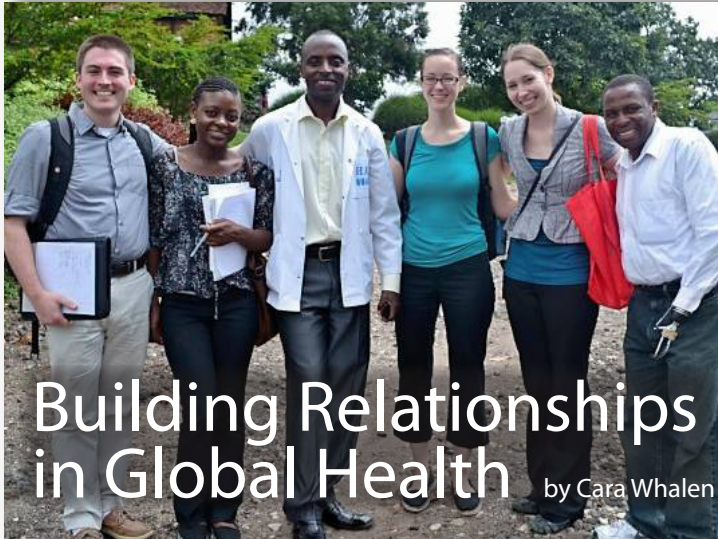




Health Sciences Center for Global Health

# The Global Address



*Pictured left to right: William Brigode, Evelyne Ntam, Zachary Dusingizimana, Elena Moore, Cara Whalen, Frederic Ndabaramiye*

I knew that I wanted to go to Rwanda and somehow contribute my skill set to the Center. I feel that what contributed to the overall success of this endeavor is that I did not rush the process. I took my time and made a plan.

Immediately after the fete, I began speaking with my global health mentor in the physical therapy department to get advice and more information on how to proceed. I focused on training and gaining experience in physical therapy areas I thought would be useful for this population in Rwanda. I took global health classes that focused on Africa and how to



work in an interdisciplinary team in a developing nation. Furthermore, I took it upon myself to extensively research the history and health care needs of Rwanda. During this time I also worked actively to gain support at the university with various faculty members and administrators, while also seeking out their advice. Importantly, around this time, [Buckeyes Without Borders](#) was founded and I was able to garner student interest and support. So after a year of preparation, I was able to go to Charlene Jendry (the head of PIC) with a fleshed out plan of my ideas and intentions with the support of many individuals at OSU. I think this was key in her accepting a partnership with us and completely trusting us every step of the way. My general feeling in life is if you want to do something, all you have to do is ask. But if you want the answer to be yes, you better have done your homework. Charlene later told me that a group of school teachers wanted to go to the UCC to help the very next month, but had no plans and no ideas as to what they could contribute. Needless to say, this partnership did not work out.

The most important connection I made was with Frederic and Zachary, the co-founders of UCC (See "Frederic's Tale" on page 2). My advice for others is to establish a solid relationship with your hosts early on in the planning process. This is so crucial for the success of the project. Most importantly, you must find out what they want and need and not just give them what you think they should want and need. So in the summer of 2011 (one year prior to our trip), we gave Frederic and Zachary a needs assessment that they could deliver at the center and return to us via e-mail.

*Continues on page 2*

## Building Relationships in Global Health

by Cara Whalen

*In August I received my Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health. In my final term as a PT student, I traveled to Rwanda with a team of students on the most incredible adventure of my life. I organized five students (including myself) from the graduate interdisciplinary student organization Buckeyes Without Borders on a service trip to Gisenyi, Rwanda.*

We represented the professions of medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy, and physical therapy. In Gisenyi, we worked at the [Ubumwe Community Center](#) (UCC), which is a center for people with disabilities.

At the UCC, we delivered health education programs, distributed supplies, and conducted a needs assessment to inform future trips. The trip was very successful and we were able to cement a partnership that will allow students to return to the UCC annually. I would like to share my insight from this experience on how relationship building is a key to success in global health endeavors and sustainability of programs.

### PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

I first learned about Partners In Conservation (PIC) and the UCC at the Columbus Zoo's Rwandan Fete (a fundraising event for projects in Rwanda) in the summer of 2009. From that moment,

## Building Relationships in Global Health Continued from cover

From this needs assessment, we were able to identify the top three perceived health concerns of the people and the directors. In the months leading up to our trip, we were then able to develop a strategy of what we could do on ground that would be most meaningful to the people at the UCC and come prepared with health education materials. This also gave us insight as to where their knowledge and skills were lacking. It is clear that the UCC does many things right, but this survey and my communications with Zachary helped us to understand where we could fit in and how we could use our specialized skills to help. Most importantly, the results were somewhat different than we would have predicted. Had we not done this survey, we would have potentially brought skills and services that were not needed or meaningful. This would have crushed our opportunity to set up a sustainable partnership for future students. First impressions are so crucial.

Another piece of advice I have is don't be afraid to look for partnerships in unexpected places. One concern for the center is that the deaf children have never had their hearing tested before. We were unable to bring an audiologist with us this year. But since this was their primary health concern, I was not satisfied. So I searched online to see if there were any audiologists currently in Rwanda. I ended up making contact with an organization in England that is in the position to station an audiologist in Rwanda to do hearing testing and treatment. They have now partnered with us and we collected data for them on site to help this organiza-

tion write a grant proposal. Since we returned, things are looking very promising that by next summer all of the deaf children's hearing can be tested and potentially treated in some cases. Just because you don't have the resources to do something doesn't mean you can't find someone who does. Think outside of the box and don't limit yourself to local partnerships.

### CONCLUSION

This was by far the most rewarding and educational experience of my life. I owe the success of the trip to the partnerships formed and the hard work and dedication of all the team members involved. For others interested in global health endeavors, here are my final thoughts for you. Advertise and market yourself—get as many people on board as possible with varying skill sets and knowledge. Ask questions, the more information you have the better! Be patient, be persistent, and don't get discouraged. Have a plan, but be flexible—things will always change. Have open communication with all involved. This will decrease frustration and increase your chance of success. Finally, follow your passion!

Students who want to learn more about BWB or find out how to participate in the next trip can contact [Cara Whalen](#).

Funding Sources: R25 International Practicum Grant and The Global Gateway Graduate Student Research Abroad Grant.



Above: Making wheelchair cushions  
Right: The happy owner of a new wheelchair cushion!



The team created an adapted spoon for this child.



Cara Whalen with one of the children from the Center

### Frederic's Tale

In 1994, following the murder of then Rwandan President Habyariman, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, a civil war began with the goal of wiping out the Tutsi population. It is estimated that 800,000 people were murdered in 100 days. Countless atrocities occurred and Frederic's story is one of those. At the age of 15 Frederic was riding a bus with 18 other passengers. Rebels who were responsible for the genocide pulled the bus over, forced each person to strip off their clothes, and then proceeded to brutally beat each individual. They selected Frederic to kill the other passengers, which he refused. To make an example of him, the rebels cut off both of his hands with a dull machete and left him for dead while they slaughtered the rest of the passengers. Somehow, Frederic ended up at the hospital where he stayed for a year (six of these months were spent in a coma). Because his mother could not care for him, he was taken to live at the Imbabazi Orphanage. It was here that he met Zachary Dusingizimana, a young teacher at the orphanage. Frederic stated that Zachary taught him how to smile again.

In 2003, team members from Partners in Conservation (PIC) found Frederic at Imbabazi. PIC is a conservation and humanitarian organization that is part of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, which has worked in Rwanda since 1991. The PIC team arranged for Frederic to come to Columbus and receive prosthetic hands. Empowered by this gesture, Frederic and Zachary co-founded the UCC in 2005 to improve the lives of people in their community living with disabilities. In 2008, PIC and the Columbus Zoo built a new facility for the center to expand its reach. PIC currently funds the Center's annual operating expenses. Together Frederic and Zachary are changing the culture of disability in Rwanda.

Frederic will be speaking on campus on October 3 at 11:00 AM in 136 Atwell Hall. This event is open to the public.





# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty, Staff and Student News

### College of Medicine Team Receives \$1.7M for TB research



Dr. Larry Schlesinger, chair of the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity, and team are recipients of a new five-year, \$1.7 million award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. The funding will support research of tuberculosis, an infectious disease that poses a tremendous threat to public health, affecting 2 billion people worldwide and killing millions annually.

[Read more](#)

### Gates Foundation Grant Opportunities

The Gates Foundation is now accepting grant proposals for Round 10 of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions. Two-page grant proposals are being accepted online until **November 7** on the following topics:

- Labor Saving Innovations for Women Smallholder Farmers
- New Approaches in Model Systems, Diagnostics, and Drugs for Specific Neglected Tropical Diseases
- New Approaches for the Interrogation of Anti-malarial Compounds
- Aid is Working. Tell the World.

[Read more](#)

### Save the date: R4WH Global Health Day 2013

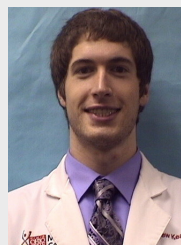
The annual [Ride for World Health](#) Global Health Day will be Friday May 3. Deogratias Niyizonkiza of Village Health Works will be a featured speaker. Details to follow.

### Volleyball fundraiser to benefit PODEMOS

There will be a "Beat Nebraska" party (with food and a 50/50 raffle for a \$250 dollar gift card) and volleyball tournament fundraiser to benefit [PODEMOS](#) at The Loose Goose Tavern on October 5 at 6 PM.

[Read more](#)

### Med 3 Recognized for Excellence in Community Service



The university recently recognized Andrew Keaster, a third year student in the College of Medicine, with the 2012 Student Award for Excellence in Community Service for his exceptional community service record. He has volunteered more than 225 hours of service as an Ohio State student, including serving as coordinator at the Asian Free Clinic and as a health instructor at a local Somali middle school. Keaster is dedicated to increasing access to medical care for groups disadvantaged by financial, social, cultural, and lingual barriers.

### Center for African Studies Receives Grant

The Center for African Studies has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to increase academic collaboration and faculty exchange and support a new study abroad program with two Ethiopian universities. The \$224,684 grant will fund the exchange of faculty and staff from Ohio State with those from Addis Ababa and Gondar Universities, providing global opportunities for co-teaching, instructor training and distance-learning.

[Read more](#)

## UPDATE charity: water at OSU

In Fall 2010, we reported that the Office of International Affairs, the Office of Outreach & Engagement, the Health Sciences Center for Global Health and the International Program for Water Management in Agriculture collaborated with two Upper Arlington schools to teach students about the lack of clean water in the world. The collaboration, which was led by Amanda Postalakis, JD, Office of Legal Affairs, resulted in the three institutions work-

ing together to raise money to build a water well in a developing country through charity: water, a well-known 501c(3) that builds wells and establishes sanitation services in developing countries.

[charity: water](#) said it would take about 18 months to construct the project and report back and true to their word, the OSU/UA Schools Collaboration well is now a reality. "Our" well is located in the Central African Republic at the Machado School. The well serves 155 people who did not have clean water access before its construction. Go [online](#) to see this project on a map via GPS!

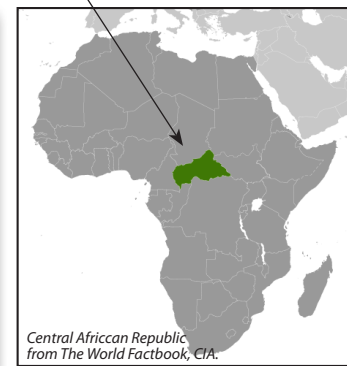
Where they used to get water...



...and where they get it now.



Central African Republic



# Global Health: the Undergraduate Perspective

## "Then Let Us Work Together": Reflections on Guatemala

"To give is better than to receive," so the childhood admonishment goes. This past summer, however, I learned that this might not always be the case.



*Katie Ferman is an undergraduate student majoring in International Studies and Environmental Policy and Management, and President of the Global Health Initiative at Ohio State.*

For two weeks in June, myself and seven other undergraduate members of Global Health Initiative traveled to the highlands of Guatemala for what we thought would simply be a two-week service project. Global Health Initiative is an independent student-led global health organization dedicated to increasing awareness of various global health disparities on campus.

This year, for our biennial International Volunteering trip abroad, we had decided to partner with the non-profit organization Peacework via their Village Network program. This program connects corporations and student organizations in the United States with community leaders in developing countries to improve the health and well-being of their communities.

Throughout the course of the year, we fundraised enough money to install 20 complete combustion ONIL stoves in local households, which have been shown to significantly decrease incidents of respiratory infection and burns associated with open-pit cooking fires. We also planned to participate in community renovation projects, tour local clinics, and work in organic teaching gardens. After several months of preparation, our hard work came to fruition and the eight of us departed from Port Columbus International Airport en route to Guatemala City.

Words are hardly adequate to describe a place like Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. Rising out of the surrounding countryside in a series of green, majestic mountainsides, the town and its 42,000 residents overlook the pristine waters of Lake Atitlán. Being an area rich in folkloric tradition, one story goes that anyone who comes to the town and sets eyes on the lake will be forever possessed by it and return to live on its shores.

Behind the beauty and tranquility, however, is a tragic history. On several occasions, our group talked to women who were widowed during the brutality of the Guatemala Civil War. Many of the peaceful Tzutujil Mayan residents had been brutally murdered in a wave of ethnocide that struck in the early nineties. These people were often cut down barbarically in the woods by machetes, believed by local residents to be funded, in part, directly or indirectly, by American dollars.

Yet still they greeted us with open arms, and worked alongside us in each of our projects. That is not to say the people of Santiago were without flaws—indeed, alcoholism and domestic violence were, unfortunately, common problems in the region. Yet the enduring faith in the goodness of humanity the people of Santiago still somehow possessed also drove them to seek their own improvement and definition of progress, through various community grassroots development initiatives, citizen committees, and support groups.



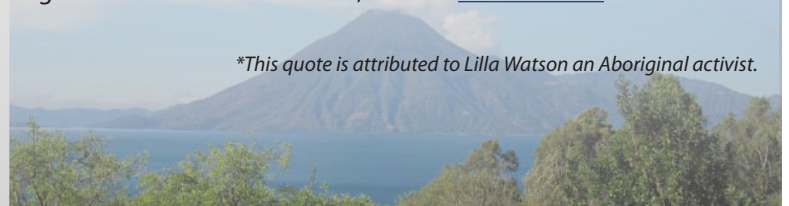
Soon, it began to sink in that what the people of Santiago were giving us was much more than we could ever give back. The proof came in fragmented moments—an impromptu lesson on how to make corn tortillas by hand; a celebration held in honor of our arrival; the paint-smeared hands of children who wanted to help us repaint their school. The people of Santiago taught us that when it comes to giving and receiving, the immaterial is hardly insignificant.

During the trip, our accompanying Peacework representative, Katie Haberman, told my group something she heard from a farmer in Belize. Since our return from Guatemala, we have all recited these words so often we have committed them to memory. He told her: "If you have come here to help us, you are wasting your time. But, if you have come here because you recognize that your liberation is bound up with my own, then let us work together."\*

The eight of us learned that it is not a question of giving and receiving. The people of Santiago Atitlán taught us that it is about listening, rather than just speaking; learning, more than you ever hoped to teach; being impacted, by the lives of those you had previously only sought to improve. That is a gift we can never repay.

For more information on Global Health Initiative or on how to get involved with Peacework, contact [Katie Ferman](#).

*\*This quote is attributed to Lilla Watson an Aboriginal activist.*

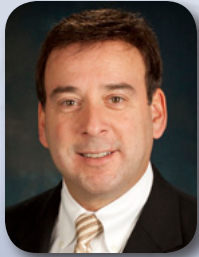




## And the survey says...

In the spirit of campaign season, we polled 10 faculty and students on a global health question and asked them to limit responses to a couple of words. Is your answer represented below or would you have said something different? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

# What do you think is the most important global health issue today?



**"Food and water quality"**

Michael S. Bisesi, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Director, Center for Public Health Practice  
College of Public Health



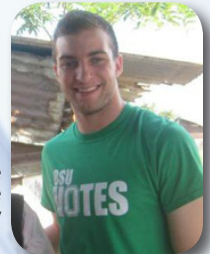
**"Equality in access"**

Cara Whalen, PT, DPT, CHES  
PhD Candidate  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



**"Food insecurity and malnutrition"**

Michelle Faierman  
MD Candidate 2015  
College of Medicine



**"Overpopulation"**

Brad McIntyre  
PharmD Candidate  
College of Pharmacy



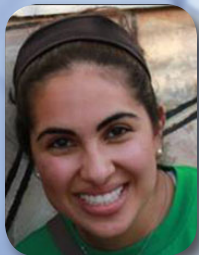
**"Implementation"**

Jesse J. Kwiek, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Departments of  
Microbial Infection & Immunity and  
Microbiology  
College of Medicine



**"Food security and emerging/reemerging infectious diseases"**

Armando E. Hoet, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM  
Director, Veterinary Public Health Program  
Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine



**"Non-communicable diseases"**

Mahvish Ahmed  
DDS Candidate 2013  
College of Dentistry



**"Hunger/malnutrition"**

Anne Kloos, PT, PhD, NCS  
Associate Professor, Clinical Allied Medicine  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



**"Global tobacco epidemic"**

Amy Ferketich, PhD  
Associate Professor, Div. of Epidemiology  
College of Public Health



**"Poverty"**

Daniel Sedmak, MD  
Director, Health Sciences Center for Global Health  
Chair, Department of Pathology