



MUST NEWS LETTER

June 2024

The month that was!

VOLUME 37

Thank you for
retiring with your
"Face"
Mr. Byaruhanga
bids farewell to
MUST.



In this MUST Mirror



HPV Testing
cervical cancer
fastened up



Bio-Silica Research
brings strong ties
to MUST



Internationalisation
and collaboration

Succeed we must

EDITOR'S WORD



Angella Nakato Muyingo
Public Relations Officer
Office of the Vice Chancellor

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, where we bring you the exciting world of bio-silica research! Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently hosted a groundbreaking workshop titled "Harmonizing Innovation: Collaborative Synthesis of Bio-Silica Nanoparticles for Industry." This three-day event brought together a vibrant community of researchers, students, and industry leaders, all united by a shared vision: unlocking the immense potential of bio-silica derived from rice husk.

The workshop aligned deeply with MUST's core values of collaboration and innovation. By fostering partnerships with esteemed institutions like Makerere University and Imperial College London, we harnessed the collective expertise needed to explore the vast possibilities of bio-silica.

This revolutionary material holds immense promise for sustainable development. Presentations gave insights of its potential applications in environmental protection, from wastewater treatment to oil spill removal. Additionally, the workshop explored bio-silica's role in enhancing oil recovery, a crucial area for Uganda's economic growth.

The participation of industry representatives like Mr. Aggrey Mugume from the Petroleum Authority of Uganda further underscored the workshop's significance. Building bridges between academia and industry is essential for ensuring research translates into real-world solutions that address Uganda's specific needs.

Beyond the scientific breakthroughs, the workshop fostered a spirit of teamwork. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Associate Professor Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba's closing remarks deeply, emphasizing the power of collaboration through a compelling story. This spirit of collective action, not just within academia but across sectors, is a cornerstone of what we stand for at MUST.

We at MUST are committed to remaining at the forefront of bio-silica research. The knowledge and connections fostered through this workshop will undoubtedly propel further advancements in this field. We firmly believe that bio-silica research can play a vital role in building a more sustainable future for Uganda and beyond.

Stay tuned for future updates on our bio-silica research endeavors. Together, through collaboration and innovation, we can unlock the potential of this revolutionary material and cultivate a brighter future for all.

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Bridging the Gap: A Help to Help Bootcamp Story empowering young minds



In June 2024, a dedicated team from Help to Help's head office embarked on a mission to Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) for a life-changing bootcamp. From June 8th to 13th, this intensive program aimed to equip beneficiaries with the tools they need to not only excel academically but also thrive in the competitive job market.

Led by the inspiring Project Coordinator, Ms. Naomi Shimba, the bootcamp provided students like Aisha with invaluable insights. Experts from various fields shared their real-life experiences, shedding light on the skills and mindsets crucial for success beyond graduation. From interview techniques to industry trends, the curriculum was designed to prepare students to stand out from the crowd.

The spirit of shared responsibility permeated the opening ceremony. The Dean of Students, Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba, addressed the eager participants, reminding them of the privilege they held. He emphasized the importance of focus and dedication, highlighting the countless others who yearned for the same opportunity. His words served as a powerful reminder of the impact of Help to Help's mission.

This bootcamp transcended mere skill development. It fostered a sense of community and responsibility. The students, many of whom had witnessed the struggles of their peers, understood the importance of making the most of this chance. The program wasn't just about individual success; it was about empowering these young minds to become the next generation of changemakers.

The Help to Help bootcamp in Mbarara is a true reflection to the Help to help unwavering commitment to bridging the gap between education and opportunity. By equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need, Help to Help is not just changing lives, they are shaping a brighter future for East Africa. For more information about the bootcamp please click: <https://www.must.ac.ug/empowering-young-minds-help-to-help-boot-camp-equips-must-students-for-success/>

Beyond the Dollars: Student Voices on the Impact of “Help to Help” Scholarships



Nambogwe Lydia

My Journey to HelpToHelp

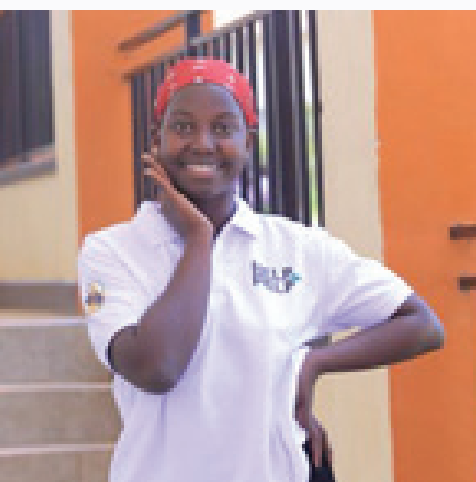
My journey to receive help from HelpToHelp has been an emotional roller coaster, filled with both beauty and despair. It all began during a vacation when I initially believed I would secure government sponsorship for my desired course. However, upon the release of the government's list, I was disheartened to find my name absent.

Dejected, I then attempted to apply for a HESFB loan, but unfortunately, this avenue proved unsuccessful as well. With all hope seemingly lost, I surrendered to faith, trusting that the same God who guided me through primary and secondary education would see me through university as well.

Following this internal resolution, I applied to Mbarara University of Science and Technology, securing admission for the Software Engineering program. As the semester neared its end, a friend informed me about the scholarship opportunities offered by HelpToHelp. While tempted to apply alongside my friend, discouragement gnawed at me, leading me to believe I wouldn't be chosen.

The unexpected arrival of Covid-19 abruptly forced us home before the semester's conclusion. During this time at home, I met a cousin who, unbeknownst to me, was also a student at Mbarara University. Upon noticing a HelpToHelp sticker on his phone, I recounted my initial discouragement regarding the scholarship application process. Thankfully, my cousin served as a pillar of encouragement, urging me to take a chance and apply before the deadline, which was the following day. Heeding his advice, I decided to give it a shot, reasoning that even if unsuccessful, it wouldn't hurt to try. With that, I submitted my application and, after a period of time that allowed the application to fade from my immediate thoughts, I received an email congratulating me on being selected for the scholarship.

Words cannot express the emotions that overwhelmed me upon receiving this news. Initially, disbelief clouded my judgment, making the entire situation feel surreal, like a dream come true. This experience has indelibly instilled in me the values of resilience and persistence. It has become a powerful reminder to seize every opportunity that presents itself, regardless of initial doubts. After all, life is full of uncertainties, and anything is truly possible.



Anzoa Jovian Patience

A Story of Perseverance

Growing up with my grandmother instilled a deep passion for learning in me. Witnessing her tireless efforts to put me through school left a lasting impression. However, financial constraints posed a significant challenge.

Grandma and I worked hard to support me throughout high school. But as she aged, I realized the increasing difficulty she faced. University seemed like a distant dream.

Despite the challenges, I didn't give up. Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) had always been my dream university, and I was fortunate to receive admission. However, financial limitations prevented me from joining last year.

Later, a friend shared an advert for the Forum of African Women Educationists (FAWE) scholarship program. I applied, went through the interview process, and held onto hope. Unfortunately, the news of my rejection was a crushing blow. Discouraged, I nearly gave up.

I confided in a close friend at MUST, sharing my struggles. He introduced me to the HELP TO HELP scholarship program, but the delayed payment until the second semester was disheartening. Nonetheless, I persevered. Throughout the vacation, I worked tirelessly, helping my grandma in any way possible.

Upon reporting to campus, my friend and I applied together. Months later, I went through the interview process and was eventually selected. It was then I realized that God had a better plan for me.

Currently, I face challenges with hostel food and rent. While it's difficult, I strive to maintain payments. Additionally, I've started a small business selling handbags to generate some income. During holidays, I make a conscious effort to save money, ensuring I can sustain myself throughout the semester.

Academics remain a priority for me, and I actively participate in various projects on campus. Examples include the pharmbiotrac project led by Eng Anke, and various farm works relevant to my agriculture studies.

Through these experiences, I've honed valuable skills that I believe will be appreciated in the future.



Edrine Mwebaze

A Future Changemaker, Thanks to Help to Help

As a nursing student at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, I, Mwebaze Edrine, am incredibly grateful to be a recipient of the Help to Help scholarship. This incredible support has empowered me to chase my academic dreams and, ultimately, become a "great change maker" in the healthcare field.

My journey with Help to Help began in June 2023, during my school break after finishing Form Six. Having secured private admission to Mbarara University, the excitement was tempered by the reality of affording the tuition fees. It was then that I discovered the scholarship program. With hope renewed, I applied before even setting foot on campus.

Thanks to the generosity of Help to Help, I've not only been able to continue my education, but I've also gained invaluable skills and knowledge along the way.

My passion for becoming a nurse burns ever brighter, fueled by the opportunities this scholarship has provided. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the entire Help to Help team. Your life-changing scholarship and partnership with Mbarara University have significantly impacted my life and academic journey. It's clear that your dedication to helping students like myself truly makes a difference.



NAJJUMA NORAH AGATHA

This is how I found Help to Help. As a first-year nursing student at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), tuition fees were my biggest worry. But Help to Help came to my rescue, alleviating my financial fears and offering so much more. They've provided invaluable career guidance, helping me solidify my dream of becoming a [specific type of nurse, e.g., pediatric nurse]. In addition, their skills development workshops have equipped me with valuable communication and teamwork skills that will be essential in my nursing career. I'm forever grateful for this blessing!



KOMUHANJI MAXINE MERCY

I am incredibly grateful to the Help to Help organization for stepping in and supporting my education at a critical time. The words of encouragement and wisdom they've shared have had a lasting impact on me. Their guidance motivates me every day, week after week, reminding me to never give up on my dream of becoming a pharmacist.

The scholarship has made it possible for me to gain valuable knowledge and skills in my field of study. Without their help, achieving this dream would have seemed nearly impossible. Now, thanks to their support, my goal of becoming a pharmacist feels closer than ever. I will forever be indebted to them for their generosity.

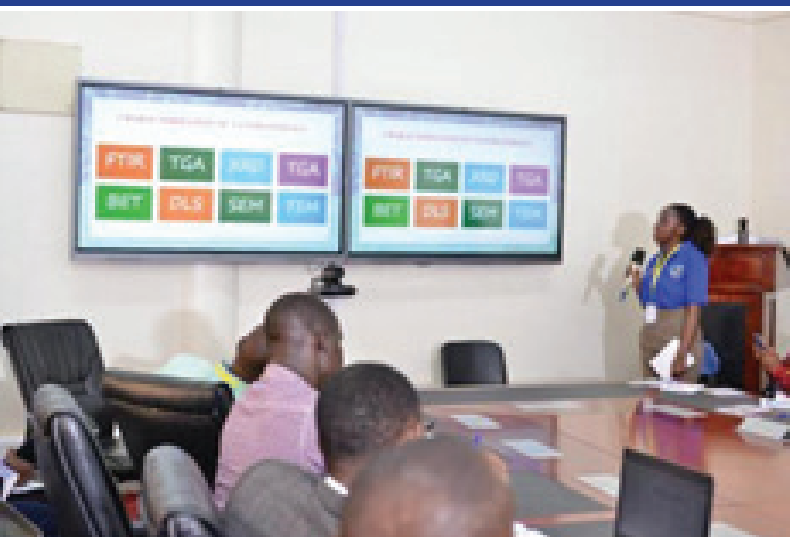


Ahairwe Nicholus

In 2021, during my first year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), a friend introduced me to the life-changing Help To Help program. Coming from a challenging background, my academic journey would have been significantly more difficult without their support. The scholarship arrived at a critical time, as we were all grappling with the post-pandemic realities of COVID-19. I was facing a significant financial burden, limited access to resources, and a dwindling focus on my education. Help To Help stepped in, not only covering my tuition fees but also providing invaluable mentorship sessions. This holistic approach significantly improved my academic experience and allowed me to progress smoothly towards my final paper.

Throughout my time at MUST, I actively participated in various leadership roles. I served as the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) representative for my course and the Public Relations Officer (PRO) for the student guild's electoral commission that oversaw the 35th guild house elections. Additionally, I led the Help To Help beneficiary association until my graduation.

Bio-Silica Research Takes Center Stage at MUST Workshop



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently hosted a dynamic workshop for engineers under the Higher Education Partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa (HEP SSA) program. Themed "Harmonizing Innovation: Collaborative Synthesis of Bio-Silica Nanoparticles Derived from Rice Husk for Various Industrial Applications," the three-day event took place from June 4th to 6th, 2024, at the Kihumuro campus. It brought together researchers, students, and industry partners from across Uganda and beyond.



Dr. Farad Sagala, the project leader and chair of the organizing committee, provided highlights of the HEP SSA project. He emphasized the collaborative nature of the initiative, involving MUST and Makerere University in Uganda, Imperial College London, the University of Namibia, and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University in Nigeria. Dr. Sagala explained the benefits of collaboration and said:

- **Combining Expertise:** Different institutions contribute unique strengths and areas of focus.
- **Sharing Resources:** Institutions can share valuable resources like laboratories, equipment, or datasets.
- **Enhanced Learning:** Collaboration fosters knowledge exchange between students and researchers.
- **Building Reputation:** Successful partnerships can elevate the reputation of all involved institutions. For more details please click this link: <https://www.must.ac.ug/the-must-newsletter-vol-15-the-must-mirror-2/>



CODA Initiation Project: HPV Testing cervical cancer fastened up

OPTIMIZATION, VALIDATION AND ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF HPV TESTING USING CODA

#CODAtheperfectsolution #fightcervicalcancer #Testforcervicalcancer

NIH National Institutes of Health KAHO MGH MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) officially commenced the CODA Project on Wednesday, 12th June 2024 with a well-attended meeting at the university premises.

The project, led by Principal Investigator Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, is a five-year endeavor funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) under Grant Number 1U01CA279858-01.

The presentations were as below; Dr. Joy Muhumuza a Gynecological Oncologist heading the cervical cancer prevention Unit at Mbarara Regional Referral hospital. She shared about the burden of cancer at International, national and regional level. Dr. Muhumuza highlighted that most women do not undergo cervical cancer screening, according to reports from the World Health Organization.

With this she gave the WHO plan of eliminating cervical

cancer that each country should meet the 90–70–90 targets by 2030 to get on the path to eliminate cervical cancer.

- vaccination: 90% of girls fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15;
 - screening: 70% of women screened using a high-performance test by the age of 35, and again by the age of 45;
 - treatment: 90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed.
- <https://www.who.int/initiatives/cervical-cancer-elimination-initiative>

With a passion to making a difference in women's health on the Globe, Joy gave hope by saying that early detection of HPV can help identify changes on the cervix early enough, potentially bridging the gap in the healthcare sector.



Mr. Frank Sedyabane presenting

This was followed by a detailed presentation by a diagnostic specialist, Mr. Frank Sedyabane. He shared the study functionality and practicability, showing how things are going to be done differently in relation to HPV detection taking care of all the insecurities of women. He emphasized that eliminating cervical cancer requires eliminating HPV. To achieve this goal, he recommends timely screening using high-performance tests to detect HPV infection or premalignant cervical lesions early



Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi presenting

Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, the Principal Investigator of the CODA Project and Senior lecturer at MUST, mentioned that this is a five-year endeavor funded by the NIH (Grant Number 1U01CA279858-01).

The project aims to evaluate CODA's effectiveness in cervical cancer screening compared to existing methods like VIA. Additionally, it will assess CODA's practicality and user-friendliness in Ugandan clinical settings, gather feedback to refine CODA's design, and measure its accuracy in detecting HPV.

Finally, the project seeks to develop a multi-modal screening algorithm (CANOPY) that integrates CODA with other methods for potentially improved diagnosis. Aligning with MUST's mission, this multi-country project with teams in Uganda, the United States, and Ghana has the potential to significantly improve cervical cancer screening and women's healthcare outcomes.



Dr. Peter Ssebutinde giving his remarks

His presentation was followed by the District Health Officer Dr. Ssebutinde who appreciated the timely study and appreciated the practicability of CODA. He gave his remarks, mentioning that Uganda has several scientists. However, the difference between them lies in who practices science to transform livelihoods and make an impact in the community.

This project of CODA exemplifies the kind of impactful science we strive for and translating scientific advancements into practical tools like CODA, we can directly improve patient care and health outcomes in our communities.

Representing the Hospital Director Dr. Leonard Abesiga said the Hospital is more than committed to support the study. He also pointed out the unavailability of elderly women in testing for cervical Cancer

Ms. Alexa Namuli, a nursing officer and clinic in-charge at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, mentioned in her remarks that cervical cancer is a reality in our community. We need to look for interventions that can reduce cancer statistics and ease diagnosis.



Dr. Leonard Abesiga representing the Hospital Director

The deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Charles Tushaboomwe Kazooba thanked the PI and team for winning such a noble grant to support mothers. Charles noticed the diversity of the team in terms of qualification and age difference. He pointed out the need to make mothers comfortable with the testing for cervical cancer and appreciated the idea of counseling before during and after the testing. He appreciated the senior nurses who have served diligently in the hospital, he recognise Sr. Alexa Nakimuli, Sr. Gertrude Busige and others who were present at the meeting.



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Celestino Obua

The meeting was graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof Celestino Obua who pointed out the importance of embracing technology and embarking on the evaluation of various diagnostic tools, emphasizing its relevance to the university's mission.

He further stressed the need to prioritize patient privacy rights and encouraging frequent cervical cancer testing to ensure the project's positive impact on women's health. He congratulated the team and encouraged them to publish the findings and disseminate them since they are key to stakeholders in the health sector.



A brief about the CODA Project

The CODA Project aims to revolutionize cervical cancer screening through the evaluation of its innovative CODA technology. The project seeks to achieve the following:

Evaluate CODA's Effectiveness: Compare CODA's performance with existing methods like VIA for cervical cancer screening accuracy.

Assess Feasibility and Acceptability: Evaluate CODA's practicality and user-friendliness within Ugandan clinical settings.

Refine CODA Technology: Gather feedback from users to improve CODA's design and workflow.

Determine Diagnostic Accuracy: Measure CODA's accuracy in detecting HPV compared to established testing methods.

Develop a Multi-Modal Screening Algorithm (CANOPY): Integrate CODA with other screening methods (VIA, Machine Learning) to potentially improve overall diagnostic yield.

<https://www.must.ac.ug/optimization-validation-and-assessment-of-feasibility-and-acceptability-of-hpv-testing-using-coda/>

Collaboration is Key

Ugandan team

Assoc Prof Joseph Ngonzi (Obstetrics and gynaecology)

Mr. Frank Ssedyabane (Medical laboratory science)

Dr. Joy Muhumuza (Gynaecologic oncology)

Ms. Alexcer Namuli (Gynaecologic oncology nursing)

Ms. Josephine Asiimwe (Project administration)

Dr. Raymond Atwine (pathology)

Ghanaian team

Dr. Thomas Konney (Gynaecologic oncology)

Dr. Nicholas Mensah (Gynaecologic oncology)

Dr. Francis Adjei Osei (Gynaecologic oncology)

American team

Dr. Thomas C Randall (Gynaecologic oncology)

Dr. Cesar M Castro (Gynaecologic oncology and translational research)

Dr. Hakho Lee (Biomedical engineering)

The CODA Initiation meeting concluded with a group photo capturing the spirit of collaboration between MUST researchers, healthcare professionals from Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, and international collaborators from Uganda, the United States, and Ghana. This collaborative effort holds immense promise for improving early detection of cervical cancer, empowering women to take charge of their health, and ultimately saving lives.



Take Control of Your Health: CODA Project on HPV Testing and Cervical Cancer Prevention

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) is delighted to announce the inauguration of its new Contracts Committee on June 25, 2024.

The ceremony began with a prayer led by Dr. Johnes Obungoloch, the newly appointed chairperson. Following the invocation, His Worship Joshua Mukulu, a Grade One Magistrate from the Mbarara High Court, addressed the committee members.



Dr. Johnes Obungoloch



His Worship Joshua Mukulu,

Magistrate Mukulu emphasized the significance of their role, established by an Act of Parliament. He underscored the importance of adhering to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act. He advised the committee members to gain a thorough understanding of the act and to consult with legal counsel to ensure their decisions align with the law. He concluded by warning them about potential legal consequences for violating the act. For more details please [click: https://www.must.ac.ug/mbarara-university-of-science-and-technology-inaugurates-new-contracts-committee/](https://www.must.ac.ug/mbarara-university-of-science-and-technology-inaugurates-new-contracts-committee/)

A Fond Farewell to a Dedicated Leader: MUST Says Goodbye to the US



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently held a farewell ceremony to celebrate the remarkable career of Mr. Melchior Byaruhanga, who retired after 27 years of dedicated service, with the last six as University Secretary. <https://www.must.ac.ug/a-fond-farewell-to-a-dedicated-leader-must-says-goodbye-to-the-us/>.



Celebration of Service: Mr. Byaruhanga Melchoir's Retirement



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) bade a heartfelt farewell to Mr. Byaruhanga Melchoir, the University Secretary, who served the institution for 27 dedicated years. The event, held at the Corpus Christi Catholic Community at MUST, resonated with gratitude and appreciation.



Main Celebrant Father Didas Tumwine

The ceremony began with sacrifice of mass expressing deep thankfulness to God for the gift of life and a successful career ending. This was led by Father Didas Tumwine, as the main celebrant. He acknowledged Mr. Byaruhanga's commitment to serving MUST until the very end. He also recognized the unwavering support of Mr. Byaruhanga's wife, Mrs. Jolly Byaruhanga, who stood by his side throughout his journey.



Mr. Tom Mbonimpa Lay chaplain Corpus christi Dr. Priscilla Muheki the reader of the day Mr. John Bosco representing the Corpus Christi executive

Father Didas highlighted two key lessons learned from Mr. Byaruhanga: trusting in God and never giving up. He emphasized the importance of expressing gratitude, stating, "Most of the times in our lives, it is not our own doing but God's will. So, it is right and fitting to give thanks to Him."



Oh yes, in the presence of the lord I will bring my gifts with thanks giving love

On behalf of the Corpus Christi Executive Committee, Mr. John Bosco Nsengiyumva expressed their gratitude for Mr. Byaruhanga's dedication and support to the community. He said, "You have shared the gifts of your marriage with us – your children have all been members of the Corpus Christi choir and other church associations. Your presence has been, and continues to be, a blessing to us."



Mr. Patrick Twesigye on behalf of the friends Prof. Nixon Kamukama on behalf of Management

Mr. Patrick Twesigye, representing Mr. Byaruhanga's friends, described him as a simple, honest, and trustworthy person. He reminisced about his personal experience in choosing Mr. Byaruhanga as his best man, saying, "On a personal level, I needed not look any further for the perfect choice. He was highly recommended by his wife as well."



Ex- Seminarians at the alter



The Byaruhanga Family

Professor Nixon Kamukama, Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, spoke on behalf of the university management. He commended Mr. Byaruhanga for his calm demeanor, humility, and teamwork spirit. He acknowledged Mr. Byaruhanga's honesty in handling university finances, both from government allocations and collaborations. Prof. Kamukama praised his organizational skills, stating that all management meetings were well-run under his leadership. He concluded by saying, "Thank you for retiring with your head held high and with your face. Thank you for serving MUST and giving your all." Professor Kamukama also encouraged Mr. Byaruhanga to stay active in his retirement, suggesting membership in the Mbarara Golf Club. He offered a complimentary annual membership to the club as a token of appreciation.



The congregation

In his farewell speech, Mr. Byaruhanga expressed gratitude to everyone for their support, particularly the university council for entrusting him with such a crucial position. He acknowledged the employment opportunity at MUST, crediting it for supporting his family and opening doors to other opportunities. Notably, Mr. Byaruhanga and his family donated to the Corpus Christi community alter linen as an act of thanksgiving.

Following the ceremony, the congregation enjoyed an evening braai and barbecue, chaired by Mr. John Innocent Muhereza. He echoed the gratitude towards Mr. Byaruhanga for his service to MUST. Additional thanks were given to everyone who contributed to the event's success, in a special way he recognised the support from Mr. Samauel Hakiza-omwami the director of Kigezi Forest cottages (KFC), who hosted the guests at his gardens.



Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, joined the other speakers in thanking Mr. Byaruhanga for the great service rendered to MUST. She ended the speech in a melodious cathedral tune that was giving thanks to God. This event served as a fitting tribute to Mr. Byaruhanga Melchoir's remarkable career at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. His dedication, integrity, and service to the university community were celebrated with a spirit of gratitude and well wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

Memories, memories, memories



A Legacy of Service at MUST: A Farewell to outstanding Surgeons



On June 27, 2024, the Department of Surgery at MUST held an evening gathering to honor the work of Prof. David Kitya, who was officially retiring from service, and Prof. Carlos Manuel Cabreta Dreque from Cuba, who had served MUST for a period of eight years.

Prof. Carlos's Service at MUST



Prof. Carlos Manuel Cabreta Dreque served MUST under the government partnership between Uganda and Cuba. He served as a general surgeon and participated in mentorship, innovations, and research while at MUST for 8 years

Professor Kitya's Extensive Experience



Professor Kitya's extensive experience spans over three decades, primarily with Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital. He also has experience at Mulago Hospital, Kenyan hospitals including Kenyatta National and Tenwek Mission Hospital, and Ege University Hospital's Spine Section.

Professor Kitya's Leadership and Service: Professor



Kitya's leadership roles include serving as Acting Head of Department from 2000 to 2021, playing a pioneering role in establishing neurosurgery programs at MUST and in the region, and leading the region's neurosurgery efforts since 2012. He is also the current Chair of the Neurosurgical Society of Uganda and played a key role in starting the COSECESA Neurosurgery program. An MMed Surgery program is also underway.



Dr. Marvin Mwesigwa did a fantastic job as the MC for your evening dinner! His background in urology combined with his sense of humor and intelligence, certainly made the event a success with all the jokes aligned with surgeons



Dr. Felix Oyania



Dr. Edgar Atwiine on behalf of the residents

Speeches and Remarks

On behalf of the organizing committee, Dr. Felix Oyania a pediatric surgeon expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for attending the evening event. He acknowledged their support in making it a success. Dr. Felix then extended his special thanks to Professors Kitya and Carlos for their dedication to mentoring the country's finest surgeons. Finally, he encouraged the guests to enjoy the evening without restrictions, as long as they reported to work on time the following day.

On behalf of the department residents, Dr. Edgar Atwi-

ine expressed his deepest appreciation for the mentorship provided by Professors Kitya and Carlos. He highlighted specific qualities each professor instilled in them.

Dr. Atwiine lauded Professor Kitya's strict adherence to time management, quoting him as saying, "A minute lost by a surgeon can cost a life, and no one wants to be responsible for that." He further emphasized Professor Kitya's emphasis on prayer before surgery, acknowledging the importance of a higher power in their work.



For Professor Carlos, Dr. Atwiine praised his tireless work ethic. "The operating room walls can testify to his dedication," he said, "working from morning to evening." He also credited Professor Carlos with instilling the importance of meticulous surgical technique.

Dr. David Mutiibwa, a former head of department and a senior surgeon was grateful to Professors Kitya and Carlos for the service rendered to MUST. Dr. Mutiibwa said "as a former head of department, I had the distinct pleasure of witnessing firsthand the incredible impact you both had on our students." Dr. Mutiibwa specifically thanked the professors for their "dedication to mentorship and fostering a love for medicine," particularly in their respective fields of neurosurgery and general surgery. He added that their work has "undoubtedly shaped countless careers and positively im-

acted countless lives across Uganda."

Dr. Mutiibwa concluded his message by expressing his appreciation to the event organizers and thanking Professors Kitya and Carlos for their commitment to the surgery department and wished them the best of luck in their next journey as surgeons they look at in admiration

The Head of the Department thanked the two professors for their tremendous work, especially in mentoring students and serving Ugandans.

In his remarks, the Hospital Director MRRH, Dr. Deus Twesigye, thanked the MUST administration for the partnership with the Cuban embassy that brought Prof. Carlos to MUST. He added that Prof. Carlos's service to Ugandans will forever be remembered dearly.



Kodak moment

Referring to Prof. Kitya, Dr. Deus Twesigye the hospital director and a general surgeon called him a "rare find, a limited edition." He said Prof. Kitya has saved many people with head traumas, especially those involved in accidents and other neurological complications. He congratulated him on ending his term of service as a professor of Neurosurgery but expressed his gratitude that Prof. Kitya would be staying to serve Mbarara and the region as a whole.



Dr. Kisitu Daniel



Dr. Deus Twesigye



Dr. Mutiibwa

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Joseph Ngonzi (Associate Professor), thanked the two professors for their great work in mentoring medical students. "You have been an inspiration to many, starting with me," he said. "Your hard work has brought us partnerships that have brought the Department of Surgery to a state-of-the-art facility." He gave examples of the operating rooms that came in from supporters of Bethesda Children's Hospital and DGNN. He commended them for their teamwork and zeal to serve under challenging circumstances

Professor Kitya's Farewell Speech

"Good evening everyone. Standing here tonight, filled with gratitude for all the kind words, it is hard to believe this journey has come to an official end. It is been an

honor to serve alongside such dedicated colleagues and witness the growth of brilliant students at MUST. From my early days at Nakayisijja Primary School to MUST, the pursuit of knowledge and service has been my guiding light.

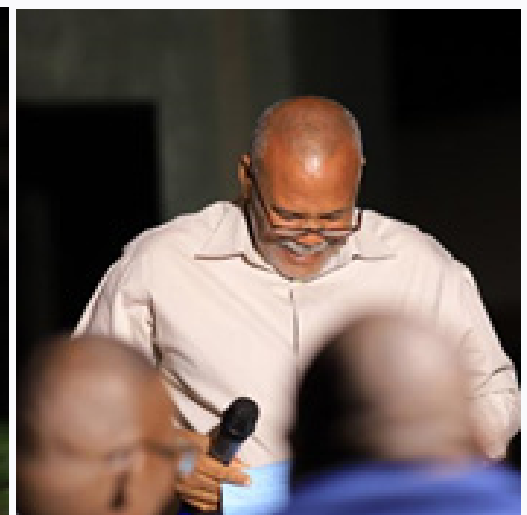
Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated breakthroughs, and established a strong foundation for neurosurgery in this region. It fills me with immense pride. While I may be stepping down as a professor, my commitment to this community does not end here. I look forward to finding new ways to contribute and support the future generation of surgeons. Thank you for everything, and remember, the greatest reward lies in the lives we touch."



Dr. Joseph Ngonzi (Assoc.Prof)



Prof. David Kitya

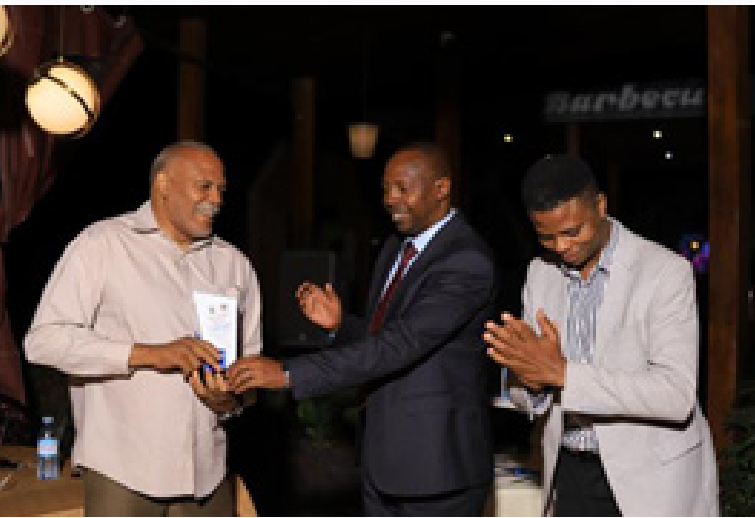


Prof. Carlos Manuel

Professor Carlos Manuel Cabreta Dreque's Farewell Speech

"Esta noche" (This evening), "me siento profundamente agradecido" (I feel deeply grateful) for the opportunity to serve at MUST these past eight years. Working alongside such talented professionals and witnessing the passion of Ugandan students has been a privilege. The partnership between Cuba and Uganda has fostered a beautiful exchange of knowledge, and I am confident this will continue to flourish.

Though my time here is coming to an end, the friendships forged and the lessons learned will remain with me forever. "Les deseo lo mejor" (I wish you all the best) in your future endeavors, and remember, the pursuit of healing knows no borders. Keep striving for excellence, and may the spirit of collaboration continue to guide you."



GOODBYE



As the night drew to a close, a sense of deep appreciation filled all over the place as colleagues and students shared personal stories about the impact the two professors had on their lives. Prof. Kitya, touched by the tributes, expressed his commitment to continue serving the community in some capacity. Prof. Carlos, overwhelmed by the affection, promised to stay connected and visit whenever possible. The department looked forward to a new chapter, forever indebted to the foundation laid by these remarkable surgeons.

Smooth Handover: Mr. Kwatampora Takes Over as University Secretary

Keep it Simple and stupid was the take home message by the Deputy Vice Chancellor in Finance and Administration (DVC F&A) during the handover ceremony for the new University Secretary at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST).

Associate Professor Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba in the opening remarks emphasized the importance of streamlined management, stating, "The only way to ensure smooth operations is to keep things simple and stupid." He commended Mr. Melchior Byaruhanga, the outgoing University Secretary, for his success using this approach. Professor Kazooba also thanked the Vice Chancellor, Professor Celestino Obua, for adopting the same management style.



The new University Secretary received the instruments of power in the presence of the Chair, Appointments Board, Dr. Stevens Kisakka, and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Celestino Obua.

A Seasoned Leader Departs

In his farewell address, Mr. Byaruhanga recounted his journey at MUST. "I joined the university in 1998 and was appointed secretary to top management just a year later," he said. "This responsibility has been my honor to carry ever since." He highlighted his experience in handling top-level communication and navigating challenges with grace



Passing the Torch: Mr. Byaruhanga offered valuable advice to his successor, Mr. Vincent Kwatampora. He emphasized the importance of active listening, teamwork, prioritizing student needs and being an early bird in office. "My approach was to be an early bird, reading, editing, and sharing minutes of top management and council respectively, while ensuring everyone's voice was heard. Remember, students are the reason we're here."

Kwatampora Steps Up



In his acceptance speech, the new university secretary said, 'I want to thank God for today. And Mr. Byaruhanga Melchior, who has served with integrity. When I assumed the role of PPO, he began his tenure as university secretary. We have worked together harmoniously, and I am grateful for his mentorship and guidance. I also extend my gratitude to the council led by Dr. Warren Naamara and the top management team led by Professor Celestino Obua for believing in me.' He acknowledged the university's current financial constraints and pledged to work collaboratively to overcome them.

Leadership and Support



Prof. Celestino Obua the vice Chancellor addressing the meeting

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Obua, welcomed Mr. Kwatampora and emphasized the importance of adaptability and teamwork in his new role. He advised Mr. Kwatampora to adjust his plans based on the situation and to value the input of his colleagues while maintaining ultimate decision-making authority.

'I am glad you are not entirely new here. You are familiar with our challenge of limited resources. As you step into this leadership role, remember the importance of effective management. Understanding which situations require specific approaches will be key. Teamwork, humility, and openness to colleagues will be invaluable assets.'

Professor Obua also commended Mr. Byaruhanga for his calm demeanor during challenging times. Collaboration for Success: Dr. Stevens Kisakka, Chair of the Appointments Board, acknowledged past disagreements but highlighted the importance of moving forward. He pledged the council's support and encouraged open communication with the new University Secretary.



Dr. Stevens Kisakka, Chair of the Appointments Board

He said, 'We had our share of agreements, disagreements and challenges with the University Secretary since 2019, but ultimately, we reached a common understanding. We implemented structures that faced some opposition, but Mr. Melchior Byaruhanga persevered. As the council we cannot thank him enough, we pledge our support and will work collaboratively with Vincent. Don't hesitate to challenge us – we won't shy away from constructive discussions. He urged the staff to accept Mr. Kwatampora to lead them

The ceremony marked a smooth transition in leadership at MUST. With a focus on collaboration, effective communication, and student well-being, the university appears well-positioned for continued success under Mr. Kwatampora's guidance.



L-R: P/S to the US Ms. Prossy Ngabirano receives new supervisor Chief Human Resource Officer Mr. Prinari Behangana



Across the global: The International Relations News

A Delegation from MUST Visits Hellenic Mediterranean University

A delegation of nine staff members from Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Celestino Obua, participated in the first African International Week of African Universities hosted by the Hellenic Mediterranean University (HMU) at its Heraklion Campus in Crete, Greece.



Prof. George Kritsotakis, Ms. Katushabe Gloria and Mr. Tom Obong. The MUST students at HMU for a study abroad semester. Prof. George is their supervisor.

The five-day event, held from April 1st to 5th, 2024, provided a platform for engagement with 12 institutions from both Europe and Africa. The focus of the international week was on boosting global academic connections, enhancing research collaboration, and encouraging cultural exchange. This initiative presented strategic opportunities to foster partnerships and collaborations for a more interconnected future. For more details click: <https://www.must.ac.ug/must-explores-european-partners-in-greece/>

Hellenic Mediterranean University exemplifies Mbarara University of Science and Technology's unwavering commitment to internationalization. Special recognition goes to the dedicated efforts of the MUST International Relations Office for facilitating this valuable opportunity. Through collaboration with diverse institutions like HMU, MUST strengthens its global academic network, fosters research partnerships in science and technology, and ultimately contributes to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of local communities.

In conclusion, this successful visit to the Hellenic Med-

This aligns perfectly with our mission to provide equitable quality and relevant education and research, with a particular emphasis on science and technology and its application to community development. We are confident that this partnership, spearheaded by the International Relations Office, will open doors for impactful projects and pave the way for a more interconnected and prosperous future.



Mr. Raymond Atwiine, Prof. George Kritsotakis, Dr. Fortunate Atwiine and Prof. Konstantinos Petridis

The event in pictures



L-R: Prof. Nikolaos Katsarakis the Rector of Hellenic Mediterranean University giving welcoming remarks , Prof. Celestino Obua the Vice Chancellor MUST giving remarks as one of the partners and Dr. Gareth Owens, Director International Relations Office HMU presenting

Presentations



Signing the MoU



Tom Ogwang (PhD) Raymond Atwiine and Dr. Fortunate Atwiine MUST faculty presenting in Greece



L-R Signing the MoU between MUST and Mzumbe University Presentation of the MoU Prof. William John Senkondo Mwegoha, Prof. Nikos Katsarakis Rector HMU and Prof. Celestino Obua VC MUST



Prof. William John Senkondo Mwegoha, VC Mzumbe University Tanzania, Rector HMU, VC MUST After signing the MoU between MUST and Mzumbe

Cultivating a Culture of Research Data Management at MUST

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) is proud to be collaborating with Hasselt University in Belgium on a VLIR-OUS funded project. This project aims to introduce Research Data Management (RDM) best practices to institutions of higher education across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Building a Network for Change

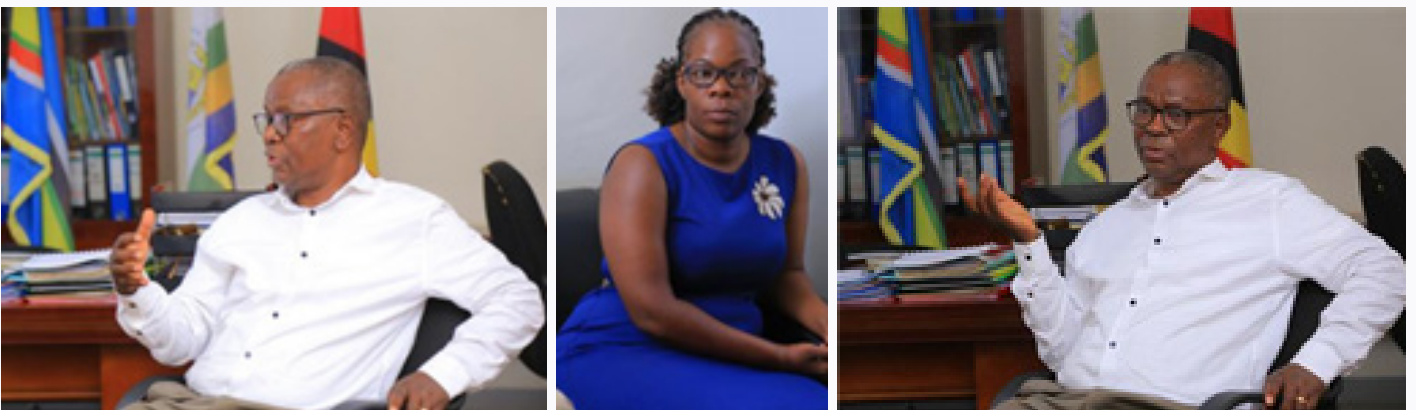
The project involves MUST alongside five other universities:

- Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda)
- Nelson Mandela University of Science and Technology (Arusha, Tanzania)
- Ardhi University (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- University of Pretoria (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Wits University (Johannesburg, South Africa)

A delegation from Hasselt University, led by Dr. Sadia Vancaeuwenbergh (Director of Research, Library, and Internationalization), visited MUST. The team also included Mr. Marc Goovaerts (librarian) and Mr. Andrew Mwesigwa (librarian at Makerere University). Their visit focused on:

- **Preparatory meetings:** Planning for the VLIR-UOS International Training Program, designed to train RDM officers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Courtesy call to the DVC'S office



Discussing the importance of RDM with Assoc. Prof. Charles Kazooba-Tushabomwe, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.

- A delegation from Hasselt University in Belgium, led by made a courtesy call to Assoc. Prof. Charles Kazooba-Tushabomwe, Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance and Administration. Their mission was to discuss a project that could revolutionize research at MUST as well as enhancing Research Data Management (RDM), a practice ensuring valuable research data is captured, preserved, and readily accessible.



Dr. Marc Goovaerts chief librarian Hasselt University, Dr. Robert Buwule-UL, Ms. Sheila Niinye-IRO-MUST, Dr. Sadia Vancaeuwenbergh, team lead and Mr. Andrew Mwesigwa , heading the digitization unit MAK Library

Dr. Vancaeuwenbergh explained how effective RDM aligned perfectly with MUST's vision of becoming a scientific and technological powerhouse.

Assoc. Prof. Kazooba-Tushabomwe, thanked the team for choosing to work with MUST. He further pointed out the different partnership at MUST UNDER THE VLIR-OUS funded project and how greatly they have impacted communities. He said he was positive about the potential for RDM to enhance both research quality and community impact, expressed his interest. The meeting concluded with a shared sense of excitement. The delegation planned an upcoming workshop to introduce RDM practices to MUST faculty and staff, laying the groundwork for a more robust and impactful research culture at the university. This collaboration promised to not only elevate MUST's reputation but also empower researchers across Sub-Saharan Africa.



The team proceeded to meet MUST faculty and other researchers in a workshop. The discussions highlighted the critical role of RDM in ensuring research data is:

- Captured accurately
- Recorded systematically
- Preserved for future use



Effective RDM facilitates easy data sharing and re-use by researchers, ultimately fostering collaboration and scientific progress. This research community encompasses:

- Students
- Faculty engaged in research
- Research funders
- Government agencies
- Industry partners
- The general public

Sharing Knowledge and Building Skills:

The Hasselt University team conducted a workshop at the MUST Kihumuro Campus library, attended by academic and library staff involved in research. The workshop covered:

Open science principles: Promoting transparency and accessibility in research

FAIR Data Principles: Ensuring research data is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable

The workshop fostered an interactive discussion, allowing the MUST team to share their experiences and concerns regarding research data sharing



MUST staff and faculty during the session

Collaboration Beyond Borders: The workshop emphasized how RDM can be a tool for collaboration between researchers in the global North and South. MUST researchers also visited Makerere University (June 6th-7th, 2024) to continue these discussions.

A Timely Initiative: While the Western world has made significant strides in integrating RDM into research practices, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America have lagged behind. This VLIR-UOS project arrives at a crucial moment, aiming to:

Introduce RDM expertise: Train staff members (from libraries, research offices, and related departments) as RDM officers within participating universities and research centers.

Develop a skilled workforce: Equip institutions with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage research data effectively.



MUST is committed to strengthening its Research Data Management practices through this collaborative project. Together, we can build a more robust research culture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

MUST Alumni on a Mission: Strengthening Uganda's Healthcare Sector



These outstanding MUST alumni are completing intensive one-year master's degrees at prestigious British universities. Awarded prestigious UK government scholarships (Commonwealth and Chevening), they recently attended a farewell event at Alexandra Palace in London to prepare them for their return home and post-study life.



Dr. Okirror David, a Commonwealth scholar, is pursuing a Master of Public Health at Bangor University in Wales. He aims to utilize his skills to design public health interventions that prevent diseases and promote good health, particularly among women.

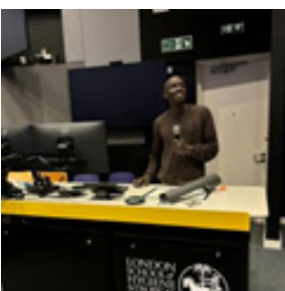
Left to right: MUST alumni Dr Okirror David (Class of 2020), Namboko Gerald (Class of 2022), Dr Niwandinda Faith (Class of 2019), Dr Ochola Henry (Class of 2020).



Namboko Gerald, a Chevening scholar, has completed an MSc in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of South Wales. His passion lies in quality control of pharmaceutical products, and he aspires to apply his skills in formulating high-quality medicinal products in Uganda



Dr. Niwandinda Faith, a Commonwealth scholar, has undertaken an MSc in Health Economics and Health Policy at the University of Birmingham, England. She plans to leverage her expertise in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of healthcare interventions, a critical skill for resource management in Uganda's healthcare system.



Dr. Ochola Henry, a Chevening scholar, has completed an MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England. Dedicated to improving maternal and newborn health, he aspires to design, conduct, and interpret clinical research to understand the causes, distribution, and prevention of diseases, particularly among women and children.

"We remain deeply grateful to the UK government for their investment in these vital sectors by facilitating access to higher education at world-class universities" said Dr. Ochola. These returning professionals are poised to play pivotal roles in advancing Uganda's healthcare sector and beyond.



Professor Reiskind Visits Mbarara University and Talks One Health



Professor Michael Reiskind, from North Carolina State University, visited Mbarara University of Science and Technology in May 2024 (from the 19th to the 29th). During his visit, he delivered a public lecture co-organized by the departments of community health and medical laboratory science. The lecture, titled "Insights from Vector Ecology to Improve One Health," focused on the importance of a collaborative approach to health involving humans, animals, and the environment.

Professor Reiskind also discussed the Six One Health Action Tracks, a framework for addressing global health challenges:

1. **Strengthening One Health capacities:** This track emphasizes building strong health systems that consider the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.
2. **Reducing zoonotic disease risks:** This track focuses on mitigating the threats posed by diseases that can jump between animals and humans.
3. **Controlling endemic diseases:** This track aims to control and eliminate established zoonotic diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and vector-borne diseases.
4. **Food safety management:** This track highlights the importance of assessing, managing, and communicating food safety risks.
5. **Combating antimicrobial resistance:** This track addresses the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), where bacteria and other microbes become resistant to drugs.
6. **Environmental integration:** This track emphasizes the importance of considering environmental factors in One Health approaches.



Professor Reiskind highlighted the mission of the Global One Health Academy, an initiative that engages faculty, staff, and students in improving the health of all living things, not just humans. He further explained his presence in Uganda, which was to attend the launch of the "After the Flood" research project.

This project aims to interrupt malaria transmission following floods. Researchers will study how mosquito populations change after flooding events and how these changes contribute to increased malaria transmission. The project will also identify the specific *Anopheles* mosquito species that play a vital role in malaria transmission before and after floods.

Importantly, Professor Reiskind had previously conducted tick training in Bugoye, Kasese, in 2022. The trained research assistants will be responsible for implementing the entomology component of the "After the Flood" project



Projects, innovations and community Engagement

MUST Breaks Ground on Entrepreneurship Centre to Empower Youth



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) achieved a significant milestone on June 11, 2024, with the site handover for the construction of an Entrepreneurship Centre under the MUST IUC-UCOBS sub-project 5. Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and Local Coordinator for MUST IUC-UCoBS, was represented by Dr. Tumuhimbise Manasseh, Team Leader of Sub-Project 5. Dr. Manasseh formally handed over the site to Mr. Mandeep Singh, Managing Director of Khalsa Development (U) Limited.

Dr. Tumuhimbise expressed gratitude to Khalsa Development (U) Ltd for their previous commendable work and emphasized MUST's expectation of the highest quality in this project, scheduled for completion in nine months. The event was attended by Eng. Barisiima Sarah from the MUST Estates Department, Mr. Kitagenda Joseph from the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Dr. Kiambu Fredrick, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, Dr. Kule John Baguma and Dr. Nabachwa Sarah, team members of Project 5, and Ms. Keitesi Aisha, Project 5 assistant.



Purpose of the Entrepreneurship Centre

The Entrepreneurship Centre aims to create a hub for entrepreneurs from MUST and the surrounding community. It will foster innovation, networking, and idea exchange to promote entrepreneurial growth and development. This aligns with MUST IUC-UCoBS sub-project 5's focus on enhancing youth employability through skills development, experiential learning, and technology transfer.

MUST IUC-UCoBS appreciates the fruitful partnership with Howest University of Applied Sciences and acknowledges the funding for the Entrepreneurship Centre provided by the Local Government of West Flanders in Belgium.



We extend our sincere gratitude to the entire project team for their dedication and hard work in bringing this project to realisation. The Entrepreneurship Centre is a significant step forward in fostering innovation and creating opportunities for our students and the broader community. We are confident that this facility will empower aspiring entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic growth of the region.

Nurturing the Young Generation through ICT by MUST

Subproject 6 under MUST IUC – UCoBS that targets improved institutional and community ICT capacity to access and utilize information held an ICT bootcamp in St. Bridget Girls’ High School and Cream land Secondary School led by Mr. Rodgers Mwavu a lecturer in Faculty of Computing and Informatics at MUST.

The event held on 26th and 27th June 2024 was aimed at contributing to nurturing a generation, adept at both consuming and creating digital content providing hands on experience and insights where the major focus was on;



- Introduction to digitalization
- Exploring digital tools and technologies
- Identifying the digital applications in daily life
- Computer clinic which involved cleaning of school computer laboratory, computer repair and maintenance
- Media production through guiding students on the intricacies of creating audio, video and digital graphics
- Career guidance
- Freelancing which included developing skills for personal branding, managing online presence and digital entrepreneurship
- Follow up on the outcomes of last year’s bootcamp that was conducted at Cream land Secondary School



Form 4 students at St. Bridget Girls High School participating in the hands on computer repair. (3)

Dr. Dickson Kalungi the Senior Assistant Registrar officiated the bootcamp at St. Bridget Girls High School giving the background of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the courses offered and what it takes to be there and provided career guidance. He summed up by inviting all students and staff to visit the MUST website often for more information and to be part of the MUST community.

Other facilitators included Ms. Gloria Munguci a lecturer at FCI who encouraged students to embrace ICT, Dr. Moreen Kabarungi who gave a brief about her journey to attaining a doctorate and motivated students to study hard and be focused emphasizing that ICT Tech is the way to go, while Ms. Nura Izath a scholar gave a presentation on her research about ICT that inspired the students to ask and learn more.



The Mbarara University Computer Students Association (MUCOSA) team took part in the computer clinic at Creamland SS where most computer practical challenges were addressed.

The bootcamp which was coordinated by Fortunate Tukamushaba the sub – project 6 Assistant attracted a total of 368 females and 56 males in attendance. Sub – project 6 will have follow up computer clinic sessions to interest students in ICT.

MUST Installed 3 Automatic Weather Stations and 6 Automatic Rain Gauges in Rubanda, Rubirizi, and Isingiro Districts



P2 Team, UNMA officer, Ruhira Sub County Agriculture officers among others during the installation of an automatic rain gauge (1)

As a strategic initiative aimed at improving weather data collection and analysis in Southwestern Uganda, MUST installed Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) in the districts of Rubanda, Rubirizi, and Isingiro from June 10th - 21st 2024. This was funded by the project titled “University as Facilitator for Community Based Sustainable Solutions to Demographic Challenges in South Western Uganda (MUST IUC – UCoBS)”. This activity was implemented by sub - project 2 of the MUST IUC – UCoBS which focuses on improving climate smart agriculture mechanisms and land management practices to cope with climatic variability and declining soil fertility that have led to reduced food production.

The installation team included Dr. John Sekajugo and Mr. David Mubiru team members of sub-project 2, Mr. Zaake Joseph a technician from Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), Mr. Barigye Didas the District Agricultural Officer Rubirizi, Mr. Tumwesigye Patrick the District Agricultural officer Isingiro, Mr. Kahangi Benon the Data Protection Officer Rubanda and Mr. Bukenya Hakim the project assistant of sub – project 2. In Rubanda District, one AWS was installed at

Rubanda District Local Government (DLG) and ARGs installed in Muko Subcounty (SC), Bubaare Town council and Hamurwa Subcounty. In Isingiro District, one AWS was installed at Isingiro Town Council (TC) and ARGs installed in Rugaga TC, Ruhira TC, and Kaberebere TC while in Rubirizi District, one AWS installed at Kyabakara SC and Rain gauges installed in Kirugu SC and Kichwamba SC.

In conclusion, the installation of AWS and rain gauges in Rubanda, Rubirizi, and Isingiro districts was a significant success. The data collected from these stations will not only be utilised by students for research and educational purposes, but will assist the districts in making informed decisions regarding agricultural practices, disaster management, and infrastructure development as well as contributing to national efforts in weather monitoring and forecasting, enhancing overall meteorological capabilities. This initiative has been highly appreciated by the districts and UNMA, who have expressed their gratitude for the collaborative effort and the potential benefits of this project.



Kyabakara Subcounty LC3 chairperson cutting down a tree which would otherwise block the weather station

The 8th Uganda Colour Run for Pediatric Cancer: Run for Wellness, Run for Hope!



Mbarara University of Science and Technology, alongside the Global Health Collaborative, MGH, and supported by Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, is thrilled to announce the return of the Uganda Colour Run for Pediatric Cancer!

This year marks the 8th annual run, and it's bigger and better than ever! We are running to raise awareness about childhood cancer and critical funds to support these brave little fighters.

Cancer is devastating, especially when it strikes a child. But together, we can make a difference!

Join us for this vibrant event on:

- Date: Saturday, August 3rd, 2024
- Time: 7 am
- Location: MUST Football Pitch



- Raise awareness: Shine a light on pediatric cancer and the challenges faced by young patients and their families.
- Support a worthy cause: The funds raised will go directly towards vital medications, meals, and staff support in the pediatric oncology ward at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.
- Invest in your well-being: Enjoy a fun and healthy run or walk.
- Make a difference: Your participation, big or small, can bring significant hope to these children.



The Oncology Medical team and MGH staff

Here's how you can be part of the movement:

- Register for the run/walk! Show your support and get active. (Registration details will be announced soon. Stay tuned!)
- Purchase a commemorative t-shirt: Wear your support with pride and choose from two options: 30,000 UGX or 50,000 UGX.
- Contact for T-shirts:
 - o Dr. Elias Kumbakumba: 0771895971
 - o Dr. Stephen Asiimwe: 0772479062
 - o Sheila Niinye Twinamasiko (Mrs) 0704595511 City campus
 - o Ms. Mary Namukisa 0778316224 mobile sales woman




All generations participate



Spread the word: Tell your friends, family, and colleagues about the event. Let us run for two incredible reasons: our own wellness and to save the lives of these little angels.

For any information about MUST please check our website: www.must.ac.ug

Check our social media page on:

 mbararauniversity  @MbararaUST  Mbarara University of Science and Technology  @Mbararaust

Succeed we Must.