in being part of their advocacy campaign committee, or if you have relevant advocacy experience, please email [africain@uwo.ca](mailto:africain@uwo.ca) for further information.

## Western News

Visit <https://www.uwo.ca/africainstitute/news%20/index.html> to read the full stories from the headlines below.

- [Dr. Gregor Reid visits South Africa](#)
- [Ivey PhD graduate wins award got international business research](#)
- [Western Heads East 2019 Newsletter](#)
- [Isaac Luginaah named as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences](#)
- [Western announces Jane Goodall Research Award](#)
- [An MBA student gets firsthand experience doing business in Africa](#)

## HEIDI

### Health Equity in Context: Local Solution to Global Problems (Interdisciplinary Development Initiative)

HEIDI is a collaboration across many faculties of Western and two Rwandan partners, the University of Global Health Equity and the University of Rwanda. The collaboration is centered around three projects; Pre- & Post-Migration Trauma and Health; Making Our Communities Trauma- and Violence-Informed; and Power, Practice and Ethics in Global Health. There is also an education component being led by Africa Institute Director, Dr. Nicole Haggerty. The wider collaboration effort features many Africa Institute members.

The knowledge mobilization initiative of HEIDI is hosting a City Symposium event series. The first event is titled "Good Health and Well-Being" and will be held at Museum London on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. Please see the link to view the entire event series schedule: <http://city-symposium.com>

## Graduate Student Research Fund

Congratulations to our nine recipients of the Graduate Student Research Fund!

1. Grace Gomashie, Modern Languages, "A Survey of Language Use and Attitudes in Multilingual Societies"
2. Boniface Harerimana, Nursing, "New Addiction Care Model in Rwanda"
3. Stephanie Huff, Health Sciences, "Understanding Gender Inequity through Occupation: A Critical Decolonizing Ethnographic Exploration of Gendered Occupation in Tanzania"
4. Lucia Hussey, Geography, "Multicriteria Evaluation Approach (MCE) to Climate Change-Infectious Disease Linkages in Ghana"
5. Moses Kasanga, Geography, "Examining the Impact of Agroecology on Food Security, Nutrition and Health among Smallholder Farmers in Malawi"
6. Yvonne Kasine, Nursing, "Nurses' and Midwives' Experiences as Mentees in a Clinical Inter-Professional Mentorship Model in Health Facilities in Rwanda"
7. Susuana Kwaning, French Studies/Linguistics, "The Use of L1 as a Pedagogical Tool in the Foreign Language Classroom in Ghana: Does it Support or Hinder Learning"
8. Olubukola Sonibare, Nursing, "A Feminist Narrative Inquiry into Being a Child Bride in Nigeria"
9. Siera Vercillo, Geography, "A Gender Analysis of Food and Agrarian Change in Northern Ghana"

## Upcoming Conferences

Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa Presents:

[The 2019 SASA International Scientific Conference](#)

Theme: International Research in Africa

When: June 6-9, 2019

Where: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto

Canadian Association of African Studies Presents:

[2019 CAAS Annual Conference](#)

Theme: Thinking World-Africa: Originality and Innovative Practices

When: May 16-19, 2019

Where: University of Quebec in Montreal