

UPdate

Uganda Christian University Partners

www.UgandaPartners.org

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SPRING 2009

UCU: A Center of Legal Excellence

At the Library Fundraising Dinner held on March 6, three front tables were booked by the legal fraternity, including four justices headed by the Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon. Benjamin Odoki, and the Principal Judge of the High Court, Hon. James Ogoola.

This support from the judicial and legal fraternity is indicative of our reputation. Hardly a week goes by when someone does not come up to me and compliment UCU on its law programme. And indeed enrollment has grown like topsy to over 800 students, even as we are continually raising entrance standards and tuition fee levels.

I am proud of our law faculty; however, I also note St. Paul's warning: "those who stand, beware lest you fall." I am concerned that the overwhelming popularity of the program may cause it to be diluted. So beginning in September, we plan to scale back our intake by about 40% so that we can give more individual attention to each student.

I can already see a number of ways that we shall enhance legal education here:

- We shall be putting more emphasis on "moot" competi-



CHIEF JUSTICE ODOKI and Vice Chancellor Noll, on the occasion of the march in honor of the late archbishop Janani Luwum, killed by Idi Amin for his opposition to the government oppression.

tions, as signaled by our team traveling to the international Jessup competition in late March in Washington, DC.

- I met in January with Dean Kenneth Starr of Pepperdine University School of Law to cooperate on several projects in Uganda, such as clerkships with the judiciary.
- Several of our faculty are finishing Ph.D.s, such as Pamela Tihibikirra, who received a Fulbright Fellowship at Indiana University.

- Mr. Brian Dennison, our newest missionary lawyer, has proposed a joint law and business track.
- Above all, we look forward to opening an entire floor of the new Hamu Mukasa Library to the law faculty.

I often say that our vision statement – "A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa" – is just that: a vision, not a reality – yet. But without vision people, even highly educated people, perish. And this is where Uganda Christian University has something to offer Uganda "for God and my country."

Stephen Noll
Vice Chancellor

Alumni Profile: Maurice Olobo

By Peggy Noll

Age: 27

Home Diocese: Soroti

Mother tongue: Kumam

“I know Uganda Christian University is a young place. But what makes me proud is that it’s moving forward. I followed what was happening at UCU on the internet when I was studying in China. It’s not where we start from but the progress we are making that is important to me. I can see that there are new developments happening all the time.”

UCU alumnus Maurice Olobo recently completed his MBA at Wuhan University of Technology in Hubei province, China—and in the process learned to speak Mandarin and graduated as the best student in the province, earning a full scholarship from the Chinese to go on for a Ph.D.! Maurice was a member of the Honours College at UCU and after his graduation in 2004 was hired as a tutor in the Business Faculty.

At Christmas, Maurice made his first trip home in three years to visit Uganda, his family and friends before returning to China on March 15 to take up his doctoral studies. He visited Mukono several times, using the facilities to do research for his dissertation, seeing former teachers and classmates, and giving a public thanksgiving offering in chapel on March 1 for God’s blessings on his life while at UCU.

Maurice recounted a time in China when he and his best friend and fellow student, a Jamaican, were reading an article on the internet by a Ugandan. The writer was lamenting the lack of trustworthy people in Uganda. Maurice agreed, saying that without a change in this situation, even the economic future of Uganda will be bleak because no one will invest in a country where the people cannot be trusted.

“This is the area where I think UCU has such an important role to play in my country. A person cannot be in UCU for three years, taking the foundation courses in ethics and Bible, attending Community Worship and interacting with the staff, without coming away with a sense of something bigger than themselves. Even those who may not make a



MAURICE OLOBO stands on the Great Wall in China.

commitment to Christ have been made to stop and think. They must have at least the beginnings of self-conviction when they are tempted to do wrong and the basis for a Godly conscience.”

On a visit to the campus for research towards his dissertation topic, “The reconstruction of Uganda’s accounting standards based on COSO (Committee of Sponsorship Organization of the Treadway Commission),” Maurice came by the Vice Chancellor’s house for an interview and explained how he originally chose to come to UCU. “I fell in love with the place when I came through the gate on my first visit to the campus, so that very day I picked the application form and decided this is where I wanted to come. My father favored Makerere, where he works, but my mother urged him to let us children make the decisions that would affect our lives, and he listened to her. After my first semester in Mukono, I applied for a Scholars and Friends sponsorship from Uganda Partners, and from there I entered the Honours College.”

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Scholarship UPdates

By Diane Stanton

NEW FOR FALL 2009!

We are pleased to announce a new program starting this coming fall called the Uganda Partners Achievement Awards. 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 will be \$500 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. This new program will eventually replace the Scholars and Friends Program; however, students who were previously selected will continue to receive those scholarships until they graduate.

University Theology Scholarship Fund provides students representing each of the 33 dioceses in the Church of Uganda with tuition-only scholarships. 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. As part of the agreement, the bishops of each of the dioceses will provide housing and spending money. The cost of tuition to educate one clergy is about \$1,300 per year; however, we are accepting any size donations for the fund which will be distributed by UCU.

The General Scholarship Fund helps many students who don't have enough funding to finish their courses or who lose support for various reasons. Any size donation is welcome for this fund!

How can you help?

- Sponsor one student with an Achievement Award for 2009
- Donate to the University Theology Scholarship Fund for future clergy in Africa
- Donate to the General Scholarship Fund

Please visit our website for information about all of our Scholarship Programs (www.ugandapartners.org)

Thank you for blessing our students at UCU!

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UPdates

First Lady Hosted at Library Fundraiser

The First Lady, Hon. Janet Museveni, represented the President at a fundraising dinner for the Hamu Mukasa Library on March 6. About 250 church, corporate and civic leaders attended the event, which grossed about \$55,000 toward the Library.

East African University Games at UCU

UCU hosted the basketball portion of the East African University games in February on their new courts. The Men Canons won the gold medal in basketball and the Lady Canons the silver in their bracket.

UCU Research Bulletin on GAFCON

Two issues of the UCU Research Bulletin have been published in the past twelve months as part of the University's research and publication program. A third issue focusing on the GAFCON movement will appear in April, edited by Stephen Noll.

Malaysian Bishop Leads Mission

The annual Mission and Ministry Conference was held in mid-February. The chief missioner was Bishop Hwa Yung, Methodist bishop of Malaysia. He challenged young leaders in the Church of Uganda to draw inspiration from the examples of the Uganda Martyrs and take the Gospel outside Uganda's borders.

UCU Initiates Aggie Degree

UCU has pioneered an Agriculture with Entrepreneurship degree this year. Students work in class and on the University farm at Ntawo.

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V.C. NOLL and UCU Law Professor Pamela Tihibikirra (and Fulbright Scholar) met with Dean Kenneth Starr of Pepperdine University School of Law to cooperate on several projects in Uganda.

PayPal

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

Executive Director UPDATE**By Diane Stanton**

Recently, I was listening to the local Christian radio station and the host asked the question “what is a verse in the Bible that helps you through these troubled times?” Many of the callers responded by quoting verses that brought comfort and assurance of God’s presence especially in times of turmoil. I was drawn to

Psalm 31:14, that reminds us that trusting in the Lord, while seemingly so simple, really is the greatest challenge as well as the best solution. God will provide, God does care, and God will see us through.

We have a lot to accomplish this year and we are trusting that God will provide and inspire the hearts of those willing and able to help! We understand that the economic downturn causes us all to re-evaluate our giving priorities. We hope that you will continue to support our work at UCU and help provide hope for the many students who without you would never be able to fulfill their hopes and dreams.

Update on the Library

Why support a “building” when there are so many other needs? The answer is clear to us: students generally cannot afford to buy books and this new Library will provide the place where they can access information, study in quiet areas, and have access to computers for research. It is a “missing link” on campus now. We are close to the one-third mark in our campaign fundraising and hope to raise the balance over the next year. Visit our website (www.ugandapartners.org) to view the campaign brochure information.

UP to Uganda

We are planning a trip to Uganda in late July 2009 to visit UCU. We are planning a number of activities on campus including opportunities to meet with students, alumni (who are making a difference in Uganda), faculty and staff. In addition, we will be given a guided tour of the campus and see the many amazing improvements that have been accomplished in recent years. And we will take in a few of the interesting sites in Uganda including the Martyr’s Shrine at Namugongo, the capital city of Kampala and much more. If you would like to join us, please contact me for more details.

Thank you for remembering us in your stewardship. We are truly grateful and appreciate your prayers!

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Newsletter of Uganda Christian University Partners

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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.