



Editor's Note

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1st March, 2018

Editor's Note

Greetings on behalf of every one at the institute.

It has been fast paced start to 2018 already, and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

In this issue of our bi-monthly e-newsletter, we are pleased to bring you details of what transpired at the YELP Class of 2017 graduation ceremony (pictures included) and a sneak peek into the 2018 YELP class that we shall be welcoming to Kampala for the first seminar in April. We also bring you an up-and-close conversation with Alinaitwe Cleofash, recipient of the inaugural Magnus Muchunguzi certificate for outstanding leadership by a Fellow, as well as an interview with Kemiyondo Coutinho, a 2017 YELP Fellow, about her new film Kyenvu that recently won the Best Short Film award at the 2018 Pan African Film & Art Festival in the United States. Also look out for funding opportunities for young leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

Enjoy the read.



Watsemba Miriam
Editor

26-28 January

Inaugural YELP Fellows Graduate

The 2017 YELP Class had 20 Fellows from across various sectors in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda

By **Kwezi Tabaro**

Deputy Director, Léo Africa Institute

From 26-28 January 2018, the Léo Africa Institute held the graduation seminar for the inaugural class of the Young and Emerging Leaders Project (YELP). The fellows arrived in Kampala from the three participating countries, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda, on 26 January, and were hosted to a welcome reception by the Institute board. The next morning, the class set off to Lake Victoria Resort and Spa, Kigo for the final seminar of the fellowship held under the theme *“living your legacy”*.

The opening reflective session was facilitated by the institute's founder, Awel Uwhanganye and faculty member Anette Mbabazi. Awel expressed his appreciation for all the fellows that have made the time to participate in the fellowship, and emphasized the enormous corrective role that they have in the current state of leadership in the world. The session was text-based, focusing on readings from leaders Theodore Roosevelt and President Paul Kagame.



The discussion on Citizens in a Republic (a speech delivered by Theodore Roosevelt) tackled the notion that the success of a state depends solely on good governance; in the speech, President Roosevelt stated that as much as that is essential, the most important factor in a state's advancement is the role that average citizens play in the betterment of themselves and their communities. President Paul Kagame's speech focused on the importance of historical clarity in preventing the repetition of disastrous mistakes by states. This speech was essential to understanding what "African solutions to African problems" means as well as the importance of accountability as a leader.

Awel Uwhanganye and Anette Mbabazi facilitate the first session

Graduation Ceremony

Fellows were later joined by their guests, representatives from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Stanbic bank, as well as members of the board and faculty at the Lake Victoria Serena Resort Marina for the graduation ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by Kemiyondo Coutinho and Isaac Rugamba, two fellows from the YELP class of 2017. At the same ceremony Alinaitwe Cleofash was awarded the Magnus Mchunguzi certificate for outstanding leadership by a Fellow.



2017 YELP fellows at their graduation at the Lake Victoria Serena Resort and Spa, Kigo



Alan Kasujja in a conversation with the fellows

To close the three-day graduation weekend the Fellows also had an interactive conversation with Alan Kasujja, a BBC journalist. The conversation was moderated by YELP Class of 2017 fellows, and journalists, Fiona Mbabazi and Raymond Mujuni. The conversation focused on the importance of Africans taking control of their own narratives and their obligation to tell African stories. Kasujja encouraged the fellows not to focus on their weaknesses but rather strengthen their strengths and people will gravitate towards them.

23 February

Institute welcomes 2018 YELP Fellows

The fellowship has this year expanded its reach to include fellows from Tanzania and Burundi

By **Kamali Charlene**

Research Associate, Léo Africa Institute



The graphic features the word "Announcing" in a large, light blue, cursive font at the top. Below it, "the Class of 2018" is written in a teal, cursive font. The background is a teal gradient with a faint map of Africa. At the bottom, there is a dark teal banner with white text and a logo.

The Young & Emerging Leaders Project
Building better societies by investing in effective leadership
among young and emerging leaders in Africa and the world

Learn More: www.leoafriainstitute.org/yelp



Young & Emerging Leaders Project

The Léo Africa Institute welcomed the first Young and Emerging Leaders Project (YELP) class in 2017. The group comprised 20 thought leaders from Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda. The group were drawn from diverse fields including, the media, activists, social entrepreneurs, the artists and innovators. Throughout the year, the fellows attended seminars, workshops and participated in conversations where they were able to critically interrogate a wide range of leadership issues and learnt how to use their privilege and influence as leaders to bring about the change that they all aspire to see in their communities.

The 2018 YELP class has 24 impeccable young leaders who through their various efforts are helping to create lasting socio-economic and political change in their communities. The fellowship this year, expanded its reach to include fellows from Tanzania and Burundi.

Furthermore, the institute will this year partner with Stanbic Bank on a mentorship program that will see some of the 2018 fellows mentored by the bank's board members. The mentorship will provide a consistent source of accountability and networking opportunities for the fellows between the three seminars.

The Institute looks forward to welcoming the 2018 class in the second week of April for their first seminar in Kampala.

26-28 January

Conversation with Alinaitwe Cleofash

Inaugural recipient of the Magnus Mchunguzi Certificate for Outstanding Leadership by a Fellow talks about what the award has meant for him

By **Watsemba Miriam**

Communications Coordinator, Léo Africa Institute

Tell us about your experience in the YELP fellowship.

I had never been part of any fellowship project so early 2017 was my breakthrough with my selection into the young and emerging leaders program. I started experiencing the power of the YELP fellowship shortly after my selection and while at the program, my mindset on leadership completely changed. The quality of fellows who were majorly characterized with great passion, courage, seriousness and intelligence always kept me humbled. Spending most of my early leadership career in rural spaces, I knew no one will ever take us seriously, because we are just "peasant farmers." I had never imagined being part of such an amazing platform managed by and for the young people, where everyone's effort matters and I think everything from this fellowship will live to inspire me.

What was your biggest take home from the fellowship?



Whenever I think about the kind of self-belief and courage I gathered especially after being selected as a valedictorian, I find reason as to why I will always encourage every young person to apply for this program because it is transformative in my own view. Trust me, the Magnus Muchunguzi certificate stands firm in my parent's house and will live to inspire even generations to follow.

Alinaitwe Cleofash receives the Magnus Mchunguzi certificate during the 2017 YELP graduation at the Lake Victoria Serena Resort and Spa, Kigo

Now that you have successfully graduated from the fellowship, what next?

Now that I am out of the program, I have every reason to move forward because the impact of the YELP fellowship will be counted on the positive legacy I live behind. Even when I fail, I know why I have failed and I can't fail to pick the courage and hope required to move on. "Find a wall in your life, break it before identifying another" is that one major lesson from the YELP fellowship that has become my guiding stick. YELP defined a new family network for me and I believe this is shaping my vision of a generation where youth freely engage and also consider agriculture as both decent and profitable employment.

Kemiyondo Coutinho: “YELP Allowed Us to Stretch Our Imagination”

The curator of A Ka Dope, 2017 YELP Fellow, and Director of “Kyenvu” opens up about her film winning the Best Short film award at the Pan African Film & Art Festival

By **Charlene Kamali**

Research Associate, Léo Africa Institute

Kyenvu, a short film written, directed, and starred in by 2017 YELP fellow Kemiyondo Coutinho, recently won best short film at the internationally renowned Pan African Film & Art Festival 2018. In light of this, I caught up with Kemi, the playwright, actress, ARTpreneur, and now filmmaker and director, on what this award has meant for her career.

Firstly, congratulations again. I'm sure you have received several congratulatory messages from people that know you and have been watching your journey, telling you they're proud of you. What has this award meant to you personally?

Kemi: Honestly the award feels like someone whispering in my ear, “keep creating, keep sharing these stories because they matter and we see what you are doing”. Seeing the pride from the Ugandan community especially from Twitter was humbling and yet another reminder to keep telling our stories.



*Kemiyondo at the Pan African Film & Art Festival.
(Picture by PAFFNOW)*

In the process of making Kyenvu you went beyond being a writer and an actress to being a director and producer too, how has this affected your career plans?

Kemi: I think Kyenvu clarified for me that I cannot be boxed in to anything. I am equally a writer, actor and director. I produce events (A Ka Dope) as well as films. To try and find my main thing is to sell myself short. This project showed me that indeed I can be all those things and still flourish. Regardless of everyone saying “choose one.”

You recently moved back to the U.S., was this an attempt to open yourself to more opportunities?

Kemi: If possible can I not answer this--it will look wrong either way I answer it.

Okay, do you feel like moving back to the U.S. has offered a different perspective and, in a way, affected the kind of stories you tell?

Kemi: I moved back to the States because my agent is here and it's hard to audition for work across the continent. The actor in me has a real chance to be in a career shifting project here. It's a sad reality that for my career to progress I personally had to sacrifice being near home. Being in the states has allowed the way I see storytelling in a different way. Not better, simply different. I am classically trained in acting and I trained in the states so naturally my training had a particular way at looking at things. In some way I'd say moving back to Uganda in 2016 is what opened my eyes to new ways of storytelling.

What does this move mean for your work in Uganda, like A Ka Dope?

Kemi: I made sure not to leave Uganda until I felt that A Ka Dope could stand on its own. I have a great team that runs A Ka Dope and I still am very much part of the planning and artistic curation of the event. Ask anyone who works with me, I am VERY involved in anything I start--sometimes to a fault. So A Ka Dope will continue, if it didn't that would be a testimony that I was not a good leader.

How do you think your experience in the YELP fellowship has helped advance your career?

Kemi: YELP was a place to meet with like-minded go-getters and take off my armour and share the difficulties you hide from the world. Getting to hear other people's interactions with leadership and obstacles just broadened the way I saw myself as a leader and clarified for me what I wanted to be in a leader. More than anything it provided a resource to people who were like me but not in my field. Often artists know artists, tech people know tech people so this community of people in diverse fields allowed us to stretch our imaginations of the possibilities our work could reach.

Funding opportunities

At the institute, we are always on the lookout for interesting opportunities from which the young and emerging leaders can benefit. Check out these funding opportunities for African youths and please share with your network.

Feb 2018:

1. Merck 350 Research Grants (up to EUR 350,000) Deadline: August 15th, 2018. Get funding to work on challenging research topics at the occasion of Merck's 350th anniversary. Merck is all about Science and Technology. Check out this link: <https://www.merckgroup.com/content/dam/web/corporate/non-images/research/350openinnovation/research-grants/en/Application-registration-350-Research-Grants-en.docx>

Merck

2. Africa Women Development Grants 2018 - \$50,000 - Deadline March 7th 2018. The Africa Women Development Grants invites applications from African women's organizations under it's main grants programme. http://awdf.org/wp-content/uploads/Application-guidelines-Main-grants_Jan18forweb.pdf

African Women's Development Fund

3. UNAOC - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations - \$25,000 - February 16th 2018 - Youth Solidarity Fund application - <https://apply.unaoc.org/>

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

4. Misk Grand Challenges - Up to \$100,000 Grant for Young Innovators World Wide - Deadline - May 14th 2018 - Via the Misk Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. http://miskgrandchallenges.org/ressources/Application_Form.pdf

Misk Foundation

5. IITA Research Fellowship on "Youth Engagement in Agribusiness and Rural Economic Activities in Africa" - Up to \$10,000 - Deadline - February 28th 2018 - <http://ow.ly/fNr630gosZB>
6. Tanzania Sudden Opportunity Grant - Up to \$200,000 - Deadline - Dec 31st 2018 - <https://www.voice.global/call-for-proposal/tanzania-sudden-opportunity-grant-v-1853-tz/>

Voice

7. For Further funding opportunities, grants, scholarships, stay tuned on: <https://www.facebook.com/fernandes.benjamin7/>
8. UK Network for funding organizations in International development, rolling deadlines, form \$5,000-\$500,000: <https://www.bond.org.uk/hubs/funding-opportunities>
9. Open society initiative of East Africa - <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/open-society-initiative-eastern-africa>

Open Society Foundations

10. IDEX Global Accelerator Fellowship 2018/2019 - for aspiring social entrepreneurs. Deadline - March 15th 2018 - <http://www.idexaccelerator.com/peek-inside/>

IDEX Fellowship

11. Global Change-makers Youth Summit 2018 - 18 to 23 years old - Fully Funded to Switzerland - <https://www.globalyouthsummit.net/>

Global Changemakers

12. All Bar None Scholarship to attend the 2018 One Young World Summit in The Hague, The Netherland (Fully Funded) - Deadline - 2nd April 2018 - <https://www.oneyoungworld.com/>

all-bar-none-scholarship-2018 One Young World

Special thanks to all our partners.

