



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: CONFERENCE SEASON

Among academics, the presenting of a paper at a conference is a huge thing. We tend to include conference presentations as proof of research dissemination. However, it is another thing altogether when an institution of higher learning is able to host an international conference. In that regard, we take the opportunity to again proclaim our pride at the trend of conference hosting that has been going on at Chancellor College during this period, which we term the "Conference Season".

In August, 2017, alone, Chancellor College hosted two conferences. The 2017 Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA) Conference was hosted at the Little Theatre from 18th to 20th August, and was attended by people from both within the academy and from without.

Similarly, from 24th to

26th August, 2017, the college hosted the 2017 Inaugural Medical Humanities Conference, which drew a diverse crowd of presenters from various disciplines.

On the horizon, within two weeks actually, is the Linguistics Association for SADC Universities (LASU) conference. Apart from simply serving as hosts, the conference organizing committee is fully from Chancellor College.

During this same period, a number of members of staff from Faculty of Science were involved in the organizing of the IBS-SUSAN Conference (held at BICC in Lilongwe), which drew statisticians from Malawi and beyond.

Apart from the evidence of research presented at the conferences, these fora help to further establish the presence of Chancellor College on the international scene, which is important in the often

debated question of ranking. This is a question that we need to think deeply about, as we undergo a process of transformation.

Speaking of which, the winds of change, in the form of delinking, are blowing. Change is generally deemed to be a good thing, and in this case, many are optimistic that it will be so. According to the official statement from the Chairperson of the Council of the University of Malawi, released on 9th August, 2017, council "resolved that the College of Medicine, Kamuzu College of Nursing and the Polytechnic be delinked from UNIMA". Curiously, there is no mention of Chancellor College. This has led to a flurry of debates, theories and opinions on the future of the college.

Come what may, the future is ours to chart as we see best.



Participants at the Medical Humanities conference

Editorial Team:

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

Highlights

<i>Interdisciplinarity at Medical Humanities conference</i>	<i>Science staff present at IBS-SUSAN conference</i>	<i>Jazz Fever grips the campus</i>
<i>ASnA Conference draws international delegates</i>	<i>National Bank woos Chanco lecturers and administrators</i>	<i>Chichewa linguistics book launched</i>

ADMINISTRATION

ICT training for secretaries

Just a few days after secretaries from Chancellor College attended a secretarial skills training workshop in Mponela, the college arranged for another group to be sent specifically for training in ICT. This is a follow-up workshop to a session that was organized by the college administration in March, 2017. The group, comprising secretaries from several departments at Chancellor College, attended the training, which took place at Mponela Technical College from 26th to 30th June, 2017.

Due to the nature of their duties, secretaries at the college need to have above-average ICT skills. Consequently, as part of capacity building, the college is always on the lookout for opportunities

to improve the skills of various members of staff, including secretaries. The training was specifically in Microsoft Excel,

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Powerpoint and Microsoft Access, which are among the main programmes used by secretaries on their computers.

According to one of the participants, Mrs Upile

Mwandali, the workshop has been most beneficial. "The training has been an eye-opener to many of us since some of the packages that were covered will help us a lot in dispatching our duties effectively", she observed.



Secretaries who participated in the ICT training

Chanco on track during World Bank SDP Mid-term review

There is continued progress in the World Bank Skills Development Project (SDP), which has seen several developments at

Chancellor College. Recently, from 3rd to 13th July, 2017, a mid-term review was held in order to assess if the original objectives of the project

remain achievable.

Over several days, officials from the World Bank met with project implementation teams from various institutions involved in the project, and heard reports on progress.

Chancellor College remains ahead of the pack in terms of infrastructure development. New civil works are already ongoing on campus. Of particular note are the efforts by the college, together with the contractor, to enforce social and environmental safeguards on the construction sites. As an example, there are signposts reminding workers and visitors to always wear hardhats. Similar notices also serve as reminders of the dangers of HIV/AIDS. Chancellor College has hired people from the surrounding communities

as the labour force. Among these, about 30% are women.

One of the key disbursement linked indicators of the project has to do with the training of staff. At Chancellor College, various members of staff have received (or are receiving) training at certificate, diploma, bachelors, Masters, and PhD levels. So far, the college has enrolled 68% of the staff that it committed to train under the project. The remaining balance shall be enrolled in the 2017/2018 financial year. These members of staff include both females and males.

During the mid-term review, officials from the World Bank also had the opportunity to tour the campus and appreciate the various ongoing developments.



Mr Tsirizani Kaombe and Ms Fiskani Kondowe, beneficiaries of the World Bank Skills Development Project

ADMINISTRATION

Chanco Staff attend a seminar on 'Think tanks for African English speaking countries' in China

With financial support from the Chinese Government, the Department of Human Resource and Development of the Republic of Malawi was requested to nominate, among other sector nominees, five administrators of not

more than 50 years of age, to participate in a seminar on *Think-tanks for English Speaking African Countries* in 2017 program from 19 July to 8 August, 2017.

Chancellor College nominees included, Mrs Towera Mwathunga, Dr Winfred Mkochi, Miss

Bridget Nyirongo, Mr Sitima Ndau and Prof Samson Sajidu. The seminar was organized by the Zhejiang Normal University in the city of Jinhua in Zhejiang province. It included presentations, discussion/symposium, culture experiencing and field visits.

Participants had the opportunity to experience the traditional Chinese culture and there were field visits to local cultural and economic sites in Jinhua, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Yiwu and Nanjing; thus, participants had a better understanding and mastery of what they had learnt from the lectures, and increased knowledge of what China has achieved in education, society and culture since reform and opening up.

Through the presentations and interactions with participants from other

African countries, the College participants were amazed at how Confucius institutes and classes (as the one being hosted in our library) in other countries are optimally used for the benefit of different sectors of the population such as potential students going to China, business people going to China and also government employees. As commented by the Vice Principal, China has developed due to, among other reasons, the fact that although there is some minimum level of education required, and the people are very hard working such that they work 5 plus 2 (meaning seven days a week) and black and white (meaning day and night). As observed by one of the presenting professors, such a culture is difficult to be adopted in African countries due to their cultural and religious beliefs.



Chancellor College staff at the Think-Tank seminar

National Bank woos Chanco staff

Realizing the importance of pleasing their client base, officials from National Bank, Zomba branch, visited Chancellor College on 4th

August, 2017. During the visit, they showcased some of the products that they believe would suit Chancellor College as their clientele.

According to the bankers, Chancellor College academic and administrative staff qualify to be part of the Premium Banking experience, due to the amount of salaries they receive monthly. Under this arrangement, staff

would not have to queue with everyone else in the bank, but would instead be given executive treatment at a counter specifically reserved for the service.

Additionally, members of the Premium service would be privy to certain loans, such as consumer loans, payday loans, overdrafts, and motor vehicle loans, with more flexible terms. They would also have special ATM cards, which also serve as identifiers.

During the interaction, members of staff queried on the specific conditions that would guarantee access to the Premium Banking facility, to which the response was that the facility is strictly by invitation by the bank, which assesses the credit worthiness of its customers.



National Bank officials making their presentation

LIBRARY

Library personnel trained in information searching skills

Fifteen library personnel have been trained in information searching skills, during a two-day workshop that took place at the Faculty of Law boardroom from 20th to 21st July 2017. The workshop was organized by the Faculty of Law and drew participants from the college's main library and Mc Knight Machika Law Library. The main aim of the workshop was to equip the librarians with advanced law resource information searching skills.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the workshop, the college librarian, Mr. Dickson Vuwa Phiri, encouraged the participants to take the lessons very seriously. He said that a library is the information hub of every university. As such librarians play a vital role in making sure that right

information is given to all library users. He therefore urged them to deliver improved service to the academic community.

Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Garton Kamchedzera noted that libraries are experiencing

dramatic change as a result of developments in digital technologies. As such, his faculty thought of organizing the workshop to bring together the librarians to share knowledge and improve their information searching skills in order to serve the college community better.

In his remarks, Hendrix Chabwera, a participant at the workshop hailed the Faculty of Law for the training. He said that through the training he had learnt a lot and promised to put to use all the knowledge acquired from the workshop. He also appealed to the other faculties to emulate the faculty's good example.



Participants pose for a group photograph

Chanco Library engaging communities through African Library Project

When we think of the Chancellor College Library, most of us only consider the services that it renders to its immediate readership. However, the strategic

plan of the library indicates that it takes as its mandate the provision of reading services to surrounding communities as well.



Mphunda making a presentation of ALP

As part of this community outreach, the library has been involved in the African Library Project, which aims to improve literacy through the establishment of small libraries in various communities in Malawi.

Speaking during a presentation at the Senior Common Room on 30th August, 2017, the Deputy Readers Services Librarian, Ms. Jessie Mphunda, pointed out that the college library has been playing an important role in the project. "The role of Chancellor College library is to identify possible beneficiaries for the project," Mphunda explained. "Members of staff can identify communities, schools or other groups that would want to establish a small

library. Then they fill in a form, and submit it to us. The Chancellor College library submits the form to ALP on their behalf. The college library will also assist in training teacher librarians from the communities."

Most applications have been successful so far. Each community or school can get up to 1000 books to kickstart the library. The community simply needs to indicate the need for a library, its commitment to run the library, and the existence of a structure to house the books.

Application forms will be uploaded to the Chancellor College website soon. However, librarians at the Reader Services desk can be approached for more information.

ADMINISTRATION

Nchima Trust awards scholarships to students

Friday 18th August 2017 was not just an ordinary day for 17 1st year students of Chancellor College, who reported for classes on 17th July, 2017 for the 2016/17 academic year. According to their testimony, they came to the college without any clue where their tuition fees would come from.

However, in a remarkable turn of events, thanks are due to Nchima trust who have come to their rescue and given scholarships of full tuition fees to each of the 17 students. The 17 students bring the total number of beneficiaries supported by the Nchima Trust at Chancellor College to 24.

The scholarship runs until they finish their studies, as long as they pass and proceed accordingly. The Nchima Trust is a small charity,

originally founded in 1962 by the Gardiner family. The trust originally concentrated its donations to Health, Education and Orphan Support but presently it has developed a strong focus on sponsoring education for both secondary and tertiary. The trust operates through several unpaid volunteers who meet student beneficiaries regularly to obtain feedback on their progress.

Chancellor College management is grateful for this gesture by Nchima Trust and all other organizations and individuals that have come in to assist the needy and deserving students at the college. The College has a number of needy students who are in dire need of tuition and upkeep in their quest for education.

Mtenje shines at Chichewa phonology book launch

On 11th August, 2017, there was a book launch organized to celebrate the publication of *The Phonology of Chichewa*, which is jointly authored by Professor Al Mtenje and Professor Laura Downing.

According to Prof. Mtenje, the book "balances between theory and description in order to cater for the interests of

both theoretical linguists and those who are more inclined towards African linguistics".

This is a publication that contributes to the pride of Chancellor College, where a number of lecturers have authored books.

It has taken about two years to publish the book. At present, it can be purchased online.



The author hands over a courtesy copy of the book to the college principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi

Chanco hosts 2017 Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA) Conference

The Faculty of Social Science, through the Centre of Social Research (CSR) hosted this year's conference on the theme "Strengthening the Teaching of Anthropology in Southern Africa". The conference, which took place from 18th to 20th August, 2017, drew participants from various universities and research institutions in southern Africa and beyond, including Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and USA.

The conference was officially opened by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, Professor John D. Kalenga Saka. In his speech, the VC highlighted that in

most countries and universities in Southern Africa the teaching of anthropology is weak, with the exception of South Africa where most universities offer this subject. He therefore underscored the need for other universities including the University of Malawi to learn from South Africa and make informed decisions on how as countries in the region we can both introduce and strengthen the teaching of the subject.

The conference benefited from two keynote speakers, Professor Owen Sichone from Copperbelt University in Zambia and Professor Paul Nkwi from

the Catholic University of Cameroon. These learned colleagues set the tone of the conference as they stressed the need for strengthening the teaching of anthropology by clearly probing the key

issues to be addressed to make anthropology desirable and the graduates from anthropology programmes relevant to social development in the countries concerned.



The Vice Principal, Prof. Samson Sajidu, shares a light moment with Prof. Blessings Chinsinga, Director of CSR, during the conference

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Kafere wins 6 month scholarship to study in China

Among the stories that often go untold are those of the multilingual proficiency of students at Chancellor College. The arrival of the Confucius Institute in Malawi is an

event that many students have taken advantage of, hoping to learn the Chinese language, in an effort to become more cosmopolitan persons.

One of these is

Matthias Kafere, a Law student, who recently travelled to China to compete in the finals of the 16th "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, organized by Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and the

People's Government of Hunan Province. The event took place on August 12, 2017 in Changsha, Hunan Province.

Kafere managed to make it to the semi-finals of the competition. For his impressive efforts, he got a 6 month scholarship to study at any university of his choice in China in 2018. While he appreciated the competitive spirit of his rivals, Kafere observed that their approach was different since in some African universities, the learning of Chinese is part of the curriculum, and therefore contributes to the students' GPA.

Zhao Zhihang from Sudan made it to the last stage of the competition, out of 145 college students from 122 countries, and was crowned the winner of the prestigious competition.



Matthias Kafere at the Forbidden City

Law Students Compete in Global Human Rights Competition

Two students from the Law Faculty, Atupele Masanjala and Gonjetso

Dikiya, qualified for the 9th Nelson Mandela World Human Rights



Atupele Masanjala and Gonjetso Dikiya

Moot Court Competition held at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 18 to 21 July 2017. The Competition is organised by the Centre for Human Rights, based at the University of Pretoria, with the support of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Southern Africa of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (ROSA).

According to Masanjala, the competition provided them with an opportunity to fine tune their lawyering skills. On his part, Dikiya observed that such competitions are good for universities as they help to put participating institutions on the map. Dr. Enoch

Chilemba, a lecturer in the Law faculty, who also acts as the students' coach, said that the practical exercise that the students undergo serves as an eye opener which adds value to their academic life.

In this competition, Africa was represented by University of Malawi's Chancellor College, University of Pretoria, Midlands State University of Zimbabwe, Strathmore University of Kenya and Great Zimbabwe University. The 2017 Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition included a one-day event, designed to expose students to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the Human Rights Council.

HUMANITIES

Jazz fever grips Chanco

The Fine and Performing Arts department continues to be among the most publicly visible at Chancellor College, through their efforts to reach out to the public and showcase the work they are doing. The most recent of such events was

called *Jazz Fever*, held on 19th August, 2017, an evening when they treated patrons in Zomba to a free feast of jazz music, performed by a mixture of artists from Zomba and outside.

One of the most memorable of these pieces was a jazz rendering of the

“Chete” hymn, by the Blue Notes, a band comprising various students, under the directorship of Mr Andrew Faria. The song was performed as a tribute to the late Alinane Mphande, previously a lecturer in the department.

Other performers at the function included Spare Fingers and BB Zomba Orchestra.

French Department presents seminar on Papa Wemba

As part of its monthly seminar series, on 3rd August, 2017, the Faculty of Humanities held a seminar where two lecturers from the Department of French made a presentation entitled “Papa Wemba and the *Sapeur* Movement: Dress and Music as expressions of identity”. The two presenters, Dr. Timwa Lipenga-Garnett and Mr. Mazunzo Chimasula, examined how the *sapeur* movement, which was exemplified by the likes of Papa Wemba, was an assertion of identity based on the adoption and adaptation of Western dress forms. Dressed to imitate the *sapeurs*, the two presenters illustrated how this movement is also found in the contemporary period.



The Blue Notes perform in the Great Hall

Bringing the Medical Humanities to Africa

The 2017 Medical Humanities Conference was hosted at Chancellor College from 24th to 26th August, 2017. The conference came about as result of collaboration between several partners,

including the English Department at Chancellor College, Wellcome Trust, University of Edinburgh, University College London and Arts and Global Health Centre Africa.

Prof. Al Mtenje stood in for the Vice Chancellor as Guest of Honor. The conference featured two keynote speakers: Dr John Chipembere Lwanda and Prof. Ama de-Graft Aikins, who presented on separate days.

During the three-day conference, which took place in the Great Hall and the Little Theatre, participants discussed a variety of issues related to the field of medical humanities. Presentations touched on the representation of illness and medicine in the creative arts, government and local interventions in HIV, histories of medicine, and other reports from the field. One of the main issues that was raised by the keynote speakers, and echoed by various other presenters, was that of what form the medical humanities should take in the African context.



Dr John Chipembere Lwanda makes his keynote speech



Chimasula making his presentation, dressed in a sapeur jacket

SCIENCE

Mathematical Sciences staff and students present at 2017 IBS-SUSAN conference

Members of staff and students from the Mathematical Sciences Department recently took part in the 2017 Sub-Saharan Africa Network (SUSAN) conference. The

network promotes the advancement of life sciences through development, application and dissemination of effective mathematical and statistical methods to



Ms Halima Twabi (left), of the Mathematical Sciences, listens to a presentation during the conference

its members and collaborating partners. This includes applications in agriculture, medical and health research, infectious diseases, environment and ecology, climate, and other applied sciences such as the areas of statistical genetics and bioinformatics.

The SUSAN conference took place at the Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) from 22 – 24 August 2017, under the theme “*Biostatistics in the era of big data*”. It drew participants from across Africa and Europe.

Dr. Jupiter Simbeye, who was the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee expressed joy that the conference has been a great success and that the Malawi group of IBS and the Statistical Association of Malawi have demonstrated great

potential in organizing such a special international conference. Presentations from students in the Master of Biostatistics program were outstanding. This was evidenced through comments from international delegates who gave compliments on their work and the program for laying a solid foundation to students in statistical research.

The conference ended with an AGM where Dr. Jupiter Simbeye was elected the next SUSAN coordinator. His term runs for two years. Dr. Simbeye is very grateful to Chancellor College for financially supporting its members in the LOC that included Ms. Halima Twabi and Ms. Fiskani Kondowe, who made it possible for college staff to participate at the conference.

Interdisciplinary Research: Virtual Reality Video Game Project



Kambili-Mzembe and Likaku at the workshop

Inter-disciplinary research, and inter-departmental collaboration is encouraged at Chancellor College. One recent example of such research is a joint project being carried out by Mr. Francis Kambili-Mzembe in Computer Science and Mr. Rodney Likaku in the English Department. At the core of the project are plans for the development of a virtual reality educational video game.

The two lecturers recently attended the New-Dimensions

Workshop in Cape Town in South Africa, from 24th to 29th July, 2017. The workshop was hosted by Electric South and Big World Cinema.

New Dimensions works with African storytellers, artists, and programmers on Virtual Reality (VR) in the development and production of their ideas, and introducing African and international audiences to African produced VR. In the project, Kambili-Mzembe will lead the programming and Likaku will design the game narrative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have lost many in the last two months.

The month of July began with the passing of our colleague, Mrs Alinane Mphande from the FPA department. In the last two months, the college also lost Mr Maneya, formerly of the Porters Lodge.

Mr Innocent Mwalabu, a librarian, also passed on in July.

A few days ago, we also lost Ms Triza Manyungwa, who worked as a guard at the library. During this same period, Dr J. Mawerenga of the TRS department lost his father. Prof. Lewis Dzimhiri's

mother-in-law also passed on during this period. Dr. Jean Chavula of African Languages and Linguistics, also lost her sister during this time.

The college also mourns the loss of Francisco Lyson, a student who passed away in August.

Similarly, we offer condolences to Ms Chifundo Mukiwa, on the passing of her mother. To Mr E. Tambala, may the Lord comfort you on the passing of your brother. May the good Lord also comfort Mr Charles Master, on the passing of his mother.