



Newsletter 008

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AUCA Mission

Provide Christ-centred
wholistic quality
education to prepare
for service in this
world, and in the life
to come

AUCA Vision

Become an international
center of academic
learning with global
impact.

Belief & Values

LOVE
FAITH
INTEGRITY
RESPECT
COMPASSION & CARE
FAIRNESS & JUSTICE
EXCELLENCE

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.”

STAFF RETREAT, GESTURE OF COHESIVE AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE



On 01 September 2024, the entire ASOME and AUCA staff set off to Rwamagana District, Eastern province of Rwanda, at a place known as Rwamagana Beach Resort, for a retreat.

As disclosed by the AUCA Vice Chancellor, Dr. Penniecook Eustache, the retreat aimed at enabling staff members to relax after a full year of service.

The Vice Chancellor appealed to the staff to utilize the moment to reflect on their mission as people serving an institution whose foundation is laid upon Jesus.

“It’s important to have time to relax as staff and faculty. However, I’d like to request all of us that as we reaffirm our togetherness in serving our institution, we should also remember that we also have to be united for Christ’s mission”, he told the employees.



The retreat kick-started with a devotional session led by Dr. Dube Sibusisiwe whose theme centered on the relevance of coming together as a people as captured in Psalm 133: 1 which reads behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

At the retreat venue, the staff participated in a number of games and activities meant for mental relaxation. Some of the games included swimming, football, volleyball, running, to mention but a few.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Prof. Niyonzima Theogene, appreciated the fact that the staff and faculty honoured the retreat with their presence.

He then reiterated that the request by the employees to be having such a retreat every semester, will be looked into by the decision making body of the university.

Late in the evening, everyone boarded their buses and cars to make it back home with beams of satisfaction on their faces.

Retreats are believed to boost employees' morale, hence leading to higher productivity and institutional development.



AUCA staff took a group photo at the end of their retreat, celebrating renewed unity, motivation, and a shared commitment to excellence and teamwork.





A MILESTONE AS AUCA WINS THE BIG PRIZE OF PEACE IN RWANDA

An inter-universities competition that was organized by the Pan-African Organization for Peace and Conflicts Resolution ended with exciting news for the entire AUCA community after the latter scooped the trophy. The final contest took place at the East African University Rwanda on 13th September, 2024. The competition was about showcasing essay writing skills and public speaking skills.

At the very beginning seven universities qualified to compete in the first stage, namely the Adventist University of Central Africa, Kigali Independent University ULK, University of Kigali, University of Lay Adventists of Kigali, Mount Kigali University, East African university Rwanda, and the University of Tourism Technology and Business Studies. Two universities did not make it to the final stage as they were knocked out in the first stage.

The Adventist University of Central Africa, represented by Mr. Ezekiel Nzuki, from the Faculty of Theology, qualified for the last round with the first slot after all judges unanimously declared him best essayist and speaker of the first stage. With this win, he had to go to the last stage which took place on 13th September, 2024.



Five contestants who qualified for the final stage are from the Adventist University of Central Africa, East African University Rwanda, University of Kigali, University of Lay Adventists of Kigali and Kigali Independent University ULK. At this stage, the contestants were requested to choose a topic that is related to peace and link it with African development.

Mr. Nzuki, AUCA contestant, chose a topic on girl child education as a way of fast tracking the Africa's development. As he said, Africa cannot develop at a faster pace if women are left behind.

"Statistics reveal that Rwanda has made considerable progress ever since the leadership opted for women empowerment policy. We therefore need to take the same initiative to the rest of the continent if we aspire to have a developed and stable Africa"

He told the participants as he presented the findings of his project."



Dr. Abdoulaye Fallati, the President of the Pan-African Organization for Peace and Conflicts Resolution, thanked all participating universities and urged young people in the competition to be ambassadors of peace throughout the continent by emulating Rwanda's example.

"Rwanda is a model of peace on the continent. I'd therefore request our peace ambassadors to borrow a leaf from the example of Rwanda and take the value of peace across the continent so that the entire African continent can be a place where peace prevails, he said"

The event was also spiced with cultural performances from different nationalities with students showcasing their countries' culture. The performance entertained everyone in the house as the judges had gone away for the analysis of contestants' PowerPoint and oral presentations.

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Rwanda who was the Chief Guest, underscored that peace reigns when everyone as individual creates peace within themselves.

Thereafter it spreads among countries and people. But as he said, when peace fails to be achieved among people, then the war sparks off. "Peace should start at individual level before going to the level of countries. Normally, the Ministry of foreign Affairs declares wars when diplomatic talks have failed", he told the participants.

In his appreciation remarks, Mr. Ezekiel Nzuki, thanked everyone for their support and he invited everyone to stick together for a peaceful and prosperous Africa. "The Africa we want will be possible if and only if we all join hands for this important cause.

Our forefathers fought for Africa's dignity. We should therefore follow in their footsteps and we make our continent a haven of peace, he stated".



Ambassador of Angola

Visits AUCA

H.E. Eduardo Filomeno Bårber Leiro Octávio, the Ambassador of Angola to Rwanda, made a significant visit to the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) on October 18, 2024. The primary objective of his visit was to assess the living and studying conditions of Angolan students at the university, fostering a supportive environment for the growing community.

During his visit, Ambassador Octávio engaged with both students and university officials, highlighting the importance of ensuring that Angolan students are legally registered at AUCA. He emphasized the need for the university's cooperation in this matter, asking the administration to assist the embassy in verifying the students' legal status. This initiative aims to promote compliance with institutional regulations and national laws.

The Vice Chancellor of AUCA, Prof. Penniecook, responded positively to the Ambassador's request. He pledged to take action to ensure that all Angolan students adhere to university regulations and Rwandan laws.

Prof. Penniecook underscored the university's commitment to creating a safe and legally compliant environment for all students.





In a candid session, Angolan students presented their challenges to Ambassador Octávio, voicing concerns primarily regarding financial remittances from Angola.

Many students expressed difficulties in receiving funds without incurring significant charges. In response, the Ambassador promised to advocate for solutions.

Ambassador Octávio's visit is a testament that the Embassy is very much concerned with students hailing from Angola.

The visit concluded with a sense of optimism with students committing themselves to raise their motherland's flag higher as they pursue their educational aspirations at AUCA.

AUCA'S 30TH GRADUATION HELD IN STYLE



The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) held a vibrant and inspiring graduation ceremony on November 10, 2024, marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication for 576 graduates.

Students from both bachelor's and master's programs were recognized for their academic excellence, with a resounding call to "Light the World," as emphasized in this year's graduation motto.

Held at the university's main auditorium, the ceremony attracted a diverse crowd, including government officials, faculty, families, and alumni, all gathered to witness the momentous occasion.

Graduates, hailing from a variety of disciplines, were presented with their degrees as they stood on stage in their caps and gowns, ready to step into the next phase of their professional and academic journeys.

In his welcome address, Dr. Penniecook Eustace, Vice Chancellor of the Adventist University of Central Africa, thanked the graduates for having endured difficulties to make it to the end of their studies.

As he said, such endurance concurs with their motto which goes 'Perseverance, Trust and determination.'

He urged the graduates to keep faith in the Lord and always seek His guidance as they navigate the outside world.



The Chairman of the AUCA Council, Dr. Hesron Byilingiro, was among the key speakers at the event. Dr. Byilingiro offered words of wisdom to the graduates, reminding them of the importance of putting God first in all their future endeavors.

"As you step into the world of jobs and business, let your work be a reflection of your values," he said, urging the class of 2024 to carry the university's legacy with pride and integrity. **"Remember, success is not just about what you achieve, but how you achieve it."**



The theme of the day, *"Go Light the World,"* was echoed throughout the ceremony as speakers encouraged the graduates to use their knowledge and skills to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond. **"You have been equipped with the tools to bring change. The world is waiting for you to shine, so take your light and share it with those around you,"** an appeal to the graduates by Pr. Musa Mitekaro, representing the Chancellor who, owing to health reasons, did not attend the event.

In a poignant moment, the representatives of the graduating class, Salma Niyonsaba, assured those in attendance that the graduates were prepared to face the challenges ahead. **"We are ready to make a difference in the marketplace,"** said Jean Yves Nkurunziza, representing Bachelor's graduates.

"The education we have received here at AUCA has not only shaped our intellects but also strengthened our character. We are proud to take this next step in the journey to make AUCA proud," added Joseph Masengesho, representing Master's graduates.



In her inspiring address, she highlighted the significance of the milestone, describing the 30th graduation as a testament of the university's enduring commitment to academic excellence and the continuous pursuit of knowledge.

The minister encouraged the graduates to embrace the values of vision, integrity, purpose, and discipline as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

She emphasized that these qualities would not only guide them in their future endeavors but also help them contribute meaningfully to society and the broader global community.



AUCA Staff and Faculty Meeting Highlights Progress and New Developments



The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) held a key staff and faculty meeting on 27 November 2024, marking an important step in the university's ongoing growth and development.

The meeting began with a powerful devotional talk by Pr. Abidan Ruhongeka, who emphasized the importance of unity and purpose in building a strong academic community.

His message resonated deeply with the gathered staff and faculty members as they prepared to engage in the day's discussions.



Pr. Ruhongeka's talk set the tone for a meeting centered on collaboration, progress, and recognition. In his address, the university's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Penniecook Eustace, reminded everyone of the critical need for unity in the development of AUCA. ***"Our mission is to build an institution that will not only provide quality education but also impact the community and the region positively. This can only be achieved if we stand together in purpose and effort,"*** the Vice Chancellor stated.

Among the highlights of the meeting were the introduction of new staff members who have recently joined AUCA's team. The university warmly welcomed these professionals, who bring a wealth of experience and expertise in various fields. In addition, staff members who had been promoted to new academic ranks were formally presented and congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

The meeting also recognized the significant contributions of the graduation committee, whose efforts were greatly appreciated for their meticulous planning and execution of recently concluded graduation ceremony. The committee's hard work was acknowledged by both the administration and faculty, underscoring the importance of such an event in shaping the university's academic reputation.



One of the most exciting announcements of the day came from the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Prof. Theogene Niyonzima, who disclosed that the University Governing Body had approved new Master's programs and PhD programs.

This development marks a significant milestone in AUCA's academic offerings, reflecting the university's commitment to expanding its educational reach and providing advanced academic opportunities to its students.

Additionally, it was revealed that some staff members were appointed to new positions, further strengthening AUCA's leadership and administrative structures. These appointments demonstrate the university's focus on enhancing its operations and ensuring that all areas are led by competent and dedicated professionals.

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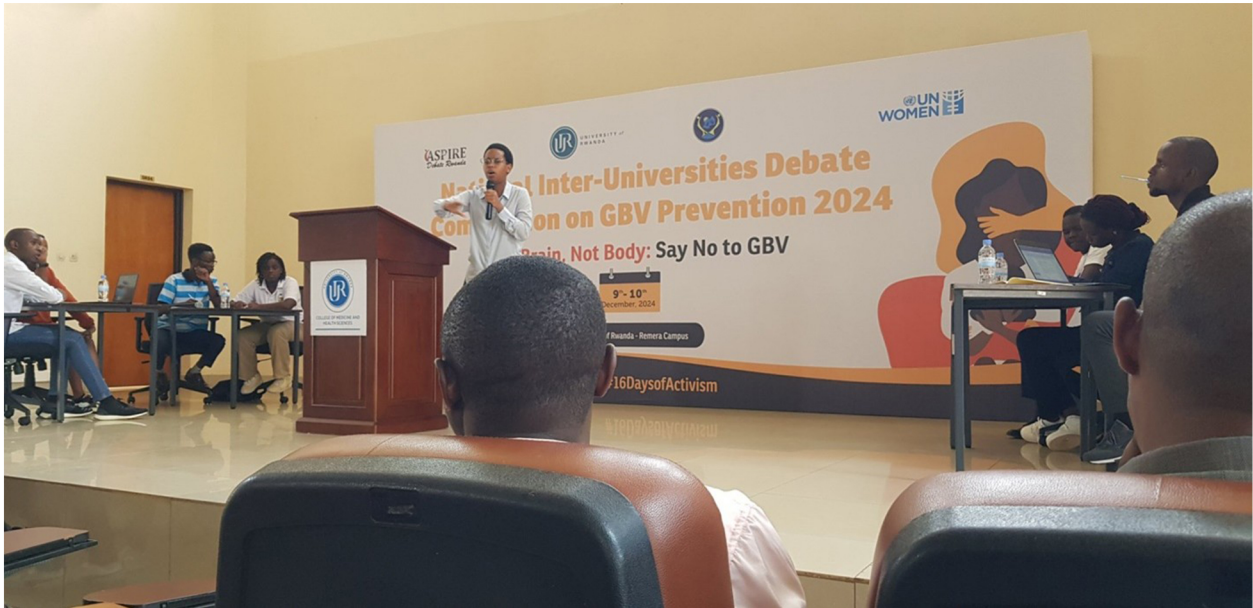
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AUCA Debate Club Triumphs at UN Women and Aspire Debate Rwanda Tournament



On 10th December 2024, the AUCU Debate Club emerged victorious at a prestigious debate tournament organized by UN Women in collaboration with Aspire Debate Rwanda.

The tournament, which focused on the pressing issue of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, brought together some of the most skilled debaters from twelve (12) higher learning institutions.



One of the standout moments of the event was when Shema Hakidu Nsimbi, a talented member of the AUCU Debate Club, was crowned the overall best speaker of the tournament. Nsimbi's eloquence, critical thinking, and persuasive arguments impressed the judges, securing him the top honor.

His achievement not only highlighted his individual skills but also underscored the high level of preparation and commitment demonstrated by the entire AUCU team.

The tournament, which took place at University of Rwanda-Kigali Campus, was designed to raise awareness about GBV and the importance of efforts to prevent it. Participants were tasked with debating key issues surrounding gender equality and the prevention of violence, using evidence-based arguments to advocate for change.

The high level of discourse reflected the growing awareness and activism in the fight against GBV.



UN Women and Aspire Debate Rwanda, the co-organizers of the event, provided valuable support and direction throughout the tournament. In their closing remarks, representatives from both organizations called on individuals and communities to unite in the fight against GBV.

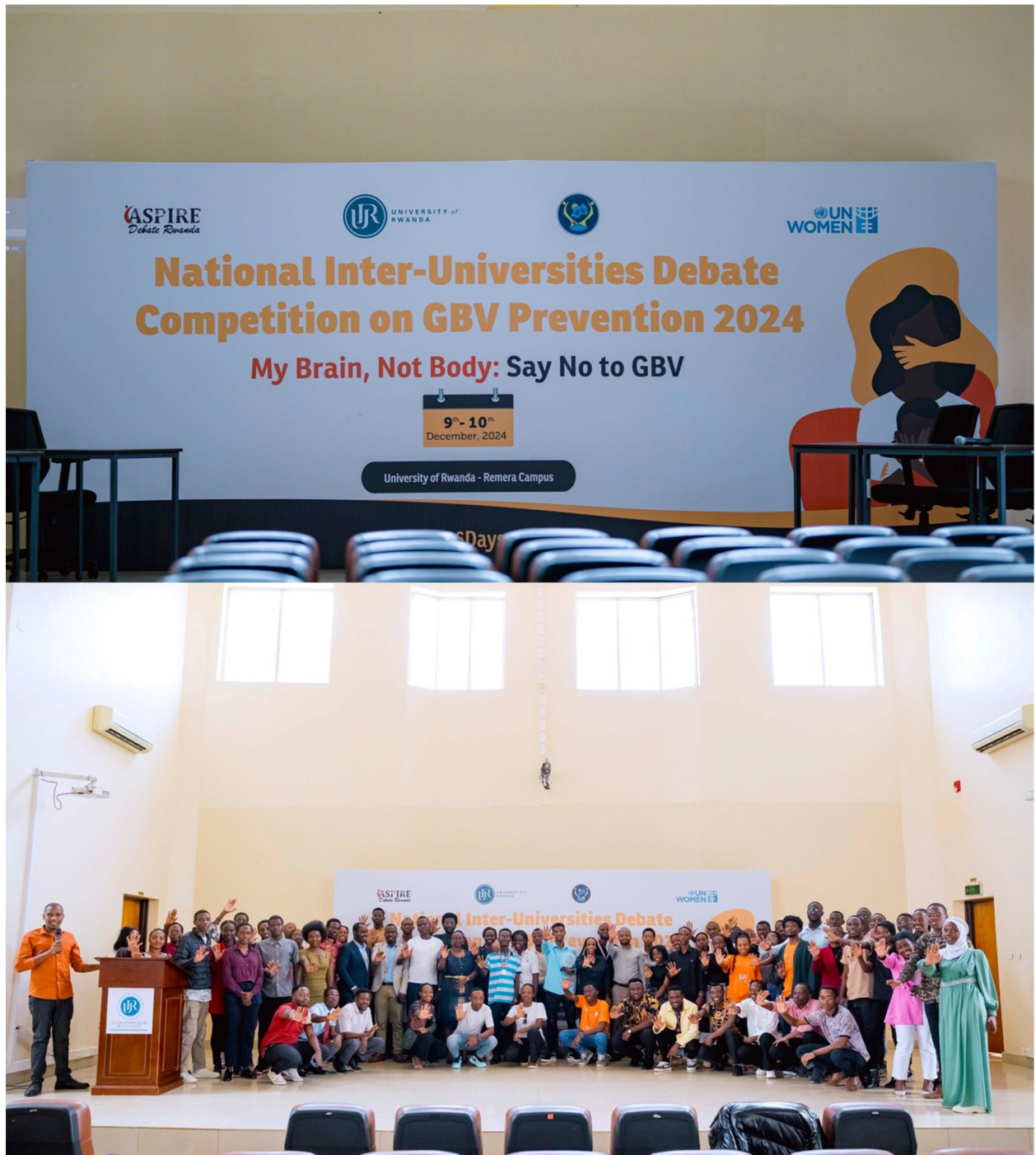
"Gender-Based Violence is a global issue that requires our collective action," said a representative from UN Women. "It is through dialogue, education, and collaboration that we can bring about real change and create safer spaces for everyone, regardless of gender."

Aspire Debate Rwanda echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in social issues. "Debating is a powerful tool for fostering critical thinking and encouraging dialogue around the most pressing issues of our time. We are proud to see these young debaters take up the challenge of addressing GBV," said Mr. David Ntambiye, Aspire Debate Rwanda Director.

The winners of the tournament were awarded certificates and medals in recognition of their outstanding performance. In addition to Nsimbi's individual accolade, the AUCA Debate Club was praised for their overall teamwork and dedication throughout the competition. The tournament not only celebrated the art of debate but also reinforced the importance of engaging in meaningful discussions about societal issues, such as GBV.

As the event came to a close, there was a strong sense of hope that these young voices would continue advocating for change and contributing to the global movement against Gender-Based Violence.

The AUCA Debate Club's triumph stands as a testament to the power of youth-led initiatives in addressing critical issues, and the call to action from UN Women and Aspire Debate Rwanda ensures that the conversation on GBV prevention will continue to thrive.



AUCA Employees Thanksgiving and End of Year Gala: A Celebration of Achievements and Fellowship



On 23 December 2024, the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) held a memorable Thanksgiving and End-of-Year Gala, bringing together employees, their spouses, and children to reflect on the university's successes over the past year and look forward to the future. The event, held in a festive atmosphere, was a heartfelt occasion of gratitude, celebration, and fellowship.

In an audio message, Prof. Penniecook Eustace, the Vice Chancellor of AUCA, who could not physically attend the event as a result of unforeseen circumstances expressed in his address, deep gratitude to the employees for their hard work, dedication, and the remarkable progress the university made throughout the year. ***"Our collective efforts have contributed immensely to our growth, and I want to thank each one of you for the part you have played. As we reflect on our achievements, we must also recognize that it is by God's grace that we have come this far. I believe that God will continue to prosper us in the years to come."*** His words resonated deeply with the audience, who appreciated the importance of faith in the university's journey.



Prof. Theogene Niyonzima, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, also shared his remarks, emphasizing the unique role of the AUCA teaching staff.

He highlighted that the commitment of faculty members extends beyond just imparting knowledge in the classroom. "Our teaching staff not only educate but also preach the Word of God, nurturing both the mind and the spirit of our students," he said. ***"This dual mission will continue into 2025, as we remain committed to developing well-rounded individuals, spiritually and academically."*** His statement reaffirmed the university's dedication to the values of faith, education, and holistic growth.

The evening was marked by a strong sense of community, as employees, along with their families, shared a delightful meal. The festive atmosphere encouraged unity and camaraderie, with many employees expressing their appreciation for the strong brotherhood spirit that defines the AUCA workplace culture.

As the year draws to a close, the AUCA Thanksgiving and End-of-Year Gala has served as a reminder of the collective strength, dedication, and faith that drive the university's mission. With the Vice Chancellor's assurance of continued prosperity and Prof.

Niyonzima's emphasis on the integral role of faith in education, AUCA is poised for even greater success in the year ahead. The event was a fitting conclusion to a year of achievements and a hopeful look toward the future.



Unity Club Intwararumuri delivers a Public Lecture at **AUCA**



In a bid to instill a sense of patriotism and unity among young people, Unity Club Intwararumuri organized a public lecture at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) on 28 January 2025.

The event brought together students, faculty members, and distinguished speakers to discuss the importance of national cohesion and the role of the youth in building a prosperous Rwanda through the Ndi Umunyarwanda initiative.

Hon. Evode Uwizeyimana, one of the keynote speakers, delivered an inspiring address urging young people to embrace unity and take pride in being Rwandans. He emphasized that the country's progress depends on the collective efforts of its citizens and that the youth must actively contribute to national development.

"The strength of Rwanda lies in our unity. As young people, you have a responsibility to reject anything that seeks to divide you and instead uphold the values of togetherness, integrity, and patriotism," Hon. Uwizeyimana stated.



During the interactive session, participants were given the floor to ask questions and share their perspectives on unity and nation-building. Students expressed their appreciation for the lecture, highlighting the importance of engaging young people in discussions about Rwanda's history, progress, and shared future.



Hon. Edda Mukabagwiza
reinforced the message of unity

In her closing remarks, Hon. Edda Mukabagwiza reinforced the message of unity, reminding the audience that Rwanda's success is built on the principle of standing together as one people.

"It is by standing together that we will take Rwanda to another level. Our country has made remarkable strides because of unity, and it is upon you, the youth, to safeguard and uphold this legacy," she said.

The event concluded with a call to action for students to be ambassadors of unity in their communities and to play an active role in shaping Rwanda's future. Unity Club Intwararumuri reaffirmed its commitment to engaging young people in meaningful dialogues that promote national values and sustainable development.



Minister of Youth and Arts Urges **AUCA** Community to uphold Rwandan Values



On 29 January, 2025, the Minister of Youth and Arts, Dr. Jean Nepo Abdallah, delivered a public lecture in which he called upon the students and staff of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) to embrace unity as a foundation for a prosperous Rwanda.

Speaking at a public lecture on the Ndi Umunyarwanda initiative, Dr. Abdallah underscored the importance of national cohesion in shaping a better future devoid of divisionism. The lecture, held at AUCA's main campus, served as a platform to educate and engage the youth on the significance of unity, reconciliation, and national identity.

Dr. Abdallah urged students to be at the forefront of fostering Rwandan values and rejecting any form of divisionism that could hinder national progress.

“Ndi Umunyarwanda is not just a slogan; it is a responsibility. As young people, you have the power to shape the Rwanda you want to live in. Unity and a shared national identity should be the pillars upon which we build our future,” he stated.

During the interactive session, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts on the Ndi Umunyarwanda philosophy. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the lecture, highlighting its role in strengthening their understanding of national unity and reconciliation. Several students called for more such engagements, emphasizing the need for continuous discussions on national identity and social cohesion.



In her closing remarks, Hon. Assumpta Ingabire encouraged the youth to uphold Rwandan values and work tirelessly to make Rwanda a model nation admired by many. She reminded them that the country's progress depends on their commitment to unity, integrity, and patriotism.

“The future of Rwanda is in your hands. Let us all strive to be responsible citizens who contribute positively to our country's development,” Hon. Ingabire said.

The public lecture at AUCA is part of a broader effort by the government to instill a strong sense of national identity among young people, ensuring that the ideals of unity and reconciliation remain at the heart of Rwanda's progress. With a call for more such discussions, it is evident that initiatives like Ndi Umunyarwanda continue to resonate deeply with the youth, shaping a future where divisionism has no place.



"Towards a common goal"



Kigali International Financial Centre Hosts Career Guidance Workshop at **AUCA**



On 4 February 2025, Kigali International Financial Centre (KIFC) organized a career guidance workshop at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA), where students were encouraged to seize available opportunities in the job market by acquiring professional qualifications. The event featured a distinguished panel of industry experts who shared valuable insights on career development and employability.

The panel included Andre Ndikumana, a representative from Financial Providers (FINNACO), Sonia Ntukanyangwe from ITM, a leading recruitment firm, and other professionals from various sectors. They underscored the importance of earning professional certifications such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), which can significantly enhance one's career prospects.

Sonia Ntukanyangwe advised students to work diligently and pursue additional qualifications beyond their academic degrees. "A professional certificate will make you stand out in the labor market," she stated, highlighting the role of continuous learning in career advancement. Andre Ndikumana, sharing his personal journey, revealed that despite not having a bachelor's degree, he was able to secure multiple job opportunities due to his strong background in professional certifications, including CPA. His experience served as an inspiration to students, reinforcing the value of soft skills and recognized credentials.

The workshop concluded with an engaging Q&A session where students raised questions about career choices, job market trends, and strategies for obtaining professional qualifications. The interactive discussion provided practical guidance, leaving students motivated and better informed about their career paths.





In his closing remarks, Assoc. Prof. Gisanabagabo Sebhuzuzi, urged students to make the most of the knowledge shared by panelists. He emphasized that the job market is highly competitive and that professional certifications could serve as a gateway to numerous career opportunities.

The event marked yet another effort by KIFC to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry expectations, equipping young professionals with the tools needed to excel in Rwanda's evolving financial and economic landscape.





AUCA Community Urged to Fight Corruption

February 11, 2025 – The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) hosted a thought-provoking public lecture on Tuesday, where Judge Kaliwabo Charles urged students, faculty, and staff to actively combat corruption.

The lecture, held at AUCA's main campus, drew a large audience eager to engage in the discussion on Rwanda's fight against corruption and the role of individual responsibility in ensuring good governance.

During his address, Judge Kaliwabo emphasized that Rwanda has made remarkable strides in fighting corruption, ranking first in East Africa, fourth in Africa, and achieving significant recognition on a global scale. However, he stressed that the fight is far from over.

"Corruption is a virus that weakens institutions and stifles development. We must all raise a red card against it," Judge Kaliwabo said. "While Rwanda is already well-ranked, we should not be complacent. Each and every one of us has a role to play in ensuring that Rwanda becomes a global leader in transparency and accountability", he added.

The judge's call to action resonated with the AUCA community, as he encouraged students and faculty to uphold integrity in their daily lives. He underscored the importance of ethical leadership, academic honesty, and a culture of accountability in ensuring a corruption-free society.



The event concluded with a strong commitment from AUCA's leadership and students to champion transparency and integrity. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the judge's message and pledged to contribute to Rwanda's continued progress in eliminating corruption.

Following the lecture, a Q&A session provided attendees with an opportunity to seek further insights. Students and faculty members posed critical questions on legal frameworks, challenges in eradicating corruption, and strategies for fostering ethical behavior in both public and private sectors. Judge Kaliwabo provided thoughtful responses, reinforcing the idea that the fight against corruption requires collective responsibility.

With such engagements, Rwanda continues to solidify its reputation as a model for good governance, setting an example for the region and beyond. As Judge Kaliwabo emphasized, the fight against corruption is a continuous effort—one that demands vigilance, ethical conduct, and the active participation of all citizens.



February 12, 2025 – The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA), Gishushu Campus hosted a compelling public lecture on Wednesday, featuring Kadigwa Gashongore, Vice-President of the Commercial High Court of Rwanda, the keynote speaker.

Addressing an audience of students, faculty members, and guests, Gashongore elaborated on the pervasive issue of corruption and its detrimental effects on society, calling for collective efforts in combating it.



In his message, Gashongore emphasized that corruption not only undermines economic development but also erodes trust in public institutions. “The fight against corruption calls for everyone’s contribution,” he stated, urging students and future professionals to uphold integrity in their respective fields.

He highlighted the significant impact corruption has on governance, investment, and social justice, stressing that its eradication is crucial for sustainable national development.

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He highlighted the significant impact corruption has on governance, investment, and social justice, stressing that its eradication is crucial for sustainable national development.

Gashongore also took the opportunity to commend Rwanda’s continuous progress in combating corruption. He praised the country for advancing in global anti-corruption rankings, attributing the achievement to strong governance, accountability mechanisms, and a robust legal framework.

“Rwanda has consistently moved forward in reducing corruption cases, a testament to the commitment of both leadership and citizens in maintaining transparency and good governance,” he remarked.



The interactive session allowed students to ask pertinent questions regarding the role of the judiciary in handling corruption-related cases and the measures in place to ensure accountability. Gashongore reassured the audience that Rwanda's legal institutions remain steadfast in their commitment to justice and fairness.

The event concluded with a call to action for students and the broader community to embody ethical leadership and actively participate in the nation's anti-corruption efforts. AUCA officials expressed their gratitude to Gashongore for his insights, reaffirming the institution's dedication to promoting integrity and responsible citizenship among its students.

The lecture served as an eye-opener for many, reinforcing the message that fighting corruption is not solely the responsibility of the government but requires the engagement of every citizen to foster a corruption-free Rwanda.



Historic Event as the Construction of New Female Students Hostels and Postgraduate School Complex is flagged off

In a remarkable display of leadership and vision, Dr. Blasius Ruguri, President of the East-Central Division (ECD) and Chancellor of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA), led the groundbreaking ceremonies for two major construction projects. The ASOME Female Students' Hostels and the Gishushu Postgraduate School Complex are set to significantly enhance the university's facilities and are expected to boost enrolment rates in the coming years.





Dr. Ruguri was joined by an esteemed group of leaders, including Dr. Mitekaro Musa, the ECD Executive Secretary; Pr. Yohannes Olana, the ECD Treasurer; Dr. Hesron Byilingiro, the Rwanda Union Mission President and AUCA Chairman of the Council; and other notable church and university officials.

The ceremony, held on March 2, 2025, marked a historic moment for AUCA as these two developments promise to revolutionize the academic and residential experience for students. The new hostels will provide much-needed accommodation for female students, addressing growing demand, while the Postgraduate School Complex will create a dedicated space for graduate-level education, fostering advanced learning opportunities.





In his address to the gathering, Dr. Blasius Ruguri emphasized the vital connection between quality infrastructure and education. “Quality infrastructure and quality education go hand in hand,” Dr. Ruguri stated. “As we continue to grow and evolve as an institution, it is crucial that we invest in facilities that support and enhance the learning experience of our students. These new buildings will enable us to provide world-class education, and in turn, contribute to the overall development of Rwanda and beyond”, he underscored.

Dr. Hesron Byilingiro, Chairman of the AUCA Council, expressed his gratitude to the ECD leadership for their unwavering support. “The decision to build these structures is a testament to the ECD's continuous investment in the future of this institution. It is also in line with the government’s call to make better use of land resources, and we are proud to respond with the construction of these skyscrapers,” he noted.

With the completion of these two critical facilities, AUCA is poised for a surge in student enrolments. The hostels will provide safe, comfortable, and convenient accommodation for female students, while the postgraduate complex will attract scholars and researchers from across the region, further cementing the university's position as a leader in higher education.

The new buildings will not only support AUCA's growth but also align with national efforts to make better use of limited land by constructing multi-storey structures.

As the university embarks on this new chapter, both the administration and the community are looking forward to the long-term impact these projects will have on AUCA's students, faculty, and the broader educational ecosystem.

The groundbreaking ceremony stands as a symbol of AUCA's commitment to academic excellence and infrastructure development, paving the way for a brighter future for all those who are part of its journey.

As construction progresses, the entire AUCA community eagerly anticipates the completion of these state-of-the-art facilities and the opportunities they will bring for generations to come.



AUCA Shines at the Agahozo Shalom Village Education Fair



On March 7, 2025, the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) participated in the highly anticipated Education Fair held at Agahozo Shalom Village, an event that brought together over 250 Senior 5 and Senior 6 students from Agahozo Shalom School in Rwamagana District. The event aimed to raise awareness among students about the academic programs available at different universities in the country, helping them make informed decisions as they prepared for their tertiary education.



Representing AUCA at the fair was a dedicated six-person delegation, who engaged with numerous students throughout the day, answering their questions and providing valuable information about the university's diverse academic offerings.

Along with AUCA delegation, there was the delegation from ASOME (School of Medicine).

The AUCA booth became a hub of activity as students learned more about the university's programs, campus life, and the various opportunities available to them.

To further assist students, the delegation distributed informational leaflets that contained details on the university's courses, admission requirements, and scholarships, ensuring that students had the resources they needed to make informed decisions for their future.

The event's success was further emphasized by the remarks of Prof. Cyeze Emmanuel, the head of the AUCA delegation, who expressed his gratitude to the event organizers for providing students with the platform to plan their academic journey ahead of time.

Prof. Cyeze also quoted the former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, emphasizing that "The whole future of the human race will be determined by how we care for our children today." This powerful message underscored the importance of investing in education and nurturing the next generation of leaders and thinkers.



Prof. Cyeze Emmanuel
Speaking at the event

The organizers of the Education Fair were equally pleased with the turnout and the level of engagement at the event. They expressed their thanks to all the participating universities, including AUCA, for their involvement in the fair, and acknowledged the importance of such events in helping students make well-informed decisions about their academic futures.

The activities of the day reflected a shared commitment to helping students succeed by offering them the tools, knowledge, and guidance needed to navigate their higher education choices. By participating in this Education Fair, AUCA reaffirmed its dedication to providing accessible, high-quality education and fostering an environment where students can thrive academically and professionally.

As the event concluded, the students left with valuable insights into the academic paths available to them, and AUCA's presence undoubtedly left a lasting impression on those eager to embark on the next stage of their educational journey.



The event had attracted officials from various higher learning institutions





AUCA Guild President Represents AUCA at Leaders' Summit **2025**

Arnaud Nshuti, the Guild President of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA), participated in the highly anticipated Guild Leaders' Summit 2025 held in Kampala, Uganda, on April 24. The summit gathered student leaders from across the region, offering a platform for networking, sharing experiences, and gaining insights from esteemed figures in leadership.

One of the standout moments of the event was the keynote address delivered by former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. In his speech, Kenyatta emphasized the importance of integrity as the cornerstone of effective leadership. He urged the young leaders present to uphold ethical standards and serve as role models within their communities.



Nshuti, alongside his counterparts from various East African Higher Learning institutions, engaged in discussions focusing on the challenges and opportunities faced by student leaders in today's dynamic environment.

“The insights gained from leaders like President Kenyatta are invaluable. They remind us that our roles extend beyond our campuses; we are called to influence the society positively”, Nshuti remarked.

The summit also provided a unique opportunity for networking, with students forming connections that could lead to future collaborations. Nshuti expressed enthusiasm about the potential initiatives that may arise from these interactions, emphasizing the collective responsibility of student leaders to drive change.

As the summit concluded, participants left with renewed motivation to champion integrity and accountability in their leadership roles. Nshuti's representation of AUCA at this significant event showcases the university's commitment to fostering responsible and impactful leaders.

The Guild Leaders' Summit 2025 stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and the vital role of youth in shaping a better future for their communities and beyond.



AUCA Holds Historic Lamp Lighting Ceremony at **NGOMA CAMPUS**



In a colorful and historic event, the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) held, on 2nd June, 2025, its first-ever Lamp Lighting Ceremony at its Ngoma Campus, marking a significant milestone in the journey of its newly admitted nursing students.

The glamorous ceremony was graced by Emmanuel Munyaneza, Chairperson of the National Council of Nurses and Midwives (NCNM) in Rwanda. In his address, Mr. Munyaneza commended AUCA for pioneering the lamp lighting tradition in Rwanda, calling it a laudable step that brings dignity and meaning to the nursing profession. "This ceremony is not only symbolic but also inspirational. AUCA has set an example that other institutions should follow," he remarked.

In his statement, Prof. Theogene Niyonzima, Deputy Vice Chancxcellor for Academics, encouraged the prospective nurses to uphold the values of the university while playing exemplary roles in their lives and the lives of others. "As this ceremony symbolizes lamp lighting, you are called to become a constant light—illuminating your own path and that of others every single day. Be exemplary in character, aim for excellence, and uphold AUCA's reputation", he urged them.



Prof. Theogene Niyonzima

Urged the future nurses to uphold AUCA values and illuminate the world

Speaking at the event, Dr. Vimla John, Dean of the School of Nursing, urged the students to live by the words of Matthew 5:14–16: “You are the light of the world.” She encouraged them to shine in their profession through selfless service, integrity, and a commitment to patient care.

AUCA's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Penniecook Eustace, welcomed the new nursing students with words of wisdom and spiritual reflection. He called on them to uphold the core values of faith, compassion, and dedication to service. "Nursing is more than a profession — it is a calling. Let your light shine with purpose, courage, and care," he said.



As highlighted by Emmanuel Munyaneza , Chairperson of the National Council of Nurses and Midwives (NCNM) in Rwanda, during the event, this was the first ceremony of its kind in the Land of a Thousand Hills. By pioneering this significant milestone in nursing education, AUCA was commended by the NCNM Chairperson for setting an example that is expected to inspire other nursing schools across the country.

The highlight of the ceremony was the lighting of candles by the students, symbolizing their commitment to the nursing vocation. This tradition traces its roots to Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, who is fondly remembered as “The Lady with the Lamp” for her tireless care for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War.

By initiating this meaningful ceremony, AUCA has carved a new path in the professional development of nurses in Rwanda, blending tradition, faith, and education into a celebration of service and sacrifice.



Explore More Shots:



AUCA Hosts the 9th International Conference on Inclusive Sustainable Development



Kigali, Rwanda – The Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in collaboration with Ideal True Scholar successfully hosted the 9th International Conference on Capacity Building for Inclusive Sustainable Development from August 26 to 28, 2025. The three-day event drew scholars, researchers, and PhD students from across Africa, who convened to share research findings, receive peer feedback, and explore solutions for advancing sustainable growth on the continent.



In his opening address, AUCA Interim Vice Chancellor Dr. Pacifique Nizeyimana welcomed the delegates and commended Ideal True Scholar for partnering with AUCA to host the event. He emphasized the critical role of collaboration between researchers, academicians, and policymakers in driving national economies and shaping a better future for Africa. Dr. Nizeyimana later declared the conference officially open.

AUCA's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Professor Niyonzima Theogene, highlighted the importance of patience and diligence in producing quality research. He reminded participants that research findings must be taken seriously, as they often inform decisions with far-reaching impact.

The hybrid format of the conference, which combined physical and virtual participation, allowed wider access for scholars across the continent.

Delegates praised the initiative and called on more academic organizers to follow the example of Ideal True Scholar in providing such scholarly platforms.

The 9th International Conference on Capacity Building for Inclusive Sustainable Development marked another milestone in fostering academic excellence and knowledge-sharing, reaffirming AUCA's position as a hub for intellectual engagement in the region.



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAPACITY BUILDING
FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT**



In Collaboration With

**IDEAL TRUE SCHOLAR, MANCHESTER, UK
(MEDIA PARTNER)
AUGUST 26TH - 28TH, 2025**

**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL
AFRICA CONFERENCE HALL, KIGALI, RWANDA**

