



## EDITORIAL: WELCOME 2016

# Chancellor College BULLETIN



*Chanco: it can be bewildering to the first year student*

The new year is once again upon us. As we write this, we are facing the hustle and bustle that comes with the commencement of the academic year: sorting out timetable clashes, organizing lectures, recruiting staff, and for our student community, making sure they are properly registered before time is up.

As we think of our primary clients we might reflect on the fact that university education is becoming more and more expensive, despite the emergence of new institutions of higher learning in the past decade. Some students have unfortunately had to drop out of the system, not due to poor academic performance, but rather

through a failure to pay their fees. The government loan system is unable to cater for all the needy students in the system. The question of what shall happen to these students is one which has been the concern of all members of staff, and suggestions have been floated of commencing local scholarship funds, or assisting in some other ways.

Take a minute to think of the first year student. For this student, it will all be a bit overwhelming. For us as members of staff, perhaps we can take time to be a bit gentle with the first year students, for whom the orientation period alone may not have been enough to familiarize

themselves with the online registration system, or to simply know the geography of Chancellor College, even as they attempt to secure accommodation in this land where that particular angle is becoming an ever-increasing concern.

Speaking of technology, the days of the use of chalk (and its attendant respiratory infections) will soon be a past memory. This is due to the decision by college management to replace all blackboards with white boards, on which lecturers will employ the less hazardous impermanent markers. In addition to that, several lecture rooms are being fitted with projectors. Chancellor College is making strides into the future.

### Editorial Team:

Dr. Ken Lipenga Jr (Chief Editor), Assoc. Prof Samson Sajidu (Vice Principal), Ms. Chilungamo M'manga, Ms. Wezi Mhango, Mr. Foster Gondwe

### Highlights

*Education Faculty holds curriculum review*

*Knowledge sharing seminar*

*Academic Staff in CUTL training*

*Athletes attend 16th SAUSSA games*

*Chinese New Year celebrations*

*FPA in art anthology*

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chinese Lunar New Year: Introducing the Confucius Institute

On 4th February, to celebrate the dawn of the Chinese Lunar New Year (also known as the Spring Festival) and the forthcoming establishment of the Confucius Institute, a small function was organized at the Senior Common Room of Chancellor College. In attendance was the Director of the Confucius Institute, Professor Feng Jian Guo, who spoke of progress in establishing the first Confucius Institute in Malawi. The Institute is scheduled to be opened in February, 2016, and will be physically located at Kamuzu College of Nursing campus in Lilongwe.

The function was

graced by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. John D. K. Saka, the college Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, the College

Librarian, Mr. D. B Vuwa Phiri, the College Registrar Mrs. Mary Wasiri, and various other members of staff from the college. In his speech, the Principal expressed delight at the continuing collaboration and

partnership between Malawi and China. He observed that Chancellor College was already benefiting from the partnership since several people had already travelled to China for short courses.



*The audience, mesmerized by a bawu performance from a member of the Chinese delegation*

### CUTL holds staff training workshop at Hippo Lodge

In an effort to improve the capabilities of its academic staff, Chancellor College arranged for a two-day training session for young members of staff in its various academic departments. The workshop, which was organized by CUTL, was held at Hippo Lodge in Liwonde, from 28th to 29th January, 2016.

In his opening remarks, the Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, observed that such workshops are one of the avenues that the college uses in order to improve the quality of its lecturers. It is therefore one of the channels for quality assurance.

There were a number of presentations from several individuals, mostly from the Faculty

of Education. These included talks detailing ways in which the lecturers can effectively prepare for and deliver

lectures. Another presentation was on assessment methods, specifically ways of ensuring that the aptitude of the students is accurately examined. Participants at the conference also

benefitted from a talk on the use of modern technology to enhance the learning process. Since university students are diverse in age, the workshop also featured a presentation on andragogy.



*Participants at the CUTL workshop*

## ADMINISTRATION

### Chanco holds Orientation for 2015/2016 First Year Class

The 2015/16 First Year orientation programme was held at the Great Hall from 18th January to 29th January, 2016. During the function, academic and administrative staff members briefed all new students on the different courses offered with possible subject combinations and the facilities and services that are offered by the College and the University.

Students were welcomed to the College and informed on the expectations, given an overview of its structures, introduced to use of ICT services, as well as rules and regulations of the College.



*First year students during Orientation in the Great Hall*

Supporting organisations such as the Police, and surrounding area chiefs and councilors also had a chance to inform the students about how they can work together as a community. Representatives of banks were also invited to sell

their services to the students.

During the opening function, the Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, observed that the students selected to pursue various programmes in different public universities in

Malawi should consider themselves fortunate since they had been selected out of 17,000 applicants to public universities in Malawi. He therefore asked them to exercise great responsibility and work very hard.

### Preparing for the year: planning meeting held in Mangochi

As part of its commitment to implementation of the University Strategic Plan, Chancellor College management team organized a planning meeting for the 2016/17 financial year. The meeting was held from 11 to 12 January, 2016 at Sun 'n' Sand Hotel in Mangochi.

The main objectives were to review the plans as identified in the College's Strategic Plan, identify operational challenges, and reach an agreement on the next realistic activities for the second half of 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. Activities were lined up in all the five strategic directions of the College; namely, teaching and learning, research and outreach, capacity

building, governance and resource mobilization. Some of the activities that the College planned for this year included the increase in student intake numbers in both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. A number of academic programs have been lined up for introduction by several departments. A couple of e-Learning programs have also been lined up for launch during the year.

Prior to the planning sessions, the newly appointed directors (Directors of Quality Assurance, Investments and Resource Mobilisation, and acting Director of e-Learning) presented overviews and visions of their directorates in contributing to the

development of the College. Some of the activities to be undertaken by these directorates include sensitization meetings on quality assurance for all members of staff. These meetings will aim at familiarizing members of staff with UNIMA Quality Assurance and Enhancement policy,

NCHE Minimum Standards and other related documents.

The Directorate of Investment and Resource Mobilizations urged Departments and Faculties to have a corporate CV and have Research Agendas as a first step to raising the value and net worth of Chancellor College.



*The Principal addresses participants at the planning meeting*

## EDUCATION

### Education Faculty holds Curriculum Review

As part of the curriculum review process currently underway, the Faculty of Education (FoE) held a stakeholders' consultative meeting from 15th to 16th December 2015 in the Great Hall at Chancellor College.

Among the specific objectives of the meeting were to identify the gaps in the existing Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), Master of Education (M.Ed.) and University Certificate in Education (UCE) programmes.

Since the B.Ed programme started at Soche Hill College, it has had no formal review. Hence the need for the review of the program has been long overdue.

The Principal of Chancellor College, Professor Richard Tambulasi pointed out that holistic curriculum review of programs offered by Chancellor College is a matter of urgency to ensure curriculum relevance and responsiveness to the

needs of the society.

Among the participants of the meeting were secondary school teachers drawn from all Education Divisions in Malawi, Traditional Leaders, Ministry of Education officials, FoE members of staff, staff members from other faculties at

Chancellor College, and the media.

During the deliberations by the stakeholders' present, some of the key issues and gaps identified in the FoE programs included: use of outdated references, overlapping of content among various courses, lack of balance between international and local trends in the courses offered, limited

content of emerging issues in the education sector and lack of philosophical framework for education at national, college and faculty level.

In response to these gaps, participants recommended that there is need for a clear national level Philosophical Framework for Education, which will relate to teacher education.



Posing for a group photo: participants of the Faculty of Education Curriculum Review

### CERT Director attends Knowledge Sharing Seminar in Thailand

From the 2nd to 3rd December, 2015, Associate Professor Dixie Maluwa-Banda participated in the "International Knowledge Sharing Seminar for Development of Inclusive Education System for Learning Improvement" in response to Education 2030 which is an integral part of the sustainable development agenda, forming Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are to succeed the global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The seminar was held at



Assoc. Prof. Dixie Maluwa-Banda

Chiang Mai University, in Thailand.

This forum provided an opportunity to share cutting-edge research in the education sector addressing practical questions about development of inclusive education systems for learning improvement. The seminar also aimed to offer all participants with a platform to exchange ideas and foster collaboration and networking.

The seminar called for professionals from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Madagascar, India and Bangladesh to discuss inquiries and

initiatives of various educational issues.

Associate Professor Maluwa-Banda made a presentation on "Together We Learn Better: Developing Inclusive Quality and Safe Friendly Education System in Schools in Malawi".

This seminar was a part of the Africa-Asia University Dialogue Network and also a part of large research project of Hiroshima University. The project is funded by the UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in cooperation with the Chiang Mai University.

## HUMANITIES

### FPA Staff and Students featured in Art Anthology

The FPA is arguably the most visible department at Chancellor College, given that the nature of the activities of the department. This publicizing of the department recently achieved new heights through the featuring of staff and students from the Fine Art section of the department in an anthology.

The book, entitled *Malawi: Warm Heart of Africa - Contemporary Artists from Malawi*, is published by Imago Mundi art. It contains artworks collected and commissioned by Luciano Benneton, an Italian art collector. The book is the outcome of Benneton's travels around the world.

Michael Chilemba, who has his work featured in the collection, and has also provided an introductory essay on Malawian art, observes that the publication of this book comes at a time when it is difficult to identify Malawian artists. "There is no single repository of Malawian artists in the country",

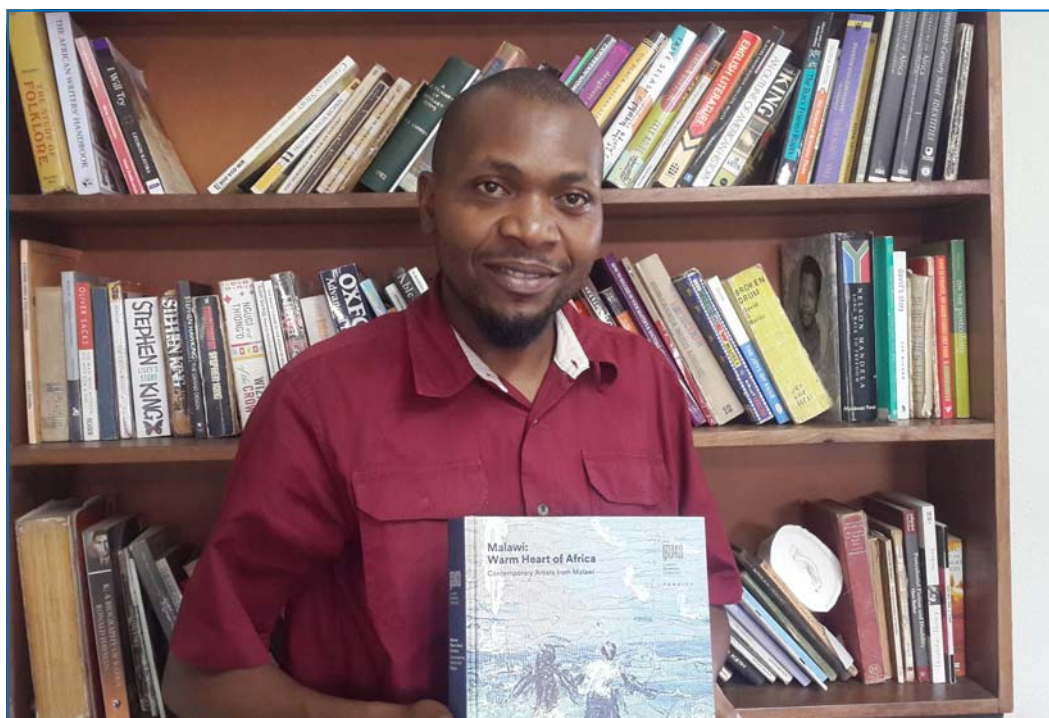
observes Chilemba. "This book therefore acts as a catalogue for contemporary Malawian art, and should provide a starting platform for anyone who wishes to familiarize themselves with artists in the

country, or to conduct research in the field."

The Malawian catalogue is one of different catalogues produced for 103 countries. At the start of the project, there was a call made through the Blantyre Arts Festival and the Visual Arts Association of Malawi (VAAM) for artists to submit their works on a

10cm by 12cm canvas. The book contains contact details of most of the artists. Out of the 142 Malawians featured in the catalogues, 17 are students at Chancellor College, and 2 - Michael Chilemba and Eva Chikabadwa - are lecturers on campus.

The catalogue is also available online at [www.imagomundiart.com](http://www.imagomundiart.com)



Mr. Mike Chilemba poses with the catalogue

### Former Classics lecturer assists student

At a time when some students are forced to drop out of school due to failure to pay tuition fees, it is gratifying to hear of people who are willing to lend a helping hand, through providing sponsorship. This is the case with Professor Paul McKechnie, who has generously provided fees for Monica Banda, a student majoring in Classics.

Professor McKechnie was Head of Classics at Kamuzu Academy from 1987 to 1991. He also

served as Visiting Lecturer in Classics at Chancellor College in 2004. He has taught a few of the lecturers currently in the Classics department.

Commenting on Professor McKechnie's generosity, the Deputy Head of Classics department, Mrs Esela Munthali expressed the department's gratitude. "Our department was honored when Prof. McKechnie told us that he would sponsor one of our Classics majors. With

the economic situation in Malawi, so many of our students have had to withdraw on academic grounds. We are proud that a former colleague did not forget us and has blessed Monica Banda with this gift."

The beneficiary of the scholarship, Monica Banda, is currently in her third year. She has been raised by her grandparents who own a small farm in Lumbazi. The money that has been paid into the Chanco account by Prof McKechnie will be enough to cover her tuition fees for the entirety of her third and

fourth year.

We at *Chanco Bulletin* wish to applaud the professor for this timely gesture.



Prof. Paul McKechnie

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### Lecturers involved in local charity

It is always most heartening when lecturers take time off their busy schedules to display a philanthropic spirit that eludes some of us.

This is the spirit that *Love a Child*, a small charity group based in Zomba, displays. It was founded by Agatha Chitanda. Other members of the group include Dr Tiwonge Manda, Ms. Chilungamo M'manga, Mr Walusungu Gondwe, Ms. Fiskani Kondowe and Dr Kondwani Godwin Munthali.

At present, the group pays the rent for a house in Chikanda, which houses 13 children, who previously lived on the

Zomba streets. The children, who are from 3 to 16 years old, live under

the guardianship of two adults.

Among other things, *Love a Child* pays for the school fees, and provides other basic necessities (such as clothing, soap,

and blankets) for the children. The children are also offered psychological counseling. *Love a Child* welcomes any individuals who would wish to join the charity.



Some of the members of the Love a Child charity group pose with the beneficiaries

## LIBRARY

### Reserve Section of library opened

Chancellor College Library management have had to think on their toes as the semester was being opened before the flooring exercise had been

completed. Many students, having rested during the holidays, found the library closed, but quickly realized that there were positive

developments going on within.

This has been due to the marmoleum flooring work which is occurring in the library. The work has involved all floors, and has necessitated the temporary removal of books.

However, Library management acted quickly. The reserve section of the library, which is arguably the busiest section of the facility was temporarily relocated to the ground floor, which students could access. Within three weeks of the semester's opening, part of the first floor had been reopened to the library membership. At present, the library is almost fully operational, with various sections having been opened.

Commenting on the developments, the College Librarian, Mr D. Vuwa-Phiri, expressed joy that the library was undergoing major renovations. "This is the first major maintenance work since around 1982", he observed. "As library staff, we are pleased that we will now be working in a cleaner, safer environment".



Students line up to get books from the Reserve section in the library

## SPORTS

### Chanco Staff at SAUSSA Games

30 athletes from Chancellor College took part in the Southern Africa Universities Staff Sports Association (SAUSSA) games held in Lesotho from 12th to 19th

December, 2016. The group from Chancellor College was joined by other sports men and sports women from the Polytechnic, and Kamuzu College of Nursing. Athletes from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and Malawi University of Science and

Technology (MUST) also joined the trip. The entire group from Malawi comprised of 89 people.

The two-day trip took them through Mozambique and South Africa. Upon arrival at the National University of Lesotho (NUL), members of the group participated in various sporting

activities, including football, netball, volleyball, darts, snooker, and a walking race.

One of the highlights during their stay in Lesotho was "Back to School Day", when the entire team relived their childhood days by dressing in adult versions of their primary school uniforms. Thus clad, they partook in a mock school trip, and sang various songs that they recalled from their primary school days.

Allan Chongwe, the Chancellor College Staff Sports Association President, observes that this was one of the ways of emphasizing the socialization factor of the trip. "In fact," he said, "we were able to meet and socialize with other people from the SADC region".

The Chancellor College Staff Sports Association would like to extend a special message of gratitude to the Faculties of Law, Education and Social Science for their financial contributions.



Chanco sportspersons, enjoying 'Back to School Day'

## INFRASTRUCTURE/ICT

### Modernizing the learning experience at Chanco

The teaching revolution is happening around us, or at least at Chancellor College. This is a point that is made evident by several learning innovations on campus.

The most obvious are the changes that some of the lecture rooms are undergoing. The college engaged contractors to install whiteboards in all lecture rooms, with the hope of effectively phasing out the use of chalk during lectures.

The Vice Principal, Assoc. Prof. Samson Sajidu is ecstatic about the development. "As management, we have always been concerned with the health hazards that our lecturers risk in using chalk. We just hope that all of us - lecturers and students - can take responsibility for the boards, by avoiding using permanent ink on them".

In addition, the contractors have mounted cages meant to house projectors. Currently, a lot of lecturers use PowerPoint presentations in their lectures. The plan of the college is therefore to include fixed projectors in several of the classrooms.

Perhaps the least visible innovation occurring on campus is the use of Google classroom in the management of classes. Chancellor College, as an education institution, has access to the Google

Classroom application, which may be used by lecturers and their students. The ICT Section has been conducting training in the software since December 2015.



One of the lecture rooms, with the new installations

## SCIENCE

### Promoting crop diversity

Dr Mangani Katundu of the Human ecology department recently travelled to Harare, Zimbabwe, to attend a conference on conservation agriculture. The conference was sponsored by Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

As an extension of the conference, participants went on a field trip to visit farmers implementing conservation agriculture principles. They also visited demonstration areas for the improving of food security of small scale farmers.

Drawn from several countries on the continent, participants included academics, field workers, and representatives of founding corporations.

At the conference, Dr. Katundu made a presentation on the Malawi Farmer to Farmer Agroecology Project (MAFFA). The project, which is being carried out in Mzimba and Dedza districts, engages local

farmers on the promotion of crop diversity for improved soil and nutrition.

Under the MAFFA project, farmers are encouraged to grow crops such as orange maize (*nthikinya*), soya beans,

pigeon peas, cassava, and sweet potatoes. Farmers are also trained in the production of manure, which has reduced the need for chemical fertilizers, while maintaining good yields to meet their food needs.



Dr. Katundu, with other participants during a field trip

## BULLETIN NEWS

On the *Chanco Bulletin* Editorial Board, we are pleased to announce that we have been joined by three members of staff: Ms. Chilungamo M'manga, Ms. Wezi Mhango, and Mr. Foster Gondwe. Our purpose remains to inform the college community of various events occurring on our campus.



On the Editorial Board: Ms. Chilungamo M'manga, Ms. Wezi Mhango, and Mr. Foster Gondwe

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to send a general word of congratulations to individuals who have received promotions in the past two months.

Such achievements remind us that it is

indeed possible, with hard work, to rise through the ranks of the University of Malawi.

Similarly, we congratulate and welcome those who have returned home after

studies abroad.

The past two months have not been without their moments of grief. In that regard, we mourn the passing of Mr Frazer Katsonya, who, until his death, served as a

gardener for the Biology Department.

Our condolences also go to Assoc. Prof. Syned Mthatiwa, on the passing of his niece.

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