



UVCF Chronicles

June 2025 Issue #002

Theme: "Strengthening Higher Education through Innovation, Collaboration, and Policy Engagement"

INSIDE

Editorial Message

Welcome to this 2nd edition of our newsletter! In this issue, we explore exciting developments, expert insights, and inspiring stories that matter to you. Dive in and stay informed, connected, and inspired

Thought Leadership

Discover fresh perspectives and expert insights that challenge conventional thinking and inspire innovation.

Institutional Highlights

Stay updated on the latest achievements, milestones, and initiatives from our member institutions.

Events

Explore upcoming and past events, including impactful workshops, conferences, and leadership forums. Stay informed, stay connected.



Editorial Message

By Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo

Welcome to the June edition of *UVCF Chronicles*! As we reach the mid-year mark, we reflect on the strides made in strengthening higher education through innovation, collaboration, and digital transformation. The Uganda Vice Chancellors' Forum continues to serve as a unifying platform for advancing institutional excellence and shaping national education policy.

In this edition, we provide highlights from member universities, including institutional updates, leadership developments, and initiatives that are shaping the future of higher education. We also feature key issues around research and innovations—spotlighting how universities are addressing national development priorities through academic inquiry, applied solutions, and technology-driven approaches.

As we move forward, let us stay engaged, united, and innovative. The Secretariat remains committed to driving progress and fostering a strong, inclusive higher education ecosystem in Uganda



Strategic collaboration

By Prof. Paul Waako, Chairman -UVCF Executive Committee

Call for Strategic Collaboration and Forward Thinking: During the General Meeting, held on 26th May 2025 at Africa Renewal University, brought together leaders from member institutions to deliberate on key priorities for Uganda's higher education sector. During the meeting, Prof. Waako emphasized the critical need for strategic collaboration among institutions, alignment in leadership, and a shared commitment to enhancing academic quality.

The Uganda Vice Chancellors' Forum continues to serve as an essential platform for dialogue on regional frameworks, institutional partnerships, policy development, and leadership priorities. Prof. Waako encouraged all members to remain proactive, innovative, and united as we chart a collective path toward a more resilient and forward-looking higher education system in Uganda.

UVCF Standing Committees

By UVCF Secretariat

To enhance focus and effective execution of its mandate, the Uganda Vice Chancellors' Forum has operationalized four Standing Committees. These include:

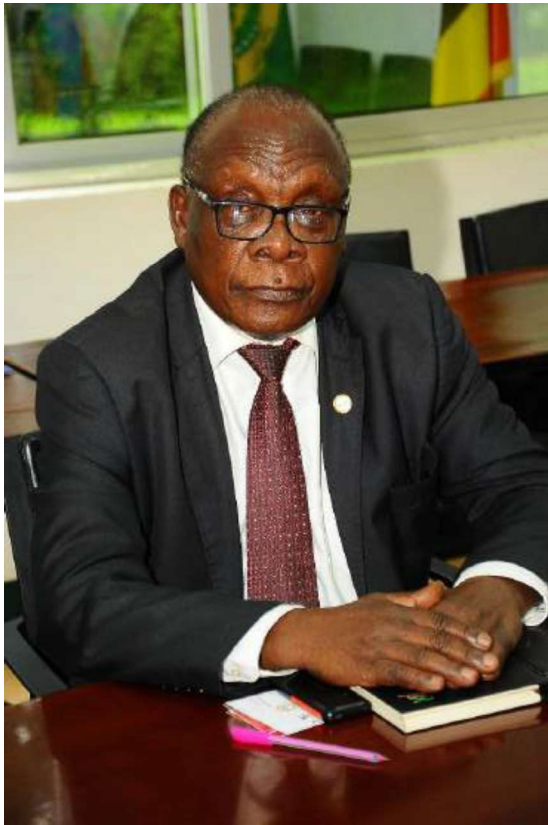
1. **Academic and Quality Assurance**
2. **Finance and Resource Mobilization**
3. **Research, Innovation, and Technology**
4. **Policy and Advocacy**

Each committee is tasked with driving targeted initiatives and providing strategic recommendations that align with the Forum's overarching goals for advancing higher education in Uganda.



Did You Know?

Uganda needs **over 5,000 additional PhDs** to meet its Vision 2040 targets for research, Innovation and development.



Executive Directors Message

By Prof. Eriabu Lugujo

As we wrap up the second quarter of 2025, I take pride in presenting the latest issue of The Chronicles. This quarter has been marked by significant strides in collaborative leadership, technological exploration, and deeper community engagement across our member institutions. From the successful quarterly meeting to the induction of standing committees and remarkable institutional stories, we continue to drive our shared vision of excellence in higher education.

As we look ahead, I urge each of us to reflect on the future of higher education in Uganda—particularly in the areas of strategic planning, research leadership, and the adoption of emerging technologies. A bold and forward-looking approach is essential for meaningful transformation.

In the words of **John C. Maxwell**:

**"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."
Let us choose growth.**

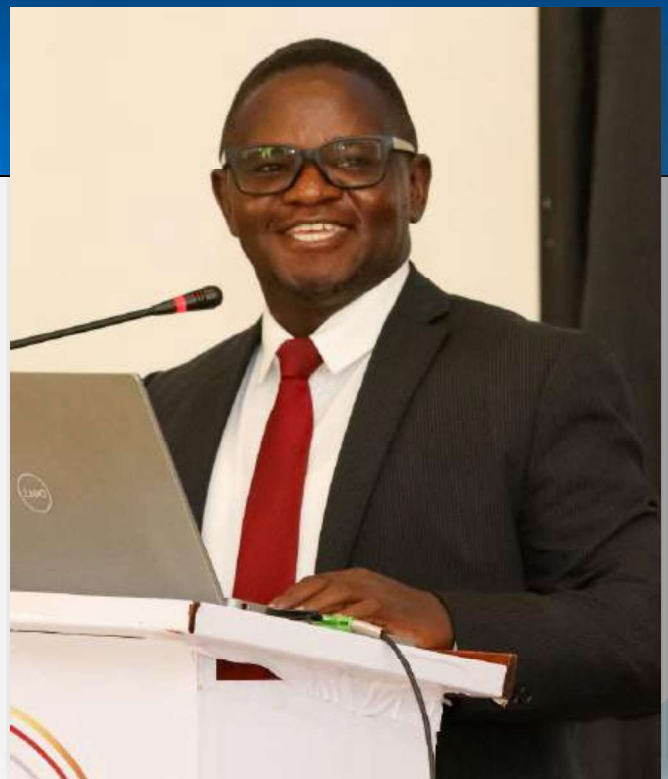
Highlights

75th UVCf General Meeting at Africa Renewal University (AfRU).

On 26 May 2025, over 60 Vice Chancellors and university leaders gathered at AfRU, Buloba, for the 75th edition of the UVCf General Meeting. The event featured:

- **Inspirational welcome remarks by Dr. Vincent Byamukama (VC, AfRU)**
- **Keynote insights from leaders including Prof. Jude Lubega on Uganda's PhD shortage and Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe on strategic university leadership**

Prof. Vincent Byamukama (VC, AfRU) welcomed members as a host and shared the university's history, highlighting its founding in 2007 as the Gaba Bible



Dr. Vincent Byamukama (VC, AfRU)

Institute, its evolution to university status in 2013, and official launch in 2014. He underscored AfRU's dual mission of academic rigor and character development aimed at transforming leaders for community impact.

Prof. Jude Lubega presented a strategic roadmap aimed at tackling the critical shortage of PhD holders in Ugandan universities. The primary goal is to systematically increase the number of doctoral-level academics in order to strengthen research output, enhance accreditation compliance, and support national development objectives.



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe - VC Makerere University



Prof. Jude Lubega- VC -Nkumba University

Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe introduced *normative leadership* as a framework concerned with how leaders ought to act in accordance with moral and ethical standards. He emphasized that university leaders must go beyond personal interests and align their decisions and behavior with institutional values and societal expectations. He outlined three main leadership styles—autocratic, democratic, and laissez-faire—and discussed how these can be applied situationally, especially in complex university environments.

“Education breeds
Confidence.

Confidence breeds hope.

Hope breeds peace.”

- **CONFUCIUS**



UVCF Members in Session

University Spotlights

African Rural University (ARU) is a pioneering institution in Uganda dedicated to transforming rural communities through women-centered education, leadership, and participatory research.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Two student-led research articles have been published in the *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications (IJSRP)* and *ResearchGate*, advancing ARU's Participatory Action Research (PAR) model to a global audience:

- *Enhancing Primary School Completion Rates in Kagadi District, Uganda* – Nyangoma Immaculate, Maali Chrispo, Byaruhanga George William (2025)
- *Community-Based Approaches to Literacy Improvement in Kasozi Village, Kagadi District* – Doreen Atugonza, Maali Chrispo, Byaruhanga George William (2025)

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION UPDATES

- Secured a **\$20,000 grant** for the *Digital Hub for Open Research* project (1-year implementation); 50% of funds already disbursed.
- Completed a **Resource Mobilization & Fundraising Training** (Feb 3–7, 2025) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Strengthened staff capacity in proposal writing and local partnership engagement.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnered with **UNESCO Chair** to host *Summer Camp 2025* at ARU, featuring participants from Georgia University (Netherlands), Makerere University, Gulu University, and ARU.
- Collaborated with **FAWEU**, leading to staff training on the *Extended Orientation Programme (EOP)*.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

On **6th March 2025**, ARU and URDT received the *Women Empowerment Trophy* at the Empower Her Awards 2025, held at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The award celebrates ARU's commitment to empowering women in leadership and education. Vice Chancellor **Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe** received the award on behalf of both institutions.



COLLABORATION WITH FAWEU

On **20th March 2025**, ARU hosted FAWEU to explore collaboration in:

- Teaching & Learning
- Capacity Building
- Community Engagement
- Research & Advocacy

Agreements were reached on joint proposal development, and one ARU staff member has enrolled in FAWEU training.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IMPACT



Through the *Young Africa Works Programme*, led by Grace, ARU empowered **2,298 youth** (including persons with disabilities) with vocational and soft-tech skills. Of these, **1,618 were women** and **671 were men**, enabling them to access employment and generate income.



In her own words, *"The visionary approach taught me to see beyond obstacles. Through the URDT Continuum, I not only transformed my own life but also uplifted my siblings by paying their tuition. My story is proof that when you transform a girl, you ignite a ripple effect of change in the entire community."*

More Information website: <https://aru.ac.ug/>

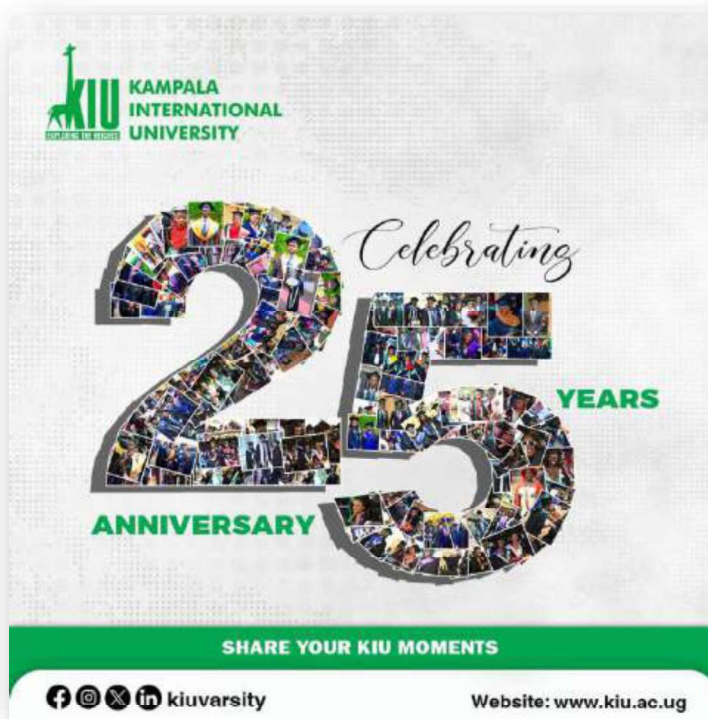
AI in Action

In 2024, an AI-powered robot performed a **precise eye surgery** in less time than a human surgeon, improving success rates. AI is rapidly transforming healthcare and higher education curricula alike.

KIU Celebrates 31st Graduation Ceremony and 25 Years of Excellence

Kampala International University (KIU) is proud to announce its 31st Graduation Ceremony, taking place this year at the Western Campus in Ishaka. This landmark event is more than a celebration of academic achievement—it marks 25 years of transformative impact in higher education. With a strong legacy of innovation, growth, and student empowerment, KIU continues to stand out as one of Uganda's leading institutions.

A Milestone Moment for Uganda



- Medical and Health Sciences
- Science and Technology
- Law
- Business and Management
- Education

The upcoming graduation ceremony is set to be one of the most memorable academic events in the country. As KIU commemorates 25 years of existence, this ceremony not only honors the hard work of thousands of graduates but also reflects on the university's Prof.ound contributions to national and continental development.

"Our focus on **STEM, agriculture, education, and entrepreneurship** prepares graduates for real-world impact," the university leadership affirmed, highlighting KIU's commitment to producing solution-oriented Prof.essionals ready to tackle Africa's challenges.

Expanding Programmes and Student Population

From humble beginnings with just a few hundred students, KIU has evolved into a Pan-African institution of excellence. Today, it serves over 40,000 students across its campuses. The university offers a wide range of programs in key disciplines including:

- Mathematics and Computing
- Engineering

This diverse academic offering continues to attract students from across the continent, affirming KIU's role as a premier destination for quality higher education.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King

ISBAT University



National Conference on Communication (NCC-2025) - ISBAT- UNIVERSITY

ISBAT University in collaboration with Gulu University, is organizing a National Conference on Communication (NCC-2025) sponsored by Uganda Communication Commission (UCC). The **theme** of the conference is ***Harnessing Digital Innovation to Power Sustainable Local Solutions for Uganda's Development Goals***, and it is scheduled on 02-03 October 2025.

More information visit website:
<https://isbatuniversity.ac.ug/>

UCU Win 7th Afro Varsity 3x3 Basketball Championship

Uganda Christian University officially defends both the Men's and Women's FASU-Africa University Sports 3x3 Afro - Varsity basketball titles.

The Mukono-based teams defeated the United States International University-Africa teams in the finals- 9th June 2025.



Coming soon
UVCF Annual Conference
October 2025



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

Five New Universities Accredited to Offer Law in Uganda.

The legal education landscape in Uganda has expanded, with five new universities officially accredited to offer law programs. This brings the total number of accredited institutions to 19, marking a significant milestone in broadening access to legal training.

In a document dated **May 6, 2025**, and signed by **George Omunyokol**, Chairperson of the Law Council's Committee on Legal Education and Training, five new universities were added to the prestigious list. These include **Victoria University**, **Metropolitan International University**, **Kabale University**, **Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU)**, and **Ndejje University**. Details [Victoria University, four others accredited to teach law - The Observer](#)

Courtesy visit - Al-Mustapha Islamic College

Al-Mustapha Islamic College, established in 2011 and located in Kyengera, is a unique institution offering both vocational and degree programmes. The College paid a courtesy visit to the UVCF Secretariat to discuss matters of higher education in Uganda and explore opportunities for collaboration. Connect: <https://aic.ac.ug/>



Centered Mrs. Nandago Shamsa and Mr. Makanga Yousuf Muniir Academic Registrars of AIC.

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RENU - www.renu.ac.ug

Uganda Martyrs University Crowned 2024-2025 Pepsi University Football League Champions

Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi emerged victorious in the grand finale of the 2024-2025 Pepsi University Football League (UFL), securing a commanding 3-0 win over St. Lawrence University. The thrilling final match took place on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at the Mutesa II Stadium, Wankulukuku, in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

In the battle for third place, Bugema University edged out the Islamic University in Uganda with a narrow 1-0 victory, wrapping up another exciting season of university football.

Congratulations to all the teams for their outstanding performances throughout the tournament.



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