

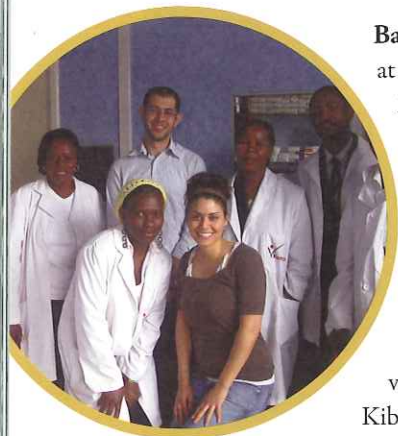


UPlifting the whole people

Institutions must be conducted in such a way as to relate them as closely as possible to the life of people. The people demand that knowledge shall not alone be the concern of scholars. The uplifting of the whole people shall be its final goal.

Henry Marshall Tory
First President
University of Alberta

BORN to Give Back *by Wanda Vivequin* – BADEIA JAWHARI



Badeia Jawhari, '09 BCom, is not fazed at all by the prospect of spending her holidays doing unpaid work in one of Africa's biggest slums. In fact, she looks forward to her trips to Kibera, an urban sprawl on the outskirts of Nairobi that is home to about 800,000 people.

In the last two years Badeia has visited Kibera three times in her volunteer role as Co-manager of the Kibera Medical Record Initiative (KMRI) and says landing in Kenya feels kind of like coming home. Negotiating Kibera's lanes and alleys with its extreme poverty, "flying toilets," ramshackle dwellings, and pervasive pollution is risky and challenging, but, for Badeia, it's all worth it.

Badeia co-manages the KMRI. The main objective is to network its 93 health centres and clinics through a standardized electronic medical record system mapped out using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Systematic medical records play a vital role in the delivery of proper health services all over the world. KMRI recently received a massive boost when it was granted \$100,000 by Global Challenges Canada which it will use to implement the next phase of the project.

Travelling to Kenya to work with local administrators to set up the project has been enormously satisfying for the energetic 26-year-old. "I can't imagine my life any other way," she says. Her holiday allocation for the last two years has been swallowed by visits to Kenya and the idea of a beach vacation is farthest from her mind. Home, in fact, is Edmonton and her volunteer work for the project – regularly up to 40 hours a week – comes on top



of a busy career working as an Executive Recruiter for Conroy Ross Partners Limited.

"MY GRANDFATHER TOLD US THAT WE COME ONTO THIS EARTH WITH NOTHING AND LEAVE BEHIND JUST OUR REPUTATION AND HOW WE ARE REMEMBERED, AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS SHAPED HOW I LIVE MY LIFE," she says. That and the fact her mother won a battle against cancer when Badeia was growing up. "We were taught at a very young age to give back after experiencing firsthand the generosity of others when my mother was sick," she says. With this attitude and approach to life, the highly-motivated 26-year old has said she would simply not feel complete without giving back.