



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: A CAMPUS OF CHAMPIONS

The next time you find yourself in the Principal's office, try to get over the awe and amazement at being in the presence of the most powerful person on campus, and let your eyes roam around for a minute or two.

If you do it properly, you will notice a couple of items, beyond the plush carpeting caressing your feet. Among these is an array of trophies on display in various corners of the office.

There is something significant about these trophies. They symbolize the spirit of competition that imbues the people that populate the corridors of Chancellor College. This is a spirit to be found amongst staff as

well as students, a need to be the best. We believe that, where it is weakened, this attitude needs to be fostered.

Special mention must be made of the staff athletes on campus, who amassed plenty of victories at the recent UMSSA games, making the whole Chancellor College proud.

In any competitive arena, we have people who serve to inspire, personalities that set benchmarks that others attempt to achieve or surpass. We are proud to say that our own Vice Principal and member of the *Chanco Bulletin* editorial team, Professor Samson Sajidu, has become the latest academic to set this

standard of excellence, through his elevation to the rank of professor. To say it is an inspiration is an understatement.

So what does the second half of the 2015-2016 academic year hold for the college? There are new academic programmes being developed by faculties on campus, new research initiatives sprouting from various departments, and construction projects that have miraculously gone beyond the stage of mere talk and debate. As a Chancellor College stakeholder, do yourself a favor and take a walk to any of the construction sites just to appreciate the way the campus is growing, and maybe learn a thing or two.



The trophy attained by the volleyball team: there are more to come.

Editorial Team:

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

Highlights

College to launch E-Learning programmes

ECAMA courts Chanco intellectuals in debate

Chinese Ambassador visits Chancellor College

Divers medals for Chanco athletes at UMSSA games

US Ambassador in campus tour

Chanco students present at ISIBalo conference

ADMINISTRATION

Chinese Ambassador visits Chancellor College

In his familiarization tour of the country, the new Chinese Ambassador to Malawi, His Excellency Wang Shi-Ting visited the University of Malawi Central Office and Chancellor College on Saturday 4 June 2016. At Chancellor College, the Ambassador toured the newly rehabilitated library, including the office housing the Confucius Centre, and some of the newly tiled classrooms. He expressed happiness with the Malawi Government's efforts in promoting higher education, stressing that education is the bedrock of the development of any nation. Having passed through corridors of different universities in

his studies, he mentioned that he makes it a point to visit and appreciate university systems in any country he serves on ambassadorial missions.

In his remarks, the Principal of the College, Prof Richard Tambulasi

thanked the Ambassador for having chosen Chancellor College as one of the institutions to be visited. He mentioned that although the College is blessed with plenty of land, only a quarter of this land is developed.



College administration engages the Chinese Ambassador in discussions

Most of the land is undeveloped due to lack of resources. The College is therefore not operating at its maximum in contributing to the socio-economic development of the nation. The remaining land is being envisioned for expansion of teaching and learning spaces, students' accommodation, and sports facilities, among many other uses. The Principal further lamented that the small portions of space that have been developed lack sufficient furniture (students' chairs and desks), laboratory equipment and modern teaching facilities.

Before his departure, the Ambassador assured the College management that his office is open for discussions on proposals regarding the development of the College.

ECAMA courts Chanco in post-budget deliberations

On 7 th June, 2016 a few members of the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) visited

Chancellor College in order to have a discussion on the 2016/2017 Malawi Government budget.

During the discussions, Mr Kachaje, the President of ECAMA, pointed out that their organization had suggested a number of changes to government on the formulation of the budget, including

widening the tax base. A number of their suggestions have been taken on board by the government.

The event was interactive discussion with members of staff and students at Chancellor College, where individuals presented their thoughts on the national budget. Indeed, a number of members of the Chancellor College community made some contributions. Some touched on the matter of taxation, where it was felt that the average working Malawian was already being heavily taxed. Other individuals queried the government procurement policy, and asked ECAMA to pressure government to conduct a review of the procurement act, to see whether it was indeed beneficial in the economic sense.



Dr. Bob Chulu making his contribution during the discussions.

ADMINISTRATION

US Ambassador tours Chancellor College

On 10 June 2016 the USA Ambassador to Malawi, Her Excellency Ambassador Virginia E. Palmer visited Chancellor College on a familiarization tour. She was welcomed by the College's Vice Principal, Registrar, Finance Officer and Librarian.

In his welcoming remarks, the Vice Principal, Prof. Samson Sajidu, explained to the Ambassador that the College still enjoys the status of being the largest high education institution in the country. Chancellor College offers a diverse range of programmes in law, humanities, education, natural sciences and social sciences. The College makes deliberate efforts to enroll students on 50:50 (female: male) basis, and also enrolls students with special needs. He further explained that the College is not operating at its maximum potential for socio-economic development of the nation due to lack of resources. Reference was made to the College's land, of which only a quarter is developed. If all the land was developed with the vision of expanding teaching and learning facilities, students accommodation, sports facilities, recreation spaces and many more as outlined in its draft master plan, the College would be enrolling not less than 20,000 face-to-face students.

Chancellor College currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy on hosting of the American

Corner which is benefiting students, staff and external users not only as a source of information about the USA but also a source of literature on other issues such as politics, law, business and economics.

At the end of the tour, the Ambassador explained that she was generally impressed with the College regarding the great contributions it makes to the development of the nation. She explained that, with the assistance of her office, there are several opportunities that the College may be exploring in the USA on capacity building such as collaboration with American Universities on both students and staff exchange, the Fulbright Programme and many more. She mentioned that her office will be glad to assist in enhancing such initiatives with the American institutions. She also mentioned that although the concept of American Corners is not currently sufficiently supported as it used to be, she was glad to learn that it is proving extremely useful to users within and outside the College, and pledged to make an effort in assisting in its development.



The Vice Principal indicates how far the college land stretches

E-Learning Centre to pilot programmes online

The E-Learning Centre at Chancellor College is set to start offering online programmes. The centre will be piloting two programmes: Bachelor of Arts (Human Resource) offered by the Department of Political and Administrative Studies Department, under the Faculty of Social Science; and University Certificate of Education (UCE) from the Faculty of Education.

According to the E-Learning Centre Director, Dr Antonie Chigeda, there is good progress on the piloting of the programmes, with most of the required groundwork already done. The centre is working on infrastructure

development, as well as engaging the concerned departments to develop programmes and presentation outlines for E-learning delivery.

The Centre will be offering programmes from Chancellor College, and students will be accessing lessons from the satellites that the centre identified in Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre. The two key modes of delivery are the MOODLE platform which loads content online for students' independent use, and the Video Streaming where students attend scheduled classes at designated places with Tele facilities for lesson delivery.



Inside one of the e-Learning classrooms

SCIENCE

Geography and Earth Sciences department receives upgrades

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences has in the past month undergone some notable developments in the form of procurement of furniture and upgrading of offices. This has all been thanks to the

Mining Governance and Growth Support project.

Specifically, the project has seen the refurbishment of all facilities in the department. Through the project, the department has also acquired new furniture for all of its

offices, laboratories and the map library. Additionally, the project has also paid for new doors to be installed in the offices, laboratories and toilets close to the department. Lastly, all offices in the department have been upgraded with air conditioning systems.

The Head of Geography and Earth Sciences Department, Dr Evance

Mwathunga, expresses his delight at the developments. "This work will ensure that the rooms in the department are restored to their original function, instead of being mere lecture rooms," he said. "At college level, this will assist in creating a conducive environment for teaching and learning. We can look forward to training even better skilled geoscientists".

There are some other activities that have been held as part of the project. Delegations were sent on study tours to universities in Australia and South Africa to appreciate how geosciences have developed.

Also in the pipeline are plans to conduct a curriculum review, with the assistance of an external consultant. The department also plans to continue holding career talks in secondary schools around the country. Three teams will also travel around the country visiting mining companies and operations.



A lecture in progress in one of the newly furnished rooms

Reform Team appreciates campus developments

The Malawi Government established the Public Service Reform Commission in 2014. The Commission provides strategic leadership in the implementation of Public Service Reforms, which would result in the provision of dynamic and high quality services to the public at all times.

Some members of the Reform Team paid the campus a visit on 30th May, 2016, to appreciate the development work happening at Chancellor

College. During the visit, the team was taken on a tour to appreciate some of the recent work, including the refurbishing

of the library floors and tiling of classrooms.

The college principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, also led the delegation to

the construction sites of the science laboratories and the ICT Centre, which are due for completion in 2017.



The Principal leads the Reform Team through one of the construction sites

ADMINISTRATION

Chanco students present at ISibalo Conference

As academics, one of the things we often strive to do is attend and present at conferences. These are forums where we establish research networks and get

feedback to our own work. However, because of the constraints of time, work and money, it is not always possible to attend these conferences. As a result, it is not uncommon to encounter lecturers with conference experience at all.

In this light, it is heartening when undergraduate students

are given the opportunity to experience this side of academic life from an early stage. This is precisely what happened when seven students in the Population Studies Department, under the mentorship of Dr Jesman Chintsanya, flew to South Africa to attend the 5th ISibalo Conference of African Young

Statisticians in June 2016. The conference attracted representatives from eight different countries.

The students from Chancellor College included Kondwani Mpinga, Clement Mtambo, Ella Lisuntha, Stephen Kumwenda, and Vitumbiko Namondwe (majoring in Demography), and Joel Ng'oma and Abigail Simkoko (Bio-statistics).

The trip was funded by Stats SA. The conference is part of a programme designed to train young and upcoming students in Demography and Statistics, so that they can contribute to the development of their countries.

Dr Chintsanya, who accompanied the students on the trip, expressed his pride for the students' achievement. "Our students need to harness these opportunities in order to upgrade their skill through interaction with other people in the field," he observed.



Dr. Chintsanya poses with the students

Chancellor College participates in EBAFOSA launch

On 6th June 2016, the State President, Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, who is also Chancellor of the University of Malawi, launched the Ecosystems Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA) at Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe.

EBAFOSA is the first all-inclusive pan-African institution and framework that provides a platform for all stakeholders in a country to collaborate in a participatory manner in developing and implementing policy solutions to upscale EBA-

driven agriculture and its value chains to combat food insecurity, climate change, ecosystem degradation and poverty in Africa.

Realizing its role as part of the EBAFOSA Secretariat, Chancellor College displayed some of the EBA projects it is implementing with the involvement of local communities. These included the Malawi Farmer to Farmer Agroecology (MAFFA) project, Tipindule ndi Nsomba, Nsomba Nchuma, the Farmer-Led Agroecological Farming (Seed Sovereignty and Food Sovereignty) project, and the Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic, a project by students led by Mr. Chikosa Banda.

The Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi attended the event to show full support and commitment of the University of Malawi to

the cause.

The University of Malawi, Chancellor College in particular, is delighted to play a leading role and to be part of this movement.



Dr Mangani Katundu briefs the State President on Chancellor College's displays

ADMINISTRATION

Chanco holds SUCC leadership seminar

All 25 members of the Students Union of Chancellor College (SUCC) Executive were from 1st to 3rd June, 2016 hosted in a Leadership Seminar organized by the College Administration. The seminar was held in the Little Theatre. This is a seminar that is held every time a new SUCC executive is elected into office.

A number of members of staff serving in different roles were

invited to make presentations at the seminar. The talks touched on issues such as gender and equality, communication and management, conflict resolution, budgeting and finance, and the legal status of SUCC.

During the closing function, the Speaker of SUCC, Vitumbiko Thindwa, expressed her appreciation for the seminar. "There is a lot that I have learned from the seminar. This should make us the best SUCC executive at Chancellor College."

The SUCC Executive stayed on campus after the end of the first



Dr. Phillip Kapulula making his presentation during the workshop

semester, making plans for fundraising projects to benefit less privileged students on campus.

These projects are specifically meant to assist such students with tuition fees.

Chanco athletes amass medals at UMSSA Games

When one thinks of the activities associated with Chancellor College, rarely does the thought of sports come to mind. However, beneath all the academic and administrative personnel is hidden a rich pool of athletes, who regularly meet to engage in sporting activities of various kinds. From amongst the diversity of college staff – lecturers, librarians, administrators, networking engineers, accountants, office assistants – comes a collection of individuals that have for a number of years represented the college in various sporting competitions at various levels. These are the men and women that form the Chancellor College Staff Sports Association (CCSSA).

The most recent success of the Association comes in the form of victories attained at the intercollege UMSSA 2016

Games, held at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) on 14th May, 2016. The games brought together colleges from the University of Malawi, including Kamuzu College of Nursing, Chancellor College, and the Polytechnic. Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA) and Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) also took part.

At the end of the function, Chancellor College teams and individuals went away with a whopping 15 medals. These included six gold medals, four silver medals and five bronze medals, attained in different sporting categories. The Chancellor College volleyball team was also granted a trophy for emerging victorious.

On 17th June, the college held a function in the Senior Common Room to congratulate the

athletes. The event was graced by the College Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, who proudly observed that the sports association had shown the truth in the age old saying, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. However, the Principal specifically bemoaned the fact that few academics take part in sporting activities. In closing, he pointed out that the college master plan includes a proposal to expand sporting facilities.



The Principal congratulates the Volleyball team, as they proudly display their trophy

ADMINISTRATION

Zomba Action Project donates laptop to Special Needs student

On the morning of 30th May, 2016, the college held a small function at the Special Needs Section, located on the ground floor of the college library, where a laptop computer was handed over to Mr Alinane Misomali, a second year visually impaired education student.

The laptop was donated by the Zomba Action Project (ZAP), which was represented by Mr Zondiwe Mbano, a lecturer in the Language and Communications Department, and Mr Tom Matande. Also present at the function were the College Vice Principal, Professor Samson Sajidu, the College Registrar, Mrs Mary Wasiri, and the Dean of Students, Dr. Jonas Mwatseteza.

The Zomba Action Project is a group of volunteers that comprises people from Zomba, as well as some individuals from Northern Ireland. They run a number of charitable activities in Malawi, including the provision of bursaries for various students in

secondary schools, as well as disbursement of scholarships for students at Chancellor College, Zomba Theological College, Mzuzu University, and Nasawa Technical College, among others. The group raises funds every year, which are channeled towards various areas of need in the education sector in Malawi. They also send materials, including computers and clothes.

During the function, the Vice Principal

observed that the Zomba Action Project had proved themselves as true partners of the college. "Thank you very much for all the help you render to our students. We really appreciate the gesture, as these are friends indeed," he said. "We don't take the gesture for granted." Upon receiving the laptop, Mr Misomali pledged to work hard, and expressed his wish that God would bless the donors abundantly.

Seen in the wider context of learning opportunities for special needs students, this donation has come at the

right moment. For some time, the Special Needs section has been facing a number of problems.

The Special Needs Section houses a few talking computers used by the students. These computers, which were donated by Sight Savers International, assist the students in accessing handouts and material from the internet. The section also has a Braille embosser and a scanner. Most of the equipment was provided through donations from Strathclyde University in Scotland.



Mr Misomali receives the laptop during the handover ceremony

Condolences

It has been a particularly difficult two months at Chancellor College through losses felt by members of the community.

We all felt the blow upon hearing of the passing of the former Principal, Professor Chris Kamlongera. Together we mourned our colleague, and dutifully escorted him to his final resting place. May his soul rest in peace.

In May, the College suffered the loss of a student, Esther

Kachikuni. Words alone cannot express grief we all feel. May the good Lord comfort her family.

We join the Chancellor College community in offering condolences to Dr. G. Kamchedzera on the passing of his brother.

We also pray to God to offer comfort to Dr. Peter Mvula, on the loss of his wife. May her soul rest in peace.

Only the Father in heaven can offer comfort to Mrs N. Mpekansambo, on the passing of her mother last month. We offer out most heartfelt condolences to the family.

Our colleague, Dr.

Boniface Dulani, lost his sister in the same period. To him, we offer prayers of comfort, in the belief that she is now with the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Mrs Malata, whose grandmother recently passed on. May the Lord above wipe the tears from her eyes.

Condolences are also due to Mr Nick Tembo, on the passing of his aunt. We pray that God's comforting hand touches him and the family during this hard time.

No death is easy, but when the mother who brought you into this

world passes on, a part of you departs with her. In this regard, we offer condolences to Mr E. Nyanda.

May the Good Lord also comfort Mrs Elizabeth Meke, whose husband passed on in June. May his soul rest in peace.

Only God can bring ease to the family of Mr Kenneth C. Mdala, who lost his aunt in June.

We also wish to convey a message of condolence to Mr Hastings Kaipa, on the passing of his father. May the Good Lord bring your family some measure of comfort in this difficult time.