

Uganda Partners

“Thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:3-5

Newsletter of Uganda Christian University Partners

Issue 12:1

Winter 2012

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

The hymn “God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform” captures the mood succinctly as we come to the end of 2011; we have been caught up on the crest of His wave of wonders. We look back with gratitude.

I have been at the helm of Uganda Christian University for over a year now. Often it felt like I was buoyed by a divine wave, and I only had to sit still. Yes, it has been a year of challenges but also a year of innumerable blessings. So we praise God, and we thank the many who have prayed and supported us in this momentous year. His wonders He performs!

His economic wonder: Somehow I am reminded of the years when Idi Amin was President in Uganda. The economy was so unpredictable that budget planning became an exercise in vanity. Uganda’s inflation has steadily increased from month to month till it rose to over 30%! Of course this is not matched by the income.

The miracle is that we did not have to increase student fees, or to levy a surcharge to meet our expenses. Sure we have cut costs, but as we come to the end of the year, we can boldly say the Lord has performed an economic wonder – we have lacked nothing we needed!

UCU has another landmark building, the Hamu Mukasa Library, at the cost of a whopping US \$4m. It has a commanding skyline as one enters the main university gate. It was officially opened on October 28 by the US Ambassador to Uganda. The story of the Library is our story with all who gave sacrificially for its construction.

The University has graduated over 3000 in three ceremonies from our various programs. There is no doubting the joy of these young people as they go out. But the greater wonder is that the absorption rate of our graduates into the workforce is ranked high compared to other universities in Uganda.

During the July graduation, UCU had the very first Master of Nursing Sciences students ever by a Ugandan university. This cohort

helps to build the capacity to teach graduate Nursing science. During the same ceremony the university graduated off its first Community Health, and Project Planning and Entrepreneurship students. His wonders He performs!

As I write, the University is hosting several corporate companies to a Career Fair. They are speaking to UCU students to attract them into their particular job market.

It is interesting to note UCU’s growing influence on the African continent. Though in the past the university had students from all nations neighboring Uganda, this has changed. Students are coming in from southern Africa and West Africa,

and the numbers are growing. We have established an international desk to meet their unique needs, and during holiday time willing students shall be hosted in Ugandan homes.

One of the greatest heartaches as the Vice Chancellor is to see the struggle of poor students who cannot afford just \$2,000 per annum to get a University education. That is why staff and students who have a dollar to spare share it with one who does not have it. Through internal efforts like “Save a Buddy,” many have been helped over the threshold to the degree that they need to be empowered out of their poverty.

And yet all this would not be possible if we did not seek to put God first. Each semester has a week of mission emphasis that allows us to focus on God’s calling on our lives. During a recent evangelistic mission, many surrendered their lives to the Lord. That is the greatest miracle by far!

The Psalmist is right, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.”

*Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi
Vice Chancellor*



THE HAMU MUKASA LIBRARY at UCU opened in 2011.

UP Teams to Uganda

by Diane Stanton

In late July, a team of 18 people traveled to Uganda to participate in a number of venues, a highlight being a campus tour and dinner hosted by Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Senyonyi. This team was led by the Rev. Pam Dunbar, Missioner for Youth, and the Rev. Brendan Kimbrough, newly ordained priest – both from the Diocese of Dallas. Joining the team were several youth leaders, clergy, returning visitors to Uganda and Mrs. Patty Huston Holm, a scholarship sponsor from Ohio, who commented that “the cultural immersion and 2.5 weeks devoid of secular distractions is invaluable.” Part of the team visited Bishop Barham College (affiliated campus in Kabale) where they enjoyed a full day visiting students, touring the campus and a brief boat trip on the beautiful Lake Bunyonyi.

A second team led by Executive Director Diane Stanton visited UCU in October to participate in the opening of the new Library and attend graduation ceremonies, meet with UCU officials, and visit the southwest region of Uganda where they were hosted by the Bishop of Kigezi Diocese and a tour on the campus of Bishop Barham College University to see the latest developments.

The team consisted of several UCUP Trustees (Sherman White, President; Jack and Linda Klenk from Truro Church; Mrs. Lillian Niwagaba (Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education from Dallas); the Rev. Richard Menees (who has worked tirelessly to raise support for the new Library) and participating in the UCU ceremonies were Dr. Malcolm and Dolly Reid, and their son, Michael Reid (architect for the new Library and currently full-time missionary on the campus of UCU).



UP TEAM on the steps leading to main Administration Building at UCU in July 2011 with Vice Chancellor Senyonyi (left).



UP TEAM in Kabale with Bishop George Katwesigye and staff.



UCUP TRUSTEES meeting with UCU Officials at the Rainforest Lodge in October 2011.



UP TEAM inside the Administration Building at UCU in with Vice Chancellor Senyonyi.

Uganda Partners

Newsletter of
Uganda Christian University Partners
PO Box 38333
Dallas, TX 75238 USA

Tel: (214) 343-6422 Fax: (214) 341-3060
Email: info@ugandapartners.org
Website: www.ugandapartners.org

Mrs. Diane Stanton
Executive Director
dianestanton@ugandapartners.org

Mrs. Laura Corley
Administrative Assistant & Scholarship Coordinator
lauracorley@ugandapartners.org

Editors: Diane Stanton, Peggy Noll
Contributors: Laura Corley, John Senyonyi
Design: P. Michael Summer

Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi
Vice Chancellor
Uganda Christian University
P.O. Box 4
Mukono, UGANDA

Phone Numbers:
011-256-414-290828 (office)
011-256-414-290800 (FAX)

Email: info@ucu.ac.ug (office)

University Website: www.ucu.ac.ug
Uganda Studies Program: www.bestsemester.com
www.ugandastudies.org

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"It is Finished!"

Executive Director's Report:
by Diane Stanton



"The greatest note of triumph ever sounded in the ears of a startled universe was that sounded on the cross of Jesus Christ - 'it is finished' (John 19:30). That is the final word in the redemption of humankind."

- Oswald Chambers

While nothing we do can ever equal the impact of that momentous event, it was the Risen Lord himself who set his followers on a further course of action. He accomplished the work of redemption, but commissioned his disciples to carry the Good News of that accomplishment into the world. As one work was completed another was begun.

Uganda Christian University is one response of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Church of Uganda to that commission. And for nearly five years, many of us associated with UCU have longed and labored for a new library as a significant asset to the University's mission.

As you will see in the photos in this newsletter, the construction work on the Hamu Mukasa Library is now finished. The Library is in every way a beautiful, impressive and well-designed building. It will provide students for generations with an inspiring and well-planned environment for study, research, thought and collaboration. It will aid them in exploring God's wondrous world and Word.

We at Uganda Partners have implemented grants, developed a capital campaign, visited with individuals and groups to tell the story, and raised funds to help with the construction. Likewise, officials at the University have also been busy raising funds, working with the government, and of course, involved in the design and construction of this magnificent structure.

But our work is not yet over! As one work has been completed another now begins.

We still have a large portion of the construction costs to raise. And we need to fully furnish the building: more shelves, desks, tables, chairs, and additional books and resources including new computers.

I want to thank you for your prayers, your contributions and your encouragement to us for this project, and for the many other ways that you have supported our work. We are most grateful!

I also want to ask you to join us as we move into our next task and reach the point when we can all say: it is finished!

UP



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, UCU's Hamu Mukasa Library is built, but the work continues.

Hopes Restored

by Laura Corley,
Scholarship Coordinator



Recently, my children, ages 11 and 13, worked up a great cloud of complaining as we talked about our day. They moaned about going to school so early in the morning, doing homework and simple chores. To give them credit, my children appreciate what they have been given and the privileges they enjoy on most any day. But as we all do from time to time, they forgot on this particular day to find joy. In response, I followed the advice of parenting experts who say using as few words as possible is the key to getting a message across. I shared a simple quotation from a book of wisdom I read when I was a teenager which says, "I was unhappy because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." Certainly, the mood changed in the room as not only my children, but also my husband and I received these words into our hearts.

What a wonderful, clear message the author provides for us all, especially as we take time to consider our blessings. The many scholarship students you have provided for through your ongoing support of Uganda Partners need not hear this type of message to know they are blessed. In fact, I am often the recipient of thank you letters from students like the letter below from Joshua. It is my privilege to receive their gratitude on your behalf, and I am thrilled to pass along their joy to you!

Dear Mrs. Laura Corley,

Praise God.

It is through you that I was directed to when I almost lost my place at the university due to lack of fees. I remember you sent a message on the deadline day. My parents had nowhere to get the fees, because I was not the only child, but I was the only child at the university, being a first born son. I want to tell you, "UGANDA PARTNERS RESTORED MY HOPE"

May you be blessed.

I remain.

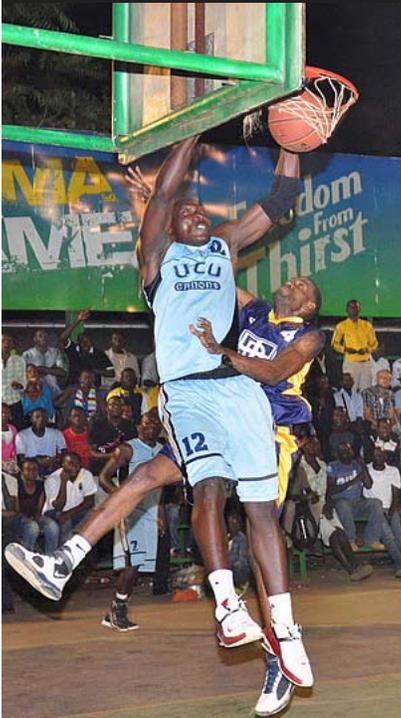
*Rukundo Joshua
Economics and Management,
Uganda Christian University*

There is a list of Scholarship Donation programs on the back page of this newsletter. Won't you prayerfully consider how you could impact a student's life, and perhaps a country's? On behalf of the many students you help each year, I say in the simplest of terms, thank you!

UP



SPORTS, whether varsity basketball or a children's football (soccer) clinic, play an important roll in the life of UCU.



THE US AMBASSADOR to Uganda, Jerry P. Lanier, addresses the UCU graduation in October 2011.

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H I G H L



STUDENTS AND FACULTY from Baylor University's School of Business in Waco, Texas visited UCU to strengthen the partnership and discuss new trends in Business education.



OPENING CEREMONY of the Hamu Mukasa Library.



STUDENTS WITH FIRST CLASS Degree awards, at the October 28, 2011 graduation.



11 I G H T S



FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS working at UCU's Bishop Barham University College in Kabale, along with Fulbright scholars visiting with the US embassy in Kampala.

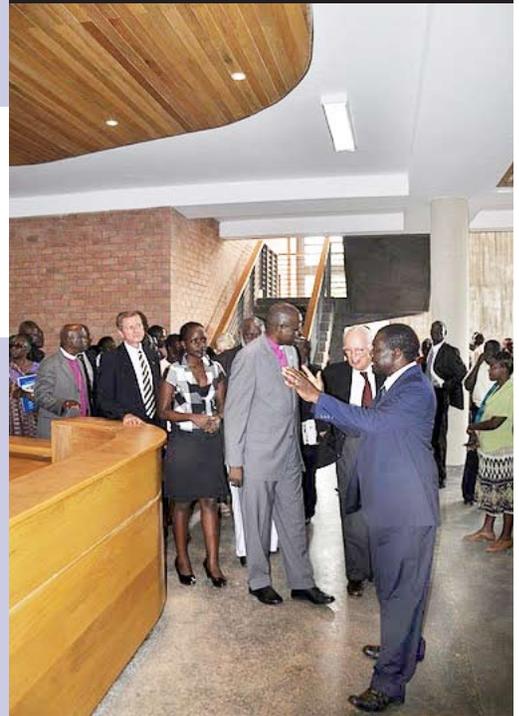


STUDENTS relaxing on the lawn in front of the Bishop Tucker main building.

ARCHBISHOP HENRY LUKE OROMBI speaks to students at a UCU worship service.



UCU LIBRARIAN Frederick Mukungu takes guests on a tour of the Hamu Mukasa Library.



GRADUATION DAY for UCU Law Students.



THE MOTHER FRIENDLY hospital initiative breaks ground.

A Father's Sacrifice for His Son

by Onyait Odeke

NAME: Dan Mugabe

COURSE: Bachelor of Agricultural Science & Entrepreneurship

Year of Study: 4th year

Looking at the bright smile in the photo to the right, it is hard to believe this young man has lived with the tremendous adversity described in his story below. It's not all bad news, thanks to his faith and the generous support of our Partners.

A Journey of Faith

As the tenth of eleven children, UCU scholarship student Dan Mugabe lived in a family where the small income they gathered out of peasant farming could not meet even daily basic needs. Nevertheless, their father's desire to invest in his children's education motivated him to sell what little he had, including their farm and several animals, to send his children to school. Dan responded to his father's sacrifice with great determination. However, watching his older siblings leave school one by one, Dan began to wonder if he would follow the same path. Dan described this time of uncertainty as "looking at his future in the mirror of his past."

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When all hope was lost, Dan turned to Jesus Christ and realized it was through Jesus that he could begin to expect a bright future.

Hope for the Hopeless

When all hope was lost, Dan turned to Jesus Christ and realized it was through Jesus that he could begin to expect a bright future. Dan was accepted into UCU on a full scholarship through Uganda Partners. He chose to pursue a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Entrepreneurship since it was through the sale of his family's small farm and animal produce that he acquired his initial formal education. At last, Dan could use the mirror of his past to see a positive reflection.

A Bright Future

Now in his final year at UCU, Dan plans to spend his career educating farmers about proper crop and animal husbandry. He sees himself as an agent for change, and his greatest desire is to begin at home by taking care of the people he loves most. As for his education, Dan is not ready to call it quits. He hopes to pursue a Masters Degree in Pathology Management.



DAN MUGABE, UCU Scholarship student.

Agriculture and Nutrition Study

UCU's lead Agricultural Scientist, Dr. Michael Masanza, is collaborating with the University of California (Davis) on a project to link "smallholder" farms with horticultural markets by merging and supplementing two agricultural development models – Farmer Field Schools (FFS) with the Participatory Market Chain Approach (PMCA). The pilot project is in Nkokonjeru, Uganda, and will be replicated to a community in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The research issues include dissemination of soil fertility management technologies. UCU will help with curriculum enhancement along with scientists at Makerere and in the government.

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Oil and Gas Leadership Institute to Equip Uganda's Leaders

Vast reservoirs of oil were recently discovered near Lake Albert in Western Uganda, and extraction and production are to begin soon. Business and government leaders made a special plea to Uganda Christian University to focus on training business, social sector, environment and legal experts to handle this area. To address this, UCU formed an Institute to oversee such activities, to provide short term training opportunities, and to oversee oil and gas related electives in business administration, social work, law and environmental science programs. UCU already partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society, which has a highly regarded curriculum for community leaders to understand and mitigate the impact of oil extraction; and the leading oil explorer has recently turned to UCU to lead development of training for regional conflict management.

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Ndizi News: Bite-Sized UCU Information

100 Year Anniversary Planning Begins

UCU is starting early to prepare for the celebration of a century of theological and higher education in Mukono. Bishop Tucker Theological College was formed in 1913 in Mukono, and produced thousands of clergy and educators over its years leading to the establishment of Uganda Christian University in 1997. UCU will host events in June and July and launch a major new project. UCU also plans to establish a museum on campus to honour the early founders of the college, the Church of Uganda and the East Africa Revival that swept through the region.



THE FIRST BUILDING at Mukono (ca 1913).

UCU Triples the Supply of Masters Educated Nurses in Uganda

One significant factor limiting health care development in Uganda is the lack of professional nurses in health care facilities. Prior to now, only three nurses in all of Uganda held a Masters degree, a qualification that is now the leading one in western health facilities. Masters nurses are needed to lead nursing education, to strengthen nursing in hospitals and to participate in strategic health reforms taking place nationwide. Building on what is now Uganda's premier Bachelors program, UCU established Uganda's only Masters program. In fact, it is only the second such program in all of East Africa. In all, seven nurses graduated in July – taking the number of Masters trained nurses from three to ten, tripling the number in a single graduation!

First Graduation of Community Health Workers

A new program at UCU is creating excitement in public health in the region. UCU established the first Bachelor in Community Health degree, which equips young men and women to work on basic hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, and health promotion issues in urban and rural communities. This project initially grew out of UCU's innovative "Health and Wholeness" course that is required of all students, and a resulting health outreach that has reached tens of thousands of homes in three districts in the nation. About 50 such students graduated in October.

Institute of Faith, Learning and Service

UCU's aim to be internationally known as a premier Christian University in Africa will be aided and guided by the new Institute of Faith, Learning and Service. This Institute is already charged with evaluating how to assure that UCU offers "A Complete Education for A Complete Person" – a theme that underscores that UCU graduates must receive a holistic education to be nurtured into physical, social, emotional, spiritual as well as academic strength. The Institute will help both administrative and academic staff integrate faith in their work, strengthen the learning environment for students, and promote service opportunities for staff and students.

The First Elevator in Mukono

The long awaited opening of the Hamu Mukasa Library has occurred, adding a monumental space for education and research to the University. A lesser known fact though is that the Library has the first "lift" (elevator) at UCU, the first in Mukono town, in fact, the first in the entire District of Mukono. It is large enough to hold 5 people, and runs smooth as silk.



Lecturers gather amidst gunfire and teargas



THE UCU CAMPUS' secure entrance gate provides welcome security.

In April, UCU held a first-ever retreat for lecturers from all 5 of its campuses at a center near Kampala. Over 130 teaching staff members were on hand to hear presentations by UCU's Education leadership as well as a missionary, Dr. Chip Kingsbury. Dr. Kingsbury heads the "Collaboration for Excellence in Teaching and Learning" at Daystar University, another excellent Christian University located in Kenya. Methods were discussed to become more "student focused". Fortunately they were safely ensconced in a facility with solid walls, because there was a politically-oriented riot that swept by the venue involving hundreds of angry people, gunfire, police helicopters and tear gas. At one point, the mob tried to enter the compound, but the police sent them away.

UP

UCU Scholarships

Uganda Partners Achievement Awards - \$500

The Uganda Partners Achievement Awards are presented each year to the thirty highest achievers who have completed at least one full year and are based upon academic success.

University Designated Scholarship - Full scholarship

The University Designated Scholarship Fund provides full scholarships for specific students, usually known by the sponsor. Current scholarship rates range from \$1650 to \$4,100 per year depending on residency and degree plan.

General Scholarship Fund - any amount

The General Scholarship Fund is used to provide assistance to the most needy of students who would not otherwise have tuition assistance. Donors can donate in any amount.

Anglican Communion Scholarships in Theology - any amount

Anglican Communion Scholarships in Theology provides students representing each of the 33 dioceses in the Church of Uganda with partial scholarships. Donors can donate in any amount.

Make checks payable and mail to:

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PO Box 38333, Dallas, TX 75238 USA**

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Bless you for your support!***

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PO Box 38333
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The University Prayer

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, make this University a real community, and may whatever is just, pure, lovable and gracious abound here. Keep for the University an unspoiled name; develop it for wider usefulness; and may we value it as an instrument for bringing glory to your name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**