



MUST NEWS LETTER

February 2024

The month that was!

VOLUME 34

Emergency Medicine Department acquires new home



In this MUST Mirror



Dissemination of PACO Findings



MUST Joins the world to celebrate Leap babies



MUST convocation holds first-ever Run.

Succeed we must

EDITOR'S WORD



COMMUNICATIONS CREW

I am pleased to share the MUST Newsletter Volume 34 (The MUST Mirror)! February was a truly remarkable month for our University community. We have witnessed a wave of blessings, exciting developments, and a renewed sense of pride.

A Shower of Generosity: We are incredibly grateful for the immense generosity of RENU, whose donation of 300 million signifies their faith in MUST's mission. This significant contribution will undoubtedly propel us forward in achieving our goals.

Emergency Medicine Finds a New Home: A brand new facility for Emergency Medicine marks a significant step towards enhanced healthcare services within MUST.

MUST Convocation Takes a Bold Leap: History was made with the very first MUST Convocation Run! This innovative addition to the graduation ceremony exemplifies our commitment to fostering a well-rounded student experience that celebrates both academic excellence and physical well-being.

The Week in Saudi Arabia with THEIPTC: A fruitful collaboration with the IPTC in Saudi Arabia further strengthens our global connections and opens doors to exciting international opportunities.

A Special Leap Year for MUST's Leap Babies: To our leap year babies within the MUST community, a very happy (once-every-four-years) birthday!

Your Stories Matter: We continue to encourage all departments to share their unique contributions to the MUST community. It's your dedication and achievements that make us who we are. Remember, **Our alma mater matters, succeed we MUST!**

Let's continue to celebrate our successes and work together to elevate MUST to even greater heights

Angella Nakato Muyingo
Public Relations Officer
Office of the Vice Chancellor

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MUST-FAST @ THE IPTC WEEK IN SAUDI ARABIA



Parvin Kyohirwe Victor Mugambe Fosca Tumuhaise

The Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology, Department of Energy, Mineral, and Petroleum Studies, took part in the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC).

IPTC hosted its annual Education Week from 9th to 14th February 2024 in Dhahran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), providing the selected 100 (out of 500 applicants) undergraduate students with invaluable insights into the petroleum industry.

Through the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) MUST Student Chapter, the Faculty Advisor nominated four (04) students for the IPTC 2024 Education Week, adhering to stringent nomination criteria. Fosca Tumuhaise, Parvin Kyohirwe, Johnbaptist Eshana Kauta, and Victor Mugambe. Following the application process, three students were selected to represent the University at the IPTC Education Week under the Young Members Activities Category. The nominated students from MUST included: Fosca Tumuhaise, Parvin Kyohirwe, and Victor Mugambe.



These traveled to KSA on the 9th of February 2024.

According to Ms. Parvin Kyohirwe, the IPTC wasn't just about technology. It was about resilience, about adapting to a changing world.

Fosca Tumuhaise said It was about honing communication skills, networking, and embracing diversity.

While Victor said They discovered the power of teamwork and the necessity of digital literacy in an ever-evolving landscape.

The students learned the importance of lifelong learning, of seizing every opportunity for growth. A Week of Wonder: Days were filled with stimulating discussions on Carbon Capture and the Circular Carbon Economy, the future of hydrogen technologies, and the challenges that lay ahead. Evenings brought the warmth of cultural exchange at the Gala, a testament to the vibrancy of the global community. The SLB Field Development Group challenge, a test of knowledge and problem-solving, pushed their boundaries and ignited their competitive spirit



Parvin Kyohirwe Victor Mugambe Fosca Tumuhaise



Fosca Tumuhaise with colleagues from other institutions

Name	Award Title	Description
Parvin Kyohirwe	Field Development Challenge by SLB Award: 2nd Place	Presented to each team member of the 2nd Best Group in recognition of their outstanding performance in the Field Development Challenge by SLB.
Fosca Tumuhaise	Best Presenter Award	Presented to a participant who has presented best.
Victor Mugambe	Rising Star Award	Presented to a participant who has been inclusive and friendly; demonstrated commitment throughout the program; willingness to learn and listen; inspiration to others.



Parvin Kyohirwe after receiving an award

As Delegates that represented Mbarara University of Science and Technology, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the organizing committee at IPTC, sponsoring organizations, SPE International, SPE Uganda Section, SPE MUST Student Chapter, Aramco, SLB, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology Faculty Administrative Staff and Members, for their invaluable support and guidance throughout the IPTC 2024 Education Week. Special thanks to the Faculty Advisor, SPE MUST Chapter, Mr. Patrick Kabanda, for nominating us for this transformative opportunity. This was not just a trip; it was a transformation. It was the story of eager hearts journeying to the kingdom, returning as future leaders, forever marked by the spirit of the IPTC Education Week.



Placentas, Antibodies and Child Outcomes (PACO) Project Unveils Findings at its Inaugural Dissemination Conference



Professor Nixon Kamukama, the deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs handing over a gift to Dr. Sai Majji on behalf of Mbarara University

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) hosted the inaugural PACO Dissemination Conference on February 22nd, 2024, at Adit Mall Mbarara. The conference emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, acknowledging the contributions of researchers, community members, stakeholders, and ethical boards. Dr. Lisa Bebell, an Assistant Professor at Harvard/ MGH and Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, both co-leaders on the project expressed their appreciation for the participants. What is PACO? PACO is a pro-

spective (birth) cohort study of 618 women and the babies born to them. Mother-baby pairs are followed from birth for 5 years (over 20 visits). It is a research initiative investigating the health of mothers living with HIV and those on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PREP) during pregnancy, as well as the well-being of their children. PACO measures child growth, development, health outcomes, and antibody levels. Why PACO? Globally, recent success preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission has decreased congenital HIV incidence. More than 1 million

HIV-exposed, uninfected infants are born annually in sub-Saharan Africa. These infants have poorer early-life outcomes than unexposed infants. There's a 4-fold increase in mortality, increased risk of severe infection and poorer neurodevelopmental outcomes. These differences persist in the current era of widespread maternal ART. The etiology of poor HIV-exposed, uninfected infant outcomes is incompletely understood, and may be related to placental changes.



PACO study objectives

General: To determine the prevalence and drivers of placental abnormalities, and how these are associated with child health outcomes in children exposed to HIV and ART/PrEP.

Specific:

Compare the prevalence of placental abnormalities by maternal HIV serostatus and PrEP use.

Determine the correlates of placental abnormalities among women living with HIV (WLWH), including maternal systemic factors (CD4 count, ART regimen, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) viremia) and placental factors (detectable placental HIV and

placental infections, e.g. CMV, malaria, mycoplasma and ureaplasma).

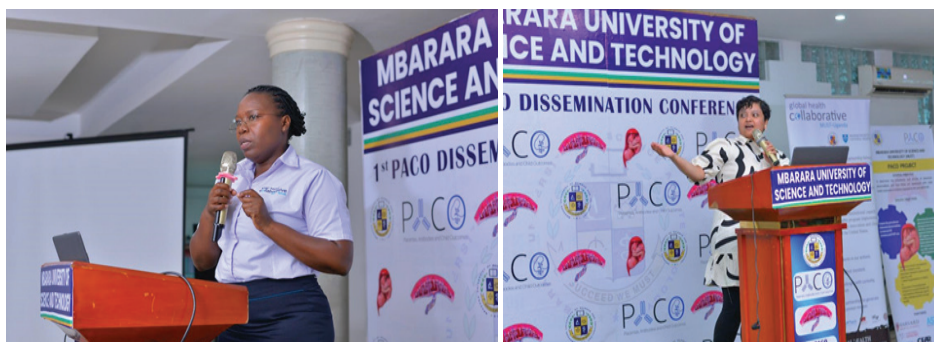
Determine whether the placenta acts as a mediator of the association between maternal HIV infection and Infant hospitalization or death, or quantity of transplacental Streptococcus pneumoniae and Haemophilus influenzae type B (HiB) antibody transfer among WLWH

The conference not only showcasing its valuable contributions to the field but also **highlighting its unwavering commitment to collaboration and community engagement.** This aligns perfectly with Mbarara

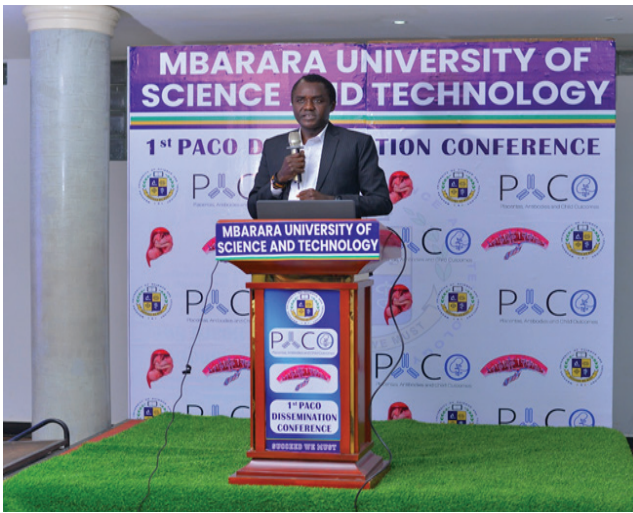
University of Science and Technology's (MUST) vision of being "A centre of Academic and Professional Excellence in Science and Technology."

It served as a testament to MUST's mandate **"To promote quality higher education for national integration and development through teaching of science and technology for promotion of the political, economic and social development of Uganda and the needs aspirations of the Republic of Uganda.**

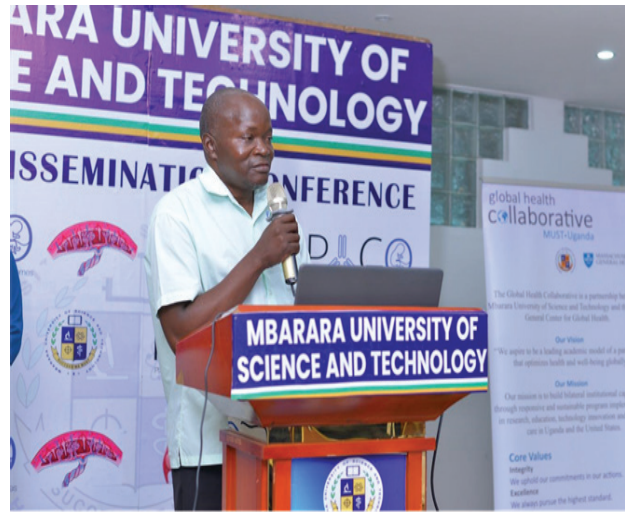
Ms. Annet Kembabazi, the Program Manager at Global Health Collaborative



Dr. Sai Majji, Health Scientist Administrator, Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch, NIH



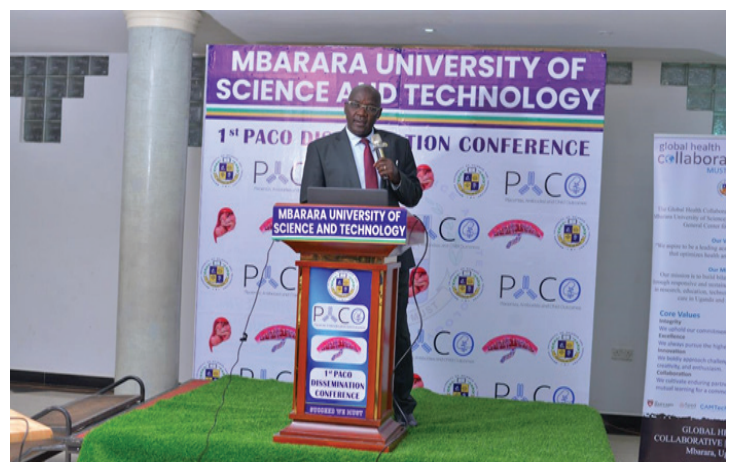
Associate Professor Paul Alele, the Chair of MUST Research Ethics Committee



Associate Professor Vincent Batwala, the Director of Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (DRGT) at Mbarara University



Dr. Celestine Barigye, the Director of Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital



Professor Nixon Kamukama, the deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs

Conference Highlights, Research Progress and Community Engagement

The conference brought together researchers, community members, and stakeholders to discuss the project's findings and celebrate its successes.

Key Findings Presented:

Surpassing Expectations: Over 600 women participated in the study, exceeding the initial target.

Project Challenges: Obstacles encountered included the COVID-19 pandemic, trans-

portation limitations, and lower than anticipated PREP use during pregnancy.

Significant Achievements: None of the babies born to the participants turned positive for HIV through mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Additionally, samples were shipped internationally for further research, and valuable data was collected.

Impact and Future Direction

The conference underlined the significance of the PACO project, not only for its scientific discoveries but also for its contribution to strengthening research capacity and foster-

ing community engagement. As highlighted by Prof. Nixon Kamukama, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, research should actively involve the community especially during the dissemination of findings. He urged other project heads to learn from the PACO project. Professor Nixon asserted that "Joseph and Lisa have come up with a new approach to addressing the challenges facing the community while disseminating information. He further noted that most researchers ignore the need for disseminating research findings to the participants and relevant stakeholders."

Additional Remarks

• **Associate Professor Vincent Batwala**, Director of DRGT, acknowledged the sensitivity of the PACO study due to cultural beliefs surrounding placentas. He commended the team for following up with participants who opted out and recording their reasons, emphasizing the importance of learning from all experiences. He also highlighted the finan-

cial contribution of the PACO study to his office's operations.

• **Dr. Celestine Barigye**, the Director of Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, expressed his appreciation to Assoc. Prof. Ngonzi for selecting MRRH as the study site and for hosting the dissemination conference.

• **Associate Professor Paul Alele**, Chairperson of the MUST Research Ethics Committee (REC), reaffirmed the

willingness of MUST REC to support research endeavors and commended the Principal Investigators and Global Health for their efforts in building research capacity.

• **Dr. Sai Majji** from the National Institutes of Health, (NIH) expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality she received during her first visit to Uganda.



Dr. Julian Adong, one of the co-investigators on PACO





Dr. Leevan Tibaijuka, one of the co-investigators on PACO

Meet the Principal Investigators



Lisa Bebell

Dr. Lisa Bebell is an infectious diseases and critical care medicine specialist who devotes 20% of her time to clinical practice at Massachusetts General and Newton-Wellesley Hospitals, and the remaining time to clinical and translational research focused on HIV and peripartum infections in resource-limited settings. She completed her clinical training in infectious diseases and critical care medicine in the Harvard combined programs. Over the last five years, her research has focused on the impact of maternal bacterial and viral infections on health and immunologic outcomes of neonates and infants born to women with HIV, placental pathology in women with HIV, and bacterial infections and antimicrobial resistance in the peripartum period. Her research addresses key priorities of the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization to better understand the causes of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, especially amongst people with HIV. Dr. Lisa Bebell has completed five prospective cohort studies.



Joseph Ngonzi

an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MUST. He has previously served as the deputy Dean of Faculty of Medicine and the Chair of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MUST/MRRH. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at MUST. Dr. Ngonzi is also the current Chair of the Uganda Medical Schools' forum of Deans. Joseph is involved in teaching, clinical work, research and administration. He has supervised more than 36

postgraduate students to completion. He continues to supervise and mentor students at different levels, including undergraduates, masters and PhD.

Dr. Ngonzi has always been passionate and inquisitive about research. This passion has led to his involvement in various ar-

reas of maternal, newborn and child health. He has actively participated in various research projects in different portfolio as key personnel, co-Investigator and Principal Investigator. His obstetrics research interests have thus far focused on epidemiology and microbiology of maternal sepsis, antibiotic stewardship, placental pathology and impact on newborn and child neurodevelopmental outcomes, histologic chronic placental inflammation and its predictors among HIV-infected women. His focus in gynecology work and research has been in screening and surgical treatment for both benign and invasive disease of the cervix and other lower genital tract neoplasms. He is currently involved in research optimizing the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques in diagnostic and prognostic clinical models for cervical pathology.

Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, MBChB, MMED, FCOG (ECSA), PhD is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist working at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) in Mbarara, southwestern Uganda. He is the current Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at MUST. He is



MY alma mater matters: MUST convocation holds first-ever Run.



On February 21, 2024, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) broke new ground with its first-ever Convocation Run, a vibrant event that brought together alumni, well-wishers, and the graduating class of 2024. This innovative initiative aimed to foster a stronger sense of community, welcome new graduates, and generate support for future convocation activities

The run kicked off with energetic warm-ups led by Coach Ashiraf, Atugonza featuring Zumba, Pilates, and aerobics. Participants were then flagged off at 8:46 am by none other than Prof. Asiimwe Frank Rubabinda, a distinguished alumnus from the MBChB 1991 cohort, serving as the Chief Runner. Dr. Umar Muhumuza, representing all past guild presidents, also joined the run, symbolizing the unity between past and present generations of MUST.

Warm-ups





Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko the Academic Registrar

The University Management took an active role, with Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba participating wholeheartedly. His presence underscored the university's commitment to fostering a culture of engagement with its alumni community.

The success of the event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the organizing committee, led by Mr. Solomon Agum. Overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, Mr. Agum expressed his gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and partners. "Organising this for the first time," he remarked, "I am speechless about the support you have given us. We are even more committed to embarking on our projects to see MUST reach even greater heights."

Mr. Solomon Agum the chair organizing committee and Vice Chair Person of the MUST convocation



Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe Kazooba

The enthusiastic response was undeniable, with over 300 participants and more than 25 partner organizations joining the run. This overwhelming support, Mr. Agum noted, "made the day a truly memorable one," and set the stage for future events filled with enthusiasm.

He elaborated on the event's threefold purpose: to nurture a sense of community among alumni, to extend a warm welcome to the graduating class, and to generate collective support for future convocation activities.

A special note of appreciation went to the organizing committee. "Your hard work," Mr. Agum declared, "is what brought the idea of the run to life. Thank you for making MUST Convocation shine!"

The Chief Runner, Prof. Asiimwe Frank Rubabinda, echoed Mr. Agum's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of fostering a sense of belonging among alumni. "This event," he said, "creates a powerful bond that inspires us to give back to our beloved university." Dr. Umar Muhumuza echoed these words, pledging his continued support for MUST.



Prof. Frank Asiimwe the chief runner addressing the alumni.

Representing the university, Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba lauded the initiative. The scenic 4km route took runners through the heart of Mbarara city before returning to the university grounds. The first participant crossed the finish line at an impressive 9:05 am.



Award ceremony

An exciting award ceremony followed, recognizing the top performers in both the male and female categories, with prizes for first, second, and third runners-up.

Male Category

1. Mr. Chelangat Eliud – 1st Place
2. Mr. Chieng Joseph – 1st Runner Up
3. Mr. Tumuhimbise Evan – 2nd Runner Up



Female Category

1. Ms. Becky (Igongo) – 1st Place
2. Ms. Mary Namukisa – 1st Runner Up
3. Ms. Keitesi Aisha (Keisha) – 2nd Runner Up





Additionally, a special award was presented to the inspiring senior citizen participant, Assoc. Prof. Tushabomwe-Kazooba, who embodied the spirit of the run. The inaugural MUST Convocation Run was a resounding success, solidifying the bonds among alumni, faculty, staff, and the graduating class. This energetic event, fueled by the motto "Succeed We MUST!" promises to become a cherished tradition, fostering a vibrant and supportive community for generations to come.



On the mic; Dr. Umar Muhumuza representing all Guild presidents as the flagger of the run . On stage, is the chief runner and DVC F&A were joined by the MUST Convocation Executive.

The alumni also donated blood



Eye catching moment



Campaign for the run

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024
THUR 22nd FEB 2024

Coloured T.Shirts 50k
Round Neck T.Shirts 30k

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

THEME: Walking side by side and collectively contributing to the growth and success of Mbarara University of Science and Technology

THURSDAY 22nd FEB 2024

ACCOUNTS
Stanbic Bank: **9030007462262**
Airtel Merchant Code: **4360421**

SELLING POINTS:
Codinex Office(Fresco Building) 0701 479173
Academic Registrar's Office 0703 097817
GHC Office(TASO Building) 0755 542311

chief RUNNER
The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024
Thur 22nd Feb 2024

Honorary Assoc. Clinical Prof. Frank Asimwe Rubabinda
MUST alumnus of Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (1991-1996)

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

THEME: Walking side by side and collectively contributing to the growth and success of Mbarara University of Science and Technology

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SELLING POINTS:
Codinex Office(Fresco Building): 0701479173
Academic Registrar's Office: 0703097817
GHC Office(TASO Building): 0755542311

MUST PITCH

EVENING CALL
THE CONVOCATION OF MUST RUN2024

As we continue to celebrate the inaugural Convocation week, I am writing to once again on behalf of the Convocation of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to the Convocation RUN2024 scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:30am at MUST, Pharmacology grounds.

This event holds great significance for us as it serves to generate collective support for the university and Convocation initiatives.

We shall have a football match between the alumni and the students after the RUN2024 and later on in the evening we shall all join the grounds at UNOR BAR & GRILL (Rwebitakoona) for their graduation KwaKa!

We will be profoundly honored to have you walk by our side for successful events.

The Publicity Secretary
The Convocation of MUST

For more info: 0777 777 757 / +256 485 660584

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

22 FEB. 2024

We will be Running

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

ACCOUNTS
Stanbic Bank: **9030007462262**
Airtel Merchant Code: **4360421**

SELLING POINTS:
Codinex Office(Fresco Building): 0701479173
Academic Registrar's Office: 0703097817
GHC Office(TASO Building): 0755542311

MUST Pitch

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

PARTNERS

Please Join Us THUR 22nd FEB 2024 7:30AM
For more info: 0777 777 757 / +256 485 660584

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024
THUR 22nd FEB 2024

ROUTE CHART

The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024
THUR 22nd FEB 2024 | 7:30AM

Dr. Umar Muhumuza Ryan
Guild President 2018 to Flag off the Runners



The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

THUR 22nd FEB 2024 | 7:30AM

Dear Graduates!
We extend a cordial invitation to you all to participate in the esteemed MUST Convocation Run.

Marking the culmination of your academic journey, this momentous event offers an opportunity to commemorate your achievements, foster camaraderie amongst your fellow graduates, and create lasting memories before embarking on your next chapter.

Show the joy of your accomplishment with your peers, forge new connections, and celebrate your success in a vibrant and energetic environment.

Colored T-shirts given | Round Neck T-shirts given

Refreshments
Water, Energy Drink, Bananas, Bread, Soft Drinks, etc.



DAYS to go The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

THUR 22nd FEB 2024



For more info: 0777 777 757 / +256 485 660584



The Convocation of MUST RUN 2024

THUR 22nd FEB 2024 | 7:30AM

01 DAYS TO GO



For more info: 0777 777 757 / +256 485 660584



CONVOCAATION FOOTBALL MATCH

MUST ALUMNI VS MUST STUDENTS

THUR-22nd FEB, 2024
Time: 11:30 AM / MUST PITCH



For more info: 0777 777 757 / +256 485 660584



THANK YOU RUNNERS & PARTNERS

Please come again.

MUST COVOCAATION EXECUTIVE



Dr. Medard Bitekerezo
Chairperson



Mr. Solomon Agum
Vice Chairperson



Mr. Yonas Alinamaima
Treasurer



Mr. Tumuhimbise Johnbosco
Publicity Secretary

Regional Representatives

NORTHERN	EASTERN	CENTRAL	WESTERN
Dr. Richard Muhangi Athen Dorcas Charlotte (MSc)	Mr. Emmanuel Malaka Mr. Genesis Atukunda	Sr. Grace Kimbugwe Ms. Mary Namulisa	Maj. John Bwama Kwiringira Ms. Malen Akumbabali

The Convocation of Mbarara University of Science & Technology derives its mandate from section 70 of the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 which provides that there shall be a Convocation of the University which shall consist of "graduates of Mbarara University of Science and Technology and members of Staff and such other persons as may be provided for in the Statutes."

Congratulations, Graduates! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class. Your journey is just beginning, and we are excited to welcome you to the Convocation, where success becomes a shared celebration. As we gather to honor the achievements of our graduates, we extend an invitation to everyone present to join us in not only celebrating their success but also in contributing to the ongoing journey of empowerment and education.

MUST 30th graduation ceremony

Mbarara University of Science and Technology held its 30th graduation ceremony on Saturday February 24th, 2024 at the Kihumuro Main Campus grounds in Mbarara City. The guest of honor, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni was represented by the Minister of State for Higher Education Hon. John Chrysostom Musingo.



MBARARA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

30th GRADUATION



TOTAL GRADUATES:



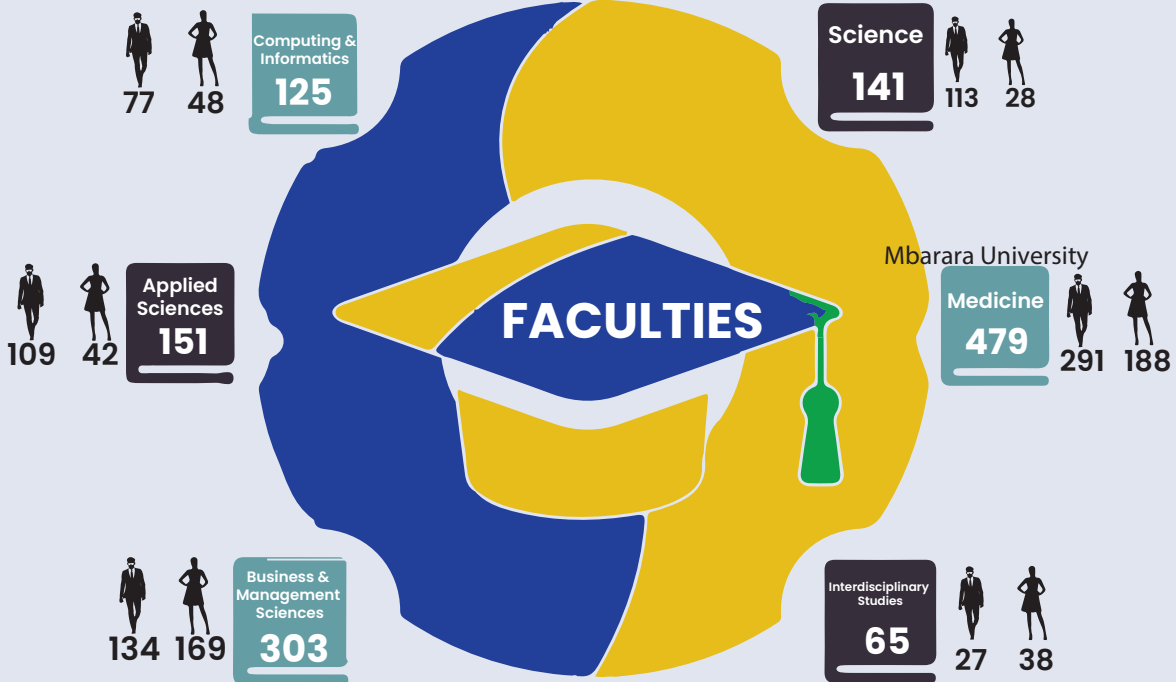
1470



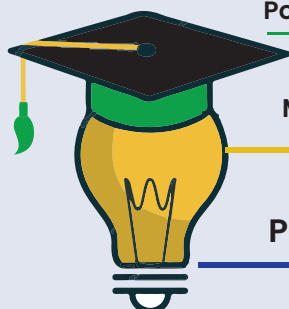
886 (60%)



586 (40%)



Degrees Awarded:

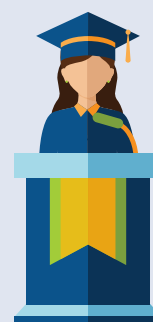


1264 Undergraduate

Postgraduate: 206

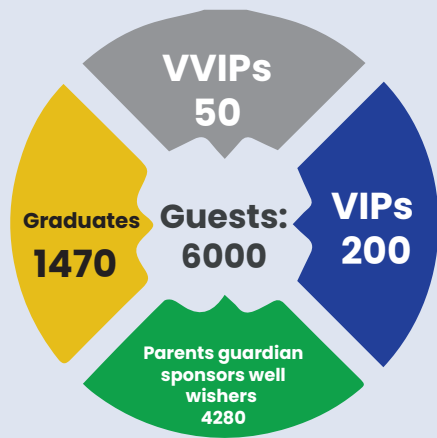
Masters 125 71

10 PhDs 7 3



GRADUATION SPEECHES

- 5 Dignitaries:
- Minister of Education & Sports
- University Chancellor
- Council Chairman
- Vice Chancellor
- Valedictorian



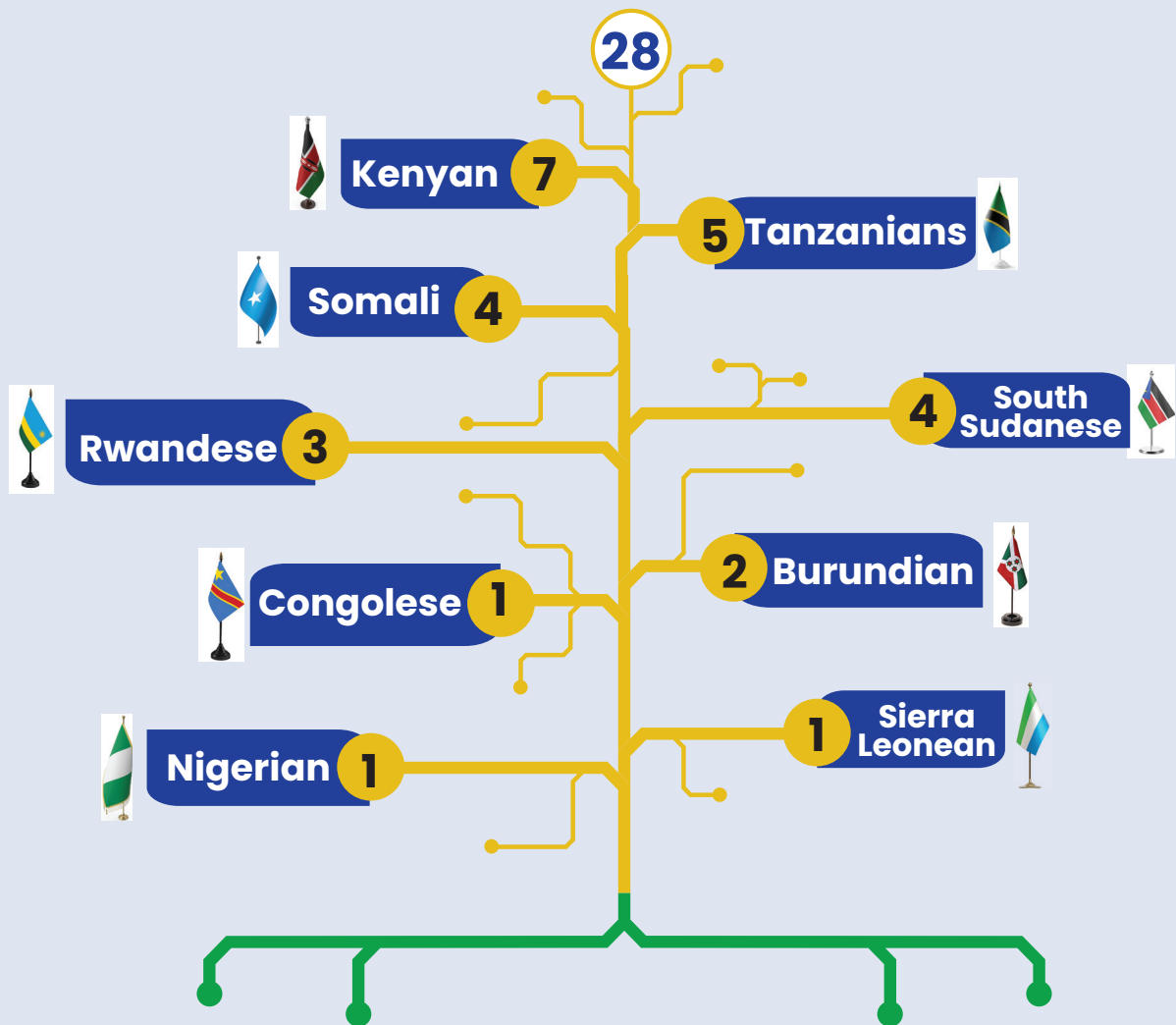
Awards and recognitions:



International Representation:

10 Countries: Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, South Sudan, Rwanda, Nigeria, Somalia, USA Sierra Leone , Burundi

Number of International Graduates 2024



Source: Academic Registrar's Department

For the full details of graduation please read the MUST special edition volume 15.

RENU BOOSTS MUST NETWORK



Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) received a significant boost to its internet capabilities on Tuesday, February 27th, 2024. The Research and Education Network of Uganda (RENU) generously donated a Cisco ASA Firewall valued at 300 million Ugandan shillings to the university.

This critical network equipment will enable MUST to access higher internet speeds, enhancing its research and educational activities. Ms. Caroline Namuddu, representing the RENU Network Operations Centre (NOC), presented the donation to Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooza, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance & Administration) and the head of computing services

Mr. Amos Baryashaba .

On behalf of the University the DVC F&A extended his gratitude to the Research and Education Network of Uganda (RENU) for their generous donation of a Cisco ASA Firewall valued at 300 million Ugandan shillings. This state-of-the-art equipment represents a significant solution for both our staff and students, directly impacting our ability to achieve our vision of becoming a centre of Academic and Professional Excellence in Science and Technology.

Mr. Amos Baryashaba the head of computing services, said, “previously, internet limitations hampered our potential as a University of Science and technology. However, RENU's high-quality networking equip-

ment will provide MUST with access to significantly faster internet speeds. This enhanced connectivity will empower our faculty and researchers to conduct groundbreaking research endeavors without the constraints of slow internet”.

On behalf of the University the DVC F&A extended his gratitude to RENU for their generous donation of a Cisco ASA Firewall valued at 300 million Ugandan shillings.



He also believes that students will also benefit immensely. Faster internet will facilitate their access to a wider range of educational resources, enabling them to engage in more in-depth learning and exploration.

This improved access aligns perfectly with MUST's vision. By fostering a robust and efficient online environment, RENU's contribution paves the way for unparalleled academic and professional excellence in Science and Technology. As a University, we are confident that this upgraded infrastructure will unlock new possibilities for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing within our university community.

Once again, we express our sincere appreciation to RENU for their invaluable gift. This partnership will undoubtedly propel MUST towards achieving its ambitious goals.



A brief about RENU

The Research and Education Network of Uganda (RENU) is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering collaboration within Uganda's research and education sectors. They achieve this by providing:

- **High-speed internet connectivity:** RENU offers affordable access to high-speed internet, essential for research activities and online learning.
- **Networking solutions:** They equip institutions with advanced networking equipment, like the Cisco ASA Firewall donated to MUST, to optimize internet efficiency and security.
- **Community building:** RENU connects Ugandan research and education institutions with one another, as well as with international partners, promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration. RENU operates as a cooperatively owned and community-driven service provider. Their core mission is to bridge the digital divide in Uganda's educational and research landscape, ultimately contributing to the nation's development in science and technology.

New home for Emergency Medicine at Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Brief History of Emergency Medicine

The Emergency Medicine program at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) boasts a rich history, intrinsically linked to the dedication of Dr. Derrick Harborne. Dr. Harborne played a pivotal role in establishing the program, laying the foundation for its future success by:

- **Establishing the Department:** In 2018, the Department of Emergency Medicine officially opened its doors, marking a significant step for

MUST.

- **Developing Curriculum:** Dr. Harborne's expertise went into crafting the curriculum for the Master of Medicine (MMED) program in Emergency Medicine, the first of its kind to be recognized in Uganda (2017).

- **Expanding Training:** A Diploma in Emergency Medicine was also introduced alongside the MMED program, catering for Diploma Nurses and Clinical Officers.



Recognizing the critical need for specialized emergency care in Uganda, Dr. Harborne spearheaded the program's development. His vision aligned perfectly with MUST's mission, which aspires to be a centre of Academic and Professional Excellence in Science and Technology. Further emphasizing this commitment, the University's mandate underscores its dedication to promoting quality higher education for national integration and development through teaching of science and technology for promotion of the political, economic and social development of Uganda and the needs and aspirations of the Republic of Uganda.

Dr. Harborne's foresight ensured the program's sustainability by identifying Dr. Prisca Kizito as his successor. This ensured a smooth transition of leadership and continued the program's growth trajectory.



Dr. Derrick Harborne

It's important to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Seed Global Health. Their collaboration with Dr. Harborne which began with Dr. Harry Chen's involvement as a Seed Educator, has been instrumental in the program's success. Thankfully, Seed Global Health's support continues to this day. The Emergency Medicine program at MUST stands as a testament to Dr. Harborne's vision and the collaborative efforts of dedicated professionals. Building upon a strong foundation, the program is well-positioned to continue producing highly qualified emergency medicine specialists who will serve the critical healthcare needs of Uganda.



Dr. Derrick with Dr. Harry Chen



Our Christmas with Dr. Derrick

The new face of Emergency Medicine



Welcome to our new home Dr. Chen Dr. Prisca and the Residents

Mbarara University of Science and Technology proudly celebrated the inauguration of its new Emergency Medicine block. This collaborative effort, led by MUST, Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH), and Seed Global Health aims to revolutionize emergency care by training and producing quality emergency care professionals who will ultimately and significantly improve emergency care in Uganda and Africa at large.

The event brought together distinguished guests including Dr. Harry Chen, a physician educator

at Seed Global Health and a visiting faculty for Emergency Medicine at MUST, Dr. Vincent Oke-tcho the Chairperson Seed Global Health Advisory Board, Dr. Donna Kabatesi Seed Global Health Advisory Board Member, Dr. Brian Agaba representing the Country Director Seed Global Health, and representatives from the Ugandan Ministry of Health(MOH): Dr. Richard Mugahi, Assistant Commissioner Reproductive and Infant Health and Dr. John Baptist Waniaye Commissioner of Emergency Medical Services Uganda, who was the chief guest.



From MUST, the ceremony included Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushabomwe-Kazooba, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga, University Secretary, Dr. Celestine Barigye, Hospital Director, Dr. Francis Oriokot, Deputy Hospital Director, Dr. Jonans Tusiimire, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and other esteemed faculty, staff members and Emergency Medicine residents. Dr. Prisca Kizito, Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine, served as the event host at the event, with Ms. Angella Nakato the University Public Relations Officer and Dr. Daniel Olinga a lecturer in the department of

Emergency Medicine MUST as mistress and master of ceremonies respectively.

The celebration commenced with a hospital tour led by Dr. Francis Oriokot, highlighting the critical need for enhanced emergency care facilities. Dr. Oriokot expressed his sincere gratitude to MUST and the Ministry of Health for their partnership and to Seed Global Health for their continuous support specifically in the Emergency Department of MRRH.

Dr. Kizito then guided the tour through the Emergency Department MRRH, showcasing the different areas within the department which include triage,

resuscitation bay, and medical and surgical wards. The occasion was made more memorable when the ReAct team led by the Area Manager of the Emergency Department of MRRH, Sr. Charity Kwarikunda received a new resuscitation bag from MOH in partnership with Seed Global Health.

Following the tour, the official commissioning of the new building took place. The chief guest Dr. Diana Atwine Permanent Secretary MOH represented by Dr. John Baptist Waniaye, led the ceremony, assisted by Dr. Harry Chen, Assoc. Prof. Charles Tushaboomwe Kazoooba, and other esteemed guests.





A guided tour of the new block, led by Dr. Prisca and the Emergency Medicine residents, showcased its advanced facilities. The tour included a gallery walk that showcased the journey of Emergency Medicine since inception, the state of Emergency Medical Services in South Western Uganda, the impact of triage on 24 hour mortality rates in the MRRH ED and the initiatives of student led Emergency Medicine support groups.

In her remarks, Dr. Prisca expressed her elation at the building's completion. She extended her gratitude to all partners for their unwavering support and presence at the event. She emphasized the building's purpose: to provide a conducive teaching and learning environment for Emergency Medicine residents as well as host office space for the department's faculty.

In his speech, Dr. Celestine

Barigye, the Hospital Director, acknowledged the Ministry of Health's presence and expressed his appreciation to Seed Global Health for their continued support to MUST and MRRH.

Representing the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Jonans echoed the appreciation to the Ministry of Health, Seed Global Health, and the Emergency Medicine faculty. He highlighted the new structure as a call to action for the Faculty of Medicine, emphasizing the importance of dedicated space for each department within the Faculty.

The University Secretary, Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga, commended the Faculty of Medicine, particularly Dr. Prisca, for her perseverance in advocating for the building's completion. He further expressed his appreciation to the hospital team for their support of the Emergency

Medicine department.

Dr. Harry Chen, the first physician educator from Seed Global Health to MUST and a visiting faculty for Emergency Medicine MUST, expressed his satisfaction for the completed project and reiterated Seed Global Health's commitment to continued support for the department. He shared a brief history of their collaboration with the Emergency Medicine department and their ongoing partnership, the collaboration with Emergency Medicine and his recurrent visits.

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Dr. Brian Agaba, representing Seed Global Health, commended Dr. Kizito and her team for their exceptional work in enhancing emergency care through education and service provision, pledging continued support for the Emergency Medicine department. Dr. Vincent Oketcho, Chairman of the Seed Global Health Adviso-

ry Board, praised Dr. Kizito's leadership and coordination efforts, emphasizing Seed Global Health's commitment to supporting MUST and MRRH. These speeches collectively underscored the crucial role of collaboration in advancing emergency medicine education and care in Uganda. Chief guest and Commissioner

EMS Dr. Waniaye emphasized the urgency for MRRH to hire more EM physicians and urged MUST to continue recruiting EM lecturers as the production of EM physicians is just beginning. He also mentioned MOH's plans to introduce a Type C ambulance for critically ill patients in Mbarara.



Dr. Chen Harry



Dr. Brian Agaba



Dr. John Baptist Waniaye



Dr. Vincent Oketcho



Mr. Melchoir Byaruhanga



Dr. Jonans Tusiimire



Assoc. Prof. Charles T. Kazooba



Dr. Celestine Barigye

A brief about Seed Global Health as a Pillar of Support to EM

Seed Global Health's interest is a future in which every country has a robust health workforce that is able to meet the health needs of its population through educating a rising generation of health professionals and health educators, bolstering the pipeline of healthcare providers who have local knowledge and deep ties to the region. As such, Seed provides support through provision of equipment, supplies, staff development and skills enhancement.

Seed has played a pivotal role in advancing emergency med-

icine (EM) at MUST by providing essential equipment, furniture, and staffing support. Additionally, Seed has facilitated comprehensive training programs for clinical workers, both for MRRH and MUST, empowering them with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality emergency care. This multifaceted support underscores Seed's commitment to strengthening EM services and underscores the breadth of their contribution to the partnership's success.

The Seed Global Health and Mbarara University of Science and Technology partnership is currently in its fifth year, and it

continues to thrive. The specific shared goal of this collaboration is to ensure that by 2025, graduates of emergency medicine from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, along with the current clinical staff at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, practice and advocate for the full spectrum of high-quality emergency care. As we look ahead, we are committed to furthering this impactful partnership for the benefit of the community, anticipating its renewal for another five years of collaboration and progress beyond 2025.

The Emergency Medicine program at MUST stands as a testament to Dr. Harborne's vision and the collaborative efforts of dedicated professionals. His legacy has been carried on with respect and honor, by the current leaders in the University and the Hospital.

Building upon a strong foundation, the program is well-positioned to continue producing highly qualified emergency physicians who will serve the critical healthcare needs of Uganda and beyond.



MUST Celebrates Leap Babies



February 29, 2024!!!! let us gather around because today is a day unlike any other! It's a day to celebrate the incredible individuals who, by the twist of fate (or perhaps the calendar), share this extra special birthday.

While others mark their birthdays annually, yours arrives like a rare comet, lighting up the sky with its unique brilliance. This day isn't just about turning another year older; it's a celebration of your distinct spirit, your ability to embrace the extraordinary, and the remarkable bond you share as fellow "Leap Year babies."



MUST Celebrates Leap Babies



Eng. Ivan Mujuni
Teaching Assistant FAST-MUST



MUST Celebrates Leap Babies



NUwagira Yoweri
Student FCI



MUST Celebrates Leap Babies



Mr. Edgar Kaheru Bwambale
Student FCI



MUST Celebrates Leap Babies



Timothy Ndiana Mugumya (Esq)
University legal Advisor

So let us have a toss (or a cup of coffee, depending on the time zone) to you! May this Leap Year birthday be filled with laughter, joy, and the creation of memories that will last a lifetime, until we gather again to celebrate four years from now.



Happy Leap Year Birthday, everyone!

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

Check our social media page on:

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Succeed we Must.