



Education for Eternity

NEWSLETTER 001

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*The newsletter of the Adventist University of Central Africa.
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EDITING - DESIGN - LAYOUT: FERDINAND MBONARUZA

Dear Students, Staff, Faculty and Stakeholders,

The Adventist University of Central Africa is pleased to present the first ever newsletter. The newsletter is meant to cover current trends on campus and a number of diverse topics: social, science, spirituality, technological advancements in IT. We would like to take this opportunity to invite all students and staff willing to volunteer in contributing to the production of this newsletter, to kindly contact or share their ideas/articles to the Office of the Director of Marketing and Communications (+250 724796995 | communications@auca.ac.rw).

Prof Kelvin Onongha appointed AUCA Vice Chancellor



The Adventist University of Central Africa has, from August 2020, a new Vice Chancellor, Prof Kelvin Onongha. Prof Onongha holds a PhD in Religion, Mission and Ministry/Religious Education (having won a prestigious award of the Outstanding PhD Dissertation), and is a Doctor of Ministry (DMIN) in Global Mission Leadership from Andrews University.

The new Vice Chancellor brings with him a proven and track record experience in research, teaching, mission and leadership. He has taught in various universities around the world (North America, Latin America, Asia, Middle-East and Africa), and has taken

on many advisory roles in Andrews University and Adventist university of Africa in academic matters.

A parent, a pastor, a leader and a researcher, Prof Kelvin has climbed all echelons in academia. He sat and chaired numerous international boards and committees, the latest one having been being the Chair and Director of the Practical Theology Department, Doctor of Ministry Programs, at the Adventist University of Africa in Kenya.

The entire community of the Adventist University of Central Africa warmly welcomes the new Vice Chancellor and is pleased to wish all the best in his new responsibilities.



AUCA, EC Council seal partnership agreement in cybersecurity training and certification

The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) and the EC Council have, on 8 November 2020, entered partnership agreement on academic cooperation in areas of information security.

The signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) certifies AUCA as an authorized EC-Council Academia Partner to deliver high-quality EC-Council Cybersecurity related academic courses. It also makes AUCA a recognized center of Training and Examinations in Rwanda.

As provided in the agreement, AUCA becomes a training hub to offer the Certified Ethical Hacker (C|EH) short course programme, the most desired information security programme in IT industry. C|EH offers knowledge and a good understanding of the emerging attack vectors like Cloud, AI etc, and covers the latest hacking tools with the inclusion of a complete

malware analysis process. It enables students to set up strong security infrastructure to defend against hackers' attacks, as they are empowered with a better understanding of system weaknesses and vulnerabilities. This make an ethical hacker someone who can scan and find vulnerabilities in systems. Such people can exploit weaknesses exactly like unethical hackers, but the difference is that they do so in a legitimate way.

According to EC Council, "Certified Ethical Hacker programme provides an in-depth understanding of ethical hacking phases, various attack vectors, and preventative countermeasures... helping students learn to protect their organizations and strengthen their security controls in order to minimize the risk of a malicious attack".

The US based EC-Council is one of the world's largest cyber

security technical certification bodies, operating in 145 countries. It is the first in the world to offer a fully proctored, online, and remote proctored practical exam that really prove proficiency in Ethical Hacking.

AUCA, reputed for training top-notch graduates in areas of information technology, sees the agreement timely and as another opportunity to produce another generation of hands-on skills cybersecurity professionals in Rwanda.

C|EH short course is right for online security professionals and auditors, websites administrators and people dealing with all kind of networks infrastructure. It is also open to everyone eligible, students from all universities in Rwanda and professionals in their career. Inquiries about C|EH enrolment and other short courses can be made via shortcourses@auca.ac.rw.

A retrospective look into AUCA's journey:

A 360° account of how God has been in charge of a reputed academic institution in Rwanda and beyond. **Timeline**



1978. Founding of the university.
15 OCTOBER 1984. Official opening with 7 faculties. AUCA was established to serve French speaking countries in central Africa. By that time it was located at Mudende, in the former commune of Mutura, currently Rubavu District, (Western Province).

Following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis, AUCA temporarily suspended its activities until 7 May 1996. Infrastructure is severely damaged.



07 MAY 1996. AUCA reopens in very modest buildings, on a transitional site in Kigali, Gishushu. At this time, the university operates three of its original 7 faculties: Business Administration, Education Sciences and Theology.

1999: Negotiations between the university and the Rwandan government begin, leading to a mutual agreement in 2003 to buy the infrastructure.

FEBRUARY 2006. Handing over of the property between the concerned parties (the ECD and the Government of Rwanda, represented by its Ministry of Defense)





12 MAY 2005. Pastor Jan Paulsen, at that time President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide, in presence of local church leaders and presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the academic central block at Masoro campus.



22 JULY 2007. The inaugural ceremonies were conducted by Dr Pardon Mwansa, the Vice President of the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.



FEBRUARY 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2011. Construction of the Conference Hall, inaugurated by the Minister of Local Government and the high ranking officers within East-Central Africa the Division of the Seventh-day Adventist church.



08 MARCH 2012 - 11 FEBRUARY 2015. Construction of Gishushu Science and Technology Center. Inaugurated by the President of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



02 SEPTEMBER 2019. Inauguration of the Adventist School of Medicine of East-Central Africa (ASOME) at Masoro campus.
March 2021. First cohort of medical students start classes.



A glance into the university's identity

MISSION

The mission of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) is to provide Christ-centred wholistic quality education to prepare for service in this world, and in the life to come.

VISION

The vision of the Adventist University of Central Africa is to become an international center of academic learning with global impact.

PHILOSOPHY

The Adventist University of Central Africa operates on the basis of the Seventh-day Adventist worldview, which holds that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and the source of true knowledge. The entrance of sin caused man's alienation from God, therefore the restoration of the relation between man and God is the main aim of the Christian Education that leads students to discover and understand the truth through critical thinking.



Beliefs and Values

AUCA is a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher learning that nurtures the mental, spiritual, social and physical capacities of its personnel and students. The values of the University are rooted in the Bible and should be seen in the daily activities of the university administrators, workers, and students. Through a process of discernment based on dialogue, critical thinking, and reflection, university designates the following as core beliefs and values of AUCA:

LOVE

Informed by the example of Jesus Christ, and by the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church AUCA demonstrates a spirit of unity and connectedness with one another through expression, courtesy, hospitality, shared values and loving communication regardless ethnicity, gender, or other considerations. AUCA extends this value of community by reaching out to neighbors and to members of the larger civil and ecclesiastical communities.

FAITH

AUCA is a faith based institution of higher learning. The faith nurtured in the institution is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and in the 28 beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While other religious traditions and individual beliefs of our personnel and students are respected, the university administration and faculties are expected to integrate a biblical, Seventh-day Adventist faith into learning activities of the students.

INTEGRITY

Concerned for the good of the community in this life and the life to come is the University goal as it commits itself to honesty in all relations with students, faculty, staff and administration. Through the University integrity, workers and students earn and maintain the trust of the surrounding community, public, and governmental agencies.

RESPECT

AUCA values and respects the contribution of each member of the university community to the advancement of the mission of AUCA. AUCA encourages and supports each other as colleagues working together for the good of the whole institution.

COMPASSION & CARE

Inspired by the example of Jesus Christ AUCA opens its workers and students' hearts to those in physical, spiritual and mental need. AUCA consciously

reaches out beyond its boundaries to serve others in need with compassion and mercy.

FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

Recognizing the dignity of all persons (students, staff, teachers and administrators) AUCA seeks to avoid any acts of injustice toward each other and addresses instances of injustice both within and outside of the university community from a stance of informed advocacy. AUCA holds each other accountable and endeavors to practice responsible stewardship of the resources available to us.

EXCELLENCE

As a faith-based institution of higher learning, AUCA seeks to combine faith with reason in the pursuit of academic excellence. AUCA Senate and Administration call all members of the university community to excel as individuals and as professionals within their specific roles.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING ...





Admission requirements

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME		MASTERS PROGRAMME
1	Dully filled in Application Form (downloadable from www.auca.ac.rw);	1 A well filled in application form (downloadable from www.auca.ac.rw);
2	Secondary school transcripts/reports for senior 4, 5 and senior 6 ;	2 Proof of payment of 20,000 Frw as application fee (Non-refundable)
3	A notified copy of the Advanced General Certificate of Secondary Education with a minimum of 2 principal passes;	3 Certified photocopies of college or university diplomas or degree certificates
4	Two Passport size photos in color;	4 Two recent passport-size photos
5	A photocopy of the National ID Card or valid Passport;	5 Three letters of recommendation from referees in sealed envelopes
6	A proof/copy of health insurance	6 Two certified copies of an official transcript from each college/ university attended (certified by the institution or Commissioner of Oath)
7	Proof of payment of 20,000 Frw for Rwandan applicants and 50,000 Frws for international applicants as application fee (Non-refundable)	7 Certified photocopy of secondary school certificate 8 Updated curriculum vitae (CV) 9 A proof/copy of health insurance certificate 10 Essay (Explaining educational goals, career objectives, work experience, awards, and/or extracurricular activities)
UNDERGRADUATE PROROGAMME (NURSING & MIDWIFERY)		
1	Dully filled in Application Form (downloadable from www.auca.ac.rw);	
2	A notarized copy of Advanced General Certificate of Secondary Education or Results Slip with a minimum of 2 principal passes (MCB, PCB and BCG, with A to C Grade in Biology and Chemistry and at least a Subsidiary (D) in Mathematics or Physics.	
3	Secondary school transcripts/reports for senior 4, 5 and senior 6 ;	
4	Two Passport photos	
5	Photocopy of the National ID or Valid Passport	
6	Proof of payment of 20,000 Frw for Rwandan applicants and 50,000 Frws for international applicants as application fee (Non-refundable)	
7	Copy Health Insurance	

NOTE: Applicants with foreign academics qualifications shall obtain an equivalence of their certificates from the Rwanda Education Board (REB).

BANK ACCOUNTS:

Equity Bank: 4003211197369 (FRWS)
 Bank of Kigali: 00040 – 00280275 -75 (FRWS)
 Bank of Kigali: 00040 – 00292172 – 41 (USD)
 Swift Code: BKIGRWRW
 IBAN:40000400029217241003

AUCA 26TH GRADUATION

26TH GRADUATION: A CELEBRATION OF ITS KIND







304 awarded degrees in a maiden virtual graduation

□ *Graduates urged on impacting communities*

The Adventist University of Central Africa has, on March 7th, 2021, held its 26th graduation ceremony, in which 304 students were awarded bachelor and masters degrees. These include graduates from the faculty of Theology, Nursing, Business Administration and Education. The commencement exercise was held virtually, streamed live on YouTube, Zoom and Facebook, as the university seeks to observe COVID-19 protocols.

In an online graduation weekend that was marked by powerful and lifting messages from speakers, spiced with exhortations for graduates to always rely on God and put to use the knowledge acquired at AUCA to benefit communities "... And the degree you are receiving today also cannot reveal the true greatness of your destiny. The story of your true value is only revealed by the way you choose to bless the lives of people



I have a settled conviction in my heart that you are going to become captains of industries... The ones who will be the movers and shakers of economy of Rwanda and beyond...

and communities after this commencement is completed" said Dr Ruguri Blasius, the Chancellor of the Adventist University of Central Africa and President of the East-Central Africa Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

AUCA, being the very first private university to open doors in Rwanda in 1984, enjoys a track record of producing competitive graduates since then. Graduands were urged to build on the existing legacy to go to even greater heights.

But most importantly, the recurring message to graduates was a constant reminder that they need be mindful of one paramount aspect: as products of AUCA, that makes them part of God's plan to redeem mankind, as emphasized by the university Chancellor: "Students come here not only to seek personal excellence, but to be a part of how God is raising

up Rwanda and the rest of the continent to a standard that surprises the world today! Today what the world needs is not mere academic and technical excellence. But it also needs redemption. AUCA graduates are leaders who are well equipped to provide redemptive hope wherever they may go".

Echoing the words of the previous speakers, Prof Kelvin Onongha, Vice Chancellor of AUCA asserted his trust and confidence in the graduand as they go out to make things happen: "... I have a settled conviction in my heart that you are going to become captains of industries... The ones who will be the movers and shakers of economy of Rwanda and beyond. Those who will become the policy makers, whose faces will become recognizable..." added Prof Kelvin.



Speech by the Guest of Honour, Dr Rose Mukankomeje, DG Higher Education Council

AUCA CHANCELLOR AND ECD PRESIDENT

AUCA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

AUCA VICE CHANCELLOR

ALL LEADERS OF ECD

ALL AUCA MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PRESENT

UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR

ALL AUCA DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLORS

EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS,

DEAR GRADUATES

DEAR PARENTS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I am honoured and privileged to be part of this very exciting occasion, to celebrate this significant event: 26th graduation ceremony for undergraduates and the 4th graduation for Masters Programs. On behalf of Hon Minister of Education and on my own behalf, I am delighted to convey to you our warm congratulations for this achievement. Government of Rwanda appreciates AUCA contributions in this area of Higher Education.

This is a great day for you and I am very happy to be sharing it with you

As you know the importance of delivering quality education and the development of human capital is central to Rwanda's vision of becoming a prosperous knowledge-based economy. This is clearly articulated in key national policy documents such as the National Strategy for Transformation 2017-24 and it is regularly reiterated and reinforced at all levels of government.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Higher education provides the high-level human capital required for national strategic direction and management for each aspect of national life. Rwanda position in World economic and technological advancement largely depends on the Higher education product. This is why Rwanda considers quality, relevant and technology focused higher education very vital for her transformation.

However, despite great efforts to increase access to higher education in Rwanda, number of Rwandese getting access to Higher education is still low.

However, despite great efforts to increase access to higher education in Rwanda, number of Rwandese getting access to Higher education is still low. Enrolment in 2018/19 was only 86,206 compared to people of with the higher education age of 1,168,850, meaning only about 7% of Rwandese can access higher education. Correspondingly, number of learners accessing



Higher education to population is still low, at 697 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2019.

In this regard, more encouragement and support to private sector to invest in education are very important; but with this changing world, we have also to support more online and distance education in Higher education.

We acknowledge the progress and achievements made by AUCA and would like to take this opportunity to stress the necessity of revitalizing Higher education teaching, learning and assessment to address the critical mismatch between the skills provided by HLIs; and those for current and future labor market and technology skills demands through more practical focused teaching and effective assessment to ensure Higher education does produce the required human capital which is the foundation and catalyst to the knowledge economy.

Also, the Education Sector Strategic plan vision is to ensure Rwandan citizens have sufficient and appropriate competencies (skills, knowledge and attitudes) to drive the continued social and economic transformation of the country; more innovative and responsive research and development in relation to community challenges are absolutely needed today.

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to reiterate the Ministry of Education appreciation to AUCA contribution for the development of Education in Rwanda and particularly its commitment to be the center of excellence in undergraduate and post graduate programs while providing centered quality education founded on a holistic approach that prepares people for the service of this life and the life to come.

The Government of Rwanda was amazed and commend the quality of the Adventist School of Medicine of East Central Africa- ASOME infrastructure and other facilities that are physically in place at Masoro AUCA main campus. We expect a lot from this school for Rwanda and for our Continent/Africa

Dear graduands finishing today, we thank you for your courage, resilience, determination and trust that led you till today. This year of the Covid 19 pandemic was tough for education sector but together we have made it. Your dedication and hard work have paid off and you have gained valuable skills to apply in your future careers. May God Bless you.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to make these brief remarks. My warmest congratulations go to today's graduates, your parents and AUCA Leadership who have done this to happen.

Thank you for your kind attention

Speech by the Chancellor, Dr Blasious Ruguri, President, East-Central Africa Division of the SDA Church

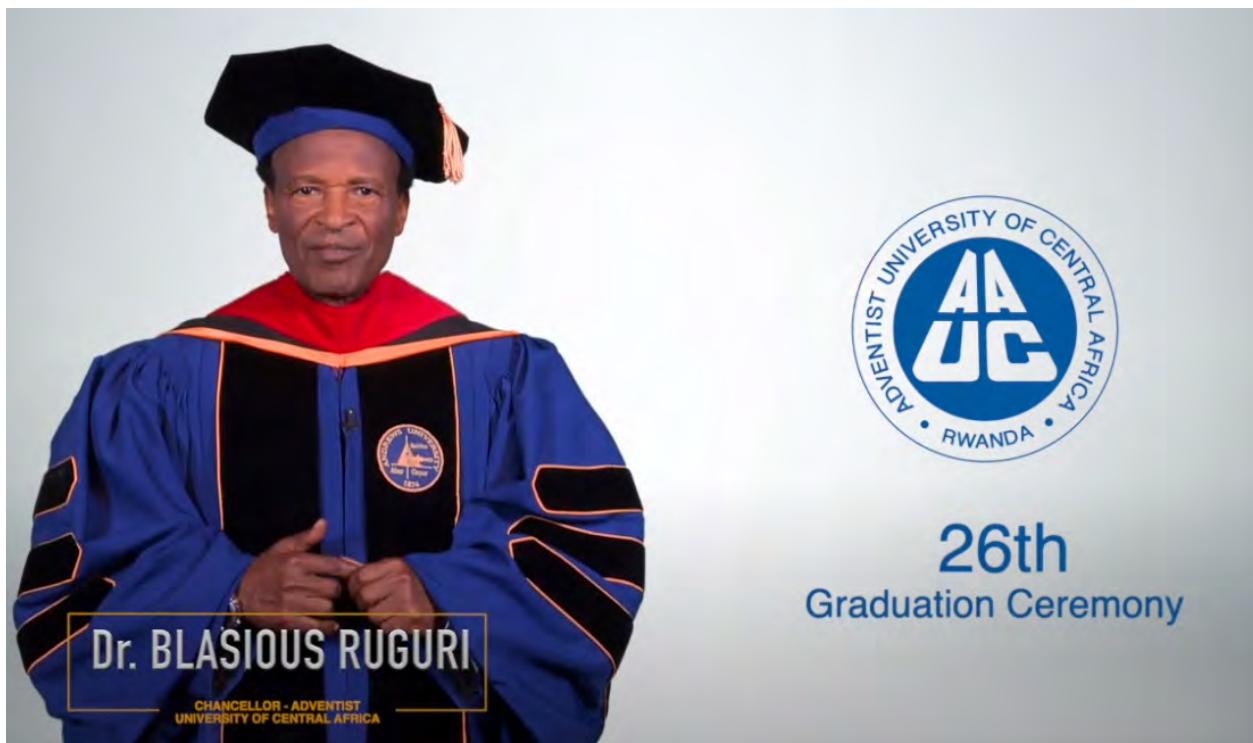
Distinguished guests, faculty, deans, Vice Chancellor Dr. Onongha, and of course, to our graduating students from this year 2021, I bring you warm greetings for this august occasion.

As the Chancellor of the Adventist University of Central Africa, I wish to congratulate our graduates for reaching this very high mark of achievement.

Today, you may think that I am congratulating you only for having reached the moment of your graduation. But the truth is that the diploma which you will receive today is only evidence that you have been working on a much greater achievement throughout your time at this university. The achievement of which I speak is the result of many important decisions that you have made to facilitate this moment we have arrived at today.

I hope that every single one of you have made the choice to dedicate your future and your heart to Jesus Christ. That is the most important decision, and no matter what other factors have played a

role in your decision to attend this university, you need to know that it was God who has led you here and invested in you throughout your studies. And because God was leading in His various ways, you made AUCA your choice to improve yourselves so that you can be of greater service to your communities, to God and to humanity. That choice was like a precious seed which was watered by hard work, financial sacrifices and even tears, for some of you. And today, those seeds have resulted in a powerful harvest of leaders in Education, Information Technology, Nursing, Business and Theology. There are many sources which could have provided the information which appeared in your textbooks. But it is the process of development under the careful guidance of Jesus Christ Himself that has brought you to the AUCA standard of leadership which you have achieved today.



... Today, you join thousands of alumni who have taken their places in many of the highest offices in corporations and in Government not only here in Rwanda but globally.

So today, I congratulate you on the choices that you have made. You chose to attend one of the most prestigious universities in Rwanda and in Africa itself. Today, you join thousands of alumni who have taken their places in many of the highest offices in corporations and in Government not only here in Rwanda but globally. Today, I congratulate you for never giving up when difficulties presented themselves which could have kept you from delivering your very best effort. Instead of settling for mediocrity, and a standard of being merely "good enough" during your time here, you chose to rise to the AUCA standard. You are to be congratulated on that choice!

The AUCA standard is incredibly unique. You are

among those who are also graduating from prestigious universities during this year, and I can safely tell you as Chancellor of this university, that there is no university in the world which represents a higher standard than the AUCA standard.

This is the reason that AUCA has such a strong reputation. In only the past 6 years AUCA has supplied the nation with over 3,000 leaders who are serving at the highest levels in many capacities in government, business, education, technology, medicine and the church. AUCA graduates are known to be performers of the highest quality in the Government of Rwanda, including several members of parliament. AUCA graduates are holding the highest responsibilities in

maintaining the technology infrastructure in what has become one of the most technologically sophisticated nations on the continent.

AUCA graduates are excelling in business with graduates leading in banks and as entrepreneurs. Even within the church across the region, there are AUCA graduates serving as presidents of unions and even a division of our Seventh-day Adventist world leadership with responsibilities to lead hundreds of thousands of believers.

There is much more that I can say regarding the impact that has resulted from the history of



Even so, I want you all to know that AUCA is a university which stands for much more than academic excellence. You see, as graduates of AUCA, you are also part of God's plan for growth, healing and redemption in this world.

excellence that always exists among the graduates from this school. While many universities call their students to rise to the level of academic excellence, the AUCA standard produces leaders who go to even greater heights.

At AUCA we agree that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well. If you will not seek excellence in whatever you are doing, then you had better just leave it, and find your excellence wherever you can decide to put forth your very best effort with the skills that God has given to you. A life which is lived under the standards of mediocrity is a life which is only half lived, or even something less than that!

The thousands of AUCA graduates who have gone before you worked hard to succeed in the positions of trust that they have earned. Thousands of people will be entrusting their lives to the skill and intelligence of our nurses.

Communities and nations will depend on the creativity and insight of our business leaders and IT leaders.

Thousands of families will choose to trust their futures in the compassionate hands of our educators, and perhaps even millions will find hope for eternity as our theologians teach them to place their trust in God. Those who graduate from AUCA understand that the standards are high because the stakes are high. This is why AUCA offers nothing less than excellence in its graduates.

Even so, I want you all to know that AUCA is a university which stands for much more than academic excellence. You see, as graduates of AUCA, you are also part of God's plan for growth, healing and redemption in this world.

AUCA graduates are working in high offices in business, education and government, building Rwanda into a strong leader, not just on the African continent but around the world. Students come here not only to seek excellence for themselves, but to be a part of how God is raising up Rwanda and the rest of the continent to a standard which surprises the world! Today, what the world needs is not mere academic and technical excellence, but it is in need of redemption.

AUCA graduates are leaders. AUCA graduates are highly competent and God has equipped you also to provide redemptive hope wherever you may go. Today, you are being initiated into a great heritage of leadership which will bring forth a better tomorrow for Rwanda and for the world!

I have mentioned that the AUCA standard includes academic excellence, as well as the ability to be a leader who can redeem things and make them better than they ever were before.

Both of these aspects are very important, but the world is full of people who have both of them. By themselves they tell an impressive story of high

standards. But the AUCA standard requires yet another level of leadership, which I will describe from the story of David which is found in the Book of 1 Samuel, chapters 16 and 17. David was a young man of intelligence, and, through his experience as a shepherd, it was clear that he was a creative leader who knew how to take care of, and even improve the things which he was responsible for. David never lost his sheep. Even if he had to fight a lion or a bear, David was able to redeem everything that was placed into his hand.

But even with those qualities, no one expected much from him beyond the ordinary future of anyone else. Even his brothers and his father seemed to be convinced that he would never do anything that could matter. Some of you may have people in your life who are not expecting anything out of the ordinary from you.

They are expecting you to work and earn a good living, perhaps, and that is indeed something to be proud of. But God's destiny for David involved something that most people are unwilling to claim because they are not committed to the standard of excellence of character that is required. It is the courageous commitment to extraordinary service.

This is the third element of the AUCA standard. The greatness of the degree is not the final measure of the greatness of your destiny. Your greatness is revealed in the way that you serve the world after today the degree is placed into your hands. David was anointed to be a king at a time when no one but God could see his true potential. Today, your degrees are a kind of anointing which are inviting you to join the ranks of those who are leading this nation to heights of greatness. But David did not try to take the easy path to success even though he was anointed to be the next king. He did not wait for anyone to give him an opportunity that he had not yet proven that he could earn.

In Chapter 17, we see David taking simple opportunities to serve others rather than seeking to be served himself. While David was bringing supplies to his brothers who were soldiers in the army of the Israelites, he heard the threats of a giant named Goliath against the people of God.

David could have let the giant to those who were supposed to be responsible to fight. But where others were afraid, David saw an irresistible opportunity to serve his God and his people at a higher level. David understood that his destiny of greatness was not to be found in his title, but in his trust in God and his willingness to serve.

Rising to the AUCA standard means weighing each moment not for the ease, comfort, and prestige that it can bring to you, but for the extraordinary level of excellence with which you can serve, even in difficult circumstances. The standard is about a desire to demonstrate courage rather than to seek comfort. Instead of running away from challenges, AUCA leaders run toward them, confident that in them they will find the secrets of a life that is truly extraordinary.

Even among the most well-educated, this level of courage is not guaranteed. AUCA has provided you a heritage which will be an advantage as you seek to fulfill your destiny to become an extraordinary leader. But the courage that you will need to face the giants that are breathing out threats against you and your world can only be found through a trust that is greater than your fear. It is a trust that is inspired by love for God, and love for your fellow man.

Today, I challenge you to find your destiny among those who have made the choice to never settle for less than the extraordinary. Live your life to the AUCA standard. An ancient Hebrew proverb tells us in Proverbs 3:5 to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not trust in your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." You have followed an excellent path, and today we honor your achievement.

I call on you to fulfill your AUCA heritage by going beyond the standard of excellence, to take on the greatest challenges so that with God's help, you can be proven to be a leader who is truly extraordinary.

That is the AUCA standard and may the degree which you receive today be a constant reminder of the extraordinary destiny that awaits you!

May God bless you all!

Speech by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Kelvin Onongha

Good morning everyone. We are grateful that we can have a celebration in the midst of the pandemic. I know that the graduands have not been very pleased, they wanted to make a loud noise, and have loud fun. You know what? We need to be grateful that we still can have a celebration of whatever sort in these unprecedented times. This is the first ever virtual graduation that has been conducted in the Adventist university of Central Africa, and we may never have another.

And so, like I said for those who were connected yesterday, you have a story to tell your children and grandchildren, that at such a time and a such date, we had a unique graduation that was transmitted online to everyone across the world. And so, we celebrate with you these times, that against all odds, even the pandemic could not hold you back. That is why we appreciate the motto that you have “Resilience, Determination and Trust”, and we believe that these qualities will help you soar, help you rise to heights that are as unprecedented as the times we are living in.

You know, this graduation ceremony is for 2019/2020 set, so the pandemic slowed your graduation, but it could not stop it. It delayed it, but it could not derail it. It postponed it, but it could not put it off. That's why we are here celebrating what God has done for you. And so, graduands, we congratulate you, but also celebrate you; because you are survivors, because you are overcomers, because you are victors. And these same qualities that helped you persevere, and endure to the very end, will take you to heights where you can shine with the glory of God.

Yesterday a thought came to me. As we celebrated those of you who were here, and those of you who were connected online, the reason I have a certain [settled] conviction in my heart that you are going to become captains of industries... The ones

who will be the movers and shakers of economy of Rwanda and beyond. Those who will become the policy makers, whose faces will become recognizable on radio, on TV, in magazines and journals. The reason I have this confidence, 10 years 15 years from today, that's where you are going to be. Why do I have this confidence? Because of the AUCA



... I have a certain [settled] conviction in my heart that you are going to become captains of industries... The ones who will be the movers and shakers of economy of Rwanda and beyond. Those who will become the policy makers, ...

advantage. What is the AUCA advantage? Others go to school, wherever universities, I am not going to name them; they teach them professional skills. But we give you other skills. So, there you learn perseverance, you learn hard work, discipline, morality, honesty...

All these are values you cannot leave AUCA without. And to top it all up, we give you faith in God. With these qualities, how can you but excel? How can you not rise to heights that will make you shine with the glory of God? And so, we congratulate you. We congratulate you today but also those who have



been behind you, behind the scenes, providing the resources, the encouragement and support, the parents who were there... and before I sit down, I am going to offer a prayer not only for you, but also for those parents who have dreams, aspirations, desires that they hope to see realized as go out into uncharted waters.

And so, friends, we celebrate with you, but also you parents, sponsors, guardians, friends, all those networks that have provided for you all that you needed to endure to this point. I would also like to congratulate our faculty, our staff, our deans, who have worked, who have taught, who have ensured that you did not drop behind. Deans, faculty, we celebrate you and we want you to know that this is also your achievement. Congratulations!

We will not fail to thank the owners of this university, the proprietors led by the Council Chair Dr Hesron Byilingiro who is going to speak after I sit, and his team at the union, executive secretary, the treasure, and of course our own Dr Roger who is now at the education department there. I want to thank them for their support which has make AUCA to be where it is.

And then I want to thank those who are above, in the governing Council of this university. We have the indefatigable support of the Chancellor who opened the ceremony, who opens and closes every graduation ceremony, Dr Blasius Ruguri. I want to thank him for his support and also his team: Dr

Alain Coralie who is the secretary at the East-Central Africa Division, also we have elder Jerome Habimana. We also have the other directors who have contributed in various ways to make AUCA to get where it is today. Dr Andrew Mutero, but also Dr Fesaha who is responsible for the school of medicine.

As we thank God for this, and welcome them to this ceremony, I would like to pray, graduands, that as you go out, may the Lord go with you. May His presence be with you. May His hand lead, guide and direct in all that you do. May those open before for you, may opportunities come your way, may you find jobs and may promotions come. May you be able to see your dreams realized. May you be able to rise to the heights that you never ever imagined. Let the presence of the Lord go with you. And may His peace be your portion. And also for your parents, your sponsors, your guardians, I pray that their investments will never be in vain; that the fruits of their labor they shall see. That the desires of their hearts concerning you God shall excel and God shall exceed.

And so, we congratulate you. And welcome our viewers from around the world and a few who are gathered here today to the 26th graduation ceremony of the 2019/2020 set, and for the 4th master's class; you are welcome and congratulations. God be with you.

Speech by the Chairman, Dr Hesron Bylingiro, RUM President

*Elder Dr Blasius Ruguri, AUCA Chancellor and ECD President
Honorable Guest of Honor*

Elders,

Distinguished Guests

Dear graduates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On this 26th graduation ceremony of the Adventist University of Central Africa, we are glad that we have accomplished one of the major stages to crown our lives. It is no doubt graduates are very happy. The academic staff and faculty are happy. Parents and the leadership of the country are happy as well. A joy comes from all around us. The leadership of the Adventist church in Rwanda and the region office based in Nairobi are not spared.

Today, our graduates have won a battle. I wish they could hear a sound clap for their great achievement. You did it. You deserve a word of congratulations... Your last semesters were very much challenging. The coronavirus pandemic did mess almost everything. Surely, it taught us to be good at online lectures which is good additional lesson to Africa in General. It might also have involved more expenses to adjust everything. Praise God that you made it.

Now, as joy and happiness flowed our minds for this graduation, we wonder "is this the end or the

beginning?" I can recall a number of bright students, failing to pursue their studies, pretending to have completed simply because they completed the undergraduate studies. For them it was the end, but I want to urge you to further your studies, whether this graduation is for you the completion of the undergraduate or masters level.

In other words, this graduation is not the end. It is the beginning. It might be the beginning to further studies. But it might also be the beginning of another struggle. If you do not further studies, soon or later you wouldn't be employed somewhere. The new struggle, I mean is to prove to the communities you would be serving that you acquired a degree. This is a challenge. You used to study for your personal intellectual growth, but there, it will be the service to the local and original communities.

However, remember that education is one thing, and instruction is another. The service of the community brings both together. Prove that you are educated by elderly and instructed by lecturers. If one fails, another will not serve neither. Some scholars



*Go and tell
the story
of your
amazing
experience
to the young
generations*

...

have demonstrated capacities in their academic areas but failed to fit the community because of ill behavior. All eyes will be fixing you to see how well you will be serving. That will display how attractive is the university that integrated the knowledge you will be sharing.

In addition, always remember to update and adjust your knowledge. The future holds a lot. The innovation is at the peak because of technology, competitiveness or more and more research by valued scholars. More to this, we hope that you will be good ambassadors of the university.

Today, you acquire a life ticket to join the existing alumni of the Adventist University of Central Africa. Go and tell the story of your amazing experience to the

young generations to register for the next intake. To sum up, I would like to remind you that the top success of your career and your life is to invite God in each and every endeavor ahead of you. After earning a degree and performing well at the workplace, it is not enough. You will still be held accountable to your life and the lives of your fellows. That is getting ready to meet Jesus Christ when he comes. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our graduates, I mean parents, professors.

May the Lord God bless you abundantly. Thank you all, I wish you enjoyable moments upon this graduation day. Once again, congratulations upon this achievement. Thank you for your kind attention!

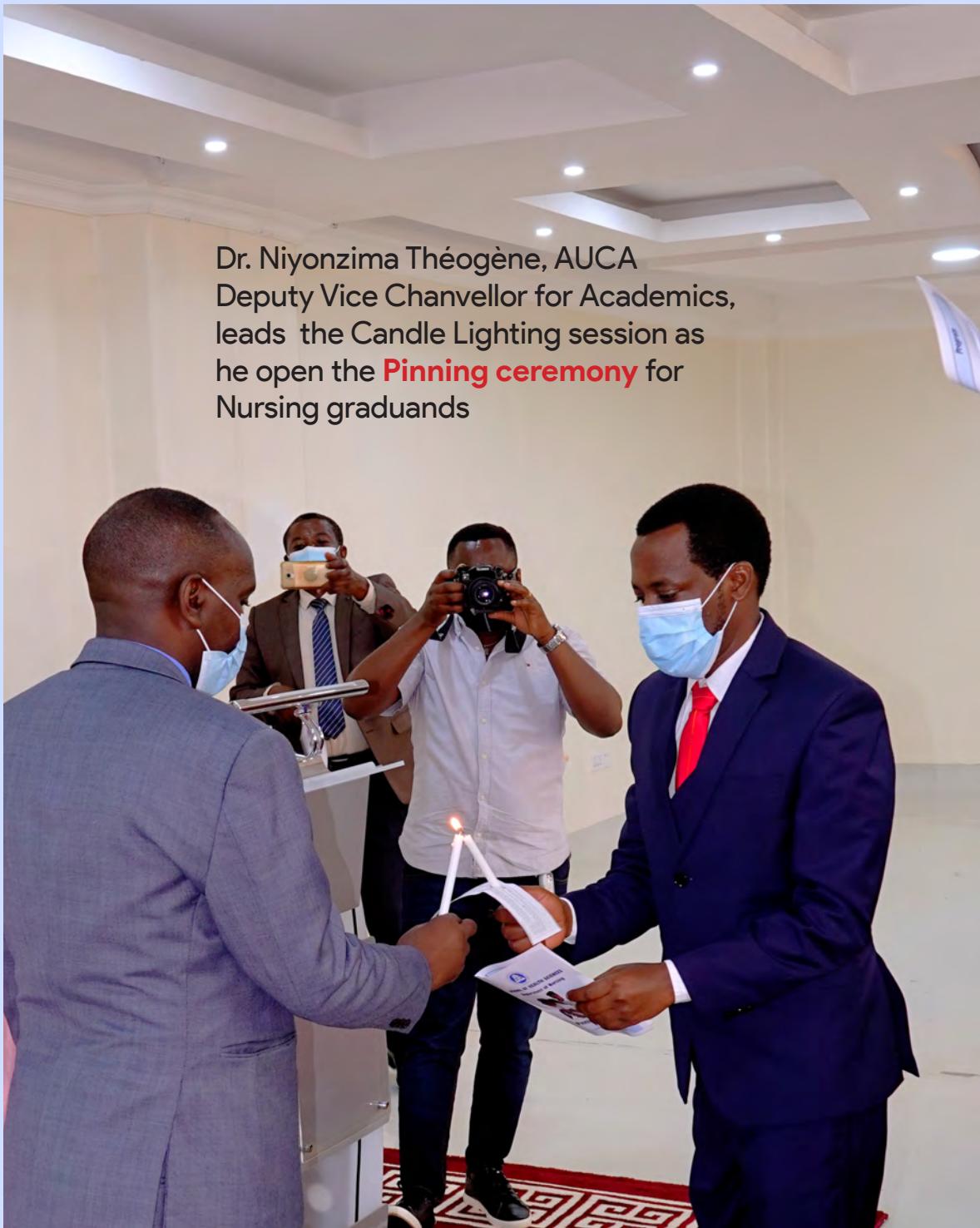


All praises to the
Almighty God ...



... for He made
us achieve this.

Dr. Niyonzima Théogène, AUCA Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, leads the Candle Lighting session as he open the **Pinning ceremony** for Nursing graduands



Insight into the historical background of the Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Historians can actually trace the tradition back to the Crusades of the 12th Century, when a group of knights tended to and cared for the injured and suffering crusaders. When new monks were brought into the Knights Order, they decided to continue helping sick soldiers and held a ceremony where each monk was given a Maltese cross that they wore on their arm.

Fast forward to the 1860s, when Florence Nightingale was honored with the Red Cross of St. George for her selfless efforts to injured men during the Crimean War. Because she believed in acknowledging a job well done, she presented a medal of excellence to her hardest working nursing graduates.

However, by 1916 it became standard in the U.S. to no

longer award only a few nurses with a medal of excellence, but instead all nursing graduates with a pin during a special ceremony. The pin was provided by the hospital school of nursing to the students to identify them as nurses and act as proof of their education.



PHOTO:
Ms Nyakundi Nover,
Ag Dean of the
Faculty of Nursing,
pinning one of the
graduands.

Nursing Pledge

It is a widespread customary practice that nursing students do a nursing pledge, in what is known as “Pinning Ceremony”, prior to the graduation. What do we know of the content? *DETAILS ON PAGE 29.*

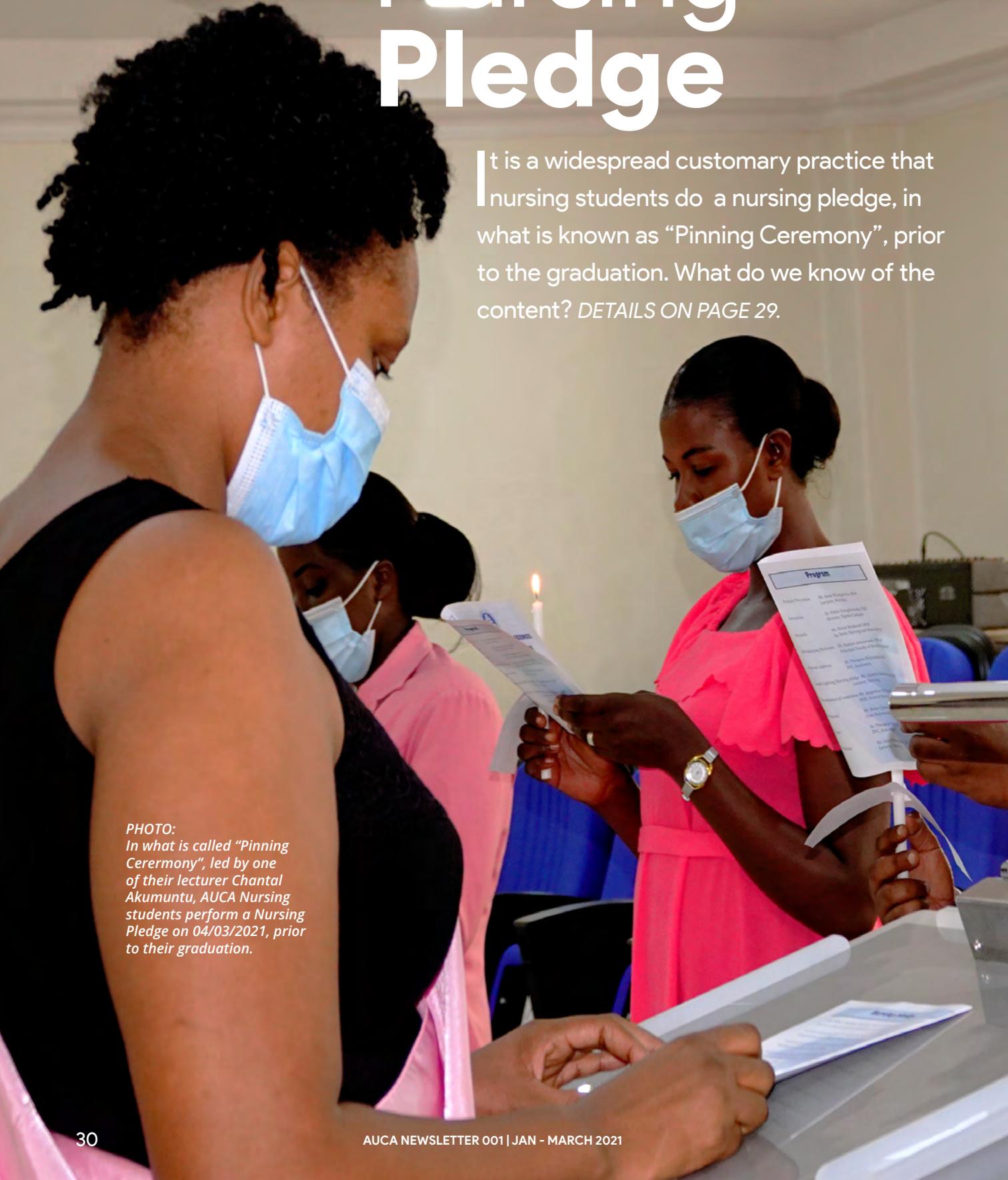


PHOTO:

In what is called “Pinning Ceremony”, led by one of their lecturer Chantal Akumuntu, AUCA Nursing students perform a Nursing Pledge on 04/03/2021, prior to their graduation.

NURSING PLEDGE

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE MYSELF, before God and in the presence of this assembly to practice faithfully my profession of nursing.

I will do all in my power to make and maintain the highest standards and practices of my profession.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to me by keeping in practice of my calling.

I will serve as a loyal member of the health care team and will devote myself to the welfare of my patients, families, and community.

I will endeavor to fulfill my rights and privileges as a good citizen and to take my share of responsibility in promoting the health and welfare of the community.

I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and to use them wisely.

I will zealously seek to nurse those who are ill, wherever they may be and wherever they are in need.

I will be active in assisting others in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of humanity.

So help me God.



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