



Experience WASH in Malawi

Summer II, 2016



Location: Mzuzu University Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation

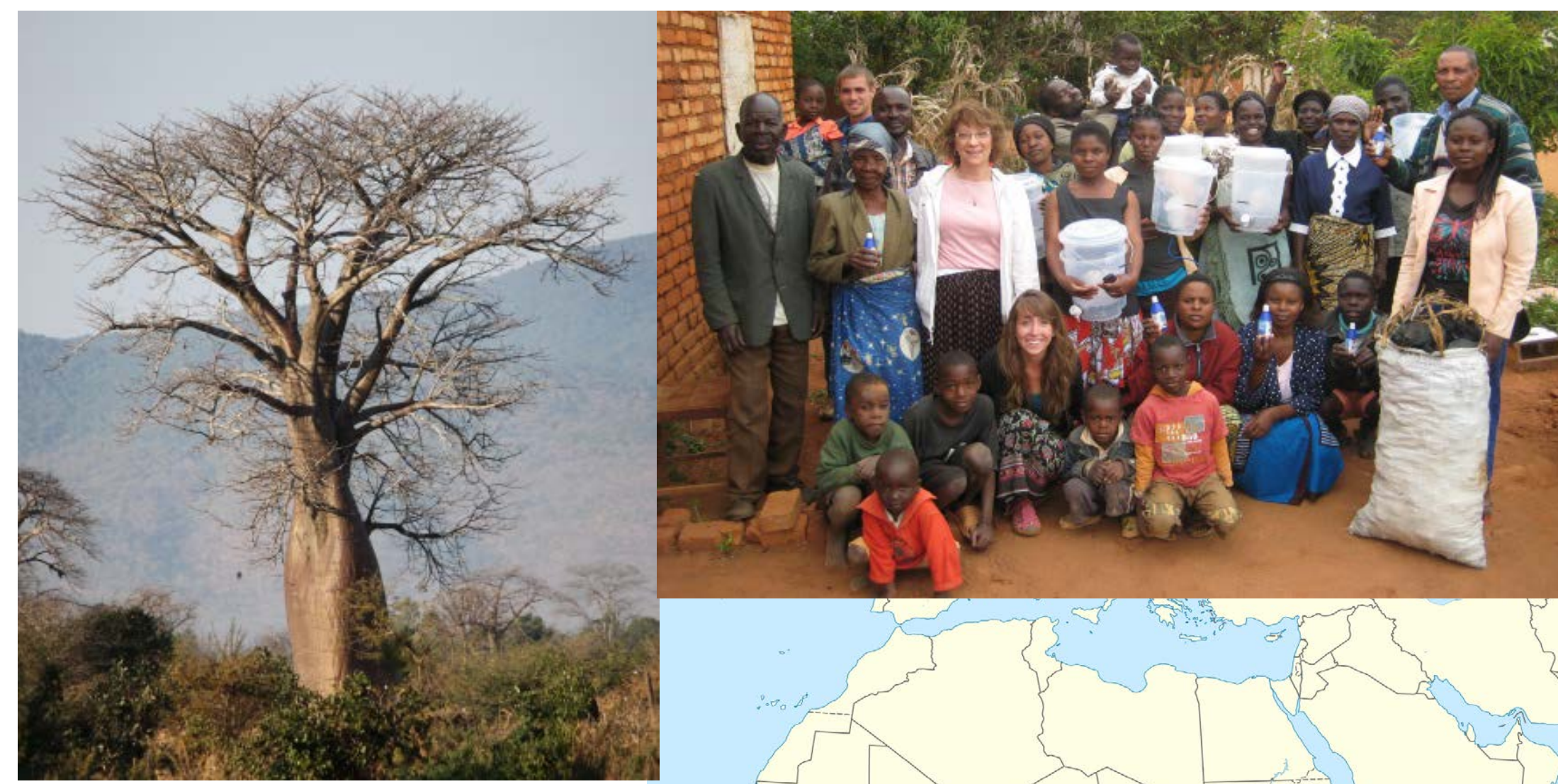
Time: Summer II **Credits:** 3 **Duration:** 2.5 weeks

Estimated Program Fee: \$2,500 (excluding course credit and flights)

Instructor: Dr. Ralph P. Hall, Urban Affairs and Planning

This study abroad experience will provide students with a grounded understanding of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in Malawi.

Virginia Tech students will work alongside students from Mzuzu University to explore a wide range of WASH issues both in the classroom and the field. The program is designed for students interested in working in the global WASH sector or pursuing a career in international development.



Learning Objectives:

Understand and experience the current level of access to, and the quality of, water supply and sanitation services in Malawi.

Exhibit an understanding of the critical components of a rural water supply or sanitation system.

Design and implement a survey/engagement process to capture the WASH challenges facing a local community.

Analyze data and develop strategies to address the WASH problems facing a community.

Think critically about current planning approaches or policies in Malawi relating to the delivery of sustainable water and sanitation services.



About Centre Of Excellence in Water and Sanitation

In 2009, the Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation was established within the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Mzuzu University. The Centre is governed by Mzuzu University Act and Statutes of 1997. The Centre's Mission is aligned with Mzuzu University's: to provide high quality education, training, research, and complementary services to meet the technological, social and economic needs of individuals and communities in Malawi. The Centre is accountable to the University senate and council. Its financial transactions are governed by financial regulations of the University and its accounts are subject to both internal and external audit. Currently the Centre is audited by Graham and Carr.



Our Team

Professionals who are fluent in English staff the Centre and local vernacular (Chitumbuka, Chichewa and Tonga) with extensive expertise and experience in WASH issues as well as project planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, the Centre has the added advantage of drawing on the existing resources and expertise of the University's administration and departments, notably Faculties of Education, Health Sciences, Mathematics department, Communication and Information Science, Tourism and Hospitality Management and Environmental Sciences. The Centre's collaborative structure allows key WASH issues to be addressed from a multidisciplinary perspective by bridging practitioners and academics into a single unit. Such an approach is relatively new in the hygiene and sanitation sector in Malawi and has the objective of bringing in expertise and capacity from professionals not traditionally associated with the subsector (e.g. Mathematics and Tourism) to contribute to the sector (e.g. in statistical analysis and small business enterprise for the

examples mentioned). In addition, the Centre's ability to use the University's facilities (e.g. accommodation, conference rooms, laboratories, library resources, etc.) and services (e.g. transport) on a cost-sharing basis supports its cost effectiveness as a program implementer.