

# Lewis & Clark



In Fall 2019, we welcomed our 14<sup>th</sup> Dallaire Scholar, **Kayambi Ngabonzizi**, and nearly 70 people gathered in Frank Manor, Armstrong Lounge, for the occasion during pre-pandemic times when we could do so safely. That was then.



*(Left to Right): Michael Graham '06; Joann Geddes, Dallaire Committee member; Kayambi Ngabonzizi, 14<sup>th</sup> Dallaire Scholar*

Kayambi completed his year at the College unlike any previous Dallaire Scholar – in the midst of a global pandemic, remaining on campus until the end of spring term, then staying with a friend in Seattle until mid-July when he could – finally – secure a flight home to Rwanda. Members of the Committee and community friends and supporters “zoomed” with Kayambi to check-in with him in June and then to bid him farewell in July. We will spare you the Zoom photo of about a dozen people. Use your imagination, and please be kind.

### *Parting Thoughts from Kayambi Ngabonziza Alfadi, 2019-2020 Dallaire Scholar*

“My name is Kayambi Ngabonziza Alfadi, a recipient of the Romeo Dallaire scholarship 2019-2020. Growing up in Rwanda where the resources and opportunities are limited to many young people, this scholarship was a great opportunity to learn and grow from the program.

Coming to Lewis and Clark I believed that this would open the doors for me to gain skills that would later enable me to contribute to my community since this has always been my dream.

My journey had its challenges and adjustments that are associated with exposure to the new environment such as living and studying in a diverse community, a new diet, making new friends, and culture exchange.

My first day at Lewis and Clark was filled with excitement and nervousness because I didn't know how I would be approaching new life on the campus. The following day on the campus was for orientation, I was looking forward to connecting with peers and community friends. I had an opportunity to meet with peers and community friends who inspired me throughout my journey. Also, I had a short time to introduce myself, and share my goals that I was looking forward to achieving during the program. Moreover, I took advantage of knowing as many people as I could because I believed that to achieve my goals, I would need to surround myself with great minds.

Therefore, the AES and Dallaire scholarship committee played a huge role in my growth thanks to them. I was very excited to meet with each Dallaire committee member and they were very welcoming and helpful in walking me through everything that I would need on and off the campus.

Although I had an enjoyable moment and great experience in my first semester, the following semester was quite different. In mid-march due to a pandemic, regular classes were abruptly shut down, and we started taking online classes which were a little bit challenging to adjust and remain focused, because of what was going on at that moment.

Most of the students were able to move out of the college and follow the rest of their classes from home. However, the International students remained on campus and we had the opportunity to follow our classes virtually as well. This was one of the hardships that I went through while in the program, on the other hand, it was another great experience that I will forever cherish.

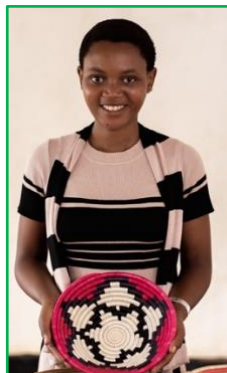
Seeing my friends moving out, and yet I was unable to interact with them because of social distancing rules which were very important to reduce the spread of the virus. This was extremely discouraging. However, I hope that my path will connect with those who shared with me a great experience and whom I learned a lot from.

I believe that all these experiences have left an essential lesson in my life, and the community at Lewis and Clark College in particular, during a pandemic crisis. I have witnessed the college stand out for its students by providing essential services for students who stayed on the campus. I have seen students and teachers standing by each other's side in making sure that we were all safe and successful.

Thanks to everyone who equipped me with so many tools that helped to complete the program. I will miss everyone.”

**-Kayambi**

### *15<sup>th</sup> Dallaire Scholar Chosen for 2021-22*



**Souzane Murekatete** has been selected to be our 15<sup>th</sup> Dallaire Scholar, with her enrollment deferred until the 2021-22 academic year because of the global pandemic.

Souzane is 28, and a 2017 graduate of the Akilah Institute for Women, where she earned a 3-year diploma in Entrepreneurship. Souzane has focused on empowering women artisans by connecting them with designers and markets. She writes:

“It has been a great journey to help Rwandan women to make something beautiful that represent Rwandan culture as well earnings their independency from invent and create new things for crafts market here in Rwanda.” We look forward to welcoming Souzane Fall 2021 and convey our congratulations to her on her selection!

### *Inaugural Michael Graham Scholarship for Refugees and Immigrants*

Inspired by the compassion for community and forward-thinking attitudes our past Dallaire Scholars have brought with them, the Dallaire Scholarship Committee has decided to continue working together toward a new goal that we believe will help us strengthen our community.

In Fall 2019, after fifteen years of dedicated community fundraising, the Romeo Dallaire Scholarship Committee (the Committee) celebrated the establishment of an endowed scholarship for students from sub-Saharan Africa to study for one academic year in the Academic English Studies program. To build on the success of this initiative, the Committee has created a second scholarship for local refugees or immigrants who would benefit from instruction in academic English in order to position themselves for greater opportunities in higher education. By naming the new scholarship the **Michael Graham Scholarship**, the Committee recognizes and honors Michael Graham '06, who proposed and worked to establish the Romeo Dallaire Scholarship and who has maintained a passion for social justice and human rights advocacy.

**Michael Graham Award Purpose:** This award is created and shall be used according to the following criteria: Scholarship award providing funds for tuition, transportation, books, and health insurance (if needed) for student enrolled in the Academic English Studies program for one academic year. Preference given to refugees and immigrants living in the local Portland, Oregon metropolitan community. Award recipient shall be chosen by the Romeo Dallaire Scholarship Committee or its designee.

Consult our [January 2020 Dallaire Scholarship Newsletter](#) for more about Michael Graham '06.

### *Inaugural Michael Graham Scholar Alexandre Monteiro*

The Committee has chosen **Alexandre Monteiro**, a 2020 graduate of Portland's Wilson High School, as the recipient of the inaugural Michael Graham Scholarship.



Alexandre's parents immigrated to Portugal from Guinea Bissau, a small country in West Africa, fleeing war. Alex was then born in Portugal (he speaks fluent Portuguese), living there for 14 years before his family immigrated to the United States, settling in Portland, Oregon.

Lauded by his teachers and counselors alike as “eager and hardworking”, Alex (as he is known) has also demonstrated his commitment to racial equity not only through a recent project for the Wilson Culture Fair teaching peers about the history and culture of the Kizomba dance, but also leaving a “lasting legacy” with his co-authorship of the newly formed Ethnic Studies program, now in its second year. Alex took a leading role in designing the scope and sequence, helped implement the pilot program, and co-facilitated a class.

The Portland Public School Ethnic Studies Advisory Board has opted to use the design at other Portland high schools.

One of his teachers says this: “He is a rare person, overwhelmingly decent and perceptive, someone who has a mature yet fundamentally optimistic view of the world, and I do not doubt he has enormous potential.” We agree!

Alex is currently enrolled in the Academic English Program, taking classes both online and in person, working diligently on improving his writing and speaking skills in English, as well as his analytical and critical thinking skills, as he prepares to fulfill his higher education goals.

*Michael Graham Scholarship Reception  
Sunday, November 8, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.*

**We hope you will plan to join us to meet Alexandre Monteiro, the first recipient of the Michael Graham Scholarship for local immigrants and refugees, get an update on our Dallaire Scholarship for Rwandan students, and hear from Michael Graham on his latest endeavors. Formal invitation via Zoom link.**

**Warmest regards,  
Susan Wynne, Chair, Dallaire Scholarship Committee  
[swynne@lclark.edu](mailto:swynne@lclark.edu)**

### *Amal Mansour '83 Receives Pioneer Leadership Award*

The Dallaire-Graham Scholarship Committee is delighted to share with our readers and supporters that Amal Mansour '83 has been honored by the Alumni Association with the 2019 Pioneer Alumni Leadership Award *for demonstrating extraordinary leadership in her service to Lewis & Clark alumni*. She accepted the award at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on campus February 24, 2020.

This from the [Alumni Awards website](#):

“Amal Mansour has been supporting the college since her days as an international student. She served as a member of the Parents Council and is the mother of two L&C graduates. She has hosted many events for alumni throughout the world, including Black and Orange parties in Qatar and California. Amal is an advocate for international students, Third Culture Kids, and Academic English Studies. She also supported the founding of the Arabic language offering and the Middle East and North African studies minor.”



Adding a bit to this summary of Amal's record of service, the Dallaire-Graham Scholarship Committee and our Dallaire alumni extend our congratulations and gratitude to Amal as well. She has been an ardent supporter of our Dallaire Scholars for years not only through her financial support of the Dallaire Scholarship, but in personally meeting Scholars, assisting them in a variety of welcoming ways, helping them get moved in, and staying connected with them during their year on campus and beyond.

We are delighted that the Alumni Association has honored Amal for her years of dedicated service, and we add our kudos as well. To view her introductory video at the Alumni Honors Banquet in February 2020, consult the video link:

#### [Meet Amal in this video!](#)

*We encourage you to make a gift at this time.*

To give to the **Michael Graham Scholarship**, please follow this [link](#). If you have any questions about either of these scholarships, please contact Dallaire Committee chair, Susan Wynne at [swynne@lclark.edu](mailto:swynne@lclark.edu). For questions about giving a gift, please contact Stephen LeBoutillier, Director of Annual Giving, at 503-768-7940 or [sgl@lclark.edu](mailto:sgl@lclark.edu)

### *Update on Academic English Studies 2020-21*

This academic year, AES has 13 enrolled students, ten of whom are full time, seven of those undergraduate students. Some students are living on campus; some are in their own countries, connecting remotely. Instructors are navigating and managing well during this very difficult time.

While there has been a substantial decline in student numbers this year due to the global pandemic and restrictions on international travel, the staffing levels have been maintained, with reduction in teaching assignments necessary to ensure staff remain benefit eligible.

Interested in AES faculty and student reflections on teaching and learning in the midst of the pandemic? Consult this [link](#).

### *Committee Comings and Goings*

We have highlighted **Greg Fredricks** in our [September 2019 Newsletter](#), but want to add a final thanks for his work in crafting (with other Committee members) the Dallaire Scholarship Endowment Agreement with the Office of Institutional Advancement, as well as Memos of Understanding related to both the Dallaire Scholarship and the Michael Graham Scholarship.

**Rich Peck** is “retiring” from the Committee after a decade and a half of service, having also provided his home not only for an interim residence for several of our Scholars, but also hosting our annual farewell gathering for Scholars. Additionally, he has served on the Communications sub-committee (assisting with newsletters and event publicity). We are very grateful, Rich, for your dedicated service.

We also welcome **Laura Vinson**, associate professor of International Affairs, and **Steve Kirkwood**, Staff Accountant, to the committee and look forward to their participation. Both have assisted with Dallaire Scholars in the past, and we welcome them to the ongoing volunteer work of the committee as we broaden our reach to support both a Romeo Dallaire Scholar and a Michael Graham Scholar annually.

#### **Dallaire Scholarship Committee members:**

Current faculty and staff:  
Alexis Olson, Laura Shier, (Academic English Studies); Steve Kirkwood (Business Office); Mark Duntley (Spiritual Life); Rebecca Holt (Senior Development Officer); Cecilia Benenati, Instructor of Spanish; Isabelle DeMarte, Associate Professor of French (World Languages); Laura Vinson (International Affairs), Community volunteer Katharine Lawrence; retired administrator Michael Ford; retired staff member Susan Wynne (chair); former AES director and emerita faculty member Joann Geddes and current student members: Liza Clairagneau and Portia Uwase