

ANNUAL REPORT

1997/1998

Several decades ago Makerere, the only university in East Africa at the time, was considered the absolute source of enlightenment, the engine of growth, and the agent of equality in East Africa. It was showered with money by governments and its students were awarded generous bursaries and scholarships. The perception then was that greater investment of public funds in higher education would lead to faster economic and social development.

Today, as we approach the twenty - first century, the story is different. Universities face unprecedented challenges. Cash strapped national governments, faced with rising costs and declining revenues, have been obliged to radically alter course and to curtail expenditures in higher education. Makerere has been a major loser in the process. Furthermore, today's political leadership appears not to share the earlier optimistic notion of the role of universities. They are skeptical and cynical toward institutions of higher learning. Emphasis now appears to be focused on universal primary education and even funding agencies like the World Bank seem to support this policy. Therefore, Makerere, like other universities in East Africa, is in danger of losing not only income but also influence. In fact it is forced to defend and justify its very existence. It has been forced to look anew at fiscal management, cut costs, set new priorities and seek supplementary funding from other sources, mostly the private sector and increased student fees.

That is where alumni associations like FOMAC come in. They can play a crucial role in fund raising. As experience in North America has shown alumni associations, if well organized and coordinated, can be a powerful source of resources and can help improve the flow of funds and keep a financially troubled university going. For example special

reciprocal arrangements could be made allowing Makerere graduates to donate outside their country while claiming a tax deduction.

FOMAC has attempted to play a role and will in future continue to seek ways of involving and motivating Makerere's alumni, parents and friends who are scattered around the globe, to organize themselves, donate, pledge gifts and contact corporate sponsors, in the interests of Makerere.

Meanwhile, to the skeptics who wonder whether and why the state ought to sink more public funds into Makerere's and other universities' development, we quote here the wise words of Dr. Eموke Szathmary, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Manitoba:

"Universities have long been keepers of the flame of culture and civilization, allowing societies to preserve, pass on and advance knowledge. Since the Second World War, universities have taken on a role as economic engines, helping societies become more productive and prosperous. They do this by producing the commodity that is most in demand in today's economy: knowledge.

"Universities fuel the economy (of a nation) in two major ways: students leave their alma maters with new skills and understanding and researchers on campus push back the frontiers of knowledge. Graduates of universities create new jobs and prosperity when they create new enterprises or use their new abilities to make existing enterprises more effective."

Makerere with its 75 years of solid history deserves a vibrant alumni association if it is to meet the challenges of the twenty—first century.

"FRIENDS" VISIBILITY EXTENDED

During the last twelve months three chapters of Friends of Makerere have been formally established and we are happy to welcome them into the fold. The national chapter in the United Kingdom - FOMUK - was inaugurated on May 24,1997, in London. It was blessed with the presence of some ex - Makerere stalwarts, such as Margaret McPherson, Michael Hutt, Hugh Dinwiddy, Murray Baker, Kihumba

Thairu, and Eliphaz Odeke. Representing FOMAC was its President Dr. Charles Olweny, who presented a paper on the subject, "*University Education in Africa*" Among other things, Dr. Olweny underscored the significance of the London venue since Makerere had been linked to and guided by the University of London for almost sixteen years starting in 1949 until the establishment of the University of East Africa in 1965. Currently Dr. Clem Kiire is the Secretary of the chapter. Dr. George Kirya, the Ugandan High Commissioner in London, is President.

In Ontario, Canada, a chapter was formed on November 15, 1997, following a number of inquiries and exchanges with FOMAC in Winnipeg. The Province of Ontario has the largest concentration of African Canadians as well as other Canadians who have considerable linkages with education in Africa. It was only logical therefore that the formation of a "Friends" chapter outside of Manitoba would occur in Ontario sooner rather than later.

On that special November day apparently the spirit of the "Hill" was not lost to the large numbers who braved the wintry conditions to attend. They engaged in bowling competitions as they represented the various halls of residence at Makerere, they had bull roasting and played the game of "matatu," etc. as a prelude to the inaugural assembly meeting. At the meeting, the President of FOMAC made a presentation on "*The Role of Alumni in University Development*" in which he encouraged and urged the members to push forward with their objective. He stressed that the alumni constituted the most valuable resource in the life and function of any university. The alumni played an important advocacy role and participated in the mobilization of resources. Since Makerere's alumni occupied high profile positions in both the public and private sectors in various countries, they had a unique advantage to access resources and to provide information as well as advice on the critical issues affecting development. Another speaker at the assembly, Dr. Peter Kagoma elucidated on his Hospital Project in Uganda, which is facilitated by FOMAC.

The following were elected to lead the Ontario chapter:

Mr. Jones Mugulusi	-President
Ms Sarah Lubega	- Secretary
Mr. Edgar Mutungi	- Coordinator
Ms Tappy Zirintusa	- Treasurer
Ms Persi Kavuma	- Committee Member
Mr. Louis Kizito	- Committee Member

Among those who observed the proceedings was the then Ugandan Minister of Education Mr. Amana Mushega, who was in Toronto on a private visit. The Ontario chapter is already up and running and is in the process of formalizing registration. ,.... *

The Canadian city with the second largest number of Ugandan Canadians as well as Makerere alumni is Vancouver, Preliminary contacts have been made with Dr. Sultan Baloo (formerly a FOMAC Executive member in Winnipeg but now a resident of Vancouver) as well as Professor Sultan Karim. It is anticipated that some kind of organization will emerge.

Although there is no formal word yet, it is understood that a chapter has been established Down Under and that the new President of the "Friends" in Australia is Professor Phil Neck of Southern Cross University. Professor Neck is the Honorary Consul for Uganda and has strong ties to Makerere.

What about Kampala? Well, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Seggane Musisi and Dorothy Rubaihayo Okello, there might soon be a "Friends" Office at Makerere itself. Those two active members of FOMAC have had some discussions with the Vice Chancellor Professor John Ssebuwufu. The Vice Chancellor and the University administration have agreed to provide an office and basic equipment as soon as possible. FOMAC will offer an honorarium for the services of a Coordinator who will not only act as the contact person in Uganda but also coordinate alumni affairs worldwide.

We look forward to exciting times and increased activities through these centers and thank all those whose untiring efforts have made it possible.

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

The Partnership that came into being in July 1997 and which was reported upon in the Quarterly Newsletter of October 1997 has already taken shape. Linking FOMAC with Makerere and Mbarara Universities as well as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton International Outreach Program (CCT-IOP), with the participation of McMaster University, the Partnership has the objective of working collaboratively for the needs of the people of Uganda in the areas of health and education. An affiliation agreement has been drawn up and awaits the signatures of all the parties; a shipping container with educational equipment and supplies has been sent and has arrived in Kampala. As well a request has been forwarded to the Minister of Finance of Uganda requesting a waiver of customs dues on future donated educational materials.

Furthermore, under this partnership arrangement, Dr. Peter Kagoma Consultant Haematologist at Brantford, Ontario paid a two-week visit to Makerere and Mbarara Medical Schools in January 1998. He gave lectures to both graduate and undergraduate classes. Dr. Kagoma is in the third year of this project and the Deans of both Medical Schools have been requested to give their evaluation as host institutions.

As well, Dr. Stuart MacLeod of McMaster University visited Makerere in April 1998 and had useful discussions with both the Vice Chancellor and the Head of the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical School.

FOMAC ESTABLISHES A CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

FOMAC has established a Career Development Award, the purpose of which is to enable a department or faculty at either Makerere or Mbarara engage graduate student(s) with a view to attracting the individual(s) to full time faculty position(s) in the future. It will be reviewed each year.

For the current year, the award was targeted to the Department of Pharmacology at Makerere. Following consultations with the Dean of the Medical School and the Head, Department of Pharmacology,

interviews were conducted in which FOMAC was represented. The candidates selected were Dr. John Barugahara, and Dr. Celestino Obua. Both are M Sc. Pharmacology students. The award is worth a total of US\$5000(five thousand) per annum for two years.

PROFESSOR MACPHERSON REVISTS MAKERERE

At the request of FOMAC, Professor Margaret McPherson, the erstwhile don and ardent supporter of FOMAC, returned to her former campus on a mission. The purpose was to assist with some groundwork and clear some log jams connected with the project to establish an academic publishing house. FOMAC is entirely convinced about the need and value of the project but also recognizes the problems associated with the establishment and operation of a viable press under the existing conditions.

Professor McPherson with her usual keen eye for detail and subtlety was able to review the situation through extensive interactions. She conferred with the Vice Chancellor, the Central Executive, the Editorial Board chaired by Dr. Abidi, and the Advisory Committee chaired by Professor Mugerwa as well as the heads of various institutions and commercial companies. She also met with the Directors of the University Printer and the Institute of Teacher Education at Kyambogo.

We are grateful to Professor McPherson for undertaking the assignment. We believe that her findings have contributed to the better understanding of the issues and will assist the Consultant as he embarks on the substantive task of reviewing the project and preparing a feasibility study, now expected before the end of 1998.

NEWS FROM MAKERERE

Makerere celebrated its Platinum Jubilee with pomp and ceremony and with a very high level Tanzanian participation. There was a fundraising walk and a glittering dinner dance at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala on October 7, 1997. The principal guest was the President of Tanzania, the Honorable Mr. Ben Mkapa, himself an alumnus. He donated \$10,000 towards the University Library. The former President of Tanzania, also an ex- Makererian, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, concluded the commemorative activities with a public lecture delivered on January 23,

1998. By all accounts the 25th anniversary was successfully observed, even if it was long on ceremony and short on cash.

The propagation of "free markets" and globalization will feature prominently at Makerere following the establishment recently of a Business School through the merger of the Uganda National College of Business and the Makerere Faculty of Commerce. According to the Ugandan Minister of State for Education, the move was necessary so as "to improve the delivery of business education."

MISCELLANEOUS

One of FOMAC'S Founders, Dr. Seggane Musisi, has just concluded an assignment at the Makerere Medical School as a visiting Lecturer in Psychiatry under the United Nations Development Program known as TOKTEN. Dr. Musisi was involved in the identification and interview of the candidates for the FOMAC Career Development Award and acted as a liaison while in Kampala.

Dr. Joyce Nsubuga, a physician working with the Ontario Government, Canada, requested and received a collaborative status from FOMAC in connection with a project in rural health which she plans to carry out in the Districts of Mpigi and Mubende. Dr. Nsubuga was recently in Uganda and her report is awaited with interest.

Mr. Shakib Mbabaali, former Secretary of FOMAC, left Winnipeg recently to take up an assignment with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Rome. We wish him success.

THE FIFTH AGM OF FOMAC

The Annual General Meeting of FOMAC took place on October 5, 1997, at the University Women's Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Annual Executive Report and the Annual Financial Report for the period 1996 / 1997 were tabled, discussed, and finally approved.

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, elections were held and the following were elected:

Dr. Charles L M Olweny	President / Chairman
Mr. Yunus Lubega	Secretary
Mr. Peter Luzige	Treasurer
Mr. Wilson Okwenje	Coordinator
Mr. Norman Coghlan	Committee Member
Mr. James Kasule	Committee Member

Mr. Jack Trueman CA was re-appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 1997 /1998

AN APPEAL

Every year at this time we thank all who have helped FOMAC through their donations, membership fees or other means. Their support is greatly appreciated. However, as you all know the needs of Makerere and education in Uganda remain huge. We ask every one to chip in. All donations in excess of \$20 (twenty) are tax deductible to Canadian donors. Appropriate plaques recognize special donations of \$500 and above. **CALLING GENEROUS ALUMNI OUT THERE!** We need your support, corporate donations, gifts or bequests.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports for fiscal 1997 / 1998 are appended.

