

SEED Newsletter : December 2014

(Science Education to Enhance Development)

www.udeworks.org/seed



As we enter the holiday season of 2014, we, who are part of the **SEED** program, have many things for which to be thankful, and we anticipate even more exciting things for 2015. We are hoping to welcome our first intake of students to the **SEED Institute** next August. When these students complete their training, they will become the first cohort of teachers who will provide the young people of the region with the opportunity to learn science in secondary school and gain the prerequisites to pursue careers in medicine, agriculture, computer science and engineering.

The Facility

Progress continues on the **SEED Institute** building at Great Lakes College in Kanungu, Uganda! The exterior of the building has now been painted, which provides it with the necessary weatherproofing to protect it from the tropical rains. Over the next six months they will put down a permanent floor to protect the surfaces, construct and install the lab benches, and finish the installation of the utilities.



8,000 sq. ft. **SEED Institute** building



Inside the building, the labs have also been painted and while they wait for benches and equipment to arrive, students are using the spaces for some quiet studying!

The Faculty

More important than the building is the faculty : Patrick Waisswa, Director of the **SEED Institute**, is an experienced physics and math teacher, who is a strong proponent of using the latest techniques of pedagogy to promote the understanding of scientific concepts not just memorization of facts. We have partnered with the Science Teacher-Training Department at Birmingham University in the UK to help Patrick achieve his goal of developing the best science teacher-training program in Uganda. Patrick and one of his colleagues will be spending time in January visiting the program in Birmingham so they can see exactly how science teaching is done in the UK.



Volunteers

We are very excited to announce that, from January onwards, SEED will be benefitting from the expertise of a couple from England who are volunteering their time both to the **SEED Institute** and to the local High School. A retired PhD Biochemist and a retired Engineer respectively, Sam and Pete Nightingale will be immensely helpful in assisting Patrick and his team to make full preparations for the opening of the **Institute** in August. We are grateful in advance for all the ways in which they will help to launch this project.

Announcing the Future Teachers Fund!!!



Our last big hurdle is to make the **SEED Institute** accessible to local students. While the program is inexpensive by our standards, it is still unaffordable for most young Ugandans without help. This Fund will provide the fees for a student to attend the **Institute**, but unlike a scholarship or grant, this money will be loaned with the expectation that it will be paid back as soon as the student is employed as a teacher. As the loan is paid back, the money will be recycled to support the next group of students at the **Institute**.

As you can see, this is a critical time for **SEED**! Your generosity in the past has made it possible to make the progress we have to date. Now we ask once again for your support. We need to have the facilities ready to function by August, we need to hire good faculty before the money is available from tuition and fees to pay their salaries, and we need to have the Future Teachers Fund in place to support our first group of students. As 2014 comes to an end, please consider giving a donation to **SEED** at www.ugandadevelopmentinitiative.org. Your gift to SEED will provide the best kind of help possible for the people of rural Uganda – the gift of skills they can use to build a better life for themselves and their community.

Thank you! Yebare munonga!

from Paul and Jessica Schendel

SEED is a program of Uganda Development Initiative, a 501(c)3. Please check out our website for updates www.ugandadevelopmentinitiative.org

To learn more about Great Lakes Regional College, check out this video produced by Volunteer Uganda, our UK partner : <http://volunteeruganda.org/higher-education>