

The Africa Institute

Newsletter

Director's Note

I've had the pleasure, as Acting Director of the Africa Institute over the last 6 months, to get to know more and more of the Western community engaged in research and teaching on the continent of Africa in countries including Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Madagascar and more. Our Western community members from faculty members to graduate students to staff are, in many different ways, extending Western's influence and impact in enhancing health and wellbeing, advancing quality education, eradicating poverty, reducing hunger, reducing health inequality, improving gender equality, increasing access to clean water and sanitation and demonstrating the value of deep, meaningful partnerships with organizations and institutions in Africa. I'm very proud to be involved with this amazing Institute and the many Western community members who through their passion, commitment and unique capabilities are changing lives. I look forward to the next 6 months as we work with the Western Community to define what the next 5 years of the Africa Institute will hold.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicole Haggerty
Ivey Business School



Strategic Planning Update & Retreat Recap

The Africa Institute Strategic Planning Retreat, on December 13, 2017, provided an opportunity to discuss the key themes that emerged from the 18 individual meetings held with members between Oct - Nov 2017. Discussing these themes and receiving feedback generated a number of ideas and goals for the Institute's next growth phase.



It is clear that members want to see true partnerships formed with African scholars and communities and further opportunities for African scholars to come to Western to foster this two-way collaboration. Members endorsed increased effort to assist with identifying sustainable funding and grant opportunities for collaboration with the AI. Finally, introducing regular newsletters, creating dynamic website content, reinstating a regular seminar series and energizing our graduate student community were highlighted as key ways the Africa Institute broadcast our contributions and engage with our partners.

The next step in the strategic planning process is to create a draft document, by March 2018, to circulate to the Advisory Committee and members of the Africa Institute. After this stage, we will host a series of Town Hall sessions to gather feedback from the larger community with a launch of the next strategy to follow. We look forward to hearing your feedback!

Community Engagement

Past Events

● Prof. Judith Kinnaird



Prof. Judith Kinnaird, Professor of Economic Geology, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa visited Western, through the Visiting University Scholars Program (VUSP), hosted jointly by the Africa Institute and the Department of Earth Sciences. During her stay she delivered a public lecture on "Platinum mining in South Africa: Critical

metal, critical supply" and had the opportunity to be a guest speaker in the Global Health Systems in Africa Foundations course to discuss the Global Health Impacts of Mining in Africa with graduate students in the program.

● Meet and Greet with Trust Birungi

On January 29, 2018, graduate students had the opportunity to meet with Trust Birungi to ask questions about his experiences as an entrepreneur in Uganda. Western's Engineers Without Borders club brought young entrepreneur, Trust Birungi, from Uganda, Africa, as a part of the Kumvana Fellowship program, to share his entrepreneurial experience as well as gain valuable knowledge to take back with him for his future businesses. Trust is the co-founder of Akorion, an ag-tech company digitizing agricultural value chains to enable smallholder farmers to access high-quality production and marketing services. Trust has a keen interest in sustainability and innovation.

Recent News

[Prime Minister announces that the Government of Canada will officially recognize the International Decade for People of African Descent](#)

● Dr. Ezeh: Global Health Conversation Series Guest Speaker and Graduate Student Meet & Greet

December 15, 2017



The Africa Institute in collaboration with the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics and the Global Health Series brought Dr. Ezeh, Senior Advisor for the African Population Health Research Centre in Nairobi, Kenya to Western to speak about "Changing the Narrative on Development Discourse in Africa: The African Population Health Research Centre's Experience". A Graduate Student Meet and Greet followed the talk to give students the opportunity to ask Dr. Ezeh questions.

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars! Event details TBD.

Feb 12, Africa Institute Graduate Committee Speaker Series

March 23, Africa Institute Graduate Committee Speaker Series

May 4, Canada Gairdner Global Health Lecture Series Symposium
(12:45 - 6:30 p.m.)

Publication: North-South Mobility in Canada's Universities

Western International, in collaboration with Aga Khan University and Global Higher Education Consultancy, has made a significant contribution to research in identifying ethical considerations for North-South student mobility programs and resulting best practices. As universities redouble efforts to internationalize, it is a challenge, and their responsibility, to be hyper-self-reflexive about asymmetrical power relationships and how they collaborate with partners in the Global South in order to avoid unintentionally reproducing oppressive or colonial relationships. Bob Gough (affiliated member of the Africa Institute), Farzana Karim-Haji and Pamela Roy's work is featured in a recent Universities Canada publication entitled, North-South Mobility in Canada's Universities.

Western  International

Publication page:
English | Français



**Universities
Canada.**
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Canada.**

AI Seminar Series: Bridging the Gap

Friday, February 2, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

For our first Seminar Series of the year, we hosted an interdisciplinary event focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where 7 of our Africa Institute members shared their diverse approaches to the following three goals: Good Health and Well-Being; Quality Education; and Partnerships for the Goals. Keep your eye out for the videos coming soon!

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Upcoming Seminar Series:

Feb 28 2:00-3:00 p.m. Chu Centre, IGAB	March 29 2:00-3:00 p.m. Chu Centre, IGAB	April 26 2:00-3:00 p.m. Chu Centre, IGAB
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CAAS Conference 2018



The Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) 2018 Conference will be hosted at Queens University from May 4 - 6, 2018. Dr. Nicole Haggerty, Acting Director of the Africa Institute and Director, Ubuntu Management Education Initiative has been selected as a panelist

to present on "Transforming African Management Education: The Case for Indigenous Business Cases."

Scott MacEachern's Upcoming Visit to Western, March 2018



Scott MacEachern is a Professor of Anthropology at Bowdoin College who specializes in African archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, and state formation. His most recent work is *Searching for Boko Haram: A History of Violence in Central Africa*, published by Oxford University Press in 2018.

Africa Institute Blog Redesign



The Africa Institute blog features reflections written by Western students who have done work or research in Africa. MMASc Global Health Systems in Africa students and Summer Field School participants, reflect on their experiences during their time in Africa. An upcoming addition to our blog is a Graduate Student Blog Competition, “Conversations with Africa”, an initiative created by the Africa Institute Graduate Committee (AIGC). We are excited to reveal our new blog redesign just in time for the competition. We hope to see your submissions! Check out the new blog: westernuafriainstitute.com

Africa Institute Graduate Committee (AIGC) Blog Competition



Conversations with Africa is a two-way dialogue between students at Western and students studying on the African continent meant to share ideas, engage with valuable initiatives and meet challenges. Students write about a key issue or topic based on their expertise, research or experiences with Africa.

Students should submit their blog posts to conversationswithafrica@uwo.ca with the subject line “CWA18” and members of the Africa Institute Graduate Committee will review and publish them online. The Africa Institute Advisory Committee will then judge the winners of the Blog Competition.

More details at:

http://www.uwo.ca/africainstitute/about_the_institute/graduate_committee/conversations_with_africa.html

Reminder: Three Incoming Visiting Research Only Students

Edwin Kimitei, Moi University, Kenya, Supervisor: Nicole Haggerty, Arrival: February 2018, QE II Scholar

Raymond Elikplim Kofinti, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, Supervisor: Isaac Luginaah, Arrival: April 2018, AI Visiting Scholar Fund

Ebelechukwu (Gloria) Igwe, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Supervisor: Isola Ajiferuke, Arrival: May 2018, QE II Scholar