



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: CELEBRATING BOOKS

It's that time of the year when we at the *Bulletin* again take time to make a bit of noise about some of the events at Chancellor college. What we have come to realize, from the feedback we receive, is that there are a lot of events occurring at the college. A good number of these incidents hardly ever receive any publicity, even though they are good for the morale of both staff and students.

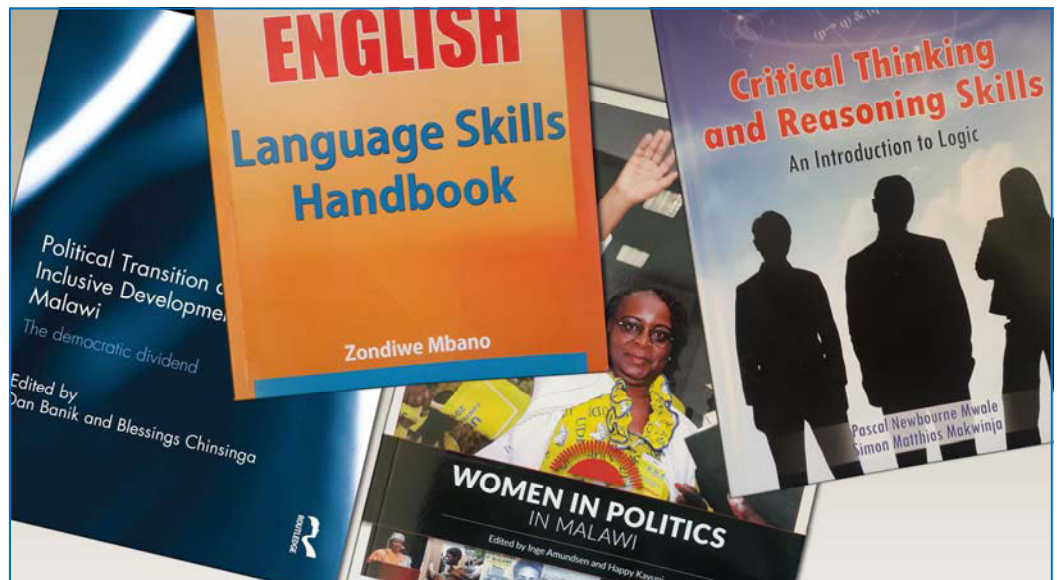
Today, we would like to reflect on the matter of publications, specifically books. One of the most celebrated events that we were lucky enough to be a part of in the past two months was the launch of *Women in Politics in Malawi*, a book published by the PAS Department in Collaboration with Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI). This event drew

our attention to the emergence of books that are not proclaimed loudly, even though they are authored by people right here at Chancellor College. Arguably, the strongest publications that can be showcased by a college are books.

A quick look around made us realize that there are indeed other publications that are yet to receive the same kind of launch ceremonies that the PAS publication had. These include Zondiwe Mbanos' *Advanced English: Language Skills Handbook*, a text that is of immense use to students across all faculties at the college, given the author's affiliation with the Language and Communication Skills Department. Another publication of practical use that has quietly emerged is Pascal Mwale

and Symon Makwinja's *Critical Thinking and Reasoning Skills: An Introduction to Logic*. Our own Blessings Chinsinga is also co-editor of yet another new book on the scene, *Political Transition and Inclusive Development in Malawi: The Democratic Dividend*.

We are not mentioning these authors out of a particular identification with them, but rather, as an attempt to accord them some publicity. It is quite a shame when such useful publications emerge only to be relegated to the bookshelves. A shame not simply because the authors will miss out on the economic recompense, but because the brilliant ideas within will not be shared with the rest of the community at Chancellor College and beyond.



A sample of books authored by Chanco staff

Editorial Team:

Dr. Ken Lipenga Jr (Chief Editor), Prof Samson Sajidu (Vice Principal).

Highlights

Improving the dining experience at the cafeteria

Soothing Lunch Hour Jams at the FPA

Women in Politics book launch

Literature scholars visit Mozambique

CHAMAYOMA trains youth mappers

Chanco Ladies FC registers sporting success

ADMINISTRATION

Cafeteria receives new furniture

The availability of furniture for students has been a thorny issue for quite some time now. There is need for adequate and appropriate

furniture in all the spaces that students occupy, if they are to be at their most productive during their sojourn at Chancellor College. These areas include the classrooms at the teaching area, the library, the cafeteria and the

hostels. There are also plans to increase the number of fixed resting structures in the outdoors area of the campus.

Normally, the cafeteria is supposed to have furniture for dining. However, over the years the chairs and tables have

either been stolen or damaged.

Recently, the college procured furniture for the cafeteria to replace chairs to improve the dining environment. The furniture was purposefully designed by Ulongwe Workshop. It features hardwood benches attached to either round or rectangular tables.

The Dean of Students, Dr. Jonas Mwatseteza, points out that the feedback from the students has been encouraging. "Each chair-table set can accommodate up to 8 people. In summer, the tables can also be placed outside, and fitted with a sunshade."

Additionally, they can also be used for academic discussions, especially with the Wi-Fi and power outlets available in the cafeteria.



The new furniture in the cafeteria

Chanco Staff attend Labour Rights Organisation Seminar

Chancellor College management recently took advantage of a seminar that was organised by the Labour Rights Organisation (LARO) on "Building Effective Labour Dispute Prevention and Resolution Systems

(Practical Legal and International standards)". The seminar took place at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe on Tuesday 20th September, 2016. Nine members of staff comprising the Registrar, the Assistant Registrar (Human

Resource), the Assistant Registrar (Students Welfare), three CCASU Executive members and three UWTU executive members attended the seminar.

During the meeting, a number of matters pertaining to labour practice were discussed. Some of the presented topics included: Emerging issues in key Labour

matters and Best Practices to deal with such issues, Industrial Resolutions Court and Labour Disputes Resolution, Labour Conflict Management at Workplace and Negotiation skills at the workplace (workplace cooperation).

The resource persons were Her Honour C. Kamowa of the Industrial Relations Court, Lilongwe and Mr. B.M Chirwa of LARO. The seminar was interactive and all participants gained some insights from the discussions. LARO's vision is to see a productive and harmonious society well conversant with Human and Labour Rights, where citizens are able to demand them for social and economic development of the country.



Participants at the workshop pose for a group photo

ADMINISTRATION

Dean of Social Science attends Pangea-ED Launch

The Dean of Social Science, Dr Levison Chiwaula represented Chancellor College at the launch of PANGeA training and skills development programme

(PANGeA –Ed) at Makerere University in Uganda on Tuesday, 27 September 2016.

The dean was among deans of faculties of humanities and social

sciences from eight African universities that form the Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics (PANGeA). The launch was also attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Germany Embassy in Uganda, Mrs Petra Koechendoerfer, and the

Chair of the Executive Board of the Gerda Henkel Foundation, Dr Michael Hanssler, and the representative of the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof John Ddumba-Ssemtamu.

PANGeA was founded in 2010 by the University of Botswana, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Malawi, the University of Nairobi in Kenya and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Four years later, the University of Ghana and the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon joined the consortium. The network aims to strengthen the development of higher education in Africa by creating opportunities for collaborative research and exchange among partner institutions, and full-time doctoral study.



Delegates from PANGeA Universities

Lunch Hour Jams at the FPA

Since 7th October, 2016, the Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) department has been holding Lunch Hour Music Jam Sessions, every Tuesday and Friday. The sessions are held on the open air section outside the Great Hall.

Performers include students from various faculties, as well as other professional groups from within Zomba.

The Head of the FPA Department, Dr. Grant Nthala, explains that the idea was born from

observing a lot of people hanging around the Great Hall premises at lunch hour, either partaking of some meals or waiting for classes. The department then realized that it could come in to serve the entertainment needs of the people.

"The purpose of the sessions is to provide

entertainment to students and staff," Dr Nthala points out. "We want to create a relaxed atmosphere for individual recreation in a musically soothing environment."

During a recent session, three students – Blessings Chisama, Masankho Ligomeka and Priscilla Phiri – struck up a variety of smooth jazz tunes, which had patrons nodding their heads. The performers use instruments from the FPA Department, with some technological and engineering equipment and expertise provided by staff from the Great Hall. A lot of preparation goes into the sessions, ensuring that instruments are finely tuned, and that the electronic equipment is in proper operating state.

The result, as they say, is music to the ears.



The students showcase their skill during the Lunch Hour Jam Session

WORLD BANK SDP

World Bank Mission visits Chanco for SDP progress update

Representatives of the World Bank Mission responsible for Skills Development projects visited Chancellor College on 1st September, 2016, in order to get apprised of progress in the implementation of the project at the college. The delegation comprised of World Bank Country Director, World Bank Procurement Specialist and World Bank Financial Specialist. The World Bank officials were accompanied by National Council of Higher Education Officers.

The leader of the delegation, Dr Innocent Mulindwa, pointed out that, for all projects being funded by the World Bank, it is a requirement that they receive progress reports every 6 months.

In this case, the mission was aimed at receiving a comprehensive overview of what is happening at Chancellor College. In response, the team leader of the Skills Development Project at Chancellor College, Dr. Jonas Mwatseteza, assured the

mission that the college was working towards progress consistent with the mid-term review of the project.

During the discussions, which were hosted at the Faculty of Law complex, the project Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Dr. Bob Chulu, made a presentation in which he summarized the

milestones achieved and the difficulties encountered, as well as measures taken to address them. He pointed out that the overall aim of the project was the combining of education, labor and market activities to improve the skills needed for productivity and economic growth in Malawi.



Staff from the World Bank and NCHE

Improving Science Teacher Education at Chanco

As part of the World Bank Skills Development Project that is currently being implemented at Chancellor College, the Faculties of Education and Science have been working hand in hand to increase the country's numbers of science

teachers. Curricula for 6 different Education Science programmes were developed and approved by Senate of the University of Malawi. These are specialized programmes, with students focusing on specific science subjects

from very early in their studies.

From the 24th to the 25th of September, 2016, the steering committee of the SDP at Chancellor College met to draw up a mid-term report of what the project has achieved so far in the various disbursement linked indicators (DLIs). It was at this meeting that the Deans of Education and Science highlighted the

various activities that are on-going as a way of realizing their goal. The programmes will be advertised anytime this year, and students will be able to register for the 2017/2018 academic year. The Education Language and Education Social Studies programmes will remain generic. However, the Education Science programme is the one that has been split into specialized programmes, with focus on Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Human Ecology.

The Dean of Education, Dr. Foster Kholowa, is particularly excited about the development. "This is an unprecedented advance," he observed. "We have designed the programmes so that even though there is subject specialisation, the end result is a well-grounded teacher."



Deliberations of the SDP in session

ACADEMICS

Literature scholars visit Universidade Pedagógica

As a step in the fostering of relations between University of Malawi and Universidade Pedagógica, three members of the English

Department at Chancellor college travelled to the Niassa Province Campus in Mozambique on 4th September, 2016. The delegation included

Associate Professor Syned Mthatiwa, Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira and Dr. Ken Lipenga. The purpose of the trip was to conduct a workshop on the teaching of African literature in English.

During the visit, which lasted two days, the

literature lecturers exchanged methodologies with their colleagues in Mozambique, whose literary corpus is mainly based on Lusophone (Portuguese language) writing. The presenters held discussions on a range of topics, including historical influences of African literature, teaching methodologies, and literary theory. The workshop was held at the Centro de Linguas, Departamento de Ciências de Linguagem Comunicação e Artes.

As part of the visit, the Chancellor College delegation was invited to tour the Niassa Province campus of Universidade Pedagógica, upon which they appreciated the potential for further collaboration between the two Universities.



Touring Universidade Pedagógica

Promoting orange maize

Dr Mangani Katundu of the Human Ecology Department was recently at the IUCN—World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, where he made a presentation on “Mthikinya: a farmer variety of orange maize in Malawi”. In his presentation, Dr. Katundu reported on a project that is being implemented by Chancellor College, aiming to increase crop diversity, mainly through the promotion of the orange maize.

Orange maize is high in vitamin A, lipids and protein, and is an early maturing crop compared to white maize. As such, it has the potential to tackle the problems of malnutrition and mitigate the effect of climate

change and increased rainfall variability.

The project is contributing to a healthier population by promoting nutrient rich diets in Malawi.

In addition, incorporation of crop residues and making and use of manure helps to reduce use of inorganic fertilizer by farmers and consequently reduces the

cost of production. Furthermore, improved soil structure facilitates moisture retention, contributes to environmental health and crop resilience in times of rainfall variability.

Implementation sites include Dedza and Thyolo districts in rural Malawi. Additionally, the project promotes the farmer-to-farmer model

of education, and provides training to farmers in potentially useful small scale food processing and entrepreneurship skills. The work done under the project demonstrates the importance of conserving indigenous crop varieties and traditional foods in Malawi and the roles that consumers as well as policy makers can play.



Dr. Katundu joins other participants for a group photo.

ACADEMICS

Women in Politics book launch

The Department of Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) at Chancellor College had their moment of pride on 30th September, 2016, when they launched a book, entitled *Women in Politics in Malawi*, at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The function was

attended academics, politicians, and others interested in the role of women in Malawi's politics. The book has been edited by Inge Amundsen and Happy Kayuni. During the function, Amundsen pointed out that the book is an outcome of a three-year collaboration

between the Department of Political and Administrative Studies and Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI).

The Dean of Social Science, Dr. Levison Chiwaula, stressed that as part of the Faculty of Social Science, the Department of Political and Administrative Studies has displayed a way of disseminating information relating to the roles of women in

politics and also in other spheres of activity in the country. "This book fits squarely into the activities of the faculty," he observed. "The Faculty of Social Science has been at the forefront in mainstreaming gender in higher education, through the introduction of gender programmes and even in the enrolment of students."

Taking his turn to speak, the Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, took the opportunity to highlight the skills of academics at the college. He emphasised that a University ought to be, by its very nature, the hub of publishing, as this is one of the benchmarks of tertiary education."

During the function, the Guest of Honor, Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Dr. Jean A. N. Kalilani, expressed Government's pleasure at the publication of the book.



Mrs Bernadetta Malunga and Dr Ngeyi Kanyongolo: authored a chapter in the book

Developing Chichewa Mathematics Terminologies

On 15th September, 2016, the Curriculum and Teaching Studies (CATS) Department in the Faculty of Education hosted a seminar where Mr Alick Kadango Bwanali presented a paper entitled "Developing Chichewa Mathematics Terminologies Using Indigenous Knowledge". Mr Bwanali is a lecturer in the African Languages and Linguistics Department, but also works as a Chichewa Language Specialist at the Centre for Language Studies (CLS). He is currently enrolled as a student in a split-site PhD

programme involving the University of Strathclyde (Scotland) and the University of Malawi.

The paper originated from the researcher's awareness of a deficiency in terminology for technical and scientific concepts. He noted that the advent of technological development highlights the lack of specialized terminology in local languages, which creates a challenge in the teaching of mathematics and science subjects. In identifying the problem, Bwanali noted that, at present, textbooks for teaching subjects such as

mathematics employ transliteration (or Chichewa-ization) of English terms. This results in usage of terms such as *seko* (circle), *koni* (cone), *sikweya* (square), *voluyumu* (volume), *fulakishoni* (fraction) and *thirayango* (triangle). Due to the lack

of availability of equivalent terms in local languages, the learning process becomes hampered. As part of his research, Bwanali intends to investigate Malawi's language policy and its implication on the language used as medium of instruction.



Bwanali making his presentation

STUDENT AFFAIRS

CHAMAYOMA: Mapping Malawi

Chanco Malawi Youth Mappers (CHAMAYOMA) has been engaged in a training workshop in mapping, under the auspices of the Geography and Earth Sciences department. The training is running from 28th October, 2016 to 4th November, 2016, and will be mainly held in the GIS Lab.

According to the Publicity Secretary of CHAMAYOMA, Tiwonge Sakala, from the skills that they will attain in the workshop, the members of the group will be equipped to map various issues in the country, including food insecurity, environmental degradation, disease occurrence, and

occurrence of natural disasters such as floods. The mapping exercise shall yield research data that can be used by scholars and aid workers who would quickly want

to identify areas affected by disasters.

The facilitators of the training exercise include Dr Brent McCusker and Dr. Jamison Conly, from University of West Virginia, and Mr Park Muhonda, who is pursuing a PhD at the University of West

Virginia. The group will also be joined by postgraduate students from the University of Pretoria.

The Chancellor College Chapter is expected to contribute to Open Street mapping and interact with different mappers across the world.



The training workshop underway

CHAPRES in Braille Transcription exercise

Since 2015, the Chanco Projects and Research Society (CHAPRES) has been researching on factors affecting the academic welfare of students with visual

disabilities. One of the findings was that students with visual impairments do not have braille texts which they can use for study.

Having completed the initial part of their research, CHAPRES has completed a report, which they intend to distribute to various faculties, and to the

Chancellor College registrar, as part of civic awareness on the experiences of students with visual disabilities. They will also send the document to relevant organisations.

Meanwhile, the students have set for themselves the gargantuan task of transcribing texts that are

used by first year visually impaired students in the Faculty of Education. As the founder of CHAPRES, Mike Munthali, points out, "one of our objectives is that we should be able to implement a solution to a problem that we identify". They are therefore currently in the process of collecting the books. After the texts are collected, they will be sent to the Special Needs Centre, where the total cost of the work will be calculated (amount of braille papers, etc). Then the estimated cost will be included in a proposal that will be used in approaching various organizations for assistance.

It is the hope of CHAPRES that their research will assist in elucidating the problems that are faced by students with visual impairments. Some of these problems are of the sort that both lecturers and students may not be aware of.



Members of CHAPRES

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Introducing Mdindo stove

One of the recent research products from Chancellor College is a product that is being tentatively called Mdindo stove. This is the brainchild of Vincent Sinalo, a third year student, majoring in Geography and minoring in Fine Art (Ceramics). The stove, which is made from Kaolinite clay, comprises two interlocking shapes, which can be adjusted to increase or decrease apertures for fuel, hence its versatility. The unique feature of the stove is that, unlike other designs existing on the market, the Mdindo stove accepts a wide range of materials as fuel.

So far, the project has caught the eye of people who would want to partner with Sinalo. For him, the greatest joy is not in the money that the project might bring to his pockets, but in having

done something to help preserve and clean the environment, a dream that he hopes to share with other Malawians, through making his product available to them. "It is my dream that the stove will be affordable to all Malawians. If they cannot afford it, then it defeats

the purpose for which I conceived it," says Sinalo.

Apart from his obvious skill as an artist, Sinalo also comes across as a passionate environmentalist.

"Malawi is facing so many problems leading to the depletion of our environment," he observes. "Deforestation

is one of the key causes of these problems. With this stove, I am hoping people will realize that charcoal is not the only source of fuel. It is meant for communities to realize that there are a lot of readily available materials around us which we do not readily recognize as fuel. These include materials such as rice husks, dry leaves, sawdust, pea stalks, sugarcane molasses, pine cones (*zibalobalo*) and other materials from trees and crop residues. We can process these materials or use them directly as fuel." The working name of the stove – Mdindo – is drawn from the word "udindo", which in turn reflects the inventor's passion for conserving and cleaning the environment.

Sinalo is currently improving the design of the stove, such as making the frame thicker so that it is to the nationally accepted standard.



Sinalo displays the Mdindo stove

Chanco Ladies FC: Challenging Sporting Stereotypes

Chanco Ladies Soccer Team continues to grow from stride to stride. Their most recent success was registered on Saturday, October 25, 2016, when the ladies travelled all the way down to Mangochi, where they emerged victors (2-0) against Lisumbwi Girls Football Team.

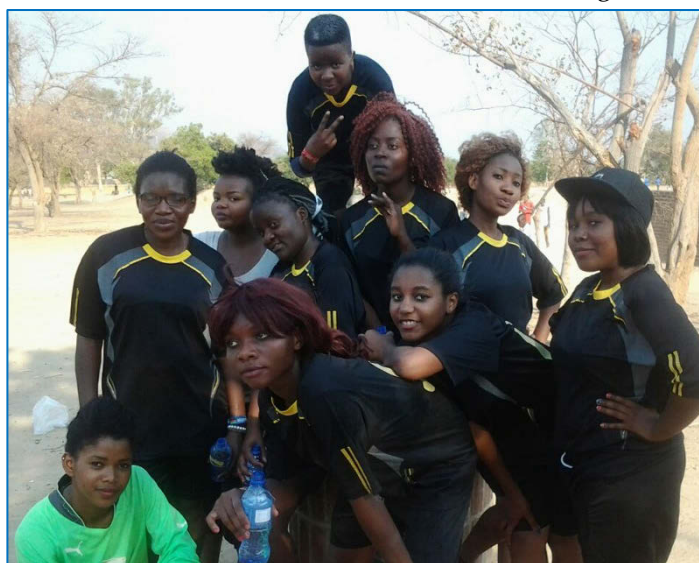
The team rarely receives the same sort of publicity that teams in men's football and basketball usually do. In part, this is due to misconceptions that exist among some people around Chirunga. Ladies soccer has been part of Chancellor College students' sports activities

for over ten years. Tumbikani Njikho, the captain of the ladies team, explains that the team has sometimes faced challenges from other female students, who fear that if they play football, their bodies will begin to develop masculine features. "This is not necessarily the case. Besides, in addition to the fitness, the training sessions and games give us an opportunity to interact in an informal way. Through the games, we are building relationships that will last for a long time," expounds the captain.

Despite registering some success, the team

still faces some hitches. The team has to borrow the training kits that are used by the men's football team, in addition to using their own shoes.

Fortunately, the team has been receiving support from their male counterparts, who often join them in the training, and offer coaching advice.



Chanco Ladies FC

