

Greetings from across the ocean!

My trip here was arduous and it was a huge relief to arrive *an entire day* later than scheduled! My new Kenyan associates/friends are awesome; they could not be more warm and welcoming. The weather is lovely; 72 F which is 22 C, moderate humidity. People here are complaining of it being unseasonably cold and some are walking around wearing winter jackets! I tried to explain to folks last night what -6 F feels like and they were bewildered that people would choose to live in that climate.

The traffic in Nairobi makes rush hour in Cleveland look tame. I now see why having a driver is so recommended, and my driver Henry has mad skills!



I visited the University yesterday (Friday 1/5) and was shown my office, as well as meeting with Dr. Noah Midambo and Dr. Ransom Wachira, the Vice Chancellor (President) and one of the Deans respectively. Dr. Midambo worked at Kent and is friends with Michael Schwartz, the former CSU president, while Dr. Wachira has a Ph.D. from Case. There is a strong Cleveland connection already! They are truly awesome individuals and I am highly optimistic about the likelihood that we will forge a lasting collaboration with these folks; they are extremely interested in on-going work, doing research together, developing programs, and publishing too. We are off to a stellar start!

I will officially report for University duty on Monday, and meet my students on Tuesday. I also will be working in the Counseling department at the dispensary, alongside Belinda Mumo, the one counselor on staff at the University. They want me to see some students for counseling which I am delighted to do! I was concerned about what type of approach to use, and it turns out Belinda's primary theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral so I hope to have minimal difficulty accommodating the students' needs. I will sit in on some sessions with her first and

then will be scheduling students to see me, and we are going to get on together extremely well. Additionally, Belinda asked me to do some supervision with some Masters level interns.

Last evening the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Noah Midamba, took a group of us to the Safari Lodge for dinner and a show. Here is a link to the place he took us:

<http://www.safaripark-hotel.com>

On the menu were chicken, beef, lamb, pork, goat, crocodile, ostrich, emu, and camel. I had chicken and crocodile and the crocodile tasted like...chicken! Chewier though. Here is a link to one part of the floor show at the Safari Lodge last night:

[https://vimeo.com/249921447?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm\\_campaign=29220](https://vimeo.com/249921447?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=29220)

I have to say it's really a stretch to be here, going into a new university system. The procedures and terminology are completely different, and I am concerned about not doing or saying anything that is unwittingly politically incorrect or offensive. My new friend Priscilla told me not to worry about it because I have a legitimate excuse for fumbling along. For example, they commented to me on the first day that at first they didn't know who I was talking about when I referred to Joshua (my KCA connection) by his first name because they all call him Professor Bagakas. However, when Ransom called me yesterday he introduced me by his first name so that's what I called him too. Dr. Midamba is the president of the university and above everyone administratively. So at the end of dinner last night, as we were waiting for our cars, I asked him what I should call them because he was referring to Ransom by Ransom's last name all night. Dr. Midamba said, "Call me Dr. Midamba", and I repeated what I thought he said. He stared at me for a few moments, and then busted out laughing and said, "Just call me Noah, you can't say the other one right!". Then Ransom laughingly said to me, "Stick with 'Ransom'". Noah has an infectious laugh and deeply resonant voice (imagine James Earl Jones) and they were laughing really hard in this interchange so I knew it was okay. There will be many more such failed attempts, most likely, but I feel like it's okay that I'm fumbling, they are completely unconditional and good humored with me! Good thing, as I'm most definitely going to need their patience.

Today I got brave and went out shopping (all by self!) and successfully navigated using an Uber and acquiring additional groceries since all I had in the apartment was corn flakes, bread, and peanut butter. This is what the groceries look like that I procured if you're interested in seeing. A lot of the products are British. This amount of groceries cost 33,000 Ke Sh, Kenyan Shillings, which equates to \$ 33.00



So now you are pretty much up to speed! I will have additional info for you Dream Team members about visas, charging phones and computers, etc. in a separate note. The faculty here are desirous of textbooks and are compiling a wish list, so I might be asking you guys to bring a couple texts we can give them when you're coming, if possible.

Hope you are all doing well and please feel free to write back, I'd love to hear from you!

All my best,  
Kathie