

February 16, 2023



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Africa Center Newsletter

Hi everyone! We're so excited to return for our first newsletter of 2023. Read on to learn about some of the things we're reading, watching, and attending to stay up to date on social, environmental, and sustainability issues in Africa!

Congratulations to all of our Africa Center Graduate Student Research Scholarship Recipients!

Chukwudi Keke, PhD student in Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences

Katherine Stevick, Masters student in Environmental Sociology

Anahita Verahrami, Masters student in Graduate Degree Program in Ecology

Natalie Wickenkamp & Kalani Williams, PhD students in Microbiology

Graduate Student Scholars Highlight: Chukwudi Keke



Project: Evaluating smoking cessation interventions for people with HIV in South Africa

In this month's newsletter, we're highlighting scholarship recipient Chukwudi Keke. Chukwudi is a second year PhD student in Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences, with a specialization in Epidemiology. His research with Dr. Jessica Elf focuses on exploring some of the perceived barriers to smoking cessation among HIV infected smokers in South Africa. He hopes to facilitate focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with behavioral and peer counselors to access perceptions about behavioural counselling, peer support, combination nicotine replacement therapy and medications for HIV-infected smokers.

Are you interested in becoming a Graduate Student Research Scholar with the Africa Center? We are now accepting applications for Spring 2023! Deadline to apply is March 24 at 5pm. Learn more [HERE](#).

Eye on Africa Guest Lecture Series: Truman Young

The Africa Center's Eye on Africa
Lecture Series



ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION: A USEFUL TOOL BUT A FOOLISH FOUNDATION?

TRUMAN P YOUNG
Professor Emeritis and
Restoration Ecologist,
UC Davis
Affiliate Professor,
Colorado State
University



**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 22**
4:00 PM
LSC ROOM 304

**FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

In his talk, Dr. Young uses his research on human-dominated ecosystems in Kenya rangelands and Western grasslands to explore the reality that conservation and development are inherently in conflict, but that there are points of contact between the two that provide hope for greater compatibility. He will also report on the results from the Kenya Long-term Exclosure Experiment that has been manipulating the presence and absence of livestock and wildlife in an African savanna for the past 27 years.

ATTEND VIRTUALLY AT <https://zoom.us/j/95590761572>



On Wednesday, February 22 at 4pm in Lory Student Center Room 304, join the Africa Center in welcoming Dr. Truman Young. Dr. Young is a Professor Emeritis and Restoration Ecologist with UC Davis and Affiliate Professor with CSU. His lecture, titled "Economic justifications for conservation: a useful tool but a foolish foundation?" will explore the reality that conservation and development are inherently in conflict, but that there are points of contact between the two that provide hope for greater compatibility.

Attend virtually [HERE](https://zoom.us/j/95590761572)

Into Africa: Presented by the Village Care Project

On Thursday, March 9 from 6 to 7:30pm, *Into Africa* will be presented at the Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures. This event will be presented by Georgia Evans, President and Founder of the [Village Care Project](#). VCP is a nonprofit based in Loveland that helps indigenous African villagers, especially those in Tanzania. Goals of the organization include: education and assistance regarding clean, safe drinking water; distribution of treated mosquito bed nets to help prevent malaria; delivery of tarp to waterproof thatch and mud homes; and distribution of solar LED lanterns. Admission to the program is \$5 per person, and light refreshments will be served. Advance reservations are recommended.

Purchase tickets [HERE](#)



LEARN

CSU's Dr. Melinda Laituri awarded as AAAS Fellow

CSU Spur Impact Map: Highlighting Dr. Kathleen Galvin

One of the stories portrayed on the Impact Map at CSU Spur features Africa Center Director Kathleen Galvin's work on pastoral land use, conservation, climate variability, dryland adaptation strategies, and household decision-making under



On January 31, 2023, it was announced that Dr. Melinda Laituri, professor of Geography at CSU, was given the rank of Fellow by the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She was honored in the section of Geology and Geography for distinguished contributions to geography and geospatial sciences, particularly for advancing interdisciplinary, participatory initiatives that use geospatial science to tackle complex, societally important problems. "In the past there have been few women geographers in this category so this was for me quite an honor," said Dr. Laituri of the award.

Learn more about this award [HERE](#)

environmental uncertainty in East Africa. This interactive Impact Map, part of the new exhibit on the third floor of the Spur campus's Terra building, allows users to explore specific ways faculty, staff, students, and alumni are working to solve problems, support communities and create impact in far-flung corners of the world. The map emphasizes Galvin's 30 years in East Africa, where she has elevated the voices of community members and advocated for the importance of Indigenous and local knowledge for monitoring ecosystem changes and managing ecosystems.

Read more [HERE](#)

LISTEN

Field Notes - Rebekah Kading



In this month's installment of Field Notes, we talk to newly-appointed Executive Committee member Dr. Rebekah Kading. Her lab, situated in the Center for Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases, studies the ecology and transmission dynamics of vector-borne pathogens, particularly emerging arboviruses. We chat

Living Planet: Namibia's Fishrot Scandal

The Living Planet podcast explores our Earth and the impacts we have on it. The podcast tackles important environmental conversations with thought leaders from around the world. In this segment, they discuss how Namibia's fall-out from a scandal known as 'Fishrot' — where fishing rights were illegally given to an Icelandic company — is still rocking the country, its government and its fishermen. Plus, later in the episode, 21-year-old Ta'Kaiya Blaney from the Tla'amin Nation shares her perspective on the current

about her previous work with the CDC, her recent research on the emerging Rift Valley Fever Virus, and the charity she founded to support children in Uganda, [Musoke International](#).

Listen [HERE](#)

biodiversity summit in Montreal and the shortcomings of such UN conferences.

Listen [HERE](#)

WATCH

Greening Madagascar's Rural Areas

The World Food Programme and the Government of Madagascar have launched the Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) initiative. WFP and partners establish solar-powered hubs, a sustainable water source and ICT in remote areas allowing for the provision of essential services such as energy, water, and digital platforms to members of the community, in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.



Watch the video [HERE](#)

Africa's Path to Clean Mobility - Driven by Motorcycles | TED

A lack of infrastructure in parts of Africa has made unregulated, gas-powered motorcycle taxis widespread -- a system that gets people where they need to be, but heavily pollutes the air and excludes drivers from the formal economy. TED Fellow and entrepreneur Adetayo Bamiduro offers his vision for a cleaner, more equitable future, where an electric motorcycle service helps green Africa's transportation and transform the lives and livelihoods of drivers.



Watch the video [HERE](#)

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Want to add something to next month's newsletter? Let us know!

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