SEPTEMBER, 2023 ISSUE #2

The LEGACY

NEWSLETTER

The solar -powered cooker:

A sustainable option

Studying at the hill

One woman's determination to educate her children at Makerere

Beckoning women to film and TV production

Solaire Munyana is providing encouragement and opportunities for women in film and TV to become the best they can be in the industry.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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Word from the editor

It is possible that as an alumnus, you were last at Makerere University, two, five or even 10 years ago. If that is the case, you would be pleasantly surprised if you visited, to find out the innovations taking place in the institution. You would be amazed at the stories of people who have dedicated almost half of their lives to working there. You would be inspired by fellow alumni who are not only breaking barriers in their fields but giving back to the institution that contributed so much to who they are.

In this second issue of The *Legacy*, the stories told are not just good to read; they are revealing of the great work being done. We tell of a mother who was unable to complete her education and worked hard to make sure her children made it all the way to the hill. We tell of the exemplary accomplishments the university has made in making the campus friendly for people with disabilities (PWDs). We tell of innovations made by students looking to make their communities better places to live in.

We hope that as you read these stories, you will be reminded of the time you spent studying, making friends and having fun. We hope you will spread the word of all the good things happening at Makerere University. We also hope you will be encouraged to get in touch and share your story with us. That, after all, is one of the main reasons The Legacy exists.

Editor-in-chief
Carol Alyek Beyanga

Uniting **Alumni to ignite change**

A message from the Chairperson, Makerere University Council

Dear Esteemed Makerere Alumni,

Greetings from the heart of our cherished institution! As Chairperson of the Makerere University Council, it gives me immense pleasure to reach out to our illustrious global community through the pages of *The Legacy* e-newsletter. Our shared journey at Makerere has indelibly shaped our lives, and now, as torchbearers of this legacy, I invite you to join hands again in fostering a bright future for our beloved alma mater.

Makerere University has been the cornerstone of our personal and professional growth, enabling us to discover remarkable paths in diverse fields worldwide. We are uniquely positioned to contribute to its enduring success as beneficiaries of the wisdom and knowledge imparted within its hallowed halls.

A call to elevate Makerere's excellence

The passage of time has revealed new challenges and opportunities for Makerere University. The need to adapt to modern academic practices, the quest for continuous groundbreaking research, the aspiration

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You can do Anything!

Dr Maggie Kigozi

A doctor, a sportswoman, and more, Dr Maggie Kigozi has worked at high levels in various organisations and shares that doing so many different things has contributed to who she is.

By Claire Zerida Balungi

Dr. Margaret Blick Kigozi, popularly known as Maggie Kigozi, is acknowledged for her 13-year indelible role as Executive Director of Uganda Investment Authority. She is an inspiration across generations, a trailblazer in commerce and philanthropy, and without a doubt, one of Makerere's outstanding successes. She is also the Chairperson of the Makerere Endowment Fund. She shares with us

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Makerere welcomed me with
a twitter trend

By Mark Wamai

Henry Kiymba Ssuubi was surprised to find out a few days after he arrived at Makerere University that a whole Twitter storm had been raging over his humble entrance into the university. The event transformed his life in many ways and is one he will always remember.

By Mark Wamai

In this second edition of ***The Legacy,*** we talk to Henry Kiyimba Ssuubi, an alumnus who rose to fame in August 2019 when photos of him reporting to Makerere with a metallic suitcase resulted in cyberbullying. As fate would have it, rather than break him, cyberbullying instead opened so many doors for opportunity. Henry Kiyimba Ssuubi successfully completed his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and is currently undertaking an internship at

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Solaire Munyana

Beckoning More Women to Film and TV Production

Having seen the challenges that women in film and TV face, both behind the camera and in front of it, one woman is working to provide them encouragement, inspiration and opportunities to become the best they can be in the industry.

By Solaire Munyana

"When the roots are deep, there is no reason to fear the wind." ~ African proverb

"Your next draft will be better than your first." I cannot remember when I first heard those words but I'm sure it was during one of our Mass Communication lectures at Makerere University between the years 2000 and 2003. As a film and TV producer, I would fall back on these words time and time again when it came to writing scripts, editing videos, or interviewing guests on a show.

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Inclusion

Makerere moves towards PWD inclusion

Building for the future also means taking bold steps towards inclusion of PWDs

In previous years, PWDs who joined Makerere University did not find their way around easily. The story is however changing drastically, for the better, with the numerous changes the university has made in order to support the PWDs.

Sara Namusoga-Kaale

A winding ramp runs along the side of the entire Frank Kalimuzo and Yusuf Lule Central Teaching Facilities. Round and round you go, until you reach the last floor of the buildings. The ramps were a rare sight in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when I was a student at Makerere University. I always wondered how students who made use of wheelchairs to move around managed to navigate staircases.

A thriving Makerere University Endowment Fund will ensure infrastructural modernisation, vital for an enriched learning environment. Updated lecture halls, state-of-the-art laboratories, and contemporary

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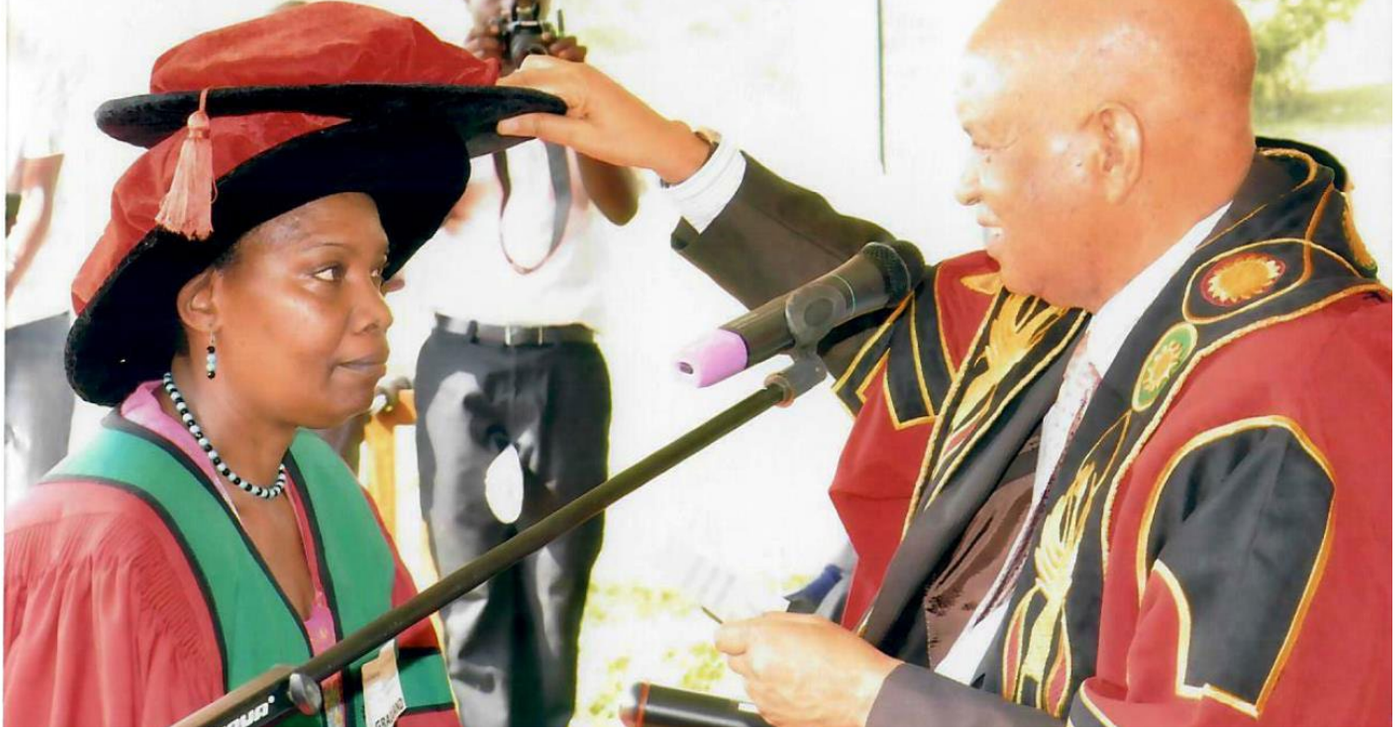
Alumni profile

Makerere, my life and career springboard

Prof. Helen Byamugisha



Even though she had studied for a degree in Bachelor of Science, Associate Professor Helen Byamugisha found herself working in the Makerere library, a place she grew to love and work for 29 years.

By Mark Wamai

Imagine joining an institution as a student in your late teens, securing a job immediately after completing your undergraduate degree and proceeding to work there in various managerial roles for close to 44 years until your retirement. Amazing, right? Well, that's the story of Associate Professor Helen Byamugisha's career at Makerere University, whose service she joined in 1979 soon after completing her Bachelor of Science (Botany/ Zoology) and officially left on 30th June 2023 at the age of 67.

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A guide to dating at campus

By Agatha Christine Akello

While many are keen to explore freedoms of many kinds once they get to university, there is a need to find a balance between what you want to get and what you need to get once you become a student at the hill.

Let me tell you what my campus dating experience actually was versus my imaginative expectations! Remember that jam by Dr. Hilderman, in which he sang, "Campus girl oh oh, the way you move, everybody go oh oh…."? Well, I thought I would be able to find a way to get money and any other goods I wanted from

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Graduating from Makerere fulfilled our mother's education dream

My mother, Riziki Abdalla Katende, a second generation Ugandan, was born into a Muslim family in 1959. My great grandparents immigrated to Uganda from the Comoros and Pakistan, where they had my grandparents, who later had Mother. As such, she was brought up in a Swahili/ Indian culture infused with Islam. In this highly patriarchal setting, there were more education opportunities for the

By Asmahaney Saad

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Kikumi Kikumi - when food around campus was so cheap

By Claire Zerida Balungi

On the eastern periphery of Makerere University rests a small village with a name that has amused you once, at least when you first heard it. With all its generational flaws of over-enduring makeshift canteens and salons forcibly fitted with student rentals, Kikumi Kikumi excelled at providing the most affordable eateries around Makerere in the 90s and early 2000s. Out and through the university has walked many a student whose dining experience was terrifically transformed by the

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Makerere's Tek Sports:
A weapon against NCDs

The scary experience of seeing his friends lose limbs or die because of non communicable diseases has seen one man start a sports and exercise community to help people lead healthier lives.

By Jill Ainebyoona

The university working environment poses challenges for students, lecturers and administrators due to their busy schedules and sedentary lifestyle.

Eric Tumwesigye, a gender and development specialist in the Gender Mainstreaming Directorate at the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University, faced this reality when he saw a friend's limb amputated due to diabetes, and other colleagues dying due to cardiac arrest.

The nature of such Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) that affect people so silently they have no idea what is happening frustrated him and so in January

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The Makerere Main Library
— a monumental research treasure

By Ritah Kalendera

One-hundred-and-one-year-old Makerere University boasts of a number of historical buildings at its main campus that include the Ivory Tower and the different halls of residence among others. Famed for her groundbreaking research in different fields of science and the humanities,

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Impacting communities through mushroom farming

Having been given a chance to support himself and others, one alumnus has found a way to give back to the community using agriculture.

By Jill Ainebyoona

Myres is among 87 students who graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism and Communication at Makerere University, during the 71st graduation ceremony which happened in May 2021. Although he is proud of the degree he studied and graduating in the field of journalism, he now finds himself doing something rather different.

Currently, Ndyabawe spends most of his time in Kabuga Town Council, Kamwenge District, creating a mushroom-growing community project in Kabuga village, 12 km from Kamwenge town. This story started back in Kampala, on the hill in Makerere University.

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A walk down memory lane with the Makerere

journalism class of 1994

It has been 29 years ever since Isaac Kalembe joined Makerere University to study Mass Communication, but the memories of his sharp-witted lecturers, friendly coursemates and indelible lessons are still vivid today.

By Isaac Kalembe

It's almost three decades since we joined the Ivory Tower – as Makerere University was (and still is) known. The "we" here refers to the Mass Communication intake – the seventh since that prestigious course was introduced in 1988.

Indeed, Mass Communication was one of a handful prestigious courses at MUK (Makerere University, Uganda), though sadly now MAK (Makerere University, Kampala) after Moi University, Nairobi pipped the Ivory Tower to ownership rights of MUK

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The gifted surgeon whose trademark is humility

While Dr Olivia Kituuka Kisubi has many achievements to her name, she stresses that one must always remember the value of life, how to keep connected with people and not forget what it is to be human.

By Charlotte Kawesa Ntulume

Please give us a peek at who Dr. Olivia Kituuka Kisubi is – the person, her family, professional life and achievements?

I am a mother of three boys and one girl. The major influences in my life are God, family and friends. I love to take long walks with my husband, as it gives us an opportunity to connect and keep fit. I am a surgeon attached to and heading the Upper Gastrointestinal Unit in the Department of Surgery at Mulago Hospital and a lecturer in the Department of Surgery at Makerere University College of Health Sciences. I have been

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Kiira Motors Corporation - A classroom innovation gone right

What started as a student-focused extracurricular activity ended up growing into what we now have as Kiira Motors Corporation, an innovation that has got the country interested in its success.

By Tuhirirwe Karane

In the heart of Uganda, nestled within the vibrant campus of Makerere University, a remarkable journey began in 2008. It was a journey fueled by innovation, ambition, and the relentless pursuit of a dream—the dream of pioneering an automotive revolution on the African continent.

Turin had hosted the Vehicle Design Summit (VDS), a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) extracurricular initiative, from 22nd September to 24th November, 2008, with the goal of designing and producing the Vision

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Her Royal Highness, Nnabagereka Sylvia Nagginda, the Queen of Buganda noted during the Sara Ntiro Annual Public Lecture, that Ntiro's impact has been far-reaching and inspired generations of women to break barriers, an example that should be followed.

By Immaculate Bazira, Nashiba Nakalyango and Mark Wamai

Makerere University has for many years worked towards ensuring it caters for equity and gender equality throughout the institution. No wonder the Gender Equality Policy was instituted in 2009 to mainstream gender in unit and management structures. This policy signaled the importance that Makerere places on gender issues in relation to its vision, mission, and core values.

As with all global causes, the fight for equity and gender equality in Uganda has had a number of faces worth celebrating, most notably Sara Nyendwoha Ntiro. In this spirit, a second historic tribute, known as The Sara Ntiro Annual Public Lecture, was held on 31st August, 2023 at Makerere University. The event served as a reminder of the progress made by Makerere University since 1945, when the college, then, opened its doors to the first female students, breaking long-held gender barriers. As one of the

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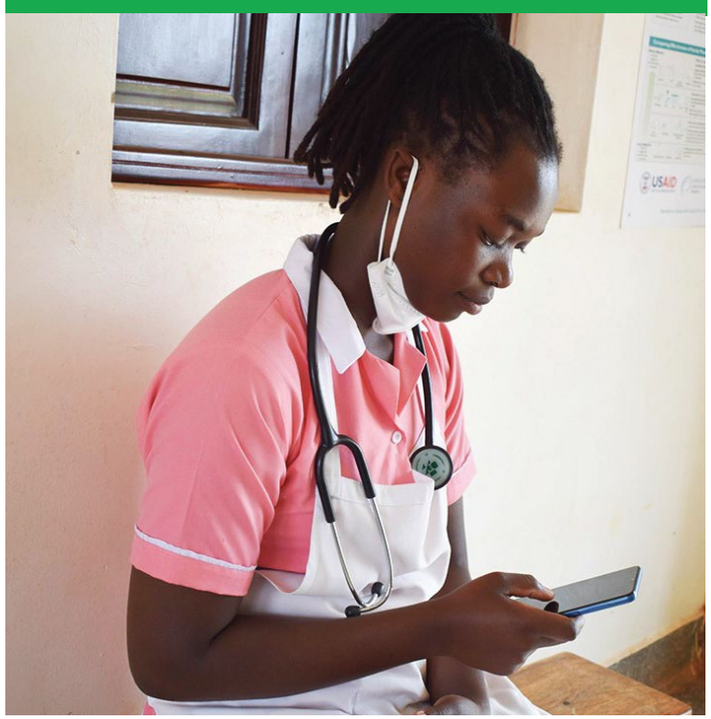
Makerere leading research on digital payments for health workers in Sub-Saharan Africa



The project which received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation aims to generate evidence on how digital payments can motivate campaign health workers

By Judith Grace Amoit

In an initiative aimed at improving efficiency in healthcare delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa, Makerere University School of Public Health has embarked on a project to digitize the payment system for campaign health workers.

Inspired by the need to accelerate the digital payments agenda in the region, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in alignment with the Global Strategy for Digital Health, awarded a grant to Makerere University. The grant, under the project titled "Digital Health Payment Initiative and Research in Africa Project (DHPI-R)", seeks to generate robust evidence on the efficacy of digital payments for campaign health workers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For years, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have invested heavily in immunization campaigns to bolster population immunity against Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs). However, these campaigns are fraught with complexities and challenges, including limited access to immunization services, delays in compensating frontline healthcare workers, and the recent disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

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Makerere solar-powered cooker, a friendly and more sustainable option

The cooker that was put together by a lecturer and students at the university is a testament to the importance of innovation .

By Aaron Oguttu

In a remarkable display of ingenuity and environmental consciousness, students from Makerere University's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) unveiled a groundbreaking invention that could potentially reshape

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MUBS graduate empowering youth one scrub at a time

What started as a tweet offering cleaning services ended up becoming a full-time business.

By Tiffany Uwimana

Joy Christine Turamuhawe did not imagine she would ever own a cleaning company. Today, just a year after graduating from Makerere University Business School, she is the owner of Cjay Home Solutions, a company that offers cleaning services for commercial and residential premises.

Her business, Cjay – a portmanteau of Christine and Joy – was born out of a twitter post where she casually talked about offering cleaning services. When the post gained

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Coding my way to clean cities
- Martin Tumusiime

When a young man saw how waste was poorly disposed of in the community he lived, he knew he had to come up with a solution. A couple of years later, Yo-Waste was born.

By Claire Zerida Balungi

Poor waste disposal is not just an environmental injustice on moral grounds. It elicits consequences far beyond our ordinary imagination as it advances the effects of climate change.

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Class Notes

At the Makerere University Endowment Fund, we value you, the alumni and would like to know where you are today. We want to feature you in The Legacy, so we invite you to send in your "class notes" to be published in our next issue.

Olivia Juliet Nalubwama

Using my voice: The Tayaad Muzzukulu

My name is Olivia Nalubwama Juliet. I completed studying for a Bachelor of Mass Communication degree in 2003 and I was a non-resident attached to CCE (Complex Hall). Upon graduation, I was brimming with ideas on how public relations and creative writing would deliver the world to my feet. A few years later, it dawned on me that world domination required more study. Thanks to the Chevening scholarship, I undertook an MA in African Peace and Conflict Studies, at the University of Bradford (UK). This study allowed me to combine two passions: politics and Africa. Later, I worked with the U.S. Embassy in Kampala as a political assistant where I saw firsthand how foreign policy is implemented. That experience empowered my voice. Today, I am a writer, a political and social affairs commentator. Check out the Tayaad Muzzukulu in The Observer newspaper every Wednesday.breaking long-held gender barriers. As one of the pioneers following this landmark move, Sara

Read more

The *Legacy* to keep Makerere University alumni connected

A creation of the Makerere University Endowment Fund, The Legacy exists to connect alumni, share opportunities for further advancement and keep them updated on what the institution is doing.

By John Tatyamisa

The 400,000-strong Makerere University alumni can finally connect with their alma mater through a quarterly e-newsletter aptly named The Legacy, published under the auspices of the Makerere University Endowment Fund (MakEF).

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In Memoriam

Justice Arach Amoko upheld the judicial oath

"She rose through the ranks due to her diligence and intelligence, until her appointment to the Judicial Service Commission, a position she held until her demise." Her Worship, Stella Pacual pays tribute to a mother, she says was an exemplary person..

By Jill Ainebyoona and Karane Tuhirirwe

Makerere University and the entire country will miss Justice Stella Arach

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Keith Muhakanizi had Makerere at heart

Even while studying at Makerere University, Keith Muhakanizi was often bold and shared his opinions without fear, a trait he would carry throughout his life.

By Jill Ainebyoona

Keith Muhankanizi, one of Makerere's greatest alumni, will always be remembered for his immense contribution towards the university's financial stability and the country's economic

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