



Juvarsity

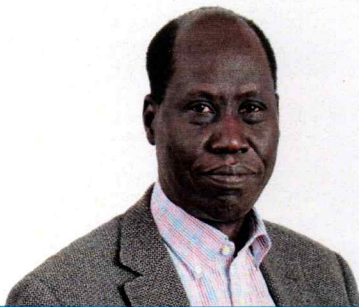


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University Leadership: Making a Difference



Prof. John Akec

A word from the Vice Chancellor

Great universities do not just happen nor fall from the sky. They are made to succeed. The people managing them, and the economic environments surrounding them, contribute to their stagnation, or cause their rise to the top.

In academic circles, we often speak of 'Harvard here syndrome' – the desire by many countries to have in their backyard universities of stature of MIT, Stanford, Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Chicago, ETH Zurich, UCL, Cornell, Edinburgh, Yale, Columbia, Imperial, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Tokyo, Peking, and such like. These are just few names gleaned from the list of 1,000 top world-class universities by QS World University Ranking 2020. They were selected and ranked for their excellence in teaching and high impact research output.

It is worth mentioning that, in this year's QS World University Ranking, only 13 African universities were listed among the top-ranked 1,000 global universities. These are: Cape Town, American University in Cairo, University of Witwatersrand, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg, Cairo, Pretoria, Ain Shams, Alexandria, Assuit, Rhodes, Kwazulu-Natal, and Western Cape. It does not escape noting that the list is dominated by South African universities (8), and Egyptian universities (5), in line with their economic status and political clout on the global stage.

Being absent from the top 1,000 global universities ranking does not mean the end of the road for a university. The global higher education market has over 25,000 universities, and counting. India, United States, China, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, and Japan lead with a combined lion share of 17,000 universities between them, or host 70% of recorded universities in the world. Many universities across the globe are serving their communities and helping their nations to

weather competition in knowledge intensive sectors of the global economy. Still some universities are doing better than others.

Certainly, national higher education policies and financing afforded by governments to support teaching and research, and infrastructure development, play a great role in determining how universities thrive. However, assuming that all other things remain equal, how universities are managed is a differentiating factor between success or failure. Successful universities are the ones that 'do better than their circumstances might have allowed them', or those able 'to punch above their weights', according to Michael Shattock of the University of Warwick Business School, and visiting fellow at the Institute of Education, University of London.

In his book, *Managing Successful Universities* (2009), Shattock contends that success does not happen overnight because of a one off critical decision by a manager, but comes about as a result of university managers taking many small, but right decisions over a long period of time. These decisions reinforce one another to produce cumulative effect that sustains the organisation in an upward trajectory. Moreover, opportunities for success are significantly enhanced when university leaders and managers are able to create organisational culture which supports and maintains consistency of purpose, as opposed to a culture in which decisions taken at different levels pull the organisation in different directions.

Furthermore, reforms are increasingly being enacted in many jurisdictions that require universities to act like business corporations -- agile and capable of allocating their resources efficiently and effectively; to 'do more with less', and to respond quickly to their changing environments without much ado or delay, according to New Public Management theory (NPM).

Traditionally, power in university is diffused amongst professoriate heading different academic units, and which requires university presidents, vice chancellors, or rectors to carry out time-consuming consultations with the collegiate before taking major decisions. However, the ascendancy of New Public Management theory has called for the centralization of authority and strengthening of the position of university presidents, vice chancellors, and rectors; and that the academic Deans become the 'Manager-Deans' in charge of implementing university visions and strategies within their faculties.

Thus, the university presidents, vice chancellors, and rectors are no longer 'the first among equals', but powerful vision makers, plan bearers, motivators, initiators, administrators, mediators, and 'revolutionaries from on high', pumps, or 'bottlenecks', among other meaningful characteristics of the difficult job. They better make good of it by striving to make a difference.



Academic Programme Update

Following the forced-entry of students, who had not paid their tuition fees, into the University campuses on Monday, 26 October 2020, and subsequent Deans' Board meeting on the same day, the University Administration took a number of measures to ensure that University fees are paid and also send an unambiguous message to students that reckless behaviors and other forms of indiscipline shall not be tolerated. The full text of the Order from the University Administration is as below:

Suspension of Lectures

- The University will be closed to all students for all purposes including registration or payment of fees from Tuesday, 27th October to Sunday, 1st November 2020;
- The University will re-open for students who have not registered or paid their fees to do so from Monday, 2nd November to Saturday, 21st November 2020;
- Any student who has not registered by Saturday, 21st November 2020, would be deregistered. They shall be deemed to have taken time off from their studies and would not be allowed to attend lectures, sit for examinations or be on campus; and
- Postgraduate programmes are not affected by this order. Postgraduate classes will continue as normal.

More International Academics join the University of Juba

More international academics join our University. The most recent arrivals came from Sudan. Infact, they are not new to the University as they have been staff before the birth of our country. Their return is warmly welcomed by staff, students and the administration.



Dr Mohammed Hassan Mudawi

Takes up the position of Associate Professor at the Department of Statistics and Demography, School of Social and Economic Studies.



Dr Yousif Babiker Gismella

Takes up the position of Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Architecture.

The Head of European Union Delegation Visits our University



On Friday, 16 October 2020, the new head of the European Union (EU) delegation, Ambassador Christian Bader, held a meeting at the University with Vice Chancellor Professor John Akec, during which he emphasized the delegation's interest in prioritizing higher education and youth in their programmes.

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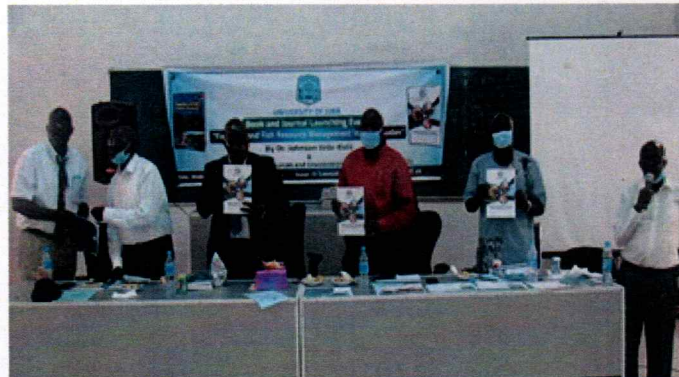


Knowledge Production and Dissemination

Journal and Dr Jiribi's Book Launched

The School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies launched a book and a journal on Wednesday, 20 October 2020 in the El Sammani Hall. The book is titled 'Fisheries and Fish Management in South Sudan' and authored by Dr Johnson Jiribi Balli. The journal is entitled *Journal of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies*.

Funding for this activity came from a Norad-funded project coordinated by Dr Moses Bojoi Tomor. Dean Dr Salah Khatir Jubarah and his colleagues should be commended for putting together this event as it has become very challenging for academics to publish because they grapple with a myriad of problems, including long delays in payment of salaries, lack of research funds and poor basic services.



Dr Wani's Books Published

Dr Philip Wani Marchelo Draga of the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies published two books based on original research. This is another boost to knowledge production and circulation at the University. You can contact Dr Wani on +211 928231001 for information on how to purchase these books which are titled:

- Plant Bio-pesticides in Agricultural Systems: Green Management Approach for Plant Protection.
- Plant Bio-pesticides in Agricultural systems: Going Green on Okra, Pests and Diseases.



Philip Marchelo Draga

Plant Bio-pesticides in Agricultural Systems

Green Management Approach For Plant Protection



Philip W. M. Draga

Plant Bio-pesticides in Agricultural Systems

Going Green on Okra, Pests and Diseases



University of Juba Enterprises (UJE) Re-opens for Business

On Saturday, 17 October 2020, Vice Chancellor Professor John Akec re-opened the premises of the University of Juba, which is the University's profit-making organization, University of Juba Enterprises (UJE), in the presence of board members and senior administrators of the University as well as managers and staff of the UJE after maintenance work had been completed. He commended the staff for successfully renovating the buildings and encouraged them to embark on making money for the University. The mission of UJE is to "create financially independent university."





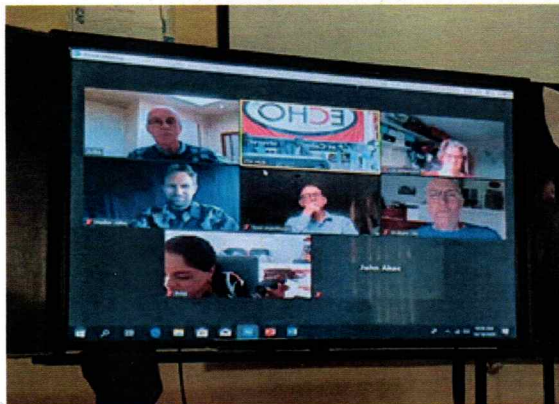
Online Training for Medical Students Successfully Concluded

A 10-day paediatrics course for eight final year medical students ended on Thursday, 15 October 2020 in the meeting hall of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS) at Juba Teaching Hospital. The intensive training was conducted on Zoom by consultants based in the UK, Australia, South Africa and Zambia. It was a project, which had been ongoing for the last four years, aimed at supplementing the paediatrics knowledge of our medical students. Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the training sessions used to take place on university premises. The Project lead, Dr Hugh Grant, a Paediatrics Consultant Surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, used to come to our university with a team of four consultants to teach the course and conduct assessments.

Those involved in the last training session were:

Dr Hugh Grant, Oxford, UK
 Dr Liz Adamson, Consultant Community Paediatrician, UK
 Dr Haiko Jahn, Consultant Emergency Paediatrician, UK and Australia
 Dr Prini Moodley, Consultant Paediatrician, South Africa
 Dr Tom Hutchison, Consultant Community Paediatrician, UK
 Dr Ros Jefferson, Consultant Paediatrician, UK and Zambia
 Dr Hannah Parks, Consultant in Palliative Care, UK
 Dr Kate Wheeler, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist, UK
 Dr Amrana Qureshi, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, UK
 Dr Graham Jay, Consultant Emergency Paediatrics, Australia

From our university, the doctors who took part were: Alice Juan Stephen, Justin Bruno Tongun, Amanda Billy Beto, Lucy Aggrey Abbas, Aye Madut Ring, and Genty Parata Samuel. Additional resources were provided by University of Malawi and ETAT. The organisation of the course in Juba was coordinated by Dr Alice Juan and Dr Aye Madut Ring. Speaking at the last training session on Thursday, 15 October, Vice Chancellor Professor John Akec thanked the consultants and the staff of the School of Medicine for organizing the training and urged that the collaboration be continued.



University Clinic Re-opens After Renovation

On Thursday, 15 October 2020, Vice Chancellor Professor John Akec re-opened the University Clinic after much-needed facelift and recruitment of additional staff. Hopefully, the clinic will recover its past glory as soon as possible. The clinic opened in 1977 and was an excellent medical facility under its first director, Dr Hakim Abe. The new medical director, Dr Susan Lado, promised to transform the facility into an excellent clinic providing quality healthcare and able to handle COVID-19 cases.



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