

Chancellor College Bulletin



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Dr. Ken Lipenga Jr (Chief Editor), Assoc. Prof Samson Sajidu (Vice Principal), Miss Anne Mpinganjira (Secretary).

EDITORIAL: A GOOD TIME TO BE HERE

We dare to think it is a good time to be a citizen of Chancellor College. There are reasons aplenty.

Think about it. In the past month, we witnessed a remarkably speedy assessment process. All departments and faculties performed all assessment exercises within the stipulated period, and the college assessment meeting took only one day, a feat rarely seen on this campus.

If that does not raise your optimism, think of the facelift that the entire college is getting, even as you read this. Many of the classrooms have received new paintjobs, all of the rooms in student hostels have new curtains, the

flooring of the classrooms has been overhauled, and all of the corridors now have fully functioning lights. In addition to this, the college has acquired new chairs for students, so that no student should be seen attending lectures while standing.

Additional reasons for us to stand at the top of the Great Hall and proclaim our pride is the government's recognition of the excellence amongst Chancellor College staff, that it could not help but request the assistance of two senior members, to assist at the Ministries of Education and Information.

Still not feeling the optimism?

Then perhaps a

reminder of the whopping 50 students who made it to Deans' Lists should brighten your day. This list includes the team from the faculty of Social Sciences to the lone A-lister from the Law faculty. To us at the Bulletin, and perhaps to others, these students challenge the assumption that it is impossible to achieve excellence at Chancellor College. As the Principal observed during the function, these students do us proud but also serving to show their colleagues that excellence can be achieved.

We cannot say much about the future, but we believe today is a good day to be at Chancellor College.



Top scoring students pose for a group photo with the Principal, Vice Principal and Deans

ADMINISTRATION

Performance Management System to improve UNIMA functions

The College on 11th May 2015 organized a seminar for the presentation on the Performance Management System, which is to affect every member of staff in the University of Malawi.

In his presentation, Prof. Lewis Dzimbiri observed that the university has become too comfortable with its way of doing things, which is far from perfect. Management therefore came up with the decision to change the way it operates in several areas. The impetus for this move comes from the observation that there is emerging competition from other higher education institutions, which necessitates an

improvement in the service delivery in the University of Malawi. It also comes on the heels of criticism that the University of Malawi has received on the lack of means for appraising its staff.

Since the Performance Management System document is not completed, the seminar was arranged as a way of seeking suggestions from the staff community, on what could be included.

One of the expected advantages of the document is that it will help in gauging the performance of staff. As a result, according to Prof. Dzimbiri, it will help the college “improve the performance of its people,



A rapt audience listening to the presentation on the Performance Management System

while also developing their capabilities.”

Furthermore, the policy will improve communication between supervisors and their employees.

Speaking during the function, the college principal Assoc. Prof.

Richard Tambulasi expressed his approval of the development of the policy, observing that the performance of staff members only tends to be assessed when they are applying for promotions, which should not be the case.

ADMINISTRATION

UNIMA Gender Policy takes shape

One of the ways in which the University of Malawi has attempted indicate relevance and commitment to the national agenda is in the recognition of the various components of the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the pillars of the MDGs is the promotion of gender equality worldwide. As a way of addressing this need, the University of Malawi is moving towards the development of a gender policy that will enable the attainment of gender equality, which will ultimately lead to gender justice in the operations of the college.

The taskforce that has been formed to develop

the gender policy is headed by Prof. Edrinne Kayambazinthu, and also includes Dr Garton Kamchedzera, Dr Ngeyi Kanyongolo, Dr Francis Chikinkhuzeni, and Dr Lignet Chepuka.



Prof. Kayambazinthu, schooling college staff on the UNIMA Gender Policy

In her presentation to the Chancellor College staff community on 11th May, 2015, Prof. Kayambazinthu informed the audience that the policy is based on a human rights approach, employing principles and standards from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She

further informed the audience that there will be a taskforce formed at college level comprising of staff and students.

Further activities to be undertaken in the development of the policy include a process of gender and life-cycle sensitization, focus group discussions, as well as consultative technical workshops with stakeholders where the inception report of the policy will be discussed. The document will eventually be presented before University of Malawi Senate.

Responding to concerns from the audience, Dr. Kayambazinthu stressed that the gender policy is not targeting female stakeholders alone, but is meant to ensure justice for all gender classes in the University of Malawi.

LIBRARY

Chinese Corner launched at Chancellor College Library

Last semester, the campus saw the introduction of lessons in Chinese on campus. This semester, students taking these lessons are bound to celebrate a huge boost to their studies as the Chinese corner is launched in the library.

The Chinese Corner is stocked with various text books for all levels of learning the Chinese language. It also stocks books and magazines (in

both English and Chinese) about Chinese history, culture, and politics.

The books have been donated by the Confucius Institute/Hanban in China, which is an organization working towards the promotion of Chinese language and culture.

With a Chinese corner and an American corner, Chancellor College Library shines as a site



Part of the Chinese Corner in the library

where people can gain access to the cultures of

other worlds, through the materials available.

ADMINISTRATION

Infrastructure renovation on campus



Painters revamping the look of the college corridors

Since the beginning of the semester there has been a lot of work renovating college infrastructure. Although both staff and students bemoan the timing of the renovations, what they cannot deny are the improvements that are being witnessed on campus.

All classrooms on campus are going to benefit from these renovations, which mainly involve the repainting of walls, as well as the overhauling of classroom flooring. At least one science laboratory will also be renovated.

Management observes that it has been extremely difficult to perfectly time the works. However, there is a lot of optimism since the renovation exercise has been a long time in the planning process. This exercise is being done with financial support from the Education Infrastructure Management Unit (EIMU).

All stakeholders are being requested to be patient and supportive to the workers, who are employed by Einstein Contractors. It is expected that the works will be completed by July at the earliest.

Standard Bank unveils funeral plan policy

On 11th May, 2015, a team from Standard Bank visited Chancellor College and had discussions with all members of staff in the Great Hall regarding their Funeral Plan Policy. In brief, members were informed that the Funeral Plan would help to ensure a dignified farewell when death occurs suddenly to relations.

Anyone under the age of 75 with any Standard Bank transactional or savings account qualifies for the policy, which does

not need any medical examination to join. In terms of cover, at MK1,400 per month, a member and their immediate family are covered with MK 200,000.

For the executive Funeral Plan Policy anyone under the age of 65 with Standard Bank transactional or savings account qualifies for MK4,985 per month and is covered for MK1,000,000. The College is negotiating for special arrangements considering the high number of staff who are likely to join the policy. Full details of benefits can be accessed from the Registrar's office.



Standard Bank Officials presenting to college staff

ADMINISTRATION

Secretaries in lakeshore refresher course

In order to fill gaps and bring essential secretarial skills in line with the latest practices, Chancellors College organised a refresher course for all the secretaries working for the College. These included secretaries from all departments. The course was held at Sun n Sand in Mangochi from 4 to 8 May 2015. The Principal of the College Associate Professor Richard Tambulasi opened the training course and the main facilitator was Mr. Emmanuel Chinunda from Archie Professionals.

The main objectives of the course were to

comprehensively revisit secretarial skills, remind

the secretaries about their responsibilities and improve where necessary for the realisation of the College's vision and mission. There was a variety of presentations

made at the workshop on issues that are relevant in day to day activities of the college.

Presenters included individuals within the college such as the Registrar, Mrs. Mary Wasiri, Assistant Registrar, Mrs. Saka, ICT Director, Mr. Dindi, Prof. Kayambazinthu, Dr. Tizifa and Mrs. Tiffany Banda. The sessions were also graced by presenters from outside the college such as Mrs. M. Phiri from Staff Development Institute.

It expected that the secretaries will prove to be an asset to the College by increasing productivity and adding value to the institution through their approach to common problems. The College believes that the training was an investment, not an expense.



Attentive secretaries during the workshop

EDUCATION

Education faculty receives boost from JICA

The Faculty of Education, through the Science and Mathematics section of the department of Curriculum and Teaching Studies, on Friday, 29th May, 2015, received 6 laptop computers from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to support the implementation of a two year action research project (2015-2017) on Strengthening the Teaching and Learning of Science and Mathematics.

JICA is an organization that supports socioeconomic development of developing countries. It has been assisting in several projects within Malawi.

The action research project involves working with all Science and

Mathematics teachers in three secondary schools in Zomba: Masongola Secondary School, and Chichiri and Likwenu Community Day Secondary Schools. It aims to develop effective teaching and learning strategies that will inform teacher practices at secondary school level and a review of curricula for teacher education institutions both for pre-service and in-service teacher education. Receiving the laptops was the project coordinator, Associate Professor Dorothy Nampota. Other members of the action research project team include associate professor Mercy Kazima-Kishindo, Dr Nellie Mbano, Bob Maseko and Fraser Gobede.



Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Nampota receiving the laptops on behalf of the faculty.

LAW

Training of Trainers by WLSA and Faculty of Law on combating Gender Based Violence

Women in Law Southern Africa (WLSA) in collaboration with the Faculty of Law conducted a training of trainers workshop on promoting sexual reproductive rights and bodily integrity among girls at Chancellor College by combating gender based violence.

The workshop was held on Friday 22 May 2015 in the Great Hall and it was officially opened by the Vice Principal. The

purpose was to train trainers in creating an Action Research Team that would conduct research on Gender Based Violence, equip trainers to raise awareness and take action that will change negative institutional cultures. Topics covered during the training included, among others, gender sexuality and construction of masculinity and human rights.



Participants at the workshop pose for a photograph

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Chanco fetes A-list students

The beginning of this semester coincided with a ceremony during which proud Deans presented the best performing students in their faculties before the college.

The ceremony, which took place at the Great Hall, was attended by the star students, as well as their lecturers, friends, as well as a few parents.

These are students who made it to the prestigious Dean's List in their faculties. To qualify for this list, a student must attain a GPA of 3.60 or above, and must have no grade below B-.

A total of 50 students made it to the Dean's lists, with the majority of them drawn from the Faculty of Social Science, and a lone student representing the Law Faculty. The majority of the star students were males.

In his speech at the function, the Vice Principal, Assoc. Prof. Samson Sajidu, who also serves as the Chairperson

of the Academic Deans Committee, pointed out that the ceremony was a way in which the college could show its recognition for the students' academic

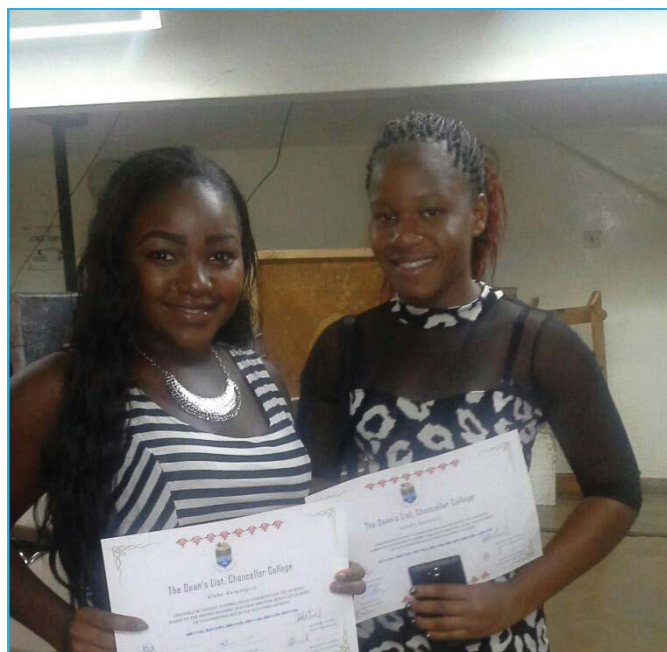
excellence.

He also observed that these achievements acted as encouragement for other students. "Deans recognize these outstanding achievements, but are also concerned with those who struggle

academically. The Deans will therefore be organizing meetings with the weak students in order to understand root causes of the same and help where possible," said the Vice Principal. He also informed the gathering that the Chancellor College may in future introduce monetary prizes for students that make it to the Dean's list. He further pointed out to students that such achievements prove useful when applying for postgraduate study.

The representative of the students at the function expressed his appreciation to the college administration, and encouraged lecturers to ensure that they continue to assess students professionally, so that deserving students are indeed recognized during such functions.

During the ceremony, the students were presented with certificates of recognition, and treated to drinks and snacks, courtesy of the college administration.



Ulemu Kanyongolo and Sandra Machinjili proudly display their certificates

HUMANITIES

Humanities strengthens partnership with Universidade Pedagógica

Three representatives from the Faculty of Humanities were in May invited to take part in the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Universidade Pedagógica, Niassa Campus,

Mozambique.

The invitation was also an opportunity for the Faculty of Humanities to strengthen the partnership that exists between University of Malawi and Universidade



Faculty of Humanities representatives attending the 10th Anniversary celebrations at the Universidade Pedagógica, Niassa

Pedagógica.

The team from Malawi was led by the Dean of Humanities, Assoc. Prof. Syned Mthatiwa. He was accompanied by the former Dean, Dr. Bright Molande, and the Deputy Head of African Languages and Linguistics Department, Mr. Kondwani Msaka.

The two universities have several areas of collaboration, including teaching of Portuguese and English, external examination, research, split-site postgraduate studies, translation, interpretation and editing; culture and sports; as well as community outreach and secondary school supervision.

The Dean of Humanities observes that this partnership between the two institutions is a natural thing considering the historical and cultural ties that have always existed between Malawi and Mozambique.

PANGeA holds AGM at Makerere University

The Partnership for Africa's Next generation of Academics (PANGeA) recently held its annual board meeting at Makerere University in Uganda. University of Malawi was represented by the Dean of Humanities, Assoc. Prof. Syned Mthatiwa and the Dean of Social Science, Dr. Levison Chiwaula.

The partnership comprises faculties of humanities and social science from several universities in Africa

During the meeting, representatives from the various universities discussed strategies for developing the partnership in areas such as PhD co-supervision, student exchange, and the raising of funds for doctoral training, among other issues.

SCIENCE

TV White Spaces project connects Mulanje Secondary School

The Physics Department in collaboration with Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority (MACRA) embarked on TV White Spaces project in October 2012, which has connected several institutions including as St Mary's Girls and Likangala Secondary Schools.

On 21 May 2015 the project handed over connectivity facilities to Mulanje Secondary School at a colourful function presided over by the Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture, Honourable Mr Kondwani Nankhumwa, MP. MACRA and Chancellor College were

represented by the Director General, Mr Andrew Kumbatira and the Vice Principal, Dr Samson Sajidu respectively.

The connectivity in the schools gives the chance to the students to access valuable resources online to cover up for the gaps they meet in specific subject areas. Furthermore, they have a chance to access digital repositories from the Malawi National Library services and Chancellor College library DSpaces.

In 2014, St Mary's had an impressive MSCE performance record. This success has been partially attributed to TV White

Spaces internet.

The white spaces technology is now globally accepted as a promising solution to provide connectivity in rural and disconnected regions, but also has very innovative use in urban communities. For example it assists in

cellular networks, virtual diagnosis in medicine, early warning and disaster mitigation to name but a few. This technology serves as a very important outreach service which will uplift delivery of educational materials in our secondary schools.



Distinguished delegates during the TV white space handover at Mulanje Secondary School

ADMINISTRATION

Combatting academic dishonesty: 11 students expelled

Cheating in academic work is a very unfair practice, especially to the students who work hard to excel in their studies. A cheater attains high grades through deception. In addition to that, such academic fraud discredits the degree certificate.

As stipulated in the University of Malawi's examination regulations, cheating in test and examination takes two forms: writing from hidden notes and communicating with fellow students. These two practices of dishonesty are viewed

seriously because students who successfully indulge in them gain an unfair advantage over others and because they invalidate the grading system.

Bringing unauthorized material such as notes and mobile phones into the examination room is academic fraud. The Chancellor College administration has since taken serious measures, as stipulated in the University rules, to combat academic dishonesty. This resolve has resulted in the expulsion of at least 11 students this year for cheating in examinations by bringing in unauthorized materials such as notes and text books. The College reiterates that such academic dishonesty shall never be tolerated.

Prof. Ndovi visits Chancellor College

The College was honored to host Professor Edward Ndovi on 16 June 2015. Prof. Ndovi is an alumnus of Chancellor College in the Faculty of Science. He graduated in 1976. He is currently a Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of Alberta, Canada. Professor Ndovi made a donation of 15

microscopes and cash amounting to US\$ 4,189.00 for rehabilitation of the Biological Sciences laboratory in 2013.

During the recent visit, Prof Ndovi had a tour of the Biological Sciences and Chemistry Departments, the Library, cafeteria and the hostels. He concluded with a presentation in the Senior Common Room on the 'legacy of collaboration and sharing'.



Prof Edward Ndovi (sitting on the far right) during a courtesy call to the Principal

HUMANITIES

Head of FPA visits Zhejiang Provincial Cultural Centre

In June, the Head of the Fine and Performing Arts Department, Dr. Robert Chanunkha, was invited to Zhejiang Provincial Cultural Center in China, as a follow up to a 2014 MoU on cultural partnership with Chancellor College.

During the trip, he visited cultural museums and music practice rooms, where he studied

music artefacts and scores of historical and aesthetic significance.

The Head of FPA took advantage of the trip to teach how to play the *djembe* drum at Hangzhou and Juahua cities. The hosts also staged a musical performance for him.

This trip lays a foundation for future staff/student exchanges

and research collaborations in music. It is expected that there will

be another cultural exchange programme in 2016.



Dr. Chanunkha sharing his talent in China

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We wish to convey our congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Samson Macjessie Mbewe and Dr. Bright Molande on their appointments as Director of Higher Education and Director of Information respectively. We also would like to join

the Mkochis in celebrating the birth of baby Ingrid.

It is with sadness, however, that we offer our condolences to the college registrar, Mrs. Mary Wasiri, on the loss of her brother, and to the Principal, Assoc. Prof.

Richard Tambulasi, on the passing of his uncle. We also offer words of condolence to the college chaplain Rev. Dr. Billy Sanson, on the loss of his wife.

The college also grieves the passing of two students, Pilirani Chonde

and Anthony Kambauwa, who passed away in a car accident.

We also mourn the loss of Mr Lawrence Makwinja, Programme Manager of the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Thank you for taking time to read through the Bulletin. We welcome your feedback and news for future editions!