

Realize. It starts with you.

The University of Regina is partnering with the African country of Malawi to increase the knowledge and skills of post-secondary educators in that country.

The University's partnership with the University of Malawi Polytechnic supports the Government of Malawi's poverty-reduction strategy through the Malawi Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) Reform Project. The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Started in 2008, the initiative strives to reduce poverty in Malawi by increasing socio-economic prosperity through technical and vocational education. To accomplish this, the University of Regina offers support to Malawian faculty members through workshops, study tours and other activities so they are better able to meet the challenges of educating the youth of Malawi.

Dr. Vanwyk Chikasanda, a scholar from the Malawi Polytechnic says that "youth account for more than 50 per cent of Malawi's population. Skill development that may help direct them into self-employment or trade-related jobs is critical for Malawi's growth and development."

The initiative also aims to improve gender equality in education by introducing programs for women. Retaining female students has been enhanced by career guidance in science, technology and mathematics at the secondary level and 'bridging' programs for girls at the Polytechnic. The establishment of mother groups, which provide support services to primary-aged school girls, encourages young girls to stay in school.

Outreach to Malawi has extended beyond the University of Regina and into the Regina community. As part of the project, the Regina elementary school St. Pius X has been twinned with Senga Primary School in Malawi.

This twinning provides students and staff at both schools with opportunities for social and cultural exchange. As well, fundraising activities to support Senga Primary School's many needs have been undertaken in Regina. Elaine McNeil, project manager in the University of Regina's Faculty of Education, has seen the impact of this relationship first-hand.

"Not only do students bridge cultural gaps and build friendships through their letters, students at St. Pius X raised \$750 to help get electricity for the school," says McNeil. Similar outreach activities with other institutions and agencies are being explored.

For more information about the project, visit malawitevetproject.ca or contact Project Director, Dr. Abu Bockarie at (306) 585-5601.



Left to Right: Dr. E. Kaphesi, Elaine McNeil, Dr. Abu Bockarie, Dr. Vanwyk Chikasanda

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 4 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Barbara Powell Lecture

Location: Riffel Auditorium, Campion College

The Humanities Research Institute is pleased to host its annual Dr. Barbara Powell Lecture with author Gail Bowen. Her lecture is titled: "A Sense of Place: Joanne Kilbourn's Regina".

Book signing and reception to follow.

Free parking in lot 3 "M".

For more information, contact Christian Riegel at (306) 359-1219.

April 11 4:00 p.m.
Visual Arts Open House

Location: Department of Visual Arts, Riddell Centre, University of Regina

The Department of Visual Arts invites you to join them for an Open House showcasing student art. Tour the facilities and experience hundreds of sculptures, prints, ceramics, videos, installations, drawings and paintings made by students. Visit studios of faculty members and graduate students and take a moment to meet the award-winning faculty!

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Rachelle Viader Knowles at (306) 585-5552.

May 12 11:00 a.m.
Science Rendezvous

Location: 1st Floor, Research and Innovation Centre next to College West, University of Regina

The Faculty of Science will engage and entertain the general public by demonstrating that everyone can do science! Participants are invited to come and experience a day of science fun with a magic chemistry show, bottle rocket demonstration, ice cream making, walking on water display, interactive lab tours, prizes and much more. There is something for all ages and for the whole family to enjoy!

Complimentary parking will be available in Lots 8, 9, 10 and 15. Registration will take place in the Laboratory Building on the first floor on the day of event.

For more information, please visit: www.uregina.ca/science or call Stephen Cheng at (306) 337-3290

Photos by University of Regina Photography Department.

This summer, I'll try...

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www.uregina.ca/cce

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