



# Chancellor College BULLETIN

## EDITORIAL: SEMESTER RESET

The past two months have had the nature of being an intensely academically energizing period when the Confucius Institute was inaugurated, three conferences were organized by the Faculty of Education and the Skills Development Project commenced its tracer study component; and at the same time, the period was also very disturbing on attainment of academic excellence due to the emergency halt in undergraduate teaching and learning.

The Inauguration of the Confucius Institute is a welcome move in the sense that it sees the University of Malawi achieving yet another level of international recognition, through its enabling of multicultural awareness in its students

and staff, many of whom have already added Chinese to their multilingual repertoire.

It is during the same period that the Faculty of Education successfully held three different conferences. The presentations at these conferences confirmed the mission of the Faculty to engage the public through sharing research findings on the role of education in the country, and indeed the continent.

Another key development during this period is the progress made in the World Bank funded Skills Development Project. With funding from the project, a number of members of staff are undergoing training. Currently, there is a tracer study being carried out under the project, as a

mode of collecting data on Education Science graduates. It is very likely that this tracer study shall form the basis for other similar exercises to be carried out by the college, in order to evaluate the various programmes that have been offered for years.

These are all indications that, even in times when we are not engaged in our regular activities, the College continues to function. No rest for the academic, a wise man once said. However, our optimal performance is when lectures are properly in session.

In this regard, there is light at the end of the tunnel. The college is due to open in September. We hope we can finish the semester, and indeed the academic year, without further disturbances.



*A proud reminder of who we are*

### Editorial Team:

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

### Highlights

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*Education Conference attracts global attention*

*Humanities Scholars at ACLALS Conference*

*Human Ecology in ECD Training of Trainers*

## ADMINISTRATION

### SDP commences Tracer Study

One of the biggest ongoing activities at Chancellor College is the World Bank Mission for Skills Development Project (SDP). This has led to an increase in enrolment of students in the Bachelor of Education Science programme, with the aim of increasing

science education teachers throughout the country. Under this activity, there has been development of Science Teacher programmes by the Faculties of Science and Education. Construction of 4 lecture theaters and 7 laboratories will soon commence. Some laboratories equipment and stationery have already been purchased.

The project is also supporting refurbishing a section of the library ground floor and basement. 22 academic and technical support staff will be trained under the project.

Currently, one of the crucial activities under the project is the running of a tracer study, with the aim of evaluating how Education Science students are faring after graduation. The steering committee of the project met at Nkopola Lodge, on 20th August, 2016, to review the results of a pilot tracer study, and to make final modifications to the data collection tools that are to be used in the first phase of the actual tracer study. These include questionnaires that will be made available to former students who enrolled in the Bachelor of Education Science programme

between 2012 and 2015, as well as current and potential employers of these students. The graduate questionnaire is currently accessible on the Chancellor College website.

Dr. Bob Chulu, who is the coordinator of the tracer study and Monitoring and Evaluation coordinator of the SDP project, explains that the tracer study is important because it will allow the college to determine the marketability of the programme.

The questionnaire can be completed in 30 minutes and in recognition of time spent filling the questionnaire, there is an option for the respondents to provide their contact details, upon which they will be awarded two copies of their academic transcript for the programme.



Discussions of SDP data collection underway

### Confucius Institute Inaugurated in Lilongwe

On 12th of August, 2016 The Confucius Institute-Unima was officially inaugurated at Kamuzu College of Nursing in Lilongwe. The establishment of the Institute is the result of a partnership between the University of Malawi and

University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) of China. The ceremony marked an advanced step in relations between Malawi and China.

Present at the function was the Minister of Education, Science and

Technology, Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano, who expressed government's pleasure at this milestone development. He observed that many Malawians have already been studying in China for advanced degrees.

Speaking during the function, the co-Director of the Institute, Dr. Damazio Mfunemwanjakwa, pointed out

that the immediate plans are to construct the physical infrastructure of the Confucius Institute at the Kamuzu College of Nursing Lilongwe campus. This will be a block worth around USD6million, 20% of which will be for use by KCN and other UNIMA Colleges. The Institute has satellite centres at all colleges of The University of Malawi. Further, the institute will be open to other people in the community, who would be interested in Chinese language and culture, as well as comparative African and Asian studies. He also pointed out that the Institute plans to have a vibrant outreach arm offering services in academic research and technical expertise to the wider public, especially in the fields of manufacturing, trade and industry.



A group photo during the Inauguration ceremony

## EDUCATION

### Education for National Development

The Faculty of Education held its 2016 Education Conference from 25th July to 27th July 2016, at Chancellor College.

Speaking during the

opening ceremony, the Vice Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Samson Sajidu, welcomed all the participants to the campus and expressed the wish that the papers

would extend their relevance beyond academic circles. Various scholars who attended the conference presented papers that touched on the roles that the education sector plays in the development of a nation and of the

continent.

The first keynote speech was delivered by Professor Fred Msiska, a former Dean of Education at Chancellor College, and currently a Professor of Education at Mzuzu University. In his speech, Prof Msiska raised a number of provocative questions, commencing with discussing the recently released World Bank Report on Higher Education in Malawi. Commenting on the matter of higher education in Malawi, Prof Msiska observed that the tendency has been to focus on access to education, as opposed to quality of education.

Over two days, participants, who came from the UK, USA, South Africa, Scotland, Botswana, Mozambique, and Malawi presented on different papers.



*A presentation in progress in the Great Hall*

### Improving Primary Education: Scholars discuss progress

From 3rd to 4th August, 2016, The Faculty of Education in partnership with University of Strathclyde held two dissemination conferences: one for the Bachelor of Primary Education programme and the other for Master of Primary Education programme. Both conferences took place at Annie's Lodge in Zomba.

The Master of Primary Education project started in 2014 with the development of the programme document, which was approved in December of the same year. Soon after this the first cohort of 40 students were enrolled in the degree programme. The programme has four

options: Education Foundations, Literacy Education, Mathematics and Science Education and Social Studies Education. According to the Project coordinator, Dr Nellie Mbano, the Master of Primary Education conference was held to mark the successful completion of the first cohort and launch of the new Master of Primary Education Degree. During the conference, 36 students presented their papers, which indicates a high successful completion rate.

On the other hand, Dr Mbano added that for the Bachelor of Primary Education program conference, the aim was to share with school teachers and other stakeholders the interventions that the students had identified from action research studies. With funding

from the Scottish government, the Faculty through its partnership with University of Strathclyde has been running this programme since 2001 in order to upgrade diploma lecturers to degree level. Dr Mbano expressed satisfaction that the program has achieved its objectives in that all TTC lecturers are now graduates, thanks to this programme.

Both conferences attracted attendance from a variety of stakeholders including school teachers, Ministry of Education officials, Deans and Principals of Teacher training colleges. In her remarks, Professor Sue Ellis, who managed the programme on the University of Strathclyde side, asked the students to put into practice what they had learnt during their studies.



*Dr. Nellie Mbano addresses the participants*

## SCIENCE

### Human Ecology in ECD Training

From 1st to 19th August the Human Ecology Department hosted training of trainers in Early Childhood Development. During the training, the participants were engaged in topics such as child development, child rights protection, and child nutrition, among others. The main facilitators of the training included Dr Foster Kholowa

(Education), Mrs L. Silo Ms Loveness Musiyapo, Mr Cacious Phiri, Dr Owen Nkhoma and Dr Mangani Katundu. Other facilitators came from Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi, Subsaharan Africa Family Enrichment (SAFE), and the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare

Participants were drawn from various sectors of the country They included social welfare officers, staff from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, community development officers, members of religious bodies, including Livingstonia Synod and the Catholic Church, staff from NGOs, and others from Magomero Community Development College.

The closing ceremony of the training was held on 19th August, 2016, in the Great Hall. The participants displayed various play materials categorised into the areas such as Reading, Art, Nature and Science, and Outdoor.

The Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, took the opportunity to highlight the fact that the training falls into the community outreach mandate of the institution to provide training not only to the

regularly registered students but also to other people in the country. He observed that while the staff of Human Ecology have been critical in facilitating the training, they too have benefited by identifying areas where further research may be carried out. The Faculty of Science, which houses the Department of Human Ecology, is in the process of developing a programme in Early Childhood Development, for which they will request collaboration with specific government departments.

During the ceremony, the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Dr Jean Kalilani, expressed her appreciation to Chancellor College for assisting the developing the skills of ECD in the country. She also expressed government's gratitude to the caregivers in their untiring work in developing literacy for in Malawi's young minds.



Some of the learning materials on display in the Great Hall

### Mathematical Sciences in MARM Project

The Mathematical Sciences Department hosted Professor Ambrus Pal of Imperial College London who offered a course in Algebraic Number Theory from 15-26th August, 2016. The visit was under the Mentoring African Research in Mathematics Project (MARM). MARM is a project funded by the London Mathematical Society (LMS) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU) in association with the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI). This is a two-year grant

focused on building infrastructure and networking in mathematics in Africa. The grant supports mentoring relationships between mathematicians

in the United Kingdom and continental Europe and African colleagues in Africa, together with their students.

The Mathematical Sciences Department

partnership with the department of Mathematics of Imperial college London is one of the four mentoring partnerships awarded for the next two years.



Mathematicians having a snack outside the Senior Common Room

## LIBRARY

### Library in thesis collection drive

As a way of updating its records, the Chancellor College library has in the past few months engaged in a drive to collect details of publications authored by members of staff at the college. This was done upon the realization that there is no central location where one can access information pertaining to publications by staff.

The Special Collection Librarian, Mrs Nancy Mpekansambo, explains that this process has a number of advantages for all users of the library. "People will be able to access this information and know what staff in different departments have published. This could make collaboration opportunities easier. Additionally, this database will give a general idea of how the entire college is faring in terms of publication, and also motivate others to research and publish. It will highlight the research that is being done

throughout the college, including the research done by librarians."

However, according to Mpekansambo, the response from staff has been rather poor, with some being suspicious of the library's motivations.

"For some reason, people hesitate to give us details of their publications. We just require publication details, not necessarily the actual papers. This is basically for their own good, to publicise their work, and to motivate students to pursue similar paths of research."

For the sake of record keeping, Chancellor College staff are supposed to submit copies of their Masters and PhD theses to the Special Collection section. The library accepts submissions as hard copies as well as in pdf format. This way, the scholarly output of the college is located in one place, and is thus easily preserved and accessed by the public.

### Anglia Books launches DD Phiri collection



Renowned Malawian author, Dr. Desmond Dudwa Phiri, visited the Chancellor College Branch of Anglia Book Distributors on 27th July, 2016. The visit was to mark the launch of a book collection that is currently being offered for sale by the bookshop.

Dr. Phiri is the author of 20 books and a well-known columnist in Malawi. He is a graduate of the University of London.

His writing covers a variety of issues pertaining

to Malawi. However, among the most treasured of his works are those which retrace various chapters of Malawi's history, as well as the personalities associated with those periods. These texts include *Let Us Die for Africa*, which details the story of the national martyr, John Chilembwe.

Dr. Phiri is also the author of *From Nguni to Ngoni*, *History of Malawi: From Earliest Times to the year 1915*, and *I See You: Life of Clements Kalaile*.



A section of PhD and Masters theses in the Malawiana Section of the library

## HUMANITIES

### Humanities Scholars at ACLALS Conference

The 17th Triennial Conference of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS), held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 10 to 15 July, 2016, attracted scholars from all over the globe. Among these were six lecturers from the Faculty of Humanities at Chancellor College, four of whom are currently studying at Stellenbosch University. The lecturers include Dr. Ken Lipenga Junior, Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira, Ms. Asante Mtenje, Mr. Nick Tembo (English), Mr. Victor Chikaipa (African Languages and

Linguistics) and Ms. Catherine Makhumula (Fine and Performing Arts). Malawi received additional representation through the participation of Mr. Joshua Kumwenda, an English literature lecturer at Mzuzu University.

ACLALS is an established global forum for presenting and debating research on postcolonial literatures, languages, cultures and art. During the conference, the lecturers presented on a variety of topics, touching on issues such as masculinities, father-daughter relationships, media reporting, intermediality,

war trauma, and female sexuality.

Speaking at the end of the conference, Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira, who is also Head of English Department at Chancellor College, observed that opportunities such as these offer scholars a chance to grow and develop their ideas. "It is no surprise that people rarely know of the University of Malawi in these conference circuits. The University is not regularly represented at international conferences. Therefore such visibility is a way of showing what we are capable of," he observed.

### Tembo receives Timothy Dow Award



Mr. Nick Tembo

Mr Nick Tembo, a lecturer in the English Department at Chancellor College was this year the joint recipient of the Timothy Dow award.

Tembo, who is studying for a PhD at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, was awarded the prize during the Tenth IABA World Conference in Cyprus.

The award is named after Timothy Dow Adams, one of the founders of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* journal.

At the conference, Tembo presented a paper based on his PhD work. It touches on representations of the Rwandan genocide in a number of literary texts.



Ms. Catherine Makhumula makes her presentation at ACLALS 2016, with Ms. Asante Mtenje acting as rapporteur

### Announcements

A lot can happen in two months, both the happy and the sad.

This is the period in which Mrs Thandi Sabola and her family were blessed with a baby boy, Ethan. To them we say congratulations!

On a sad note, we have lost friends and family in

this same period.

This is the period during which we lost a student, Father Albert Chandiyang'ana. May his soul rest in peace.

We also offer condolences to the family of Mrs Dorothy Kamanga, on the loss of her father.

To Dr. W. Changadeya

of Biology, we also offer words of comfort on the passing of his uncle.

Our condolences also go to Mrs S. Ndau, on the passing of her sister.

Condolences are also due to Dr. G. Jawali, on the loss of his aunt.

To Mr George Gomani, may the good Lord comfort you as you mourn the passing of

your wife.

We also offer condolences to Mrs Joyce Gama, on the passing of her father-in-Law.

May the Heavenly Father also comfort Mr Brown Msiska, on the loss of his mother-in-law.

We also offer condolences to Prof. L. Dzimbiri, on the passing of his in-law.