



William S. Kisaalita, professor, University of Georgia, is being honored for distinguished contributions to the field of development engineering, using human-centered design in the creation of technology-based interventions for low-resource settings.

Kisaalita is the Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Engineering in the School of Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia. There he teaches courses and conducts research in microtissue engineering and development engineering, a newly formed engineering discipline that Kisaalita has designed. Development engineering creates engineering design solutions for low-resource settings.

For the duration of his career, Kisaalita has distinguished himself as an extraordinary professor and mentor to students, and as a researcher whose cutting-edge works are published in prestigious journals and in books, which are now subjects of undergraduate and graduate education. He is also founder and CTO of Thermogenn, a startup company that markets his innovative products to small-holder farmers growing crops and raising animals in low-resource settings. Kisaalita has merged academics and practice in order for his students to have the opportunity to contribute to creative designs and to benefit from experiential learning. He has devoted his career to studying development engineering to create innovative solutions to alleviate poverty, to enhance wellness and/or prosperity, and to sustain the environment. He has also conducted research in microtissue engineering for drug discovery for humans. His cellular-level designs, fabrication, and testing of unique micro-devices have enabled scientific advances for drug discovery. Three of his cellular-level devices have been used by many labs. In the development engineering program, four products are in commercial use, including IzeChurn, EvaKulla, YaiKulla, and WandaMix.

A 22-year member of ASABE, Kisaalita has served on a number of committees. Currently, he is a member of the Sukup Global Food Security award committee and the Awards Coordinating committee.

Kisaalita has authored or coauthored 120 peer-reviewed publications, 12 trade publications, 219 invited seminars/lecture, and other presentations, two test books, as well as 20 interviews published in media outlets. Throughout his career, Kisaalita has received a number of awards. His product EvaKuula, a milk cooling system that does not rely on access to electricity received an AE50 product innovation award in 2019. He was inducted as a fellow by the African Scientific Institute, the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the American Institute of Biological and Biomedical Engineering. Kisaalita also received the 2018 ASABE Lalit and Aruna Verma Excellence in Global Engagement award.