St John’s University Welcomes 1400 New students

This academic year 2015/2016, we at St John’s University of Tanzania are glad to welcome the more than 1400 students who have joined to pursue master’s and bachelor’s degrees, diplomas and certificates primarily at the Mazengo Campus but also at the St Mark’s and Kigoma/Ujiji Centres. St John’s University academic programmes are among the strongest in the Country, particularly those offered through the School of Pharmacy (SOPH) and the Faculty of Humanities and Education (FAHE), but also the School of Nursing (SONU), the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FaNAS), the School of Theology and Religious Studies (SOTR), the Faculty of Commerce and Business Studies (FOCB), and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

I have no doubt each one of these students will soon discover that they have joined St John’s neither by accident nor by mistake. We at St John’s are committed to creating an environment in which students have a rich experience of university years. They have embarked on a journey that will prepare and equip them to be life-long learners attuned to critical thinking and are adept to creativity and initiative to confront the challenges facing our society and our world. But also, they will be challenged to be the finest of scholars they can be, as they endure the demands of St John’s exacting standards, and growing to be educated individuals of solid integrity and impeccable character who are keen to serve. As we look forward to a fruitful first year of study for these students, and another academic year for continuing students, let me remind us that our vision as St John’s is to become a distinguished Christian University of global standards being a source of benchmarks for our niche fields of Teaching, Research and Innovation, and Community Engagement.

Prof Emmanuel D Mbennah
Vice Chancellor
St John’s University of Tanzania featured prominently at the recent Tanzania Public Health Association Annual Conference.

Mr Sumary of the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences presented a paper on the practical and important issue of “Local chicken eggs: a reliable source to improve children’s nutrition in Tanzania” where he stressed the importance of developing the local poultry industry. Sumary observed that the use of local or cross-breeds, and better management of poultry to promote their survival could help improve the nutritional status of vulnerable members of many communities in Tanzania.

Dr Angela Savage, then Director of Research, Consultancy and Postgraduate Studies (DRCPGS), presented a paper on teaching materials for health-related subjects. She stressed the importance of using up to date, evidence based materials adapted for the local setting. Savage suggested that carefully selected websites such as the National Centre for Clinical Excellence (NICE) could provide “gold standard” materials.

The TPHA Annual Conference, which was held from November 30th to December 3rd in Dodoma, attracted delegates and speakers from all over Tanzania. The overall theme was “Health in all policies for sustainable development goals”, and subthemes were health, poverty and food insecurity, closing the knowledge gap in health planning and decision making, non-communicable diseases, health systems and reproductive health.

**TCU and NACTE Executives Visit SJUT**

Recently St John’s University was honoured to host a courtesy visit of the Executive Secretaries of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE). TCU’s Prof Yunus Mgaya and NACTE’s Dr Primus Nkwere interacted with senior administrators of St John’s University including the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Prof Casmir Rubagumya and Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning, Finance and Administration, Prof Yohana Msanjila, and held an open discussion forum with members of the academic staff at St John’s. They also visited the teaching facilities set up for the new programmes of the diploma and certificate in Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) to be offered by the School of Nursing and the diploma and certificate in Pharmacy as well as the Certificate of Medicines Dispenser, offered by the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Executive Secretaries of the two regulatory bodies commended the University for the good preparations towards offering the new programmes and encouraged the university to continue to pursue excellence in all its programmes.

The TCU and NACTE Executives looking at the laboratory facilities prepared for Medical Laboratory Technology programme while the Dean, School of Nursing, Mrs Bibiana Mwaluko explains how we are prepared to conduct the courses.
** SJUT’s New PhDs **

St John’s University of Tanzania cordially welcomes back the Rev Canon Dr Alfred Sebahene who has just returned from his studies in South Africa where he was conferred a PhD degree in Theology from the University of Stellenbosch. The title of his PhD research was Corruption Mocking at Justice: A Theological-Ethical Perspective on Public Life in Tanzania and Its Implications for the Anglican Church in Tanzania. The former Director of the Directorate of Extension Education, has assumed teaching in the School of Theology and Religious Studies.

The topic of her PhD research was Exploring Intercultural Communicative Competence Among English Language Teachers in Secondary Schools in Tanzania: A Postcolonial Perspective.

We also congratulate Fadhili Bwagonili and Caroline Ruheembe-Mongi who successfully defended their PhD Theses at the Ardihi University, Dar es Salaam, and Sokone University, Morogoro, respectively. Whereas Bwagonili’s research topic was Integration of Geospatial Information and Indigenous Knowledge Rules in Natural Resources Management Decision Making: A Case of Sigi Catchment, Mongi’s topic was Prevalence Awareness and Management of Type Two Diabetes Mellitus Among Adults in Mwanza City, Tanzania. With these PhDs, St John’s continues to enjoy growing capacity in teaching, research and academic leadership.

** SJUT Staff Wins a Seat in Parliament **

St John’s University of Tanzania congratulates one of its academic members of staff, Hon Joel Mwaka Makanyaga for winning a constituency seat in the October 2015 General Elections. The Hon Joel Mwaka Makanyaga has been elected Member of Parliament for the Chilonwa Constituency, Dodoma Region. Hon Makanyaga has been working at St John’s University since November 2010 as Laboratory Scientist in the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FaNAS).

Commenting on his election, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Emmanual Mbennah, said Hon Makanyaga’s election to Parliament was a special honour for the University as well. The Vice Chancellor noted that Hon Makanyaga’s commitment to personal integrity, strong work ethic and love for his country would be of particular value in his duties as an MP. We wish him all the best in his new endeavor and commit to keep him in our earnest prayers.

** The 2014/2015 Graduates **

St John’s University of Tanzania proudly announces its 1741 graduates for the year 2014/2015 for the Mazengo Campus, Dodoma, and another over 500 from the St Mark’s Centre, Dar es Salaam. The 6th Graduation Ceremony for the Mazengo Campus was held at the newly-built Dodoma Convention Centre where graduates from different disciplines in humanities and education, education in science, pharmacy, nursing, business administration in marketing, finance, accounts, human resource management, health management services, procurement and supplies, and theology and religious studies were conferred their certificates, diplomas, bachelor’s degrees and master’s degrees.

A special bulletin on the 6th graduation ceremony will be featured on Issue 3 of January/February 2016.

** Congratulatory Message for New Government **

The Chancellor, Chairman of the University Governing Council, the University Management and Staff of St John’s University of Tanzania, join other Tanzanians in congratulating His Excellency President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli and Vice President Hon Samia Suluhu Hassan for their election to lead the fifth phase of Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Also, we congratulate Hon Majaliwa Kassim for his appointment as Prime Minister in the fifth phase Government.

St John’s University of Tanzania remains committed to the principles of integrity and the highest standards in the provision of higher education and in creating employment in teaching, research, consultancy, and community engagement. We join many other Tanzanians to continually pray for our leaders and our country.

** SJUT Newsletter **

**Serve** is published bi-monthly by the office of the Vice Chancellor, St John’s University of Tanzania
SJUT in Mauritius

St John’s University of Tanzania participated at the Indian Ocean Rim Education Network (IOREN) inaugural conference. 17th - 21st November, 2015. The inaugural conference was held in Mauritius from the 17th to the 21st November 2015. The main objective of the conference was to articulate some key elements of the newly established network, namely, exploring new ideas and concepts, new structures and new partnerships in the service to humanity in the region through sustainable education and community building initiatives. St John’s University of Tanzania, one of the founding member institutions, was represented by the Vice Chancellor, the Rev Prof Emmanuel Mbennah, the Rev Canon Dr Alfred Sebahene and the former Vice Chancellor, Prof Manoris Meshack.

While Prof Mbennah set the scene at the IOREN Conference by presenting a paper on education and community building transitory snapshot on Tanzania, Dr Sebahene presented a paper on overcoming the barrier of corruption in the Indian Ocean Rim Region - a reflect on the role of Christian churches and faith as new and potential avenue of inquiry in addressing the harsh realities of corruption. On his part, Prof Meshack presented case studies on best practices in governance in Tanzania. The conference was also attended by another Tanzanian academic, Prof Honest Prosper Ngowi of Mzumbe University. Prof Ngowi made a presentation on partnering between government, business and not-for-profit for community good in Tanzania.

Recruitment for St Mark’s Centre Leadership

St John’s University of Tanzania seeks to fill senior leadership vacancies at St Mark’s Centre, Dar es Salaam. The positions are those of the Centre Director (following the retirement of Dr Naomi Katuruni), the Deputy Director for Academics and Deputy Director for Planning, Finance and Administration. Potential applicants may request additional information from the Directorate of Human Resource Management and Administration at St John’s University, at the Mazengo Campus, Dodoma, sent an inquiry via e-mail to admin@sjut.ac.tz, or visit St John’s University of Tanzania website, www.sjut.ac.tz.

Opportunities to Serve

SJUT is looking for qualified persons to fill the following strategic positions, to be based at the Mazengo Campus:

- Director of Research and Consultancy
- Grant Writer
- Director of Communication and Marketing
- Director of Information and Communication Technology

- University Bursar (Chief Financial Officer)
- Director of the Institute of Development Studies
- University Chaplain

Prayer & Praise

Praise God for

- The smooth starting of the new semester and academic year 2015/2016.
- Completion of higher degrees for Dr Upendo Biswalo - PhD in Education, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Mr Focas Kafonogo - MA in Special Education, University of Northern Colorado, USA; and rejoining the SJUT workforce.

Pray for

- Continued growth in student enrolment.
- Greater financial capacity for the university to be able to meet its obligations and needs.
- Successful recruitment of key staff positions.
- Funding for the various development projects of the university.
- Identification of potential partners for the continued development of St John’s University of Tanzania.
- Recruitment for St Mark’s Centre Leadership

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