



University at Buffalo

Institute of Bridge Engineering

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Creative Philanthropy: Bridges for the Walking World



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Project Engineer, Transportation – Bridge Engineering

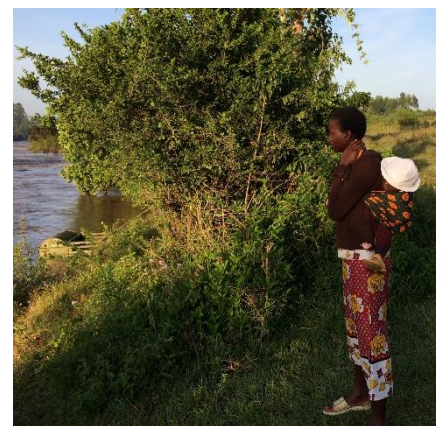


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ABSTRACT: Have you ever considered what your life might look like if you did not have bridges in your community? In rural Africa, many people find themselves living in a *walking world* where they do not have bridges to cross the rivers where they live. The lack of bridge access to ensure the safe crossing of dangerous rivers results in unnecessary deaths due to drownings and animal attacks, preventing access to education, health care, and economic opportunity. This presentation will introduce the work *Bridging the Gap Africa* is accomplishing, enabling rural Kenyan communities to build footbridges across these rivers and bring social change. Matthew will also share his personal story of how he came to volunteer as a bridge engineer along with several stories and photos from his trips to Kenya.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Matthew is a Professional Engineer at WSP's bridge group in Mississauga, Canada, where he provides specialized experience in rapid bridge replacement, accelerated bridge construction, and moveable bridges. Since 2012, Matthew has had the privilege of being an active member of the Technical Advisory Committee for *Bridging the Gap Africa*, a non-profit that enables rural Kenyan communities to build footbridges that save lives and bring social change. Matthew has been to Kenya three times in support of several different bridge projects and enjoys the opportunity to apply his expertise as a bridge engineer to support *Bridging the Gap Africa's* bridge program. Matthew has a Masters of Applied Science from the University of Waterloo, and has authored or co-authored 14 publications on bridge projects in which he has been involved.



Open lecture

Date / Time: Monday, November 28, 2016, 5:00 – 7:50 pm EDT

Location: 20 Knox Hall, UB North Campus

For professional development credit, call Jim at (716) 645-0956. 3 PDH is available.