

Dear Readers,

Since June 6, 2015, our Board has met twice and has also held a day long retreat, where we focused on our project in detail. Thanks to Claude, we were able to organize an event with our sponsors/members, and thanks to Fabian, we sent out our exciting Newsletter 3, which you can read on our webpage, www.uecd.ch.

About our students and their future Plans:

Our students are doing well! Jane and Florence have both completed their BA degree in 2015 with a diploma in B.&A. Jane has applied to various advertised positions, and has begun by serving as a “middle-woman” dealing with vegetables for women who work at the market where her mother also has a stand. Florence has had to take over from her older sister in the nursing care of their 90 year old father, as the sister had recently died. Now, however, Florence is actively seeking a job. Adah has likewise completed a B.A. , his in Computer Science, while Patricia has her B.A. Diploma in Human Resource and Management. Adah has applied for a position, and in the short term has taken on the leadership of an absentee internet cafe manager. Patricia continues to work in a legal firm while she is seeking a position as the HR director in a company. Obed has been successful as a lawyer working with the police, and this year took courses in further education and development in a camp run by the Police School. After her completion of a year's employment at the World Bank in Kingali's Visa Department of the Ugandan government, Fiona began working in the Visa Department of a Chinese communication firm in Kampala (in the same building that houses the government office where Ronald works.) Elisabeth will be awarded her BA Diploma in Tourism and Management this summer of 2016. She is making extra pocket money by baking special cakes for celebrations. Jimmy is also finishing up this year with his Bachelor in Electric Engineering, and will be seeking a position in the near future. Susan is in the middle of her studies to become a Middle School Teacher, and is quite enthused at the prospect. Kevin is also midway through her studies in B. and A. and is still occupied with supporting traumatized former child soldiers with all the help she can give. It does her good, in that she also has a sister who served nine years under Joseph Kony, and returned, traumatized herself, to civilian life together with two children. Patience has been elected to be the delegate of over a thousand other social worker students in the Student Parliament of Uganda Christian University. This is a great honor and demonstrates that she inspires trust and is a competent leader as well.

In this overview it becomes clear that a dominant theme for our students is how it will go when their studies are completed. The 2015 Workshop that I gave together with Ronald and Gloria, showed that we have to give special prominence to this topic. Gloria and Ronald both took on the task of showing themselves to be models for advertising. They demonstrated various Tips and Tricks that one can use to present oneself—however, this does not seem to be the main problem for our students. Far more does it appear that they do not have the network of relationships which is a given

for well situated families; our students were children from small villages. Two main points were raised: either one has to create a job, like Adah, Jane, and Elisabeth are doing, or then, apply for a job, as Patricia, Adah, Florence, Obed, Fiona and also Jane are attempting. Given this situation, the idea arose during the Board Retreat in January 2016, that we should set up a new goal concretely in our statutes. We intend to continue supporting our students non-financially, with their career integration into the job market. How we will do so is the theme we have chosen for the summer quarter of 2016; the development and realization of new ideas—exactly what we can do. For example, through cooperation with Swiss companies in Uganda. If one of our readers has an idea, and the desire to contribute suggestions, or be on the work-force, please get in touch!

The Board of UECD Uganda has decided to take on three new students assuming new sponsors may be found. Two students are already covered. Indeed, Markus Naepflin and Ronald/Phiona Tusingwire are each taking over a new student. That leaves one more sponsor to be found. Five students have applied over the internet, and now the Board of UECD Uganda must decide how to proceed.

Concerning the Sponsors:

We are currently seeking a sponsor of a third student for this year. We would be most grateful for any help you can offer! Three of the students who have so far applied are being considered, and would like to begin their studies in August/September of 2016. Many thanks to Gisela, Simone, Anna, Philipp, and Markus for their sponsoring. And you, Maja, a heartfelt thanks for having travelled the road with Adah for five years—in such a remarkable way. Without you, she certainly would not be so confident and optimistic entering the job market.

A Special Event: January, 2016

Claude and Nina invited all members and sponsors to a Fondue Fest. We wished to discuss the employment situation in Uganda, and brain-storm with everyone over how we might best help our students to enter and integrate into the job market there. Since this is a newly developed goal, we need time to discuss how we can best use our given resources to expand a target—possibly by saving funds elsewhere. These considerations will be covered in our MV, (Annual General Meeting) for 2016.

The Workshop in Kampala, December 2015

In this workshop as well, there was the possibility to brain-storm over the subject so paramount to our students' lives: how, (and whether) to find a job, or to create one. How to use one's studies to overcome barriers and hurdles. If seen superficially, it might appear that our students simply work. In fact, they work quite hard, and to Ronald's persistent questioning, it appears that, when time allows, they are also involved in various external projects and side-jobs. The workshop also gave students the opportunity to present themselves; to be concerned with how to stand, where and when to give eye contact, what to do with one's hands, how to feel most secure, what vocal register to use, what exactly to say, and how to end a presentation. Ronald gave Elisabeth an order for a Graduation Cake to bake for Jane; Jimmy got the message that he should not make his Master's now, but rather find a job, (which should not be a

problem for an electrical engineer). Later, when it will be necessary, he can either finance his Master's Degree himself, or then allow the firm where he works to finance it for him. The workshop took place in Ronald and Phiona's new home, a lovely surrounding. So that we all could dedicate ourselves entirely to the work of UECD, Ronald engaged a cook for us, who made a delicious breakfast and lunch. So elegant!

Concerning Contributions—a CALL!

With the CHF300 we have received for indirect program costs, we are not exactly on firm footing. In 2015 it was a lot better—Fr. 1800! Whoever can help out by using a club or organization to use a birthday, or other event as opportunity to garner funds as a benefit for UECD, would be greatly appreciated. We certainly do not want our monetary cushion to deflate entirely!

With about CHF6000/7000, a sponsor can finance a student over a period of three years. Heartfelt thanks to Philipp Herzog and Markus Nöpflin, that once again they have accepted the sponsorship of a student.

Bank Account Info.

We have opened a dollar bank account in Kampala. All stipend funds will be deposited into this account, and signed into effect by two accredited Board members of UECD Uganda. From here, funds will be directly deposited into the students' accounts. With this system, we will have fewer costs, more transparency, and more control.

Concerning Laptops

All students are now in possession of a laptop, with the exception of Florence, who will also receive one as soon as she has a job. Thanks to www.labdoo.org we have received excellent small laptops which serve not only to be transported easily in our hand baggage, but further serve to be carried by our students. Many thanks to Frank Geisler for your generous support! In connection with the internet, I would also like to give a big thank you to Hannes Studer for your help and support on our website, with the printing of visiting cards, and also for your ideas concerning project development.

Outlook 2016/17

We are nearing our tenth year anniversary—a jubilee year to be celebrated at the start of 2017! Of course, we would like to celebrate. We already have one idea from a sponsor to plan a journey to Uganda: more ideas are out there—perhaps a public event, maybe a benefit, or simply a party. We look forward to hearing more ideas and receiving support from members—how we can best celebrate this birthday. If you have an idea, please contact Claude.

Elisabeth, our expert travel planner in Uganda, would dearly love to organize a journey for us; she is full of happiness and readiness at the thought. If we want to include our students in this plan, a good time would be either Christmas/New Year of 2016/17, or in January 2017, before the start of the semester, which begins at the end of January, and the beginning of February.

Again, we are looking for new sponsors; this year someone to sponsor a third student, and for next year, two more sponsors.

After our Annual General Meeting, Newsletter No. 4 will come out. In autumn, we plan another event where members and sponsors will be invited.

Heartfelt greetings to everyone,

Eva Winizki
President UECD Switzerland
15.4. 2016