

# CHANCELLOR COLLEGE BULLETIN



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## One chapter closes, another opens.

As you read this, we are in the new year 2021. We celebrate our entry into the new year, even though everyone agrees that 2020 has been a difficult one, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In actual fact, at Chancellor College, strictly speaking, we have not yet completed the academic year. At the time of publishing this *Bulletin*, undergraduate students were preparing to write their end of year exams. It is only after that the exams have been written, marked, and results released that we can truly speak of completing the year.

Regarding 2020, we can speak of depressing events, positive events, as well as some that are still ongoing.

Among the negatives is obviously the COVID-19 pandemic. This has affected the running of affairs at the college, forcing us to rework the calendar. It has also affected the way we hold meetings and administer exams. Worse still, some of us have lost loved ones to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the college has soldiered on, displaying a remarkable adaptive spirit in reaction to the spread of the disease. It is in part due to some of the safety measures adopted by the college that we are journeying on in the new year. Everyone played a part, those among us who led the effort in introducing the measures, as well as those of us who saw it as our duty to abide by these measures, knowing that

the donning of a mask, for example, is not only for the sake of your wellbeing but also that of your neighbour.

On the positive side, we have a new Chancellor, in the person of President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera. We congratulate him on his installation to this position, and share the pride which he expressed on being an alumnus of this great institution. The installation of the Chancellor on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 was yet another reminder of how much Chancellor College has contributed to the development of the country, with its graduates existing in pretty much every industry of the nation. This was something the Chancellor observed in his speech, much to the delight of the college's staff, students and alumni.

There is no doubt that everyone has been looking forward to the end of 2020! We are no exception in this regard. It has been a difficult year, but we have sailed through. In some regards, we might even argue that we have prospered.

This issue of the *Chanco Bulletin* covers events that have been happening in the past two months, but at the same time, it is a chance to reflect on the entire year, on the achievements of the college as well as the losses we have suffered.

It is remarkable how the college continued to strive for the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions, even as many in the country believed that the disease had disappeared. When it was time for

the final year students to write their exams, the college quickly arranged to have the students write their exams at the Robins Park hall, where social distancing was observed. During this period of exams, the college diligently provided transportation for all students to be picked from the college campus to the exam venue. This helped to ensure that exams always commenced on time.

That's Chanco, always rising to the challenge, no matter how dire the situation is.

By the way, the delinking narrative is continuing, but the process shall now be headed by new Deanship in all the five academic faculties on campus. We remain keen to see how that particular matter unfolds. One thing is clear: there is no stepping back, not when the University Office is all but dissolved, and some Chancellor College staff have already colonised the offices up on high.

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Mr Alfred Banda

Mr Gervasio Manyungwa

Mr James Ngwenya

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# Chakwera installed as UNIMA Chancellor



*The Chancellor makes his speech*

The graduation ceremony last year, held on 10th December, 2020, was a special one for various reasons. In the first place, this was the ceremony at which the President of Malawi, Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, was being installed as the 6th Chancellor of the University of Malawi. Secondly, this was the first physical graduation to be held by UNIMA since the COVID-19 outbreak. In his first assignment as Chancellor, Chakwera conferred degrees and certificates to graduands from Kamuzu College of Nursing, Chancellor College, The Polytechnic and College of Medicine.

In fact, the physical graduation ceremony almost never took place, due to fears of COVID-19 infections. The university had thus considered holding the ceremony virtually, much to the consternation of the graduating students. However, the university later relented and agreed to hold the physical ceremony, while

observing various other COVID-19 prevention measures, such as using hand sanitizers, wearing masks, and washing of hands. Because of the need to maintain safe distances between graduands, an arrangement was made for friends and family to watch the event on television screens outside, rather than from within the Great Hall, as had been the practice in the past. The other special arrangement was to hold two phases of the ceremony on the same day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning ceremony was thus presided over by the Chancellor, whereas the afternoon ceremony was presided over by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Alfred Mtenje.

During his speech, the Chancellor expressed pride in being a graduate of not only University of Malawi, but of Chancellor College in particular. He thus saw the moment as a homecoming. He noted that he was among the first cohort of students to the college in 1973, who

had “a shared hope that one day a graduate of this university would occupy the highest office in the land.” Commenting on the placement of various UNIMA graduates in leadership positions across the country, the Chancellor noted that “It is hard to not conclude that heaven conspired that 2020 would be the year in which the fate of Malawi would be placed in the hands of alumni of UNIMA in general, and Chanco in particular.”

The Acting Vice Chancellor took advantage of the President’s presence to highlight the interventions from the University of Malawi, in battling the Covid-19 pandemic. These included the 3D face masks, face shields, drones which can collect and deliver health samples, automated decontamination chambers (used in quarantine centres), pedal-operated hand-washing units, hand sanitizers, breathing aids, personal-protective suits, disinfectants and an electronic nurse-alert system, among others.

# Using Robins Park as exam venue

One of the headaches that the Chancellor College administration had to address as the semester came to an end was the finding of a suitable venue for end of year exams. This became quite urgent for two reasons. Firstly, the final year students would complete the semester earlier than their counterparts. This meant that they would not be able to use the classrooms that are usually designated as exam rooms, since these spaces

would still be in use for lectures. Secondly, there was need to find a venue where COVID-19 prevention measures – especially that of social distancing – could still be in force.

After some meetings of heated brainstorming, the brilliant fellows at the Chancellor College administration settled on the solution of hiring the Robins Park hall as a space where the exams would be held. Robins Park is a privately owned hall located small distance away from

the college campus. It has a capacity of 300 desks. The arrangement to use the hall for exams was put in place. Every morning, the college bus picked students from the campus and took them to the exam venue. The same process was repeated for the afternoon exams.

At the venue, appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures were followed. At the entrance of the hall, nurses were available to take the temperature of the students. There were also hand sanitizers and water with soap to be used by the students. The students were all required to wear masks at all times inside the exam room. Desks were appropriately spaced inside the exam hall. Also available inside the hall were air conditioners to keep the temperature at comfortable levels. The college also brought in a public address system so that invigilators could communicate clearly with the students.

The choice of using Robins Park proved so successful that the college decided to use the venue again in administering exams to some of the other years, who are writing their exams in January 2021.



*An examination underway in the hall*

# Alumni class of '94 donates outdoor furniture

One of the problems that students at Chancellor College often face is the lack of places where they may sit and relax in between lectures. There are times when students desire to sit outside the classrooms, be it for discussions or just to reflect on particularly puzzling lecture topics. For a long time, there has been no space where they could do that.

That was a need recognised by some Chancellor College alumni who graduated in 1994. The group put together some funds that were used to purchase and install outdoor reading tables and chairs at various locations on the campus. Students welcomed the development and started using the furniture even before the contractor had completed the installation. A walk through the campus reveals groups of students clustered around the reading areas, engaged in heated discussions. Sometimes the seats are used for



*Tables donated by Alumni*

students eating their packed lunches, and sometimes, on weekends, one may occasionally see a couple on the seats, engaged in a talk of a more romantic nature.

Altogether, there are 10 sets of the furniture. They are constructed from steel

reinforced concrete, and each set takes around 6 students. The locations where the furniture has been installed include: outside the old Academic Workshop, the island forest at the entrance to the main car park, around the trees near the administration lawn, behind the Postgraduate hostel, and outside the School of Education building.

# Chancellor College partners UNDP in Forensic Training Program



*Dr Kafumbata explains how the program will be run.*

Chancellor College, with support from UNDP and EU, on 25th November 2020 launched a Forensic Training Program whose objective is to capacitate the Malawi Police Service (MPS) in investigations of sexual violence using DNA and non-DNA forensic approaches. The training comes at a time when sexual violence related cases are skyrocketing in Malawi, leaving MPS overwhelmed and the country in shock with an avalanche of sexual violence cases involving victims as young as 3 months old.

The Principal of Chancellor College, Professor Richard Tambulasi, presided over the function in the Great Hall, alongside his counterpart, UNDP Country Representative, Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara, while Mr. Ivo Hoefkens, EU Head of Corporation, virtually attended the meeting through the Zoom platform. The Principal observed that the Department of Biological Sciences, where the training course is primarily domiciled, will coordinate the training, which will see 60 police officers across the country being equipped with forensic

investigation skills that will help them in their tackling of sexual violence cases.

The trained police officers will use both DNA and non-DNA forensic approaches to link sexual violence perpetrators to the crime.

In his speech during the function, Professor Tambulasi noted the usefulness of the course. “One of the cornerstones of the judicial process is the presentation of evidence in a court of law,” he said. “The value of evidence is indisputable; it proves the fact that a crime has been committed or not committed; it serves as a back-up to the testimony of witnesses. Apparently, crimes can take many forms and establishing how and who committed the crime depends on highly skilled people and specialized processes and facilities, hence the forensic training.

“It is at this critical juncture that Chancellor College rises to enhance the skills and competencies of the Malawi Police Service in proper collection, analysis and preservation of evidence through the criminal justice system using DNA and non-DNA forensic approaches”.

In his remarks, UNDP Country Representative Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara

said sexual violence is a serious public health problem worldwide and has profound short or long-term impacts on physical and mental health, such as increased risks of sexual and reproductive health problems as well as suicide and/or HIV infection.

“It is acknowledged that sexual assault cases are increasing daily nationwide,” Komatsubara noted. “This vice has to be stopped in its tracks pronto. However, one of the agencies in the justice system, the Malawi Police Service acknowledges the inadequacy of capacity within its ranks and file for ultimate successful conviction of perceived sexual offenders. Indeed, a case is not determined by what one believes, but rather by what the investigation shows and what can be proved. The capacity to empower criminal justice stakeholders and victims through forensic science can, therefore, not be overemphasized”.

Dr. Dalitso Kafumbata from the Department of Biological Sciences is coordinating the training programme, which commenced in November 2020. It will run for 21 weeks. The first cohort included 20 police officers, whereas the second will include 40.



# Creative writers in travel writing exercise



*Creative writers strike a pose at the Chilema tree*

Study trips are supplementary activities that class lecturers sometimes organise as a way of buttressing the information taught in the classroom. It is in this vein that on Saturday, 12th December, 2020, students in the Creative Writing class of the English Department were taken on a trip in order to find their inner muse, to help them in the penning of their creative work.

During the trip, the students, who were 20 in number, visited Liwonde, Mawira Hot Springs and Shire Lodge, and then Chilema in Zomba. According to the class lecturer, Dr Asante Mtenje, the purpose of the trip was to enable the creative writing students to learn more about the techniques of travel writing as part of a genre called creative

non-fiction. “This is a genre where writers write informative and creative pieces about the individual journeys they have taken, the incidents they observed along the way, significant landscape/natural features they encountered, as well as the people they met and talked to,” she said. The trip was supposed to provide information for a travel feature that the students would write, which would be graded.

At Mawira Hot Springs, the students interacted with the locals, who explained to them the history and the myths surrounding the hot springs, which never get cold. They also went to visit the Chilema tree at Malosa. The tree is many decades old, and has many interlocking branches spreading over an area 100 metres wide.

## Nyangulu donates book to library

On 24th December, 2020, the Chancellor College library had an early Christmas present in the form of a donation of 100 copies of *Maziko a Dziko la Ufulu*, a book translated by John Nyangulu, a fourth year student at Chancellor College. Nyangulu translated the book, authored by Eamon Butler, over one year. The original text, *Foundations of a Free Society*, was published in 2013. The printing of the books was supported by Linda Whetstone from the Network for a Free Society.

According to Nyangulu, he decided to donate the book to the Chancellor College library since he feels the perfect audience are students at all levels of academic life and young professionals who have the desire to learn the philosophy of liberty and the guiding tenets of a free society. “In translating the book,” Nyangulu says, “my aim is to educate and empower the next generation of leaders who understand the ideas of liberty and



*The College Librarian receives copies of the book from Nyangulu*

are able to contribute positively to both personal and national development.”

Nyangulu has been a member of Liberty Sparks for some years. He is currently the Liberty Sparks Southern Africa IDEAS ambassador, and the national coordinator for students for liberty. He is also the

Global Campaign Fellow for Students for Liberty where he is Africa’s Campaign Director of Free Market Revolution, a campaign aimed at engaging the youth in activities aimed at deepening their understanding of entrepreneurship and free markets through training sessions, colloquiums and panel discussions.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sino-Malawi conference held



Attendees at the conference pose for a photograph

The second Sino-Malawi Conference was held from the 11-12 December, 2020 and was organised by The Confucius Institute at the University of Malawi (CI-UNIMA). This was the second such event to be organised by CI-UNIMA. The first one happened in April of 2018 at Mua Museum in Dedza and Chitsulo Conference Centre in Salima.

This year, the venue of the event was the Golden Peacock Hotel in Blantyre. The event was preceded by the launch of Confucius Institute at University of Malawi's Resource Room at the MALAWI University of Science and Technology (MUST). The Resource Room is, as its name suggests, a resource room for language and culture exchange between Malawi and China. Its displays comprise books and artefacts from the two countries and they will be used for teaching the Chinese language modules that have been mainstreamed into their Bachelors programme hosted by the Bingu School of Culture and Heritage.

The original venue for the conference was supposed to have been Cape Maclear and it should have been held in April, 2020. However, the change in both dates and venue were brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, with

Golden Peacock seen as a more controlled and better monitored venue in light of the pandemic.

The Acting Co-Director of the Confucius Institute at UNIMA, Dr Damazio Mfunne-Mwanjakwa, points out that there was no restricting theme for the conference. "At this stage CI-UNIMA intends to leave these fora as open as possible so that it can use them to generate materials which will feed into the comparative Sino-Africa courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels where the specialisation will occur," he said.

Because of COVID-19 concerns participation was very restricted. Only the presenters and a few invited guests were allowed. The keynote address was crafted by the Chinese Ambassador to Malawi Mr. Liu Hongyang but was delivered for him by the Chinese Director of CI-UNIMA, Mr You Yonghong. Out of eleven promised papers, a total of eight papers were actually presented at the conference. The University of Malawi Registrar and Chancellor College and KCN Registrars also attended the conference.

The papers were on a wide range of topics from various disciplines including Literature, Law, Philosophy, Education, Journalism, Public Administration to Development Studies and Economics.

"The partnership between the University of Malawi (UNIMA) and University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) is meant to be an all-encompassing one, especially since culture, which is a synonym for civilisation, is itself a catch-all basket," Mfunne-Mwanjakwa points out. "This being the case, we accept submissions from every field of scholarly inquiry." According to Mfunne, there are plans to send the papers for peer review and have them published them in a special issue of the *Journal of Humanities*. These will be combined with the papers that were presented at the first conference.

Apart from the conferences, the Confucius Institute also offers scholarships at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These scholarships are separate from the ones provided by the Chinese government through the Chinese Embassy. The Institute is also making more efforts to broaden cooperation between different departments, faculties and programmes in UNIMA, MUST and MZUNI and UIBE (and other Chinese universities) especially through staff and student exchange and split-site programmes. "Outside of all this we also plan to set up a Chinese Universities Alumni forum where the CI-UNIMA can tap into the experiences and expertise from Malawians who have studied at various Chinese universities", says an enthusiastic Mfunne-Mwanjakwa.



# B2B stages gender-bending protest

On 30th of October, 2020, a campus based society called Brother to Brother (B2B) held a “Gender Bending Protest”, aimed at raising awareness on the harassment that women face in society due to their dressing. The subtle protest was held in reaction to the increasing incidences of gender-based violence in Malawi.

B2B is a gender transformative that has over 50 students registered. It has been active since 2018. Since it was formed, the group has been using various media to engage people, especially young men in Malawi, on matters related to norms, identity, sexual health and gender-based violence. Being a group that is concerned with issues around gender, B2B felt the need to add their voice to the outcries against gender-based violence in the country. They felt the need to do something about it, to protest in a way would get people to think and talk. Members of the group decided to stage a protest where the central feature would be to have some male members of B2B opted to dress in skirts, and to spend the entire day walking around campus and the wider



*B2B members strike a defiant pose*

community dressed in this attire.

The group’s patron, Dr Zindaba Chisiza, took part in the protest. “Whether we go to town, to the bank, to the market or anywhere else, people might gaze at us. If they do so, then we will have begun to get them talking. We want to flip the gaze that is often directed towards the women, so that men can also begin to feel what is its like when people judge a person

because of their dressing”, he said.

Among other objectives, the young men sought to spark conversations challenging the idea that women’s dressing is a case for rape, to reveal how unjust society is in its harassment of men and boys for not dressing in conventional ways, and to stimulate dialogue about other societal norms that perpetuate the oppression of women.

# Macheso launches book of poetry



*The poet during the book signing session*

Chancellor College has always been associated with some of the best writing in Malawi, and poetry is no exception. It was therefore no surprise when on 18th December, 2020, the English Department hosted the

launch of a book of poetry penned by one of its staff members, Mr Wesley Macheso. The collection, entitled *A Masquerade of Spirits*, features over 50 poems, and has been published by Montfort Press. Macheso has published a number of

short stories, as well as a children’s book, *Akuzike and the Gods*. He also pens a column entitled “The Write Stuff” in *The Daily Times* newspaper.

The book launch was attended by various persons, including students, staff, and representatives of Malawi Writers Union and the Malawi Chapter of PEN International.

During the launch, there was an interview session, where academic Syned Mthatiwa engaged with Macheso on some issues pertaining to his poetry. Macheso stated that he had come up with the poems mostly during moments of solitude, when he would walk all by his lonesome, reflecting on different things. As a result, there is a particular line of thought that connects the poetry.

Quizzed on who he intended as his primary audience, Macheso stated that he writes for people who like to read. He noted that some of the poetry may be cryptic, but would be easily decipherable by those who love reading. On whether the poems were purely personal, Macheso stated his belief that a writer should serve a function in his society.





# New Deans elected

By the end of 2020, one of the developments that had occurred at Chancellor College was the election of new Deans. Much as this is a tradition every two years at the college, the elections this time around have been carried out in rather unusual circumstances. First of all, most of the outgoing deans were required to stay in office beyond their original mandates, as the University of Malawi was undergoing delinking. Colleges had received communication from the University Office, suggesting that Deans should remain in their positions until the delinking process was over. Deans were therefore involved in numerous meetings geared towards charting the way forward for Chancellor College as it engaged in the process of becoming a full-fledged university. This involved, among other things, transforming the structures of their faculties (some of which are becoming schools), merging of some departments and creating altogether new units.

The other special circumstance in which the outgoing Deans found themselves was the COVID-19 pandemic. Deans were central to the decisions that Chancellor College made regarding how the campus would keep its students and staff safe during the pandemic. This started from the decision to close the college in March, all the way to the adoption of the Emergency Remote



*Dean of Humanities: Dr Emmanuel Ngwira*

Teaching (ERT), for which staff members rigorously trained.

As a result of these two key factors – the delinking process and COVID-19 – the outgoing Deans probably got much more than they bargained for. During the elections at the Faculty of Humanities, for instance, the outgoing Dean, Dr Grivas Munerichipi Kayange, jokingly pointed out he had considered himself a delinking dean, and then later a Covid-19 expert. This is a truth that applies to pretty much all the exiting Deans, who had to navigate the process of leading their faculties through the delinking process, while ensuring that there was progress despite the emergence of COVID-19.

In the Faculty of Humanities, Dr Emmanuel Ngwira and Dr Dorothy



*Dean of Law: Mr Chikosa Banda*

Tembo were elected as Dean and Deputy Dean, respectively. The Faculty of Law has elected Mr Chikosa Banda as Dean, deputized by Dr. Enoch Chilemba. The Faculty of Science has elected Dr Cosmo Ngongondo as Dean, as Dr Jupiter Simbeye as Deputy Dean. The School of Education had an election, where Dr Ken Ndala emerged as Dean, and Dr Richard Nyirongo as Deputy Dean. In the Faculty of Social Science, Prof. Happy Kayuni was elected as Dean, and Mrs Tilinao Lamba as Deputy Dean.

The new Deans and their deputies retreated to Sunbird Nkopola Lodge from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, where they participated in an orientation programme meant to make the transition into their new roles as smooth as possible.



*Dean of Science: Dr Cosmo Ngongondo*



*Dean of Education: Dr Ken Ndala*



*Dean of Social Science: Prof. Happy Kayuni*

# Another book from Likongwe



Likongwe poses with a copy of his book

Smith Likongwe, a lecturer in the Fine and Performing Arts Department, has published another book, *Southern African Plays II*. It is a collection of seven plays written by various playwrights from Southern Africa, from countries including South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Malawi. The book is a continuation from his 2018 collection, where he had gathered some dramatic literature from Southern Africa.

The reason for collecting the plays is for posterity, but also to record Southern African plays, because not many exist in published form. People, including scholars and actors, often look towards West Africa and Kenya, since books from the other countries in the southern part of the continent are difficult to find.

Likongwe points out that in collecting the plays, he sent out calls on online

theatre forums. He also contacted some of the playwrights whose plays had won competitions in their countries. After he collected the plays, he approached Pan African Publishers with the finished work.

There are high chances of these plays being staged, although Likongwe notes that Malawi is lagging behind in terms of productions. His own play in the book, *Mzansi Hopes*, was only staged on a small scale, as a class production in the Great Hall at Chancellor College. There is a greater need for big theatre companies to rise to the challenge of staging such plays.

Likongwe notes that the Malawian theatre audience have a liking for a particular genre of theatre, leaning more towards comedy. "Additionally," he observes, "Malawians like short plays, which run for about thirty minutes. My play in this book is not short: it runs up to 1 hour 50 minutes!" According to the playwright,

there is a lack of serious critical review of theatre performances from journalists, who prefer to parrot the comments from the audience, and write on the turn up at the theatre venues, or the length of the plays. He is optimistic, however, noting that in older days, Malawians did like longer plays.

Some of Likongwe's earlier plays have been produced by companies such as Nanzikambe, across the country. They also produced one of his plays, *Come Freedom Come*, at the Ibsen Centenary Productions in 2006 in Norway, which Likongwe also attended. At that time, Likongwe's play was one of the 10 that were selected to be produced. The same play also went to the Edinburgh Festivals.

There are plans to launch *Southern African Plays II* in January 2021. This publication is the 9th by Likongwe, out of which 6 are plays. There are also plans for a third book in the series.



# Fighting stigma on World AIDS Day

1st December is recognised as World AIDS Day. This year, the Health and HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic organised an event on the quadrangle, in front of the library, where they engaged the college community on different issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Legal clinic is a specialised legal clinic under the Practical Legal Studies department.

Members of the clinic give counsel and advice to clients. The clinic takes a legal and human rights approach towards the promotion of health and HIV/AIDS management. This year, the theme that was adopted was “resilience and impact”.

According to Nebert Chirwa, the Liaison Officer in the Clinic, the clinic modified this theme to their specific context, choosing to focus on the need to show

resilience in reducing discrimination and stigma in tertiary institutions. “We figured out, from UN/AIDS, that there is a lot of discrimination and stigma in tertiary institutions in Malawi,” he said. People become afraid to go and get tested because of the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. “We are trying to sensitize people on why discrimination and stigma are a violation of various human rights, why in itself it undermines efforts to combat the virus.”

As a supplementary activity, there was a purely clinical activity, where the Chanco Clinic HIV Diagnostics Assistant (HDA), Ms Naomi Kapito, was invited to give counsel and test kits and condoms to people. Many people came and received advice and guidance on human rights and the legal framework, but also received the test kits. The HDA recorded statistics regarding the age and sex of people who were collecting the test kits, which were provided by the Chancellor College Health Unit. This was for the purposes of seeing how many test kits were delivered in Zomba.



*Sharing advice, condoms and test kits at the quadrangle*

## History students visit Cape Maclear Museums

On 7th December, students enrolled in the History of Malawi course, who are writing their research papers on Ngoni and Yao tribes travelled to Cape Maclear Museums. These included final years students, who were consolidating some of the key findings of their dissertations, and third year students, who sought first-hand information for their continuous assessments regarding the prehistoric background of Malawi, the early state builders, pre-colonial economic change, and the era of the slave trade.

The 46 students were accompanied by a number of lecturers, including Dr George Jawali, Ms Dina Katonda, Dr Gift Kayira and Ms Eunice M’biya. These are staff members with expertise in the history of Malawi. According to the team leader, Ms Dina Chatonda, trips such as these can be very enlightening to the students. They can be helpful in the teaching of Precolonial modules of



*History students with their lecturers at Mwala wa Mphini*

the History of Malawi. “When they go for teaching practice, they are able to use their testimonies which makes teaching of related topics such as the Iron Age and the Pre-colonial kingdoms of the Maravi, Ngoni and Yao very easy,” she said.

During the trip, students visited several historical sites around Cape Maclear. These included the Cape Maclear Museum, where they examined

artifacts and fossils in order to answer some assignment questions. They also visited a memorial site for early Scottish missionaries who succumbed to malaria. The students also interacted with local fishermen and took a boat ride along the shore. They also visited Otter Point on Lake Malawi, where there are *mbuna* fish species. Another historical spot that the students visited was Mwala wa Mphini.



# Students in UN75 dialogue

The United Nations held a summit on the 17th of November 2020 at Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe Malawi, marking its 75th Anniversary. In attendance, as Guests of Honor were the UN Resident Coordinator, Jose Maria Torres and Minister of Information, Hon Gospel Kazako.

As part of the UN75 dialogue, the UN sought ideas from university students as to where they see Malawi in the next 25 years. Eight higher education institutions in the country were invited to the event. Among them were MUST, Poly, CU, COM, BUNDA, MZUNI, Livingstonia and Chancellor College. The theme of the dialogue with the students was “The Future Malawi Youth Want: Shaping Our Future Together”.

Chancellor College was represented by seven students, two of whom joined panels on different topics. These were Maureen Kachala (Bachelor of Education Social Science) and Omega Malembetsa (Bachelor of Education Language). One other student, Annie Fundi, moderated a panel on Gender Equality. Kachala presented in the Human Rights and Justice panel while Omega Malembetsa presented on Global Cooperation for Development.



*Maureen Kachala stressing a point during the dialogue*

In her response to the issue of the future of human rights in Malawi, Kachala observed, “One of the biggest indicators of a country’s political development is if a country is able to administer justice. Human rights are entitled to every human being at birth. Every sector in Malawi needs justice and the implementation of human rights.” She then stressed that there is need to ensure justice and equal access to facilities in different sectors such as those of agriculture, access to education, gender, and health sector.

Taking her turn, Malembetsa stated that she visualised a Malawi free from problems created from illiteracy and the unavailability of new technology. She stated that one solution would be for the country to collaborate with international bodies that are already technologically advanced.

In her remarks, the UN Resident Coordinator said she was impressed to hear from students what they wish for their country by 2045. She observed that the youth were key to the development of the country.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



As usual, there are always many events that occur within the two-month period at Chancellor College.

Among the more positive pieces of news is our celebrating of individuals who had been on secondment to government, who have now returned to the college. These include Dr Bright Molande of the English Department, and Dr Ken Ndala of the Education Foundations Department. We welcome you back, colleagues.

Meanwhile, we are proud that our Director of Resource Mobilization, Dr Wilford Masanjala has left the college on secondment to Government as Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

We also congratulate Mr Chizimba, previously Senior Assistant Registrar at Chancellor College, who has been appointed Registrar at the Polytechnic. We wish him all the best in his new role.

However, the past two months have not been without losses.

The college, and indeed the entire country, mourned the passing of Professor Paul Kishindo of the Sociology Department in early December. We continue to grieve over the passing of this irreplaceable icon.

It is also during this period that the principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, lost his brother. The mother to Dr Wilford Masanjala also passed away during this time. Sadly, Mr Mtewa of Chemistry Department also lost his son in November. Mrs Joyce Gama of the Quality Assurance Section also lost her father during this time. May they all rest in peace.

We also lost Miss Eliza Kayere, a final year Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management student. R.I.P.