

Annual Report 2014/15 Board of UECD Switzerland
Ugandan Empowerment and Career Development UECD www.uecd.ch

Dear Readers,

Since our last full membership meeting on May 18, 2014, we have held three Board meetings and one event. The following business has been covered:

Account mentoring in Kampala (by order of Simon and Annamarie)

The account was opened by the Board of UECD Uganda. Patricia and Gloria are the official signers. An evaluation follows: (see minutes/finance). Due to higher bank costs, the Board of UECD Switzerland is making a new recommendation.

Three New Students Sponsored

Philipp Herzog has taken over Susan Aboth as his sponsored student. Many thanks, Philipp. Susan had Gianni Guidon as a previous sponsor, but due to illness we have had to make a switch. **Gisela Vincenz** has taken over the sponsorship of Patience. We thank you, Gisela. Finally, **Ronald Tusingwire** and his wife Fionah, have offered to sponsor another student. This student remains to be chosen. Much appreciation, Ronald and Fionah.

Information concerning students and Board members

Doreen has independently organized a training workshop in home birthing, allowing women to be free of hospitals. She lives in London with her husband, Mark, and their two daughters Kalungi (5) and Schirabo (3). She made a recent trip to Kampala to attend the funeral of a close uncle, and took the opportunity to carry out this home- birth workshop.

Ronald and his wife Phiona have decided, despite having their own family now, (and with a second child on the way) to financially support another student. A heartfelt thanks are due to Ronald and Phiona.

Obed has completed his studies to become a lawyer, and has now applied to become a judge. We congratulate him on his success, and offer a big thank you to Hanspeter Spalinger, for mentoring him on his way. Without this help from Hanspeter, Obed would not be able to take on such a responsible position. He has his goal: his dream profession is in sight. As an Uganda Board Member, he is now active in checking on students to determine the level of their engagement and satisfaction with their studies. To do this, it is necessary to visit the students on site. Thank you, Obed!

Adah has completed her studies in Computer Science with a Master's Degree, and is now doing research. Congratulations to Adah for her achievement. We sincerely thank her sponsor, Maja Plenge, for all the support she has given. Without Maja, Adah would not have been able to further her career. Adah is also involved as a Board Member, introducing all students to the use of PCs, and leading the INTAKE. She is the Speaker Representative for all student concerns, and serves as the liaison to the rest of us when we have questions.

Patricia has finished her adjunct studies in Human Resources and is now doing a last bit of research while awaiting graduation. We also congratulate Pat on her considerable achievement. She is attending evening school at the University, while she works her daily job in the legal office of Ronald's former law partners. Impressive! Heartfelt thanks to Mirjam and Nina Wyrsh for their financial support. Without this, once again, Patricia could not have made the career choice she did. Pat is active as a Board Member as well, responsible for both the documentation of UECD, and the financial account in Kampala.

Fiona has completed the year she planned at the World Bank in Kigoli, Ruanda. This position was not extended, and so she is in Kampala, having taken on another job in administration preparing visas. She is presently seeking a job in Kigoli. We are hoping that with the help of Mark, Doreen's partner, a reference for a Danish firm can be given to her. She is not active as a Board Member.

Robert Nangoli has been eliminated from our program both as student and Board Member. This came about as a result of deliberate deception. For this misdeed, he will have to answer in a court of law. Without our knowledge he was already receiving a stipend through an American NGO. This was revealed because the American lady who had already treated him like a son, helping him through secondary school, got suspicious and had a detective follow him. He confessed to this deception. Although with the loss of these two stipends he will be unable to complete his Master's Degree, he still should be able to find work on today's market. By means of a letter sent to all students, we have communicated clearly that such malfeasance will not be tolerated.

Jane is in her third year of studying Business Computing. We don't hear much from her: however, she is busy helping her mother in her free time selling vegetables in the marketplace. She is a hard worker!

Elizabeth is enjoying her second year of studying Tourism and Travel Management. She had an accident and injured her arm, but it appears to have healed. According to Obed, she is a hard working student, and functions as the class speaker. Already we feel that she can be recommended as a tour leader in Uganda. At the moment, she is looking for an apprenticeship in a travel bureau or hotel.

Jimmy is in his third successful year of Telecommunication studies. He is being supported by Simone and Annamarie. To earn pocket money, he is additionally teaching mathematics at a school in his free time. Lacking receipts, his budget for school materials is being limited to UGX 150,000.

Suzan is being supported by Philipp, and is in her second year, studying to be a high school teacher. Obed was not able to make contact with her, as a visit was not possible. However, she excused herself afterward for this absence at a Board meeting. Unfortunately, she had not been checking her mails daily.

Florence was also unable to be visited by Obed since she had turned off her telephone. She did not attend a Board meeting, and one hears nothing from her. She is studying Business Administration.

Kevin is being supported by Gisela, while studying Business Administration in Gulu, a branch of Cavendish University in Kampala. She would like to work later in an NGO. Exams are identical to those given in all branches of Cavendish University, throughout the land, and thus can be taken in the North. At the moment, however, this branch of the Uni has difficulty with access to the library and to the internet. Fortunately, Kevin has received an almost new laptop from Miriam Spiegel, and a Smartphone from Eva—as additional supports. A motherly landlady is seeing to her. Kevin's receipts are the most exact, both with bookkeeping and timely delivery. Hilda, her mentor, (besides Obed) is far in the North with her family, so they see each other only rarely.

Patience Obed was also unable to visit Patience.

Event

Claude and Nina arranged an event for sponsors, members, and Board members at their home. We viewed the film “God loves Uganda”, a documentary over the Pentacost Movement (cult) in

Uganda. Following the film there was a spirited discussion concerning the new American-Evangelical groups in Uganda and resulting consequences for the more orthodox religious students. Thank you Claude and Nina; not only for organizing this event, but also for indulging us culinarily in such a lovely setting.

Stricter Control of Budgets

Since the discovery of Robert Nangoli's fraud, deceiving UECD, the Board is exacting stricter control of budgets. They have sent Obed to visit students, not only to compare the amount of money students are actually spending with the amounts allocated to them, but also to see how seriously the students are taking their studies. The Board is demanding that the students retain receipts for all expenditures, and that they are prepared to show them when requested. In particular, students are being asked to retain receipts for school supplies that cost up to UGX 500,000. If they do not produce these receipts, the amount will be reduced to UGX 150,000. The Board Uganda UECD is asking students to turn in all receipts and budgets 8 weeks before the universities' tuition deadline. 4 weeks before this deadline, the checked budgets must be sent by the Board of Uganda and be in the hands of sponsors and Markus Boller. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that the students' stipends will arrive in time.

Contributions

We have received CHF1800 in contributions. We are asking everyone in the UECD family: Board members, advisors, Rotary, Lyons Club, and other organizations, to recommend our NGO to relatives, at the work place, and every place, where socially engaged NGOs are supported. Also, instead of gifts - birthdays, funerals, weddings - can all be occasions for giving the account of UECD to friends.

Doubling our membership

Unfortunately, this goal has yet not been realized.

Computers

The Board has decided that each student should have their own laptop. Already, as previously mentioned, Kevin has received a laptop for her Mac contributed by Miriam Spiegel, 2 laptops are ready for the next transport, donated by René and Adele Nussbaumer, 1 laptop has been donated by Claude, the others will be bought on site.

Goals

First, we are looking for a new sponsor for a new student. Secondly, we would like to take up the theme of corruption in an African context, both in Uganda and in Switzerland. To this end, we need to plan an event in Switzerland for sponsors and members, as well as a workshop in Uganda with our students. We also plan to send out a third newsletter after our next general meeting, and a fourth in autumn/winter. If you have an idea for a fund raising event, please contact Claude. It could be a benefit performance (music, literary event), or possibly a talk on the work of UECD at the Rotary or Lions Club. If sponsors, members, or other interested parties are interested in a journey to Uganda, to meet our students and experience UECD Uganda first-hand, this could be

combined with Uganda travel in a larger framework, such as a Safari. In this case, I would be prepared, along with Elisabeth, our Tourism and Travel Management student, to be the tour guide over Christmas 2015/16. We would try to take along as many students as European travelers, so that a real exchange might be forthcoming. Safaris are unbelievably beautiful; the landscapes green, the temperature a comfortable 25 degrees.

With heartfelt thanks and many greetings,

Eva Winizki
President, UECD Switzerland
May, 2015