Kiswahili speakers say, kidole kinaja hakivunji chawe, translated to mean, ‘a single finger does not kill a louse.’ This saying emphasizes the necessity of joint action. From the beginning of the dream of a Jesuit University of Eastern Africa (JUEA), we have seen the power of teamwork. While a lot still remains to be done, we have come a long way and are deeply indebted to all who have contributed and continue to give of themselves in growing the JUEA dream, one step at a time.

We acknowledge all our partners, friends and family members for their continued support, walking with us and sharing their invaluable insights and resources. With each new day, we move closer to realizing the JUEA dream.

We are grateful for your feedback on past issues of this newsletter. It is our ongoing hope and prayer that we will continue to inform, share, call to action and elicit support from friends, family, relatives, partners and collaborators. Asante Sana (thank you so much) for your support!

God bless you.

CELEBRATING JUEA’S DREAM PARTNER

The Eastern Africa Jesuits and the JUEA team celebrate the life of Prof. Tom Bausch who returned to the Lord on July 17, 2013. Tom depicted depth in Ignatian spirituality and wanted it known by others.

“He enjoyed hosting visitors and Bernie (his wife) was always welcoming,” Odour Afulo, S.J. says in memory of Tom and his family.

The JUEA team acknowledges Tom, a dream partner in the vision for a Jesuit University in Eastern Africa. In 2010, Tom participated in a preliminary feasibility study and helped develop the initial business plan of JUEA. He is remembered as a generous person with a large heart. Tom, R.I.P.

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WALKING TOGETHER: JUEA AND GROUP ICAM TEAMS VISIT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

By Cedric G. Asiavugwa, S.J.

If you want to walk fast, walk alone; but if you want to walk far, walk together,” says a common Burkinabe proverb.
The wisdom in this proverb inspired the ‘walking together’ of the proposed Jesuit University of Eastern Africa (JUEA) team and representatives of its partners from Group ICAM (Institut Catholique d’Arts et Métiers), to Santa Clara University (SCU) between March 18th and 23rd this year. Fr. Fidelis Udahemuka, S.J., in the company of ICAM representatives, Fr. Olivier Barreau, S.J., (Directeur Général des études et formation ICAM Intégré, Site de Lille) and Olivier du Bourblanc (Directeur des études, formation ICAM Apprentissage, Site de Lille), visited Santa Clara School of Engineering with a two-fold aim; They wanted to learn from SCU’s 100 year success in engineering education, as well as find insights into ways of designing and developing curriculum for the JUEA – ICAM college of engineering.

The ICAM and JUEA teams met with Dennis Jacobs, the SCU Provost and Vice-president for Academics and Students Affairs, and Godfrey Mungal, Dean of the School of Engineering. The team also met with the faculty and staff, chairpersons of various departments in the school of engineering and Fr. James Reites, S.J., who in the company of Timothy Hight, gave a tour of the Solar Decathlon house.

Led by Mungal, Fr. Fidelis and his colleagues were invited and participated at the School of Engineering’s “hand-on-meeting” and luncheon, during which they made a presentation on the JUEA project and Group ICAM. Besides the school of Engineering, the teams visited Susan Popko, the Associate Provost for International Programs.

During the visit, Fr. Fidelis and ICAM representatives met with the President, Fr. Michael Engh, S.J., and discussed the need to have a contextualized education that meets global needs in the 21st Century. “We cannot copy-and-paste the entire French Program in Eastern Africa. There is need to have a context and need based education system,” Olivier du Bourblanc noted, emphasizing the importance of integrating all ideas and planning activities to the reality of Eastern Africa. Fr. Engh assured the two teams of his continued support towards realization of the JUEA project. In return, Fr. Fidelis expressed his gratitude for the relevant education he received from SCU and Fr. Engh’s mentorship, human resources and financial contributions that have enabled planning of JUEA reach thus far.

Mungal noted that development in Africa was an interesting phenomenon with a myriad of opportunities yet to be explored. He thus envisioned an international exchange program that would benefit JUEA and SCU. “Santa Clara engineering students have a great interest in having experience in the developing world,” he said.

Echoing Mungal’s observations, Susan Popko emphasized that an international outlook on education brings the desired diversity. “Through the program, students gain an international identity from the experience,” she said. Thus, collaboration among ICAM, SCU and JUEA is an apt engagement that fits well with Fr. General’s call for universality and networking among International Jesuit ministries.

While at SCU, Fr. Fidelis was able to reconnect with some of his friends, professors, and administration staff in the office of the University President and in various schools and departments, and his former community, Santa Clara Jesuit community.

He also had the occasion to meet with his mentor, role-model, and former ‘officemate,’ Don Dodson, who advised him on how to develop a curriculum that is vision, mission, and value driven. “If you want to have a Jesuit University in Eastern Africa, the Jesuit character has to be incorporated in the DNA,” he said. Don promised to support JUEA with his time and expertise including coming to Kenya to work on the project.
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PHILBERT VRAU AND CAMILLE FÉRON-VRAU: JUEA TEAM VISITS ICAM IN FRANCE

By Fidelis Udahemuka, S.J.

In May 2013 Fidelis Udahemuka, S.J., and Jerome Manyahi, S.J., visited ICAM (Institut Catholique d’Arts et Métiers), Lille campus in France. The visit was both a learning process and an immersion experience into daily running of ICAM. During the month-long visit, Udahemuka and Manyahi attended the Board of Directors’ meeting in Paris and joined the weekly management and leadership meetings of Lille campus. They also participated in interviewing prospective students for the 2013/2014 academic year and visited ICAM students in various industrial internship placements. Led by Mr. Bernard-Gilles Flipo (Directeur, Site de Lille) and Mr. Olivier du Bourblanc (Directeur des études, formation ICAM Intégré, Site de Lille) the JUEA team visited and interacted with professors, chairpersons of various departments, attended classroom lectures, and students’ final-year-design projects.

Through this visit, Manyahi and Udahemuka came to an appreciation of ICAM as a reputable institution of higher learning. “Our visit to industries where students of ICAM were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. "Our visit to industries where students were doing internship, learning. “industrial demands of today’s world,” said Manyahi. The visit to ICAM worked to further cement a budding relationship between the two institutions. In 2010, Fr. Olivier Barreau, S.J., (Directeur Général des études et formation ICAM Intégré, Site de Lille), who was assigned to found Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology (LICET) in Chennai, India, met Jerome in India. The encounter led to a proposal on the possibility of Group ICAM supporting a similar initiative in Eastern Africa. “Yes, it is possible to support the initiative. But you need to speak to Jean-Michel Viot (Directeur Général Group ICAM),” was Olivier’s response. Since Jean-Michel was visiting India at that time, Jerome met and shared with him the process of establishing an institution of higher learning in the Eastern Africa Province of the Jesuits, and asked if Group ICAM would be willing to collaborate. “Bien sûr!” Jean-Michel affirmed.

A few months later in 2011, Jean-Michel sent Jean-Gabriel Prieur for preliminary feasibility studies in Eastern Africa. “Based on the infrastructure in Eastern Africa, the commitment of the Society of Jesus, the need of the people for higher education and assuring economic growth in this region, I fully recommend the partnership between Group ICAM and the Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa (AOR) in establishing a college of engineering in the region,” said Jean-Gabriel Prieur. He also promised to share his opinion with Jean-Michel Viot. Since then, the relationship between ICAM and AOR continued to prosper resulting in several visits to AOR by Jean-Michel and Olivier Du Bourbanc, ICAM representative to the proposed Jesuit University of Eastern Africa, College of Engineering team. More recently, the ICAM Board of Directors made a unanimous decision to partner with the Jesuit University of Eastern Africa at its board meeting of October 10, 2012.

ICAM was founded in 1898 in Lille, France, by two industrialists, Philibert Vrau and Camille Féron-Vrau following a visit to the Father General of Society of Jesus in Rome in 1895 by Philibert Vrau to request the involvement of Jesuits in founding ICAM. On September 10, 1896, Fr. General approved the collaboration and the following year, 1897, Fr. Henri Lacouture, S.J., was assigned by his superiors to collaborate with the founders towards the realization of ICAM. As Group ICAM commemorates 116 years of its existence, the historical relationship between industrialists and Jesuits repeats itself, although in reverse. Jerome Manyahi, S.J., through another Jesuit, Olivier Barreau, invited industrialist Jean-Michel Viot to collaborate with AOR Jesuits to establish JUEA.

2. J. Manyahi and JG. Prieur
3. Statues of the founders of ICAM

FATHER GENERAL APPROVES FURTHER PLANNING OF JUEA

By Fr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.

In December 2012, I formally petitioned the Superior General of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) Father Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., for “Provisional approval for further planning of the Proposed Jesuit University of Eastern Africa (JUEA).” After consulting his counselors, Father Nicolás responded with a series of questions on areas requiring further work and offered useful advice to enable us move the process forward. The most consoling part of his letter was the final paragraph. He concluded his letter by saying, “I am happy to give you permission to explore further the proposed University.” This represents a significant development in our apostolic plan to establish a Jesuit university in Eastern Africa. There is more work to be done before we can formally launch JUEA, but we are truly on course. Father Nicolás’ permission for further exploration and planning gives us a strong mandate to take the necessary steps towards the establishment of JUEA. This is an exciting time and the words of Saint Edmund Campion, S.J., come to mind: “the expense is reckoned, the enterprise is begun; it is of God….”
By Jerome Manyahi, S.J.

Jesuit schools go beyond knowledge to the development of the whole person. For us, education is a way of life. A Jesuit School embodies the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which offer not only matters to be pondered upon and realities to be contemplated, but also possibilities to be explored and a choice of actions to be made in order to find the will of God, and order one’s life.

One unique characteristic of a Jesuit education is the dynamic inter-relationship of teacher and student in the students’ journey to grow in knowledge and freedom. Teacher-student relationship is the Ignatian paradigm of Jesuit education. A teacher like the Director of the Spiritual Exercises is to lead a student to grow as a person of competence, conscience and compassion.

Students must be trained to see the need for intellectual integrity in their personal quest for religious truth and response to issues of social justice. Education for Justice is thus a vital component of all Jesuit institutions of learning: love and care of the neighbor are integral to Jesuit education.

My personal experience at Loyola High School as the Headmaster for about four years is that many students and parents cherish, appreciate and are inspired by the values of Jesuit education. Loyola High School had become for some parents (most of them Professors at the University of Dar-es-salaam) a first choice school for their children. Many of them have observed varied growth patterns between students in Loyola High school and those from Non-Jesuit Schools. Without Jesuit institutions for higher learning in Africa, some parents are seeking a Jesuit education outside Africa, especially in India and USA. This, however, implies that the students have to be taken out of their socio-economic, political and cultural context. With the Jesuit University of Eastern Africa students can become agents of change in their own societies.

By Neema Simon

The word narrative best describes my education at Loyola High School (LHS) Dar-es-Salaam. For me, Jesuit education is a narrative; it tells stories of lives. It rethink and reinvents the world to make it more habitable for all. This narrative is what is captured in the expression ‘men and women for and with others’. This is facilitated by the creativity that Jesuit education encourages, supports and challenges appropriately.

Through LHS, I learned to reach out to others and share with them my life-story as they shared theirs with me. This has made me more humble in recognition that everything I receive is God’s gift and work in my life.

While at LHS, my spiritual life grew through prayer, the celebration of Mass and a genuine concern for others. These made responsibility and compassion synonymous with LHS. For instance, I remember how the whole class participated in the funeral of one of our classmates. We all felt moved to be with the family, after all LHS was one big family to which we all belonged.

From LHS to Hekima College Institute of Peace Studies and International relations, where I did my master’s degree, I experienced a Jesuit education that offers unique programs that are relevant to the African context, balances social and academic activities, and has committed professors rooted in Ignatian and Jesuit values. The two Institutions are also sensitive to culture, gender, race and social classes; they have never forgotten the poor. I am humbled to have been part of the narrative.