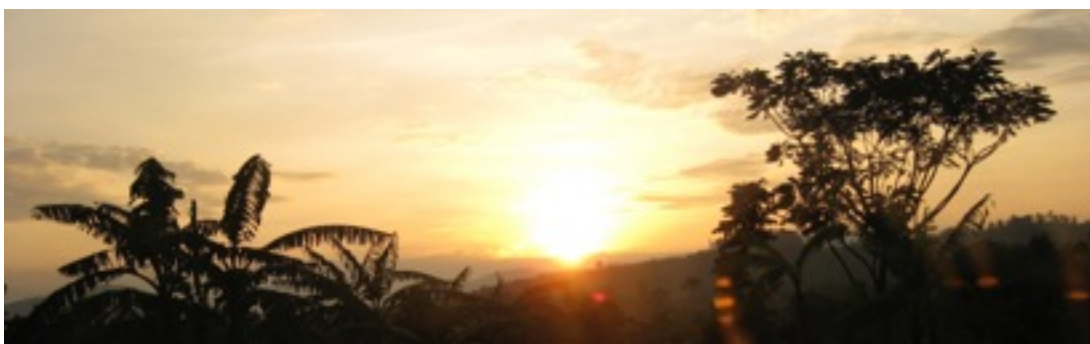# SEED Newsletter : March 2015

(Science Education to Enhance Development)

www.udiworks.org/seed

Greetings from Kanungu, Uganda, where the new SEED Institute building stands without its scaffolding, glowing with warm brick-red paint to match the color of the earth!

One of the things that makes this building such a great achievement is that it has been created by local builders using local materials. All metal windows and doors were made by metalwork students on the College campus and wooden cabinets and benches are now being made by carpentry students. So every part of the building has contributed to the local economy or has increased college students' skills.

On the inside, work continues apace - floors are being tiled, then lab sinks, electrics and cabinets will be installed. Lab benches and stools are already being made in the College workshop.

It is amazing to note that this building has been constructed without the use of any power tools - everything has been and is being done by hand, using local building techniques. Power tools are only used in the College workshop for carpentry and welding.

….but SEED isn't just a building…. What else is happening?

Great Lakes Regional College is now called the Great Lakes Regional University Project as it is in the process of seeking accreditation as a full UNIVERSITY. This is made possible in part by the added space, amenities and staff provided by SEED. The College is hoping for a site visit in April and a decision this summer from the National Council on Higher Education. This will allow Great Lakes to grant its own degrees instead of doing so through Nkumba University in Entebbe.

We have just returned from our fourth visit to Great Lakes and the time was filled with meetings about Curriculum, Hiring teachers, Marketing the program to local schools, Collaborations both local and international, ways to improve the Power supply and wide-ranging discussions about Computers. The e-library will contain computers that are connected either to the internet or the intranet. Did I say internet? Yes - and here's Director Patrick proudly standing in front of Great Lakes' first satellite dish!

A great addition to the SEED personnel are Sam and Pete, an English couple who are living in Kanungu as long-term volunteers with the College and with Volunteer Uganda. Sam is a PhD scientist and Pete a plumbing engineer, both with lots of experience working on projects in developing countries. Their assistance in managing the SEED project and in supporting Patrick in his role as Director is invaluable.

Another very important personnel change is the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor for Great Lakes Regional College as it enters the final phase of applying for accreditation as a university. George Tumwesigye has a doctorate in Business Administration and is the Executive Director of the Graduate Entrepreneurship Institute in Kampala. George is interested in raising the standards at GLRC and will be drawing on his experience in guiding other institutions through the accreditation process.

So what now?

We are hopeful that the SEED Institute will be able to welcome its first class of students in September 2015. In order for that to take place, we need to increase our Future Teacher Fund, the student loan scheme that will enable promising students from poor families to complete their training as secondary school science teachers. Here's what it costs:

Degree students   3 years at $1200 per year
Diploma students   2 years at $600 per year

Please consider helping us to build up this revolving fund which will allow scientific knowledge and principles to be learned and applied across the whole region.

Thank you! Yebare munonga!

from Paul and Jessica Schendel