MUST receives generous Donation from Bank of Uganda

In this MUST Mirror

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Succeed we must
Welcome to the May edition of the MUST Mirror, your one-stop up-dater for stories at MUST! This month, we have exciting News and stories that showcase the vibrancy of our University community.

Investing in the Future: Bank of Uganda Supports MUST. This vital contribution will play a crucial role in supporting our ongoing Research projects, development initiatives, E-Teaching and learning. Read more about this exciting development and how it will benefit our students and faculty.

Collaboration for Progress: INTERACT-Africa Stakeholder Meeting
MUST recently hosted the INTERACT-Africa Stakeholder Meeting. This important gathering brought together leading researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss Mobility in Innovative Green Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Bioeconomy equipment.

MUST Hosts CME Workshop on Noncommunicable Diseases
The fight against noncommunicable diseases is a global health priority. MUST recently hosted a Continuing Medical Education (CME) workshop on this critical topic. This workshop provided valuable training to healthcare professionals, empowering them to better address this growing health concern.

Life Beyond the Gown: Securing Your Future with Scholarships
As graduation approaches, many students turn their attention to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. This month, the PHARMBIOTRAC project took up the initiative share with MUST students the world of scholarships and grants, offering valuable tips to help our graduates secure funding for their future studies.

Stay Connected!
The MUST Mirror is committed to keeping you informed and engaged with all things MUST. Do not forget to follow us on social media for the latest updates and stories.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the MUST Mirror!
Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) is proud to announce a significant donation of computers and library resources from Bank of Uganda. This generous gift, presented on May 3, 2024, reflects the Bank's commitment to supporting education and development in Ugandan communities.

The donation ceremony was graced by a delegation from Bank of Uganda, led by Ms. Susan Kanyemibwa, Bank Secretary and Head of CSR. Ms. Kanyemibwa emphasized the Bank's alignment with MUST’s mission of promoting quality science and technology education for national progress. She highlighted the growing importance of digital literacy and strategic thinking in our digital age, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the landscape.
This donation is just one of many ways Bank of Uganda is investing in Uganda’s future. Beyond education, the Bank has also been actively supporting maternal health initiatives. These efforts contribute to their overall mission of empowering communities and driving socio-economic transformation across Uganda.

He emphasized how the donation aligns perfectly with MUST’s mission of providing high-quality, relevant education and research, with a focus on science and technology for community development.

“We are truly grateful for Bank of Uganda’s support for our University,” stated Prof. Kamukama. The University extends its appreciation to all who played a role in securing this donation, including Prof. Celestino Obua, the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Michael Atingi-Ego, Deputy Governor of Bank of Uganda, and Ms. Sarah Nyacho Mwaka (Esq).

This donation will equip MUST students and faculty with the resources they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world. We look forward to a lasting partnership with Bank of Uganda as we work together to shape a brighter future for Uganda.

L-R: Ms. Irene Ahabwe Deputy University secretary, Prof. Nixon Kamukama DVC AA & Ms. Susan Kanyemibwa, Bank Secretary

MUST is enthusiastic about the positive impact this donation will have on its students and faculty. Prof. Nixon Kamukama, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs (DVC AA), expressed his gratitude to the Bank of Uganda for recognizing MUST’s role in research and training.
The Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) through its Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Community Health, organized a two-day Quarterly Continuing Medical Education (CME) Workshop at Adit Mall in Mbarara on Thursday, May 02, 2024, and Friday, May 03, 2024.

The workshop, themed “Basic Diagnosis and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) at the primary health care level”. A total of 20 health facilities were trained including: Kibiito HC IV, Kisomoro HC III, Kyamuhunga HC III, Kyabugimbi HC IV, Bwindi Community Hospital, Ishongoro HC IV, Nyakitunda HC III, Ruhiiira HC III, Rugarama Hospital, Kamuganguzi HC III, Buhara HC III, Bukuuku HC IV, Rukunyu Hospital Bugoye HC III, Rukoki HC III, Lwengo HC IV, Kagongi HC III, Muko HC IV, Rugazi HC IV, and Mparo HC IV.
Ms. Eleanor Turyakira, Head of the Community Health Department, inaugurated the training, expressing gratitude to participants for prioritizing this event amidst their busy schedules. She emphasized the significance of the training in enhancing health service delivery at primary healthcare facilities. Urging attendees to actively engage for mutual improvement. Additionally, she commended the First Mile Community Health Program team, led by Professor Edgar Mugema Mulogo for orchestrating this platform, fostering knowledge exchange among primary healthcare providers and senior colleagues at MUST.

The workshop extensively covered fundamental aspects of diagnosing and managing noncommunicable diseases at primary health care facilities, including Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Gastrointestinal Diseases (Peptic ulcer disease and stomach cancer), kidney diseases, and respiratory assessment and diseases. Specialists from the Department of Internal Medicine at MUST facilitated the training sessions.

Dr. Kananura Kenneth giving a presentation about hypertension

Dr. Obwaya Paul Stephen presenting about Peptic Ulcers Disease, Gastric Cancer

Dr. Grace Kansiime, the Head Internal Medicine Department lauded the workshop format, highlighting its efficacy in educating a broad spectrum of healthcare workers simultaneously. She emphasized that participants not only acquire skills and knowledge but also disseminate these insights among their peers, fostering better identification, management, referral, and follow-up of clients with chronic non-communicable diseases at the community level.

Grace giving a presentation about the Kidney disease
Peter Kawungenzi
Dr. Peter Chris Kawungezi, the program coordinator of the First Mile Community Health Program underscored the uniqueness of this initiative, emphasizing its role in augmenting MUST’s capacity in health service delivery within its catchment area. "This successful CME workshop reflects MUST’s dedication to providing ongoing professional development opportunities, ultimately enhancing patient care in combating NCDs”.

Dr. Jonans Tusiimire, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, commended the Internal Medicine Department and its team for their timely organization of the training, particularly amidst the escalating burden of non-communicable diseases. He extended appreciation to the Department of Community Health and the First Mile Community Health Program for facilitating such invaluable opportunities for primary healthcare providers. However, he emphasized the need for careful consideration of the level of care provided, acknowledging the role of the First Mile Community Health Program in upholding the core mandates of the Faculty of Medicine, including training, research, community service, and innovation. Furthermore, Dr. Jonans advocated for extended training durations exceeding the current two-day workshops, stressing the importance of continuous upskilling in the medical profession.

Doctors: Kananura, Obwoya and Kansiime

The participants of the workshop received certificates of attendance. The awarding was done by the Deputy Dean Dr. Jonans Tusimiire assisted by the physicians who were also the mentors
Dr. Kansiime, the Head of Department, began by thanking everyone for their participation in the non-communicable diseases workshop. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the organizers, particularly The First Mile Project through the Department of Community Health, for putting together such an insightful workshop. She said the past few days had been very informative and everyone had learned a lot about these diseases, prevention strategies, and how to manage them better. Dr. Kansiime expressed her confidence that this knowledge would empower everyone to improve patient care and fight non-communicable diseases in the community. Following protocol, Dr. Kansiime then invited the Deputy Dean, Dr. Jonans Tusimiire, to officially close the workshop.
Aligned with its vision of being "A centre of Academic and Professional Excellence in Science and Technology" and its mission "To provide equitable quality and relevant education and Research with particular emphasis on Science and Technology and its application to community development," Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) played a leading role on Thursday, May 16th, 2024, by hosting the INTERACT-Africa Information Sharing and Stakeholder Meeting. Themed "Mobility in Innovative Green Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Bioeconomy," the event fostered a productive exchange between researchers, policy-makers, and stakeholders in the UCoBS Boardroom.

The meeting commenced with an overview of what the meeting was about. Moderated by the University Public Relations Officer, Angella Nakato Muyingo, the meeting agenda was adopted as below:

Dr. Casim Umba Tolo, the team leader of the project, extended a warm welcome and introductions. He expressed his delight at the event and highlighted the INTERACT-Africa project's year-long journey. Dr. Tolo further provided a concise overview of the project's objectives. Professor Julius Lejju, Dean of the Faculty of Science at Mbarara University, followed with a congratulatory message to the project team. He emphasized the project's potential to significantly contribute to environmental sustainability and a greener future. Professor Lejju underscored the importance of securing a better environmental future and stressed the university's commitment to supporting international students.
Dr. Raphael Wangalwa, the Coordinator of the project at MUST, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the INTERACT-Africa project. He outlined the project’s objectives, research focus areas, management of mobility programs, and monitoring and evaluation plans. A key highlight was the project’s overarching goal of enhancing skills and qualifications across Africa. Dr. Wangalwa emphasized the project’s 48-month timeframe and its collaborative implementation by a six-university consortium, with five African and one European partner university. Other members of the audience included: The International Relations officer Ms. Shila Niinyye Olivia, Heads of the Departments of Chemistry (Mr. Denis Byamugisha), Biology (Prof. Grace Kagoro), and Information Systems, project team members Prof. Grace Birungi, Ms. Clare E. Kemigisha, Mr. Emmannuel Aheebwe, Ms. Jovanice Mpirirwe and representation from the Faculty of Computing and Informatics.
The presentations were followed by a lively question-and-answer session, fostering discussion and mutual learning among attendees. This interactive format ensured active participation from everyone present.

**Brief about INTERACT-Africa project**

“Mobility in Innovative Green Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Bioeconomy” (INTERACT-Africa) is one of the 15 Intra Africa Mobility projects funded by the European Union Commission. The project will see the mobility and training of over 60 students (Ph.D. and MSc) and staff in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, and Information Technology, with emphasis on the conversion of organic waste to valuable bioproducts for transitioning into environmentally sustainable economies.

The project is being implemented by a consortium of partner universities in Africa including Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania), Institut Facultaire Des Sciences Agronomiques (IFA) De Yangambi (DRC) and Moi University (Kenya) as the coordinating (Lead) University. The project funding is worth 1.8 million Euros.

For more information please click this link: https://interactafrica.mu.ac.ke
Life After Campus:
Securing Your Future with Scholarships

The Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC) at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently hosted a “Life After Campus” event focused on scholarship information. This valuable session, sponsored by PHARMBIOTAC, The Friends of PHARMBIOTAC Foundation, and MUST, aimed to empower students with the knowledge and tools to navigate the exciting world of scholarship opportunities.

Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, Academic Registrar officially opened the sessions and thanked the students for turning up in big numbers for this was a deal breaker session for the future. She acknowledged the effort by the PHARMBIOTAC project to think of MUST students. The event featured a distinguished panel of facilitators, including Professor Robert Tamukong, Dr. Casim Umba Tolo, Eng. Ankie Weisheit ,beneficiary of international funding and PHARMBIOTAC project alumni, all moderated by the adept Angella Nakato Muyingo, the Public Relations Officer MUST.

Key Takeaways:
• **Information is Key:** The speakers emphasized the importance of actively seeking scholarship information. This includes regularly checking university websites, social media platforms (used responsibly!), and program announcements.
• **Professional Presentation Matters:** A professional email address is crucial. Forget. Use clear names not AKA may want to take you on.
• **Social Media Savvy:** Be mindful of your online presence. Potential scholarship providers and employers may check social media profiles, so avoid posting inappropriate content.
• **Read and Respond:** Many scholarship opportunities go unnoticed because students simply don’t read the announcements! Pay attention to details and deadlines.
Demystifying Scholarships:
The session addressed areas like:
• What is the difference between financial aid and scholarships?
• What types of scholarships are available?
• How do I apply for a scholarship?
• Can someone help me find a scholarship?

The facilitators later shared the Roadmap with a comprehensive outline for students:

1. **Objectives:** Define your educational goals and identify scholarships that align with your aspirations.
2. **Financial Aid vs. Scholarships:** Understand the differences between financial aid programs and merit-based scholarships.
3. **Scholarship Types:** Explore the various types of scholarships available, such as need-based, merit-based, and program-specific scholarships.
4. **The Application Process:** Learn the steps involved in applying for scholarships, including deadlines, required documents, and essay prompts.
5. **Finding Scholarships:** Discover effective strategies for searching for scholarships online and through university resources.
6. **Crafting a Winning Application:** Gain valuable tips for writing compelling essays, highlighting achievements, and presenting a strong application.
7. **Scholarship Opportunities:** Explore a curated list of scholarships with valid deadlines (Note: specific scholarships will need to be replaced with real opportunities closer to the event date).
8. **Philosophy of Success:** Develop a personal approach to scholarship applications, emphasizing perseverance and a positive attitude.
9. **Recap and Key Points:** Solidify your understanding of the key takeaways from the session.
10. **Q&A Session:** Engage with the facilitators and address any lingering questions.
Dr. Tolo Umba Cassim  Assoc. Prof. Robert Tamukong

Building a Network:

Following the insightful presentations, students formed a dedicated wats-app group to facilitate ongoing information sharing and support. This initiative fostered a sense of community and empowered students to continue their scholarship explorations collaboratively.

A Special Thanks:

A heartfelt thank you goes to the PHARMBIOTRAC project and MUST for their thoughtful initiative in empowering students to chart their path to success through scholarships. By equipping students with the knowledge and resources, this event has undoubtedly paved the way for a brighter future for many aspiring scholars.

For any information about MUST please check our website: www.must.ac.ug
Check our social media page on: Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Succeed we Must.