

# ANNUAL REPORT

1996-1997

Another successful year has come and gone. Since its formation almost five years ago FOMAC has grown and matured as an organization and experience along the way has provided some useful lessons. Throughout this evolution the organization's goals and challenges have remained constant: to promote the advancement of education primarily at Makerere and to promote the advancement of education at other schools of learning in Uganda, Africa and elsewhere. To achieve these goals, FOMAC continually seeks to improve upon its ability to communicate effectively with friends and alumni of Makerere and to put into effect activities that support the university and also raise its profile.

The past year has witnessed a number of interesting events some of which are reflected in this report. Readers should feel free to get in touch if they require additional information.

**FOMAC'S FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** The members of FOMAC met in an assembly in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1996 and accomplished a tremendous amount to move the organization forward. One of the highlights was the adoption of a series of amendments to the General By-Laws in order to make FOMAC eligible

for incorporation and for registration as a charity under the Canadian law.

Among the improvements to the constitution are:

- A concise and deliberate Mission Statement
- A more focused Statement of Aims and Objectives
- A better defined role of the Executive Committee
- More concise Rules and Procedures for Meetings
- An improved procedure for the amendment to the Constitution and the Winding up of the organization.

In his usual articulate and effective manner the President presented his vision of FOMAC and described his style of leadership as being guided by the *TARA principle* (Transparency, Accountability, Reliability and Activity). Dr.

Olweny committed himself to making FOMAC a dynamic contributor in the reconstruction of Makerere and in the search for solutions to Africa's social development issues. He stressed, however, that Makerere could not achieve its stated goals without financial and material resources and therefore urged members and friends around the world to step up their support for FOMAC.

The assembly, which met at the University Women's Club of Winnipeg, showed its approval of FOMAC's performance by re-electing the Executive Committee *en bloc*. The Executive is accordingly composed as follows:

Dr. Charles L M Olweny	Chairperson / President
Mr. Shakib Mbabaali	Secretary
Mr. Peter Luzige	Treasurer
Mr. Wilson Okwenje	Coordinator

Mr. James Kasule

Committee Member

Mr. Norman Coghlan

Committee Member

Subsequently the following were co - opted:

Dr. Sultan Baloo, Dr. Praful Patel, Dr. Edmund Mupondwa, Dr. Gregorie Nyomba and Mrs. Phoebe Olweny.

Mr. Jack Truman was re-appointed Auditor.

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY PRESS: AN UPDATE Vigorous exchanges have taken place between FOMAC, Makerere and the consultant Mr. Ian Montagnes of Toronto, which should result in the fruition of the project. A formal contract has been signed with the consultant; he has drawn up a list of 69 "leading questions" relevant to the establishment of a commercially viable University Press, all calculated to assist and guide the Makerere Editorial Board in preparation for the consultant's visit. The visit itself was arranged for end of May, 1997, but was postponed to August in order to give Makerere more time to prepare. Meanwhile embryonic publication has occurred at Makerere but enormous resources are required to make the products marketable nationally and internationally, hence the urgency of this project. Scholars are nonetheless encouraged to submit their manuscripts for consideration.

## NEWS FROM MAKERERE

More encouraging developments have occurred lately at the University, according to Dr. Olweny who has visited the university twice in the recent past. Among the positives:

- Clear evidence of the rehabilitation of the infrastructure and the physical plant
- Adoption of a Strategic Plan to the year 1999, which emphasizes four main goals:
  - a) academic development, research, planning and staffing
  - b) rational space utilization
  - c) funding
  - d) governance
- An increase in the student population to 14,000, and a high intake of private fee - paying students. The goal is to raise a higher proportion of the revenue from non-governmental sources.
- Establishment of an Alumni Office and a Consultancy Bureau.

## FOMA CHAPTER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Clem Kiire has informed FOMAC that a chapter of Friends of Makerere has now been formally registered and established in the United Kingdom. It is to be launched officially soon and the President of FOMAC has been invited to attend. This is a welcome development and we wish Dr. Kiire and his associates every success.

MAKERERE / UNIV. OF MANITOBA COLLABORATION The University of Manitoba is willing to enter into a collaborative relationship with Makerere. At the initiative of FOMAC informal discussions have taken place with the University of Manitoba authorities and both the University's President & Vice Chancellor, Dr. Szathmary and

the Vice President International, have undertaken to identify specific areas that could benefit both universities through a collaborative effort. In fact had the Makerere Vice Chancellor visited Manitoba as originally expected in November 1996, a Memorandum of Understanding would have been considered and probably signed. Certainly Makerere stands to benefit from the extensive resources of Manitoba's premier university.

### DR. KAGOMA' S PROJECT

Dr. Peter Kagoma of Brantford, Ontario, is continuing, under the auspices of FOMAC, with his project to aid both Makerere and Mbarara universities. He was in Uganda again early 1997 and visited both institutions and delivered much needed laboratory equipment. He hopes to expand the project in due course by extending materials and supplies to community health centers in Uganda. In this endeavor he will be assisted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, Ontario, with whom he is in consultation. FOMAC will provide all the support necessary.

### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Apparently FOMAC upstaged everyone involved with Makerere by initiating activities to commemorate the institution's 75<sup>th</sup> year of existence (1922-1997). To this end fund raising type activities were planned by the Executive including the production of a commemorative copper key ring and an anniversary mug. However, the one activity that took off with flair was the Gala Dinner held in the Wellington Ball Room at the

Lombard Hotel in Winnipeg on November 16, 1996. As far as FOMAC's calendar goes, this was the event of the year.

Among well over 200 guests were some of Canada's prominent political and academic figures. They included the guest speaker, the Right Honorable Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada and his wife Maureen McTeer; the Premier of Manitoba, the Hon. Gary Filmon and his wife Janice Filmon; the President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Manitoba Dr. Eموke Szathmary and her spouse Dr. George Reilly; the Chancellor of Brandon University Dr. Kevin Kavanagh and his wife Els Kavanagh. In attendance and offering the Grace was the Hon. Pearl McGonigal, former Lt. Governor of Manitoba and her spouse Mr. Norman Coghlan, who is also a member of the Executive. Dr. Karen Minden, Vice President, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, moved a vote of thanks.

There were friends and alumni from other Canadian cities, including Dr. Steve and Christine Lwanga from Regina, Saskatchewan; Dr. Seggaane Musisi and Nakanyike Musisi from Toronto; Dr. Sultan Baloo from Vancouver, British Columbia. The event attracted professionals and business people as well as others from different walks of life. As the Premier of Manitoba was heard to remark, the ball room included "who is who" in the world of medicine in Winnipeg, thanks largely to the influence of our own Dr. Charles Olweny.

The event took a great deal of collective effort to organize and clearly the results were worth it. While a modest profit was realized, the greater and more enduring good was the heightened public awareness of the

educational needs of Africa generally and Uganda in particular; the historic contribution of Makerere to African development and FOMAC's programs and aspirations.

## FORMER PRIME MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS ON AFRICA

While the 200 guests at the Jubilee Gala Dinner supped on cream of wild rice and mushroom soup, tossed salad gourmet, chicken breast stuffed with couscous and washed it down with Canadian Mission Hill wine, Joe Clark, the former Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, was composing his thoughts on the challenges faced by Africa. The subject of his address was *"Universities as Developmental Institutions."*

Drawing on his vast knowledge of the global situation, Mr. Clark reflected on the challenges of ever growing demands on universities with the realities of the new world order. He paid tribute to Makerere and described it as an extraordinary institution which served Africa, education and human development for three quarters of a century and is now ready for an even more important role at an even more critical time in Africa. He described Makerere's assets as:

- Its reputation and high standing in Africa
- Its international reputation
- Being at the right place at the right time.

Mr. Clark stressed the need for excellence and leadership in Africa and suggested that such leadership can only flow from institutions of highest

quality such as Makerere which he described as "the light in the window of Africa."

## UGANDAN FLAVOUR

FOMAC prides itself in the endeavor to expose Ugandan culture to the outside world whenever opportunity presents itself, thus giving Makerere an appropriate context. In this connection the Winnipeg Jubilee event witnessed the enthusiastic singing of the Ugandan National Anthem, alongside that of Canada and the prominent display of the National flag. The presents to the chief guests - Mr. Clark, Mr. Filmon, and Dr. Szathmary, were rare pieces of art by the Ugandan artist David Kibuka of Toronto who is himself a product of the Makerere School of Fine Art. Mr. Clark received a framed limited edition of the "FLUTE". Unfortunately, a cultural performance by the Ugandan youth had to be called off due to lack of space.

## FOMAC AWARDS

A number of Alumni and Friends have responded positively to the call to support Makerere. As of June 1997 those who have received the most distinguished award of BUILDER are: Mr. Norman Coghlan and Professor Ali Mazrui (Honorary). Those who have achieved the status of FOUNDER are: Dr. Seggane Musisi of Toronto, Dr. Ramnabhai C. Patel of Gemli, Manitoba, Dr. Deborah Dudgeon of Winnipeg and Dr. Charles Olweny. Those who have qualified for the status of SPONSOR are: Dr. C. C. Patel, and Dr. C. Vogel, both of USA, Dr. Praful Patel of Winnipeg, Dr.



Jane Banfield of York University, Ontario, Dr. Stuart Macleod of McMaster University, Ontario, and Dr. McLeod Chitiyo of Harare, Zimbabwe. Several of the recipients were presented with their awards at the Gala Dinner.

FOMAC continues to appeal to all alumni and friends of Makerere to give their support.

### **FOMAC PRESIDENT PROFILED**

A rare media boost occurred to FOMAC in January 1997 when the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Manitoba's leading daily newspaper, profiled the President of FOMAC, Dr. Charles Olweny. Devoting an entire page in its Sunday Life issue of January 5, the *Free Press* wrote " the Nomadic Medic world-renowned cancer researcher fled dictator Amin, now looks at helping out his old alma mater."

Journalist Nick Martin was clearly fascinated by Dr. Olweny's career in Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Australia and now Canada and his achievements in medicine, in the face of tremendous odds. In the course of Question and Answer, Makerere's past and present were explored and the efforts of Dr. Olweny and his Committee to raise Makerere's profile and mobilize resources were underscored. He was able to convey a vision of an organization which is committed to effective development work. We thank the *Free Press* for the publicity.

THE UGANDA NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION FOMAC participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Uganda North American Convention held at the International Plaza Hotel in Etobicoke, Toronto, Ontario, from August 30 to September 2, 1996. FOMAC maintained a display table, distributed brochures and answered a multitude of questions on the organization and its activities. FOMAC president delivered the keynote address to the Convention on the topic "*Ugandans in Diaspora: Strategies for Survival.*" The next Convention will convene in Washington DC. USA and the theme will be "Education".

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Audited Accounts for 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 are appended.