

Uganda Christian University Partners

"Thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-5



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Beauty and the Best!

by Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi,
Vice Chancellor

I bring you all warm greetings from Uganda Christian University in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

I am proud to announce that UCU was published to be among the 50 most beautiful Christian campuses in the world, and need I say, the only university from Africa!



"Uganda Christian University, set in the heart of the beautiful continent of Africa, is arguably one of the most beautiful college campuses throughout not only Africa, but the world...The college is surrounded by both natural and man-made beauty. Rich in history, the campus of UCU is a great site." (Published by Christian Universities Online April 2014).

In addition, a recent article published in the Ugandan leading daily New Vision newspaper stated that "Ugandan universities have plunged in the latest ranking of higher institutions of learning in Africa.

Nevertheless, some Ugandan Universities have also improved. Uganda Christian University (UCU) is now ranked 128th, up from 179." That is a 30% increase in its rank according to Webometrics, an organization that monitors university performance worldwide

This year is also a year of celebration. Last year UCU celebrated 100 years of her existence, largely because of the inherited history of the Bishop Tucker Theological College, which began on this campus in 1913. It became a University in 1997. It became the first private University in the history of Uganda to be granted a Charter (full accreditation) by the Government on May 20, 2004. This year marks Ten (10) years of Chartering. We have planned to celebrate this with the launch of a book telling the story of those years on June 27, 2014. We are thankful to God for His unceasing blessings toward the growth of the University.

Finally, I want to thank all partners who have stood with us over the years to continue the phenomenal growth of Uganda Christian University. The University is now famous in Uganda. We are bold to call it a "best" but it is a chosen destination for many outstanding students, and many employers have commended UCU for her excellent product.



**UCU's 2014
Jessup Moot
Court Law
team
won three
national
competitions in
Washington, DC...
well done team!**



On her knees in the fall of 2013, the frail woman, Nabatamzi Ephrange, reaches out her thin hand and says “Thank you...God bless you.” These are the few English words she knows. There are tears in her eyes as she kneels next to her daughter, Nakiku Damalie, age 21, who is completing her final year before attaining her baccalaureate degree from Uganda Christian University. Majoring in Community Development, Damalie is scheduled to graduate in October 2014.

Before 2011, Damalie’s future was one similar to her mother’s—living in a small structure without running water and electricity, tending to crops and, when available, cleaning houses. With a 4.2 (of a possible 5.0) grade-point average, Damalie is studying hard while thinking of a future job relating to her passion to help victims of severe poverty.

In the fall of 2012, she was among a group of ten students interning with the Red Cross. She was assigned five homes a day, five days a week, to help undereducated and impoverished people find services and solutions to their

needs. At the end of each week, she prepared a detailed chart to report all twenty-five of her visits in hopes that the Red Cross would provide funding to some of her clients.

While realizing the job market is thin, Damalie is proactive in taking extra classes in business planning and is hopeful that the American investment in her education will turn poverty around for her family.

Like her friend, Damalie, Jamirah loves to sing and dance. When not in church, she, like most young women her age in Uganda, is quiet and shy. Her education at UCU is giving her more confidence to exhibit assertiveness. With the help American sponsors, she is finishing up her first year of a three-year program leading to a business degree at the university. She admits her first trimester was a bit of a struggle—mostly because she had been out of school for two years before starting her studies. Her second trimester was much better. While too early to have definite employment plans, she has expanded her initial dream to have her own business with women’s items to

the possibility of someday being a university lecturer. —Patty Huston-Holm, Mike Holm

3 Ways to Help a Student Today

- 1 Pray** for UCU and the students, faculty and staff who work tirelessly each day for Uganda’s future.
- 2 Give** a donation by check or credit card via the enclosed envelope, or by Paypal via our website.
- 3 Go** to Uganda and see this amazing university for yourself!

Make **Today** the day to impact a student’s life by supporting one of the following scholarship funds.

Full Year Scholarship: \$2,500

Half Year Scholarship: \$1,250

Achievement Award: \$500

General Scholarship: any size donation

Please contact Mrs. Laura Corley, Scholarship Coordinator, for more information.

Introducing Mark Bartels Uganda Partner's New Executive Director

We are pleased to introduce Mark Bartels, Uganda Partner's newly elected Executive Director. In 2004, Mark and Abby Bartels moved from California to Uganda to start the Uganda Studies Program, a study abroad program offered in partnership with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities and Uganda Christian University. Since its beginning in 2004, the Uganda Studies Program has received more than 600 students from more than 90 different universities. During his time directing the Uganda Studies Program, Mark has enjoyed teaching and mentoring Christian college students, but also orienting and guiding them through cross-cultural immersion. This role has also included extensive study and travel around Uganda and Rwanda.

During his ten years at Uganda Christian University, Mark also became integrated into different aspects of the University community. As director of the Uganda Studies Program, he served on the University Senate. In addition, served on Physical Infrastructure and Preservation Committee and as the Chairman of the Honours College Committee.

Mark has seen the University grow and develop in significant ways over the last ten years and is excited to join Uganda Christian University Partners to continue its work of supporting and raising awareness for UCU. While in Uganda, Mark and Abby have also seen their family grow from a young married couple to a family of five, one ten year old boy and two daughters, six and five years old.



Mark graduated from Wheaton College with a B.A. in political science and Christian education. He immediately sought and earned an M.A. in Educational Ministries. Throughout his time at Wheaton, both his coursework and free time often focused on experiential education in



the wilderness setting. He has used these degrees in various capacities including leading a class on community and spiritual disciplines class that culminated in hiking Mt. Elgon.

Godspeed, Diane! by Mr. Sherman White

It was in 2002 at one of the early Uganda Christian University Partners Board meetings that I first met Diane Stanton. It soon became very apparent to me and the other Board members that she had a great heart for the Ugandan people and the newly christened Uganda Christian University. The UCUP Board elected her Executive Director.

Diane's devotion to Christ, her family and UCU has been an inspiration to me over the past twelve years. She brought many years of professional experience to UCUP and led the UCU-UCUP partnership with great success. UCUP is a significant partner in the miracle that is UCU today. Student enrollment has grown from 800 in 2002 to over 12,000 today. UCU's academic level ranks among the best in Africa. There are now five campuses. The main campus in Mukono has become



one of the most accommodating and beautiful on the continent. UCUP participated in the funding of a number of the major campus buildings. Many students have been the recipients of UCUP scholarships. Students, staff and faculty revere Diane as they have come to know her through the many trips leading groups from the United States to the UCU campus. She has engaged many of the students personally.

So we now come to a time of reflection. Diane has sensed from the Lord that her time as Executive Director of Uganda Christian University Partners is ending and she will join her husband The Right Reverend James Stanton, Bishop of Dallas, as he retires from office later this spring. Diane will retire at the end of June, 2014. She will continue her love and support for UCUP, UCU and the people of Uganda. Rather than "Goodbye" I say Godspeed as I and many others watch Diane move into a new phase of life and ministry.



The UCUP Board has elected Mark Bartels as the new Executive Director. Mark is introduced in this newsletter.



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**If you have enjoyed this
newsletter, please pass it on to
a friend or post it at church.**

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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.

Mission Uganda 2014

by Mrs. Diane Stanton

Our small team of eleven members left late March for UCU's main campus in Mukono and the affiliated Kabale campus, as well as the new Uganda Nursing School Bwindi (affiliated with UCU and located near the rainforest habitat of the mountain gorilla and former home of the Batwa pygmies). Our Board President, Sherman White, and my assistant, Laura Corley were part of our team; other members were from the Dallas area and all first time visitors to Uganda. Our time at UCU was both fruitful and enjoyable especially because of the country's greatest resource - its people! The progress at UCU is stunning – both in Mukono and its affiliated campus in Kabale. It was encouraging to see the improvement in the roads and new industries popping up.



The group photo on the front page header is our team with several UCU officials at the Mukono campus. The photo above is of our first female Batwa pygmy student, Sylvia, with retired Archbishop Nkoyoyo – the Archbishop who had the vision to launch Bishop Tucker Theological College into a full university – UCU! He has been a great friend over the years and he is so pleased that UCU has become the premier private university in Uganda. I would encourage you to visit Uganda and spend time at UCU. This was my twentieth visit and each one has been full of awe at the continuing development of the campus and the whole country as well!

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