

# Engaging Africa

Exploring the St. Lawrence Kenya Connection June 29- July 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

## *Karibuni Nyumbani (Welcome Home)*

For more than four decades, St. Lawrence has built a unique connection with East Africa. In January 1972 we embarked on a pioneering study abroad experiment. Fifteen students and one faculty member spent three weeks in Kenya as part of the university's effort to expand off-campus programs and explore opportunities in the developing world. By 2019, more than two-thousand students from over thirty different universities having spent a semester or summer term in East Africa via the Kenya Program or (KSP). Our 2019 trip offers alumni an exclusive chance to experience some of this rich history. Led by renowned Kenya program faculty and staff, participants will explore the program themes of culture, environment and development through an interactive and invigorating experience based on the traditions of the KSP's past and present.

### Itinerary

#### Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> : Nairobi

Participants are asked to arrive by the morning of Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>. The KSP will arrange airport transfers and participants will spend the first two nights at the 5 acre Nairobi campus. Based in the upscale suburb of Karen, "the compound" as it is affectionately called is the home base for the KSP and several staff. Experiencing life as a student at the SLU-Kenya dorm, participants will learn about program history, visit local sites such as the famous giraffe center and elephant orphanage, and have a chance to meet and socialize with Nairobi based alumni and key program partners.

#### Monday July 1<sup>st</sup>: Nairobi to Nyeri

Moving out of Kenya's cosmopolitan capital city, we will then head north into the central highlands to visit the current site of the program's rural homestay in Nyeri county. Nyeri is a tea and coffee producing region with



#### Highlights Include Opportunities to:

- Explore Kenya's diverse cultures and environments
- Stay on the St. Lawrence Nairobi Campus
- Meet Kenyan based alumni, and program partners
- Engage with rural homestay families
- View student internship sites
- Visit world class sites of wildlife conservation
- Experience how unique the SLU-Kenya connection is



Welcome to the St. Lawrence Nairobi Campus in Karen

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some of the best farmland in Kenya. It was also a focal point of resistance during Kenya's anti-colonial rebellion in the 1950s and is the birthplace of the Greenbelt forest conservation Movement, which launched the career of Africa's first female Nobel Prize Winner, Wangari Maathai. Participants will have a chance to meet rural homestay families, visit several family farms and spend a night at Aberdare country club, nestled at the base of the over 13,000 ft high Aberdare mountain range.

### Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Nyeri to Laikipia

Moving from the Aberdares towards the foothills of Mount Kenya, we will then pass back into the Northern hemisphere and spend two nights at the luxurious Sweetwaters Tented Camp, located in the 100,000 acre [Ol Pejeta conservancy](#). Based on the Laikipia plateau, we will have a chance to view some of Kenya's premier wildlife, discuss the challenges of conservation vs development, and meet with student internships contacts working on these issues throughout the region. The evenings will be spent watching gazelle, giraffe and even elephant come to drink at Sweetwater's famous night watering hole.

### Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>: Laikipia to Nakuru

After an early morning game drive and breakfast at Sweetwaters, we will travel into Kenya's Great Rift Valley for a two night stay at Nakuru National park. We will celebrate the fourth of July at the beautiful Sarova Lion hill resort overlooking Lake Nakuru's lush environment, teeming with wildlife. KSP academic director Abdelwahab Sinnary has deep professional roots in Nakuru and his knowledge and expertise will provide an ideal framework to explore the region.

Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> Nakuru to Naivasha: After a morning game drive and lunch in Nakuru, we will stay in the Rift Valley and travel to the nearby shores of Lake



The steep tea fields of Nyeri



The famous Sweetwaters "Tented" Camp



Lake Nakuru National Park



The Rift Valley's Mount Longonot

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Naivasha for a two night stay at the Naivasha Sopa lodge. Relaxing along the lake shore, participants can explore the vast hotel grounds where giraffe and zebra are common guests. Sunday will offer a chance to take a hippo viewing cruise on the lake or travel to nearby Mount Longonot and climb the slopes of the 9,000 ft dormant volcano.

**Monday July 8th- Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup>-Naivasha to Nairobi:** After breakfast we will travel back up the Great Rift Valley escarpment to return to Nairobi for an afternoon of discussions about the experiences of the KSP then and now. Dinner at the famous Carnivore restaurant and exploring Nairobi for touring and shopping in small groups will cap off the trip during the last two days before departing for your next adventure.

### Trip Leaders:

**Dr. Matt Carotenuto:** is professor of history at St. Lawrence and an alumnus of the Kenya program '98. His research has long explored the politics of identity in Kenya and he is the co-author of *Obama and Kenya: Contested Histories and the Politics of Belonging.* He has also coordinated the St. Lawrence African studies program and is the on-campus coordinator for the Kenya program.

**Dr. Abdelwahab Sinnary:** the academic director of the KSP since 2004, is Sudanese by birth and has done his graduate training and all subsequent work in Kenya. A conservation biologist, he has worked closely with local and international wildlife conservation groups such as the Machakos Wildlife Forum and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Prior to joining the KSP he was a director for the School for Field Studies Program in Kenya.

**Lina Karingi:** Lina Karingi is the Director for Finance and Administration. She joined the Program in 2002. Lina's undergraduate and post graduate training is in Economics, Business Administration and Law. She worked in diverse sectors before joining St. Lawrence, at the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), the Kenya Finance Bank and Kuona Trust. She is a full member of the Institute of Human Resources Management.

### Trip Leaders

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**Matt Carotenuto**



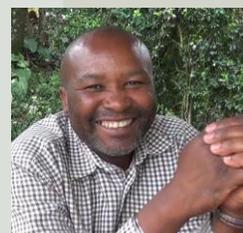
**Abdelwahab Sinnary**



**Lina Karingi**



**Michael Wairungu**



**Njau Kibochi**

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Dr. Michael Wairungu: joined the program in 2018 as an Assistant Director of Student Life and Academic Instruction. He holds a Ph.D. in Linguistic Anthropology from the University of Virginia.. Prior to joining the KSP, he was an Assistant Professor, and coordinator of Swahili at Northwestern University. He also taught Swahili and various courses in Linguistic Anthropology at Stanford University, University of Virginia and the University of the South. Besides teaching, Michael worked as a curriculum designer and specialist of Swahili at the Diplomatic Language Services in the U.S.

Njau Kibochi: is the program's longtime transportation coordinator and has been a friend and mentor to hundreds of alumni. He is also an avid birder.

**To Learn More:** we recommend you exploring the following resources. Additional resources to learn about Kenya will be shared during the orientation process.

- [Kenya Program Homepage](#)
- [Official KSP student Blog](#)
- [Official Program Facebook page](#)
- [Engaging Africa: Digital Archive](#)
- ["Sinking Down Roots" Inside Higher Ed article](#)

**Trip Cost:** \$4,750 per person based on single or double occupancy. (Maximum-16 participants. Children ages 16 and up are welcome to accompany a parent or guardian). The trip is inclusive of the following.

- Online introduction to Kenya and orientation for the trip run by Dr. Matt Carotenuto in Spring 2019
- Full board accommodations (all meals), park fees and airport transfers from June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 9<sup>th</sup>
- Semi private dorm style facilities in Nairobi, and 4 star safari accommodations during field components. Some single occupancy travelers may be asked to share a room in Nairobi only.
- Transportation outside of Nairobi in extended cab Toyota Landcruiser Safari vehicles with professional drivers and field guides.
- Local medical insurance and Flying Doctors medical evacuation coverage throughout the trip for each participant.
- Five KSP staff and faculty will accompany the group outside of Nairobi and serve as guides.

Airfare and travel to Kenya is not included. We recommend exploring Kenya Airways new direct flight from JFK or many other popular options with layovers in Europe. Program staff would be

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happy to recommend additional ways to extend your trip and see other parts of East Africa. For questions please email or call Matt Carotenuto at [mcarotenuto@stlawu.edu](mailto:mcarotenuto@stlawu.edu) (315-229-5456).

[Register Now to Secure Your Spot](#)



Welcome to Nairobi and the home of the KSP