

Chancellor College Bulletin



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EDITORIAL: PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME REMARKS



*Associate Professor Richard Tambulasi,
the Principal of Chancellor College*

We would like to welcome all of you to the new year with this new bulletin, intended for continued publication on a bimonthly basis. In addition to welcoming our beloved students on 19 January 2015, the college underwent a lot of changes in management that included ushering in of new Deans; namely, Dr Foster Kholowa for Faculty of Education, Dr Ngeyi Kanyongolo for Faculty of Law, Dr Syned Mthatiwa for Faculty of Humanities, and Dr Levis Eneya for Faculty of Science. The Faculty of Social Sciences re-elected Dr Levison Chiwaula for a second term in the office, making him the oldest serving member (not in terms of age) in the team! Bravo our Honorable Deans! As a college we would also like thank the outgoing Deans for

having served their Faculties well during their tenure. From the same crop of outgoing Deans came our new Vice Principal, Associate Professor Samson Sajidu, previously Dean of Science for the past 4 years. I would also like to thank the outgoing Acting Vice Principal, Dr Bright Molande for a job well done during his tenure of office. The office of the registrar also received a new assistant registrar, Mr Ashanie Gawa. Welcome Mr Gawa! Colleagues, please join me in congratulating the new management team. Surely the new team has vast experience for the members have worked in several leadership positions before. They possess the gifts that we need at this stage as a College. Let us give them our support and guidance as they execute their respective duties. Enjoy the updates that will be continuously provided in the bulletins!

*Associate Professor
Richard Tambulasi,
Principal, Chancellor
College*

Deans, from top to bottom: Dr F. Kholowa (Education); Dr N. Kanyongolo (Law); Assoc. Professor S. Mthatiwa (Humanities); Dr L. Eneya (Science); Dr L. Chiwaula (Social Science)



ADMINISTRATION

College management appears twice before Parliamentary Committee on Education

On 22 January 2015 Chancellor College management was invited by the Parliamentary Committee on High Education for a meeting at the Parliament Building in Lilongwe. The main purpose was for the College to explain to the committee reasons for persistent closures. The team was led by the Principal accompanied by the Vice Principal, Registrar and the Senior Assistant Finance Officer. In his presentation the Principal explained that the recent CTS strike (3rd December 2014 to 5th January 2015), was caused by the demand for salary increase. The implications were that laboratory facilities, and well as the services of secretaries and

messengers were withdrawn, compromising the quality of teaching and learning.

The Principal further reminded the Committee of other past strikes including those concerning academic freedom and others arising from salary disputes, delays in disbursement of students allowances, demands for increased upkeep allowances, and many more which have resulted in damage to college property, general public disorder, blocking of public roads and disturbance of the academic calendar.

Some mitigation measures on strikes were proposed such as the need for adequate

funding, financial independence and reduced external interference, autonomy, review of UNIMA act and finalization of the policy on student scholarships and loans. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss general challenges of the College and how they can be abated.

On 14 February 2015, the college management team again met the Parliamentary Committee on Education at

Livingstonia Beach in Salima on invitation for input into the draft bill on 'Higher Education Students' Loan'. The team, led by the Vice Principal (Assoc. Prof. Sajidu), was composed of Assoc. Prof. Mwatseteza, Mr E. Chizimba, Mrs L. Saka, Mr Nakoma and Mr Kanyumbu. Several substantive, general and editorial issues were proposed by the college to be considered upon finalization of the Bill.



Parliamentary committee on Education and Chancellor College management during the consultation meeting at Livingstonia Beach. Hon Elias Chakwera (chairperson of the committee) and V. Principal of CC are in the middle.

ADMINISTRATION

CHAREC holds training workshop

A training workshop on establishment of Chancellor College research ethics committee (CHAREC) was held from 19 to 20 February 2015 in the E-learning room. The training was conducted by Mr Kachedwa and Miss Matima Chinzimu from the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST).

Associate Professor Dorothy Nampota (NCST board member) and the College's Vice Principal were present during the opening function. Participants included the current REC members, deans, directors, library and administration staff.

In his opening remarks the Vice Principal mentioned that the College has been lamenting for official formalization of its Research Ethics Committee to ensure that any human research conducted by the college or individual for which the committee is responsible meets relevant scholarly standards and that those conducting such research are adequately experienced in minimizing or avoiding potential risks to their own safety and that of participants. He further said that our interactions, as a college, with humans may not be of high risk compared to our colleagues in direct health/medical fields. However the College feels

that a formal ethical committee is needed to undertake expedited reviews of low risk applications. The interim committee is chaired by Dr Mangani Katundu.

Topics of the training included origins of RECS, principals of bioethics, legislation, national regulatory requirements,

policies, guidelines, functions of RECS vs research coordinating committees, functions of a secretariat of a REC, REC standard operating procedures, conflict of interest and its management by REC, vulnerable populations in research and many more.



Participants at the CHAREC training workshop

ADMINISTRATION

Reforestation of Chirunga

The tree planting exercise is one of the activities lined up for UNIMA's Golden Jubilee celebrations. In its part, Chancellor College celebrated its official tree planting day for this year on 21 February 2015. The exercise was well attended by various members of the Zomba community, including guests from the City Assembly, Chiefs from the surrounding communities (notably Chief Chikanda), Senior

Officers from the Malawi Defence Force, Bank Managers, staff members from the College and students.

In his welcome remarks the Principal thanked all the guests present at the function. He mentioned that the college started planting trees in 2006/2007 following the harvest of the Pine trees within the Chirunga forest by the Forestry Department which had led to bare ground, erosion and loss of the natural aesthetic beauty of the college environs. LEAD, MMCT, MEET and the College provided

funding for the trees at that time. So far the College had planted over



Setting an example: Chief Chikanda plants a seedling

100,000 trees in the following varieties: Tangatanga, Ngongomwa, Kesha, India, M'bawa, Mnthema, Blue gum, Msambafumu, Nimu, Mthete, and Mulilira. The trees that were planted on 21 February 2015 were donated by NAREC and LEAD in addition to those bought by the College itself. Apart from mitigating environmental degradation and bringing back the lost beauty, the trees are also intended for teaching, including the use of dead leaves for making briquettes at the College's Technological site.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Nsomba Nchuma: better processing and marketing of fish products

From October 2014 to April 2017, Chancellor College will be implementing the Nsomba Nchuma research project aimed at promoting better fish processing and marketing. This project will aim at reducing the 40% of fish that is lost during processing. The research will adapt and test solar fish-drying tents to reduce losses and develop new business models for processing and marketing fish. The project will target three Lake Malawi small fish species – Usipa (*Engraulicypris sardella*), Utaka (*Copadichromis spp.*), and Ndunduma (*Diplotaxodon spp.*) – which form a large part of the annual fish catch and are widely available to the poor. The research will assess the costs and benefits of using the tents, including their economic performance and their impact on the quality and quantity of fish processed. To promote adoption of

the solar dryers, researchers will work with different actors in the fish value chain to create a sustainable business model. At the community level, low-income men, women, and young people, who have traditionally struggled to access good quality processing facilities, will use the solar dryers. The project will link the fish processors to transporters and distributors, to supply an established supermarket chain, the People's Trading Centre, and other markets. Improving the social and economic conditions of women fish processors will be central.

By the end of the project, the local communities are expected to adapt solar fish-drying tents for three small fish species. Furthermore, the communities are expected to benefit through an increased understanding of the economic potential of solar dryers, particularly

for women; reduced losses and increased safety in processed fish; better market access and improved income for processors and fishers; standardized guidelines for fish handling and processing; and an appropriate fish processing business model for women and youth.

The project is being implemented by the Departments of Economics, Human Ecology and Mathematical Sciences in collaboration with the

Fisheries Research Unit (FRU) of the Department of Fisheries, The World Fish and Peoples Trading Company. The project is led by Dr Levison Chiwaula, is being funded by Cultivate Africa for the Future (CultiAF) fund which is financed by the Australian International Food Security Research Centre, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to the tune of CA\$1,231,000.



An model of the fish-drying tents to be used in the research project

SCIENCE

AfDB funded Science Curriculum Review stakeholders workshop

With assistance from the Malawi Government and the African Development Bank through the AfDB-HEST Project, the Faculty of Science organized a curriculum review workshop from 12th to 13th February 2015. Participants of the workshop were drawn from industries including manufacturing, commercial and business institutions; as well as some government departments and members of the Faculty. The workshop intended to promote the participation of

stakeholders in the development of the science curriculum to make it more relevant and responsive; to discuss with stakeholders including industry modalities for their involvement into the training of science graduates; and to get feedback from stakeholders on the performance of its graduates and what their (stakeholders') expectations of a science graduate are.

Officially opening the workshop was the Vice Principal of Chancellor College, Assoc. Prof. Samson Sajidu who emphasized the importance of cooperation and partnership between the college and industry or stakeholders.

In his opening remarks, the Dean of Science Dr. Levis Eneya reiterated the Faculty's commitment to its mission of advancing scientific and technological knowledge through engaging in student-centred and innovative research-led training that is responsive to the needs of Malawi and beyond. Stakeholders included

representatives from ESCOM, ILLOVO, NICO Technologies, Ethanol Company, National Bank of Malawi, WM Chirwa & Associates, National Commission for Science and Technology, Makoka Research Station, Parks and Wildlife, Malawi Housing Cooperation, SNDP, National Statistical Office, among many.



Participants of the Science curriculum review stakeholder workshop

EDUCATION

Strathclyde University staff visit Chancellor College Faculty of Education

Collaborators in the Primary Education Project from Strathclyde University in the UK came to the Faculty of Education in January 2015 for discussions on the implementation of two programmes focused on primary school teacher training. These are the Bachelor of Education Primary and the Masters of Education in Primary. The team was led by Professor Susan Ellis, Coordinator of the Project from the School of Education at the University of Strathclyde. As part of the discussions, the team made a courtesy call to the Vice Principal's

office. During this meeting, the Vice Principal, Assoc. Prof. Samson Sajidu, assured the visiting team of the Chancellor College's strong commitment to the successful implementation of the two programmes. The

three year MEd Primary Education Project was finally approved by UNIMA Senate in January 2015 and a cohort of 40 students from Primary Teacher Training Colleges has since been selected to start the program for the next two years.



Professor Susan Ellis in a courtesy call meeting with the Vice Principal

JICA Team Visits Faculties of Education and Science

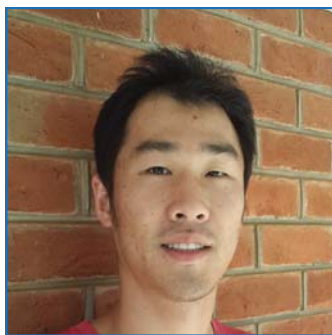
A team from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and the Department of Teacher Education (DTED) led by Tanaka Chisato and Mr Kamoto, visited the Faculties of Education and Science to discuss with the two Faculties on how the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education in Malawi (SMASSE) Project could extend to the two Faculties.

Two Professors from Hiroshima University, Kinya Shimizu and Takuya Baba, who were part of the JICA delegation, discussed with Faculty of Education on possible areas of collaboration between Chancellor College and Hiroshima University.

HUMANITIES

Lessons in Chinese offered on Campus

Chancellor College has in the past few months seen the informal introduction of a course in Chinese language. The courses, offered by Mr Zhang Wenyi, are part of the initial plans to foster cultural exchange between the Malawian and Chinese governments. The courses are open to all students and staff members. These plans shall culminate in the formation of a Confucius Institute, to be housed in the Faculty of Humanities. Mr Zhang was appointed by HanBan (which oversees Confucius Institutes around the world) and the University of International Business and Economics in China.



Offering Chinese language classes: Mr Zhang Wenyi

French lectures for the military

As part of a campaign to extend the services of the French department to the community, the Head of the French Department, Dr. Timwa Lipenga, accompanied by Mr Boniface Dokotala, a member of the department, visited

Cobbe Barracks, where they made a presentation to senior military personnel on the benefits of learning the French language in evening classes.

In her presentation, Dr. Lipenga cited, among other reasons, the deployment of peace-keeping troops to Francophone countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Ivory Coast. In his remarks, Commandant Ntonya assured the French department that he would brief the soldiers on the programme, and reiterated that Chancellor College staff members should always feel welcome to visit the Army.

The Current and former Dean s of Law posing with 1st cohort graduates of Masters in Commercial Law

LAW

Graduation of Masters in Commercial Law students

The 1st Cohort of the students studying Master's Degree in Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law graduated on the 6th of February, 2014. The event was followed by Cocktail held at the Faculty of Law. One student, Kalekeni Kaphale, graduated with a distinction and received a standing ovation in the Great Hall. The NBM supports the programme.



STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dean of students bemoans lack of facilities for special needs

Chancellor College continues to proudly admit, teach and graduate students with disabilities. These students attend classes together with the larger student community. However, as reported by the Dean of Students, Assoc. Prof. Jonas Mwatseteza, the students encounter several problems which make their access to learning materials problematic. "Our special needs and physical disability students lack the technological

environment and facilities for aiding their learning and equipping them for the work environment in College", he observed.

In view of this, Chancellor College intends to strategically meet the academic and social needs of students with disabilities for them to excel in their studies. The College therefore seeks support from various stakeholders in establishing a special needs resource centre, constructing special needs hostels, acquiring a wheelchair-friendly transport bus, constructing pavements for accessibility and providing of Paralympics sports facilities. The student body has also



The Dean of Students, Associate Professor Jonas Mwatseteza

requested for a special needs' directorate to be incorporated in the Students Union structures and this has been positively received by the College management.

LAW

Financial Support from NORHED to the Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law has received funding from the NORHED. The funding is meant to serve several functions. It will initially support the Curriculum Review process of mainstreaming gender and law in the Faculty Curricula. Further, the fund is meant to act as support for 2 Masters Students and 2 PHD students. Ultimately, this support will enhance the academic delivery of gender issues in law and capacity building to staff members.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Chanco to get networking facelift

Thanks to a grant from the African Development Bank, under the Support to Higher Education Science and Technology project (HEST), the campus can begin to look forward to the disappearance of the dangling internet cables plaguing campus corridors.

The ICT Director, Mr. Solomon Dindi, explains that contractors are already on campus engaged in work that is to

improve networking.

This process involves several steps. Firstly, the contractors have laid down a fiber network to replace the old cables. In addition to that, there are plans to install a wireless link which shall run concurrently with the fiber network. The local Wi-Fi is expected to be operational by March.

In addition, the ICT section has been working tirelessly to improve networking within buildings on campus. The Director is now able to monitor all access points on campus and can detect

problems at the click of a button. Furthermore, the agreement with the contractors is to have an average of four connection ports in each office. These can ideally be used for connecting a desktop computer, a personal laptop, a printer, and an IP-phone (which can use data and voice networks).

As a way of centralizing the networking infrastructure, the ICT department has further expanded and improved the college network to include off campus locations including the

Centre for Social Research, the College Clinic and Chanco Radio.



Mr Solomon Dindi, The college ICT Director

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Chanco Leo Club assists flood victims

Chanco Leo Club, which is the campus branch of the Zomba Lions Club, was part of the effort to assist flood victims in Chamwali village in Zomba. The villagers have lost houses, property and lives in the heavy January rains. The club contributed firewood, maize flour, and beans.



Leo Club students in Zomba

Students leadership forum: VP emphasizes open-door policy

Student leaders and college management held a consultative meeting on Saturday, 7th February 2015. Participants included hall representatives, leaders of religious groups, representatives of non-residential students, young politicians, and many more. The Vice Principal assured the leaders of efforts being undertaken to improve the room allocation system and commitment to be in constant touch with landlords for improved housing facilities outside college, improvement and

maintenance of college infrastructure, and classroom chairs. The leaders lamented the failure of some administrative officers to act on some crucial students' issues; however, the Vice Principal assured them of the open door policy in the management system where the students, through their leadership are free to come and consult management on any issues regarding their



Leadership forum in progress in the Little

Dean's lists to acknowledge performers

The new year sees the re-introduction of students' Dean's lists at Chancellor College. They shall include names of students that have attained a GPA of 3.60 or higher, and no grade below B- in the first semester of the academic year.

The College Registrar stressed that the Dean's list is a way of encouraging student competitiveness and excellence. Apart from the pride of having their name displayed on this prestigious list, any student who qualifies will also be given a certificate of recognition signed by the college Principal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to officially welcome the newborn girl born to Dr. Evance Mwathunga and Mrs. Towera Mwathunga. The college embraces this

latest addition to the community.

On a more somber note, we wish to convey our condolences to Mr. D.B. Vuwa-Phiri for the loss of

his sister, to Dr. P. Kambewa on the passing of his sister, and to Dr. Chipso Kanjo on the passing of her brother. We also wish to condole

Assoc. Prof. Kamchedzera on the loss of his father. May their souls rest in peace.

Thank you for taking time to read through the Bulletin. We welcome your feedback and news for future editions!