

# COMMUNIQUÉ

“A Strong Congo Through Education”

November 2018



## Research Partnership with the Université Évangélique en Afrique

In the May Communiqué we reported that Education Congo (EC) was evaluating four projects for initial partnership with Université Évangélique en Afrique (UEA) in Bukavu. We are happy to report now that EC has agreed to partner with



Photo Credit: sfrikarabia.com

**Nobel Laureate and UEA Professor Dr. Denis Mukwege**

UEA on an important research project under the headings of Peace, Gender, and Conflict Transformation. This project will examine how South Kivu churches have addressed the extraordinary violence in the area since 1997 and

seek ways to collaborate with area churches in developing effective responses and methods to transform conflict and bring healing.

UEA is uniquely qualified and positioned in several ways to take leadership in such research:

- UEA has developed leadership, experience, and expertise in this field of research through their Departments of Conflict Transformation in the faculty of Social Sciences and of Peace and Development in the faculty of Theology.
- UEA has always worked closely with Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Denis Mukwege in his pioneering efforts to end sexual violence against women and to establish the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu to treat victims. Dr. Mukwege is Vice Dean of the Medical Faculty at UEA, so remains closely tied to UEA in this field of research.
- In 2010, Dr. Mukwege challenged the University of Michigan (U of M) to become involved with Panzi Hospital and UEA. Out of this relationship the U of M has joined UEA in the development and administration of the International Centre for Research and Training (ICART).
- Finally, through their faculty of Theology and pastoral training, UEA has developed effective relationships within the churches where this research will be conducted.

This project is highly pertinent and timely in communities throughout Congo, so we are excited to offer you the opportunity to participate.

\$12,000 is needed to complete this project. To contribute, please click on the [Donate](#) button and designate “UEA Peace Project” or mail your check to: Education Congo 2216 Elgin Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, USA.



Classroom Instruction at UEA

## Promising Developments in Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Press reports on Africa often stress the negatives – droughts, war, corruption and so on. Yet behind the scenes are largely unreported stories of hopeful progress. For example:

- On October 5 a new law passed the US Senate called the BUILD act, the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act. Conceived in part as a response to China’s \$75 billion investment in African infrastructure projects it authorizes up to \$60 billion for emerging country infrastructure and could be used to finance investments not just in traditional areas like roads and ports but also in the burgeoning digital economy potentially targeting sectors like health, power and education. The law passed the Senate with the support of 93 of 99 voting senators, proof that bipartisan legislative action for the good is still possible.
- Internet connectivity in Africa has grown by 29% annually since 2010, two and a half times the rate of the rest of the world.
- Banking by mobile phone has already been adopted by 12% of the adult population, which is six times the world average.
- The DRC was among the 10 countries showing the greatest increase in traditional bank account holders worldwide between 2011 and 2014.

These signs of under-the-radar progress in Africa’s development encourage us in our efforts to help Congolese create a strong country through higher education.

**Help us save on postage, send us your email address!**

## Sponsored Students Tell Their Stories

### Esther Nsonge Ngole

Esther is from the town of Haut Lomani in the province of Katanga in the far southeastern corner of the Congo. She will finish her third year of medical school this summer. Next year, her last year at UPC, she will be an intern at one of the rural hospitals. This will be a great opportunity for Esther because UPC is the only medical school in the Congo which has an internship program. She is confident that her studies are going well. The subjects that interest her the most are psychiatry and pediatrics. She would like to work with children because in Congo the mortality rate for children is very high. Her hope is to be able to make a difference in the number of children that survive into adulthood. Because the big cities already have lots of doctors, she would like to live up to the UPC medical school vision of having its graduates work where there is the greatest need. The scholarship helps her a lot because the financial situation with her family is difficult. She could not study without the scholarship.



her life, she gave me a big smile, and said that the scholarship helped her enormously.

### Michael Djonga Onaska

Michael is from the deeply forested Sankuru region in the geographic center of the Congo. His passion is to become a psychiatrist. He is in his third year of medical studies and is proud that he is doing well in his academic work. Upon graduation Michael plans to pursue his specialist training outside of the Congo as there is little institutional support for psychiatric training locally. Once trained, he pledges to return home in order to serve his country's people. Michael comes from a family with financial difficulties so the scholarship allows him to study and reduces his anxiety.



### Windy Mantele Mobinde

Windy is in her third year of medical studies. She has worked hard and done well. She comes from the province of Equateur roughly 300 miles north of Kinshasa. Windy would like to specialize in pediatrics because in Congo infants are the most vulnerable segment of the population. Her hope is to be able to make a difference in peoples' lives. Although she does not know where she will work yet, she enjoys working with and seeing people. One possibility is that she could work with organizations that help children. It mostly depends upon where she will be able to find a job, because although the need for doctors is great, there is not always paid employment at working hospitals and clinics. When I asked what effect the scholarship had on



EC board member Julie Nietz meets with students.

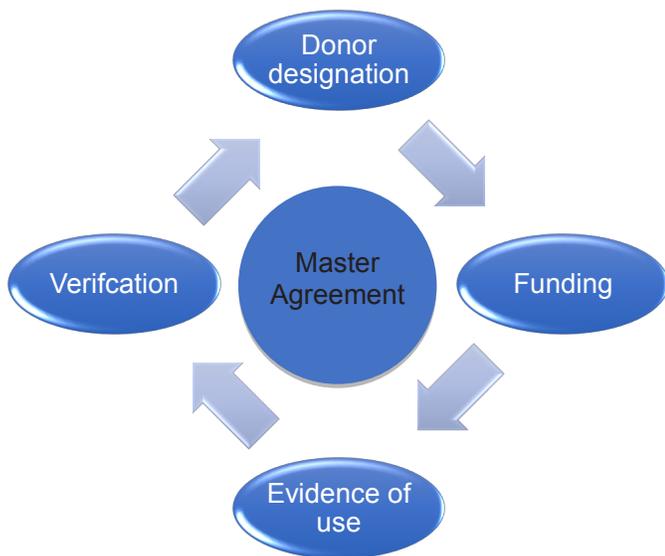
## How Your Gifts Are Monitored

Over the last several years our Grants Committee and the leaders at the Congo Protestant University ( Université Protestante au Congo or UPC ) have worked to strengthen the way we monitor the use of your generous donations. Now that the process is well established, we would like to share with you a brief description of how this works.

This process starts with the execution of a Master Agreement which defines each party's obligations, including accountability standards for funds. Donors and recipients then agree to specifics of how these obligations will be met. Typically, the process entails our providing funds with designations, the partner providing evidence of compliance and our verifying that the partner's information agrees with the designations. The process then repeats.

The type of evidence depends on the designation, but always requires documentation, such as paid invoices or receipts. For example, in the case of scholarships, the partner provides a receipt signed by the student. From time to time, we meet with various students to verify signatures.

We owe special thanks to several people who have devoted and continue to devote considerable time to making this possible. Those include Madam Jolie Mbelembe and Mr. Clement Mamba of UPC and our Board Member, Paul Williams, who works directly with UPC staff.



## UPC Administrators' Vision

Dr. Sam Mampunza is both a professor at UPC and a tireless senior administrator who travels extensively in the US, Canada, Belgium, Congo and elsewhere to establish ties and solicit support for the future development of UPC. Below is a sketch of what he is working on in his own words:



UPC Academic Secretary-General  
Professor Samuel Mampunza

UPC is working on a number of priority projects. These include:

1. Increasing our connection capacity to the optical fiber network (internet);
2. Instituting Quality Assurance protocols that will help us to accredit our educational programs;
3. Establishing an interdisciplinary research center to increase our research capacity;
4. Teaching and implementing a project to develop emergency medicine capacity;
5. Acquiring equipment for classroom instruction (video projectors, lap top) and laboratory equipment (multi-head demonstration microscopes, etc.).
6. Investing in equipment and infrastructure for a 3rd rural hospital for the internship of medical students. A dramatic rise in the number of medical school interns has outstripped the capacity of the two rural hospitals currently utilized to train them.

I know that all these projects require money, and it can take time for their implementation. Many hands can together help us to move ahead. I am always impressed by what Education Congo members and caring American donors are doing for the Congolese people. Thanks again.



Education Congo celebrates 20 years of helping to build a stronger Congo through education.

## UPC Fifty Years Ago

A look in the rear-view mirror sometimes serves to tell us just how far we have travelled. Alden Almquist is one of three past or present Education Congo Board members who studied at UPC. The following is his first-person account:

1967-68 marked the first year of classes at the University in its then home of Kisangani since its displacement by the Simba rebellion of 1964. The academic year started late, in early November, because the campus had been occupied by a mercenary army which had to be driven out of town by the national army before classes could start. You could kick up spent cartridges all around campus and I recall the surreal experience of walking up to the library and stepping through the library's wall where a plate of glass had been shot out but



Students eating and relaxing in the cafeteria

not yet replaced; I took a couple of books off the shelves, perused them, put them back and stepped back through the non-wall onto the walkway. My official class schedule included classes conducted in "6CODO," the abbreviation for mercenary Bob Denard's Sixieme Commando headquarters building.

The students all said that we had only "professeurs aventuriers" (adventurer professors) because no one else dared come to Kisangani. They agreed that the same could be said of our little student body. They were a great group of guys, fewer than 250 or so, and they came from a number of different countries including Uganda, Cameroun, South Africa, Sudan and others. Campus life was anchored around the evening meal when groups of anglophone and francophone students would amble down from the cafeteria and cluster around radios on the lawn tuned to the BBC and the VOA for the anglophones and Radio Kinshasa, Radio Brazzaville, et alia for the francophones. Fervent discussions about politics, sports and other topics went on for a couple of hours and you could move from group to group if you got bored with the

discussion at your radio cluster. I cherish the memory of those post-meal bull sessions and I can't say I ever found an analog in American campus life.

This was not your everyday US campus experience. Take my fellow Sudanese students, for example; they were mostly Nuer, had Biblical names given them by missionaries like Isaac, Jacob, and Shadrach, and shared a curious pattern of classroom attendance. There were roughly 15-



Central Administration Building with Library, Cafeteria and Classrooms

20 of them there at the beginning of the academic year, yet I saw fewer and fewer of them as the year went on. It turns out that their habit was to enroll, leave a few brothers behind to take class notes, and then walk back through the jungle to southern Sudan to rejoin the Anya Nya in warfare against their northern Sudanese 'arab' enemies. By May and June they started reappearing and I'd see them at midnight under the campus building lights diligently memorizing the notes their more academically dutiful brothers had taken while actually going to class. When final exams were administered many of them passed.

Since my time there UPC has changed dramatically. The university is now located in the capital city of Kinshasa and



Cafeteria cooks preparing dinner

hosts over 8000 students instead of 250. Its role in forming the future leaders of the country is secure. And the starting date for fall classes is no longer determined by the presence or absence of armed mercenaries on campus grounds.

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