



Kwibuka 25 at Lewis & Clark

Story by *Franchesca Schrambling, BA '22, in Lewis & Clark Newsroom archives*

Inexplicable events tie together communities of the world. The 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda, led by Hutu extremists, left an estimated 800,000 people dead. To commemorate the tragedy and to focus efforts on moving forward and rebuilding, the Rwandan people developed **Kwibuka**, a Kinyarwanda word that means to remember or remembrance. This year's theme is "remember, unite, and renew." Beginning April 7 and ending July 4, Kwibuka marks the Rwandan period of mourning as well as remembrance.

Every year, Kwibuka asks the world to come together, support survivors, and ensure that events like the Rwandan genocide never happen again. This year focuses on Rwanda's story of understanding, rebuilding, and growth.

On Sunday, April 14, Lewis & Clark marked **Kwibuka 25** with remarks by students and visiting dignitaries, a Rwandan-themed menu in Fields Dining Hall, and a candlelight vigil to remember those killed during the genocide's three-month period.

The student speakers—Liza Clairagneau, BA '21, Davis United World College Scholar from Rwanda; Ocean Eale, BA '19, from Kahuku, Hawai'i; and Fabrice Sibomana, Dallahire Scholar and survivor of the genocide—talked about their own experiences, including attending the 25th Kwibuka in Washington, D.C. earlier this month.

That trip was made possible by a grant from the Student Academic Affairs Board (SAAB). In addition to the students' remarks, attendees also heard remarks from [former Ambassador to Guinea Joyce Leader](#), who served as deputy to the U.S. ambassador in Rwanda during the genocide. During her 21-year career, she has represented the U.S. in attempts to resolve threats to peace and human rights in Central Africa.

She was joined by two additional dignitaries at the event: [David Rawson, U.S. ambassador to Rwanda from 1993–96 and current visiting scholar in the Graduate School of Business at George Fox University](#); and [Niels Marquardt BA '75, Lewis & Clark's inaugural diplomat in residence](#).

Both Leader and Rawson were serving in Rwanda before the genocide and were responsible for the evacuation of Americans to Burundi.

Ambassador Leader's remarks are [here](#).



From left: Niels Marquardt BA '75, former Rwandan Peace Corps volunteer, four-time ambassador, and L&C's new diplomat in residence; Fabrice Sibomana, L&C's 2018-19 Dallahire Scholar from Rwanda; Joyce Leader, former ambassador to Guinea; and David Rawson, former ambassador to Rwanda

Kwibuka 25 (Washington, DC)

Story courtesy of Joann Geddes, retired director, Academic English Studies and member, Dallaire Scholarship Committee

Fabrice Sibomana, Liza Clairangeau, Ocean Eale and Joann Geddes traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the Kwibuka hosted by the Rwandan Embassy the weekend of April 7, 2019.

Student goals included:

- Honoring and remembering the victims of the genocide
- Honoring and remembering the survivors of the genocide
- Joining in solidarity with all survivors
- Gaining insights that could be shared at L&C during and after the campus Kwibuka
- Meeting and planning with colleagues & students from partner institutions
- Learning more about genocide, discrimination, ethnic strife, etc.

In order to fulfill the goals stated above, we tried to take advantage of all opportunities. The students decided that their priorities were to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the African American Museum and the Martin Luther King Memorial. We also visited many of the sites along the Washington Mall and the Tidal Basin, including the WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and others.

Texas Christian University hosted a dinner on Saturday evening and invited us to join them. In attendance were 19 TCU representatives (students, faculty and administration), as well as three members of the Rwandan embassy. This was an excellent opportunity for students to get to know each other, and for me to meet with TCU colleagues.

During this time, much discussion took place about future opportunities to bring students

together and to be more deliberative and intentional in planning for follow-up discussions together based on visits to locations such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On April 7th we joined members of our partner institutions — University of Delaware, Univ. of Alabama and TCU — for the Kwibuka at the National Press Club.

The official remarks of the Rwandan Ambassador, **Mathilde Mukantabana** are found [here](#).



Mathilde Mukantabana, Rwandan Ambassador to the United States

Following this event, some of the students also went to the vigil at the embassy.

As a result of this opportunity to meet with colleagues and students enrolled in other programs, discussions have been initiated on how to work more closely together in the future. The director of the University of Delaware intensive English program renewed his commitment to accept a Dallaire Scholarship alternate, as did TCU.

Dallaire Scholar Welcome Reception
Sunday, October 20, 2:00pm
Frank Manor, Armstrong Lounge

Kayambi Ngabonziza has been chosen as our 14th Dallaire Scholar. Kayambi is a 23-year-old university graduate who focuses his talents on film projects about the genocide. Please join us in welcoming him. Invitation

Committee Transitions

Two charter members of our Committee announced “retirements” this summer.



Greg Fredricks and Dell Smith, professors emeritus

A brief word about each, along with kudos:

Greg Fredricks served on the committee as chair, led the finance sub-committee, assisting us in our fund-raising, reaching our endowment goal, and in crafting the Endowment Agreement (with colleagues in Annual Giving and Institutional Advancement). Along with Dell Smith, Greg served for many years as liaison to the Zimbabwe Artists Project (ZAP). Greg also assisted our Dallaire Scholars in very personal ways as they settled in each year. Thank you, Greg! From all of us.

Dell Smith also retired from the committee this summer. Dell has been with the committee since the outset, served as chair, led in fund-raising efforts. With Greg Fredricks, Dell created a relationship with ZAP that resulted in an annual exhibit and sale, a portion of the proceeds being dedicated to the Dallaire Scholarship each year, until ZAP closed its doors in November 2018. Dell and his wife Helen also hosted Dallaire Scholar events in their Portland home and supported our scholars in a variety of important ways, both here and in Rwanda. Thanks, Dell.

Michael Ford, chair since 2015, passed the leadership baton to **Susan Wynne**, recently retired administrative specialist for Academic English Studies. Michael will remain an active member of the committee. We were also pleased to add several new members to the Committee this year:

Cecilia Benenati, instructor in Spanish, Hispanic Studies, joined the committee in fall 2018, played an active role in assisting our student committee members in planning Kwibuka 25, and continues this year.

Nicole Aldarondo, administrative specialist, Academic English Studies.

Laura Vinson, assistant professor, International Affairs.