

## NEWS RELEASE

20 November 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Makerere Students Selected for Geography Fellowship in East Africa

[Washington, D.C., 20-Nov-12] — The Association of American Geographers (AAG) is pleased to announce that Ms. Grace Nakawooya (Msc. Environment and Natural Resources) and Ms. Immaculate Asiimwe (Bsc. Surveying) from Makerere University, Kampala have been selected to participate in the MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative in East Africa for a 10-month fellowship program to conduct research that addresses themes of Climate Change, Agriculture or Food Security using geographic technologies. A total of 18 undergraduate and graduate students and their mentors were competitively selected from among nearly 200 applications for the program based on the feasibility and quality of the proposed research/education activity. In all, 35 participants will directly benefit from the MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative in East Africa.

The MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative is a partnership between the AAG's MyCOE program and the NASA SERVIR program to help university students living and studying in developing regions conduct long-term research or educational activities in response to sustainable development needs in their countries. Participants in the MyCOE / SERVIR Initiative will receive a modest stipend and mentoring. They also will receive geographic data and SERVIR resources to help them conduct their three- to six-month long projects. Grace and Immaculate will be mentored by Dr. Frank Mugagga (Department of Geography, Geo Informatics and Climatic Sciences) and Mr. Karl Tiller (Technical Advisor, GIS Centre – College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, supported by Horizont3000), Makerere University Kampala. Over the life of the fellowship, fellows will have the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with approximately 60 other teams from around the world that will be selected through MyCOE / SERVIR global initiatives.

The East Africa fellowships have begun with online networking among the participant cohort, which includes students from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The group will meet from 9-19 December 2012 with a multi-day capacity building and GIS training workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. A three- to six-month research period will follow with support from fellows' own mentors and expertise provided by the program. Grace and Immaculate will be working on a project entitled: *"Enhancement of Early Warning Systems for Sustainable Food Security in Uganda"*. In 2013, fellows will prepare and conduct a local public diplomacy or outreach activity to share their results with stakeholders in their community over a course of four months.

MyCOE (My Community Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development) is a U.S. Type II Public-Private Partnership established in 2001 in conjunction with the United Nations World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It provides geographic perspectives, learning resources, and technological tools to encourage youth to engage with their local communities around global sustainability themes. Additional information is available at [www.mycoe.org](http://www.mycoe.org).

SERVIR, the Regional Visualization and Monitoring System, is a collaborative venture among the NASA Earth Science Division Applied Sciences Program, USAID, and worldwide partner institutions. It helps

governments and other stakeholders use Earth observation and geospatial technologies to make decisions about disasters, ecosystems, biodiversity, weather, water, climate, health, and agriculture. Visit [www.servirglobal.net](http://www.servirglobal.net) for more information.

The Association of American Geographers is a scientific and educational society with a current membership of over 11,000 individuals from more than 60 countries. Its members are geographers and related professionals who work in the public, private, and academic sectors to advance the theory, methods, and practice of geography. The AAG is a founding partner of MyCOE and has served as secretariat since its inception. Go to [www.aag.org](http://www.aag.org) to learn more.

For more information about MyCOE / SERVIR, see [www.aag.org/mycoe.servir](http://www.aag.org/mycoe.servir) or contact the Project Director Patricia Solís at [psolis@aag.org](mailto:psolis@aag.org); Tel: 202-234-1450

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