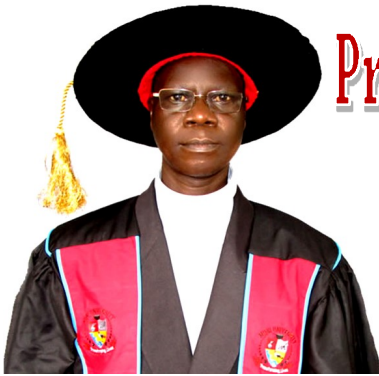


VICE CHANCELLORS' ASSEMBLY

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO.: 43

Vice Chancellors of Public Universities and their representatives in a group photo during a meeting to discuss Management Information System Services in PUSATIs, April 27th. In the middle is the Muni University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Christiane Dranzoa



Prof. Odubuker Appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor

Rev Fr. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM, has been appointed as the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration of Muni University.

As per the instrument of appointment signed by the Chancellor Muni University, Dr Eric Tiyo Sekebuga Adriko, dated March 31st 2021, the appointment is for a period of five (5) years, renewable, once with effect from the same date of signing.

“In exercise of powers conferred upon me by Section 31 (2) of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act,

2001, as amended 2006 and on the advice of the Council, Muni University, I, Eric Tiyo Sekebuga Adriko, PhD, do hereby appoint Rev.FR. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany as the Deputy Vice Chancellor-Finance and Administration, Muni University,” the instrument of appointment reads.

Prior to this appointment, Prof. Odubuker has been the founding University Secretary as well as the Accounting Officer of the University.

He has an extensive experience in the areas of educational administration including, serving as the Principal St. John Bosco PTC-Lodonga from 1996 to 2010.

Born on 6th January 1963, Prof. Odubuker holds a PhD in Education Administration, Planning

and Management from Makerere University, Kampala (MAK), Masters in Management Studies in Human Resource Management from Uganda Management Institute, Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from UMI, Diploma in Law from Law Development Centre, Kampala, Diploma in Advanced Educational Management from Uganda Martyrs University, Post Graduate Diploma in Education from MAK, Diploma in Sacred Theology and Pastoral Care from Uganda National Seminary Ggaba, Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Pontifical Urbannina University—Rome, Diploma in Philosophy and Social Sciences Psychology from St Aquinas National Seminary Katigondo, and a Bachelor of Philosophy from Pontifical Urbannina University -Rome.



INTER-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH TRAINING

Five academic staff from Muni University have been selected to participate in the second cohort of the two-year inter-university research methods training by AfriChild centre Uganda.

The first module which was centred on Child-focused research on violence against children took place from 19th April to 27th April 2021, at the e-learning centre, UCU, Mukono.

The MU team include, Polycarp Omara from the Department of educational foundation, Betty Akwongo from the Department of Biology, Paul Ecuru from the Department of Physics, Denis C. Akwar, from the Department of curriculum and media studies, and Dr. Morgan Andama, the Dean Faculty of Science as the team mentor.

The two-year training kicked off in April and is expected to wind up in 2023.

The AfriChild Centre undertakes multidisciplinary research, evidence-based knowledge building, skills development and influences policy and practice for the wellbeing of the African child.

Participating institutions in-

clude; Muni University, Uganda Christian University, Makerere University, Gulu University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Martyrs University and Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development.

On the intervention to be undertaken by Muni University to mitigate Violence Against Children (VAC), the team in their presentation made by Polycarp Omara, recognized that despite the various efforts to reduce VAC, cases of VAC still exist in all parts of the country but more rampant in West Nile given its cultural, social, political and economic diversity.

“The influx of the refugees from S. Sudan and DR Congo should even make us worry more because nothing is known about the prevalence and measures to reduce VAC in refugee educational settings in Uganda,” he said.

Muni University team proposed to explore children’s perspectives on common forms and measures to reduce violence against children in refugee educational settings in West Nile region, Uganda.

The ED AfriChild thanked all

the VCs of the partner universities and leaders of other partner institutions for the collaboration to fight the vice of VAC.



OUR PROGRAMMES

- * BSc. Information Technology
- * B. Information Systems
- * BSc. with Education (Physical)
- * BSc. with Education (Biological)
- * B. Nursing Science
- * BSc. Agriculture
- * B. Business Admin & Mgt.
- * B. Education Primary
- * Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Mgt.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Associate Prof Anguma Simon Katrini making remarks during the Internal stakeholders workshop for curriculum development.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES *Developed at* FACULTY OF TECHNOSCIENCE

Three Post graduate programmes have been developed at the Faculty of Techno science, Muni University. According to the Dean Faculty of Techno science Dr. Geoffrey Andogah, the programmes are projected to start in the next academic year 2022/2023 after accreditation by the National Council for Higher Education. He revealed this during the internal stakeholder's workshop for curriculum development at the university on 21st April 2021. Programmes include;

Master of Science in Geo-Information Science and Remote Sensing.

This program is designed to address the Government of Uganda agenda laid out in the Third National Development Plan (NDP, III) and Vision 2040 by providing high-quality, demand-driven and specialist training in GIS and Remote Sensing targeting all sectors of the economy and addressing critical challenges such as climate change, water availability, food security, natural disaster mitigation, safe and secure transport, energy and resources security, agriculture, forestry and ecosys-

tems, coasts and oceans, health issues, and national security. GIS and Remote Sensing is used in almost all sectors therefore, because of its cross-cutting nature, that targets groups for admission are Bachelor and postgraduate degree holders from: GIS, Remote Sensing, Geomatics, Oil and Gas, Information Systems, Information Technology, Mathematical Sciences, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geography, Urban planning, Tourism, Civil and Architectural sciences, Landscape Ecology, Agricultural Sciences, Physical and Biological Sciences, Public Health, Demography, Education (Geography, Physics, Mathematics).

Master of Science in Computer Science.

The program is designed to address critical needs in the areas of Software Engineers, and Computer and Network Security Specialists. Globally, ICT security breaches is causing financial losses way above the financial losses from drug trafficking. Locally in Uganda, ICT security breaches has cause financial loss of over UGX 11 billion. This justifies im-

mediate need for trained ICT security experts and software developers. The target group for this program are bachelor and postgraduate diploma students from Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology, Information Systems, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Agriculture, and other related fields.

Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

This Program designed to achieve the particular establishment objective of training technologists in the computing discipline of Artificial Intelligence in regards to the objectives stipulated in IT2017 report. The program is targeted to graduates from Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology, Information Systems, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Agriculture, and other STEM fields who want to gain expert knowledge in Artificial Intelligence.



Cancer Institute in the Offing



University Secretary, also Accounting officer, Rev Fr. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM, (left), UCI Board member Ms. Gertrude Nakigudde, and UCI Executive Director, Mr. Jackson Orem, display a copy of the University Master plan. Looking on is the University Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of academic affairs, Associate Professor, Anguma Simon Katrini

Muni University in partnership with Uganda Cancer institute (UCI) is making arrangements to establish the first cancer treatment institute in the West Nile Region.

Apart from being a treatment facility, the Institute will also be a research Centre for medical students and other stakeholders for conducting cancer-related studies.

On April 13th, a 9-person delegation from UCI led by Ms. Gertrude Nakigudde, an UCI Board member and the Chief Executive Officer of Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO) visited Muni University to among others inform the University administration that the UCI Board at its 8th

meeting held on 30th March 2021 resolved to constitute a Committee to formalize the partnership.

Muni University Vice Chancellor, Prof Christine Dranzoa on her part informed the visiting team that Muni University Council has already embraced the partnership and directed its Estates Committee to actualize the arrangement by identifying land to be allocated for establishing the Institute.

The half-day visit wound up with a guided tour of the University main campus, led by University Secretary who is also the Accounting officer, Rev Fr. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM.

VC Meets MUNISA

In a bid to iron out issues that might affect staff output, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Christine Dranzua convened a Status-Update Meeting with members of Muni University Academic Staff Association (MUNISA) at the Council Hall, April 19th, with a call for hard work and discipline.

"As academics you should work hard to innovate and publish. These days if you want to know about yourself (read publications), just go to Google scholar. You will know yourself", the VC said, drawing cheers and chuckles from the audience.

She encouraged MUNISA members to be supportive to each other by engaging in collaborative proposal writings with

colleagues within the University and with other sister-institutions. Through their chairperson, Dr Nazarius Muhimbo Ruhakanyangira, MUNISA raised a number of issues for which they requested the University administration to look into.

"Please accept our appreciation to you for initiating this very important meeting with the academic staff of Muni University. It is our hope that we will always have this kind of meeting to enable us deliberate on key matters that are aimed at aligning our different academic activities with the university's mission and vision", said Dr Nazarius.



Seed Global Health STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

Seed Global Health held its quarterly planning and learning meeting for partners that involved the five institution partners, Muni university, lira university Busitema university Makerere and Mbarara University as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health Human Resource department which is also an active partner of seed global health.

The purpose of the meeting according to the Country Director was to bring different stakeholders together to be able to learn from each other, share best practices of what they have done as part of the partnerships, they share where they've seen opportunities to scale, they see where there are opportunities for synergy and cross pollination across institutions.

Message from the Country Director Seed Global Health Dr. Bonaventure Ahaisibwe.

We have created network for people to talk informally, identify opportunities for learning for exchange collaboration but there's also experiential learning. For instance, Muni University tells a living story of efficiency. The same resources that constructed the entire university in some settings have only constructed a block. But because they (Muni) employed unique mechanisms, used resident expertise and in many other ways have managed to use the same resources to pull off this whole campus, so, that is all the experiential learning where people can see a

living testimony of transformative action as the slogan of the institution goes "Transforming Lives" which is all themed under learning.

And also, as part of this quarterly meeting we also do planning, we are two and a half years into our five-year partnership with five universities training doctors, nurses and midwives in Uganda and this is an opportunity to review at mid-point, and see did we make realistic assumptions, what strides are we making, what are the scalable achievements that we have seen. For example, muni university has been working on patient-centered care and they have identified aspects where patients need more empowerment, have translated patient charters into local languages, have disseminated them and have involved the hospital and the health care providers to recognize that patients are the true owners of care and we have seen this as a best practice. It has been shared at the Federation of Africa medical student's association regional meeting which was held in Uganda for the first time and as a result at the upcoming world health assembly we'll be launching the patient-centered care movement where students from different universities across Africa will be able to launch their own chapters in their respective institutions. Begin to prioritize patient-centered care right from training, led by the



Seed Global Health Country Director Dr. Banaventure Ahaisibwe.

students and that is in line with seed global health's mission of training a rising generation of health workers, so that is a scalable intervention. Muni University is trying it but because we've seen that as a ray of light as a transformative intervention, we are scaling it out across Africa. All these come out of the collaboration that comes out of different institutions to identify those scalable paths and then explore opportunities to scale them out in partnership of course with governments and ministries in the countries where we work.

My message for the partners is to believe in themselves, seize the opportunity that lies in front of us and make a difference. We live one life and we owe it to the next generation to make a positive difference despite all the challenges ahead of us and that's the spirit in which Seed Global Health derives its name. We are planting a seed for the next generation of health workers.

Partners expressed much gratitude to Seed Global Health for the continued support they have rendered to the various institution in many ways including human resource support, trainings, provision of medical equipment and welfare.



MOUs WITH PARTNERS

Muni University has in the month of April signed two separate Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with two prominent partners, all aimed at improving the teaching and learning experience on campus.

The first MOU was signed on April 8th between Books for Development, a US based organisation working on establishing libraries where there is no reach, and Muni University in regard to establishing Dr. Mukungu Sharing Library for the Great Courses.

The late Dr. Frederick Nathaniel Mukungu, the first ever Muni University Librarian succumbed to Covid 19 on 1st January this year.

Speaking during the signing of the MoU in the Vice Chancellors Boardroom, the President and Founder of Books for Development, Mr. Mark Cotham said that it was his 23rd trip to the West Nile to establish libraries and he has closely worked with Muni University and the late Dr. Mukungu, who he remembers as a man passionate about the library.

On top of signing the MoU on behalf of Muni University, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) in Charge of Academic Affairs, Asso-

ciate Professor Anguma Simon Katrini, received from

Mr. Cotham a total of 40 DVD recordings of the Great Courses on various subjects and disciplines. The Great Courses are a trademarked and copyrighted product of the Teaching Company of the United States.

The DVC asked Mr. Cotham to convey the gratitude of Muni University to the Great Courses teaching company, saying, the Great Courses has come timely to supplement online teaching.

The second MoU was signed on the 26th of April with Starhub Africa Limited for entrepreneurship skills development with the aim of fostering advancement in teaching, research, entrepreneurship and community engagement.

Speaking at the signing of the MOU at the Council Hall, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Associate Professor Anguma Simon Katrini who signed on the behalf of Muni University warmly welcomed the team from starhub Africa to Muni and thanked them for choosing Muni for this partnership.

He said management is in full co-



Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs Ass. Professor Anguma Simon and Miss Laura Athaus exchanging signed copies of the MOU

operation in this drive, what Starhub does resonates well with what Muni University is doing and will sure catalyse learning.

“Nationally you are addressing a very pertinent issue, Ugandan population is a young population, it comes at a cost of tooling the youth who are faced with a challenge of unemployment. I urged colleagues to take this collaboration seriously as it will close the gap of students learning without skills” he said.

Starhub will provide an extracurricular course for students of Muni University on how to start a business, which training shall be open to all faculties with a goal to enable students gain exposure, practical experience and turn their ideas in to reality and each of these students will receive a certificate at the end of the program.

Starhub organizes yearly the National Inter-University Pitch competition whereby the best students from each university compete for award of money.



MUNI UNIVERSITY

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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ALUMNI

Experience



Last month I decided to nose into the kitchen by joining an international program that has representatives from all over the world. By God's grace I joined as the only Ugandan representative amidst stiff competition. This program is sponsored by Hero's Nation which is a leadership company based in Nigeria. In this program, leaders are empowered in the fields of leadership, impact and business. The program lasts for one month. In this program I actually learnt that it will never rain on you in the desert, opportunities are like rain, you must present yourself where it rains. I believe that those without vision will always survive on the mercy of those who do. Nothing ever grows in the fertile soils of our comfort zones, since that the easiest thing to do on earth is be lazy. Move out of your comfort zone, move! At this program outstand-

ing individuals were awarded. While at the program I was elected as the leader of these international leaders, the male captain. At this program we were tasked to write books about our lives where my book "The Life Mantle" was voted the best book out of ten books written. I was also spotted as the most outstanding speaker. Surely, the mantle can never settle on an inclined plane. Everyone is born unique, talented and purposed as willed by God. Have you discovered your unique abilities, talent(s) or your purpose? If yes, what are you doing to become the change you want. If not, what efforts are you putting in to discover your true self.

Be blessed!

Akatukwasa Duncan

Former Guild President Muni University

Outreach to ARUA CORE PTC



"Mr. Omara Polycarp (left) and Colleagues from Muni University handing over brochures to the staff of Arua Core Primary Teachers College".

Mr. Polycarp Omara, the Head of Department Education in the Faculty of Education on April 9th presented a keynote address on 'Rethinking Teacher Training and Development in Uganda: Challenges and opportunities in the 21st Century during the Bishop of Madi and West Nile diocese Annual Pastoral visit to Arua Core Primary Teachers College (PTC).

He said Muni University plays a key role in the community including educational institutions, adding that through collaboration with Arua core PTC and other educational institutions in West Nile and beyond, Muni University will fulfill her mission of providing quality education, generating knowledge, promoting innovation, and community empowerment. He pledged on behalf of the Faculty of education and Muni University, commitment to work with all education stakeholders to transform lives.

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