

The Africa Institute

Newsletter

The 39 Country Initiative

The [39 Country Initiative](#) was started in 2010 by Paul Beamish, a Professor at the Ivey Business School and Director of the International Business Institute. The vision behind the initiative is to help the world's 39 poorest countries gain access to much needed resources for university level education, which in turn will help to improve business managers' capabilities. The world's 39 poorest countries are those with less than \$2,000 per capita GDP a year.



The photo above on the right shows Prof. Beamish, in the centre, with aid packaging a shipment collection for Ghana. The photo directly above shows Moi University receiving a shipment.

Since 2010, Sudan was also added to the list, bringing the total number of countries to 40. Of these, 33 are in Sub Saharan Africa.

The 39 Country Initiative is trying to tackle three main challenges: the lack of current teaching material; insufficient quantity of materials available and lack of resources to combat this issue; and too few qualified faculty.

The access to the resources for the 39 Country Initiative comes in two different ways. Ivey provides registered scholars free access to Ivey Publishing cases, technical notes, teaching notes for the cases, as well as Ivey Business Journal articles.

This collection includes over 6,400 products, which would cost over \$50 million to replace. The 39 Country Initiative currently has over 2,000 professors registered – of these, over 1,300 are in the 33 eligible African countries. Ivey Publishing has cases featuring 19 of the 33 relevant countries providing valuable insight using examples from their own context.

Most of the faculty registered to use the cases for free are in business schools. However, large numbers of the cases could easily be used in other university departments including medicine, social work, education, engineering, law, media studies, political science, and economics.

The second way the 39 Country Initiative provides resources is by shipping surplus, lightly used, current, and relevant materials to business schools in the 39 countries. There have been six shipments to date: to Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, to Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in Ghana, to Moi University in Kenya, to Riara University in Kenya, and two shipments to University of Dar es Salaam Business School in Tanzania. Each shipment has approximately 10,000 items. The 39 Country Initiative covers the cost of shipment, while the recipient school is responsible for clearing customs in the closest port and inland transportation.

Director's Message

Spring and summer are busy times for members of the Africa Institute. This time of year brings all the course work and preparation that goes with student internships and work with African Partners, graduate students off to collect data for their research and faculty members embarking on their own research and partnership development trips.

For example and as mentioned in this newsletter, my own program – the Ubuntu Management Education Initiative held their in-class course in April and 21 students embarked on partnering activities with 6 partner schools in 5 countries in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya during May of 2019. Western Heads East deployed 8 interns to their yoghurt kitchen and university partners in Tanzania and Kenya for May through August. Prof. Henri Boyi's course called "Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction" has set off with students to visit Rwanda for six weeks. Prof. Thomas Tieku and Prof. Erin Hannah from King's College University completed an experiential learning course called "International Political Economy of Commodities - Ghana Field School" in Ghana during May. Prof. Eric Arts' GHS students left for internships in Uganda for the summer. And there are many, many more graduate students and faculty going to, or already in, countries engaged in African scholarship. We look forward to reporting results and accomplishments of all this work in forthcoming newsletters.

On Saturday May 18th, I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Association of African Studies Conference in Montreal. Held annually, this conference provides an opportunity for scholars and students in the Humanities and Social Sciences to share research and insights on African issues, in both English and French languages. The Africa Institute is pleased to confirm that CAAS 2020 will be coming to Western University in 2020, most likely with the Humanities Congress that will be hosted at Western University.

Wherever your travels take you this summer, on behalf of the Africa Institute, we wish you safe journeys, productive partnerships and we look forward to hearing about your success and challenges to share with our membership and extended partners.

Best,
Nicole

[Dr. Nicole Haggerty](#)

Associate Professor, Ivey Business School

Director [Africa Institute](#), Western University

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



The 39 Country Initiative continued...

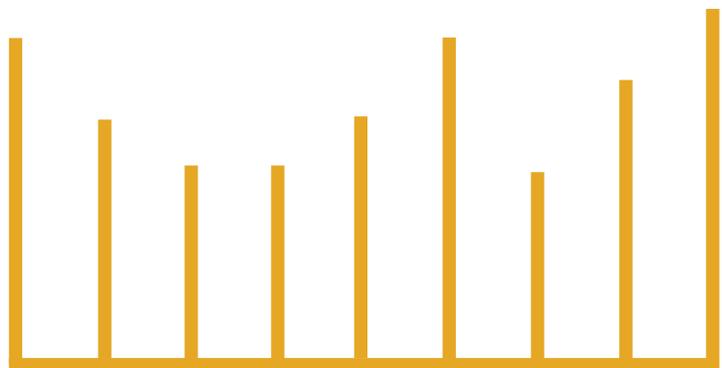
There are plans for the 39 Country Initiative to continue to expand. Future areas that they are looking to explore include publishing a region-specific book series, to be provided at a low cost to African partners. They also want to continue providing professor-to-professor case teaching workshops. To date, workshops have been conducted in Benin, and in Haiti, both in December 2017.

The 39 Country Initiative has also invited other business schools to partake in the initiative. Participants in container shipments from London have been Ivey, Textbooks for Change, Western bookstore, Western faculty, University of Windsor, and Wilfrid Laurier University. The shipment to Riara University in Kenya was done entirely by Queensland University; one of the shipments to Dar es Salaam Business School was a combined effort of Broad College of Business, Michigan State University, Davenport University Lansing Campus, Lansing Community College, and North Dakota State University. There are 23 past or current teaching material collection nodes on four continents. One bonus to this initiative mentioned by a Dean at a Nairobi business school was that by gaining these materials for free, the savings on teaching materials allowed him to hire three more teaching staff.



For the 39 Country Initiative to continue growing the program, they plan to continue to register faculty in the eligible countries; encourage other schools to collect materials for shipments; explore new partnerships with universities; raise funds for the region-specific book series and professor-to-professor case teaching workshops; and encourage faculty visiting the eligible countries to hold case teaching workshops. If you would like to contribute, consider one of the options listed on [their website](#).

The above photo is from University Dar es Salaam Business School, after receiving a shipment from Ivey. The below photo is from Riara University, after receiving their shipment from the University of Queensland.



Queen Elizabeth Scholar Spotlight!

● Tahani Dakkak, MMASc'18

What project did you undertake as a QE Scholar?

I was placed in Kampala, Uganda and worked as an intern at Mulago National Referral Hospital and the Makerere University – Johns Hopkins University Research Collaboration (MUJHU). At Mulago, I launched my project “Practice Humanity, Be The Remedy”, a medical funding initiative to fund medical tests and medications for patients who can’t afford them. At MUJHU, I participated in HIV outreach activities to test local residents for HIV, as well as HIV psychosocial groups that facilitated discussions on topics such as drug adherence and disclosure.



What does being a QE Scholar mean to you?

Being a QE Scholar is a responsibility that motivated me to get out of my comfort zone and thrive abroad. I feel honored to be part of a community of peers and scholars who have travelled abroad to create a lasting impact.

The efforts of every member of this community is a living proof that through hard work and determination, every individual, once given the right opportunities, can create an impact to help developing countries prosper and develop.

How did your experience as a QE Scholar impact your education and training?

Designing an intervention in a foreign country exposed me to many unfamiliar obstacles, which significantly enhanced my interpersonal skills. Working abroad has also allowed me to build a global network and enhance my adaptability and self-reliance. It gave me the opportunity to discover my potential as a young global leader who wants to be an agent of change and helped me start something in Uganda that will grow over the years.

Why did you pursue the GHS program at Western?

I wanted to specialize in health management in Africa because of the complex interplay factors that lead to today’s health disparities, which I have a desire in learning more about. The GHS Program at Western stood out because it focuses on Africa and the curriculum incorporates a three-month placement in Africa, which gave me the opportunity to apply my knowledge and transform it into action.

Why are you interested in global health? What motivates you in this area of study?

My interest in global health stems from my unshakeable commitment to achieve health and social equity worldwide. We continue to have a heartbreaking and unacceptable level of health inequity. Access to healthcare, education, food, clean water and shelter should be a human right, not a privilege. Every one of these elements significantly impacts the health and wellbeing of an individual.

I pursued my master’s degree in global health to equip myself with the necessary training to be a global leader that can create an impact and advocate for those who are less fortunate. As a Muslim, my faith emphasized thriving to build communities and promote prosperity. Therefore, my main source of motivation in this field is my faith, as well as my determination and desire to give people access to the same rights that I have.

● Emmanuel Ndashimye, MSc'18, Collaborative Graduate Program in Global Health Systems, Current PhD Candidate



What project did you undertake as a QE Scholar?

Master's in Microbiology and Immunology.

What does being a QE scholar mean to you?

It basically means a lot to me because it gave me the opportunity to attend graduate studies in Canada and helped streamline my research career.

How did your experience as QE Scholar impact your education and training?

It provided me with the opportunity to attend graduate studies at one of the best universities in the world. The opportunity to carry out research in an area I'm passionate about, has helped me discover myself even better. Being part of a big group of scientists who are passionate and dedicated to improving the well being of people, makes everything worth it.

Why did you pursue the GHS program at Western?

Western University is one of the universities that provides students with the opportunity to learn better on how to promote health and equality of those most at risk, as well as tackling other challenges facing these communities like poverty, hunger, and disease. The GHS curriculum is designed to provide students with skills on how to tackle these challenges but more importantly, it gives students the opportunity to actually go to the "heart" of most of these challenges through its amazing practicum assignment. I got attracted to this whole package and I knew it was a proper place to enrich me with priceless knowledge and practical skills in strive to achieve my career goals.

Why are you interested in global health? What motivates you in this area of study?

Out of personal experience, I came to appreciate that the global burden of infectious diseases calls for us to learn more on transmission, pathogenesis, and control of infectious agents if we are to curb this problem. When you experience these challenges yourself like others in developing settings, then you really come to appreciate how important it is to try change that situation. And when you think of how the world has become one global village, you can't fail to realize how we are all affected directly or indirectly by what is happening in another corner of the world.

What are you currently working on?

I'm studying on how best we can use the ammunition currently in our possession (antiretroviral therapy) to fight human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Specifically, I'm looking at novel HIV drug resistance pathways that may hinder efficacy of current antiretroviral therapy. In addition, I study how HIV integrates into human genome and mechanisms of its persistence in presence of antiretroviral therapy. Given the fact that over 37 million people are infected with HIV worldwide, and no cure or vaccine is yet available, it becomes very crucial to safe guard and help improve one of the weapons we currently have to fight HIV.

Safe Travels!

Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction

Ubuntu Mangement Education Initiative

Bon voyage to our Ubuntu Management Education Initiative students! The 21 students taking the Service Learning in Africa course departed May 3rd to five different countries on the African continent: Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Kenya. Be sure to stay tuned for blog posts from the students, which can be [read here](#).

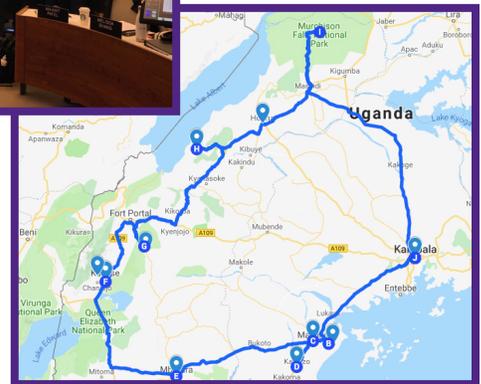
The Ubuntu Management Education Initiative is an annual experiential service learning course, taught by the Director of the Africa Institute, Dr. Nicole Haggerty. This is its eighth year, where upper level undergraduate students travel to partner universities to teach case-based workshops. They also produce cases on indigenous African businesses, to aid in the development of world class knowledge on the African business context. The development of the program was largely inspired by the 39 Country Initiative.

We wish the students of Rwanda: Culture, Society and Reconstruction, the experiential learning course featured in our March newsletter, safe travels as Prof. Henri Boyi and 12 students depart for their six week trip to Rwanda. We are excited to hear about their experiences when they return!



A photo of this year's Ubuntu Management Education Initiative students and Dr. Nicole Haggerty.

A photo of the route of the GHS students on their field school around Western Uganda.



Global Health Systems Program



Finally, a big farewell to our Global Health Systems Program students! They departed on May 3, 2019, beginning with a three week field school all around Western Uganda, followed by travelling to their respective practicum placements. The map pictured above displays the field school route throughout Western Uganda. Throughout the field school, students had the opportunity to visit several health care delivery sites. Some of these included a tour of a Health Sciences Program, a tour of Health service in Mbarara, a tour of the Uganda National Lab and Butabika Hospital for Mental Health, among others. They also got to see some of the amazing spots in Uganda, such as Murchison Falls National Park. We look forward to hearing more as they continue their time in Uganda!

Social Media Take-over! The GHS students will be doing a social media takeover on our Twitter throughout the month of June. Stay tuned to hear more about their daily activities!

Funding

Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund

The Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund is holding another round of funding for 2019. It is open to Western graduate students who meet the eligibility requirements. Students can receive a maximum of \$1,500 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 are to be submitted electronically and will be assessed on a rolling basis, every 8 weeks, until the pool of funding is alloted. The total funding pool for 2019 is \$10,000 CAD.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be currently enrolled as a Western student;
- The applicant must be post their Comprehensive Exams if a PhD student;
- The applicant must be directing their request towards research funding;
- The applicant's research must be related to the continent of Africa;
- The applicant cannot have been previously awarded the Africa Institute Graduate Student Research Fund.

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

A reception to honor Professor Tebello Nyokong June 12, 3 p.m., Chu Centre

“I’m sincerely driven by promoting young people. That is my greatest passion.” –Tebello Nyokong

[Dr. Tebello Nyokong](#) is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Rhodes University in South Africa. She is a world renowned researcher in medicinal chemistry and nanotechnology. Her research focuses on photodynamic therapy as an alternative to chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer and on the development of sensors from nanostructured materials for environmentally, biologically and medically relevant molecules. She has received numerous awards and accolades including the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award, handed out annually to an African scientist who has distinguished themselves in the fields of science, technology and innovation. She is passionate about and a strong advocate for science, for innovation, for research excellence and for students. She believes strongly in training students to be responsible, efficient and reliable leaders of South Africa and beyond. Professor Nyokong will receive a Doctor of Science, honoris causa (D.Sc.) during Western’s 313th Convocation Ceremonies in the afternoon on Thursday June 13, 2019.

We invite you to [come and meet Professor Nyokong](#) at 3 pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 in the Chu Centre.

Please RSVP to africain@uwo.ca by June 10th.



Photo credits to Mr. Clint Bradfield, Fotofirst

Welcome to 9 new faculty members!

Janet Martin, Associate Professor in the Departments of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine as well as Epidemiology & Biostatistics. She studies global health, health services research, the global burden of postoperative death, and more.

Jun Li, Professor in the Faculty of Education. He studies African education and culture, intercultural studies, global education policy, international education, and more.

Maya Shatzmiller, Professor in the Department of History, as well as the Director of MENARG (Middle East and North Africa Research Group). She studies the history of the Islamic world.

Timothy Conley, Professor in the Department of Economics. He studies developing economies, applied and theoretical econometrics, and more.

Laurel Shire, Associate Professor in the Department of History. She studies the US in 19th century, focusing on the relationship between race, gender, and U.S expansion, as well as Native and African American studies.

Andrea Allen, Lecturer in the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research. She studies African Diaspora in Brazil, black feminism, sexuality, gender and LGBTQ studies, and more.

Thomas Tieku, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at King's. He studies negotiation and mediation, the African Union, international organizations, Africa's relations with the West, informal global governance, multilateral promotion, defense of democracy, and more.

Melanie Randall, Professor in the Faculty of Law. She studies sex discrimination, issue of women's autonomy rights and sexual violence in women's lives. She also has a collaborative project with African colleagues and scholars called the [Equality Effect](#).

Erin Hannah, Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Political Science at King's. She studies international political economy, development, gender and trade, global civil society, and more.

Two Incoming VUSP Scholars from Ghana:

In September, Prof. Owusu-Dabo and Prof. Nyarko Boampong from Ghana will be hosted here at Western University. Isaac Luginaah and Ernest Yanful have partnered to make this happen, and the Africa Institute is happy to provide matching funds through the Visiting University Scholars Funding Program. Stay tuned for more information closer to their visit!

Other Upcoming Events...

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

An Evening in Conversation with Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Senior Advisor to the Board & Co-Founder of the Stephen Lewis Foundation

"Guardians of the Future: Grandmothers as Powerful Agents of Social Change"

Speaking about the Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign, who have been at our past Africa-Western Collaboration Day

When: Wednesday May 29, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Where: Kenny Theatre, Darryl J. King Student Life Centre at King's College, Western University

Free event, donations welcomed