

## MUNI UNIVERSITY NEWS LETTER JANUARY 2019 (ISSUE # 26)



## Muni University Students to present Research in Germany.

Two Students of Muni University pursuing Bachelor of Education, Ayo Polycarp and Wamboi Morine have received awards for best students' research projects and have been invited for the 2019 World Conference for uhndergraduate Students slated for 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, May 2019 in Oldenburg University in Germany.

The programme is sponsored by Second World Congress on undergraduate Research based in Germany.

According to Mr. Polycarp Omara, Assistant Lecturer Foundations of Education Muni University, the call for applications was made known by Professor Scovia Namubiru of Uganda Management Institute who circulated it, he got the information and made it known to the Students and a number of them responded to the call out of which two succeeded and are already preparing their projects. Ayo's research is on "The Concentration of Heavy Metals in Tilapia fish, Sediments and Water in River Enyau-Arua District" and Morine's research is on "Role of Termites in Nutrient Recycling and Productivity of Beans: A Case Study of Oluko Sub-County, Arua District"

and he believes all these are strong papers which will sell the University and Uganda at large.

Mr. Omara says he's happy about the success of the Students and very grateful for the support the Lecturers have been giving to them because each one of them was supposed to present details to their supervisors who were willing and they helped the Students to make it to this level, he urged them to continue in the same spirit.

He adds that he is also happy with what the Management of Muni University has always done to help the Students and the Staff, exposing them not only within Uganda but worldwide. He encouraged other Students to try next time however rigorous the exercise may be.



"On the issue of online application, this is the way to go, the world has changed and is continuing to change, we need to embrace ICT after all that is what Muni University is established for and that is the way to go in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I want to appreciate the Students once more for the zeal to continue learning and encourage everyone else to continue learning since learning takes place from birth to death, we need to take every moment as a learning moment" he concluded.

## Welcome Message from the Guild.

Dear Students and Members of the Campus Community,



On my behalf and behalf of the Guild, I am pleased to welcome you back to the University and to a new Semester, and I hope you enjoyed a restful and peaceful holiday break of one month.

Last Semester we celebrated the graduation of 92 Students who have become part of our Alumni.

Events for this Semester have already began, we had security sensitisation meetings with a team of Policemen led by the Arua District Police Commander on key security issues focusing on personal security within the university and at the residences.

This Semester, we are also planning a campus wide series of events and activities to examine the

intersection of pure Academics and other spheres of life like change of Guild Leadership through Elections, Cultural gala, Community Outreaches, Health Campaigns, Marathon run, among others.

Muni University provides an ideal forum to explore and discuss how we can attain general transformation of lives for ourselves and the Community.

Our series of activities mentioned above need your cooperation. As more events are confirmed and scheduled we will post them on our platforms. Our strengths as an Academic Community provides an enormous opportunity to foster intellectual debate and greater understanding that will help our University and Nation meet the challenges ahead. This semester is going to be a productive and an exciting one.

I wish all of you a terrific Semester, and a happy healthy and successful 2019.

Lwanga Rashid

**Guild Speaker** 

## **Executive Director AfriChild visits Muni University to seek collaboration.**



Figure 1Ms.Joyce Wanican Executive Director AFRI-CHILD During a visit at Muni University

To build capacity of the Staff in a Public Institutions in respect to child centered research, AfriChild has designed a program and selected 30 staff from 8 selected universities which

includes Muni University, Makerere University, Kyambogo University, and Gulu University among others. A survey was conducted in order to determine the level of knowledge of the Lecturers in the different aspects and components of Research and Publications. Having been helped by the survey they conducted, they designed a program to fill in this gap and asked these universities to nominate their Staff and from the nominated Lecturers, 30 were selected from all these universities and in particular Muni University has benefited through four Staff who were nominated to AfriChild, they are to undergo this training which is a three year training designed in such a way that it equips them with research methods and emphasises on the child centered research, it also equips them in Grant writing and Publication skills.

The Staff have been trained already in research methodology, grant writing and the training has taken a practical approach.

The team from Muni consisted of Lecturers Fr Solomon Ngos Pachuto, Mr. Benson Oloya, Mr. Arop Martin and the Late Sulayi Oron. These staff had to write a proposal for a researchable topic and they won a grant for Twenty Million Shillings and they are now for a face to face which begun on the 21st of January 2019. They will soon get to the field to collect data that they will analyse after which make dissemination through Publications.

AfriChild is an organisation whose interest is to build capacity of Academic Staff in Universities in research but they focus their research to the area of Children. This is because as an organisation AfriChild has realised that there is need for Government to come up with Policies regarding Children in order to take care of the wellbeing of the Child. AfriChild has discovered that most of the researches done in the country are far away from Child centered research as such it leaves the Child inadequately planned for and taken care of.

According to the University Secretary Rev. Fr. Dr. Odubuker Picho Epiphany, Muni is a young Public University and as such the University needs to build capacity of staff most especially the Academic Staff in order for them to able to carry out the 3 core mandates of the University that is Teaching and Learning, Research and Community Engagements.

"We realise that we have young staff most of whom have not encountered advanced research and such it remains an area which needs their capacity built in while we recognise the fact that they are doing very effectively in teaching but in research we need to build their capacity all the more so that they will improve on their research areas, make Publications and contribute to the body of existing knowledge, We want to express our gratitude to Afri Child for taking interest and building the capacity of our staff in the area of research and most especially child focused research which is not common in this country"

Dr.Odubuker is among the four research experts selected by AfriChild to design this program and mentor the trainees for the three year period in Research methodology, grant writing and in publication.

He revealed that following the success stories so far made, AfriChild would like to recycle the program so that more Lecturers are brought on board in order to widen the number of Lecturers who will be doing good research, writing good grants and also making publications. They intend to roll it out in such a way that while they have the Center in the Central Region, they should start another centre for the North in Muni University that is why the Executive Director Miss Joyce Wanican came to seek collaboration with Muni University, see the facilities available and what Muni University will be able to provide so that they create another center for training Lecturers in research to improve and build their capacity in that area.