



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: ENTER THE NEW YEAR

Happy new year to all of our readers.

The beginning of the year coincides with the beginning of the second semester. As per tradition, Chancellor College is geared to commence this year on a good note. By the end of the year 2017, all assessment exercises were completed, and students received their results in time for Christmas.

As we begin the new year, we cannot help but look back at the previous year, to consider the hurdles we met, and how to avoid or overcome them this time around. We also look back at the past as a way of considering the things that we did correctly, in a bid to replicate them with further improvements.

One of the positives among the student

population was the smooth election process, allowing the entry of a new Students Union of Chancellor College (SUCC) executive body. The student leaders have already begun their work, and the college rendered their assistance through the organization of a leadership workshop.

Further highlights included dressing up of classroom, library, offices and laboratories with new furniture; external facelift of the library; rehabilitation of the sewerage plant, rehabilitation of the road to student hostels and the continued rehabilitation of hostels, especially repairs of windows.

Academically there have been extensive research activities in our research centres and faculties. We note in

particular the winning of grants and awards by various members of staff. The year ended on a happy note with a get-together for all categories of staff, where members reflected together and shared plans for the new year.

No doubt, some of the main highlights of 2018 will be on infrastructural developments. In the next few months, we should see the grand opening of two buildings that have been under construction in the past year. These are the new ICT Centre and the new Chemistry laboratories. These will later be followed by completion of the elegant massive lecture theatres and biological/computer sciences laboratories under the World Bank Skills Development Project.



The SUCC Executive poses for a photo with the Principal

Editorial Team:

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

Highlights

College staff cheer hospital patients

Second UPGRO Survey underway in Malawi

Library wins ALP grant

SiSwati Linguists visit CLS

Orientation for new SUCC Leadership

UNIMA teams at SAUSSA games

ADMINISTRATION

Street lights installed on campus roads

As the college undergoes extensive rehabilitation and expansion works, street lights are being installed along the campus roads through funding from the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). Already, the street from Great Hall passing through the new ICT complex up to the cafeteria has been upgraded with the new lights. Commenting on the development, the Vice Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Samson Sajidu, observed that in addition to providing a conducive and bright ambience, the street lights will also give

a sense of security and safety to users, most of

whom are our students. He also pointed out that there are plans to light up the whole street from the Great Hall to the college

garage down to the hostels in a bid to promote a well-lit environment for all users.



The new street lights

Cheering the sick at Zomba Central Hospital

Chancellor College is one of the oldest and best known institutions in Zomba. The college does not only serve the students that enroll for different programmes, but also extends assistance to various parts of the city, as part of its corporate social responsibility. This is a sense of commitment often displayed by staff members and students alike.

One of such gestures was displayed on the 29th of December, 2017, when some members of the college staff surprised patients and guardians at

Zomba Central Hospital by showing up with various foodstuffs. The food included cakes, meat

pies, chicken pieces, and swiss rolls, among others. The college members of staff proceeded to distribute these food items to all patients admitted at the hospital, as well as the guardians accompanying them.

According to the Assistant Registrar (Administration), Mr. Kumvenji Lamba, the gesture served first as an expression of caring for those who were in hospital during the festive season, but also as a way of showing appreciation for the hospital, which has always assisted Chancellor College staff and students whenever they fall ill.



Chanco members of staff preparing to distribute food at the patient wards

ADMINISTRATION

End of Year party brings college staff together

The year 2017 was a grueling one, in particular due to the first year double intake. The stress was felt by all members of staff at the college. In that regard, it was only felt proper by members of staff that an end of year party should be held to celebrate the successful end of the year.

Holding end of year parties has been a tradition at Chancellor College over the past few years. However, the party on the 29th of December was unique in the sense that it brought together members of staff from all sections of the college, including academic staff, administrators, accountants, librarians, and support staff.

Mr Kumvenji Lamba, the Assistant registrar (Administration), pointed out that the decision was

deliberate, “as a way of showing that we are one people. We work together to make the college tick.”

The patronage of the party bore testimony to this point, as the

members of staff brought their families to a party that illustrated their belonging to the larger family that is Chancellor College.

Making his speech during the party, the College Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, expressed his pleasure

that the year had ended on a good note. He thanked all members of staff for committing themselves to their work, and encouraged them to use the party as an opportunity to get to know one another.



College staff relax at the party

EDUCATION

Chanco Scholar awarded Hiroshima University Excellent Student scholarship Award

Mr Foster Gondwe, an Instructor in the Education Foundations Department of the School of Education but currently on study leave based at Hiroshima University, Japan, was in December 2017 given the Hiroshima University Excellent Student Scholarship Award. This is a unique scholarship program of Hiroshima University to recognize outstanding graduate students in academic activities (including research, publications and course work) and to give them financial support for their study.



Mr. Foster Gondwe

In a related development, Mr Gondwe also received a travel

Grant from the United Kingdom Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET) to present a paper titled “Educating Teachers as Researchers in Japan, Thailand and Malawi” at the 14th UKFIET international Conference held at University of Oxford in September 2017. The grant covered the cost of an air ticket from Japan to UK. The UKFIET has been awarding such bursaries since 2005, and in 2017 Mr Gondwe was one of the 23 conference participants who were funded to present their work and network with colleagues from across the globe.

We wish Mr Gondwe all the best as he continues with his studies at Hiroshima University.

SCIENCE

Second UPGRO Survey underway in Malawi

A number of academics in the Faculty of Science at Chancellor College are part of the UPGRO: Hidden Crisis research project underway in Malawi. Like in Uganda and Ethiopia, where the

survey is also being undertaken, the survey takes an in-depth look at the reasons behind low levels of functionality of hand pumped boreholes in four districts in Malawi: Balaka, Lilongwe,

Machinga and Nkhosakota. Across these four districts 50 water points were selected from an original survey sample of 200 boreholes which were surveyed in phase one in 2016.

Each water point, over two days, is undergoing deconstruction and detailed investigations of the hand pump materials and condition, the aquifer properties, borehole design, water quality and recharge processes, before being reconstructed and handed back to the community.

Simultaneously, detailed community social surveys, including focus groups and village mapping exercises, are being conducted. Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor (UPGro), is an international research

programme funded by UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It focuses on improving the evidence base around groundwater availability and management in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to enable developing countries and partners in SSA to use groundwater in a sustainable way in order to benefit the poor. The UPGro Malawi team comprises Dr Evance Mwathunga, Dr Theresa Mkandawire, Chikondi Shaba, Sembeyawo Banda and Patrick Makulini. For more more information, visit <https://upgro-hidden-crisis.org>.



National Geographic Society supports Chanco research on Geomorphotectonic Evolution

The National Geographic Society recently awarded a research grant to support a project jointly hosted by Departments of Geography and Earth Sciences and Biological Sciences at Chancellor College. This is a home-grown (Chancellor College-initiated) multi-disciplinary project drawing expertise from both the geological and biological sciences. The project is led by Dr. Zuze Dulanya. Other investigators include Dr. D. Kafumbata, Dr. M. Chikuni, Dr. Annette Juginger (Tuebingen University) and Prof. Friedemann Schrenk (Frankfurt University). The research is aimed at examining the

development and evolution of the Middle Shire Rift in terms of

tectonics, geomorphology and biology.

This understanding has implications on long term water resources sustainability of the Middle Shire in view of dynamic climatic and tectonic processes. Of utmost significance is the

understanding of the rates and mechanisms of biological evolution such as species radiation (e.g. Homo sp.) for the past nearly 2 Million years of the earth's history.

The project will run from January 2018 to December 2018.



Dr. Zuze Dulanya in his office

HUMANITIES

SiSwati Linguists visit Centre for Language Studies

From 14th to 15th November, 2017 three linguists from the SiSwati Language Board in Swaziland paid a visit to the Centre for Language Studies at Chancellor College. The group comprised Ms Cynthia Nhlape, Ms Gloria Malambe, and Ms Celiwe Muhammed.

The SiSwati Language Board was launched in April, 2017. The main purpose of the visit was to appreciate the history of the Centre for Language Studies, and to see how such a background can assist in the establishment of a similar centre in Swaziland. There are plans to establish a centre for the study of SiSwati as an attempt to stop the decline of the SiSwati language in Swaziland. This is upon seeing that, even though SiSwati

exists alongside English as a national language, it is hardly used as a language of entertainment, education

and business affairs.

Upon receiving the visitors, the Director of CLS, Dr. Winfred Mkochi expressed optimism regarding the forging of ties with the guests.

During their tour, the guests held meetings with

a number of linguists at Chancellor College, with whom they discussed matters such as the National language Policy, operations of language centres, and the CLS organogram.



The Director of CLS poses for a picture with the guests

Classics Department hosts visiting professor



Prof. McKechnie outside his office

One of the ways in which departments at Chancellor College diversify the learning experience for its students is through the inviting of visiting lecturers from other institutions abroad. The presence of these scholars enables exchanging of ideas and teaching experiences with amongst lecturers.

It is in this respect that the Classics department invited Prof. Paul McKechnie to teach for a semester at Chancellor College as a visiting professor. This is not his first visit to the college. Prof. McKechnie previously (2004) spent sometime in the Classics Department as a Visiting Lecturer. When the then Principal Emmanuel Fabiano bid him farewell at that time, he asked

Prof. McKechnie to come back in future. Prof. McKechnie he said that he would, but it could not be soon. And now, fourteen years later, he is back at Chancellor College. This semester he will be teaching CLA 121 (Roman History, Politics and Society) and CLA 322 (Classics in Translation: Roman Literature).

Prof. McKechnie is on long service leave from the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and he will return there in June 2018. He was first in Malawi from 1987 to 1996, when he served as Head of Classics at Kamuzu Academy in Kasungu District.

We look forward to having the Professor as part of the academic staff this coming semester.

LIBRARY

ALP recipients trained at Chanco Library

From the 13th to the 14th of December, 2017, librarians at the Chancellor College library invited institutions that have received books under the African Library Project, to a training workshop. The workshop was held at the American Corner in the college library.

Chancellor College library was able to hold the workshop using funds that it had procured after presenting a proposal to the ALP. In this proposal, the library outlines its plans to support school librarians through training.

Over the two days, the school librarians were drilled in a number of library management skills ranging from setting up a library, developing library

records, classification, shelving and filing, cataloguing, and minor books repair.

In his speech during the

closing of the workshop, the College Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, encouraged the recipients to make practical use of the knowledge that was imparted onto them by the seasoned librarians at Chancellor College.

The next phase of the exercise will involve monitoring and evaluation. The college librarians intend to visit the community libraries to ensure that the books are being optimally used.



Mrs. Lydia Chiotha, Readers Services Librarian, making a presentation during the workshop

College Librarians win African Libraries Project grant



Ms. Jessy Mphunda flashes some of the grant money

Chancellor College boasts expertise in its various sections. The library is one of such sections, as proven by the achievements of its staff. Ms. Jessy Mphunda and Mrs. Nancy Mpekansambo, senior

librarians at the Chancellor College library, recently made the college proud when they won a grant in a competition run by the African Libraries Project. The competition required that African libraries

participating in ALP design proposals outlining activities that would assist their local communities. Staff at the library worked on such a proposal, which the two ladies presented at the Annual African Libraries Project Summit at Kanye

in Botswana, held from 17th to 18th November, 2017. Other countries, including Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana were also represented at the Summit.

The Chancellor College librarians made a presentation entitled "Improving the Capacity of Teachers to Manage School Libraries through Training". The paper identified the existing problem of untrained school librarians, and meticulously outlined the college library's strategy in providing the required training. One of the underlying aims of this exercise is to improve literacy and the reading culture in Malawi. The proposal from Chancellor College emerged as the best, and was granted funding to ensure the training of 23 teacher librarians.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

SUCC leaders at orientation workshop

As a way of assisting the new Students Union of Chancellor College (SUCC) Executive to fit into their elected roles, the College administration organized an orientation workshop from 27th to 28th November, 2017. The aim was to train the SUCC executive in various aspects of leadership such as gender, financial management, students' politics, university/college management.

Opening the session, the Principal stressed the responsibility that the SUCC leaders bear, and emphasized that it is the administration's wish to continue having a harmonious relationship with the student leaders. The President of SUCC, Mr. Raphael Nedi noted

that the training was very vital as they take up their new leadership roles. He noted that the training is particularly important because many of the elected leaders have had

no prior experience in such positions. As such the training gives them somewhere to begin from.

The session featured speakers from various quarters of the college, tackling various issues, such as financial management, the

structure of UNIMA, communication in management, team building and gender.

The workshop ended with a one-day planning session where SUCC leadership mapped out their plan of activities for year ahead.



The SUCC President makes a contribution during the workshop

UNIMA sports staff travel to Fort Hare

University of Malawi Staff Sports Association (UMSSA) travelled to South Africa, University of Fort Hare, for 18th Southern Africa Universities Staff Sports Association (SAUSSA). A total number of 16 universities participated.

The games started on 11th and ended on 16th December, 2017. Malawi participated in football, netball, volleyball, pool, darts and athletics. In athletics Malawi scooped 14 medals. The darts team finished on second position. On the other hand, the volleyball team reached the semi-finals,

while the football team lost in quarter finals. The netball and pool teams bowed out in the group stages.

The UNIMA team was led by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Al Mtenje. Sports Administrators were also among the traveling squad to appreciate what happens during these SAUSSA games.

SAUSSA games are played every year in December as part fostering friendship among university staff members in the southern region of Africa. The next games will be played in Zimbabwe at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST).



Some of the UNIMA staff during a break from the sports games

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Towards the end of 2017, the University of Malawi mourned Mr

Smith Masuso, who had, until his passing, been the University Internal

Auditor. We wish him a peaceful rest until we

shall meet again in the glory of the Lord.