



University of Lay Adventists of Kigali

NEWSLETTER

June Edition - 2024

Knowledge & Wisdom





I am delighted to welcome you to the June edition of UNILAK Newsletter. This month has been filled with remarkable achievements and memorable events that underscore the growth and international recognition of our institution.

We are immensely proud to highlight that Yonsei University, one of South Korea's premier private institutions and a valued partner of UNILAK, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration to His Excellency President Paul Kagame.

This prestigious recognition celebrates his exemplary leadership and outstanding contributions to public administration and development in Rwanda and across Africa. President Kagame's achievements continue to inspire our community and beyond.

In addition, UNILAK celebrated its 18th graduation ceremony, marking a significant milestone for over 1000 graduates who have now embarked on new journeys. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of them and wish them great success in their future endeavors.

We were honored to welcome Prof. Christopher Behan, an esteemed expert in the field of law, as a visiting professor. His engagement with our students and the wider community has been truly enriching. Prof. Behan conducted a highly insightful public lecture, sharing his extensive knowledge and experience, and we are grateful for the positive impact he has made during his stay.

Moreover, we had the pleasure of hosting delegates from Arden University. Their visit was a significant step in strengthening the ties between our institutions, fostering collaboration, and exploring new avenues for academic and research partnerships. Thank you for being a part of UNILAK family. We look forward to sharing more exciting news and accomplishments in the months to come.

Warm regards!

Prof Jean NGAMIJE
Vice Chancellor



PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME TO ATTEND FIRST KOREA - AFRICA SUMMIT AND RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE AT YONSEI UNIVERSITY

His Excellency President Paul Kagame has arrived in Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the inaugural Korea-Africa Summit, scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

The summit marks a significant step in fostering stronger ties between the African continent and South Korea, focusing on economic cooperation, sustainable development, and shared technological advancements.

In addition to his attendance at the summit, President Kagame is set to visit Yonsei University on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Yonsei University, one of South Korea's premier private institutions, will confer President Kagame an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration.

This recognition underscores his exemplary leadership and contributions to public administration and development in Rwanda and across Africa.

Yonsei University, established in 1885, is renowned for its academic excellence and international partnerships.

The institution has been a partner of UNILAK since July 27, 2023, following a collaborative agreement with the Institute for Poverty Alleviation and International Development (IPAID) at Yonsei University's Wonju campus.

This partnership underscores a commitment to addressing global challenges through joint academic and research initiatives.

UNILAK extends heartfelt congratulations to President Kagame for receiving the honorary doctorate, acknowledging his visionary leadership and dedication to public service.



**“Over 1,000 UNILAK
graduates urged to
lead change, make
positive impact”**

Graduates of the academic year 2023-2024 of the University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK) were urged to make an impactful change in the world to benefit Rwandans and others who live in the country.

This was highlighted by the guest of honour, Rose Mukankomeje, the Director General of the Higher Education Council (HEC) during UNILAK's 18th graduation ceremony held on June 20, at the university's headquarters in the City of Kigali, Gasabo District.

"Transform the world, and don't be left behind, change the world in a better way that every Rwandan will enjoy living in," Mukankomeje said.

She told graduates that the government is standing in support of them to advance their studies.

While delivering his speech at the ceremony where 629 females and 487 males graduated, bringing the total to 1,116 graduates, Prof Dr Alex Butera, Chancellor of UNILAK, applauded the graduates for the significant milestone attained.

He stated that the celebration was due to their relentless hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excel.

"We are filled with immense pride and admiration for all you have achieved. From the early days of orientation to the countless hours spent in various areas of learning at this institution, you have shown resilience, determination, and a thirst for knowledge," he stated.

Prof. Butera motivated the graduates to carry the values and principles that have been the cornerstone of their education at the university as they step forward into the next chapter of their lives. He encouraged them to strive for excellence, uphold integrity, and always be curious and open to learning, highlighting that education is a lifelong journey.

"As you leave this institution, you are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel and a deep sense of purpose and responsibility to impact positive change in Rwanda. Whether you choose to further your studies, enter the workforce, or embark on other adventures, know that you have the power to make a difference.

"Use your talents and education to create positive change, innovate, and inspire those around you," Prof. Butera advised.

He mentioned that the foundation will enable them to navigate the world with confidence and uprightness, make a meaningful impact, and leave a legacy.

The academic and administrative staff were also acknowledged for their unwavering education and guidance that was instrumental in modelling the graduates, stressing that their commitment to excellence and diligent support provided the learners with the knowledge to bloom.

Prof Jean Ngamije, Vice Chancellor of UNILAK, commended graduates for their individual and collective achievements in reaching their accomplishments and emphasized that graduates demonstrated academic excellence, resilience, and adaptability in the face of challenges.

Prof. Ngamije urged the alumni to stride into the next phase of their lives and reflect on their journey, stressing that their achievements are a testament to their commitment and the support of their families, friends, and the entire UNILAK community.

"Remember to embrace the values and knowledge you have gained during your time here. The world you are entering is filled with opportunities and uncertainties. Embrace each challenge as a chance to grow and make a positive impact," Prof. Ngamije urged.

He encouraged graduates to stay connected with their peers and the university, as the bonds they have crafted will be a foundation of strength and motivation.

"Your journey has been filled with challenges, but you have emerged glorious, equipped with knowledge and skills that will serve you well in your future endeavours.

"For our administrators and educators, your guidance and strategies have enabled our graduates to reach new paths. Your determination and commitment, service, and excellence have created a conducive environment for our students," said Dr Papias Niyigena, Chairperson of the Board of Directors at UNILAK.



Prof. Christopher Behan, welcomed at UNILAK

UNILAK is pleased to announce the arrival of Professor Christopher Behan, who joins the Faculty of Law as a visiting professor. The Senior Management Committee, along with faculty members, warmly welcomed Professor Behan.

Professor Behan, renowned for his extensive expertise and significant contributions to legal studies, is expected to bring a wealth of knowledge and a fresh perspective to the university. His appointment reflects UNILAK's commitment to academic excellence and its continuous effort to enhance the educational experience for its students.

The senior management committee, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Emmanuel Hakizimana, extended a warm welcome to Prof. Behan. "It is with great pleasure that we welcome Prof. Behan to UNILAK. His presence here is a testament to our commitment to

Prof. Behan expressed his enthusiasm for joining UNILAK and his eagerness to engage with the students and faculty members. "I am truly honored to be part of such a prestigious institution. I look forward to collaborating with my new colleagues and contributing to the academic growth and success of UNILAK," Prof. Behan commented.

During his tenure at UNILAK, Professor Behan will engage in teaching, mentoring, and collaborative research projects with both faculty and students. He is also slated to deliver a public lecture and seminar, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of contemporary legal issues.

UNILAK remains dedicated to attracting distinguished scholars and professionals from around the world; the addition of Professor Behan marks another significant step in the university's ongoing pursuit of academic distinction.



PROF. CHRISTOPHER BEHAN BRINGS REAL-WORLD INSIGHTS TO THE CLASSROOM

This semester, the Faculty of Law at UNILAK has had the privilege of hosting Professor Behan, an esteemed legal scholar renowned for his expertise in criminal law and procedure. As a visiting professor, Prof. Behan has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience, captivating students through his dynamic teaching methods and interactive sessions.

Throughout his tenure, Prof. Behan has delivered a series of lectures that not only cover theoretical aspects of the law but also provide practical insights from his extensive career. His ability to relate complex legal principles to real-world scenarios has been particularly appreciated by students, who have found his classes both intellectually stimulating and highly relevant to their future careers.

"Prof. Behan's lectures are incredibly engaging," said Queen Urayeneza, a law student. "He encourages us to think critically and apply what we learn to current global issues. It's an invaluable experience."

In addition to traditional lectures, Prof. Behan has introduced a variety of interactive activities. These activities have fostered a vibrant learning environment, encouraging students to actively participate and develop their practical legal skills.

"I believe in a hands-on approach to teaching," Prof. Behan explained. "Law is not just about understanding legislation and case law; it's about being able to apply that knowledge in real-life situations. My goal is to prepare students to become effective and ethical practitioners."

Dean Robert Turyahebwa of the Faculty of Law expressed his gratitude for Prof. Behan's contributions, stating, "We are incredibly fortunate to have Prof. Behan with us this semester. His dedication to teaching and his passion for the law have enriched our program and inspired our students."





Prof. Christopher Behan delivers insightful Lecture on Access to Justice

Prof. Behan, a visiting professor in the Faculty of Law at UNILAK, delivered a compelling public lecture on June 28th, 2024, which drew a diverse audience comprising law students and legal practitioners. The lecture centered on the critical theme of "Access to Justice and the Potential Impact of Court-Appointed Counsel for Indigent Defendants in African Courts."

In his comprehensive lecture, Prof. Behan emphasized the crucial role that access to justice plays in the overall framework of human rights. He highlighted the challenges faced by indigent defendants in African courts, who often struggle to secure adequate legal representation due to financial constraints. Prof. Behan argued that court-appointed counsel could serve as a vital mechanism to bridge this gap, ensuring that all defendants receive a fair trial regardless of their economic status.

The lecture saw a lively discussion among attendees, who posed various questions and shared their perspectives on the topic. Students were particularly interested in the practical implementation of court-appointed counsel systems and their effectiveness in different African countries. Legal practitioners, on the other hand, raised concerns about the sustainability and funding of such programs, given the limited resources in many jurisdictions. Prof. Behan addressed these questions with a blend of scholarly insight and practical wisdom. He drew on examples from jurisdictions where court-appointed counsel systems have been successfully implemented, offering a roadmap for similar initiatives in Africa. He also underscored the importance of political will and community support in driving these reforms forward.

Mr. Turyahebwa Robert, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, expressed his gratitude to Prof. Behan for sharing his expertise and inspiring both students and professionals to advocate for greater access to justice.

"Prof. Behan's lecture has opened our eyes to the critical issues facing our legal system and has provided us with valuable insights on how to address them," Mr. Turyahebwa remarked.

As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding access to justice in African courts.



ARDEN UNIVERSITY TEAM VISIT UNILAK TO STRENGTHEN TIES

A delegation from Arden University, led by Bayo Awesu and Vivian Nzekwe, paid a courtesy visit to UNILAK on the 1st of July, 2024. The team was warmly received by Mr. Richard Niyonkuru, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at UNILAK, marking a significant step towards deepening the relationship between the two esteemed institutions.

The visit was initiated to explore and strengthen academic collaborations, fostering a mutual exchange of knowledge and resources. During the meeting, discussions centered on joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, and collaborative academic initiatives that would benefit both universities.

Mr. Richard, the Deputy Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude for the visit and emphasized the importance of international partnerships in enhancing the quality of education and research.

"We are delighted to welcome the team from Arden University. This visit is a testament to our shared commitment to academic excellence and innovation. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration that will enrich both our institutions," he stated.

Bayo Awesu, from Arden University, echoed the sentiment, highlighting the potential for a dynamic and productive partnership.

"Our visit to UNILAK is an exciting opportunity to build strong academic and cultural ties. We are eager to collaborate on various initiatives that will not only benefit our students and faculty but also contribute to the global academic community."

This visit marks the beginning of what promises to be a robust and enduring partnership between Arden University and UNILAK, aimed at promoting academic excellence and fostering global educational connections.