



# MUNI UNIVERSITY NewsLetter

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## Graduation set for 28<sup>th</sup> August

The long-awaited Muni University 4th graduation ceremony has been slated for 28th August 2021. The Graduation had stalled since November 2020 due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of educational institutions by H.E. the President from March 2020 to October 2020, followed by second closure in June 2021.

This year's graduation ceremony is expected to be virtual in order to avert the spread of covid 19. That means attendance will strictly be by invitation.

According to the Academic Registrar Mr. Felix A Opio Okello, a total of 102 graduands shall be awarded degrees in the various disciplines.

"Something new is that our pioneer nursing students will be graduating," he says.

Muni University Vice Chancellor Prof. Christine Dranzoa has expressed her gratitude for the fact that the students will be able to graduate amidst the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

"It's our plan to release our able graduate young leaders to serve the world in IT, Education, and for the first time Health-Nurses. In the world of Covid-19, the release of additional professional nurses in the field underscores a huge statement of commitment to society. Congratulations MU 4th Graduands!" she says.



A graduand receiving her certificate from the Chancellor Muni University, Dr Eric Tiyo Sekebuga Adriko during the 3rd graduation ceremony at the University main campus, 2nd November 2019. Cheery is the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Christine Dranzoa. (File photo). The 4th graduation is scheduled for 28th August 2021.

MU Newsletter would like to join the rest in saying, "Congratulations Year 2019-2020 Graduands!"

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Wearing a **mask** shows...  
**Kindness**

# Resumption of online lectures: students share experience

Muni University resumed its online teaching and learning effective Monday, 19th July 2021 following the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. To curb the spread of the disease, HE the President of the Republic of Uganda on 18th March 2020 directed the closure of all education institutions effective 20th March 2020 with a partial resumption of some classes in October 2020. All education institutions were reopened on 1st March 2021 till 6th June when they were again ordered to close. We randomly spoke to students about their experience with online teaching;

## Faridah Shelah Namatovu-NSM, 1st year



“My online learning experience is completely a different scenario compared to what I am used to in the physical lecture rooms. Online learning environment is more flexible in terms of time and place where one can join the session from wherever they are. The learning content has been made available in short modules and is being passed on at the scheduled time by the lecturers, making it simple for

us the students to plan for our learning. This has greatly built our self-confidence and has encouraged us to take full responsibility for our learning. The best part of e-learning is that the session is always recorded and those who might miss (attendance) have a chance to listen to the recording once it is shared.

However, I prefer physical lectures to the online learning environment because with the e-learning environment there is low self-study motivation. The discipline among the students is highly affected because you find that students chat as the session goes on leading to lack of concentration hence missing out a lot from the lectures.

Again, with e-learning environment, some problems cannot be solved right away, for example, internet connection at times is slow, poor, and at times there is insufficient data volume hence students missing out a lot and getting confused as the session is being conducted. E-learning environment requires a lot of planning and concentration in order to stay focused and keep away from distractions such as noise from people around. The worst part with e-learning is, for the course units that require hands-on, it becomes difficult for the practical sessions to be conducted due to uncontrolled inaccuracy”.

## Onesmus Gumisiriza-SMP, 3rd year

“I greet you all in the name of almighty God and hoping that everyone is doing well and still safe amidst the lockdown. I also take my appreciation to Muni University Administration and Senate for coming up with such an idea of carrying out

online teaching which I think was a growing need because everything (these days) has turned to be online amidst this global pandemic. My online study experience is completely different from what am used to doing in the physical class, we are reaching out to our lecturers through chat groups, video meetings, and also document sharing. But they turn up is still low probably due to poor internet connectivity, data, poor gadgets, inaccessibility and unstable power in some regions especially those staying in villages and some other challenges as a result of lockdown which should be taken into consideration by the administration and lecturers. Thus, I request linearity in attendance.

Finally, this technology-enabled learning will help us in shaping the future of educational opportunities but it remains clear that distance learning can never replace physical classes. Best regards.”

## Laban Kulubasi-ISM, 2nd year

“The receipt of a mail from the Deputy Academic Registrar installed assurance in me that it will not be similar to the previous year and neither will it end in tears. This has redirected me to campus mode of which all work is done online, at the comfort of home and it has been so far so good since we are proceeding towards our goal.



I'm so glad that by the time of reopening we shall have covered a wider scope in the milestone of our programme despite prevailing challenges like lecturers themselves being disturbed by poor connectivity, some of which may not be solved now. Online teaching has helped a lot in re-interfacing with fellows whose cards had been switched off for a while. Great thanks for the various contributions of the concerned officials to have us focused, having in mind that the lockdown could resurface anytime given that the virus is still with us”.

# Muni VC opens World Shea Day

The Muni University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Christine Dranzoa opened this year's commemoration of World Shea Day in Uganda, with a call to protect Shea parklands under strict laws.

In a Zoom webinar hosted by the Agro Value Added Association and Extension Services (AVAAES), the Church of Uganda (Diocese of Lango), the Vitellaria Nilotica Consortium (VINICO) Ltd together with Makerere University (Department of Forestry, Biodiversity & Tourism) on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the VC said the meeting is timely in awakening national interests and efforts on shea as a potential contributor to NDP III towards industrialization and commercializing, innovations from sustainable natural resource shea tree.

Another guest speaker from Muni University, Assoc. Prof. Agroforestry and Ethnobotany specialist, Dr. Clement A. Okia of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences noted among others, that there is need to improve land and tree tenure arrangements in parklands for sustainability.



Prof. Christine Dranzoa, Vice Chancellor, Muni University



Dr. Clement Akais Okia, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Muni University

The theme for the commemoration was; *Enhancing productivity and market potential of Shea Nilotica for improved Livelihoods, take action now.*

If you would like to watch and listen to the proceedings of that day, tap on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddFnqyuF5C8>



## 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

## Mr. Mutego is the new University Bursar

Mr Mutego Ronard Hangujja has been appointed the University Bursar of Muni University. This follows the expiry of the contract of the former University Bursar, Mr. Ambayo Titus Xavier in February 2020.

After assuming office in April this year, Mr Mutego has been so much absorbed by the demands of the new office to the extent that very few University staff and students have had the opportunity to meet him in person.

The Muni University Senior Human Resource Officer Mr. Ijosiga Abdulwahid says Mr. Mutego carries a wealth of experience having previously worked as a University Bursar of Busitema University for nearly ten years, from November 2011 to June 2020.

“He, therefore, has an extensive knowledge of

Financial Management in a University setting,” adds Mr. Abdulwahid.

The 48-year-old Mr Mutego holds an MBA from Uganda Martyrs University and BBA from Makerere University.

He is a Certified Public Accountant of Uganda and a Certified Internal Auditor.

He also has a certificate in Public Finance Management from the University of Pretoria.





# MU, Wageningen UR in partnership to improve food systems in West Nile

Wageningen University & Research through Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) in the Netherlands and Muni University have agreed to formalise a partnership between the organisations to improve food systems in the West Nile region.

The Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Muni University, Prof. Robert Kajobe says the formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is in the final stages.

He says although some partnership activities have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, several consultative

meetings and workshops are ongoing through the internet-based platforms. The organisations seek to collaborate on the development of a West Nile Innovation Hub (WNIH) envisaged to support the development and facilitation of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform and Living Labs (working groups) focusing on improving the Food System in West Nile.

## White leaving Muni University as Seed Global Health sends new Seed educator

Seed Global Health, has brought in a new Seed Educator to join the partnership with Muni University and Arua Regional Referral Hospital.

According to Ms. Mary Allen, the Head of Department of Nursing, Ms Abbey Roepke is replacing Ms Adrienne White who has been the Seed educator attached to Muni University since January last year. Ms White will be going back to US where she will continue with other assignments under the Seed Global Health partnerships.

A luncheon was organized on 30th July 2021 at the Desert Breeze Hotel in Arua city to bid farewell to Ms. White who has been a seed educator, to honour her for her services and also to welcome Ms Abbey Roepke.

Seed Global Health is a US-based organization working through partnerships to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workforce in several countries in Africa by working directly with hospitals and Universities.

It joined a 5-year partnership with Muni University and Arua Regional Referral Hospital to enable students of the Faculty of Health Science, Department of Nursing and other clinical staff to deliver quality maternal neonatal and child health and emergency care by 2025.

The DVC in charge of Finance and Administration, Rev Fr. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM appreciated Ms. White for her tremendous contributions to the university and Arua Regional Referral Hospital under the Seed Global Health, Muni University and ARRH partnership.

The seed educators provide support through trainings, outreach and boost the teaching at the university to enable



The DVC Finance Rev Fr. Professor Odubuker Picho Epiphany, MIDM handing over a token of appreciation to Ms Adrienne White during a farewell and welcome Luncheon on Friday, 30th July 2021 at the Desert Breeze Hotel, Arua.

students to acquire specialized skills.

In her remarks, Ms. White said she likes West Nile and Muni University in particular because the people are so friendly and so welcoming. "The Faculty (of Health Science) accepted me and I became part of the Department of Nursing. The Vice Chancellor is a friendly and dynamic person and we became friends instantly. The food, I like *Enyasa* (chuckles!), everything is pasted...anyway I had my food and I sometimes cooked it" she said

She said much as she was excited about teaching at the university, she was also very keen to learn from the community about their ways of life.

"I like the tenacity and resilience of the people of West Nile," she said.

## General prayers

The Muni University General Prayers were held on 16th July through Zoom and attended by several University staff and students.

According to the University Champlain, Rev Can Patrick Acema, the prayers were envisioned to cover the Muni University community as we began the new semester and

go through the lockdown period.

The topic for the prayers was; God is on Our side, Isaiah 43:1-11.

A call to practice faithfulness, compassion and leadership were made by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Christine Dranzoa.



## Community outreach

Muni University Nursing Officer, Ms. Drakuru Tarsila handing over cash and other items to Ms. Opiru Molly a mother of triplets ( 2 girls and a boy) at her residence in Onzivu village, a stone's-throw away from Muni University main campus, 5th July. The university staff mobilized the resources including sugar, soap, posho and baby clothes to support Molly during these difficult times of Covid 19.

## Academic staff obtain doctoral qualifications



In the last 2 years, a good number of Muni University academic staff successfully completed their PhD programs in various fields and have been awarded doctoral qualifications by various Universities around the globe.

Muni University's Senior Human Resource Officer, Mr. Ijosiga Abdulwahid says the newly acquired skills by the academic staff who have completed their PhD programs are expected to improve the quality of teaching and learning, research and innovations in the University.

"However, there is need for more focus on gender considerations, especially of women, including building their confidence to seize opportunities for capacity building," he says.

Here we bring you a summary of the recent awardees so that you can join us in saying congratulations!

Name of Awardee	Award	Awarding institution	Year of Award
Jalira Namugaya	PhD in Mathematics	University of Nairobi	2020
Nkwesiga Lawrence	PhD in Information Communication Technology	Cameroon University of Information Communication Technology	2019
Onyilo Francis	PhD in Agriculture	Makerere University	2020
Nagaaba Nicksoon	PhD in Business Administration	Mbarara University of Science and Technology	2021
Lugolole Robert	PhD in Physics	Makerere University	2021
Edemacu Kennedy	PhD in Computer Science	Sangmuyung University	2021
Senyange Bob	PhD in Applied Mathematics	University of Cape town	2021

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