



Chancellor College BULLETIN

EDITORIAL: OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOANS

Let's start on a positive note. Sometime in June, the Higher Education Students' Loans and Grants Board released an announcement that it will be able to support 91% of students who have applied for loans in the year 2018/2019. This applies not only to University of Malawi, but also to other institutions of higher learning recognized by the board in the country. Out of these, 84% will get 100% tuition loans.

The impact of this news must not be downplayed. It is immensely good news for many students in the land, who manage to get places of study in

institutions of higher learning but are often frustrated because they are unable to pay the tuition fees and to access accommodation.

This is a lament that we have been playing for quite a long time now. It is partially the reason why supplementary exams for the year 2016/2017 were delayed. With this news, however, we believe students will have a reason to smile. It is not easy to study for assignments and exams when you have the anxiety of unpaid fees hanging over your head.

Chancellor College does not want to find itself in a situation where a student is denied education. It

goes against our very reason for existing. This development therefore makes it easier for the college to function smoothly, assured that students can focus exclusively on their studies.

Speaking of readiness for operations, one piece of positive news is the connection of new buildings, including the new Chemistry Laboratory and the Business and ICT Centre, to the power grid. This means that personnel may now move into the new buildings, and they will also be open for use.

We now simply look forward to a massive launching ceremony.



The Business and ICT Centre

Editorial Team:

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

Highlights

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ADMINISTRATION

Campus building projects attract national attention

Over the past two years, Chancellor College has seen gradual change in the form of the

construction of various building projects. These projects include the Chemistry laboratory and

the ICT Centre, which have been completed and are have just been connected to the power grid. These were funded through the AfDB/HEST project. Additionally, the college received funding from the World Bank to construct science laboratories and lecture theatres.

The college was recently visited by a crew from MBC TV, who sought to document the construction projects that are currently underway at Chancellor College. The college Principal, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, welcomed the crew and took them on a tour of the new projects, so that, through MBC TV, the country may also appreciate the way the campus is growing.

During the tour, the Principal took time to explain that the majority of the projects are meant to enhance the learning of science subjects in the

country. He noted that the college has always played a huge role in the producing of science experts in the country, and expressed the wish for the institution to continue doing so, for the growth and development of the country.

The Principal also highlighted that the college specifically requested that the buildings should be accessible by students with disabilities. "At Chancellor College, we pride ourselves on ensuring inclusive education. This means that we try as much as possible that infrastructure should not hamper a student with disabilities from accessing learning materials." He cited the example of the new Chemistry laboratory, which has an access ramp that will enable students who use wheelchairs to reach the second floor.



The Principal being interviewed by an MBC TV journalist

French Ambassador tours campus

The French Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi and Republic of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Richard Boidin, visited Chancellor College on 22nd June, 2018.

The Ambassador was very excited about his visit, given that the last time a French Ambassador visited the college is in 2002.

The dignitary was welcomed by the Vice Principal, Prof. Samson Sajidu, and the Deputy Dean of Humanities, Dr. Timwa Lipenga-Garnett, who also belongs to the Department of French.

During the visit, the ambassador donated some books to the college, and also made a few commitments. For example, he promised to

promote linkages between the French department and a university in France, and another in a country in francophone Africa.

One way in which this

may be possible is through Campus-France, an organization that enables prospective students to register for studies in France. The embassy then assists them with visas. Campus-France is already operating in Zimbabwe.

Since books are among

the main materials that the department uses for teaching and learning, the ambassador vowed to send updated books, so that the department is up to date with its teaching.

The ambassador promised to make a follow-up visit in September.



Ambassador Boidin pays the Vice Principal a courtesy visit

SCIENCE

NEEP-IE programme shows positive results

On 17th May, 2018, IFPRI Malawi and Save the Children organized a policy workshop at Capital Hotel in Lilongwe in order to appreciate some of the interventions that are currently being carried out in Malawi as a way of addressing undernutrition.

Dr Mangani Katundu of the Human Ecology department was part of this gathering, and made a presentation on findings from the Nutrition Embedded Evaluation Program Impact Evaluation (NEEP-IE) on the effectiveness of implementing an integrated agriculture and nutrition intervention through community-based childcare centers (CBCCs) in Zomba district.

The presentation focused on the results of a one-year cluster randomized trial of the NEEP package, which consisted mostly of training (on food preparation, optimal feeding practices, seasonal meal planning and production) as well as some inputs (seeds or vines, access to loans). Among the positive results from the project was the production of nutritious foods at the household level, on caregiver knowledge of food groups, on meal provision in the CBCCs, as compared to non-NEEP centers and not just on production, but also consumption of nutritious foods, such as nuts, pulses, fruits, vegetables, and eggs.



Dr. Katundu makes his presentation

EDUCATION

Education students to start Teaching Practice at SAINTs

Thanks to a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Chancellor College and Saint Andrews International High School, some final year education students will from next academic year have the opportunity to be placed at the high school, which is regarded as one of the best in the country.

The Teaching Practice Coordinator for the School of Education, Dr. Peter Namphande, revealed that this development is the result of student efforts over the years. "For a long time, our students have been approaching the high school with requests to do their teaching practice

there," he said. "However, there was need for a formalized agreement before this could be possible".

As part of the agreement, the School of Education shall recommend names of students to the high school. These students shall undergo interviews before being accepted for teaching practice.

Namphande observes that this is one more way of illustrating that Chancellor College produces world class teachers, who can offer education to secondary school students anywhere in the world.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding

HUMANITIES

Kainja at AFRICTIVISTES Summit

Mr Jimmy Kainja of the Language and Communication Skills (LACS) department was recently one of the participants at the 2nd AFRICTIVISTES Summit, which was held in Ougadougou from the 22nd to the 23rd of June, 2018. The theme of the meeting was “Digital Democracy in Africa: Collaboration Mechanism between Governments and Civil Society Actors”.

During the summit, which attracted participants from all over the continent, Mr Kainja joined a panel that addressed the issue of whistleblowers, debating their role as a new force for transparency and good governance, or as a myth of new form of journalism on the

continent.

Kainja, who is blogger himself, points out that forums such as these

allow for cross-border networking with other people on the continent who are also interested in the new forms of media. Blogging is one of these, and is a platform that is increasingly being used to discuss many serious matters. A blog allows a writer to articulate himself fully, without the constraints that are met in print media and social networks. However, the awareness of blogs in Malawi remains limited, as most people only view the internet in terms of social networking platforms like Whatsapp and Facebook.

AFRICTIVISTES is a dynamic association, extended to all African countries, focusing on the “Consolidation of democracy through digital technology” at the national and continental levels.



Mr. Kainja addresses fellow media experts at the summit

Mthatiwa in China for VPYS 2018 Programme

China seems to be the new destination of choice for academics and administrators from Chancellor College to visit for various forms of training. One of the most recent candidates was Dr. Syned Mthatiwa of the English Department at Chancellor College, who visited Chongqing from 9th to 29th May, 2018.

Dr Mthatiwa specifically participated in the Visiting Programme for Young Sinologists 2018 (VPYS 2018). This is a workshop that aims to facilitate and support China studies by young scholars around the world, but also to enhance the mutual understanding and friendship among the international China studies community.

The workshop attracted 26 participants from various countries across the globe, mainly in the Humanities and Social Sciences. These included individuals who had previously studied in China, and those who had taken up interest in Chinese studies. Africa was represented by participants from Burundi, Malawi, Lesotho and Nigeria.

During the trip, Dr. Mthatiwa made a presentation on “Chinese and African Poetry in the Age of Environmental Crisis”, which is currently being shaped into a paper.

Dr. Mthatiwa points out that, stemming from this trip, he has dreams of developing courses in Chinese literature, in order to widen students’

exposure to global literature.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit cultural sites.



Dr. Mthatiwa poses for a picture with fellow participants at the workshop

HUMANITIES

BACCS Students visit Times Media Group Headquarters

Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Cultural Studies (BACCS) final year students had the chance to appreciate the practical application of their lessons when they were taken on a learning tour to Times Media Group Headquarters in Blantyre. These were specifically students from the News Editing Course, which is offered at fourth year. Upon arrival at the premises of the media house, the students were welcomed by Sharon Jumbe, who works as a news editor and is herself an alumnus of Chancellor College.

During the trip, the students were escorted by Dr. Anthony Gunde, a Senior Lecturer in the LACS department. He

pointed out that the trip was important for the students because some of them end up in this industry upon

graduation.

The students visited newsrooms for all media platforms, the advertising section, and the print press. They were particularly excited by the TV section, especially in the technology used in

editing the news.

The Times Media Group is one of the biggest and oldest media houses in Malawi. It hosts convergent media platforms including radio, TV, print, and online news.



Posing for a picture at Times Media Group Headquarters

FPA and LACS in joint project

Chancellor College, through the LACS and FPA departments, recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the USAID in a Social and Behavioural Change Communication Project (SBCC) called Health Communication for Life (HC4L).

Through a five-year USAID funded project Fhi360, selected researchers are working towards sustainable health promotion and awareness strategies from multiple viewpoints including: Capacity

building with grassroots health workers, the Malawi government school curricula experts and the mass media.

Other partners include the Youth Network and Counseling (YONECO), Story Workshop, Theatre for Change, Creative Center for Community Mobilisation (CRECCOM), and Human Network International (HNI). The project also involves an academic and research partnership with Wits University's School of Public Health. As part of an initial exchange visit, staff from LACS and

FPA traveled to Wits from 12th to 17th March, 2018, to appreciate their SBCC programme. They included Mr Chavuta Mpunga, Mr Smith

Likongwe, and Dr. Anthony Gunde. They were welcomed by Dr. Nichola Christofedes and Dr. Tobias Chirwa.



The project team poses for a picture

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We offer our condolences to Mr E. Nyanda, on the passing of his father. May he rest in peace.

We also join Mr Felix Mwalemba in mourning the passing of his wife. Only the good Lord can

offer you comfort in your time of grief.

Our prayers are also with Ms Chimwemwe Soko Honde, whose son

passed away in June. May the Lord comfort your family.