

# UPdate

Uganda Christian University Partners

[www.UgandaPartners.org](http://www.UgandaPartners.org)

Issue 11:2

Spring 2011

## Couples in Ministry

*Conference for senior theology students and their spouses, April 21-25 at UCU*

by Peggy Noll

Encouraging clergy families as they prepare for pastoral ministry should be a vital part of seminary education. Fortunately for the theological students at UCU, the Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology hosted a conference at the UCU campus in Mukono, inviting the spouses of its graduating students to join



them over the Easter weekend, April 21-25. The theme was “Faithfulness and Firmness in Family and Ministry,” taking the banner scripture from Colossians 1:23.

The participants, numbering 79 with children and caregivers bringing the total to 106, came from Kenya, Tanzania, and Nigeria as well as Uganda. They worshipped on Good Friday and Easter with the UCU community and shared an Easter meal. They lived in the dorms, recently vacated for the break between terms by the regular undergraduates, and ate in the dining hall.

“I am so glad I came,” one woman said. “I was so worried. I did not know what the ministry was about and what was expected of me as a wife of a clergyman.” Another participant, this one the husband of a female clergy, also benefitted: “I am happy I have met with other

men married to clergy women. I was blessed with the sharing. Now I know I am also part of the ministry.”

Spouses especially appreciated the practical lessons on cake baking, soap making, and bead making, which will help them to supplement the clergy salaries.

Topics covered in different sessions included children in ministry and family, hospitality and welcoming of relatives in the pastor’s home, safe motherhood in pastoral ministry, small scale income generating projects, and preparation for retirement, along with prayer and Bible study in the clergy home. Mrs. Ruth Senyonyi spoke on the topic of keeping the fire burning between spouses, and Professor Stephen Noll addressed the issue of the spouse as a co-worker in ministry.

Contributions from Uganda Partners and the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh helped defray the costs of the conference, though there was still insufficient money to take a side trip to Namugongo and to bring one participant from Nigeria.

# Remarkable Graduates: Perez Onyait-Odeke

## Friends helping friends...

by Sam Garrett, UCUP Trustee

Naturally, a remarkable university attracts students whose talents and drive promise to help them become remarkable graduates. Many students overcome serious hardships to reach UCU, and graduates often choose careers helping others facing serious obstacles.

Consider Perez Onyait-Odeke, who as a scholarship student founded "Friends Helping Friends." This grass roots organization encourages UCU students to donate what little they can toward an emergency fund for fellow undergraduates lacking the final amounts needed to graduate -- sometimes as little as \$50. These shortfalls often stem from a family member's sudden death or misfortune, and come at a time of year when UCU's annual scholarship funds are exhausted. Gathering hundreds of small donations, Friends Helping Friends ensured timely graduations for 14 students last year. This is only the beginning of Perez's work with scholarships.



**PEREZ ONYAIT-ODEKE, founder of Friends Helping Friends at UCU.**

Perez recently graduated from UCU's Law Program and took a job with UCU as a financial aid officer. Thank you Perez for being a remarkable graduate!

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## Farewell to the Buttons

by Peggy Noll

After serving at UCU for 8 years, missionaries Daniel and Rosie Button and their children, Abigail and Alex, will leave Mukono in July for their return to England.

While at the University, the Buttons received sponsorship from Global Teams in the U.S. and Crosslinks in England, representing each of their countries of citizenship. Also during his time in Uganda, Dan was ordained to the Anglican priesthood in the Church of Uganda.



**DAN AND ROSIE BUTTON, along with their children Alex and Abigail, leave UCU after 8 years of service.**

Dan and Rosie began at UCU in the theology department, where Rosie taught Greek and Old Testament and Dan taught theology. Dan became the first Department Head of the Foundation Studies Department, which teaches students across all the disciplines basic courses in Old and New Testament, Christian Worldview and Ethics from a Christian Perspective.

Rosie helped found the Children's Library in 2006, became Peggy Noll's partner in that work and took over as Coordinator when the Nolls left. She is leaving the library in good hands with a Ugandan and a missionary as co-chairs. Rosie also coordinated the Langham Book program, which distributes good theological books to students and pastors.

The Buttons have started a memory book of their years in Uganda and, in Dan's words, "are talking quite a bit about the things we have loved and appreciated about Africa/UCU/Uganda."

"The Buttons personified the committed missionary life," said Stephen Noll. "They brought experience in Africa, a heart for God, and a willingness to pitch in wherever help was needed."

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## Scholarship UPdates

Dear Partners,

More than ten years ago, Uganda Partners launched a vision to develop a scholarship program for students at Uganda Christian University. On behalf of the many graduates who have earned their degree since that time because of the generosity of faithful sponsors like you, I would like to say thank you! As I consider your generosity, I am truly humbled and grateful. Your assistance makes what would otherwise be impossible a reality.

Hopefully you have personally witnessed the life changing transformation which takes place when a student earns his or her degree from Uganda Christian University. Whether you provide a complete scholarship or donate to our General Scholarship Fund, every dollar works to set a new, brighter path for someone who might otherwise have lived a life of poverty.

Now well into our eleventh year, we continue to dream about what God can accomplish through our efforts. As you will read on the enclosed scholarship request, there are still students who have to walk away from an opportunity to study at UCU because they have no way to pay for their education. Please pray about how you might be called to help a student at UCU. By sending 100% of what you donate directly to the scholarship program at UCU, we offer ourselves as good stewards of your generosity. Together we can be good stewards of the gift of our brothers and sisters God has put before us. Will you help us EXPAND THE POSSIBILITIES for every student in need at Uganda Christian University?

Mrs. Laura Corley  
Scholarship Coordinator

### Three Ways to Help a Student:

Mail the enclosed form to  
**Uganda Partners**  
**PO Box 38333**  
**Dallas, TX 75238**

Email Uganda Partners at  
**info@ugandapartners.org**

Build a scholarship online at  
**www.ugandapartners.org**

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## UPdates

### February Graduation

Sunshine once again blessed UCU on Friday, February 4, at the Eleventh Graduation. The Vice Chancellor, the Rev. Dr. Canon John Senyonyi, was the principal speaker, urging the graduates to carry on their



work with integrity, building on the good reputation that is already in place. A total of 324 students, 180 of them female, graduated. The overall top woman graduate was a nursing student. Peggy Noll, who was in Mukono at the time, celebrated with four of her former students, who graduated with the Masters in Literature degree (see photo).

### Canons Sweep 2nd Annual UCU Invitational Basketball Tournament

After a great weekend filled with outstanding plays and great individual performances, UCU Canons and UCU Lady Canons walked away with two gold first place trophies. Led by tournament MVP Sudi Ulanga, the Canons went undefeated over the weekend. The perfect 7-0 record culminated in a 74-63 drubbing of Ndeje in the championship game.



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### Healthy Mothers Healthy Nation Day

UCU's Save the Mothers Program (STM), led by Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese, launched the "Mother Friendly Hospital Initiative" on Saturday, March 26, at Lugazi Municipality. During the launch, participating hospitals received surgical kits from STM. The initiative, being piloted in 4 hospital units in Buikwe, Kawolo, Naggalama, and Mukono Health Center IV, seeks to make hospitals friendlier places for pregnant mothers. STM developed a guide to check the basic essentials including medicines, equipment, staff, records, and amenities in all the maternity sections such as antenatal and operational theatre. Once the unit meets the minimum requirements outlined in the guide and determined by the team, the unit will be certified as "Mother Friendly."

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please pass it on to a friend  
or post it on your church's  
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.

UGANDA PARTNERS Update

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SPRING 2011

## Update on the Ham Mukasa Library

By Diane Stanton

The construction of the new Library is well underway and will officially open with a ceremony during the fall graduation ceremony on October 28, 2011! There are still a number of ways that you can help like

- Sending a donation to meet our "cost share" portion of the building costs
- Donating a laptop computer for the computer lab
- Contributing to the cost of the container on its way now across the ocean (in partnership with Truro Church in Truro, Virginia)
- Sending a special gift for the "Textbook Fund" to provide new resource materials
- Honoring a loved one with a major gift for a section of the Library (study rooms, courtyard, academic shelf and more)

Special thanks to Taylor University and Dan Bowell, University Librarian, for their generous donation of metal library shelves which Dan loaded on a truck, drove to northern Virginia and helped load on the container! And also to John Hutchins at Truro Church for his tireless efforts in receiving



items, loading (with UCUP board members Murray Black and Jack Klenk), and getting the container on its way!

*A Uganda Partners trip is being planned to witness this great occasion. If you would like to join us, please contact our office for a brochure and more details. The dates are set for departure from the USA on October 22nd and returning on October 30th. This is an historic event not only for the university but also for the country of Uganda! Please prayerfully consider joining us!*