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The purpose of the North American Liaison Bureau (NALB) is to promote and support Université Protestante au Congo, to advance economic growth and to enhance the quality of life in Congo.

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Executive MBA program launches at UPC

IN SEPTEMBER 2013 CONGO PROTESTANT UNIVERSITY (UPC) AND FRANKFURT SCHOOL OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT will launch an Executive MBA program. Keeping up in the fast-paced world of commerce requires a specialized knowledge of the global markets – something that other Congolese universities do not offer but is desperately needed by businesses to succeed. To meet that demand, UPC will now be stepping into



that void to train leaders who are able to direct Congo’s growth in both the private and public sector.

This one-year program has been designed to appeal to professionals with two to 10 years of work experience by allowing them to work while they attend their courses in the evening and on weekends. The goal is to develop awareness and increase students’ knowledge in areas such as international markets, finance, marketing and management, while also expanding that all-important network of professional and personal contacts upon which we all rely. The highly qualified professors bring a broad range of experience working in Africa, Europe and Asia. They have held leadership positions at such banks as Barclays and Cantor Fitzgerald, teaching positions at Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and the China Europe International Business School, as well as in consulting positions in Belgium, Congo, Rwanda and Togo.

After the Executive MBA program is launched, a full-time MBA program will be integrated into UPC’s curriculum as well. Congo’s future depends on its economic growth and UPC continues to meet the challenge.

For more information about the UPC campus-based Congolese-German Centre for Microfinance, go to <http://www.cca-microfinance.org/>.

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Congo’s future

UPC PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION TO PURSUE HIGHER DREAMS

“It becomes one day the big and strong country at the heart of Africa through seriousness and dedicated work.” That is UPC alumnus André Ilunga Kalenga’s vision for Congo. He believes that honesty, loyalty and determination of well-trained professionals are the keys to addressing Congo’s core problems. Through his work at the only private equity fund in Congo, André strives to have a significant social impact on Congolese society. The private equity fund pursues impact investments by lending to Congolese small and medium size enterprises for the long term. As a junior investment officer, André is involved in sourcing business opportunities, writing financial proposals for the investment committee, structuring deals and monitoring portfolios.

UPC provides the opportunity for a meaningful career and functions as a pipeline toward higher education. The encouragement of a mentor and the development of a network of motivated and dedicated students at UPC greatly influenced André’s future. International trade and macroeconomics struck a cord with André as he pursued his studies in business and economics.

As a mentor to André, UPC Business School Professor Kabuya Kalala set the example of a



André Ilunga Kalenga

professional figure who André wanted to emulate. During his years at UPC, André built up a strong network of fellow

students who also have progressed in their professional lives and are employed at such institutions as the Frankfurt School of Finance and Access Bank in Kinshasa. Being involved in UPC’s English Club at the American Corner, André says, also greatly enhanced his English skills which have continued to prove invaluable as he follows his career path.

André was born in Kananga (Kasai Occidental) to a family of five children that values and understands the importance of education. Starting at a Belgian school in Kananga, moving to Kinshasa with his parents

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Back to the future

FORMER EUROPEAN PROFESSORS REMAIN STRONG UPC SUPPORTERS

by *Bernt Lampe*

IN 1963 WE SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS AT A GIRLS' secondary school in Léopoldville (now Kinshasa). At the end of the school year we were asked if we would be willing to join the newly founded Protestant University in Stanleyville (now Kisangani). So we packed up and moved to Stanleyville with our two daughters, then aged three and two years old. Teaching at the Université Libre du Congo (UPC's former name) began with a preparatory year, to enable students (all male!) to acquire the necessary qualification for university studies. I was assigned the tasks of advising students on subjects they would have to take, drawing up the timetable for lectures and teaching Mathematics and Physics. My wife taught German and French (to some prospective students who were Anglophone).

Our work in Stanleyville was interrupted in August 1964 by the "Simba" army's capture of the city. They were opponents of the government. Four months later, the city was recaptured, but remained dangerous. The students of the Université Libre did not return there but continued their studies in Léopoldville.

We could not see any further prospects for us with our young family. We had no contract, no "backers" such as a mission society, nowhere to live, no equipment. Teaching



The Lampe family in Congo in 1964

was assured for the next year in the capital's Lovanium University. However, we regretfully decided to return to Europe.

Our experiences influenced us deeply and we have since then been particularly interested in the progress of former

colonies, especially in Africa. We have worked for "twinning" churches, most notably concentrating on the city of Munich twinning with Harare. We are financially and actively involved with the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society, Oikocredit, which was founded by the World Council of Churches. When we learned that the university, particularly the medical faculty, was supported by Germany's Church Development Service we looked for and found a way to contribute to this directly. We especially support women students, not only to give women a chance to take up medicine but also because we are sure that there is a need in the country for the particular qualities of women doctors.

Editor's Note: The Lampe family has provided scholarships for the following female medical students:

In 2012 - Nsonge Ngole Ester and Lwamba Kusidika Betty

In 2013 - Mudianyi Muwakiba Murielle and Sekele Munga Christelle



New student leaders elected



CONGRATULATIONS! On 21 March, the students elected new leaders for each school. From left to right, they are Benjamin Katende Kanumuangi (Law), Olive Lobo Mujinga (Business), Joe Muipatayi Kashama (Law, president of the Student Association), Sophia Mangala Mundele (Medicine) and Jean Calvin Lyandja Betulu (Theology).



Future teachers



THREE UPC MEDICAL STUDENTS HAVE WON scholarships in a national search for future teachers that resulted in 70 candidates representing eight universities, three secondary schools and one primary school. The students (from left) are Banewa

Mbo, Musasa Mujinga and Mujinga Harmonie.

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – *Nelson Mandela*

YOUR GENEROUS support furthers the Congo Protestant University’s mission to build a nation through education by providing scholarships, legacy funds, medical equipment, and other special projects. The North American Liaison Bureau thanks the following donors for contributions in 2012.

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NEWS BRIEFS



Spotlight on the Melvin and Elizabeth Richey Named Fund



Melvin and Elizabeth Richey

ELIZABETH “BETTY” COBBLE grew up in a missionary family at Monieka, a Disciples of Christ mission station in Congo, and still considers that to be home. As an adult Betty returned to Africa with her husband, Melvin Richey, to work in construction of hospitals and schools among the Disciples mission stations in Congo, and later in Zambia. Although they had specific

duties, their overriding mission was always to teach “enduring skills and character,” says Betty.

Both Melvin and Betty, along with other members of the family, always believed that a university education that incorporated teaching of moral principles was the most effective way to develop leaders to build a nation. It is no surprise, then, that they have been strong supporters of UPC for many years. Named Funds for UPC scholarships had already been established in memory of Betty’s parents; therefore it was natural for Betty to establish a Named Fund in memory of her life partner Melvin and his long-term commitment to education in Congo.

The Richey’s service in Africa and their support of education through scholarships to UPC students continues to make a difference in Africa.



U.N. contest winners

ON MARCH 8, THREE CREATIVE UPC STUDENTS presented a poem that they wrote together, condemning violence against women. The International Women’s Day poetry contest was hosted by the United Nations. Placing second in the contest were Priscille Ngoie (Law), Christian Moleka (Law) and Coco Lwesso (Microfinance). On the right is the contest’s coordinator.



Tribute to Dean Cornwell



Dean Cornwell

UPC’S FIRST PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, DEAN CORNWELL, DIED IN APRIL.

Among his achievements, the retired Disciples of Christ missionary opened doors with embassies and community groups in Kinshasa, raising awareness about the university and helping students make valuable contacts.

One beneficiary of Dean’s community engagement skills is André Ilunga Kalenga (see page 1). With Dean’s help, the university established the American Corner and English Club, and facilitated opportunities for bright students to apply for Fulbright scholarships. The PR office is now managed by a capable Congolese woman, a graduate of the university, who benefits from Dean’s trailblazing. Ben Hobgood, executive director of UPC’s North American Liaison Bureau, says, “We are all deeply saddened by the loss of a dear friend and colleague.”



Congo’s future

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and attending a Catholic high school in Kinshasa, he graduated with a state diploma. In 2003, Andre began his studies at UPC, quickly switching from law to business and economics. Upon graduation in 2008, he received a Fulbright scholarship after demonstrating that as a result of his studies at UPC he had met the stringent requirements of the program. André then completed his Masters in Economics at the University of Illinois in 2012. André is now back in Kinshasa working to build Congo’s future.



Meet Dr. Kalala



Dr. Kabuya Kalala

PROF. DR. KABUYA KALALA

is André Ilunga Kalenga’s mentor (see page 1). He holds the Chair of Microfinance at UPC. He has solid experience of training managers at a high level from his own training in Brussels, where he worked in Belgian companies. Additional experience was gained from employment in Kivu, the far eastern province of the Congo,

where he worked as a Program Director there as well as in Rwanda. This was followed by a stint in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, where he served as a training expert for Planet Finance, then as Senior Coordinator of Managerial Training for the International Monetary Fund.