I hope this issue of volume one of our bulletin is read by well rested eyes and brains, since we all spent a few days of minimal teaching engagements after senate assessment meeting and arrival of students in the campus. We have been a busy Faculty in the months of September and October 2012. Our activities included participation in international conferences such as ILTER, NEPAD water centre of excellence workshop and EXCEED, hosting of SABINA VRE workshop and HEC/WALA food processing and meal planning workshop. As part of our growth we have witnessed the birth of a new Department of Computer Sciences to be headed by Mr Mwai Msiska and promotions of our colleagues to high ranks of the academic ladder. Bravo colleagues!

In this bulletin we have included the above mentioned issues in detail for your information. As the weather gets hotter, so do the teaching activities become hectic. I therefore do encourage you to update your teaching notes and let us conduct the teaching duties in the usual professional manner befitting the academic integrity of the Vibrant Faculty of Science.

Associate Professor Samson Sajidu, Dean of Faculty of Science

Editorial Team:
Ass Prof Samson Sajidu (Dean), Dr Marlene. Chikuni (Deputy Dean), Anne Sigere (Secretary).
Email: deanscience@cc.ac.mw

NEPAD SANWATCE regional consultative workshop

The Faculty, through the Natural Resources and Environment Centre (NAREC) is a member of the NEPAD Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE). The network is designed to assist with research in the water sectors to help implement pan-African AMCOW/AMCOST policy. It plans to facilitate partnerships among the region’s water sectors stakeholders who undertake applied and pure research; training, capacity building and developing network ac-

NEPAD SANWATCE is designed to assist with research in the water sectors to help implement pan-African AMCOW/AMCOST policy. It plans to facilitate partnerships among the region’s water sectors stakeholders who undertake applied and pure research; training, capacity building and developing network ac-

Participants to SANWATCE workshop at City Lodge (OR Tambo International Airport)
NEPAD SANWATCE workshop...

ILTER Annual meeting

This year’s International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER) annual meeting was held from 17—21 September in Lisbon (Portugal). There was a wide range of presentations on science, business and society such as:

- Engaging Business in Conserving Philippine Biodiversity: The Energy Development Corporation Experience

Mainstreaming LTER in a Green Emerging Market Economy

- e-Participation Environment as a tool for dialog between citizens, decision makers and researchers

The meeting also heard reports from member regions including ELTOSA which is chaired by Mr James Chimphamba (the head of Geography and Earth Sciences). The Dean of Science attended the meeting as a member of the Nitrogen cycle project within ILTER.

SABINA hosts VRE workshop and natural products workgroup dialogue

The SABINA project, housed in Chemistry department, on 26th September 2012 hosted a Virtue Research Environment (VRE) workshop for natural products scientists in the country. VRE for natural product is a digital workspace and a home to a number of researchers concerned with the utilization of African natural products to enhance food security and improve human and animal health. The workshop brought together natural products scientists from various institutions, natural products indigenous knowledge holders, staff of chemistry and students of chemistry department. The objectives, among others, were to introduce VRE concept and use VRE as a platform for collaborative research.

Human Ecology conducts food processing and meal planning workshop

As part of outreach activities the Human Ecology Department is proud to be of service to the Wellness and Agriculture for Life Advancement (WALA) on issues of food processing and nutrition. The Department held a training workshop from 8—12 October that brought together participants from different organisations within the WALA consortium who shared their knowledge and experiences in production of a diversity of foods, utilisation of foods for good nutrition and preservation of foods in periods of abundance so that it is available in the lean months. It was expected that the participants would share the extra knowledge gained with people in their organisations as well as the people they work with at grassroot level.
This year’s EXCEED plenary meeting was held from 4-5 October in Kisumu (Kenya) immediately after a conference on ‘sustainable water management in African countries’. Several presentations were made in parallel sessions on ‘water and agriculture’, ‘aquatic systems’, and ‘water and health’. The EXCEED plenary meeting heard reports from member satellites, activity plans for next year and also elected new board members of the EXCEED. As a member of the Sub-Saharan Africa satellite (whose hub is at University of Ouagadougou), the Faculty of Science (UNIMA) agreed to conduct an international summer school in water and wastewater treatment next year (around April). Tentative topics to be covered are:

- Drinking water Supply
- Basic water quality parameters and analysis
- Microbiological processes in water
- Wastewater generation and collection
- Wastewater treatment and reuse of sludge
- Potential local methods for selected industrial wastewater treatment

The Attaining Sustainable Services from Ecosystems through Trade-off Scenarios (ASSETS) Project organized a PRA training workshop at Annie’s Lodge from 17-21 September 2012. The workshop was targeted primarily at field staff involved on the project but MES students were also in attendance. The 4-year project is part of the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme funded by DFID, NERC and ESRC. It is being implemented by a consortium of LEAD-Chancellor College and WorldFish Center; Universities of Southampton and Dundee; Rhodes; Basque Centre for Climate Change Research; CIAT and Conservation International. The project aims at explicitly quantifying the linkages between the ecosystem services that affect – and are affected by – food security and nutritional health for the rural poor at the forest-agriculture interface.

Birth of a new Department in the Faculty

Following Senate approval of the split between Mathematical Sciences and Computer Sciences, elections of the headship of the new Department of Computer Sciences were held on Sunday 14 October 2012. **Mr Mwai Msiska** was elected the first Head of the new Department to be deputized by Mr Gregory Kunyenje. The Faculty would like to congratulate Mr Mwai Msiska and wish him well for the new responsibilities in steering the new Department. The Department of Mathematical Sciences is now composed of two sections; namely, Mathematics and Statistics headed by Dr Levis Eneya and deputized by Mr Jupiter Simbeye. With this development, the Faculty now has seven departments.
Faculty of Science new publications and conference presentations (September—October 2012)


New Heads of Chemistry and Physics Departments

The Department of Chemistry has new headship, Dr Timothy Biswick who is deputized by Dr Maurice Monjerezi with effect from 1 September 2012. Similarly the Department of Physics has a new head, Dr Stanely Mlatho who is deputized by Mr Casper Kamunda. The Faculty would like to congratulate the new office bearers and thank Dr Jonas Mwatseteza and Mr Casper Kamunda for handling the Departments well during their tenure as Heads.

Promotions to high ranks of the academic world

The Faculty wishes to congratulate the following distinguished members for their promotion to different academic ranks. They have done excellent jobs for years and deserve the recognition and responsibilities of the new positions. Best wishes for continued success in their career as they take the Faculty to greater heights!

To Associate Professor
- Dr Cosmo Ngongondo of Geography and Earth Sciences
- Dr Maurice Monjerezi of Chemistry Department
- Dr Wisdom Changadeya of Biological Sciences

To Senior Lecturer
- Mrs Miriam Joshua of Geography and Earth Sciences

Congratulations to!

Congratulations to Dr Cosmo Ngongondo, Dr Maurice Monjerezi, Mrs Miriam Joshua and Dr Wisdom Changadeya.

Three out of the four promoted to this rank in the college for this cohort are from the Faculty of Science!
The Faculty welcomes back Dr Jonas Mwatseteza of Department of Chemistry from a six week long teaching assignment at the Department of Chemistry at Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU), Sweden, Uppsala as part of the Linnaeus-Palme teacher exchange programme. Dr Mwatseteza undertook the teaching assignment from 13 September to 22 October 2012. The Linnaeus-Palme teacher exchange programme facilitates exchange of lecturers between the two Universities as part of promoting sharing of teaching and learning cultures in the two participating Universities. The Faculty looks forward to continued mutual benefits between the Departments of Chemistry of the two Universities.

Maurice Monjerezi successfully defended his PhD dissertation at the University of Oslo on 21 September 2012. He studied the hydrogeochemical and isotope constraints on sources and evolution of groundwater salinity in lower Shire River valley. Maurice was funded by a NUFU funded network project between the Universities of Malawi, Oslo and other SADC universities in “Capacity building in water sciences for the better management of water resources in southern Africa”. For more information see the disputation announcement page on: http://www.mn.uio.no/kjemi/forskning/aktuelt/arrangementer/disputas/monjerezi.html

News Editors
Ass Prof Samson Sajidu
Dr Marlene, Chikuni
Miss Anne Sigere

Dr Maurice Monjerezi