

**NOVEMBER 2013**

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**Law School alumnus leads change in Congo**

**MICHEL MUKONKOLE MBAYO BELIEVES** that Congo has the potential to be one of the great countries of the world. “Though, a society without the rule of law is a society without growth,” says Michel, noting Congo’s problems. He believes that law that is based on internal realities and not modeled on foreign guidelines will be a catalyst for growth in Congo.

A 2003 graduate of UPC’s Law School, 37-year-old Michel focused on business law and attributes his professional success to the time he spent at Congo Protestant University (UPC). Practicing law is his true passion, something he says probably stems from his talent as an excellent negotiator with a power for persuasion. As the right-hand man to the CEO of country operations for RDCongo Orange, a global telecommunications company, Michel provides in-house legal advice, carries out all of the CEO’s initiatives and oversees an operations team for the company.

Born in the Katanga province, Michel is the oldest of seven children, all of whom have had the opportunity to attend college. He is especially grateful for the scholarship and the support that he received on campus, which enabled him to com-

plete his education and strive to meet the Law School’s mandate: *Building an Ethical Congo.*

Michel’s student life was enhanced by his participation on the



*Michel Mukonkole Mbayo*

student committee and by the influence of two professors, Masamba Makela and Gregoire Bakandjeja Wa Mpungu. Michel adds, “I will also always appreciate the confidence that UPC President Ngoy has shown in me.”

Michel remains active in the Pentecostal church where he is a deacon and works with the youth. He is dedicated to working with young people and enjoys reading “the works of great men” and traveling.

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**Law School hosts collaborative forum**

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF UPC’S LAW SCHOOL** faculty and alumni, and funding from the Embassies of Germany, Switzerland and Holland, a second series of courses on human rights and international criminal law has been held on campus this year. There were several prominent speakers who came from Belgium, France and Switzerland for the July 29-August 9 classes. The courses were open to students and Kinshasa’s legal community, giving participants the opportunity to reflect on the protection of human rights and its development.



*Professor Andende Apindia, Dean of UPC’s Law School, and a German Embassy representative.*

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**UPC’s favorite ‘techie’**

**THANKS TO DR. LUKA MUSANGU,** UPC’s students are keeping up with today’s rapidly changing technology. The Business School’s associate professor holds a degree in business information systems from South Africa’s Tshwane University, which he followed up with a doctorate in computer sciences and data processing from the same university.



*Marcel Luka Musangu*

The 40-year-old, who graduated in 2000 from UPC’s Business School, hails from the Equateur Province, and served as assistant professor in computer science at UPC from 2003-2007 when he was named associate professor.

Marcel, who speaks both French and English, enjoys spending his rare free time with his family as well as sharing information about computer literacy to young people. “More than 70% of Congo’s young people do not have access to the new information technology and communication,” Marcel points out. “That’s why I like teaching computer-related courses.”



## Reflections: UPC poised for economic leadership

– by Phil Kliewer

**U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S JULY 2013 VISIT** to Africa and his announcement of increased U.S. investment in Africa highlighted the upward trend of international investment in Africa. Distinguished from legacy programs of plunder on the one hand or aid on the other, these investments are designed to make improvements in infrastructure that will pave the way for economic growth.

What role does the Congo play in this growth, and what does this mean for UPC?

– Photo Lucy Hobgood-Brown



*Congo's government has signed a US\$6 billion contract with China to strengthen infrastructure, in return for mining assets. This photo of a Chinese manager supervising a work crew was taken in front of UPC's campus entrance.*

Despite continued political unrest and bureaucratic inefficiencies, Congo's economy is poised for new growth. According to the African Economic Outlook, the only annual report that monitors in detail the economic performance of 53 individual countries on the continent, the Congo's economy grew 7.2% in 2012 and is expected to see growth increasing to 9.4% by 2014, primarily through "mining, trade, agriculture and construction, macroeconomic stability and robust domestic demand."

This growth comes at a time when UPC continues to grow, expand its influence, and implement strategic initiatives in support of its mission to build a nation through education. As reported in the May 2013 UPC News, the Executive MBA program will place UPC in the lead among universities in Congo to train leaders who are able to direct Congo's growth in both the private and public sector.

Next year the Medical School will graduate its first class of students and is already sending them out for practical experience in rural clinics – a major step in community health leadership. The Law School continues to play a critical role in the development of leaders who

can influence policy and regulation leading to a reduction in bureaucratic obstacles. The Theology School's development of leaders who can advocate for ethical business practices and fair treatment of workers remains a key component of UPC's impact.

What an opportunity for UPC to play a significant leadership role, as Congo and Africa are poised to join the global economic stage.

*Phil Kliewer is an NALB board member and grew up in the Congo.*



## UPC receives substantial grant for infectious disease research

**UPC HAS RECEIVED A GRANT FOR US\$100,000** from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation for the development of an infectious disease research initiative at the university's medical school. The grant was the result of a joint proposal submitted by the university and North American Liaison Bureau (NALB) board members Dr Cynthia Decker, Jack Spencer and Dr Paul Law.

The key players leading the project include staff from the university and members of the Liaison Bureau. In addition, Dr Peter Agre, a Nobel Prize-winning researcher at Johns Hopkins University's



*Peter Agre (2nd from right) with five other American 2003 Nobel laureates with President G. W. Bush. Dr. Agre was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (which he shared with Roderick MacKinnon). In 2009 Dr Agre was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.*

Bloomberg School of Public Health, will play a role. The project will establish the training and infrastructure for infectious disease medical research programs. Look for further details in the future as this project develops.

The Lounsbery Foundation is dedicated to the enhancement of national strengths in science and technology, doing so in part through support of start-up projects. For more information, please go to <https://www.rlounsbery.org/>.



## New partnership with rural hospitals, as medical students arrive for internships

**T**HREE GROUPS OF UPC MEDICAL STUDENTS ARE now interning at Kimpese, Vanga and Tshikaji Hospitals. They are working with local doctors, selected for their commitment to overseeing the year-long rotation of the 68 students, helping them gain clinical, diagnostic and patient care skills.



*UPC President Ngoy rejoices in the arrival of medical equipment.*

Recent news from the Tshikaji-based Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai (IMCK), a primary health care facility and medical education center that has been in operation for 60 years, indicates that their assigned 14 UPC final year medical students are happily working on site.

The eight women and six men are living in one wing of the Good Shepherd Hospital, after the NALB paid to have an accommodation area remodeled.

A container of medical equipment and supplies to assist three hospitals that are partnering to provide UPC medical students with hands-on experience has also arrived in Kinshasa, reports NALB president Jimmy Shafe. “As of this moment, we are not certain what equipment will make



*The entrance to one of the rural hospitals partnering with UPC “to build a healthy Congo.”*

its way to each rural hospital,” Jimmy says, “but UPC is committed to an on-going partnership and encouraging our students to serve in rural Congo.”

Dr Pepe Banza Kalenga, Medical Director of Education at IMCK, adds that the students are rotating through surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics/gynecology. In August, IMCK Administrator, Bernard Kabibu, and the IMCK Director, Alexis Mayambi, made a weeklong trip accompanied in part by UPC Medical School Dean Dr Samuel Mampunza. They visited the UPC Medical School, the Kimpese Hospital and the Vanga Hospital in order to explore best practices and share ideas so that no matter which location UPC medical students are assigned for their year of clinical work, they will receive consistent training and education. Since the visit will strengthen both UPC and the Presbyterian Hospitals in the Kasai, the trip was sponsored by the Rivers of the World, Congo-Kasai Chapter.



## What will be your legacy to Congo?

**Y**OU CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE lives of needy students by making a bequest to the North American Liaison Bureau. Make an immediate difference by giving to the scholarship fund or provide continuing support far into the future by establishing a Named Fund. In either case you may designate the geographic area of origin, field of study, gender, or religious affiliation of the recipients.

The Named Fund can carry your name or that of someone you want to honor. What better way to pay tribute to loved ones or designate a cause near and dear to your heart? Many of our Named Funds were established by children of missionaries who wanted to honor their parents and perpetuate their support for the people to whom their parents dedicated their life’s work.

A Named Fund is a vehicle designed to provide continuing scholarships to students at the university. With a minimum donation of \$25,000, the Named Fund will be invested in order to keep the amount of the scholarship paid annually and the value of the Named Fund as stable as possible over the long run. Once the Fund has been invested for one full fiscal year, it will begin to provide an annual scholarship to a student in need.

In a country where education is out of the reach of most young people, your generosity can transform lives and, ultimately, the nation.

You may obtain details by contacting Dr. Ben Hobgood, Executive Director, at [benhobgood1928@gmail.com](mailto:benhobgood1928@gmail.com) or (904) 284 6843.

NALB is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax or investment advice. In consultation with your attorney, you can adjust or expand the following sample language to match your intentions and to conform with the legal requirements of your state.

*I hereby give and bequeath to the North American Liaison Bureau the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars [for scholarships at Congo Protestant University] [to establish the \_\_\_\_\_ Named Fund to provide continuing scholarship support to students of Congo Protestant University].*

## NALB seeks funding to support professional marketing strategist

With Congo ranking at the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index, UPC and the North American Liaison Bureau are working together on a comprehensive communications and marketing strategy that will increase the university's ability to better harness its resources and meet its mandate, Education that builds a nation.



Linda James

Linda James, a French-speaking Liaison Bureau board member who is an experienced marketing and communications professional familiar with international best practices, has agreed to launch the project and train university personnel

to take over various aspects of the project as they are developed. She will be working closely with Jolie Mbelembe, a UPC alumna who is charged with the university's public relations and special projects.

"I envision that our outreach tactics will include building relationships with UPC's alumni and former professors, as well as reaching out to Kinshasa's international business and diplomatic community," explains Linda.

"I am pleased that UPC's trustees and management committee are fully committed to the project," says Ben Hobgood, NALB's executive director. "UPC is providing housing, transportation and administrative support to Linda. Now we just need to raise enough funds to cover Linda's living and international travel expenses."

If you would like to support this initiative, please donate online at [www.upcongo.org](http://www.upcongo.org) or send a check (designate "communications") to NALB, P.O. Box 545, Penney Farms, FL 32079 USA.

### Editor's correction

In an article Meet Dr. Kalala in the May 2013 issue, Dr. Kalala was profiled as the Chair of the Microfinance department. The profile should have been of Professor Kabuya Kalala François, a macroeconomics professor in the School of Business.

## Montana to Kinshasa: no boundaries

In July, Dr. Rick Blevins, a pulmonologist from Great Falls, MT, posed with final year medical students after giving a lecture on the treatment of asthma.



## Graduation day!



Students gather for the August 3, 2013 graduation ceremonies, held at the Protestant Cathedral on campus. Since the university's inception more than 50 tumultuous years ago, there have been 25 such ceremonies held on various campuses. This year, 32 graduated in Theology (six were women); in Business, 36 of the 69 graduates were women and; in Law, 107 students graduated (72 were women). Next year will see the Medical School's first graduating class. Distinguished alumni include such Congolese leaders as Msgr. Pierre Marini Bodho, the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Christ in Congo and former President of the Senate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Jo Lusi, orthopedic surgeon and founder of HEAL Africa in NE Congo and UPC President Ngoy Boliya.

## Did you know?

- That UPC is now using social media. To see the French facebook page, go to "Université Protestante au Congo" and to view NALB's facebook page, go to "Friends of the Congo Protestant University." Be sure to "like" the pages!

- That UPC is ranked Number 3 in Congo by the 2013 University Web Ranking (see <http://www.4icu.org/cd/>). Université de Lubumbashi was ranked Number 1, and Université de Kinshasa Number 2. No criteria were provided.

- That UPC alumni are beginning to take advantage of the Internet to reconnect. A French website lists 100 UPC alumni: <http://cd.viadeo.com/fr/trombinoscope/trombinoscope/?schoolId=00212x4s0n0nrivg>.

