



Juvarsity



A Monthly News Bulletin of the University of Juba

January 2021

Inventing the Future - Transforming Society

Volume 4 Issue 1

Looking back and looking forward



Prof. John Akec

A word from the Vice Chancellor

The year 2020 was one of a kind for the global community, South Sudan included. It will be remembered for the worst public health crisis in a century due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-Cov-2 virus. All of us had to cope with the impact of a pandemic that took lives and left economies across the globe in tatters. No country was spared. A second wave of this pandemic is wreaking havoc in parts of the world, aggravated by new variants B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 that are 40% to 74% more contagious, according to a report by *The New Scientist*, a weekly science magazine.

Looking back, we at the University of Juba had our share of grief and sadness. A number of colleagues died due to various illnesses. They included Professor Aggrey Ayuen Majok, former Vice Chancellor of Dr John Garang Memorial University for Science and Technology and Rumbek University of Science and Technology, and founding Dean of the School of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Juba; Mr Simon Monoja Lubang, Associate Professor at the School of Social and Economic Studies, and former Director of Centre for Peace and Development Studies; and most recently Professor Samson Samuel Wassara, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Bahr el Ghazal, two times Dean of School of Social and Economic

Studies, and two times Director of the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies; Mr Andrea Ahmed Bawal, former and long-serving head of Personnel at University of Juba; Mr John Ito Yanga, a technician at Department of Fisheries, and so many others. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends.

On a more positive note, we were able to make progress on several fronts. Foremost, our University was able to organize and contribute to national efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We participated in two government's high level taskforces on COVID-19 and colleagues are still serving on the Medical Advisory Panel (MAP) of the High Level Taskforce on COVID-19. Our students volunteered in case contacts tracing. Our technical committee provided public education on how our population can protect itself from the virus. We also collaborated with the UNDP to conduct a rapid socio-economic impact assessment on gender equity in South Sudan due to pandemic which was used to review lockdown policies.

Last year was also unique in that from February 2020, we had 12-hour power on the main campus, and 24-hour electricity in staff and student residences. We were able to reopen the University amid fears of the pandemic despite losing months of the academic year. Although our University had experienced several student unrests in the past year due to opposition to tuition fees payment, we were able to restore order and calm to the campuses. The crisis enabled us to improve our registration system and student identity cards production capacity.

On infrastructure front, much progress has been achieved to improve our physical environment. These included the inauguration of a renovated Al Sammani Hall in February; expansion of landscaping and paving of the campus; conversion of a store into a 220-seat lecture hall; turning a disused building into engineering laboratory; construction of additional student washrooms; maintenance of 20 seminar rooms with a..... [Continue on Pg 2](#)



Looking back and looking forward

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....combined capacity of 400 seats at our Centre of Human Resources Development and Continuing Education (CHRDC); maintenance of the main chemistry laboratory; maintenance and refurbishing of University Clinic; and launching of a new waste management unit. At the Customs (Western) Campus, a new gate with improved access was erected; the biotechnology, geology, and physics laboratories were maintained; and solar-powered lighting was installed for improved security at night.

In student residences, washrooms were maintained at girls' hostel, and an accommodation block with 160-bed capacity was maintained at Ramciel boys' quarters.

Looking forward, a campus-wide Wi-Fi internet connection will be launched in February 2021; more student washrooms at both campuses will be maintained or added; buildings at the School of Computer Science and Information Technology will receive a face-lift; and access to our main administration building will be enhanced, among others.

Last but not least, we have recognized colleagues who made very significant contributions to the life of the University in 2020. I also thank every single staff of our University for making valuable contributions in 2020. I am very sure 2021 will come with challenges, but also exciting opportunities and blessings. Best wishes for a happy new year.



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2020 University Staff Performance Awards and Recognition

The following staff will be recognized for their outstanding job performance in the past year during a ceremony to be hosted by the Vice Chancellor in February 2021:



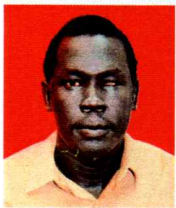
Mr Alemseghed Ghebrekiden
For leading the physical transformation of the main campus



Dr Salah Khatir Jubarah:
For physical transformation of SNRES and initiating maintenance programme for neglected laboratories throughout the University



Dr Angelina Mattijo-Bazugba
For leading a significant NTLI community outreach programme across the 10 states in the country



Mr William Lok Tiem
For extraordinary leadership and increasing the efficiency of the admission unit of the academic registry



Dr Ayine Richard Simon Nigo
For effecting a quick transformational impact at the SMB within a very short time despite having to spend long periods of time away due to circumstances beyond his control



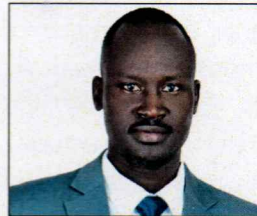
Engineer Amos Ater Arier
For incredible leadership and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Directorate of Engineering and Construction



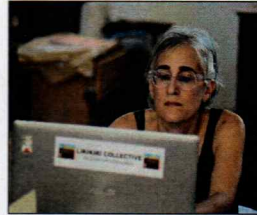
Mr Angelo Ajuong Aluong
For significant contribution to ICT services and establishing the ID Card Processing Unit with a higher capacity



Mr Germano Taban Lagworong
For delivering outstanding public relations service to all who needed it during the year



Mr Richard Ring Kuach
For expanding the mission of the STEM education outside Juba to University of Rumbek of Science and Technology and Torit Technical College, and for volunteering to install donated equipment



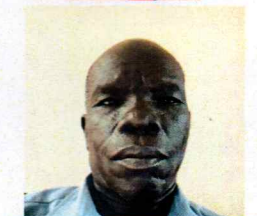
Dr Rebecca Lorins
For playing a critical role in establishing the School of Journalism, Media and Communication Studies



Mr Joseph Atem Bul
For playing a critical role in establishing the School of Mathematics



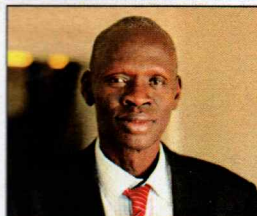
Dr Christopher Tombe Louis
For exhibiting leadership and creativity in organizing the University public education programme on the COVID-19 pandemic



Mr Edward Ayira Lado
For outstanding leadership of the HRM



Ms Hayat Alu
For continuing to deliver outstanding leadership of the Directorate of Procurement and Asset Disposal



Dr Leben Nelson Moro
For editing and reviving the Juvarsity newsletter



Ms Rachel Alek Aguer
For playing a critical role in the revival of the Juvarsity newsletter

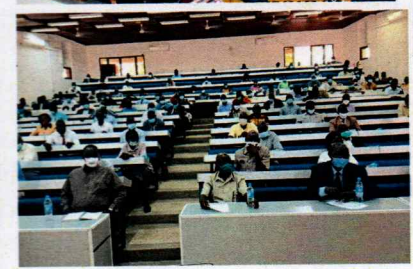
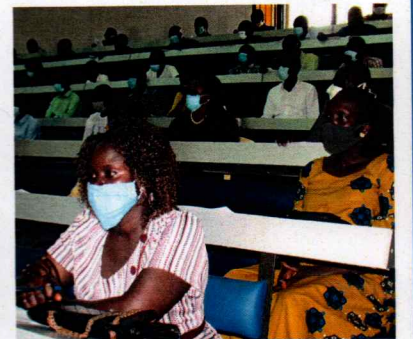


Infrastructural expansion and improvement

Over the past year, the University initiated and completed major infrastructural developments aimed at expanding teaching spaces as well as improving the appearance and feel of the overall environment of campuses. As a result, the main campus has dramatically changed as paved access roads for vehicles and pedestrians; landscaping and reshaping; restructuring physical infrastructures; and extensive painting of buildings and other structures were undertaken.



The largest hall, Al Sammani, was maintained and inaugurated during a colourful ceremony on 8 February 2020. Other lecture halls and laboratories were also maintained. Moreover, teaching spaces have expanded as some stores were maintained and transformed into classrooms to meet ever rising enrolment.



The whole University is connected to a reliable power supply system, provided by a private company, and therefore, staff and student activities are not constrained by power cuts.



The University is keen to provide staff and students with internet, access to which has become crucial during this "new normal." In December 2020, it entered into an agreement with Fast Network Ltd (FASTNET) Company, which is already installing the required equipment on campuses.





At the Customs Campus, the main entrance gate was redeveloped to ease access by vehicles and pedestrians as well as control movement of people.



The University Clinic was thoroughly renovated and capacitated with more skilled personnel to a level at which it can also handle COVID-19 cases.



The University of Juba Enterprises (UJE) buildings were maintained. Now, the UJE is in a good shape and can conduct activities that bring income to the University.



The University launched a Waste Management, Water Supplies, and Hygiene Services Department in December 2020. The department will be managed by staff of the Directorate of Engineering and Construction. Most employees will be students signing up for temporary duties during the week and earning income. The hygiene unit of the new department will be responsible for maintaining all student washrooms, and the water supply unit will ensure there is water in washrooms all the time.





Teaching Programme

The COVID-19 forced a shutdown of teaching for several months in the past year. In July, students resumed taking exams that had been disrupted. The exams were completed successfully. However, return to normal activities was delayed by student unrests over tuition fees. This problem was dealt with satisfactorily and normal activities were gradually restored from November 2020. Student enrolment has risen substantially to about 20,000.

New schools were established over the past year namely, School of Mathematics; and School of Journalism, Media and Communication Studies. Moreover, the Deans' Board of the University gave the go-ahead for the establishment in 2021/22 of the School of Medical Laboratory Sciences; School of Pharmacy; School of Petroleum and Minerals; School of Health and Nursing; and School of Architecture, Land Management, Urban Planning and Regional Planning. The Vice Chancellor subsequently appointed interim deans as follows: Dr Joseph Badys for School of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Dr Moses Hassan Tiel for School of Pharmacy, Dr Flora Eyoha Severino Lado for School of Petroleum and Minerals, and Dr Ajak Makor Dehel Deng for School of Public Health and Nursing.

As student enrolment soared, the need for appointment of more academics became urgent. The University

recruited academics within and outside the country. The following international academics were appointed over the last year:



Dr Michael Ibrahim

Joined School of Medicine as Professor



Dr Negash Alemu Gerzo

Joined school of Engineering and Architecture as Associate Professor



Dr Mohammed Hassan Mudawi

joined School of Social and Economic Studies as Associate Professor



Dr Peter Juma Wanyama

Joined School of Applied and Industrial Sciences as Assistant Professor



Dr Kamal Hamid Dabet al Doob

Joined School of Education as Assistant Professor



Dr Mohamed Yagoub Abaker Bakheit

Joined School of Mathematics as Assistant Professor



Dr Yousif Babiker Gismella

Joined School of Engineering and Architecture as Assistant Professor

Short Trainings and Workshops

The University of Juba conducted many training activities in order to build the capacity of its staff and students. The following are examples of the training programs which were carried out during the past year;

E-Learning Taskforce Trained Academics on Digital Tools

The University of Juba has been capacitating academic staff so as to leverage ICT in teaching and research. Accordingly, from 10 to 11 September 2020, the University's E-Learning Taskforce conducted a two-day workshop on basic digital tools for delivering home-based lectures. This workshop was part of ongoing training and other activities aimed at equipping staff with computing skills so as to effectively use software applications, such as Microsoft and PowerPoint.



Symposium on Writing and Publishing Papers

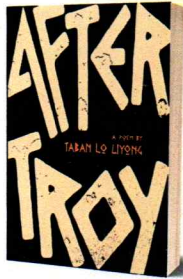
On Saturday, 21 November 2020, the School of Business and Management at the University of Juba organized a symposium for Master's and PhD students. The students were mostly from the School. However, a few of them came from other schools and institutes of the university as well as other universities. During the symposium, the Director of the School, Dr Ayine Simon Nigo, covered materials on researching, literature review and constructing theory. The other facilitator, Dr Leben Nelson Moro, took the participants through article or paper submission, processing and reviewer handling as well as proposal writing and development. Dr Michael Lawrence Mogga moderated the sessions.



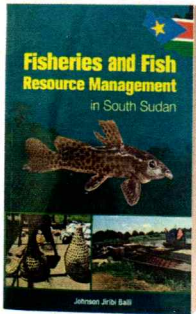


Knowledge Production and Dissemination

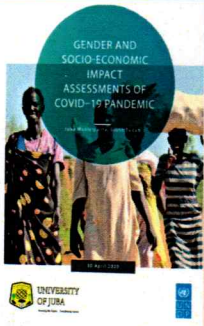
One of the key responsibilities of our University is to produce and disseminate knowledge through books, journal articles, reports and other channels. Over the past year, our academics have been busy writing books and articles that include the following:



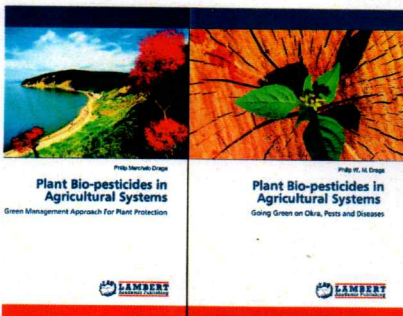
After Troy by Professor Taban Lo Liyong
(AMO printers, University of Juba; KwaZulu-Natal Press; and African Books Collective, Oxford, 2020)



Fisheries and Fish Management in South Sudan by Dr Johnson Jiribi Balli
(Fountain Publishers, Kampala, 2020)



A Study of Gender and Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on South Sudan,
by University of Juba COVID-19 Response Committee
(University of Juba and UNDP, Juba, 2020)



Plant Bio-Pesticides in agricultural Systems: Green Management Approach for Plant Protection and also Plant Bio-Pesticides in Agricultural Systems: Going Green on Okra, Pests and Diseases,
by Dr Philip W. M. Draga (Lambert Academic Press 2020)



The School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies launched the **Journal of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies** on 20 October 2020.



Challenges

Like many public institutions in our country, we grappled with many challenges over the past year. The most critical ones were:

COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic caused lots of challenges. We had to shut our doors. We could not immediately turn to online teaching as we lacked the required internet infrastructure. Moreover, our classrooms and labs could not allow for normal teaching to proceed while learners and teachers observed social distancing and other measures. Despite these challenges, we had to adapt to the "new normal," and so returned to normal activities.

Student Unrests

We also had to deal with student unrests connected to tuition fees. The University had to adjust fees in order to counter inflation but some students resisted paying the fees using violence. Some staff got injured and property was damaged. We had to suspend teaching as a result. We had to adopt punitive measures against the troublemakers. Our staff would not have performed their mandated tasks if violence and unruly behaviours were allowed in our institution.

Inadequate resources

Another challenge that our University had to confront was inadequate financial resources. Our staff went for months with no payment of salaries which negatively affected morale. We also lacked funds to implement all the development initiatives planned.

Deaths

During the past year, the University lost several of its members, including:



Professor Aggrey Ayuen Majok

Founding Dean of School of Veterinary Sciences. Prior to assuming this job, he held prominent positions, including Vice Chancellor of Rumbek University of Science and Technology and of Dr John Garang Memorial University for Science and Technology



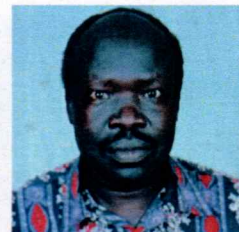
Mr Andrea Ahmed Bawal

Former head of Personnel at the University



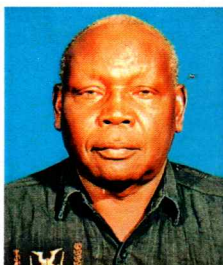
Professor Samson Samuel Wassara

Director of the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies. Previously he served in several high profile positions, including Vice Chancellor of Bhar el Ghazal University



Mr John Ito Yanga

Former staff of the Department of Fisheries



Associate Professor Simon Monoja Lubang

An Anthropologist at the School of Social and Economic Studies, and one time served as the Director of the Centre for Peace and Development studies, which was renamed Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies



Mr Mayola Bior Biar

Assistant Head of Labourers

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