



KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

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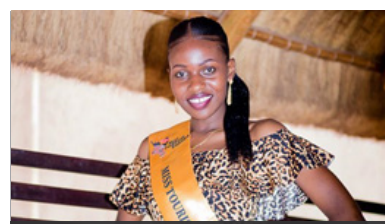
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I was born some 43 years ago in Mawoito village in Kakira Sub County, Jinja District. I am married and blessed us with four children.**Page 15**



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Word from the Chief Editor



This month, the Convocation failed to elect its Executive Committee and this was followed by a litany of accusations and counter accusations of who has failed here and there. In all this, however, a clear message came through; the need to revamp the Convocation and redirect its face and operations.

A strong convocation is a powerful marketing tool for the University, a source of employment for its graduates and for resource mobilization.

Let's all do our part to shine the light of our Alma Mata

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Tibakuno George
(Long lasting footmarks
of our own)

KYAMBOGO SMILES



Name: Atukunda Paula

Year: Two

Course: Bachelor of Procurement and Logistics Management

Hobbies: Reading, Modeling and Fashion, talking to and studying people, adventure and photography

What do you like about Kyambogo?

I love Kyambogo University because it is accommodative of all people and everyone has a room to shine their light in several aspects. Kyambogo is also reputable regarding the labour force in trains.

Where do you want to be in the next five years?

In the next five years, God willing, I will be a great entrepreneur, career woman, human rights activist, influencer and applying Godly values in all my dealings

Finalists complete Exams amidst COVID-19

Our newsletter correspondent had a one on one with Mr. Jerome Butamanya (pictured), the Deputy Academic Registrar in charge of Exams to understand the progress of examinations amidst the COVID 19 scare.



We are so far moving on very well because we have now entered the second week of

Examinations. They started on Monday 16th November 2020 and they will end on Sunday 29th November 2020. We had two papers which were not done due to demonstrations and riots that rocked Kampala in the recent past but we have already scheduled them for Sunday 29th November 2020.

Working with the Deans of Faculties, Heads of Academic Departments, Examination Coordinators Custodians, medical center, internal and external security, we had a series of meetings to develop the final timetable that have seen the smooth examination season. In our meetings we were focusing on timetable and also address the issues of SOPs. We also came up with examination monitors and these include officers from Audit, Bursar, Academic Registrar and ICT. These are to ensure that all SOPs are followed and also to fix university system challenges to enable students do their exams uninterrupted.

For the students who had not fully registered we asked them to get permission from the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration and these are given forms to register provisionally and then they would be allowed to seat their examinations and students who did not make any effort to ask for this permission and yet they have not registered, they were asked to leave the examination rooms.

Staffs from Medical Center have been

instrumental in measuring temperature before students and supervisors enter examination rooms. They were also on alert in case a student presents high temperature or COVID like symptoms to quickly work with university COVID taskforce to have him or her evacuated to Namboole.

As examination organizers, we have faced a challenge of social distancing in exams. Because of COVID 19, we had to use many examination rooms, many invigilators to supervise the exams even considering the fact that not all lecturers were available and of course there is cost implication to this effect. More so, we started the examinations when government had mentioned that only money for salaries would be paid which meant that examination allowances would not be paid in time and this kills the morale of examination supervision as the participants know that their allowances would delay and to us as organizers this is very crucial.

For continuing students, I have not yet been informed on when they are supposed to report so we can't prepare their exams when they are not available.

We have institutions affiliated to Kyambogo university and these are in areas of Kumi, Kabale and Arua that offer courses like Diploma in Instructor and Technical Teacher Education (DITTE) Diploma in Education Early Childhood Development, which was supposed to be done in May this year but because of COVID 19, we have their exams starting on 2nd December 2020.

More so, students who are in National Teachers Colleges (NTC) that pursue Diploma in Education Secondary were also supposed to sit exams from July to August but because of the pandemic they are going to sit them next week on 2nd December 2020.

My appeal to students and those who are involved in the administration and management of exams is to handle exams following the set regulations.

Kyambogo Convocation voting process flops

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, five hundred thirty members of the Kyambogo University Convocation converged at the Admissions Square to attend the 2nd Extra Ordinary General Assembly to elect members of the Executive Committee. The vacant positions to be filled were that of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary for Finance, Secretary for Projects, Secretary for Publicity, Secretary for Academics, Secretary for Persons with disability and four committee members. On the position of Chairperson, three candidates had shown interest and these are: Ms Winfred Nakandi, Mr. Kenneth Mbogo and Mr. Julius Bahemuka. The Kyambogo University Convocation is composed of the Alumni from Kyambogo University, Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK), Uganda Polytechnic Kyambogo (UPK), Uganda National Institute of Special Needs Education (UNISE), National Teachers' Colleges, Affiliated Institutions and staff of Kyambogo University.

However, the process became rowdy and the election didn't take place as planned. According to Dr. Anne Begumisa (pictured), the Academic Registrar, the General Secretary of



the Convocation and Returning Officer, the process went on well until some section of the members of the Convocation became rowdy and disrupted the process, which prompted the security personnel to

call off the event.

Our reporter sought the attention of the three contenders for the Chairperson slot to find out what they say about the collapsed election process.

Mbogo Kenneth (pictured) is a part time lecturer who lectures Communication Skills. He is an

Examinations Coordinator, Department of Early Childhood Education (ECD) in the Faculty of Education and a member of the Welfare and Conference Committees under the Faculty of Education. Kenneth graduated in



2010 with a Degree of Arts in Education from Kyambogo University and he is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education at Kyambogo University.

Asked about the convocation's flopped voting process where he was a contestant, he said "to me I was caught by surprise for the first time in the history of this mighty university to see the convocation violent with chaos". Kenneth says the elections were not free and fair. "We got to understand that the ballots had been kept in the convocation office and yet there were people from the committee that were contesting in this very election" he says adding that "you can't participate in an election which you have organized yourself". Mbogo advises that the convocation constitution must be followed to the dot. He further reveals that there was no clear voting procedure, the factor he attributes to the chaos that later ensued. Mbogo further divulges that there was no system to authenticate the eligibility of voters. "We know convocation is for Kyambogo staff and former students but surprisingly on entrance they would only consider National ID yet to me I think at least University IDs for staff and registration card, Transcript or examination card of the course they completed and Kyambogo ID for students would be considered to confirm the eligible voters" he says.

He advises that candidates should be allowed to have agents and also secret ballots with names and photos of the candidates be used to avoid chaos on the voting day and incumbent

members shouldn't be part of the organizing process. He adds that each person who votes, their finger must be marked with ink and ticked in the register.

People know me as a person with integrity and I have been able to deal with university work with a lot of integrity and this is why I want to make convocation the biggest in East Africa by linking up with other universities. For example I will ensure that we have General Assembly every year because we last had one in 2016. We should also have a database of all our former students such that we keep in touch with them, share opportunities with them like scholarships to help them develop in their professions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the voters for the support they showed me on the voting date. Despite what happened, I will be glad to see them coming in big numbers to vote for me.



Nakandi Winfred (pictured), a contestant says there were some elements who wanted to sabotage the election because their candidate was losing but also the process

wasn't appropriate, for example having a single ballot paper for all positions was a recipe for challenges for it wouldn't facilitate good record keeping. The Returning Officer gave out ballot papers to voters to distribute among themselves, which can't and didn't work. Voters can't distribute ballot materials, they fraught the process by keeping some for themselves to tick their choice candidates. There were few chairs while the majority were standing. There were 4 boxes at the same level, this would provide room for voters to move around and vote again and again. The election lost meaning, and became a sham. One guy took the ballot box and ran with it, which led to the cancelation of the election. I pray the Returning Officer will plan properly and organize another election.

I thank my voters for turning up in big numbers and remaining till the end. I am hopeful that the authorities will plan better for another one. My voters are contacting me up to now and we are using this period as an opportunity to further consolidate our vote. Our voters believe in our approach and ideas. My first priority is convocation, to boost the convocation to make the alumni stronger; our agenda is for the alumni and everything that comes with an organized association. We will attract resourceful people from the public who will be a great resource in securing internship and employment opportunities for our students and graduates. We will ensure that a convocation representative to Council isn't the Chair of the Convocation. That way, we will eliminate this tendency of people who contest for Chair Convocation as entry to Council. The chair should be a face of the convocation.

I encourage our voters to remain calm and when the time comes, they should come in big numbers and vote me.

Bahemuka Julius (pictured), another contestant stressed that the voting process didn't follow the constitution, which requires voting to take place during



General Assembly adding that there was also inadequate preparation. Bahemuka notes that Council, Management and Staff haven't given convocation the attention it deserves. He advises that the Academic Registrar, who is the General Secretary of the Convocation should liaise with her staff members to manage convocation matters. He urged staff and Alumni to show interest in taking up positions in the convocation, lamenting that convocation now is for those who have money, who can organize goons from around and bring them for voting. The convocation is a strong body that can organise jobs for its members. Convocation has more to do than distributing cakes and water during graduation. Convocation only

comes up during elections and that's not good. We should separate Chair from Council representation, this leads to selfish interests. All members of the convocation should come up and take up roles of responsibility to revive the convocation. The Secretary General should also use her position to strengthen the convocation.

Our reporter further engaged previous leaders of the convocation to have their side. Dunstan Atwijukye (pictured), a former Chairman of the Convocation thinks the convocation problems stem from the Convocation Constitutional crisis. He says the challenges related to voting are because the constitution doesn't clearly stipulate what should be done. He guides that people being nominated the same day and getting voted by over 1000 people who are not in the same location requires clear roadmap like the National Electoral Commission does, set dates for nominations, verify voters, not everything should come on the voting day. He notes that the General Assembly shouldn't be for only elections. "People didn't meet in four years and the only time they met in four years they were to vote, yet some of the organizers were also contesting, he reveals. He asserts that all these and more are a recipe for chaos; the solution is to review the constitution to provide for nominations, registration, verifying voters and voting. "There should be a clear process" he notes. He stresses that the convocation is a highly political body, if you don't streamline issues; it becomes a hotspot and bad for the university. He concluded urging the University Management to make convocation semi-autonomous, to work with management in the planning and implementation process of their activities.

Dr. Robert Ojambo. I have served in the convocation from 2013-2016 and that time it had a lot of challenges in fact it had collapsed because the former leader Dr. Nabwiso had



left without organizing a proper election. At that time there was a lot of struggle; people wanted to come to the convocation.

Through it all, we managed to support Mr. Dunstan Atwijukye. He tried his best to rejuvenate the convocation. Most of the little things you see here were started during his regime, he put in place an office with some executive secretary, we revived activities of the convocation, we wanted to go to branches and recruit more members. The convocation was visibly getting back on track. Unfortunately, in 2016 the election that took place brought the leadership, which had just completed campus and brought in a number of self-seekers and these were young people who didn't have anything they were offering to the convocation. In fact most of them came to get opportunities to get self-benefit and because of that, the convocation has gone back to where it was. In its current form, I feel the convocation cannot fly. It needs a restructuring and redirection and that direction should involve looking at what type of people should lead the convocation and how should they come in, what contribution can they make, what should be their relationship between them and university management because a convocation is not a small thing. This is a body that has ability to build this mighty university in terms of mobilization and marketing. I was really shocked when I went for an election and found youthful guys, some who had not even finished their programs at the university but had been registered to go and vote. In my view, the convocation has lacked proper guidance from Council and Management.

Bright Mugisha, the outgoing convocation Chairperson says there's need to go back on the drawing board in



an effort to give direction to the operations of the convocation. He says Management should be interested in looking for the leadership of the convocation because a vibrant convocation is important for the university. Bright says that for thirteen years, the identity and operations of the convocation have been characterized by fights and chaos. "It's only in the last regime that

we didn't have fights until the day of elections "says Bright. It's time for stakeholders to sit and agree on the way forward. Management needs to redesign the convocation once and for all.

Kyambogo University hosts Presidential nominations

On 2nd November, 2020, Uganda began a two-day nomination process for candidates who will compete in the January 2021 Presidential elections. Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission said eleven aspiring candidates were nominated in the two-day nomination exercise held at Kyambogo University Cricket grounds, about nine kilometers east of the capital, Kampala.

In a televised address, Justice Simon Byabakama, said five aspirants were nominated on political party tickets and six as independents. The duly nominated candidates include: the incumbent, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), his former Security Minister, Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Henry Tumukunde, (Ind.) his former Army Commander, Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Mugisha Gregg Muntu, (Ind.), Pop Music Star, turned politician and Legislator, Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu of the National Unity Platform (NUP), Hon. Norbert Mao of the Democratic Party (DP), Patrick Amuriat Oboi of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), Ms. Nancy Linda Kalembe, the only female candidate, Joseph Kabuleta Kiiza, Fred Mwesigye, Willy Mayambala and a 24-year-old John Katumba who are independent candidates.

At the event, Byabakama urged the candidates, their agents and supporters to conduct themselves in accordance to the guidelines issued for the campaign. He urged candidates to promote safe participation in the electoral process by abiding to the COVID-19 prevention measures. "We should be reminded that these elections are being conducted in the COVID-19 environment and therefore it's paramount that we jointly work together to ensure the lives of

the people of this country are safeguarded and secured from the spread of this virus," said Byabakama.

Throughout the nomination exercise, Ugandan social and traditional media were awash with news and events that marked the day.



Kyambogo University student wins Miss Tourism contest



Kyomugisha Sonia, a third year student of Bachelor of Textile and Apparel Design under the Department of Art and Design is Miss Tourism Uganda 2020/2021.

Last year, Kyomugisha contested and emerged 2nd runner up- Miss Tourism Ankole. This year due to the pandemic, the Miss Tourism Board Members selected ten queens from the group of last year contestants to contest again this year. They held a social camp at care Bear home in Seguku where they were mentored and critiqued by different people from different organizations.

After this process, only five queens made it to the finals, which was a scientific ceremony at the Care Bear home in Seguku and Kyomugisha Sonia emerged winner and was crowned Miss Tourism Uganda 2020/2021.

Sonia says that her first modeling experience was at the Kyambogo University Fashion week where she participated. She says as a model, she loves fashion and everything that comes with it.

"My dream is to be a representative figure in my society and a person that the later generations

will look up to. As it's said that charity begins at home, I chose to run for Miss Tourism Ankole when I saw the regional posters for the auditions for Miss Tourism. I believed that no matter the results, I took a step closer to where I dream to be."

Kyomugisha says that since there are areas in Uganda with intact culture, she hopes to help discover the good in these cultures which in the long run will attract more tourists to come and visit Uganda. "To me it's who we are as Ugandans that differentiates us from others around the world and I believe it's important we all learn who we are and by so doing others around the world will see the need to visit Uganda and know about us" Kyomugisha says.

Kyomugisha was crowned Miss Tourism Uganda 2020 while First Runner up is Jean Coprise Akullo from Karamoja and Second Runner up Amaniyo Charity from West Nile; all Kyambogo University students.



Government to support local scientists develop COVID-19 vaccine

The Vice President of Uganda, His Excellency, Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi has pledged government support to local scientists in their effort to develop a locally developed vaccine by providing the necessary financial and technical support. He made these remarks while officiating at the World Science Day celebrations at Kyambogo University. World Science Day is celebrated globally on 10th November to highlight the importance of science and technology in day to day living. The theme for this year's celebration was "Science for and with the people in the era of a global pandemic"

Present at the function was Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, the Minister of Science Technology and Innovation who said the day was very significant in highlighting the contributions of science to the development of the country but also to help the society in appreciating the importance of science. Elioda further said that his ministry will ensure that all government projects use the best scientific evidence available at the least cost and high-quality technological tool available to make decisions on how programs can be implemented.

When asked about the progress of other countries developing vaccines for coronavirus, and why Uganda is lagging behind, the Minister urged other countries discovering vaccines or medicines not to deter other countries from pursuing the same course. So there is no contradiction by us (Uganda) continuing to develop a vaccine and vaccine delivery modules even if other countries have produced vaccines.

This comes after Pfizer; an American pharmaceutical company announced that early analysis shows its Covid-19 vaccine is 90% effective.

Prof. Eli Katunguka Rwakishaya, the Vice Chancellor of Kyambogo University called for a creation of a competitive national research fund, which would provide an opportunity to fund research that is relevant for its national socio-economic transformation.

Prof. Katunguka also called for an increase in the training of more PhD holders in the fields of science and engineering in universities. He concluded appealing for more support from the government to public universities in their effort to do research and teach different aspects of science and technology.



Vice President (right) inspecting stalls during an exhibition on the World science day as Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Minister of Science Technology and Innovation shows him around.

Vice Chancellor's Communication to Staff on COVID and Exams

On 17th November, 2020, Prof. Eli Katunguka, the Kyambogo University Vice Chancellor addressed staff on issues concerning COVID and Exams. We bring you his communication

I extend greetings to all of you and I thank you for your collective efforts in handling university business which have brought us this far. It is now four weeks since we reopened the university to allow final year students to complete their studies amidst the pandemic. The university put in a number of measures to limit the spread of this deadly disease. Measures included providing hand-washing facilities, measuring of body temperature at entry points, sanitization and a campaign for everyone to wear face masks properly, social distance and to avoid crowds. Even when these SOPs have not been observed to a large extent, I thank God that He has continued to protect us. I want to encourage everybody to observe the SOPs and to try to keep safe. Once again, I encourage senior officers to limit the number of staff in offices by letting them work in shifts and any staff with symptoms of flu and cough should stay home. If any staff's contacts test covid-19 positive, such staff should immediately self-isolate, seek medical attention and inform their supervisor. I have heard that word is going around that I tested positive for Covid-19 and I wish to state that it is not true. So regard it as fake news from people who have mastered the art of misinformation, sabotage and propoganda for their own selfish reasons.

As you all know, examinations began on Monday 16th November, 2020 and will run for two weeks. I therefore encourage the DVC (AA), Academic Registrar, Deans and Heads of Departments to coordinate this exercise to ensure that it runs smoothly. As arrangements for sitting examinations continue, please ensure social distancing and proper wearing of face masks during the exams. Let everyone



involved do their part. We should also consider how we are going to run ITCSPP and College/School Practice. We can also benchmark from other institutions to find out how they have addressed these issues.

Finally, I want to thank you again and request you to continue making your great contributions to Kyambogo's renaissance. Your administration is here to serve you and we have registered many achievements. Together we shall achieve more. While we do this, we must be mindful of the pandemic which is ravaging many parts of the world especially as we register increasing deaths in Uganda. These are not normal days and many people are scared, many people we know are infected and some are dying both young and old. So let everyone observe the SOPs, avoid crowds. If you feel unwell please stay at home and wear masks properly. This disease is here and we must do our part to remain safe and stop spreading it to other people including our loved ones.

On behalf of Management and on my own behalf, I want to thank you again and pray that the Almighty blesses each one of us and protects us from this dreadful disease. May God bless you.

A Perspective On Collegiality At Kyambogo University

By **Richard Keuber Manano**,
Director Human Resources



**Human
Resource
Corner**

Conventionally, the university is a community of scholars who relate with each other in pursuance of the institutional and individual goals. In so doing, the scholars better known at Kyambogo University as academic staff exercise mutual respect for competencies and contributions of each other as colleagues. They have a common understanding that shared decision-making in their areas of focus guarantees academic integrity and achievement of the vision and mission of the university. This underpins the significance of collegiality to the university. The purpose of this article is to explore collegiality in principle and practice at Kyambogo University cognizant of its importance to the success of the institution.

According to Wikipedia, collegiality is the relationship between colleagues or members of the same profession united in a common purpose. In this regard, it can be looked at as a common denominator that guide the behaviour of academic staff irrespective of academic rank or position or scope of work. This is so because as colleagues, academic staff, like other professionals, have a predisposition to support each other in pursuing their individual goals.

From my perspective as a human resource practitioner, a number of positives can be adduced which exudes collegiality in

principle and practice as worth promoting. This is, however, not to forget that in practice, there are also some pitfalls of collegiality which result from failure to conform to the principles. What then are the principles, which if not adhered to could negate collegiality?

A number of these principles are outlined in the core values of Kyambogo University, namely, quality, equity, integrity and professionalism. In addition, we can add such cardinal values as selflessness, objectivity, accountability, openness, transparency, loyalty and commitment. Other principles include information sharing, respect for each other's views, creativity and innovation, and the need to take responsibility for one's action on each other, the University and community. If collegiality is to be applied in this perspective, the question then is what practices should the academic staff adopt in order to organize their faculties/schools and departments to pursue the central goals of teaching and learning, research, publications, innovations and community contribution?

In order to address the above question, it is worth noting that it is a requirement of all staff their individual or group work with the mission and goals of the University. It follows that while individual staff have personal goals to achieve, they have to

do so in the context of the institutional goals. When the personal goals conflict with the institutional goals, the latter takes precedence. It therefore follows that the individual energies of staff must be focused at achieving the common goal. Even when a personal objective is aimed at, it must contribute to the common goal. It must not be aimed at addressing private interest but public interest.

In light of the above, here are a few examples to illustrate the strength of collegiality. They are based on the fact that the academic objectives of Kyambogo University are currently underpinned by the focus on teaching and learning; research, publications and innovations. An individual academic staff is expected to undertake research and publish with credible publishers in order to be promoted. The University's goal as spearheaded by the Vice chancellor is to become a research-led university. The personal goal of the lecturer to undertake research and publish accordingly fits within the objectives and priorities of the University to promote research and publications. Indeed, faculty members undertake joint research and publication in the mutual support of each other. Similarly, the objective of teaching and learning requires highly qualified academicians at the level of a PhD. The personal goal of an individual Assistant Lecturer to pursue PhD studies perfectly fits in the objective of the University. In both instances, the spirit collegiality requires that such individual academic staff must be supported and encouraged to pursue their individual goals for the common good. However, to benefit from the scarce institutional resources, such research/publication and/or PhD studies should be in the relevant field.

It should be noted that in order to promote collegial management, the University has in place faculty/school and departmental boards/committees that handle the academic affairs, research and staffing matters. These are chaired by the Deans of Faculty/School and Heads of Department, respectively. Following the principles

previously mentioned, the departmental board/committee considers the matter and recommends to the Faculty Committee which in turn recommends to Senate or Top Management as the mandates may dictate. This enhances the sharing of authority between colleagues over matters that affect the staff and University generally. The Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department who are usually elected are also required to exercise managerial control over the Faculties/Schools and Departments.

It should be recalled that once the cardinal principles are not adhered to while considering the issues affecting staff, it negates collegiality. Indeed, a number of pitfalls have been observed in the practice of collegiality where the principles and managerial control have not been exercised as expected. For example, many times, departmental/faculty/school committees recommend staff for promotion even when it is clear to them that such a staff does not meet all the requirements for the promotional position. Another instance is that some departmental and faculties have tended to recommend their retired staff for contract appointment even when they do not have the required PhD or are above the age limit for the position. This defeats the principles of objectivity and openness which require that leaders or holders of public office should make choices on merit and be as open as possible about all their decisions and actions, giving reasons for doing so. A couple of times, departmental committees and faculties make recommendations in favour of their colleagues which have implication on the finances even when they know that the funds are inadequate or not provided in the budget. This defeats the tenets of collegiality.

The above critically calls to question the conflict that the Deans and Heads of Departments face, that is, at what stage do they consider themselves as Management? As elected leaders, a number of them have honestly agreed that as they are expected to bank on the support and confidence of their colleagues, this has often compromised

them, hence falling short of exercising objectivity. This is in the milieu of the traditional acrimony between academic staff and management with the former not considering the latter as colleagues. The academic staff always portend and/or feel frustrated and alienated by management especially when the latter exercise control over resources which do not go their way. In conclusion, in order to benefit from collegiality in the management processes of the University, there is need to emphasize and promote the principles and core values. If collegiality is to enhance the objects of Kyambogo University and promote academic leadership in the context of corporate governance, it should be exercised within the University values, principles, and regulations as a work culture throughout the work processes of planning, decision-making, follow-up, evaluation and reporting. Collegiality should, therefore, be mainstreamed in the University management.

P R O T E C T
YOURSELF AND OTHERS AGAINST
COVID-19
 #StaySafe #StayHealth



AVOID HANDSHAKE
 Just Wave from a distance



WEAR A MASK
 When in public



WASH HANDS REGULARY WITH SOAP



SOCIAL DISTANCE
 Maintain a social Distance of about 2 metres



OR
USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER



STAY AT HOME
 In Case You have any symptoms



MY STORY

Meet *Dr. Ojambo Robert* the First *Kyambogo* Graduate Fellow



I was born some 43 years ago in Mawoito village in Kakira Sub County, Jinja District. I am married and blessed us with four children. My education journey started at St. Theresa Primary School for all the seven years before joining Kakira Senior Secondary School for both 'O' and 'A' levels. From there, I went to Makerere University in 1997 and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor's Degree of Arts in Arts. During that time, Makerere University developed a Bachelor of Arts with Education Programme tenable at Institute for Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK) Graduate Fellows to help in tutorials and grading student's works. So after completing, I went back to Makerere and while there, I met my mentor, Dr. Tanga Odoi who held my hand and took me to the noticeboard. At the noticeboard, he showed me an announcement from Institute for Teacher Education Kyambogo looking for Graduate Fellows for an employment opportunity. He asked me to apply for the job and also offered to be one of my referees.

I wrote an application letter and delivered it to ITEK and went back to Happy Hours Secondary School where I was teaching. One morning as I was in class teaching, I received a call on the school landline from one Mr. Butindo Mbalya who told me that I should come to ITEK. I had actually forgotten about the application but as

he explained, I remembered. So I got on Taxi and headed to Kyambogo.

Upon arrival, I was expecting to be interviewed but there was no interview; I was instead given a huge envelope and I was wondering what was inside. I moved outside and sat at the bench, which is still there by the way. When I opened, I found an appointment letter, medical forms, terms and conditions and an employment sheet. My starting salary was four hundred thirty thousand shillings. This was one of the most exiting experience in my life. I kept wondering how I could have been offered a job yet I didn't know any one at ITEK. With all these excitement, I went back to Makerere where I used to stay.

The following day I came back and met Mr. Adupa who was then Acting Head of Department and he asked me to write an acceptance letter. I remember I wrote a very long letter but when I gave it to him, he laughed at me and guided me to write a very brief acceptance letter which I did and started work the following morning.

A few weeks later, I was joined by Ms. Salma Nakakuta who had been my classmate at Makerere as the second Graduate Fellow. Salma is also still serving this mighty University. For all my levels of education, I was performing very well; I passed in first grade



Mr. Ojambo graduating with a Master's Degree in History at Kyambogo University

after at primary seven and senior four. I also obtained 16 out of 19 points at senior six. I had a passion for history because I grew up with my grandmother who used to tell me folk stories but would not allow asking questions; so I developed love for imagination stories. When I went to Makerere University, I was given History and Religious Studies and philosophy. It was here that I actually realised that history is not about telling stories, but analysis of issues. At Makerere University, I obtained honours degree, second class upper-division and I was one of the best students and I later realized that my coming to Kyambogo University was really on merit. In 2001 I applied to go to Victoria University in New Zealand for a Master Arts (History) Degree, which I was offered a place but my Head of Department discouraged me stating that the history at Victoria University would not be relevant in Uganda. He encouraged me to enroll on a Master's programme that had been developed at the department, I agreed and did a Master of Arts (History) at the Department of History, Kyambogo University.

While I was doing my Master's Degree, I felt very uncomfortable being in a teachers' institute when I wasn't a professional teacher. So I went back to Makerere and also pursued a Post

Graduate Diploma in Education. I was doing two courses at the same time. I completed the Post Diploma in 2003 and also graduated with Master's Degree in 2005.

In 2010, I applied to go for a PhD at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) but the then Vice Chancellor, Isaiah Ndiege didn't



Dr. Ojambo Stephen giving speech during his bachelor's graduation



Kakira Youth party in 1999 Left to right Dr. Ojambo Stephen and Bahemuka j

grant me leave. Exactly one year later, I went to his office and told him that I was not going to leave his office until he signed my papers, so after waiting at his office for long hours, he signed my letter and endorsed me to go for a PhD. I chose the department of History, UDSM because of its famous Dar es salaam School which had been started by professors such as Walter Rodney, Terrance Ranger and Iseria Kimambo. I wanted to be part of that rich history, decision I will never regret.

So I left for Tanzania in 2011 and I was at the University of Dares salaam for five years and during those years I want to thank Kyambogo University because they paid my tuition and was giving me even some upkeep. While studying, I was very lucky that I was given very good professors that helped me so much to grow academically. While a student at UDSM, I received a number of fellowships; Proposal Development Fellowship, Dissertation Fellowship with Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa, Dissertation completion Fellowship with African Humanities Program among others. These finds enabled to write Thesis entitled "The Land Question in the Socio-political Conflict in the Districts of Bukedi and Bugisu: 1900-2007" and graduated in 2017. The period I finished as a PhD student was very instrument in transforming from a teacher into an academic. I was able to write grant proposals, do research and publish. In

2019 I was promoted to Senior Lecturer a post I hold to date.

His leadership at Kyambogo

My leadership journey had started at secondary school where I had served as the Information Prefect and Secretary for Finance, Uganda Students Association. While at Makerere University, I served in various capacities in different organisations; I was the Publicity Secretary for Uganda Young Democrats, Makerere branch, Youth Alive Uganda, GRC Mitchell Hall to mention but a few. I was also the Information Prefect in my High school. I joined the Institute of Teacher Education



Dr. Ojambo prepares to take an Orth as the new Information prefect at Kakira Senior Secondary school



Dr. Ojambo (C) pose for a group photo with his teams before a football match

Academic Staff Association (ITEASA) in 2001 and within few years, I become its Publicity Secretary in 2006. IN 2008, I was elected (KYUASA) General Secretary and KYUASA representative to Kyambogo University Council in 2016. My point of interest has been on four core areas of:

1. Staff Welfare
2. Promotion of Kyambogo University
3. Protection of Staff Rights
4. Academic Growth

We have done lots of things in these areas for example negotiating top up for teaching and administrative staff, advocating for salary enhancement, increasing the terminal benefits, medical insurance among others. I have spent most of my years in staff leadership and I have been in activism to see that the working conditions for all staff improve until recently when I became the Head of History Department an office that is both challenging but a an opportunity to grow as an administrator.

Ojambo, the sports man

I like sports so much and as I was growing up I almost tried every game be it boxing, Rugby, darts which I played up to national level, football among others. I am a qualified football coach but also do football management. I was

the General Secretary of Kyambogo Football Club, which played in Uganda Big League before it was relegated.

I am a member of the University Council serving my second term since 2016. While in Council, my big role has been Staff Welfare, Promotion of Kyambogo University, staff Promotion and improvement of KYU Infrastructure. I'm very happy with Prof. Eli Katunguka, the Vice Chancellor because he has taken a very bold step to promote the university image by supporting the building of Central Lecture Block and also making some renovations. The most fundamental are the two roads i.e. Halow and Fischer roads. When I pass there I tell myself that at least we have done something. I know this financial year we are going to work on the remaining roads, Banda gate and Kabaka gate, which will give KYU a great look. Another role has been on the Finance Committee of Council; although I have the history background, I am very keen with figures and I make sure that what was planned is done.

Right now I'm back to the Council but I want to consolidate what we have so far achieved and I want to continue putting more emphasis on staff welfare. It seems they have forgotten us. I will focus on renegotiating a staff burial scheme, another thing is that so many people

are not benefiting from working with the university for example there should be a clear policy on how people can do short courses within the university and better their academic qualifications.

Recently I picked interest in leadership at Academic Level and as I speak I am the sitting Head of the History and Political Science Department. This department is the oldest in the faculty that started in 1993. I am lucky that I work with a number of senior people; one Associate Professor, seven senior lecturers, 6 lecturers and many Assistant Lectures and Teaching Assistants. So in terms of staffing, I would say that we are fair in the University but we still have a huge challenge because we are not doing enough research and therefore the duties I am supposed to embark on is to make sure that we grow research and that is not something that you wish and it comes. So the first thing I have done is to start having people that we can work with and we have already established collaborations with Makerere University, I am also seeing how we can start a collaboration with the Department of History, University of Dar es salaam, Kenyatta University and the University of Michigan. I have also started research seminars every month here at the department. Recently we have been working with Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda and we have developed a program of Bachelor of Culture and Management Studies and we have had two debates and a symposium where we had the whole country here and others were online.

Of course research cannot go alone without graduate studies; there has been a Master of arts in History and reentry we started a Master of Public Administration and Resource Governance and a PhD in Public Policy and Governance.

The other area where we are getting a big challenge is teaching at junior level because all of a sudden, the university told us that we should not have Teaching Assistants. This was our conveyer belt and I know very many people who have started as Teaching Assistants including myself have grown through the ranks. We cannot keep recruiting people at senior level only.

The challenge is working conditions; for example teaching space where we can't teach history in the best ways. I bought a television

but we haven't found where to fix it because students need to watch history in films like that of Napoleon, Mussolini, and World War I and II among others to be able to relate quickly.

This
November
2020,
Dr. Ojambo
celebrates twenty
years of service
at Kyambogo
University

Dr. Ojambo
is the first
graduate fellow
of Kyambogo
University

Dr.
Ojambo
is an ardent
sportsman
and Manager,
Kyambogo
Football
Club



The long-lasting footmarks of our own

By Tibakuno George

I had a great opportunity to interview Angella Marjorie Atuhura, a CEO and Founder of Gejja Women Foundation. Through this foundation she has been able to roll out several projects that have seen underprivileged girls go back to school. Through women start-ups, underprivileged women (single women and widows) have been equipped with skills in making reusable sanitary pads, soap and wine among other things, the women have also attained agricultural skills. This has greatly changed the lives of women and girls in rural areas. She and the women she empowers have started selling pads under the name Safegirl after approval of quality by UNBS. In 2014, she attained a Bachelor of Arts in Education (Literature and English Language). Ladies and gentlemen lets dive into this interview so we can follow the footmarks of our very own.



Angella Marjorie Photo courtesy: www.gejja.org

What is your fondest memory of Kyambogo University?

The environment, the friends and so many other things.

What inspired you to start Gejja Foundation?

I started the foundation when I was pregnant in my final year. I had to go away from home. People were thinking it was the end of me. I moved from where I grew up from in Matunga to Mpigi and while there, I realised that there were many women and girls who were suffering more than I was. I realised that I was not the one who had the worst life ever. There were more people suffering and I decided to be their agent of change.



One of the many Gejja Women Foundation products. Photo courtesy: www.gejja.org

What would you say are your achievements so far?

There are so many things that we have been able to achieve. We have taken disadvantaged girls back to school. We have helped numerous women to start up their businesses. We have made over twenty thousand reusable sanitary pads. We have trained women, girls and men how to make reusable sanitary pads

in the refugee camps. We have worked with organisations that have supported us since we started until where we are. We now have our own women centre in Mpigi. We are not yet where we want to be but at least we are moving every day.

How do you determine the people in need to help?

The foundation was started in Mpigi. Our base is in Mpigi. We however go out of Mpigi to train people because we are an NGO. We help mostly women in Mpigi. We educate girls from Mukono and Mpigi. For the girls that are under our education support program, we derive from the girls' passion. If their passion is not education, what is hindering them from attaining an education? We probe to find out the girls' passion. I thought I would end up not being a graduate because my parents thought becoming pregnant would be the end of me so, we also try to change the perspectives of parents and local leaders about girls in education. The first girl I helped to go back to school has completed her senior four and she is yet to join an institute. If she had accepted to get married at the age of fourteen when her parents thought, she was ready for marriage she would not become what she wants to become now. She wants to become a fashion designer.

WHY WOULD I WANT TO USE CLOTH PADS INSTEAD OF DISPOSABLES?



- Experience the comfort of wearing soft, non synthetic fabric next to your body.
- Have less exposure to potentially unhealthy chemicals.
- Save money by not having to buy pads each and every month.
- Keep thousands of disposable feminine hygiene products out of landfills.



Gejja's Safegirl Reusable pads that were certified by UNBS recently. (Photo courtesy: www.gejja.org)

Amidst the great achievements, I am sure you have encountered challenges, what are some of those?

We are still growing. The foundation is not yet fully self-sustainable. We are also an agricultural based organisation. We practice agriculture. We are currently facing issues with the soil. There is too much land fragmentation in our country. Due to the poor quality of the soil, we have to add fertilizers. The seeds are

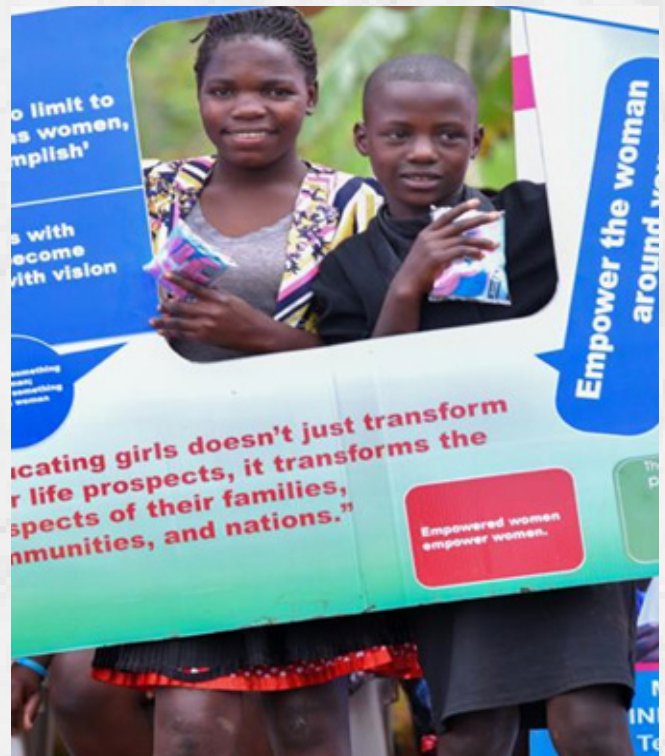


Some of the beneficiaries of Gejja projects

expensive. Some of our women would like to plant crops on say an acre but the seeds are expensive and land is for hiring as you know in most cases the marginalised women we support do not own land. We still lag behind because of financial issues. We have to import the materials we use to make sanitary pads¹. The nearest we can get these is Nairobi. We also import them from China and the UK. The challenge is that the shipping costs are very expensive. The taxes are also high and the people at the border actually do not understand that the material entering the country is going to be used for charity. It is not easy to work with community leaders especially old men who have a different perspective and view of current affairs.

What should the students interested in starting NGOs and Foundations to help other people know?

I do not want anyone to wake up and just start an NGO to make money. Whoever is going to start an NGO should know that it begins with passion, persistence and prayer. There are days I wake up in the middle of the night and I think about the women who are over thirty-five or older than me and there are children who have to go back to school but I don't have enough money to help them out at that time. You should also be creative. The money may come but impacting one life at a time is better than the money people think NGOs get. I also encourage them to get mentors, people who have been in the same field. They need to learn from them. They should ask them what is happening and how it is happening. They should also love what they are going to start for instance, I love Gejja Foundation so much that if you woke me up in the middle of the night I would tell you what, why, where and when it is happening. Yeah they should love what they do even if it is crumbling there are times you wake up and you are like oh God, I wish I could get a job but then you think of it and you are like but if I get a job I am not really working on what I want. You are working to achieve some else's passion and dream. But if you work towards your dream and get a team that is committed, and also passionate and persistent that even if the rains come you people will stand together as a team.



Some of the beneficiaries of Gejja projects.
Photo credit: www.gejja.org

Do you think Kyambogo University has progressed?

It has and as an alumnus outside here I am always proud to say that I am from Kyambogo University and that is where I studied from. I studied English and Literature. I am one of those pillars they can say we have a former student here and invite me to talk to people and encourage them.

Do you think Kyambogo University shaped you into the person you are today?

I think shape is also grown so you keep adding knowledge and skills. May be if I was not a teacher I would not be doing community work like I am. So, yes Kyambogo University contributed to the person I am today.

You work with women and girls under your Gejja Foundation. What kind of advice would you give female students at Kyambogo University based on your experiences?

Sometimes I wish I started Gejja Foundation when I was still at campus in my very first year it would have been better. We should take our time, everything is planned and known by the creator we should not rush. They should take everything at a step. They should concentrate on reading. If they have businesses, they

should put much effort there too. The business will feed you and your children and your grandchildren. They should start companies that are going to last for a life time. Even if the company is not earning them money, they should put effort. For instance, I am always happy when I meet a woman who says they made it because of me and they were able to go to school or start a business. A candle loses nothing when it lights another candle.

What are your last words to Kyambogo University?

The community at Kyambogo University thank you for nurturing us. A woman like me will not be a disgrace to you all. I will continue and the rest of us here we shall continue shining and making the name of Kyambogo University

brighter. Invite us to talk to the young ones who are there we may not impact the lives of thousands there but at least one or two souls. When you invite people like us in the field who are doing something especially about companies impacting lives in the communities we are always here and you are welcome to come and check on us.

Dear readers, do you know an alumnus or alumna of Kyambogo University who has done extraordinary things for his/her community? We would like to interview them. Send us their contact via WhatsApp: 0706840592 or call.

2020/2021 Direct Entry Admission List Released

Admission Lists can be accessed
through Our Website

<https://kyu.ac.ug/>

Successful applicants can now Download
Provisional Admission Letter from;
<https://admissions.kyu.ac.ug>

Login using the **email** or **telephone number**
and **password** used while applying



Scan the code
below to access
the admission list
or [Click here](#)



How to print Admission letter:

2020/2021 provisional Admission letter for Kyambogo University has been uploaded online. Successful applicants can download their provisional admission letter from the admission website.

Download Provisional Admission Letter from;
<https://admissions.kyu.ac.ug>

Use the **email** or **telephone number** and **password** used while applying for the applying for the Academic Programme as the credentials to login.

Follow the steps below;

The screenshot shows the website admissions.kyu.ac.ug with the following annotated steps:

- click here to login with the telno**: Points to the "login with Tel No." radio button.
- Click here to login with the email Address**: Points to the "login with Email" radio button.
- provide the email address or telno**: Points to the "email address" input field.
- Provide the password to login**: Points to the "Password" input field.
- Click here to Reset your password or Contact: dictskyu@kyu.ac.ug for assistance**: Points to the "Forgot Password" button.
- Click here to login**: Points to the "Login" button.

Additional text on the page includes: "admissions System website", "Kyambogo University - ONLINE ADMISSIONS", "Fill in your Email and Password to access your forms", "Don't have an account yet? Sign up below to get one.", "How to apply", and "SIGN UP NOW".

After login:

After downloading your Admission Letter:

Activate your account on the link: <https://student.kyu.ac.ug> for **Fees payments** and follow the steps.



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