



EDITORIAL: REFLECTION

Chancellor College BULLETIN

A story is told of a particularly blessed matriarch. So favored was this woman that she produced a multitude of offspring, fed them, bathed them, clothed them, raised them and sent them out into the world to carve their own destinies. In time, her progeny created a nation. The climax of the story occurs when one of her offspring, now grown, returned and said, “Mother of mine, in spite of your undoubted record as a parent, the time has come when I must determine if your parenting has been in good faith.”

The story has been told before, and will be told in years to come.

Two months can indeed feel as long as a year, as

evidenced by the many events that occurred since our last publication. Chancellor College is a very busy place, particularly so when school is in session.

One of the main events that has occurred on campus concerns the discourse around accreditation of the University of Malawi, its constituent colleges and the programmes offered within. This is a matter that has raised debate, which is not concluded even as we write this. The college staff are a proud people, but could this pride perhaps be our undoing?

It has not all been bleak. One of the most exciting moments in the last two months is the initiative by the brilliant

folks at the FPA, who organized a Grand Music Bonanza for the sole purpose of raising funds for needy students at Chancellor College. This event featured many exciting performances.

Furthermore, we continue to be proud of the community service endeavors by the college community, both staff and students. This is in the form of offering free professional counselling services to various parts of Zomba district, planting trees, to cleaning up refuse in the community. Let it not be said that Chancellor College is an closed, reclusive community.

We may be accused of many things, but selfishness is not one of them.



Faith Mussa, accompanied by backing vocalists, performing at the Grand Music Bonanza

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Highlights

NCHE debate remains inconclusive

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A trip down Malawi’s pre-historical age

HER MALAWI: a tale of female empowerment

Shemu Joyah: Discussing Malawian filmmaking

ADMINISTRATION

AfDB-HEST Site handover

It is always pleasant news when there are plans to construct additional infrastructure at Chancellor College. This is part of what is contained in the African Development Bank funded Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) project being implemented at various higher learning institutions.

On the 23rd of March, 2016, there was a function during which the sites at which these projects will be constructed were handed over to the contractor, SR Nicholas.

Present at the function were representatives from the Education Infrastructure Management Unit, the HEST National

Coordination Office, Chancellor College, and Joadah Consult (The Design and Supervision Consultants).

The plans are to construct a science laboratory and ICT

Business Centre, in addition to rehabilitating the sewerage system.

According to Dr. J. Mwatseteza, who has been involved in the project from the start, "these buildings will help

to release pressure on space for science and also ensure quality ICT service from a purposefully built complex".

The sites are already being cleared for construction.



Chancellor College officials (left) handing over construction plans to the contractor.

SSDI-Chanco partnership to benefit BACOM students

Support for Service Delivery Integration (Communication) (SSDI) is a Johns Hopkins project funded by USAID. SSDI has been in partnership with Chancellor College for the past three years. It

is a project that supports social and behavioral change in various parts of the country.

Part of the work that SSDI committed to assisting included putting up a studio for audio-

visual recording at Chanco Radio. This equipment will enhance the practical side of study for students in the Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies (BACOM) programme at the college. In this regard, the organization donated various kinds of equipment, including video cameras and sound mixers.

On 18th March, 2016, representatives from SSDI visited Chanco Radio, as a way of checking the progress of work on the studio. The visit was also an opportunity to discuss additional areas for collaboration between the two institutions.

Speaking during the visit, the SSDI Communications Deputy Chief of Party, Dr. Alinafe Kasiya, expressed satisfaction that the equipment that had been donated was already being used by students.

On his part, the Principal of the College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, pointed out that the college was grateful for the equipment. "The donation of this equipment is indeed timely, as it helps to bridge the disjuncture between theory and practice for our communication students. Due to lack of equipment, we have always had problems translating theoretical aspects into practice."

SSDI also supports Chancellor College in other ways. They provide an internship program in Health Communication for BACOM students. They also support guest lecturers in different fields willing to teach in the programme. The project has also provided training in leadership and strategic health communication for lecturers at Chancellor College.



An employee at Chanco Radio displays how the equipment operates

ADMINISTRATION

Chanco hosts EU-Malawi 40 years Celebrations

On 20th April, 2016, a ceremony was held to celebrate 40 years of good relations between Malawi and the European Union. The ceremony started with a big walk from the old parliament building all the way to the Great Hall at Chancellor College.

The colorful ceremony attracted various dignitaries, including the Minister of Education Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano, and the Head of EU Delegation to Malawi, Marchel Gerrmann.

In his speech, Gerrmann emphasized the European Union's commitment to assisting Malawi. He pointed out that the only change would be that the EU was



A section of participants in the big walk

now looking forward to providing aid in the agricultural sector. Commenting on the special day, he ended with these words: "Today is a celebration, a chance to take stock and a chance to look forward into the future."

Taking his turn, the Minister of Education, Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano, expressed his gratitude for the assistance that the EU has been rendering to the country. The new infrastructure of the Faculty of Law was particularly singled out as

a project successfully achieved with assistance from the EU. He reiterated the message that such pledges of assistance should be accompanied by well-documented displays of accountability by all Malawians.

NCHE accreditation debate remains inconclusive at Chancellor College

Since the establishment of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), there has been a cloud of uncertainty regarding its role in relation to the University of Malawi, which has been in existence for a much longer period.

On the 10th of March, 2016, the University of Malawi Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Al. Mtenje, paid a visit to Chancellor College in order to clarify some of the existing grey areas.

In his presentation, the Pro-VC informed the gathering that the University of Malawi had committed itself to have all of its programmes accredited. For this exercise, the personnel of NCHE will visit all

campuses and scrutinize various existing documents, as well as holding interviews with staff, and checking infrastructure—among other things—in order to ascertain that Chancellor College meets international standards of academic recognition.

Unsurprisingly, the presentation attracted much debate. The audience queried why the University had agreed to the accreditation exercise despite the glaring problems crippling operations, including an unfavorable staff-student ratio and insufficient infrastructure. Staff also questioned the expertise of NCHE in accrediting a variety of programmes in the university. Some

members expressed doubt that the exercise would benefit the college in any way.

Nevertheless, the Pro-VC insisted that the accreditation exercise would be of the benefit of the University, and stressed that failure to

comply might be construed as defiance of legal requirements.

The meeting ended inconclusively, as the majority of staff at the gathering conveyed Chancellor College's wish not to be accredited by NCHE.



The Pro-VC explains why accreditation is good for the University of Malawi

SCIENCE

Computer Science holds NHIS2 Workshop

From 7th to 16th March, the Computer Science department hosted the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) Advanced Customization and Development workshop on Chancellor College campus.

The workshop targeted software development professionals doing research or working in the area of health information systems development. The workshop attracted participants from Malawi,

Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zambia.

DHIS2 is an integrated open-source software platform that provides functionality for data capture, validation, and visualization (GIS, charts and pivot tables), through the web and over mobile applications linked to a web-server.

According to the Head of Computer Science

department, Dr. Tiwonge Manda, "the workshop was highly interactive, with 25% theory and 75% practice". Participants were also given the chance to make presentations on topics they are familiar with.

The Computer Science department at Chancellor College is unique due to their experience with DHIS2. As the head of Department explains, "we in the Computer Science Department have extensive experience in software development and working with DHIS2. Over the past eight years, we have supported the Ministry of Health in customizing and implementing the national DHIS2 Health Management Information System."

The hope is to develop capacity for DHIS2 software customization and app development, to address local and regional software development needs, in support of program monitoring and evaluation. There are plans to continue with such workshops in the future.



NHIS2 Workshop participants pose for a group picture

Faculty of Science building construction at advanced stage

One of the most visible building projects on campus is the construction of offices belonging to the Faculty of Science. This is a block which is intended to house the office of the Dean of Science, his deputy, and the faculty secretary. It will also contain a faculty boardroom which may be used by faculty members for a variety of meetings.

The building is being funded by the faculty, from departments' income generating activities. It is conveniently located

close to most of the departments in the faculty. The college has assisted through the provision of transport and artisans.

According to the Dean of Science, Dr. Levis Eneya, the current construction is merely the first step in realizing the dream of a Faculty of Science Complex.

This building will make the operations of the faculty more efficient since, for the first time, the Dean, Deputy Dean and Secretary will be housed under one roof, making it easy to consult

and plan. Furthermore, in the future, it will be easier for elected Deans or Deputy Deans to follow

up issues that their predecessors had begun.

Construction is due to be completed in August 2016.



The building under construction

LAW

Students in environmental cleanup

Community service does not get better than when students decide to get their hands dirty through cleaning up of one of the most rancid refuse areas in Zomba, the dumping site just behind one of the privately owned student residences.

On the morning of 30th April, 2016, the Chikanda and Chancellor College communities woke up to loud sounds of music being played at the dumping site. Around the site were gathered a number of students from various faculties, who had joined hands to clear the dumping site, which had become an eyesore, an assault on the nostrils, and a potential health hazard, especially given its proximity to the residential area and the river close by.

The Director of LEAD-

SEA, Professor Sosten Chiotha, made a speech at the function, in which he said “the idea is to involve students in environmental management issues, as they are the ones who can bring about mindset change.”

Chiotha further

explained that so far the group has had a number of activities, including tree planting in Blantyre and Piriimiti.

The work was mainly done by students from the faculties of Law, Education and Science. Present at the function were a number of

notables in Zomba, including the Principal of Chancellor College, Prof. Richard Tambulasi, the CBO clerk Mrs Kalolo, the representative of the Councilor for Likangala Ward, Mr Lex Mulenga, Chief Chikanda and her subjects, and personnel from the Police service.



Students join hands with the Chikanda community in cleaning the environment

Chanco beautifies Jali

On Saturday 2nd April 2016, Chancellor College students embarked on a tree planting exercise at Piriimiti Parish in Jali area. The activity was organized by the Environmental Justice Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty. This Environmental Justice Clinic is part of the Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty which aims promoting the rights of people. More than 30 people participated in this event. These were the members of the Environmental Justice Clinic and the Green Campus Initiative, which is also a Chancellor College students' organization that deals

with environmental issues. The students were led by Bernadetta Zimba and Abson Chitukula who are the leading members of the Environmental Justice Clinic.

At this tree planting event, about 1,000 seedlings were planted. These seedlings were made available to the students from LEAD-SEA through Professor Sosten



Students collecting tree seedlings

Chiotha who also works closely with both the Environmental Justice Clinic as well as the Green Campus Initiative. Also present at the tree planting event were Mr Chikosa Banda, a senior lecturer at the Law Faculty who is also the coordinator of the Environmental Justice, and the parish Priest of Piriimiti Catholic Parish. Both of them greatly appreciated the concern and dedication of the students as regards environmental issues. They encouraged the students to continue with this kind of work for the sake of the future generations bearing in mind the environmental hazards which the earth is currently facing.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

A glimpse of Nyasaland: history students on study trip

Most often at Chancellor College, lecturers will go the extra mile in their commitment to their teaching duties. On the weekend of 23rd and 24th April, the History department organized a trip for its 3rd and 4th year students to visit heritage sites in Dedza and Mangochi. The trip involved students who enrolled for the History of Malawi module.

On the trip, the students were accompanied by the head of History Department, Dr. George Jawali, and his fellow lecturer, Ms. Dinah Katonda.

The trip was organized as a way of getting the students to closely appreciate some of the

historical details and artifacts that are often discussed in their lectures. The students were also advised to take advantage of the trip as a way of sourcing material for a pending assignment.

For instance, at Kungoni Centre of Culture and Art, at Mua

Mission in Dedza district, the students had close acquaintance with artifacts that display various aspects of Maravi, Ngonde, Ngoni and Yao cultures, amongst others.

The second phase of the trip took the students to Cape Maclear, registered as a world

heritage site. Here, with the advantage of visible monuments and testimonies from the local inhabitants, lecturers and students discussed the slave trade, the impact of the missionaries and the pre-historic economy of Malawi.



Debate on the sands of Cape Maclear: Ms. Dinah Katonda stresses a point, while the Head of History department looks on

HER MALAWI: Empowering secondary school girls

Examples of community service abound at Chancellor College. One of the most recent is HER MALAWI, an initiative made up of a number of young female lecturers from various departments, who have been conducting a number of self-empowerment talks to girls in secondary schools.

The group comprises Ms Chilungamo M'manga (Psychology), Ms Wezi Mhango (Psychology), Ms Fiskani Kondowe (Mathematics), Ms Halima Twabi (Mathematics), Ms Esmie Mposa (Chemistry), Ms Thandiwe Alide

(Chemistry), Ms Tayamika Kamwanja (Economics), and Ms Chikondi Chisamile (Classics).

The most recent event was a trip to Chinamwali Girls Private Secondary School, on 22nd April,

2016, where they conducted talks on various issues, including Self Relationships Concept, Academic excellence and finally Career Guidance. Their audience included about 60 female students. The

plan is to visit as many schools as possible within Zomba district, before moving to other districts, where they have also been invited.

The HER MALAWI initiative is meant to achieve a number of objectives, including creating networks among Chancellor College female members of staff, collaborating to write research papers, sharing advice on career development, and reaching out to girls in order to inspire them. The group also aims to provide needy female students with resources whenever possible.

The students at the school were inspired by the talks and hoped that the group would return soon to address various other topics of importance.



Discussing relationships: Ms Wezi Mhango talking to the students

HUMANITIES

Filmmaker Joyah discusses Malawian film

Shemu Joyah is arguably the best known name in Malawian filmmaking, thanks to the success of his two films, *Seasons of a Life* and *The Last Fishing Boat*.

It is for this reason that, on 31st March, 2016, the English Department invited the filmmaker to the campus for a discussion on his own films and the Malawian film industry in general.

The event was held in the Moot Court at the Law faculty, where Joyah engaged in an intense and revelatory discussion with the Head of the English Department, Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira. The talk was attended by staff and students from various departments at the college.

In the discussion, Joyah, who is also a graduate of the University of Malawi, outlined the history which led him to produce his own films.

He also observed that one of the persistent problems dogging filmmaking efforts in the country is lack of professional training. He

observed that this is one of the reasons why Malawian films are often passed over at international award ceremonies.

"Filmmaking is storytelling. It reaches deep into our souls. Filmmaking brings to life something that should

have been on the page", observed Joyah.

He also bemoaned the fact that there are no distribution mechanisms in Malawi, because people have not embraced the film industry as a business.

In the discussion, Dr. Ngwira engaged Joyah on a number of issues pertaining to his films, including the absence of overt political themes, the

question of language preference, the symbolism of various features in his films, and the portrayal of women.

In response to the last topic, Joyah surprised the audience by readily admitting to being a feminist, as part of his ideal of supporting the underdog in the world. He argued that the woman's role is often downplayed in society.



Joyah interacts with students on the finer points of filmmaking

ANGLIA Book Distributors donates to English Department



Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira receiving the donation from the Anglia Book Distributors representative, Ms. Natasha Chikowi

If there is one department at the college whose work is defined by the availability of written texts, it is the English department.

Over the past couple of years, lecturers in the department have faced the ever-rising challenge posed by the unavailability of recently published literature books at Chancellor College, especially with the reality that the college library rarely stocks such new books. Lecturers often have to draw on their personal collections as a way of exposing students to new material.

With this background,

it was heartwarming when Anglia Book Distributors, which is housed on the ground floor of the library, came forward with a donation of African literature books (prose and poetry).

Receiving the books, the Head of the English Department, Dr. Emmanuel Ngwira, thanked the bookstore for the timely gesture. He appealed to other organizations and alumni to do the same, pointing out that this falls squarely into the Department's Donate-a-Book campaign, as a way of creating a departmental resource of books.

HUMANITIES

Scholarship Fund off to a melodious start

Following the increasing demand for financial support by needy students, the Department of Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) at Chancellor College plans to establish a Scholarship fund called Art for Change Scholarship Fund (Afcaf).

The Department expects that the Fund will initially target 10 students per year belonging to Faculty of Humanities at Chancellor College. Each student will receive upon qualification a total of K375,000.00 per year as follows: K275,000.00 tuition fees and MK100,000.00 stationery allowances split between the two semesters. The criteria for selecting the students shall include: evidence for financial need, academic merit and character consideration.

The FPA Department decided to respond to the growing need of self-sponsored needy students. Dr Grant Nthala, a member of staff in the department, feels the plight of these "brilliant minds whose academic future remains

bleak as they are not assured of their continued stay on campus since they may not even source additional money to sponsor their education."

As part of activities to mobilize seed money for the Fund, the Department held a music concert on 9th April, 2016, in the Great Hall at Chancellor College.

In her remarks during the event, the College Registrar Mrs Mary Wasiri, thanked the FPA department for the initiative. She then appealed to well-wishers to support the event because it is for a good cause. According to the Fund's proposal, well-wishers can support the Fund by attending and contributing towards fundraising events, making cash donations to the Fund, sponsoring any number of identified student beneficiaries in part or in full, or by providing short term or long term job opportunities to the student beneficiaries.

The deputy Dean of Humanities, Dr Japhet Bakuwa highlighted that

currently, there are over 155 students who are in need of financial support as of semester one of 2015/2016 Academic year.

Faith Mussa, who was among the guest artists expressed his joy for participating in the concert. He particularly urged former UNIMA government-sponsored students to pay back the loans so that the current generation can also benefit from the same.

A variety of activities spiced up the concert, including art works that were sold on auction, and music performances from various artists, some of which drove people to the dance floor, displaying a variety of astounding dance steps.

According to Mr Andrew Faria, who chaired the event organizing committee, the function was deemed a success, as it attracted support from the corporate world, government officials and individuals of good will. Looking into the future, the FPA department plans to organize similar events. All the resources to be generated from the fund will be fully directed towards student fees and upkeep.

MA (Lit) Student wins Brian O'Connell Scholarship



Mr. Rodney Likaku

Mr. Rodney Likaku, a Masters in English Literature student and demonstrator in the English Department, recently won the Brian O'Connell partial scholarship to conduct research at Malmo University in Sweden.

The scholarship is offered by the Southern African-Nordic Centre for young scholars in Southern African institutions of higher learning. Successful applicants are required to spend 3-5 months at a member institution in order to engage in research activities that will support the completion of their Masters degree and help them grow academically. This is one of the English department's continued efforts to encourage partnership with other academic institutions globally.

Under the scholarship, Mr Likaku is due to travel to Sweden on a research exchange program in August, 2016. His research explores meta-fictional use of language as style and method in deploying overtly political themes in postmodernist narratives. We wish him success.



Dr. Chomora Mikeka, in his role as auctioneer, calling for bids for one of the paintings

HUMANITIES

‘Natural’ tapestries: exhibition in the FPA department

From 29th February to 5th March, 2016, the Fine and Performing Arts section organized an art exhibition entitled “Realities”. The main artist exhibiting was Michael Chilemba, supported by Desderio Galagade and Steve Chanyenga.

All the artists are alumni of Chancellor College. The majority of the artworks were paintings, but the show was also spiced with two items of sculpture.

Although the paintings featured a variety of themes, one of the

dominant factors that stood out was the emphasis on nature, in all its admirable as well as terrifying beauty. In this regard, through utter coincidence, all of the artists appear to feature flora in one way or the other. The dominance of nature is emphasized by the fact that there is minimal human intrusion in the images. According to the artists, all three art styles – expressionism, conceptual art, and realism – featured during the exhibition takes their cue from nature.

Upon visiting the gallery, the Dean of Humanities, Associate Professor Syned Mthatiwa, was full of praise for the artists: “This exhibition gives us the confidence to believe



Desderio Galagade explaining the concept behind one of his paintings

that our students are getting the necessary training and guidance in artistic expression, the sort of training that will

make them the great artists this country needs, artists that can compete on the international scene.”

Remembering Steve Chimombo: Writers’ Workshop holds memorial show

Chancellor College Writers’ Workshop organized a memorial show on 23rd April, 2016 to honour the late Professor Steve Chimombo. Chimombo, who died on December 11, 2015, was an academic, writer and publisher.

Artists who performed at the function included literary critic Alfred Msadala, poets Zondiwe Mbano and Bededicto Wokomaatani Malunga, dramatist Mufunanji Magalasi, and Chimombo’s son,

Zangaphee. Students from Chancellor College, the Polytechnic and the Catholic University also performed at the function.

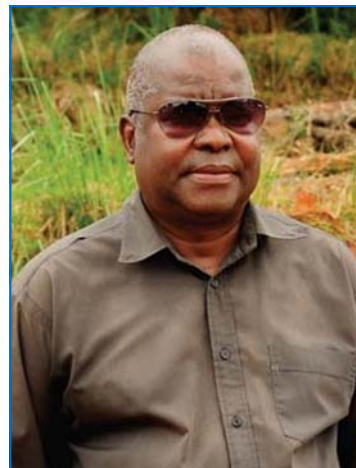
One of the most poignant performances was by visual artist Ken Namalomba. Namalomba, painted on stage as Malunga read the creation story from the book of Genesis. The initial impression was that Namalomba was painting the creation story itself, but, within minutes, it transpired

that he had actually been painting a couple. The painting was given to the Chimombo family.

Dr. Damazio Mfun-

Mwanjakwa, representing the English Department, spoke about how, as Chimombo’s student, he had been impressed by the Professor’s structured lectures. He pointed out that Chimombo’s memory would live on through the works that he had written, and reminded academics that Chimombo was actually one of the first to come up with a theory about Malawian literature.

“As scholars, we need to continue such research,” he urged, brandishing Chimombo’s book, *Malawian Oral Literature*. “Let’s not forget what our pioneers have done in promoting scholarship.”



The late Prof. Steve Chimombo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The past two months were not without their moments of joy, such as when the family of Mr Herman Mvula received a blessed gift in the form of a newborn son, Israel

Mvula. We welcome this newborn to the world of academia.

Sadly, over this period, we have also had our moments of sadness. Among these is the

passing of Mrs Thandi Sabola’s father. May he rest in eternal peace. We also join Dr Meya Kalindekafe in mourning her sister. May the good Lord continue comforting

her. Our prayers also go to Ms E. Kotokwa, on the loss of her mother. Only God can offer you some measure of comfort in this time of difficulty.

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