



MAKERERE
UNIVERSITY



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The Covabian

A Publication by the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security

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COVAB Ranked as A+ College

The College of Veterinary Medicine , Animal Resources and Bio security (COVAB) was ranked as a Class A+ College by the National Council of Higher Education (NCHE).

This was revealed by the Ag. Vice Chancellor Venansius Baryamureeba during his 22nd monthly media briefing held on 03/10/2011. The participating University unit was the School of Law.

NCHE based their rankings of the different Colleges on the following standards; the quality and quantity of staff, quality of students, quality of academic programmes, teaching and laboratory space, availability of library resources and quality of

services to students and other stakeholders. The complete list of College rankings is as follows;

CLASS A+

College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Bio Security

College of Health Sciences

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

College of Engineering Art and Design

College of Computing and Information Sciences

CLASS A

College of Natural Sciences

College of Business and Management Sciences

School of Law

CLASS B+

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

College of Education and External Studies

Editor's Note



Welcome to yet another issue of the publication by the College of Veterinary

Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-Security (formerly the School of Veterinary Medicine).

In line with our new found status of a College, the name of this publication has been changed from 'Vet Bulletin' to 'The Covabian'.

'The Covabian' not only stems from COVAB (the abbreviation of the College name) but is also embracing...Right from the top administration at COVAB to the lecturers, the students, support staff and former students, each of us are Covabians and can therefore relate to this name.

A lot has happened since the last issue was published. COVAB has gained new partners, student intake has increased, new programs are coming up, all geared towards COVAB's goal to becoming an internationally accredited constituent College of Makerere University.

All this and more, you will read about in this issue.

I welcome input (articles) towards this newsletter from all members of COVAB. Feel free to post them to pr@vetmed.mak.ac.ug

Jovia Musubika Kavulu



The front part of the main building of the College

Vice Chancellor meets COVAB Staff

The Acting Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba met with the staff of COVAB on 30th October 2011 at the College premises. The purpose of the meeting was for the Vice Chancellor to acquaint himself with the College staff and to discuss with them the challenges that the College was facing in its aspirations to reposition itself as an internationally accredited institution.

Prof. John David Kabasa who chaired the meeting highlighted among others as COVAB achievements the increased annual student intake for the academic year 2011/2012.

COVAB staff submitted requests to the Vice Chancellor for help in regards to meeting the College challenges among which was the maximum age for entry into the University as a Teaching Assistant. Staff argued that the age of 30 was unrealistic for the BVM degree program whose length is 5 years in addition to the MSc which takes about 2-3 years to complete.

The Vice Chancellor committed himself to working towards helping COVAB to meet most of its challenges.



Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba

Student intake Increases

This academic year 2011/2012, the Collage Of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB) has almost doubled its student intake as compared to the last academic year as shown below;

Program	2010/2011	2011/2012
BAPTM	07	19
BBLT	100	98
BVM	22	69
WHM	08	9
Diplomas	-	8
Total	137	203

Key

- BAPTM-Bachelor of Animal Production Technology and Management
- BBLT-Bachelor of Biomedical Laboratory Technology
- BVM-Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
- WHM-Bachelor of Wildlife Health Management

Prof. John David Kabasa (Ag. Principal, COVAB) with First Year students shortly after their orientation session



COVAB gets New Partners

Church of Uganda

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His Grace Henry Luke Orombi on 24th August 2011 paid a visit to COVAB where he toured the College premises; after which he addressed members of staff and students. The purpose of the visit was for the Archbishop to familiarise himself with the College facilities. This was after he signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the same day in the Main Building of Makerere University.

The Memorandum of Understanding marked the beginning of a partnership between the Church of Uganda and Makerere University through COVAB. The partnership will involve the University reaching out to Ugandan communities by imparting necessary hands-on skills to the youth so that they can create their own employment.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of Makerere University Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba commended

the Archbishop for his efforts in helping the underprivileged especially in Northern Uganda and he pledged to ensure increased enrolment of students from Northern Uganda to Makerere University.

The Archbishop expressed his appreciation to COVAB for its initiative to take skills to those who can not come to the university. "Makerere has wealth, and the church has a vehicle where the University can direct this wealth", the Archbishop said adding that he was ready to act as the middleman in this partnership in order to promote this worthy cause. He referred to the occasion as a historical moment in which "the Church and the University are joining hands to empower the rural people."

Reacting to a speech by the President of Makerere University Veterinary Students Association, David Waiswa, who said that thousands of Ugandan youths are unemployed yet the future of the country lies in their hands, His Grace the Archbishop was optimistic

that there was hope especially now that COVAB and AFRISA are bringing skills to the people and doing things differently by practically implementing classroom knowledge. "You should not look to the government for jobs especially in your discipline which you can use to create your own jobs and to get jobs for others", His Grace Orombi cautioned the students.

"The Church and the University are joining hands to empower the rural people"



Prof. Kabasa and His Grace Orombi at the Main Building

Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union



Prof. Kabasa (L) and Mr. Nuwagira (R) signing the MOU

COVAB entered into partnership with the Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union (UCCCU) Limited. The partnership was marked with the signing of an MOU between the two parties on the 14th of September 2011 at the College.

are people who failed elsewhere and resorted to farming .

Prof. William Isharaza, a UCCCU board member said, "farmers are not as illiterate or as foolish as our leaders tend to think", adding that farmers have a lot of value to add to communities.

The UCCCU Chairman George Nuwagira described the partnership as "a marriage that has taken place at the right time", adding that it would help to change the perception that dairy farmers

The Programme Development Manager of AFRISA, the platform for COVAB partnerships Dr. Michael Kansime said that UCCCU was partnering with COVAB because the two have a common vision to add value to communities.

Prof. John David Kabasa, noted that the partnership was an opportunity for COVAB to do things differently and to have an impact, explaining further that "Makerere is an international University and a role model to others; so if we do things well, we can make others follow."

Also present was Mr. Godfrey Mugisha the Senior Legal Officer of Makerere University.. Others present were members of UCCCU Board and COVAB staff.

MORE PARTNERS...

Global Alliance for Livestock Vet Medicine



GALVmed, COVAB and AFRISA staff

On 20th October 2011, COVAB under the AFRISA platform entered into partnership with the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine (GALVmed).

GALVmed, a non-profit organization strives to save human life by protecting livestock. It fosters registration of the East Coast Fever (ECF) vaccine to ensure safety and to secure the sustainability of supply through commercialization. East Coast Fever is said to be one of the major causes of Livestock deaths in East Africa.

Unlike in Tanzania and Kenya where the vaccine is readily available to farmers, in Uganda it is scarce and costly. The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) has been the only importer of the vaccine in small quantities due to financial constraints.

GALVmed will therefore work with COVAB through AFRISA to spearhead the registration and commercialisation of this vaccine. This move is expected to make the vaccine readily available to Ugandan farmers at affordable rates.

NUFU Project Ends

“Although the NUFU Project has come to an end after 10 years, the networks between the participating universities will continue”, said Prof. Francis Ejobi at a 2-day workshop to mark the end of the Norwegian Programme for Development, Research and Education (NUFU) Project that has lasted 10 years. The first phase ended after 5 years and was renewed for another 5 years that ended recently.

The workshop hosted by COVAB at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala took place on the 27th and 28th of October 2011 under the theme, “Environmental Training and Zoonotic Diseases at Human-Animal Interface”.

NUFU supports partnership-based academic cooperation between researchers and institutions in developing countries and their partners in Norway focussing on research, education, capacity building and

institutional development. The workshop was attended by members from the participating Universities from Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Norway. For the last 10 years these universities have been working together through support from NUFU.

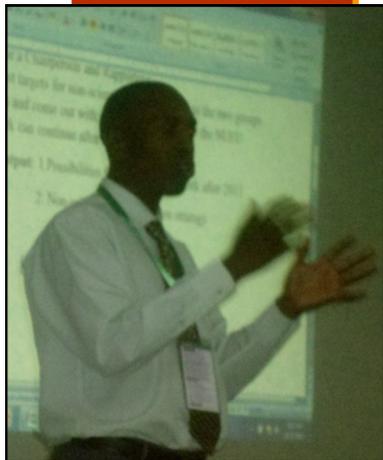
It was decided at the workshop that even though the Project had come to an end, the cooperation between those universities would continue.

Dr. Clovice Kankya, a beneficiary of the Project, together with other students from the other African universities presented their PhD research findings during the workshop and were given feedback on how to make their presentations better.

Dr. Charles Waiswa, who made the closing remarks on behalf of the Ag. Principal of COVAB encouraged partici-

pants to ensure that the results generated from the various student projects would reach the communities to better their lives. He thanked NUFU for the support given to Makerere University (COVAB) and the other universities and looked forward to the continuity of the networks between the Universities.

Participants of the NUFU workshop after a tour of COVAB



Dr. Kankya presenting his PhD findings at the workshop



Veterinary Profession Will Not Die



L-R-Dr. R. Muwazi, Dr. D. Owiny, Dr. C. Rutebarika and Prof. J.B. Kabasa

“We can now say that the Veterinary Profession won’t die in Makerere and we shall continue fighting until we get our own Ministry.” These remarks were made by Dr. Ruth Muwazi, at a ceremony that was held at the College to mark the end of the training session of 40 District Veterinary Officers from across the country. The 5-day training programme which began on 1st of August 2011 was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisher-

ies (MAAIF). The Ministry has been funding this annual training since 2007. During the training, the Veterinary Officers were given refresher courses so as to remain abreast with new developments in their profession.

Prof. John David Kabasa stated that teamwork, partnerships and collaborations should be embraced by Veterinarians if they are to acquire their own Ministry so as to serve Uganda better. “The

College is a testimony of collaboration”, he said in reaction to the recent endorsement by the University Council of SVM on 4th of August 2011 as a constituent College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources and Bio security (COVAB) of Makerere University. The participants were handed certificates of participation by the guest of honour, Dr. Chris Rutebarika, a Commissioner from MAAIF and also the Course Coordinator of the training programme. Dr. Rutebarika, noted that the training was very crucial for the participants’ continued development in their profession.

“Team work, partnerships and collaborations should be embraced by Veterinarians.”

COVAB Welcomes First Year Students

First Year Students of COVAB were advised to focus on their studies if they are to succeed.

Addressing the students during their orientation session in the College main hall on 22nd August 2011, Prof. John David Kabasa told them that they should be able at the end of their studies,

to contribute to the wellbeing of others by making use of the skills that they will gain while at the University. He said that if they did not have a vision during their stay at the College, they would perish because somebody without a vision can not know which direction to go.

disciplinary approach that equips students with the necessary technical, managerial and practical skills to serve the community more effectively in a diverse manner.

Speaking at the same event, Dr. Ruth Muwazi congratulated the First years on having made it to Makerere University adding that “you have not made the wrong choice to come to the College of Veterinary Medicine Animal resources and bio security.”

Present at the Orientation were Heads of Departments, Programme Coordinators, The School Registrars and Student leaders.

“We can not do things the same way your grandparents did”, Prof Kabasa told the students in regards to COVAB’s shift towards embracing a multi-

First Year Students during their orientation session



COVAB Hosts the RISE Annual Meeting



Prof. Ekirikubinza at the meeting

COVAB and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) hosted the Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE) Annual meeting at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala on 14th and 15th October 2011 under the theme

“Integration of Science and Technology Research Networks in national and regional development through university-led initiatives.”

Prof. Lillian T. Ekirikubinza, Makerere University Deputy Vice Chancellor said that Sci-

ence and Technology rank high in terms of bringing about economic growth in the country and that government should sponsor scientists in Uganda.

RISE is supported by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York and supported by the Science Initiative Group (SIG). RISE prepares PhD and MSc-level scientists through university-based research and training networks in selected disciplines. Its primary goal is to prepare staff to teach in African universities and to upgrade qualifications of current staff.

Representing the Minister of State for Higher Education, Dr. told participants that RISE was relevant because of its emphasis on human resource development in

the Science and Technology Field. “Africa can not run away from science and technology”, she said, adding that through such partnerships and networks, Africa can find answers to most of its problems.

Makerere University, Nairobi University and Sokoine University of Agriculture form one of the 5 networks under RISE. Prof. J.D Kabasa is the Project Director of the network (RISE-AFNET) that has developed a multi and trans-disciplinary regional MSc. Program in Natural Products and Value chains in the 3 networking universities.

Mr. Andrea Johnson from the Carnegie corporation said that Universities are targets for assistance because “they produce people that continue to produce knowledge”.

“Transportation of animals in Uganda is a disaster”

Animal Cruelty is a Reality in Uganda

There is a notion in Uganda that animals do not feel pain. They are considered to be inferior in welfare compared to humans. This was stated by Dr. Hebert Kwizera of the Uganda Meat Industries at a sensitization workshop on the development of a Veterinary Public Health Residency Program in Uganda, which was held on 04/08/2011 at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala.

He stated that animal marketers or middlemen in Uganda are criminals in regards to the way they handle animals. “They buy animals from farmers with an aim of selling them but they are totally ignorant of animal welfare. These people have no trucks to transport the animals to slaughter houses and so just improvise with common commodity trucks which they normally overload”, he revealed.

“Transportation of animals in Uganda is a disaster”, he said adding that the animals are forced to move long distances without any food, water or rest; on trucks with slippery floors, thereby leading to animal injuries arising from slipping.

Participants at the workshop further heard that slaughter houses in Uganda do not deserve to be called abattoirs because of their appalling states. Most of them neither have standing nor hosting facilities. The water in these slaughter houses is not enough to clean the carcasses well, hence the end products are usually not clean, neither are they free from contamination.

Dr. Kwizera concluded that there are no policies on handling such hazards and therefore Ugandans remain at a risk as far as food security is concerned. “However luckily for Ugandans, our consumption culture encourages that we cook food at high temperatures, which therefore helps to kill the bacteria”, Dr Kwizera said, “although that does not rule out the fact that Ugandans are still at risk of food insecurity.”



Some of the participants at the workshop

COVAB Staff Retreat



Mr. Patience Rwamigisa during his presentation at the retreat.

“COVAB has the potential to attract Funds”

“This world is about trade. If what you are doing does not generate income in the economy, then it is all a waste.”

These remarks were made by Dr. Paul Giita of the Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB) while addressing members of COVAB staff at Brisk Recreation Hotel, Jinja during a retreat that ran from the 14th to 16th of August 2011.

Dr. Paul Giita was among the speakers from the different stakeholders of COVAB who addressed the staff. Other speakers were Dr. Andrew Seguya, Acting Director of Uganda Wildlife Authority, Dr. Kauta Nicholas Director Animal Resources and

attract international students who not only bring in money to the College, but to the Ugandan economy as a whole. He also advised that the world being a global village, COVAB should train its students in a manner in which they can be employed abroad.

Dr. Seguya was of the view that, ‘sometimes luck is all you need’, because it is not a guarantee that when you strategise and position yourself in order to internationalise, you will automatically succeed. None the less, it is still important to be organised he advised adding that it was necessary to draw a business plan, to market yourself, have

Mr. Patience Rwamigisa, Senior Entomologist, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF).

All the above speakers stressed the need for COVAB to internationalise in order to generate more income as well as to expand. Dr. Giita said that COVAB should position itself in order to

enough human resource and attract partners that can work with you. Dr. Seguya emphasised the need for COVAB to brand itself and create an identity that goes with the level of class that it wants to display.

The speakers pointed out that COVAB is privileged to have a wide range of services in which it operates such as Animal Resources, Veterinary Sciences and Laboratory technologies, meaning that it has a lot of opportunities to exploit those areas in order to generate funds. Both Dr. Gitta and Seguya stressed the need for research and innovations in the Collage whereby the research is displayed to members of the public to view.

Dr. Seguya urged COVAB staff to feed into the business side of the college through teaching, research and consultancy services and that they should always think out of the box and not limit themselves. He laid out for them different areas which they can exploit such as; wildlife animal use rights, sport hunting, wildlife farming, and wildlife trade among others. He also stressed the need for COVAB to re-invent its curriculum in order to produce graduates that are job makers, not mere job seekers.

COVAB to Start Public Health Residency Program

Following a sensitization workshop on the development of a Veterinary Public Health Residency Program in Uganda held in Kampala on 04/08/2011, Dr. Andrew Tamale was sent to the University of Minnesota to learn how the Residency Program works. He was expected to create a Public Health Residency model for use in Ugan-



Dr. Tamale

da after his stay which lasted two months from 1st-August-2011.

“We are currently executing the model” said Dr.

Tamale. The first year activities for the model are on-going and they involve the setting up of a Residency Program in which stakeholders will be made aware of this model so that they can pro-

vide projects in which residents can be of use.

Makerere University (COVAB) and the University of Minnesota have a collaboration supported by RESPOND. RESPOND is a USAID-funded Project that is involved in building capacity in the Eastern Part of Africa to fight Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT).

Year One activities for the implementation of the Program have begun

Did you know?

COVAB Logo



COVAB finally has a logo, after a series of discussions among staff on what it should look like and contain. Even the final logo is still causing confusion as to what the 1922 is all about.. Please read the information on COVAB on the last page of this newsletter to find the origin of the year. Otherwise, congratulations upon getting a logo that brands COVAB.

New Office Space



Conference Room 2 is no more. It was transformed into

7 office spaces .

So far, four of the Office Spaces have been allocated to the 2 Accountants, the Communication Officer and the Web Administrator. It is not yet clear who will occupy the other three although word has it that one may be for the College Procurement Officer and another for the College Bursar, who are yet to join the College. As for the last office space, *The Covabian* is still fishing for info.

Annual Sports Gala

The Gala took place at the University main ground on 15th-October-2011. The overall winners were the Year II Class of Bachelor of Bio-medical laboratory Technology who emerged winners in Athletics, Volleyball, Chess and Scrabble

There was also a soccer game between students and staff of



BLT II Students celebrate after winning the overall trophy

COVAB which ended in a score of 2:1 In favor of the students.

Francis Mugume

On a sad note, COVAB learnt of the death of a member of staff / student of the College. Francis Mugume was a Technician and a Year II student of Bachelor of Animal Production Technology and Management . He succumbed to a long illness on 10th-September-2011. He will be greatly missed by staff and students of COVAB.

They said it...



"If you want to know

who attends so many meetings, just look at their stomachs. You all remember how Kabasa used to be a small man." **Prof. Acon Johnson** commenting on how the staff retreat was important for staff besides just the eating.



"We can not just

marry anyone...we choose who to marry. They wanted us to marry Agriculture...they also wanted us to marry Zoology but we refused" **Dr. Ruth Muwazi** on how COVAB was able to stand independently and defend its stand to become a constituent College of Makerere University.



"Before you start sharing money, you need to make the money first," **Prof. Kabasa** reacting to staff members' demands during the staff retreat on how they will financially benefit from COVAB.

The Covabian is always listening

Ask the Vet *with Dr. Frank Mwiine*



Question

I was given a kitten for my birthday, and he's very cute and very happy....BUT even though I followed the previous owner's instructions to the tips about feeding him, he seems to have a con-

stant case of diarrhea, and I'm slightly worried about it. Should this be a cause of worry or should I relax and just wait for it to pass? Hoping you can help. **Concerned Pet Owner**

Answer

Mild, temporary diarrhea in kittens is often related to the stress of a new environment and changes in the diet. Nervousness causes the feces to be expelled before suffi-

cient water absorption. New diets cause a shift in the normal bacteria and digestive enzymes. A more serious condition may be present if the diarrhea persists more than several days, becomes very watery, or has mucus or blood. Any sign of the kitten being sick or depressed is also cause for concern. The causes of persistent or severe diarrhea include parasites, infections and poisoning. In these cases, you should have your

veterinarian examine the kitten as soon as possible. Be sure to have a fresh stool sample for the doctor to check for parasites. A kitten with diarrhea needs to drink extra water, so have plenty of water dishes readily available. Try not to change the diet much and avoid milk and dairy products, and fresh meat products during bouts of diarrhea. **mwiine@vetmed.mak.ac.ug**

Japanese Specialist

Dr. Yoshi Kashiwazaki, a Japanese Veterinary Lab Specialist is back in Uganda. From 2007-2009, he was based in Entebbe overseeing the renovation of the MAAIF laboratory, which is today one of the

leading laboratories in East Africa. Dr. Yoshi will offer technical laboratory skills to interested staff, in line with the operational plans of the JICA project.



For more information; visit the JICA office or write to; harukana@koalanet.ne.jp

leading laboratories in East Africa. This time round, Dr. Yoshi is stationed at COVAB to ensure the modernization of the Central Diagnostic Laboratory. The laboratory is currently under renovation by JICA, a Japanese Organisation that offers technical assistance for improvement of national diagnostic capacity for animal disease control. Dr. Yoshi is an expert in immunological and microbiological techniques, including purification and conjugation of antibodies.

“Dr. Yoshi is an expert in immunological and microbiological techniques.”

Interesting Animal Facts

A dog that lives in the city will live approximately three years longer than a country dog

Cats successfully navigate through mazes in complete darkness. They lose this ability if their whiskers are cut off.

Rats will eat any type of food; including dead or dying rats.

The penalty for killing a cat 4,000 years ago in Egypt was death.

Laugh out loud!

A couple of New Jersey hunters are out in the woods when one of them falls to the ground. He doesn't seem to be breathing, his eyes are rolled back in his head.

The other guy whips out his cell phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps to the operator: “My friend is dead! What can I do?”

The operator, in a calm soothing voice says: “Just take it easy. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead.” There is a silence, then a shot is heard.

The guy's voice comes back on the line. He says: “OK, now what?”



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The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio security (COVAB) is by far the oldest and leading academic Veterinary Institution in East Africa. It is also Uganda's Number One academic research and education pillar in the animal and associated industries. Having been established in 1922 as a technical certificate training unit of the then Makerere College, it has since grown into a College with 2 schools; School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources and School of Bio security, Bio technical and Laboratory Sciences. The College offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, diploma and post graduate diploma programs and a variety of short courses.

For more information, please visit the Communication Office at COVAB, Makerere University or write to pr@vetmed.mak.ac



Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development

The Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development (AFRISA) is an autonomous agency of Makerere University. It is a non-profit organization supported by innovative partnerships for positive societal change.

AFRISA was approved by the Makerere University Council in March 2010 and it was established in August 2010. The AFRISA institute is governed by an independent Board of Directors accountable to the University Council.

AFRISA acts as an engagement platform for the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio security (COVAB). Through AFRISA, COVAB is able to engage with communities through the impartation of hands on skills in the animal resources sector. AFRISA provides a channel through which COVAB implements its strategy of shifting from the classical ivory tower teaching model to the ACP3 (Academic-Community-Public-Private Partnership)

AFRISA aspires for a healthier and wealthier Africa where the Animal Resources World is a primary opportunity. Through AFRISA, COVAB is bridging gaps between Universities, Communities, the Public and Private Sector to solve real societal problems.

The AFRISA Secretariat is located at Makerere University, College of Veterinary Medicine Animal resources and Bio security Complex.

For more information;

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