



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: CHANCO ASLEEP? THINK AGAIN

So the last time we released the *Bulletin*, Chancellor College was geared to commence the semester. As we all know, however, that did not transpire. The opening of the college remains in limbo.

However, the delay in commencing the academic year does not translate into lethargy on the part of members of staff. As you will see in the *Bulletin*, members of staff at the college have been as busy as ever, showing the world that the college is not defined by undergraduate teaching alone.

For instance, our community service activities have been quite visible in this period, through events such as the Science and Astronomy Week and the

Disability Rights clinic. In this same period, we have had the various presentations of on-going work by members of staff. Staff members have also registered a number of publications within these two months. The college therefore remains a force to reckon within in terms of the research output of its staff.

The question of the capabilities of the Chancellor College remind us that in this same period, we have seen the University of Malawi unbundling debate rise towards a climax, as we all wait to see the future of the colleges. With regard to Chancellor College, our voice has always been clear, expressed through overwhelming votes. Incidentally, that also

seems to be the case with our sister colleges.

Developments continue to happen on campus. The college has procured furniture for all sections, including classrooms, the library, offices, boardrooms and hostels. The furniture arrived last month and installation is underway. Already, classrooms have received an upgraded look, and the college can indeed be said to be moving into the future. This is especially so when we see it together with the improved flooring and the security doors.

Recently, our beloved alumni who graduated in 1994 have promised to uplift the students' reading environment by erecting chairs and tables in a park set-up in the coming months.



New furniture in the classrooms

Editorial Team:

Dr. Ken Lipenga Jr (Chief Editor), Prof Samson Sajidu (Vice Principal), Mr. Felix Mwalemba, Mr. Martin Ngalande

Highlights

New furniture in college classrooms

Towards an unbundled UNIMA

Law library receives book donation

Porter's Lodge upgraded

Faculty of Humanities seminar on child sexualities

Mikeka patents Kangaude antenna

ADMINISTRATION

College transformation: new furniture installed

Tired with old, worn out and substandard furniture, the College decided to upgrade the campus with a modern university look through the installation of new furniture. Resources, largely from the Public Sector Investment Programme and other sources, were gathered, and suppliers from China were found to be the cheapest and most convenient, without compromising on quality. The College was thus granted authorization to procure the furniture in November last year.

The furniture is sufficient for all academic and administrative departments and includes chairs and desks for classrooms, offices, and the library. Also included are chairs and desks for the lecture theatres, as

well as for boardrooms in the Law and Science faculties.

The furniture arrived on campus in March this year. It had been packed in eight trucks, which

travelled all the way from Beira, and were finally offloaded at the Sports Complex.

Since then, all classrooms are now newly furnished. New desks and chairs are currently being assembled in lecturers' offices. The library has

also been furnished with new desks.

Most of the old classroom chairs have been donated to public primary and secondary schools within Zomba and an official handover ceremony will be conducted in due course.



The furniture being offloaded at the Sports Complex

Chanco votes for unbundling (again)

The Reform programme in Malawi has affected the University of Malawi through revamping of the unbundling debate, which sees the

constituent colleges of the university seeking to break away and become fully fledged universities on their own. This is a move that has been met



Chanco votes for unbundling

with resistance from various corners, both within and outside the university.

When the matter first came up, the Principal convened a college meeting where the matter was discussed among staff. This ended with a vote, in which Chancellor College staff expressed the wish for unbundling.

On 2nd March, 2017, the matter was once again raised. Again, a meeting was convened, and yet again, Chancellor College staff expressed the wish—through a vote—for the University of Malawi to be unbundled.

Almost everyone at Chancellor College wants the college to either

secede, or to have the entire university become unbundled for efficient operationalization of its activities, which are currently duplicated at the Central Office, and in most cases get delayed through unnecessary bureaucracy and paperwork. There are some few members who have expressed uncertainty with the process of unbundling, and have even shown preference to maintain the status quo. However, the majority of people at the college are optimistic that once the autonomy is achieved, Chancellor College will be in a better position to chart its own future.

ADMINISTRATION

Secretaries trained in Excel

As part of skills development for staff, the Chancellor College administration organized Microsoft Excel training for secretaries. The training was held on 14th and 15th March, 2017. The workshop was held at the library ground floor computer lab.

According to the assistant registrar (Human Resource), Mrs Towera Mwachunga, the college administration organized the training as a way of addressing some gaps, but also as a refresher course to keep the secretaries' skills enhanced. The invitation was open to all secretaries on campus, although some did not attend the training.

The training sessions, which registered up to 29 secretaries from various

departments and sections of the college, involved presentations and practical training with various functions of Excel, including calculations, working with formulas, graphs, linking sheets, and using functions. Staff from the ICT Directorate

provided the training.

Microsoft Excel is part of the Microsoft Office package. It is an application that is used widely in many professions, including accounting. As a result of this skills enhancement, it is now expected that secretaries will be able to ably use worksheets for tasks such as budgeting for departmental

workshops and other events.

One of the participants at the training session, Mrs Maureen Malata noted that the lessons provided were indeed helpful in enhancing secretarial skills. She expressed hope that the college would continue this trend, by providing training in other computer applications.

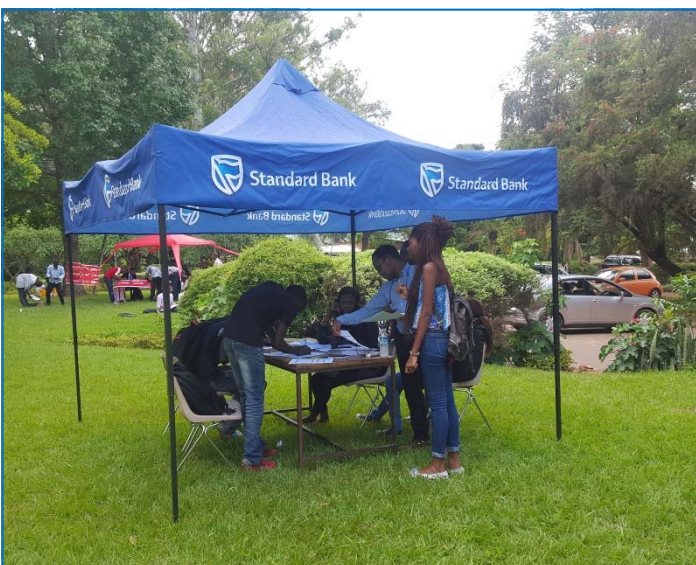


Secretaries attending the training session

First years open bank accounts

During the orientation week for first years at Chancellor College, an invitation was extended to various banks in

Zomba to market themselves so that the students could open accounts. Upon arrival at the college, students are



Students opening bank accounts

advised to open bank accounts, if they do not already have them. This serves several purposes, among which is the receiving of stationery allowances. Additionally, the opening of bank accounts is an important step in displaying the maturity that comes with commencing college life.

The banks in Zomba responded positively to the invitation. Three banks - NBS Bank, Standard Bank and FDH Bank—erected tents outside the Great Hall. Representatives of these banks were on hand to help the students open accounts, and to provide them with information regarding special offers (if any) available to the students, such as accounts reserved exclusively for them.

According to the Vice Principal, Prof. Samson Sajidu, the invitation to

the banks was made upon the realization that finances, little as they may be, need to be safely guarded and utilized. "Banks are the safest institutions for such security, and they also provide tips for financial management and investment when requested. This is important for our students as they prepare for the world ahead of them", the Vice Principal pointed out.

This development is coming at a time when financial institutions in the country are in the process of improving levels of financial literacy among the population. The university is a suitable location where students can attain knowledge of financial management, even as they get lessons from their various academic programmes.

ADMINISTRATION

Chizimba moves to University Office

In April, 2017, Mr Ellius Chizimba, Senior Assistant Registrar at Chancellor College, bid farewell to the college, having been transferred to the University Office.

Mr Chizimba joined Chancellor College in

March 2007, having been transferred from Kamuzu College of Nursing. He has therefore been at Chancellor College for 10 years. While at Chancellor College, Chizimba worked as Assistant Registrar and was then promoted to the

rank of Senior Assistant Registrar. He was responsible for general issues including students' welfare, sports, developmental projects and many more. There are so many projects he facilitated with passion and dedication. These include: extension of Finance Office and sanitary facilities,

construction of the office of the Dean of Science, construction of Centre for Social Research Office, rehabilitation of Human Ecology Office, construction of PAS office block, setting up satellite campus in Mzuzu and many more. The absence of the EDO could not be felt due to the dedication of this hardworking son of Chancellor College! These responsibilities were in addition to many administrative duties assigned to him such as assisting with graduations and other ceremonies involving dignitaries from outside the college and serving as secretary for several faculties.

In his farewell message, Chizimba expressed gratitude for the good working relationship he had developed with colleagues at Chancellor College.

Indeed we will miss Ellius Gadinala (EG) Chizimba, and wish him all the best.



Chizimba working in the office

PMS Consultant visits Chanco

On 27th March, 2017, Chancellor College was visited by Ms Helen Mugarosi, an expert on performance

management systems from South Africa. She came to address college staff on the usefulness of the Performance

Management System (PMS) for the University of Malawi. She was accompanied by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Al Mtenje, and the Deputy University Registrar, Mr. A. Gawa.

The Performance Management system was approved by UNIMA Management in 2016, and is taken as part of efforts to bring reform to the University of Malawi, as way of quality enhancement.

In her self-introduction, Ms Mugarosi pointed out that she has helped to implement performance management systems at various other institutions in South Africa. With regard to the UNIMA Performance Management System, she insisted that, among other things, it will help to clarify individual roles and responsibilities, promote efficient communication, contribute to career planning, and provide an effective basis for job placement and promotion.



Ms Helen Mugarosi addressing staff in the Great Hall

EDUCATION

Faculty of Education in new NORHED project

Chancellor College prides itself on partnerships established with various research institutions around the globe.

In March of this year, the Faculty of Education registered two key advancements in establishing partnerships with foreign institutions.

These included the signing of a grant agreement with Norad on 14th March, and the establishment of a partnership agreement with University of Stavanger on 15 March. These two contracts are

part of a new NORHED project, which is titled *Strengthening Numeracy in early years primary education through professional development of teachers*. It is a five year project, which will run from 2017 to 2021. This is again in collaboration with University of Stavanger in Norway. In this development, the Faculty of Education is the grant agreement partner, which means that the faculty becomes the overall project leader. Professor Mercy Kazima-Kishindo is the Coordinator, and the project team includes Dr. Levis Eneya (Mathematical Sciences), Mrs. Lisnet Mwadzaangati and Mr. Fraser Gobede (CATS).



NORHED delegates being taken on a tour of the college by Prof. Mercy Kazima-Kishindo

ADMINISTRATION

Porter's Lodge gets new staff and upgrades

The Porter's Lodge at Chancellor College serves as the inquiries hub, and is open at all times of the day and night. Its

importance can therefore not be overemphasized.

One of the new developments at the Porter's Lodge is the



Ms Masumbuko Rajab and Mr David Chome access information on the computer

employing of a new member of staff, Ms Masumbuko Rajab, who joined the college in 2016. She is the first female officer to serve at the Porter's Lodge, joining the five men who have been regular features. However, her work has not been without its challenges, as some people had been used to being served by men. However, she has now won the hearts of many.

Rajab points out that the Porter's Lodge is there to serve students, staff as well as people from outside the college. On their first arrival, students seek information and register at the Porter's Lodge. Keys to rooms in their halls of accommodation are also kept there. The Porter's Lodge serves both clerical and support employees as

well as lecturers. Mail that is addressed to departments is kept at the Porter's Lodge. Lecturers have pigeon holes at the Porter's Lodge, where they receive their mail. The Porter's Lodge also occasionally handles and transfers incoming local and international phone calls.

The Porter's Lodge now features a state of the art computer, on which the officers can access data pertaining to students, regarding their fee payment status, accommodation and contact details.

For the Porter's Lodge to function efficiently, there is a need for the various departments at the college to ensure that information about their activities is promptly communicated to the officers.

SCIENCE

Computer Science concludes student project internship

The Computer Science department recently completed an internship programme that had been organized for some of its students, as a way of further polishing some of

their projects. The internship commenced in January, 2017.

On 31st March, 2017, the department held a small ceremony to mark the completion of the

internship. During the ceremony, 10 students were awarded with certificates. According to Dr Kondwani Munthali, the Deputy Head of Department, the students had been making regular progress presentations to the department.

From this internship,

some of the students will proceed for another internship with BAOBAB Health Trust, an NGO with which the department has a relationship. The department often sends students to the NGO for internship.

One of the students, Isaac Mwakawira, points out that they were working in pairs, on different projects, including a navigation system for the visually impaired at Chancellor College, online payment systems, and career management systems. They also worked on applications aimed at the Ministry of Health.

He points out that the internship has assisted the students in adding on to their already existing skills.

At the end of the ceremony, the students were treated to drinks and snacks.



The Head of Department., Dr Tiwonge Manda, hands a certificate to a student

Female science lecturers host STEM Camp

From 18th to 22nd April, 2017, young female lecturers in the Faculty of Science hosted a Science Camp organised for

female secondary school girls from schools in Zomba Rural Division. The camp was organized upon realizing the fact



Ms Halima Twabi helps students out during a Chemistry activity

that girls are underrepresented in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Malawi. The lecturers therefore sought to dispel the assumptions that these disciplines are difficult and only suited for boys.

The event attracted up to 60 girls from 12 secondary schools in the division. During their stay, the girls performed hands on experiments and activities in Biology (Microscopy and DNA extraction), Chemistry (separating a Soil and salt mixture), Computer Science (operating computers), Physics (constructing a mortar), Mathematics (Candy math), Geography and earth sciences (map reading and drawing, Meteorology, GIS),

Human ecology (sewing). They also toured the College and the library.

Commenting on the outcome, a lecturer in the Mathematical Sciences department, Ms Fiskani Kondowe, who was also part of the organizing committee, expressed optimism that the participants had now stopped assuming that STEM careers are just for men. "We are planning to hold more STEM camps, a science fair, and other related activities in the future," she said.

The event was fully supported by the college administration and the Faculty of Science. The college approved use of the hostels for the lodging of the girls, and the faculty made available its laboratories for various activities.

SCIENCE

Kangaude antenna patented

The Faculty of Science scored another point through the patenting of a new invention, dubbed the Kangaude antenna. The antenna is jointly

patented by Dr Chomora Mikeka, as the researcher, and Mr Wilson Manjano Chirwa, the industry partner who is charged with mass producing the

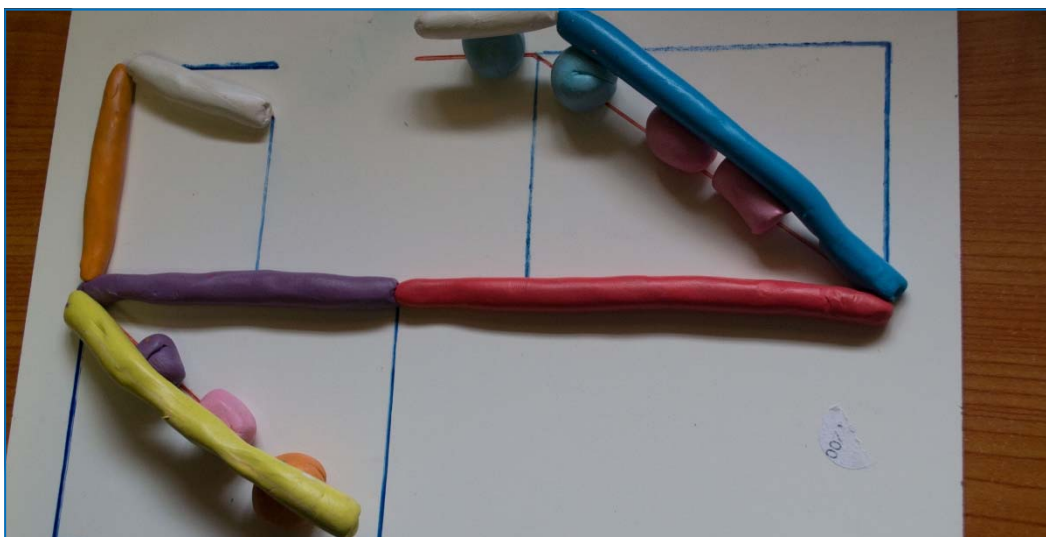
antennas for sale.

Dr Mikeka is a Senior Lecturer in Physics & Electronics at Chancellor College. According to him, research work towards developing the antenna has been going on for the past three

years. The primary material used in constructing the antenna is copper wire. However, other materials can be incorporated.

The name of the device is inspired by the spider, called *kangaude* in Chichewa, which constructs a web designed to trap a wide range of insect prey. Similarly, the Kangaude antenna is able to catch a wide portfolio of signals, such as White Space Internet signals and Digital TV signal.

The invention has already sparked interest, with a lot of people within the Chancellor College community expressing the desire to acquire the devices for themselves.



A coloured clay model of the antenna

Physics Department hosts Science Week

The Department of Physics at Chancellor College organized a Science and Astronomy week from 10th - 14th April, 2017. There were a series of activities that were done during the week with an aim of motivating young Malawian scientists and Astronomers in fields of science, engineering and astronomy.

Facilitators of the activities included Dr. Sohan Jheeta, an independent educator and research scientist; Mr. Patrick Mzaza, Deputy Head of Physics; Mr. Eric Yenda; the chief technician of Physics department;; and Mr Yamikani Kalolo and Mr

Masauko Utila, students in the department.

According to the Deputy Head of the Physics department, Mr Patrick Mzaza, the purpose of the activities

was to arouse interest in science and trigger scientific thinking abilities among the young Malawians.

Participants came from various schools in Malawi. The activities were designed so that the young learners could achieve results on their

own. For example, they were given the opportunity to develop simple motors, using the knowledge that they gained during the presentations and demonstrations. The motors that they developed worked very well.

There were also talks given on astronomy. From these talks, participants learnt about the Solar System, with detailed discussions of the sun, individual planets, and moons. On the night of 12th April, 2017 the participants had the opportunity to observe celestial bodies using a telescope. They were able to clearly see Earth's moon with its craters, as well as the planet Jupiter with its moons, and several other stars.



Avid kids solving a science problem

LAW

Disability Legal Clinic visits Thondwe Market

As one way of carrying out its outreach programs, Chancellor College through the Faculty of Law, held a disability legal clinic at Thondwe market on 26th

April, 2017. Coincidentally this happened to be a market day and multitudes of people thronged the place to receive various legal services, which were

mainly offered by students in the faculty.

Speaking on the sidelines of the clinic, Program Coordinator of the disability legal clinic, Dr. Enock Chilemba expressed delight with the turnout of the community. He said that the clinic is geared to provide free clinical legal

aid to persons with disabilities, those who are affected by disabilities and those people who are facing issues that are touching on disability rights.

Chilemba further said that he and the students felt duty bound to go to Thondwe Market to offer people opportunities to access free legal services since not everybody can manage to travel to Chikanda in Zomba, where the Clinic is stationed. Chilemba highlighted positives out of such outreach programs, citing the exposure of cases of people living with albinism who have been assisted previously. He also said that the clinic offers law students the opportunity to fine-tune their skills in a fast-paced, live-client setting under the careful guidance and supervision of their lecturers.



Law Students discussing with a client under the supervision of Dr Enock Chilemba (in black suit).

ZAP donates books to Law library

It is said that libraries are at the heart of every university. It is for this reason that Zomba Action Project (ZAP), through its

Education department, recently made a generous donation of books to Chancellor College's Faculty of Law.

Speaking during the donation ceremony on 26th April, 2017, ZAP Coordinator Mr. Benjamin Khoswe pointed out that his organization felt obliged to make the donation to the college as one way of

promoting higher education. He further articulated the role that libraries play in national development by supporting the education sector. It is for this reason that ZAP thought of strengthening the heart of the college with the donation.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr. Garton Kamchedzera, was present. He thanked ZAP for the donation, which comes at a time when they are still stocking their Faculty library. In addition to that, the Dean assured ZAP of putting the donation to good use. He said that through the knowledge they will acquire from the books, law students will be able to safeguard the flow of justice and foster constitutional developments.



ZAP officials hand over the books to the Dean of Law and the College librarian

HUMANITIES

Humanities seminar on child sexuality

Over the past year, the Faculty of Humanities has been offering monthly seminars which act as a

forum for staff to present papers on topics of interest, which may be from their theses or

works in progress.

As part of this seminar series, the Faculty of Humanities recently hosted Dr. Asante Mtenje, a lecturer in the English department, who

presented a paper entitled "Traversing the Abyss: Transgressive Sexualities in Male Children in Moses Isegawa's *Abyssinian Chronicles*." The seminar was held at the Senior Common Room. In her paper, Dr. Mtenje provided a reading of Isegawa's novels, focusing on the portrayal of children's sexualities within.

She argued that contrary to expectations, texts such as Isegawa's highlight the importance of recognizing a child's sexuality as part of their identity.

The seminar was attended by members of staff from various faculties, who engaged the presenter in discussions on the presentation of child sexualities.



Dr. Mtenje makes her presentation, as the Deputy Dean of Humanities, Dr. Timwa Lipenga-Garnett, takes notes

Head of English attends disability conference

The Head of English Department, Dr. Ken Junior Lipenga, recently attended the Disability as Spectacle conference in Los Angeles. This was a conference where scholars in the field of disability studies gathered to discuss ways in which disability is presented as spectacle in various media.

During the conference, Dr. Lipenga presented a paper entitled "Saga: freaky is the new normal," in which he explored the presentation of disabled characters as freaks in the award winning comic book, *Saga*.

In his paper, Lipenga argued that the narrative

presents disability as the norm, in the process challenging the assumed normativity of the able-bodied anatomy. He also explored the way the

narrative presents intersections of disability and other factors of human experience, such as race relations and sexuality.



Lipenga makes his presentation

Announcements

It is during the last two months that Mr Eston Mletseni, a familiar presence at the college clinic, passed away. May

the Lord grant his soul eternal peace.

During the last two months, the College lost a student, Ms Grace Masamba. She passed away after a short illness. May her soul rest in

peace.

We also wish to express our condolences to those who have lost loved ones during this period.

We offer condolences to Dr Elizabeth Meke, on the loss of her father. We

also pray for the Lord to comfort Mr Smith Likongwe, on the passing of his father. To Mr Victor Chikaipa, we pray that the Lord be with him, after the passing of his father.