



**FLASHBACK:** Some of the previous STM annual maternal and child conferences/reunion moments. *left: Faculty members at the 2015 conference. Alumni and students announce their presence. STM annual conferences provide great networking opportunities.*

# Save the date 23 Feb 2018

## STM Annual Scientific Conference

@ Lake Victoria Serena Resort, Lweza-Kigo Entebbe Road, Kampala

STM East Africa invites faculty members, students, alumni (graduates and those yet to graduate); and well wishers to the 2018 annual maternal and child health scientific conference.

**GET INVOLVED:**

**Register for the conference:** STM network members – 50,000/- per person.

**Organisations:** 100,000/- for individual staff member participating.

**Organisational dinner table or exhibition table:** 2,000,000/- includes 5 minutes power-point presentation and

dinner for 3 staff members.

**Interest your organization** to register for the conference.

**Fundraising:** Come ready to participate and contribute towards set up of High dependence units and emergency fund in Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative sites.

Send mobile money: Irene Adong: 0779904547 or make payment at STM Mirembe Hall to Irene Adong.

**Share your change projects or published works for presentation during the conference** – send writeup/abstract of approximately 300 words (12 points - double spaced).

The writeup/abstract should be according to the guidelines below:

- Title, Authors, author contacts (phone and e-mail contact),
- Background/ introduc-

tion & objectives

- Methods & activities implemented
- Results and Lessons Learned,
- Conclusion/recommendations

**Registration and abstracts submission deadline** is 12 January 2018.

**Submit abstracts to:**

internstm@gmail.com, agutu.topi@gmail.com

**PRIZES:** Top change projects/research initiatives will get small enrichment fund towards the initiative presented.

The STM 2018 annual scientific conference and dinner will be held on 23rd Feb at Lake Victoria Serena Resort Lweza-Kigo, Entebbe Road, Kampala, 2pm to 8.30pm.

Come and network with the bigger STM family and learn more about available opportunities in the maternal and child health field.



**“... project sustainability is possible if we harness what we have; land and the communities around us.”**

*Dr Miriam Mutabazi, Director, STM East Africa.*

*Full story on pg 4*

**Conference theme: Building communities responsive to maternal & child health - The Multidisciplinary approach.**

# STM summer intern - Ananya embraces Uganda culture



By Ananya Parosor

*Jebaleko! Mulimutya mikwano!*  
(How are you? Hello friends!).

My name is Ananya Parosor, the current summer intern (2017) for Save The Mothers. Here is a little bit about me, my scholarship and my work here in Uganda:

#### About my degree:

I am a 4th year Biomedical (Health) Sciences student at the University of Calgary (UofC) in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. My program focuses on aspects of health and health research in the multidisciplinary realms/streams of global health, basic sciences and computer science.

Although my major focuses on the hard sciences, I have been interested in global health since the first class in health education- from cell to society. It combines knowledge, inquiry, hands-on learning, communication and problem-solving.

#### About the opportunity:

I found out about this opportunity by chance through posters 2 days before the deadline! It is a collaboration between the Queen Elizabeth Scholars Program and Universities Canada (representing UofC).

It was quite hectic in getting all the requirements in, including reference letters from two professors, but it was well worth it to get the occasion to go to Uganda!

#### About the scholarship:

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II



*Left: Ananya. Ananya at work (front row - 2nd left) poses for a photo with Buikwe hospital health workers during perinatal mentorship recently.*

*Below: Ananya takes time off her busy schedule to attend a traditional marriage...all clad in traditional attire!*

Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program (QES) aims to inspire young, dynamic students across the Commonwealth to make long- term impacts in their local and global community through intercultural exchanges comprising of exploration, discovery, learning, innovation and networking.

UofC focuses on bringing international development initiatives to its students. The scholarship is funded by the Community Foundations of Canada.

#### About my projects:

The local partner organization is Save The Mothers

(STM), based at Uganda Christian University in Mukono, Uganda. STM believes that maternal mortality is not just a medical, but a societal issue, and that one should address the preventable causes of death for mothers and babies.

During my internship at STM I have engaged in monitoring and evaluating activities (hospital visits, implementation of a Toll-Free line, focus group visits and a perinatal clinical mentorship), academic writing (blogs, reports, infographics), and social media work (maintaining the Facebook page, designing promotional items).

#### About my future plans:

In the short-term, I want to successfully finish my last year of my degree and defend my thesis. For the long-term, I want to pursue further schooling and a career in community health sciences and/or emergency medicine. I would also like to complete a longer global health fellowship or internship in East Africa.

Thank you for reading. Have a good day!

**Ananya, STM appreciates your contribution to saving mothers.**



# Meet STM-GHC 2017-2018 fellows

## *Ivan and Meredith*

Every year Save the Mothers in partnership with Global Health Corps identify and recruit fellows to support its programs. For the year 2017-2018 Meredith and Ivan joined Save the Mothers team in July 2017. Welcome!

**Meredith Hutchins** studied Medical Anthropology and Global Health at the University of Washington in Seattle and holds a Master of Public Health in Global Maternal and Child Health from Boston University.

Outside of the classroom, she has worked for several global nonprofit organizations including Partners In Health, the African Food and Peace Foundation, Care2Communities, and StopTB Ghana.

Within each organization, she has worked to promote health equity and

systems strengthening through sustainable funding, capacity-building and strategic partnerships.

She also served on the board of trustees of the Cambridge Women's Center, a grassroots-driven nonprofit that empowers women and fights against all forms of oppression.

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**Mwase Ivan** has five years' experience in nutrition programming in both development and humanitarian contexts.

Before joining STM, he has worked as a Nutrition Consultant with PREFA-Uganda building technical capacity for (Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in HIV/AIDS.

*Welcome to  
Save the Mothers  
Meredith  
and Ivan.*

In addition, he has worked with CONCERN worldwide responding to the West Nile South Sudan influx.

Furthermore, he has engaged in extensive food and nutrition research with NARL in value addition and diet diversity. Ivan has trained and mentored a number of intern doctors, nutritionists and public health officers on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

He holds a master's degree in Human Nutrition (Public Health Nutrition), University of Glasgow, UK and a BSC, in Food Science and technology, Makerere University, Uganda.



## July defense students take final lap - 25 set October graduation



[www.eastafrica.savethemothers.org](http://www.eastafrica.savethemothers.org), T Agutu, Networking Director (Editor/graphic designer) - 256-772311498, [stmnetworking@ucu.ac.ug](mailto:stmnetworking@ucu.ac.ug) Contributors: STM whatsapp network, Meredith Hutchins, Ivan Mwase, Dr Miriam Mutabazi, J Huston, Ananya Parasor Photographers: Jess Huston/Meredith Reviewers: Patricia Paddey (Communications Director - STM Canada), Dr M Mutabazi, Director -STM East Africa)

# Visit to Mullie Children's Family, Kenya

By Dr Miriam Mutabazi

We would like to extend our gratitude to People's Church Canada that sponsored us to visit Mullie Children's Family (MCF) in Ndalani and Yatta, Machakos, Kenya at the end of June 2017.

Peoples Church Canada has been in partnership with working groups in Uganda such as Save the Mothers East Africa and the Kadenge Family (Andrew and Eve). Last May a team visited both parties and having seen the work we each do, it was proposed we travel together to learn how they handle the vulnerable and the agricultural enterprises to sustain their ministry and impact the communities around them.

## The trip

Seven people travelled from Uganda, by road, through the Malaba border post. This gave us the opportunity to experience driving through the winding mountain roads of Kenya, viewing the beautiful landscape covered with the famous Kenyan tea plantations. We caught a glimpse of the flamingos on Lake Naivasha and stopped to view the Great Rift valley on our way back.

Once we got to MCF, Ndalani, Angela and her team explained the philosophy of their work and how they help the children, which is their primary mission. They provide pastoral care and formal education up to graduate level and beyond. Some of their children now work with them to help make the dream come true for others. We had

the opportunity to meet the children and their teachers.

The first day ended with us enjoying devotions with the younger children

## Farm project

The following day we toured the Ndalani farm project to see how MCF has



used appropriate technology to get a high yield of various crops for sale, to sustain their efforts to help the vulnerable children in their care.

MCF demonstrates how the community is involved in the farm activities. And the design of the project is to give back to the community in terms of clean safe water, formal education and employment for the family.

The team visited the:

- Crop rotation blocks: French beans, cabbage, sorghum, tomatoes, pigeon peas;
- Irrigation system
- Harvest sorting and packaging center
- River project to harvest sand; provide clean safe water for household use and water for irrigation of the crops.
- Bridge over River Athi for ease of transport and linkages for the surrounding communities
- Re-afforestation site

- Forest site for individual prayer
- Water treatment plant

## The child mothers

The team travelled to Yatta where we met the child mothers and their babies at the day care centre. They have been provided with opportunity to get back into school and build a career as the center looks after them and their children. They are supported throughout their training until they begin a career and become self sustaining.

Other facilities are joinery, carpentry, agriculture, green house farming, fisheries, irrigation station and large water dams for irrigation.

We observed the standards required to qualify one's agricultural produce for export to Europe.

## Inspired

We were inspired, observing and learning how to implement our faith in expanding the kingdom of God to the needy, our neighbours (the young and old) in practical ways.

We all agree that project sustainability is possible if we harness what we have; land and the communities around us.

Reforestation, irrigation and partnerships can provide an environment for continuous harvests if we are to engage in profitable agribusiness enterprise, even in the dry areas of our country.

*The writer is the Director, Save the Mothers East Africa.*

**Take action - The MCF approach can be replicated to implement a sustainable community maternal health program. Think about it.**



*Piloting sunflower and intercropping for controlling pests and better crop yields.*



*Dams and fish ponds in Yatta and a river at Ndalani*