

UPdate

Uganda Christian University Partners

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Breaking New Ground

As many of our readers were breaking ice off their windshields, we in balmy Uganda were breaking ground for the new Hamu Mukasa Library. It was a festive event, with fund-raising balloons for sale (\$5 each), hard hats for the VIPs and the large yellow backhoe that actually broke through the rich red soil at the site.

We not only broke ground physically but electronically, as we switched on the first live internet link-up between UCU, Makerere University and the Government Information Authority. The live feed did not function perfectly, but then neither did the Wright brothers' first flight. In my address, I sought to link the two events of the day in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. It is He who unites our communication in physical and cyber space and our communion of heaven and earth.



ARCHBISHOP OROMBI takes a turn with the shovel, along with Prof. A.B. Kasozi of the National Council for Higher Education and the Vice Chancellor.

Library Update

- We hope to complete the construction of the Library by the end of this year.
- We have raised approximately one-third of the funds needed (\$1.5K) for our portion in the USA.
- Please consider a generous gift to help make this dream a reality.

Peggy and I are now into the countdown phase of our time at UCU, with less than six months to go. But for sure, we want to see the Library well under construction before we leave despite some delays in the original timetable for the project.

There is one advantage to the delays. It gives us more time to raise the funds to complete the entire project. That includes almost a million dollars that we are still seeking from our USA partners. Every little gift helps, and we are hoping to get one or more major gifts during this year.

Best wishes for a blessed Easter Season! We hope to see some of you at the New Wineskins Conference or when we return to our home in Pittsburgh in September.

Stephen Noll
Vice Chancellor

Uganda Studies Program: Student Profiles

by Peggy Noll

“The combination of studying at a university while living in a dorm with Ugandan students and yet also staying with two different families for shorter ‘home stays’ appealed to me.” -Amanda Steinbeck

Two American brunettes from Ohio, one who went west from Cincinnati to study at Taylor University in Illinois and the other who traveled east from Akron to Messiah College in Pennsylvania are now halfway around the world studying together at Uganda Christian University thanks to the Uganda Studies Program (USP). With half of the program completed, they reflected on what it has been like for them to be university students in Mukono.

Amanda Steinbeck, an International Business and Marketing Student in her sophomore year, heard about USP from a fellow Taylor student who came to Mukono with the program several years ago. Amanda explored the website for herself before deciding to apply. “The combination of studying at a university while living in a dorm with Ugandan students and yet also staying with two different families for shorter ‘home stays’ appealed to me,” she says. “I value the relationships I have been able to have with the Honours College students in our hall of residence. Before I decided to join the program, I admit Africa was not even on my radar screen. I will go home more aware of the world outside the U.S. after this semester.”

Although Amanda says the personal encounters with poverty and the many agencies trying to deal with its consequences can be overwhelming, she is grateful for the way she has been challenged to reexamine her definition of poverty and to learn practical ways to live more simply. “Take clothes,” she said. “I’m learning to ask, ‘Do I really need 5-10 pairs of jeans?’”

Her fellow USP student, Debbie Wigton, is in the second “track” of the USP program. The students who choose this option live for the entire semester with a family in Mukono rather than stay in Honours College on campus. “I love my half hour walk home each day,” she said. “From the top of the hill where I live with my host family, I can see Lake

Victoria and the hills beyond. It is beautiful, and I feel completely comfortable walking there by myself.”

Debbie lives with a typical Ugandan family including several adult children who work and come home at weekend, and two nephews. In the evenings, she is now allowed to chop tomatoes along with onions in helping to prepare the evening meal. At first, she found it challenging that the family treated her like a guest and would not allow her to help as she is used to doing in her big family at home. She does her coursework on campus during the day in order to sit with family members in the evenings, when they generally watch TV and she may try out her little Luganda on them.

Meeting missionaries in Uganda has dispelled Debbie’s romantic illusions about them. “I had idealized living abroad,” she admitted, “but I’ve learned that you get used to it and being in another culture you still have to figure out how to live every day.” Before she came to UCU, Debbie wanted to live more simply, but now she has encountered for herself some of the practical applications of that desire. “I’ve learned how much we waste in the U.S., including water. I’ve seen how a bucket bath is as good as a shower.”

If Amanda could change one thing about UCU, it would be for the new library to be completed and available to students, including USP students, for study and research the way they use the libraries on their campuses at home. Debbie’s wish is that the Ugandan students at UCU could have the opportunity she has had to study abroad.

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UGANDA STUDIES PROGRAM student Debbie Wigton lived with a local family in Mukono during her semester at UCU.

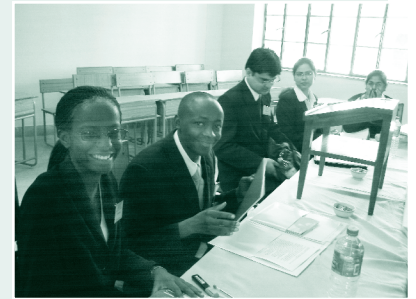


Please visit www.UgandaPartners.org to contribute conveniently, safely, and securely with a credit card using PayPal.

UPdates

Law Students on the Moot

UCU's law students were competing again this year, first at a moot competition in India in February and for the second year at the *Jessup Competition* in Washington DC in March. Missionary lecturer Brian Dennison has arranged these events, which give students invaluable experience.



Literary Prizewinners

UCU students took the first and second prizes at the African Writers' Trust Seminar in February. The top prize went to Daniel Omayo for his story about the perils of being a son to a polygamous alcoholic in a rural village.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee for a new Vice Chancellor has been working hard since November and plans to report to a special University Council meeting on 24 March. Nominees from this meeting will be forwarded to the Archbishop for final appointment. We hope that a selection may be announced by early May.

Mid-Year Graduation

In late February, UCU held "part four" of its annual Graduation event. This mid-year graduation started out with only a handful of students, but this year over 500 graduated in different courses.



UCU Holdings

UCU Holdings, Ltd., the subsidiary company which is managing the large tract of land near the University, has been moving actively to develop its first houses and schools on the land. Stephen Noll plans to continue working as Managing Director after he retires in August, with frequent trips to Uganda.

First Lady Visit

First Lady Janet Museveni returned for the third time to the UCU campus to mark International Women's Day in early March. The event on "Happy Mothers, Happy Nation" was sponsored by UCU's "Save the Mothers" Program, headed up by Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese.



2009 UCUP Mission Team

2010 Mission to Uganda

by Diane Stanton

The 2010 Mission to Uganda is being planned for next summer and will be a 12-day trip leaving the USA on August 14th returning on August 25th. The approximate cost is \$3,200. If you would like to join us, contact me for more details. This is a great way to travel to Africa, see the UCU campus, meet many students, and participate in the farewell events for the Nolls at UCU. UP

Scholarship UPdates

Your support will help change lives and the future of Uganda...one youth at a time!

\$42 per month will provide one Uganda Partners Achievement Award. These awards will be presented to the highest achievers who have completed at least one full year and will be based upon academic success. The scholarship awards are for the duration of one year. Each student will provide a photo and short biography to be given to the sponsors. The UCU Faculty Committee will select 30 students each year to be the recipients of the UP Achievement Awards.

\$100 per month will provide one Anglican Communion Scholarship in Theology. In an agreement with the Church of Uganda, UCU is committed to help train clergy due to the increasing numbers of retiring clergy and the urgent need to build up the Church with well trained, evangelistic pastors to minister to the vast numbers of congregations throughout Uganda.

Any size gift to the General Scholarship Fund helps many students who don't have enough funding to finish their courses or who have lost support for various reasons.

Please help by sponsoring a student!

Tribute to the Nolls

By Canon Dr. John Senyonyi

We got a glimpse of the impact of the Nolls when the announcement of their retirement and anticipated departure were made. This caused some anxiety throughout the University. Many felt that the leadership they have given to Uganda Christian University is irreplaceable. And yet they have time and again emphasized that they are not indispensable, and that it is perfectly possible to find a Ugandan to take over from them. This is a strange mix of a couple who are both a gem in Uganda Christian University and yet very humble. Their greatest asset has been their ability to blend into a foreign culture so late in life –neither immersed nor disrespectful of the local culture. This is genuine Christianity, an important ingredient of any person who ventures to be a missionary in another culture.

The Nolls have been an example of true Christian discipleship, in their marriage, social interaction, governance and lifestyle. Peggy's hospitality to all sets her apart as 'a true African'. Their home was easily accessible – for visitation as well as for meals. There are few who will not remember a meal at the Nolls. Indeed, she has hosted in her home both great and small, including the Nnabagereka (Queen) of the Buganda Kingdom. But then so was her passion for reach-



STEPHEN AND PEGGY NOLL prepare to return to the United States after ten years in Uganda at UCU.

ing out to children, she founded a children's library on Campus which is now a permanent feature of the University's ministry.

For his part, Stephen is a fusion of scholarship and a visionary leader.

We cannot doubt that to listen to him is to listen to an educated man, and he brings that learning to his leadership. Always probing for counsel, and ever giving guidance. Then we must laud his heart for the students. To him the University is about students. He did not relent from the demands of administration which may sometimes require 'unsavory' decisions, and yet he would always be looking out for what is good in the long-term for the students. There is no doubt that the Nolls will be greatly missed. Adieu our friends. You will always remain in our hearts.

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Note: Dr. Senyonyi is the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Development and External Relations at UCU.

Newsletter of Uganda Christian University Partners



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bulletin board.**

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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.