

## **Annual Report Ugandan Empowerment & Career Development (UECD) 2010**

Eva Winizki, President UECD Switzerland, April 2010

Dear Reader,

The emphasis of our activities this year has been on the development of PR material. We designed a colorful A4 format brochure with numerous photos, student bios, and information about the school system in Uganda. This also included political, economic, and geographical descriptions of Uganda, as well as an introduction to the board members and sponsors.

The new Website [www.uecd.ch](http://www.uecd.ch) <<http://www.uecd.ch/>> is an impressive introduction to our project; a colorful flyer presents a summary which travel agencies, friends, and companies can easily access.

We would like to thank Hannes Studer from the Office of Communication, Marketing, and Advertising GmbH in Rudolfstetten, for these professional and creative pages and are delighted to invite him to be an honorary member of UECD Switzerland.

Markus Naepflin accepted the task of working as our official internet mailman, receiving and sending on incoming mail which arrives at our site, [info@uecd.ch](mailto:info@uecd.ch). He will also see to changes that should be made on our Website. Thanks so much, Markus.

The biographies of our students were reformulated - preserving the essential information - by Dorrie Iten, Uster, an English speaking native, who translates professionally and works to achieve a linguistic flow. Thanks to you as well, Dorrie.

The brochure and flyer were edited by Evelyne Bucherer-Romero, Gockhausen, an experienced editor. Thank you Evelyne. The photos are documents stemming from my travels in Uganda; they come, of course, from my camera. I also take responsibility for textual information in our publications.

The brochure, flyer, and photos together constitute our communicative tools, and can

be used for information and publicity regarding UECD.

Our efforts are already bearing fruit: we have managed to accrue a small financial cushion through donations which already have been put to good use. We have taken on a new student in this year 2010. Robert Nangoli is studying for his Bachelor of Commerce at the Makerere University; he is currently in the second semester. Markus and Sabine Naepflin are his sponsors. Jane Keya has just sent us her application, and the acceptance process is underway. She will be supported by the Trust and Corine Corrodi, a new member in UECD probably will be guiding her. Corinne Corrodi will be working in the future with development possibilities, specially focussing on Africa. This is a particular enrichment for us, as she has studied Geography, and has an interest in healthy organic growth and development. She would also like to engage with Africa on a social level.

All of our students, Obed, Adah, Patricia, and Fiona, have been successful in their scholastic endeavors. A review sheet gives evidence of their current program status. After a long search, Hilda has found a job at a boutique in Kampala. She is the assistant to the store's manager, and does the bookkeeping. Ronald has been accepted into a new law firm in Kampala: four Senior Partners and a number of lawyers are his colleagues, along with a secretarial service. His firm is top modern, in an office complex with a European style interior — Synergy Law Advocates and Solicitor. Doreen is currently in London, where she is taking the examination for an international license as midwife. She is happily and traditionally married to Mark Bukenya, an Ugandan economist and British Citizen. They live together in a London flat, where, they have informed us, you are most welcome to visit.

There were four of us: Maja Plenge from Munich/Berlin, Sponsor of Adah, Sabine and Markus Naepflin, Sponsor of Robert Nangoli, and myself...all attending the traditional wedding of the two. We had travelled to Kampala for the event in December of 09 — and it was an exciting cultural experience. First, the two clans of Doreen and Mark had to be “married” - that is joined together. Doreen then was celebrated in a “give-away” party, wearing a traditional costume. On the following Saturday morning, there was the

official wedding ceremony in an Anglican church — Doreen all in white — with a priest of considerable theatrical skill and a beautiful women's choir which performed jazz solos and improvisations. One always has to have a video camera when in Africa.

Finally on Saturday evening, a wedding party, with four hundred guests sitting at fifty round tables. There were celebratory speeches - also mine - with a solo singer, greeting and thanking rituals for the couple, a lot to eat and...no alcohol. Doreen wore a top modern red strapless dress.

For five days, before the wedding activities began, Maja, Sabine, Markus and I travelled with Adah and Patricia into the south of Uganda, invited by Adah's family and Patricia's aunt. Both were so proud to show us a part of their heritage. The house where Patricia was born stood empty: none of her relatives lived there, though she had a few left. She was able to introduce us to her grandfather, who was a bit senile, but nonetheless, a figure of lasting significance to Patricia. We saw her childhood bedroom, which looked out onto a garden. Finally, we met her Aunty, a teacher, who had lovingly prepared a delicious lunch for us.

Her family contrasted markedly with that of Adah, whose family we also met and where we were invited to remain two nights and a day. We all stayed together, exploring the neighborhood, walking in the hills, studying the local flora and helping to cook meals. We chatted at length with her parents, brothers, and various relatives who stopped by. The family is quite poor; there was no electricity, they live from the crops they grow themselves, and the money brought by the eldest brother, who earned a salary from his job with an ecological NGO in Kampala. The father, a former teacher, and the mother, a housewife, clearly care deeply for this family which remains intact.

We then headed south to Ishasha N.P Elisabeth, searching for lions and with the help of a ranger, actually found them after an hour. This marshy area was too wet for the lions, but instead of leaving for dryer land, they had learned to climb trees. It was an unforgettable experience! We stayed overnight in the Ishasah Ntungwe River Camp, quite a luxurious tent camp which offered four-course meals! An entirely new

experience for Adah and Patricia, who like all students had never ventured into the life of a tourist. Then, in order to see yet another landscape, we returned by way of a western route, going through Fort Portal back to Kampala.

After the wedding, I travelled further with Ronald, Fiona, Obed and Robert Okware for eight days in Kidepo N.P, in the Northern region of Uganda. We wanted to observe the big cats. A semi-arid park on the border of Sudan...no tourism, savannas as far as the eye could see...lions, giraffes, buffalo, zebras, jackals and elephants. It was peopled by the Karamachong, a shepherd tribe similar to the Massai — living in small round huts made of straw. They kept their food supplies high up on stilts and large herds of animals roamed — their capital.

Back in Kampala I enjoyed the quiet of the swimming pool as I relaxed at the Sheraton Hotel.

Altogether, it became clear that this form of travel together with our students brings the UECD Community together in a positive way. These students have to be able to work well on the Board once they complete their studies. Traveling together with them not only allowed me to learn of their past and present life, but also gave all of us opportunity to speak of their future.