



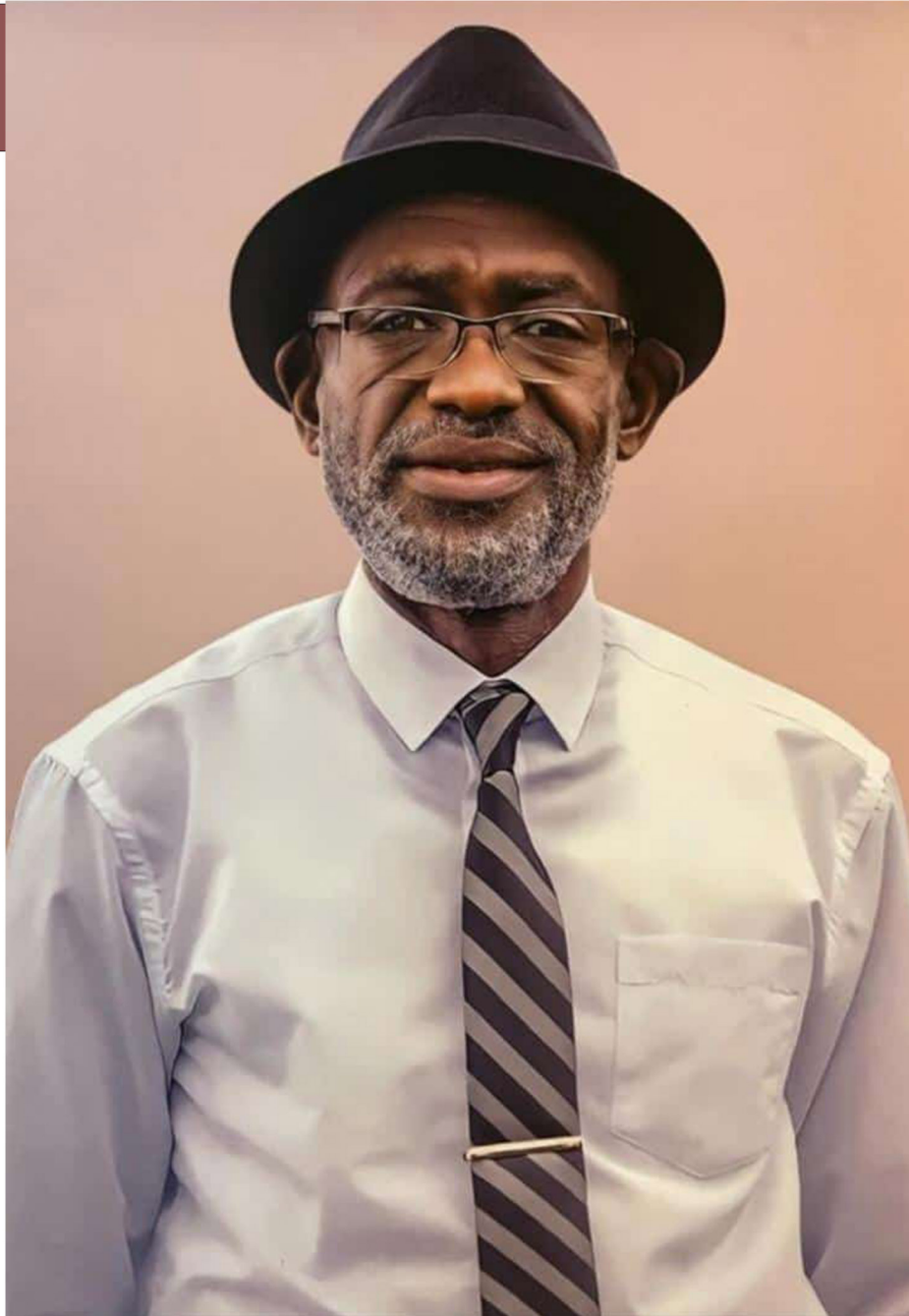
NewsLetter

October Edition 2023

University of Lay Adventists of Kigali

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Our Mission

The Mission of UNILAK is to promote integral education, scientific and technological research, community service and any other thing that may directly or indirectly contribute to the real development of Rwanda.



01

Vice Chancellor's Message



Vice Chancellor - UNILAK

Dear Esteemed Readers,

I extend my warmest greetings to you all as we gather here for the October edition of our university newsletter.

As we navigate through the pages of this newsletter, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the events and developments that took place within our academic community during this past month.

September has been a month of mixed emotions for our university.

Sadly, we faced a tragic moment as we mourned the loss of one of our dedicated staff members. His contributions to our institution will always be remembered, and his absence is deeply felt by our entire university family.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to his loved ones and friends and to each other as we grieve this loss together.

On a more hopeful note, we welcomed a new cohort of students who have chosen to embark on their academic journey with us.

The September intake has brought a vibrant cohort of students, and we are excited to watch them grow and flourish within our university community.

To our new students, I say welcome, and I encourage you to embrace every opportunity for learning, growth, and personal development that our institution has to offer.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share that our university is preparing to host an international conference on environment, energy and development (ICEED 2023) in the near future.

This event promises to be a platform for the exchange of ideas, collaboration, and innovation.

I invite all our dedicated researchers to seize this opportunity and submit their research papers for consideration.

As we embark on this new month, let us carry forward the spirit of unity, resilience, and academic excellence.

It is our collective effort and commitment to our mission that propels us forward and ensures our continued growth and success.

Wishing you all a productive and inspiring October.

Prof. NGAMIJE Jean
Vice Chancellor - UNILAK

Pastor Nyamaswa Ephron, Esteemed University Dean of Students and Chaplain, Mourned by



Pr Nyamaswa Ephron

UNILAK community is mourning the untimely passing of Pastor Nyamaswa Ephron, a distinguished figure who wore multiple hats as a devoted lecturer, Head of Chaplaincy, and Dean of Students. His sudden demise has left a void in the hearts of students, faculty, and staff at the institution.

Pastor Ephron, known for his unwavering dedication to both education and spirituality, passed away on the Second day of September 2023, leaving behind a legacy of wisdom, compassion, and guidance that will be remembered for generations to come.

A man of profound faith and intellect, Pastor Ephron had been an integral part of UNILAK family for 14 years. As a lecturer, he inspired countless students with his deep knowledge and passionate teaching style.

His lectures were not just academic exercises but opportunities for spiritual growth and introspection.

In addition to his role as a Dean of Students, Pastor Ephron served as the Head of Chaplaincy at UNILAK.

Under his leadership, the university chaplaincy became a sanctuary for students seeking spiritual guidance, solace, and support.

His weekly sermons and counseling sessions provided comfort and inspiration to many, making UNILAK a place of spiritual growth.

In his capacity as Dean of Students, Pastor Ephron was a mentor and advocate for UNILAK students' body.

“His open-door policy, listening ear, and sincere concern for the welfare of our students made him a trusted confidant.

He consistently worked to enhance the student experience, leaving an indelible mark on our university's culture;” declared Prof Jean Ngamije, the Vice Chancellor of UNILAK.

“We will always remember Pastor Ephron for his determined faith, his dedication to education, and his enduring support for our students. His memory will forever be cherished in our hearts.” Added Prof Jean Ngamije.

May Pastor Nyamaswa Ephron's soul

*Rest in eternal
Peace.*

UNILAK welcomes fresh cohort of students for September Intake 2023

UNILAK opened its doors once again to a new wave of eager learners as the September intake 2023 commenced on September 22nd. With a promising start to the academic year, the university is excited to embrace students who have been admitted into its diverse array of programs across four faculties, spread across its three campuses.

The fresh intake comprises both undergraduate and master's students who will be pursuing their academic journeys in UNILAK renowned faculties: Economic Sciences and Management, Law, Computing and Information Sciences, and Environmental Studies. These faculties cater to a wide range of academic interests and career aspirations, allowing students to make more explorations into their chosen fields with enthusiasm.



UNILAK is well-known for its commitment to providing flexible study options .

Students have the choice to attend classes during the day, evening, or even on weekends, ensuring that their academic pursuits align with their personal schedules and commitments.

Dr. Emmanuel Hakizimana , the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academics and Research, extended a warm and hearty welcome to the new students on behalf of the university.

During the welcoming ceremony, he expressed the university's pride in its diverse student body and its dedication to fostering an environment that promotes both academic excellence and personal growth.

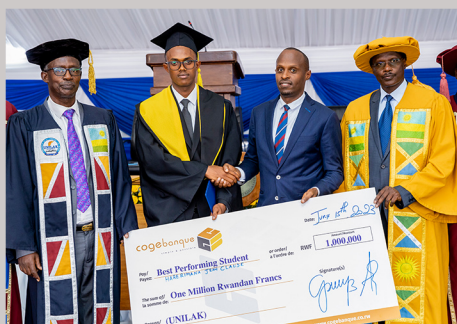
He also took the opportunity to offer his best wishes to the newcomers, encouraging them to make the most of their time at UNILAK in pursuing their studies with dedication and passion.

As the new students settle into their respective programs and schedules, UNILAK remains committed to providing them with the necessary resources, guidance, and support to help them succeed in their academic endeavors.

Meet the Outstanding Graduates Awarded Tutorial Assistant Lecturer Positions at UNILAK.

UNILAK has recently recognized the remarkable achievements of its four best-performing graduates who have been awarded the prestigious role of tutorial Assistant lecturers.

This prestigious recognition not only acknowledges their outstanding performance during their studies but also serves as a source of motivation and inspiration for current students striving to reach similar heights.



Mr. Claude Harerimana, a distinguished graduate from the Department of Finance, shared his journey through the university with profound gratitude. He recalled his arduous journey through the halls of UNILAK, marked by countless sleepless nights and tireless efforts.

Claude remarked, I could never have imagined that my hard work would lead to this incredible opportunity.

Claude expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the university for providing him with this remarkable opportunity. "I am immensely thankful to UNILAK for believing in me and recognizing my efforts.



Mr. Wiron Ruzindana, a graduate from the Department of Software Engineering, not only secured a role as a tutorial assistant Lecturer but was also appointed as an assistant to the director of ICT within the university.

Wiron's success serves as a testament to the university's commitment to fostering excellence in its graduates across various disciplines.



Mrs. Alice Uwamahoro, a graduate of the Faculty of Environmental Studies, was overwhelmed with joy at the prospect of standing before students as a lecturer.

She described this achievement as a dream come true, emphasizing the importance of hard work and determination.

She shared her story as an inspiration to her fellow colleagues, especially females and encouraged them to persevere in their studies, knowing that their efforts could also lead to such remarkable opportunities.



Mr. ISIAKA LATEEF ALAGBONSI, a graduate from the Law Faculty, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to UNILAK for not only recognizing the efforts of the outstanding graduates but also for providing encouragement to international students currently pursuing their studies at UNILAK. His journey serves as a testament to the university's commitment to recognizing and nurturing talent across various disciplines.

It is a reminder to current students that with hard work and determination, they too can achieve greatness and contribute to the academic community in meaningful ways; revealed the Vice Chancellor of UNILAK, Prof. Jean Ngamije. As UNILAK continues to foster the growth and development of its students, it remains committed to celebrating the success stories of its alumni, serving as an enduring source of inspiration for generations to come.

UNILAK INVITES RESEARCHERS WORLDWIDE TO SHARE INNOVATIVE INSIGHTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

In a bid to address pressing global challenges related to the environment, energy, and development, UNILAK has announced its plans to host an international conference.

Scheduled for the 8th of November 2023, the conference will focus on the theme of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

Researchers and experts from around the world are invited to submit their papers and contribute to the discourse on finding sustainable solutions for the planet's most critical resources.

With the increasing recognition of the urgent need to balance economic growth with environmental preservation, the conference aims to provide a platform for interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations.

UNILAK's initiative seeks to foster innovative thinking, share groundbreaking research, and generate actionable strategies for managing natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The conference will feature keynote speeches from renowned experts in the fields of environment, energy, and development, setting the stage for insightful deliberations.

Attendees can expect a diverse range of topics, including renewable energy technologies, conservation strategies, sustainable agriculture practices, climate change mitigation, and equitable development pathways.

CALL for PAPERS

The 6TH
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENT ENERGY
AND DEVELOPMENT (ICED2023)

Theme: "Sustainable Management of Natural Resources"

Nov, 08th 2023
Kigali, Rwanda
(at UNILAK)

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 18th 2023: Abstract submissions
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- November 1st 2023: Full paper submission
- November 8th 2023: Conference

CONTACT

Conference Secretary
Dr Christophe MUPENZI (Phone: +250788666156)
Submission Email : research@unilak.ac.rw
website: www.unilak.ac.rw

CONFERENCE TRACKS

- Water Environment and Safety
- Environmental monitoring, modeling and capacity building
- Optimized utilization of traditional energy and development of new energy
- Natural hazards induced by climate change and anthropogenic activities
- Water resources management under changes in climate, land use and cover and social economy
- Ecosystem services, conservation and sustainability

Call For Papers Flyer

Dr. Christophe Mupenzi, Dean of the faculty of Environmental Studies at UNILAK, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming event.

Our world is facing unprecedented challenges that require a united effort from the global research community. This conference will provide a platform for researchers to exchange ideas, share findings, and collaborate on innovative solutions that can shape a more sustainable future.

Prospective presenters are encouraged to submit their papers by the specified deadline to ensure a comprehensive program that reflects the latest developments in the field.

The organizing committee will evaluate submissions based on their relevance, originality, and potential impact. Accepted papers will be presented through oral presentations, poster sessions, and panel.



Dr. Rodolf Sárdi from ELTE University in Hungary visited UNILAK to explore more collaboration opportunities.

Dr. Rodolf Sárdi from ELTE University (EÖTVÖS LORAND) in Hungary visited UNILAK on the 7th of September to engage in discussions about potential areas of collaboration and mutual benefit.

The visit comes as part of UNILAK's ongoing efforts to enhance its international academic connections and broaden its global reach.

During his stay, Dr. Rodolf Sárdi met with UNILAK top administrators, including the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance; Mr Richard Niyonkuru, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research; Dr Emmanuel Hakizimana and Professor Uwaya Anthony, in charge of partnerships at UNILAK.

The meeting provided an opportunity to explore potential research partnerships, student exchange programs, joint academic initiatives, and other forms of collaboration.

Speaking about the visit; Dr. Emmanuel Hakizimana, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research, expressed excitement and optimism about the potential collaboration.

UNILAK is committed to fostering international partnerships that will enhance our academic offerings and contribute to the global knowledge exchange; said Dr. Emmanuel.

We are honored to host Dr. Rodolf from ELTE and look forward to exploring how our institutions can work together for the advancement of education and research.; He added.

The visit of Dr. Rodolf from Hungary to UNILAK exemplifies the growing importance of international collaboration in the academic world.

As both institutions seek to expand their horizons and make meaningful contributions to their respective fields, this visit holds the promise of a bright and productive partnership.



UNILAK welcomes Prof. Phooko Retselisitsoe to Faculty of Law



UNILAK is proud to welcome Professor Phooko Retselisitsoe to its esteemed Faculty of Law.

Professor Phooko Retselisitsoe, a distinguished legal expert with a wealth of experience, brings a rich and diverse background to the university.

He joins UNILAK after a successful career as a member of the Electoral Court of South Africa, and as an ad hoc judge of the High Court, Pretoria.

His contributions to the legal field have been significant, as he has presided over a wide array of cases, ranging from insolvency law, customary law, to the law of contract, earning him respect and recognition in the legal community.

At UNILAK, Professor Phooko Retselisitsoe will be contributing his extensive knowledge to the Faculty of Law. His commitment to education and his passion for the law will undoubtedly inspire and guide students in their academic and professional journeys.

Professor Phooko's expertise will extend to various fields within the Faculty of Law. He will facilitate lectures in research methodology, international law, public law, and human rights law.

His experience in both academia and the judiciary will offer students a unique perspective and a well-rounded education.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law, Mr. Robert Turyahebwa, expressed his enthusiasm for Professor Phooko's arrival, stating, we are delighted to have Professor Phooko Retselisitsoe join our faculty.

We believe his presence will greatly enrich the educational experience for our students.

The UNILAK community looks forward to the positive impact Professor Phooko will undoubtedly have on the aspiring lawyers under his mentorship.



A Public Lecture on Hope and Justice in the EAC Court of Justice took place at UNILAK



Prof. Phooko Moses, The Speaker at the Event

In a bid to foster a deeper understanding of hope and justice within the East African Community (EAC) Court of Justice, UNILAK organized a public lecture where Professor Phooko Retselisitsoe, a lecturer in the Faculty of Law was the speaker.

The event has drawn an audience of students, lecturers, and legal practitioners from across the country, all eager to engage in discussions that could yield valuable lessons for the Southern African development community.

The lecture, held at UNILAK conference room on the 22nd of September, 2023, commenced with an opening address by the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Mr. Richard Niyonkuru, who welcomed the attendees and highlighted the significance of discussing hope and justice within the context of the East African region.

Prof. Phooko, who was the speaker at the event, has brought his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Participants at the event were actively engaging in discussions centered on the lessons that can be learnt from the EAC Court of Justice jurisprudence.

“One of the primary objectives of this lecture is to stimulate critical thinking and generate ideas that could contribute to the development of the African continent as a whole.

Many believe that the successes and challenges can provide valuable insights for other regional communities seeking to promote economic integration, peace, and prosperity,” said Mr. Robert Turyahebwa, the dean of the faculty of Law.

The diverse audience at UNILAK includes students eager to expand their understanding of regional legal systems, lecturers who are keen on staying updated with the latest developments in the field, and legal practitioners who hope to gain new perspectives on the complexity of justice in the EAC.

The conversations revolved around the practical implementation of legal and ethical frameworks to address the challenges facing the region, including issues related to human rights, trade, and governance.

The event which took place at UNILAK serves as a testament to the importance of education and dialogue in shaping a brighter future for the East African region and the entire continent.

The public lecture on hope and justice in the EAC Court of Justice at UNILAK promises to be a transformative event, fostering a deeper understanding of regional legal systems and their potential impact on African development.



NYANZA CAMPUS COORDINATOR AND STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES COLLABORATE FOR A PROMISING ACADEMIC YEAR



The UNILAK Nyanza campus coordinator, Dr Denise Mukandoli

met with students' representatives in a crucial meeting held on September 26, 2023 aimed at reflecting on the previous academic year accomplishments and challenges and laying out a roadmap for the upcoming year.

The meeting took place in the spirit of collaboration and partnership to ensure the institution continued success.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the accomplishments from the previous academic year, which included a notable increase in student engagement, and a successful series of academic and extracurricular events.

Dr. Denise, the campus coordinator acknowledged the students vital role in achieving these milestones and expressed gratitude for their dedication and enthusiasm.

However, the discussion didn't stop at celebrating successes.

The coordinator and students' representatives engaged in a constructive dialogue about areas that required attention and enhancement.

Issues such as communication between the administration and students, and a desire for more diverse course offerings were raised and discussed.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Denise stated "Our institution has a bright future, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every student has the opportunity to excel".

I believe that by working together, we can address the challenges we face and build on our successes to create an even better academic environment.

The students' representatives expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to be part of the discussion and their eagerness to contribute to the campus ongoing development.

They agreed to meet regularly with the campus management to discuss progress and share insights from their peers.

This collaborative effort between the campus coordinator and students' representatives reflects UNILAK commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive academic community.

By engaging in open dialogue and partnership, the institution aims to ensure a successful academic year that benefits all members of the campus community.

UNILAK Law Students Engage in IHL Youth Dialogues Organized by ICRC Rwanda

In a bid to foster a deeper understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), students from the Faculty of Law participated in the IHL Youth Dialogues, an enlightening initiative organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Rwanda.

This engaging forum, which has captivated the attention of young legal students, aims to promote dialogue and awareness surrounding the critical aspects of International Humanitarian Law.

These sessions are designed by ICRC to provide real-world insight into the application of IHL in situations of armed conflict, humanitarian crises, and beyond. One of the highlights of the dialogues is the opportunity for students to engage directly with ICRC representatives, enabling them to ask questions, seek guidance, and gain unique perspectives on the complexities of IHL.



The Faculty of Law Students are participating in the IHL Youth Dialogues - UNILAK

Mr. Turyahebwa Robert; a dean of the faculty of Law, expressed his enthusiasm for the event, saying, "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of a critical area of law that has a profound impact on the world.

The ICRC commitment to educating the next generation of legal professionals is commendable. The IHL Youth Dialogues are not limited to classroom settings; they also provide students with a platform to network with peers who share their passion for humanitarian law.

This networking opportunity facilitates the exchange of ideas and promotes collaboration among future legal professionals.



 ICRC Trainer

Dossen P.Gladsay, a student in the Law Faculty participating in the dialogues, shared her thoughts: "I've always been interested in IHL, but this event has taken my knowledge to a whole new level.

We are looking forward to next time." The ICRC dedication to fostering a global dialogue on humanitarian issues is a testament to its mission.

By engaging the next generation of legal minds, this initiative ensures that the principles of IHL continue to be upheld and advanced in the face of evolving challenges in the modern world.



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- Optimized utilization of traditional energy and development of new energy
- Natural hazards induced by climate change and anthropogenic activities
- Water resources management under changes in climate, land use and cover and social economy
- Ecosystem services, conservation and sustainability



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