

YEARLY REPORT 2013/14 UECD BOARD SWITZERLAND

Dear Readers,

in the past UECD Association year, 2013/14, we have held five Board meetings.

Proposals of Simone Kriesemer and Anna Michel

At the Annual Meeting UECD Switzerland 2013, the motion made by both of Jimmy's sponsors was approved, namely, that a new account be opened in Kampala for UECD Uganda, in order to guarantee emergency aid to students. We have opened this account with a starting capital of CHF 1000. Patricia and Gloria have the responsibility to sign for this account.

Two new sponsors

We would like to welcome Philipp Herzog, who had been Hilda's sponsor, and was so enthused over her career (50% job in a High School in her native area Kitgum in the north of Uganda, married to an engineer, mother to a son) that he has declared himself ready to support another student from the northern region. We thank you, Philipp, for your engagement.

We likewise greet Gisela Vincenz as a new sponsor. Gisela had always heard me exclaim over our project, and has now surprised me with her offer to finance a student. We are currently on the way to accept two new students and await recommendations from our Board in Uganda.

Fund-Raising

Christmas fund raising project was not successful. Too few potential addresses and no visible response to these few. Afro-Pfingsten was not well planned. The Development Cooperation Project of Kanton and City Basel, has rejected our application for a donation. However, two contributions of CHF1000 each have been awarded to us. One is from the Catholic Community of Dreikönig Zürich and one from the Jubilee Association of the Swiss Lung Association Zürich. Many thanks to Markus Näpflin and Hanspeter Spalinger for these initiatives. To this point in time, when one of us is active in an organization, we have been successful with fund raising.

Concerning Board Members and Students

Ronald organizes and heads Board Meetings UECD Uganda, writes the yearly reports, helps to resolve conflicts, is the external representative for UECD and directs all communication to UECD Switzerland.

Doreen lives in London with her partner, and in November of 2013 gave birth to a second daughter. She continues to be a Background Coach for UECD.

Hilda identifies students in the North of Uganda, where she and her family live and work.

Obed has been admitted at the Law Development Center. On the Board he serves as Mentor for Susan and Florence.

Adah is in the first semester, second year of her Master's program in Computer Science. On the Board she is responsible for the new laptops as well as for introducing new students to the Internet.

Patricia is completing her internship in Human Resources for her Master Program. On the Board she is responsible for documentation, and advises students in their career planning.

Fiona is currently living in her native land, Ruanda, had acquired a Ruandan Passport and a temporary position with the World Bank, which again ended after a year. She is now seeking a new position in Kigali. Fortunately, she has recovered well from TB. On the Board she mentors for Elisabeth and Jane.

Robert N. began his Master Program in Commerce. He has recovered from a bout of Typhus. On the Board he has created a user interface for taking minutes, checks budgets, and is presently working on a new interface which would create budgets for new students.

Robert O is in an ACCA Master Program. On the Board he serves together with Gloria to elect new students, and mentors for Elisabeth.

Jane is in her second semester, second year for a Bachelor Degree in B & A.

Elisabeth is studying Tourism and Travel Management, for a Bachelor degree second semester, first year, after her Diploma.

Jimmy has absolved his field training/internship in Telecommunication, and is in his first Semester, second year. His disk hernia has been stabilized.

Susan is in her first year, second semester in a program for High School teaching.

Florence is studying B & A and is in her first semester, third year.

Membership Doubling and Visiting Cards

The goal we set ourselves at the Annual Meeting 2013 was to double our membership. This resolution has not yet been attained. However, with Gisela Vincenz, we have found a new and valuable member. All members and sponsors have a new and lovely visiting card, created by Hannes. Thank you, Hannes, for your support!

Analysis of UECD and putting theory into practice

Fabian has already summarized the results at the 2013 Board meeting. The results of our member questionnaire was summarized in the Newsletter Number One. A workshop which I moderated held in Kampala in May of 2013, has done a lot to set some restructuring improvement in motion. The essential decision, that all students who receive their Bachelor Degree automatically become Board Members, is a decision that we, the Board of UECD Switzerland, approved wholeheartedly. Responsibility no longer lies solely on the shoulders of Ronald and Gloria: rather Obed, Patricia, Adah, Fiona, Robert O and Robert N have taken over various assignments. The first basic decision of the new Board in Uganda was to mainly support Bachelor degree candidates and to support Master candidates only, when this further degree is essential to find a job. With this decision, we are giving more students the chance to be trained for a career, since with most Bachelor programs one can find a job as easily - if not more easily - than is possible with a Master's degree.

A further decision was made regarding regional origins of new students: wherever possible, we would prefer to lay emphasis on students stemming from the Northern and Eastern regions, for these areas have been under-represented until now. The Board of UECD Uganda is now considering this as a factor in choosing new students.

Ronald will set up an office in the centre of Kampala, where students can store files on the PCs which are there: files provided with a separate code for each student. The two PCs - as well as future ones - are available for students to use. With time, we hope to have enough PCs for all. Ronald invites and leads Board members to four meetings yearly. He coordinates assignments together with Gloria, sees that they are carried out, is present at the interviews of new students, makes contracts with those students chosen and writes the yearly reports for UECD Uganda.

Gloria as Vice-President helps Ronald in leading the Board, coordinates information and together with Patricia manages the bank account for UECD Uganda.

Networking with NGO Labdoo

Contact with Labdoo has brought us two practically new laptops, now available to all of our students. We are seeking more good laptops, with the goal of providing one for each student. Please talk this up, spread the word and let us know, if you find free laptops. If possible we prefer those with built in cameras. www.labdoo.com equips donated laptops with English programs, and passes these on to us.

Ronald's Visit to Switzerland. In September 2013

This visit was a huge success. Ronald was able to meet many UECD members and undertook various activities with them. In this way, he went on mountain tours, went hunting, was taken around Bern and Zürich, saw FIFA and the Zürich Theaterhouse from inside, visited a project with wind energy in Graubunden, took a tour of the Palace of Nations in Geneva, and met lots of friends from UECD for meals. Now he has a better understanding of us - the Swiss - and finds Switzerland most impressive! He also took an impressive number of photos with a brand new camera. Thanks to everyone who participated in making Ronald's stay so successful.

Our Goals for 2014-2015

Thanks to our new sponsors, Philipp and Gisela, we are prepared to take on two new students. We plan to send out our second Newsletter this coming autumn. In summer and autumn we will be organizing an event for new sponsors and those who are interested in becoming ones. We plan to continue doing publicity to garner new members, as well as sponsors and contributions. We are looking for contact people to serve as Swiss Mentors for a cultural exchange with our students. Finally, we are planing a film project, "Portrait of UECD".

Eva Winizki, President, UECD Switzerland/ April 2014