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Students Seek to 'Catch Killers in Kenya'

April 23, 2012

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The students in the IWU Health 280: Perspectives in International Health class taught by Laurine Brown, visiting associate professor of environmental studies and health, have almost completed their campaign and fundraiser "Catch Killers in Kenya: Employ Aziza!"

The class of 20 has met their goal of raising enough funds to employ for one month, Aziza, who is the sole health practitioner for the Lamu Center of Preventative Health (LCPH) in coastal Kenya.

The campaign, which "focused on promoting awareness of the double burden of infectious and chronic diseases in Kenya," said Brown, "raised money for the LCPH based in Bloomington, Ill., which is sponsored by IWU alumnus and executive director of the center Munib Abdulrehman, Class of 2002, his sister senior nursing major Miaad Abdulrehman and Rebecca Gearhart, chair of sociology and anthropology and associate professor of anthropology at IWU. "Besides raising money" adds campaign co-leader Hannah Corley, a junior nursing major, "we wanted to create awareness on campus about the health disparities present in Lamu, Kenya. Most people are aware of what you might call "the sexy diseases" like HIV and malaria which are severe and prevalent, but chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease create strain on communities as well. Aziza focuses on those issues."

Founded in 2007, LCPH is a non-governmental organization that is dedicated to bringing preventative healthcare to the island community of Lamu (and Kenya at large).

According to the organization's website, LCPH provides affordable preventative healthcare and treatment. LCPH's primary focus is on screening and education toward the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancers, which are increasingly prevalent in Kenya. New directions for the center include an on-site laboratory that can screen for malaria, typhoid, HIV/AIDs, and other diseases

For additional information, contact Brown at (309) 556-1067.

Students in the Health 280 class staged a campaign and fundraiser, "Catch Killers in Kenya: Employ Azziza!" which raised \$610 for the Lamu Center of Preventative Health. Miaad Abdulrehman '12 and Associate Professor Rebecca Gearhart served Kenyan donuts and tea to the class, including Sarah Walding '13, Ricky Ames '13 and Hannah Corley '13.



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