



# Chancellor College BULLETIN

## EDITORIAL: WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY

Let's take a moment to reflect on the aspect of community outreach. This is an expectation of Chancellor College as a whole. How often do we think about that as we go about our business at the college?

There is some evidence that the college does indeed occasionally show its relevance to the general Zomba community. Students have gone on excursions to plant trees on the mountain, some have engaged in clearing rubbish from the community. Staff have gone to cheer the sick at hospitals within the district. Another gesture is the college donation of

desks to a number of primary and secondary schools in Zomba.

The 8th African RCE Meeting which was hosted by Chancellor College is yet another indicator of our commitment to the community, especially with the understanding that Regional Centres of Expertise seek to engage the communities in environmental work.

Just two weeks ago, we witnessed an event that raised the bar of community engagement even further. The Culturindaba involved staff, students, and various other people, not only from Zomba, but from different locations in the country, who came to

gather to share ideas.

As if that was not enough, researchers from the Geography and Earth Science department have also recently contributed to some villages in Zomba through drilling and rehabilitating boreholes.

Moments like these are humbling and remind us that Chancellor College does not exist in isolation, but is instead part of the wider community. The people that the college serves are not only those who come and pay tuition fees. We owe it to the community, indeed to the country, to continually highlight that we have a greater purpose for existing other than the annual conferment of degrees.



*Culturindaba: Knowledge sharing*

### Editorial Team:

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

### Highlights

*Old Mutual offers new policies*

*Drilling boreholes for local communities*

*Tambulasi reappointed for two years*

*First years undergo orientation*

*Culturindaba promotes sharing of ideas*

*Chanco hosts 8th African RCEs meeting*

## ADMINISTRATION

### Tambulasi reappointed to lead Chanco through delinking



*Professor Richard Tambulasi*

Now that the delinking process has officially begun, there are a number of activities that are ongoing within University of Malawi, indicating the constituent colleges' readiness for the autonomy that is to ensue. Discussions have been held for several months. Over the past two months, the leadership of the various colleges have been holding meetings, discussing the UNIMA Act, which is to be presented during the next parliament sitting.

Another key development that has been born from the delinking process is the extension of contracts of Principals at all the colleges, as well as the senior leadership at the University Office.

At Chancellor College, the Principal, Professor Richard Tambulasi, has had his contract extended by two years, an indication that the delinking process is expected to be over by then.

The various colleges are in various states of readiness for delinking. Chancellor College is arguably one of the institutions that has displayed preparedness for the move, having discussed at faculty and college level the kind of structures that will be found in the new UNIMA.

The college infrastructure has greatly expanded under Prof. Richard Tambulasi's term as Principal. New lecture theatres, laboratories and offices are being constructed at the campus.

### Old Mutual courts college staff

On 20th July, 2018, staff from Old Mutual visited the campus as a way of marketing various services. During the week, they were engaged in activation and promotion of their latest products: Tsogolo Savings Plan, Timba Family Plan and Timba Plus.

Chancellor College was identified as one of the institutions that may have customers to buy the policies.

Mr Mphatso Lipipa, the Financial Advisor at Old Mutual, explained the different services on offer. "In the Tsogolo Savings plan, a person can save money with us for a period of 10 years, but we are very flexible, allowing partial withdrawals periodically," he pointed out. He observed that this was a way of helping Malawians to save money. The plan helps in

ensuring security and growth of one's money.

The Timba Family Plan provides funeral cover for an individual and their immediate family. "We

aim to reduce the loss that comes with the passing of a loved one," Lipipa said. The amount given can range from MK150,000 to MK1.5 million. The age of the policy holder is what determines the premium that is paid, not the

individuals covered in the policy.

The Timba Plus is an extension of the Timba Family. The special feature it has is allowing a policy holder to include their parents in the funeral cover.



*Staff from Old Mutual assisting staff and students on campus.*

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

### CSR hosts JSAS Writing Workshop

Publishing is a key activity for academics everywhere in the world, and breaking into the publishing world can be a difficult and sometimes daunting prospect, especially for early career scholars. It is for this reason that the Centre for Social Research (CSR), in collaboration with the editorial board of the *Journal of Southern African Studies* (JSAS), organised a three-day workshop meant to assist budding writers from the region in the development of their articles. The workshop, which ran from 17th - 19th July, 2018, attracted young scholars from several countries in Southern Africa, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi.

During the opening ceremony of the function at the Little Theatre, the Principal of Chancellor College, Professor Richard Tambulasi observed that such training would help

academics to write high quality articles for publication in journals. Taking his turn to talk, the Director of CSR, Professor Blessings Chinsinga pointed out that as hosts of the function, CSR had the opportunity to be recognised and to be linked to mainstream

international scholarship.

The format of the workshop was such that it included veteran academics – who acted as mentors, and early career scholars – the mentees.

Over the three days, the participants engaged in lectures, exercises, and discussions on how to develop their articles.



*One of the discussion sessions during the workshop*

## HUMANITIES

### Culturindaba promotes Malawian culture

One of the events that have marked an impressive beginning to this semester is the Culturindiaba, an event which saw the coming together of various people in the country to perform and appreciate artistic performances at the Great Hall and the Little Theatre.

The lead person of the event, Dr Zindaba Chisiza, points out that the Culturindiaba was born from his observation that Chancellor College has always had a tradition of showcasing various artistic performances, which are open to the general public. He then sought to contribute to this tradition, with a twist—the involvement of local communities.

“We wanted to do something different, something that would allow the promotion of culture. We eventually decided to do a workshop

on Malawian culture, one that would allow all the sections of the Fine and Performing Arts department to work together. That’s why we eventually ended up with a workshop on theatre, dance, music, as well as

fine art”, Dr. Chisiza points out.

One of the main aims of the event was to take inspiration from Malawian oral forms, such as folktales and proverbs. This was reflected in some of the choral pieces as well as the fine art on display.

The fine art pieces were produced using locally found materials.

People came to participate from all over the country, from regions including Karonga, Chitipa, Chikwawa, Zomba, Mchinji, Ntchisi, Nkhatabay. These included students, staff and other members of the public.

One of the achievements that Dr Chisiza is most proud of is the fact that the workshop succeeded in being a platform for exchanging ideas.



*Mapenenga dance performance*

## SCIENCE

### Geography and Earth Sciences department receives modern equipment

When we speak of capacity building at Chancellor College, one of the areas we consider is that of equipment that may be used for teaching, learning, and research. Departments in the Faculty of Science are usually among those that need such equipment.

In that light, it is usually gratifying when new equipment is found. The Geography and Earth Sciences department at Chancellor College can definitely rejoice, having received equipment under the Mining, Governance and Growth project, which is geared towards assisting research and capacity building in the whole country.

This equipment includes a number of items for lab use, some

for field use, and

computer equipment for lecturers' offices and laboratories at the college.

Dr Blackwell Manda, a



*The Principal admires one of the telescopes*

member of staff in the department, explained that the purchase of such new equipment empowers the department to engage in research projects that they were previously unable to undertake. "Our students are now able to use this equipment for their final year projects. As a department, we should now be able to offer additional consultancy services to the public, strengthening our profile in the process," he said.

Among the gadgets, most are extremely valuable, such as telescopes, gem refractometer, petrographic microscopes, gemology microscope, a rock cutting machine, a total station, and an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS), among others.

### Chanco hosts Africa REC Meeting

On the 8th of August, 2018, Chancellor College played host to the 8th African RCE (Regional Centres of Expertise) Meeting, which ran for 3 days. The meeting attracted participants from various countries on the continent, including Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Nigeria, eSwatini, and Zambia.

The meeting was held with assistance from various players, including the Malawi Government, the Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust, LEAD, and the Faculties of Science and Law at Chancellor College, among others. The theme of the meeting was "Upscaling the impact of African RCEs in Actualizing SDGs".

According to Dr. Marlene Chikuni, who is

the Chairperson of RCE Zomba, RCEs aim at "promoting education for sustainable development, to bring about transformative learning which can translate into behavioral change". The

focus of RCEs is mainly on the environment.

In Africa, there are 36 RCEs.

RCE Zomba was set up in 2008. It is composed of institutions that are involved in environmental projects.

Chikuni points out that the work of RCEs aims at involving the community.

"We engage with the community, identify a problem, and assist the people in finding solutions using resources that are locally available."

During the workshop, delegates were taken to various sites to appreciate the work that RCE Zomba is doing.



*Dr. Chikuni addresses fellow delegates at the meeting*

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### First Years undergo 2-week Orientation

As has always been the tradition at Chancellor College, First Year students underwent a period of orientation in the first days of their stay at Chancellor College.

During the orientation period, the students were introduced to various aspects of college life. This period is always a very important one since it is a period that allows the first year students to become acclimatized to college social and academic life.

Some of the crucial aspects for the students to learn were the assessment criteria that are used at Chancellor College. Additionally, during the two weeks students were introduced to SARIS (Students

Assessment and Registration Information System), and particularly how to navigate their portals.

One of the key considerations in a student's life is the payment of tuition fees. In that regard, the First Year students were also given a talk on the process of applying for loans from the Higher

Education Students Loans & Grants Board (HESLGB).

Lastly, Deans and Heads of Department from the various disciplines at the college addressed the First Year students.



*A student asks a question during the orientation*

### GES Researchers give back to the community

For the last couple of months, members of staff and graduate students in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences have been involved in the "Capacity Building in Hydrogeophysics in Malawi" project. It is funded by Geoscientists without Borders. The research is being done as a collaboration by NAREC, Illinois University and Illinois State Geological Survey.

The Principal Investigator of the project is Dr. Zuze Dulanya, and

the co-investigator is Dr. Evance Mwathunga.

The project has several components, mainly targeting capacity building. As part of the research component, the research group visited several locations where they engaged in the rehabilitation of existing boreholes and drilling of new ones.

"We have been engaged in the assessment of water quantity and water quality in the Lake Chilwa Basin," Dr Mwathunga explains. "At the end of the day, we decided to make a contribution to



*Drilling for water*

the communities that we have been working with, as a way of giving back. We are going to drill three boreholes and rehabilitate one existing one."

The researchers deliberately set out to involve the communities in their work.

"We aimed to bring benefits to the community through participatory approaches. We are using PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) methods to ensure community engagements", Mwathunga points out.

The targeted areas include Jimu 2 village, Kimu village, and Likhapa village.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Benesi of the History department passed on this month. May he rest in peace.

May we also offer our condolences to Professor Wiseman Chijere-Chirwa on the passing of his father.

During this period, Mr. Patrick Chinguwo also lost his mother. May she rest in peace.

We also offer words of comfort to Ms. Lucy Malata, on the passing of her mother.