

# Chancellor College Bulletin



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## EDITORIAL: CONNECTED AGAIN



[www.cc.ac.mw](http://www.cc.ac.mw)...need we say more?

So we are online again. To be frank, it is not as if we have not had internet for the past few months. It was the internet presence of Chancellor College that was missing, the return of which has led to many a sigh of relief.

Therefore, the domain [www.cc.ac.mw](http://www.cc.ac.mw) once again means something. It no longer screams in your face that it is 'under maintenance'. Instead, entering the website into your browser, whether on PC, tablet or mobile phone, brings up a page that makes the Chancellor College staff member, student, and alumni proud.

However, this is not the only development on campus in the last two

months. As usual, the campus is always bustling with activity. It is within the last month that the University of Malawi 50th Anniversary Celebrations took place. As expected, Chancellor College took part in the celebrations and, we may argue, shone the brightest. The reasons for this argument are carried within the bulletin.

We have also been busy administering end of year exams. On the one hand, this process could be regarded as having been smooth, due to the near absence of cases of exam fraud. However, there have also been a few hiccups regarding the re-introduced centralized invigilation process. There were reports of exams

starting late, and invigilators not showing up. In spite of these hiccups, over 80% of the invigilators dedicated themselves to the task. Measures to address the few hiccups that emerged are being taken.

We have always called for feedback from our readers, as we believe that such feedback will help to improve the quality of the Bulletin. It is also this interaction that ensures that you are well represented. In that spirit, we are thankful to members of the community that regularly send us news items. We will do our best to ensure that we publish such news items.

We trust you will enjoy reading this issue.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chanco shines at UNIMA@50 Celebrations

The most interesting features during the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the University of Malawi were no doubt the various displays mounted by constituent colleges. These displays gave the public a glimpse at some of the activities carried out on the campuses. The colleges, which included Chancellor College, the Polytechnic, Kamuzu College of Nursing, College of Medicine, and Bunda (now called LUANAR), were accorded pavilions and floats where they could display these activities and products. Students and staff took part in these activities.

Out of all of these displays, Chancellor College arguably took the lead with an impressive variety of items to show to the public. The college was represented by a number of departments. The Fine and Performing Arts department brought with them an impressive display of artwork in the form of colorful acrylic and oil paintings on a number of themes. The department also showcased ceramic artwork and sculptures revealing an incredible depth of creativity from the artists. From the same department was an assortment of dances, some original, some blends of locally known songs. These dances included one entitled *Kasakaniza* (a medley of *Mwinowe*, *Manganje*, and *Honala*), and *Chintabasale* (a mix of *Godo*, *Beni*, *Chisamba*, *Manganje*, *Chimitali*, *Ingoma*, and *Chiwedewede*). However, this was not the only group that performed a dance. Final year students in the BACOM programme took to the stage and danced to the *Mwezi Wawala* song,



Part of Chancellor College's displays at the UNIMA@50 Celebrations

currently used by Airtel to market their products.

The Faculty of Law also took the opportunity to give the public a sneak peek at the students' readiness for legal practice, through a Mock Court Trial mounted on a float. In this fashion, the students acted out the process of defending clients in court.

Also present were students from the Textiles section of the Human Ecology department, who pitched a display of creative clothing and textile designs, in the form of clothes, duvets,

and pillow cases, clearly indicating that the Malawian public does not have to look abroad for the latest fashion trends. Some of these were imaginatively created from recycled items.

From the Physics department, students presented the recently invented Padoko Bicycle Charger (invented by Mixon Faluweki), the Ceramic Foodwarmer (invented by Fungai Kamzimbi), a portable LED lamp, and Solar Panels, showing the public how Chancellor College is determined to

ease and improve the lives of Malawians.

Chancellor College was also represented by the Publications Department, with a display of secondary school texts published by the college. The faculty of Social Science showed up with a presentation of the Nsomba Nchuma project. Members of staff from the Centre for Language Studies were also at the function, with a display of articles and books indicating research ongoing and completed at the centre. LEAD was also present, showcasing packed dried utaka and bottled honey from Lake Chilwa. Students from SCOM presented documentaries and pictures of their members. From the library, the Chinese Corner was well represented, with books on Chinese culture.

At the end of the day, after viewing the displays, the Chancellor, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, expressed hope that most of the items would soon find their way to local shops, so that Malawians could buy them.



The Head of History Department, Principal, Vice Principal and Dean of Humanities share a light moment at the event

## ADMINISTRATION

### Maliyoni benefits from World Bank SDP

One of the deliverables of the Skills Development Plan (SDP) funded by the World Bank is the improving of staff capacity at Chancellor College. Under this agreement, 8 members of staff have been nominated for PhD studies and 2 for MSc studies from the Faculties of Education and Science. Additionally, one member of staff has been nominated to study for a Diploma in Special Needs Training, and 10 others will pursue studies for certificates in science related technical issues.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr Milliwad Maliyoni, will

be departing to study for a PhD in Applied Mathematics at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN), South Africa.

Maliyoni, who expresses gratitude to the college for nominating him, commits himself to return as soon as he completes his studies.



Milliwad Maliyoni

### Chizimba celebrates two decades in UNIMA

There are indeed many reasons to celebrate at Chancellor College. The Senior Assistant Registrar (Administration), Mr. Elius Chizimba, recently surprised his fellow administrators at the college by organizing a small function to celebrate 20 years working for the University of Malawi.

To celebrate the event, Chizimba arranged for a creamy white-and-light brown cake to be baked for the event. The cake was adorned with sugary green and cream flowers, and featured the words "Celebrating 20 Years in Service". The delicious cake was thereafter

consumed within the Principal's office. Present at the function were the Principal, Vice Principal, College Registrar and Assistant Registrars. A good time was had by all.



Chizimba slices into his cake

## ADMINISTRATION

### UNIMA@50 Prayers

As part of the activities of the University of Malawi 50th Anniversary celebrations, Chancellor College organized prayers which were held in the Great Hall on 4th October, 2015.

The service, which lasted around 2 hours, was attended by a variety of people of different faiths from around Zomba. These included students, alumni, the clergy and representatives from various faiths and denominations, students from surrounding secondary schools, and other individuals from surrounding locations.

It was indeed a rich and colorful service, organized around the theme "God our Help in Ages Past; Our Hope for Years to Come". The main message of the service

was therefore one of thanksgiving to God.

The service featured activities including

special songs by individuals and groups. A special Muslim prayer and sermon was delivered by Sheikh Imran Sharif. Afterwards, Reverend Renald Mangisa also delivered a sermon.

The organizing team included the Assistant Registrar, Mrs Towera Mwachunga, Rev. Dr. Thipa, Mrs Alinane Mphande, Mrs Elesa Munthali and Mrs Tiffany Banda.



Rev. Reynold Mangisa and Rev. Father Chaima at the function

## HUMANITIES

### Chanco prepares for Humanities conference

The Faculty of Humanities is holding its conference from the 10th to the 11th of November, 2015. Preparations are

underway for the conference.

The Chairperson of the organising committee, Dr Japhet Bakuwa, expresses



*The Great Hall: the main venue for the event*

optimism regarding the conference.

“The main objective is to affirm the central role of the humanities in national development. We notice that nowadays the focus tends to be on science and technology. We are glad to report that we have confirmed participants from the United Kingdom, India, South Africa, Mozambique as well as various universities within the country.”

The keynote speaker for the function will be Professor Mpalive Hangson Msiska, a renowned Malawian academic.

The papers marked for presentation at the conference cover a wide



*The Keynote speaker: Prof. Mpalive Hangson Msiska*

gamut of topics that are of concern to Humanities academics in the 21st century, ranging from matters concerning pedagogy, health literacy, and cinematography, among others.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chanco Staff honored at UNIMA Golden Jubilee Celebrations

A number of individuals from Chancellor College were among those officially recognized for important roles played in the University at the UNIMA@50 celebrations. These included the first Malawian Principal of Chancellor College, Professor Peter Mwanza. Professor Kings Phiri, previously a member of staff in the History Department at Chancellor College, was also recognized. During the event Prof. Phiri passed the torch to Prof. Richard Tambulasi, the youngest professor in the University.

At the function, the University also recognized its female professors. Out of these, two have been associated with Chancellor College. These are Professor Moira Chimombo, previously a member of staff in the Curriculum and Teaching Studies in the faculty of

Education, and Professor Edrinne Kayambazinthu, currently Head of the African Languages and Linguistics Department. The two professors have been very active members of the Chancellor College community, particularly in acting as role models for female students and encouraging them to complete their studies through programmes like the *Why Wait?* initiative.

During the function, two students, Mixon Faluweki and Fungai Kamzimbi, were also recognized for their inventions, the Padoko Bicycle charger and the ceramic food warmer, respectively.

One of the highlights was the presentation of medals to Chancellor College's longest serving and most dedicated CTS Staff members. The first of these was Mrs Evelyn Tande, currently secretary for French, and Theology and Religious

Studies departments, and Mr Alick Yenda, Chief Technician in the Physics department.

Mrs Tande (who prefers to be called Ago), expressed joy at being recognized. “On February 8th, 2016, I will have worked for the university for 37 years.” She has worked in various sections of the college, including the Administration. She was often assigned to serve in departments that were just being opened, such as the Chichewa and Linguistics Department,

the Education Faculty, and the Gender Studies Unit. She has also served in the departments of TRS, French. She was also involved in the establishment of the Office of Deans in the administration, and the Office of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies.

Ago has been involved in athletics and netball. She was also on the sporting committee that enabled the University of Malawi Students Sports Association to participate in CCUCSA games in Zambia.



*Mrs Tande (Ago) and Mr Yenda at the UNIMA@50 Celebrations*

## LAW

### Faculty of Law Commemorates World Day against Death penalty

The Faculty of Law in October organized an event commemorating the World Day against Death penalty, which falls on 10th October, 2015. The function was organized in conjunction with the European Union.

People in attendance included the Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, EU Ambassador Marchel Gerrmann, The Irish Ambassador Aine Hearn, The Dean of Law, Dr Ngeyi Kanyongolo, Coordinator of the Kafantayeni Project Mr Emile Carreau, Dr Enoch



*The Principal joins the EU Ambassador and the Irish Ambassador, arguing against the death penalty*

Chilemba, a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law who was also the moderator of the event, law students

and students from other faculties.

Both the EU and Irish Ambassadors in their speeches emphasized the EU's commitment towards the abolition of the death penalty. There was also a presentation of a short film on the death penalty by Ms Grace Nachiola. Mr Alexious Kamangira, a Fourth-Year Law student also presented an abstract of a paper that he is currently developing on abolition of the death penalty.

The event also included a debate on the abolition of the death penalty. The panelists for the abolition of the death penalty were Prof Tambulasi, the EU Ambassador and the Irish Ambassador and those in favour of the death penalty were Mr Joel Botha, Mr Chrispin Ndalama and Ms Pachalo Mwenelupembe (Fourth Year law students). The arguments for the abolition were that it amounts to torture and inhumane treatment, it is irreversible (sometimes innocent people might be executed) and that there is no evidence to prove that it is a deterrent punishment, that it appears as if the

government kills on behalf of its citizens and that it is an outdated and cruel punishment.

On the contrary, those in favour of the death penalty argued that suspension of the death penalty is a negation of requirements of the law, that it is an expression of the will of the people of Malawi, that those convicted to the death penalty receive sympathy from the public because the execution is delayed, also that keeping convicts in prison is costly and expensive hence justifying the death penalty for very serious offences and that the penalty has withstood the test of time as evidenced by many countries retaining the same.

To counter the argument on the irreversibility of the punishment, the opponents argued that mistakes are a risk of every trial. Moreover, in criminal proceedings all that the accused has to do is to raise reasonable doubt, failure of which most likely proves guilt. Finally, there were group photos taken outside the boardroom followed by a cocktail.

### Chemistry hosts EXCEED-SWINDON Training Course

The Department of Chemistry hosted an EXCEED-SWINDON Regional Training Course on the "Importance of Social and Economic Integration in Water Resource Management in the Context of Sub-Sahara Africa" from 7-10 September 2015. The main objective of the course was to share experiences, knowledge, and research results among the lecturers and students and to discuss main problems

and challenges in the field of water management in Sub Saharan Africa Region. The course, which was officially opened by the Principal, Professor Richard Tambulasi drew participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Germany, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and the hosts Malawi. The resource persons at the course included our local experts and others from Germany, Kenya and Burkina Faso.



*A cross-section of participants at the training course*

## ICT

### Chanco revamps website

In the month of September, the Chancellor College community finally rejoiced at the return of the college website, which had for a long time only been accessible on the local network. As a result, Chancellor College was embarrassingly absent on the internet.

For a long time, members of staff at the college have complained that the information on the site is outdated, presenting departmental staff profiles that are over 5 years old.

However, this was all due to work that had been on-going behind the scenes. The ICT Department has been working tirelessly not only to ensure Chancellor College's presence on the web, but to do so with a website that looks

professional, clean, and can hold its own against any other reputable universities.

The new website is proof of that work. Apart from being an upgrade on the old website, the new website includes new

features, such as the integration of the college academic calendar, regularly updated news and announcements, and specially designed sections for students to access information on accommodation, among

other things.

One of the ICT systems engineers behind the website project, Patrick Kalamula, points out that they had in mind the idea of coming up with a professional design. "We looked at the websites of a few reputable universities and asked ourselves, why can't we come up with something as remarkable, without merely duplicating what they have? So we sat down and involved people from various sections of the college. We have also been engaging the student community in improving the website".

Of course there are a few glitches, which are still being ironed out. The staff portal is still housed on the old website, and departmental staff profiles are yet to be developed. However, the ICT Department is optimistic that these hiccups will soon be a thing of the past.



*The new website can be viewed readily on any computer on campus and beyond*

## HUMANITIES

### Chanunkha recognized for composing UNIMA Anthem

Graduation ceremonies, inaugural lectures, music festivals, memorial services—they have one thing in common, as far as the University of Malawi is concerned: the touch of one Robert Chanunkha.

For a long time, the current Head of the Fine and Performing Arts Department has lent his expertise to the University of Malawi, in the form of compositions that are performed during a variety of events.

His most recent contribution was the composition of the University of Malawi anthem, for which he was accorded special

recognition at the UNIMA@50 Celebrations.

In composing the anthem, Chanunkha followed three principles. Firstly, he ensured that the anthem had an African flavor, in the form of a rhythmic pattern that people can identify with. In doing this, he inserted a syncopation pattern into the composition.

"When we use syncopation in music," Chanunkha explains, "we ensure that the stress comes on a weak metric point. In other words, it is the second beat which is accentuated or emphasized. This results in an unusual but exciting rhythm."

Secondly, the anthem also features a simple form of harmonization of four beats, which is rare in European anthems. This gives the anthem a natural feeling of marching, and ensures

that the tune can be easily remembered and performed.

Finally, he put the anthem in a simple key, so that it can be placed on various instruments (the Police Band played the anthem at the celebrations from a score produced by Chanunkha).

The anthem has since been distributed to all colleges of the University.

Chanunkha has been a composer for various University of Malawi functions from as far back as his undergraduate years. He composed his first public piece as a 2nd year student for the memorial service for the late Kay Chiromo. He remembers it as the moment that gave him confidence to compose more songs.



*The award presented to Dr. Robert Amos Chanunkha*

## HUMANITIES

### FPA: Developments in Ceramics

A visit to the Fine Art section at Chancellor College indicates some of the advances that have been made, particularly in the area of ceramics.

Mtamandeni Judah Mtambalika, the Head of the Fine Art Section, explains the difference between studio ceramics from industrial ceramics. Studio ceramics tend to be true expressions of the artist's creativity. It is often done by individuals on a small scale, usually within private spaces. It is not driven by commercial influences

Industrial ceramics, on the other hand, is usually mass produced, and often involves machinery. It usually serves the commercial market, and can thus be commissioned by various companies and organisations.

According to Mtambalika, students at Chancellor College tend to favor industrial ceramics, although they also produce some truly creative pieces.

In commencing the work, the fine artists use a combination of clay and feldspar, quartz, or silica sand, to which water is applied to make it malleable. This is used for a standard clay body.

The artist then 'wedges' the clay body, ensuring that there are no air bubbles within the clay.

The next step involves the potter's wheel, on which he 'throws' his clay in order to begin work. This can take about 15 to 20 minutes, when the artist creates his basic form.

The potter's wheel helps in making a basic cylindrical shape, which acts as the base for other artworks. When finished, the artist proceeds to dry his artwork, and then subjects it to biscuit firing

in the kiln. This makes the clay more durable and removes porosity. Many earthen flowerpots are products of this process.

Depending on the final use of the artwork, glaze coating can be applied. This is usually the case with coffee mugs and teapots.

Ceramic pieces by both staff and students are currently on sale in the Fine and performing Arts department.



*Mtambalika demonstrates use of the potter's wheel*

### Chanco staff attend WaterNet conference

This year's WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA symposium for water professionals was held in Mauritius from 27-29 October, attracting over 300 international delegates. Some academic staff members from Chancellor College, namely, Prof W. Mulwafu, Assoc. Professors C. Ngongondo, M. Monjerezi and S. Sajidu, Dr C. Mhango and Mrs M. Joshua attended the conference and presented a variety of papers in water and land, water and society, water and the environment including being part of special sessions in specific projects such as the AU project on Using IWRM best practices to develop Appropriate Capacity and Training for the benefit of Sub-Saharan Africa Water Security (ACT4SSAWS).

The members also



*Assoc. Prof Maurice Monjerezi mingling with co-presenters*

chaired and were rapporteurs for some sessions, and were adjudicators of young researchers in both oral and poster presentations.

We would like to congratulate Associate Professor Cosmo Ngongondo who was appointed Guest Editor of the Physics and Chemistry of the Earth Journal (JPCE). Among other issues, JPCE publishes proceedings of the Water symposium after extensive peer review processes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is that time of the year when we celebrate some joyous occasions at Chancellor College.

In that spirit, we wish to convey a message of congratulations to Dr. Ken Ndala, who has been appointed Director of Planning in the Ministry

of Education.

We also wish to join a few families in celebrating their newborns. Congratulations are due to Dr. Bosco Rusuwa, on the birth of his son Vahiwa; to Ms Annie Mpinganjira, on the birth of her son, Thapelo; and

to Mr Max Chilembwe, on the birth of his daughter, Watipatsa Nicole-Louise.

On a sad note, condolences are due to Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira, on the passing of his brother. May the good Lord offer you comfort.

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