

Stakeholders Present the Master of Education Curriculum Highlights of the introductory speech delivered by the HUC Principal

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Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ,
Principal Hekima University College

– Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ.

In June 2021 Hekima University College hosted a stakeholders forum for a team of experts to review the proposed Master's degree program in Jesuit Education.

– **One of the Jesuit Tertiary Institutions in Africa**

Jesuits are known worldwide as champions of education. From the year 1548 when the Society of Jesus opened its first school in Messina,

Italy, they moved quickly into Tertiary Education, which also advanced very rapidly. Currently, they count over 400 universities around the world. Hekima University College (HUC) is part of this worldwide network of Jesuit Tertiary Institutions.

According to the Principal, Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ, Jesuits put a lot of emphasis on training young people to embrace a vision that encompasses not just learning facts and figures but also that which can enable them to have an impact on the society. This they do by transmitting what they call the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) as a system of education.

“We the Jesuits train not just our students but also our teachers, our staff, our stakeholders and all those who are involved in the project of education on our behalf. Training the trainers has been

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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Adventus Domini!

Each year around this time we prepare to welcome Jesus or to renew our awareness of his presence in our world. His coming is marked by his profound humility: he comes from the Father and yet lives in our midst as one like us – in all things, but sin.

He is the perfect one in whom we encounter the fullness of God; and that is why the Sacred Scriptures say He comes as Light (John 1,1–14; 8,12) with which we can love our neighbor more, act with more generosity, and be more ready to experience forgiveness.

We are glad to publish the first issue of the Hekima Newsletter at this time, introducing the readers to most of the Jesuits and the works they do and direct. Put together, the narratives indicate where we are at since the College was born in 1984 – with the class of the first graduates – the class of the Very Rev. Fr. Fratern Massawe, S.J. – former Eastern Africa Provincial, former (then) JESAM Moderator (today called President), and presently General Counsellor and General Assistant of the Society of Jesus in Rome. He is also the first non-European *ad providentiam* General Assistant. Hekima alumnus!

While the dreams of the Founding Fathers (Fr. Henri De Decker, S.J. – first Rector; Fr. Cecil McGarry, S.J. – first Dean and later Rector; – Fr. Eddie Murphy, S.J. – first Librarian; and Fr. Michel Istas, S.J. – first Secretary & Registrar) of this Institution have brought us this far, we continue to be faithful to the work they started several decades ago – providing the space for an academically based Theological and Pastoral reflection for so many people.

In those early years, our students came from all over Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the USA. And so were the Faculty members. And today the Faculty is made up of nearly 100% Hekima alumni – with a very diverse post-Hekima training. We must meet the challenges of going beyond the typically, seminary formation house that characterizes many “theological houses of studies” today, and meet the demands of a more independent, academic university character. A remarkable achievement in this regard is the relatively recent separation of community and college at Hekima.

There is also a much stronger collaboration with lay people – men and women – with a diverse faith background; as well as with various groups of religious men and women. Our common work tries to be in sync with the prophetic role of the Church in the world today, as well as with the call of our Father General ARPN Arturo Sosa, S.J. to put into practice the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus. **Read on! Read all! Happy Advent!**

Fr. Chukwuemeka Orji, SJ

JCAM President Commends HUC

The President of the Jesuit Conference for Africa and Madagascar, the Very Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J. was at the Hekima University College for the opening of the academic year 2021-2022.

Before declaring the academic year open, Fr. Orobator called attention to the Jesuit response at Hekima in the time of the virus crisis. While on one hand the corona pandemic has done a lot of damage: affected the lives of so many people, and almost crippled plans and activities of families, institutions and organizations, it has on the other hand, forced people to adopt new ways of doing things.

Not only is Hekima University College winning in the struggle to remain operational, but it has journeyed successfully in doing a contextual theology as well as fully living out the spirit of creativity. The Jesuits here have un-

derstood that being innovative is the way to go especially in the face of this pandemic.

The school has offered tools for handling the challenges of our time. Through the Hilton Foundation recently opened, it offers study opportunities to hundreds of religious sisters. It has created a center for the safeguarding, protection and care of children and vulnerable adults in response to the crisis of abuse in the Church. In its intellectual activities, members of the academic faculty have carried out new publication works.

The Father President encouraged the school not to be weighed down by the crisis but rather to have the proper attitude as indicated in the teachings of Pope



Very Rev. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, JCAM President

Francis.

Fr. Orobator offered a word of welcome to all students, as well as to the new faculty members most of whom are products of Hekima University College. He also wished a fruitful and fulfilling time to all the new students. 📖

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the secret to our success in the field of education all over the world since the Middle Ages,” the Principal explained.

He pointed out that although the Jesuits are yet to have a foothold in Africa in terms of Tertiary Education, things are beginning to change. For instance, Hekima University College envisions becoming one of the first Jesuit Tertiary institutions in Africa. The institution’s management is considering the possibilities of having a school of education, which will be based at the college’s Post Graduate Campus in Nairobi to primarily train Jesuit teachers in Africa.

“Just by the fact that someone is a Jesuit priest does

not mean that they are an expert in Jesuit education, and yet we have many secondary schools on the continent and very talented Africans. They are now taking over from the Missionaries and are doing a great job in the running of these schools. And so, we need a framework to be able to run this Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm. A school of education at Hekima would be ideal,” the Principal said.

The target however, is not just to train the Jesuits who will be working in the Jesuit-run educational institutions. It is also to train teachers and educational administrators from across the African continent, just as it has happened in Europe and America where one cannot write the history of those continents without mentioning the influence of Jesuit

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Hekima University College Gets a new Deputy Principal for Administration and Finance

Hekima University College welcomes Rev. Dr. Anthony Egan, SJ, as a full-time faculty and admin staff. He brings in a wealth of experiences which will certainly make a difference in the lives of the students and the entire college fraternity. The following is a story of a Jesuit who got his PhD before finishing Theology.

The original plan before God interrupted and the journey to becoming a Jesuit

I am a South African Jesuit, born in Cape Town in 1966, I studied initially at the University of Cape Town before I joined the Jesuits. Initially, I intended to become a lawyer, an advocate or a barris-

rum and coke while smoking Cuban cigar and writing novels as I watch all the beautiful women at the beach! That was my original plan, until God disrupted it sometime during my studies and then I decided slowly with much resistance to become a Jesuit.

I managed to join the society in 1990 and at that stage, I had finished my Masters in History and strangely enough, it was in Church History written from a very much Marxist perspective at the University of Cape Town. That became a little book that was later published in 1991.

I did my novitiate in England because at that time, Jesuits in South Africa were a semi-independent Region of the British Province of the Society of Jesus. Later on, I did my philosophy at the London Heathrow College and a year of Theology there. I came back to South Africa and was set to do the Jesuit regency, which is a time to take a break from studies and get immersed full-time into the Jesuit Ministry.

Initially the plan was that I would teach in a school, however, during that time, it was very difficult for someone who did not have a teacher's diploma to teach in a school, so I was only allowed to teach some unex-

aminable subjects although I had tutored in History at the University. From there I transferred from being a school teacher and became an assistant chaplain at the university Chaplaincy in Johannesburg which at the time catered for two universities; one speaking English and the other African.

Finishing PhD in History Before Theology

At the end of my time as a master's student at the university of Cape Town (UCT), I was working part time for the ecumenical religious studies department at UCT and they were putting together the history of the church including church-state struggle in South Africa and I was a data collector. While there, I discovered an archive of a man who had been a Methodist pastor back in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s in South Africa.

He had been tried with Nelson Mandela for treason in the 1956 treason trial because he was the president of a group called the South African friends of the Soviet Union, which was set up during the Second World War as a kind of funding agency for the Soviet Union. At that time Russia allied with Britain and so, we were part of the British empire. But this man was a committed communist as well as a Methodist Pastor and I wanted to write about his life because I found it fascinating

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Rev. Dr. Anthony Egan, SJ,

ter; I was going to make a lot of money, retire at the age of 50 to the Caribbean, something like Barbados or Bermuda, eat hot dogs with Tony Blair and his family, sit at the beach, drinking


ALUMNI'S CORNER



They are former students of Jesuit School of Theology, (JST), Hekima. Having excelled in their academic fields they are now back at the same institution as faculty members.

From the first Semester of the 38th Academic Year of Hekima University College, Cyrus Mwangi, SJ, Pierre-Celestin Musoni, SJ and Valentine Ossai, SJ are once again join the Hekima Family. Endowed with beautiful and inspirational memories of the institution, the three alumni hope to pass the legacy to their students.

For Cyrus Mwangi, the experience of a rigorous academic engagement where lecturers strive to show students the direction and let them labor for a good course, had a great impact in his academic affairs. The experience helped him to excel.

For Pierre-Celestin Musoni, being surrounded by good classmates who challenged his abilities, good lecturers who played their roles perfectly well, and finally, a healthy community life at Kwetu Kwenu community are unforgettable. And for Valentine, Ossai, friendship curved from different cultures that form the community in Hekima and the freedom with responsibility based on Jesuit formation is what he holds dear from HUC. Here is their story 

Giving Back to their Alma Mater Former Hekima JST students re-live past experiences as they begin a new journey as Faculty Members

Cyrus Mwangi, SJ

I was a JST student between 2014 and 2017; that's a full three years of serious theological engagement. After my studies, I was asked to go for further studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. There I pursued a course in Bible.

During my first year, I dwelled on the original languages in which the Bible is written, i.e. the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek. Afterwards, during the following three years, I concentrated on getting to understand how these languages help one to dive into the study on Holy Scriptures.

Looking back, one of my most memorable experiences as a JST student at Hekima is that students are not spoon-fed. The Jesuit School of Theology presents a system that gives students the direction to dive into books and scholarship. This solid foundation is what I built on when I went for my further studies. The professors here at Hekima have a culture of only giving you the guidelines, and it is up to you as a student to be disciplined and to work extra hard.

That rhythm of work at Hekima is

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Cyrus Mwangi, SJ

quite unique and it goes along with the Jesuit Education whereby one takes time to reflect on, and to reflect over the materials given in class. This enables you to create your own ways of looking at things and eventually helps you to understand and be able to address issues in the society. This is my testimony, and I give credit to Hekima.

I am talking about the discipline Hekima instills on its students. When you have to study these ancient languages, for instance, you require a lot of discipline, a lot of dedication and a lot of time. I must admit that I acquired these attributes here at Hekima and they made my studies in Rome quite easy. I was able to adjust and get into a very vigorous system at the Biblicum and I came out victorious.

This first Semester, I am teaching First Year students, Biblical Greek and Second Year students, Historical Books and the Prophets.

As we know, the Historic Books form the basis for understanding the prophecies in

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the Bible, there is a Swahili proverb that *“Kila mwamba ngoma, ngozi huvutia kwake,”* (everyone who stretches a skin on a drum, pulls the skin to his/her own side); as a person who has chosen to narrow down on the Word of God, the Bible, I situate Hekima as a place where we introduce students to very solid Biblical studies and ancient languages, the languages in which the Bible was written, Hebrew and Greek.

I would therefore say that if you want good Theology and especially, Biblical department, come to Hekima. The formation here will help you form a basis in which, if you are interested in the Scriptures, you will be able to build on it with ease.

Now, to our current students! I would like to encourage you to choose the Word of God as an area of study. It is demanding and many people shy away from it but it is worth trying because when one enters into it, there is a lot of beauty in it as you will be able to see the Bible and relate to it with ease. It would therefore be very joyous to see more students getting interested in the Sacred Scriptures as their area of specialization.

Pierre-Celestin Musoni, SJ

I studied at Hekima between 2012 and 2015; from there, I went to do

“I easily get attached to the places I am sent. When I was in Harare, I felt very reluctant to leave at the end of my two-year program. But I had to come to Hekima for theology. Then after three years here, my attachment to Hekima had grown owing to the wonderful experience, but then it was time for me to move and go for my social apostolate. When I got there, again I felt very reluctant to leave. So, it is a weakness to remain attached to one place.”

my social apostolate in Burundi for two years, 2018 and 2019, then I was sent to Rwanda and worked as a parish priest at a university parish. I must admit that I enjoyed being with the students and I think that is what has brought me back here. From Rwanda I went to Berkeley where I did my Master's and STL.

Talking about my experience at Hekima, being in a Jesuit Formation Institution, and being a Jesuit, you get to have a lot of memorable experiences. I had a wonderful group of classmates at JST and I am not just talking about the Jesuits alone; I am talking about the Pallottines, the Combonis and all those fellows who were around me. I had good friends who would challenge me to better myself each and every day. I had two particular ones who were really good and, up-to-date; we are still good friends. They made me feel that our group was meant to make me grow.

The lecturers were equally very good. I still hold great memories of them especially the man whose former office I currently occupy, Prof Laurenti Magesa; this was one of the great professors we had around.

I never thought that I would be coming back here but considering the ways of the Lord, you never know where you will end up.

On the side of the community, I do believe that we had too much life and I treasure the way we lived; from the leadership of the community, to the people I was living with at Kwetu Kwenu



Pierre-Celestin Musoni, SJ

Community, these people were really good. I can see some of them who now hold big positions in the Society of Jesus today and I feel happy to have been associated with them. The kind of examples they set to us is what inspired me to say that I can give back to this great institution, what it gave to me. That feeling of wanting to give back is one of the motivations that made me come back to Hekima. So, be it the community, the students and lecturers, I find that there are many things about Hekima that I treasure. So, all in all, the good friends I had in my classmates, the great lecturers we had and the wonderful community life we shared, left a very big impact in my life and ministry.

I notice a problem: I easily get attached to the places I am sent. When I was in Harare, I felt very reluctant to leave at the end of my two-year program. But I had to come to Hekima for theology. Then after three years here, my attachment to Hekima had grown owing to the wonderful experience, but then it was time for me to move and go for my social apostolate. When I got there, again I felt very reluctant to leave. So, it is

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a weakness to remain attached to one place.

I hope that my teaching experience here at Hekima will equally be great. This time around I am in the Biblical Department, New Testament, and this semester, I am teaching the Pauline Writings. St. Paul, the major figure in Christianity to whom 13 of 28 New Testament works are attributed, is important. It is wonderful to journey along with the students, learning also as I prepare and deliver lectures.

Apart from the Pauline Writings, I also have a seminar on the methods of Biblical Criticism. These are methods used in Biblical interpretation.

To the JST students, because you are here, first of all, have a purpose in life and be focused. Your purpose here now is to study. You also need to have a long-term goal, defining gradually your desires. So, be serious with your studies, be good Jesuits, be good religious and learn how to give back to the institution that formed you.

Valentine Ossai, SJ

I first arrived at Hekima in July 2014. This was after my regency in Benin City, Nigeria. Normally, in our Jesuit Formation, we get to do theology after our regency which is a period we take right after philosophy to work either in a school or in a parish. After three years in regency, I was approved for theology

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(2014-2017.)

The most memorable experience about Hekima University College is friendship. I would say that as Jesuits, and as religious we live in communities and we connect with one another, we joke and we fight sometimes, and from it, we learn a great deal. This is something big and unique that even after leaving the college, we still have those memories, we still connect, and we still have friends with whom we have remained very close. We maintain these contacts for long, exchange homilies and the alumni bond remains strong.

You meet people from different parts of the world, offering us the chance to share the richness of all the cultures here. Friends come from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mexico and many other parts of the world. It is quite a treasure – something valuable to carry from Hekima.

As a Jesuit Institution, Hekima gives us the unique opportunity of being formed in freedom and responsibility. In this context, true formation takes place, guided by the Spirit, to be the best that you can for the greater glory of God.

From the desire to do Pastoral Theology, then Systematic Theology and finally Canon Law, finding now a place at Hekima

In all honesty, Hekima was the last place I thought I would come back to. I thought that after my Theology studies, I was done with Theology because I was looking at myself more as a pastor in a parish where I would have more contact with the people because I am more of a practical person. It didn't occur to me at all that I would come back to Hekima to teach. However, at a particular point it began to



Valentine Ossai, SJ

occur to me because there was a conversation.

So how did it happen? When I left Hekima, I went to Boston College School of Theology and Ministry where I was supposed to do my Licentiate in Systematic Theology. Arriving there, my mind was set on doing Pastoral Theology not Systematic, because I wanted something that connects with people. However, I realized that Pastoral Theology was not available for Licentiate, it was only available for Masters. The difference is that Licentiate is two years and at the end of it you get a license to teach, but Masters is only one year.

I therefore wanted to set aside my Pastoral Theology, but it was a bit complicated. As such I was considering something like Christian Anthropology, which is part of Systematic Theology. While still processing the change, my Provincial visited me and asked how the program was going. When I shared with him my dilemma, his response was that, we needed a Canonist, and would like me to do Canon Law.

That was very tough for me because when I was doing Canon Law here at Hekima, it appeared so complicated that many of us just memorized,

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passed the exams and off we went; my heart was not there. Secondly one cannot specialize in Canon Law without proper mastery of Latin, this meant going back to improve my Latin. When my Provincial made the proposal, it was tough for me but I thought I had the courage and I said that I would take it up.

From that point he was telling me that when I finish the Canon Law, they would need somebody either at Hekima or at ICTJ in Ivory Coast because even now, we don't have many Jesuit Canonists. Canon Law is not a course preferred by many; normally, people who get to do it are invited. Since our Province was born in 2005, I am the first Canonist from there.

My Provincial told me that when I finish my studies, my services might be needed at Hekima College; it was at that point that I realized that I might be coming back to Hekima.

There is no department of Canon Law at Boston College, so I spoke with the Dean, Prof Thomas D. Stegman, SJ who connected me with an American Jesuit Professor Emeritus who had taught Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Prof James Conn, SJ. At that time, he was teaching Canon Law at the undergraduate level at Boston College of Theology and Ministry. We met and he helped me with the transition from Boston to Rome.

The good thing about the programs at Boston is that they are very flexible, so while there, I managed to do pastoral care counselling, and some other courses here and there. These included Latin in preparation for Rome and also Canon Law at the undergraduate level just to refresh my memory of what I did at Hekima.

Decision to go to Rome for Canon Law studies

At the Licentiate level, Canon Law has ecclesiastical faculties. As such, there are only three or four places where one can study at that level. These include the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, the Catholic University of America in Washington DC, and St. Paul University in Ottawa Canada. Trying to figure out where to go, I asked for recommendations from people who have been there, and I remember being told that if you want it easy but not getting the stuff, then go to Canada, but if you want it tough and want to get it really well, then Rome is the place to go.

I like challenges and I also believe that intelligence is not fixed; you can grow through effort and resilience. There is no need to fear. One who is successful today was once an amateur. I came to Rome once I finished the Master's at Boston College in May 2018.

After studying Italian for a month, I returned to Nigeria for my priestly ordination which took place on 21st July 2018. I went back to Rome around the first week of September and began my Canon Law studies and finished three years later in June this year.

This semester, I am teaching Latin I for the first-year students, and Sacramental Theology for second-year students. Next semester, I will be teaching Canon Law and Latin II.

Advice to current students regarding the path to follow and how to excel in it


When my Provincial came to me with the suggestion to do Canon Law, I believed he had trust and confidence that I would complete the work in record time. I encourage you to also trust and be confident that those around you are good. As Jesuits, one of our core values is

“... always look beyond yourselves; you entered into the Society of Jesus for a vision and a dream bigger than your own.”

generosity; this is not just being charitable with money and property, but an attitude of the heart to take up challenges for the sake of something bigger than you. That generosity which is one of the core values of St. Ignatius Loyola is what led me to take up the challenge of studying Canon Law. I trusted that it was not my enterprise but God's, and trusting in him, supplied the energy and the spiritual capital that I needed to do the course.

Also, always look beyond yourselves; you entered into the Society of Jesus for a vision and a dream bigger than your own. The ability to look at a larger dream and say, I am giving myself to this dream, is what actually drives our vocation. Resistance to it will keep you in a very miserable position. So, everything is about openness and approaching any given situation with a heart of generosity, which makes you realize that you are not living for yourself. But we live for others because as a society, we are meant for other people. This requires that we put our talents and gifts at the service of the society and at the service of God's people.

As long as you keep that larger vision, as long as you focus on that bigger dream, you will realize that whatever you are tuned into, you will always flourish.

Finally, contextual learning is also very important especially for those undertaking their studies in a language they are not so familiar with. Learn to listen and connect what is said to context; learn by watching and seeing what is going on. 

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I managed to get permission while I was doing Regency to register for a doctorate in history at the University of Witwatersrand. As a result, I finished my PhD before coming back to theology; quite weird but that's how it worked for me since I managed to write my PhD while I was working as a chaplain in Johannesburg. From there I went to America to finish my Theology and in the end, I did my STL in Cambridge Massachusetts at the Western Jesuit school of Theology before coming back to South Africa in 2002.

Ordination and burying a homeless man where the body didn't turn up until 30 minutes into the service

I was due to be ordained a deacon on the 4th of July, 2002 which happened to be the last day of a Jesuit Regional Meeting in South Africa; traditionally, men to be ordained deacons in the country would be ordained at the regional meeting. The day after I was ordained a deacon I went back to Johannesburg and did my first funeral, which was for a homeless man. The service was marked by the fact that when it began, the coffin hadn't yet arrived. The hearse had an accident and so they had to switch the coffin into another hearse so they arrived 30 minutes late. Since I was doing the funeral service for a homeless man, the majority of those who attended were homeless people and their interest was

not in the service but the food that was being served at the funeral; I therefore could not delay the service longer and had to start before the body arrived.

In the meantime, my father had to have a quadruple heart bypass and we all thought he was going to die. Fortunately, he lived and he is still alive. We have a saying in our family that the devil looks after his own and in case of my

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old man and I, this seems to be true.

So, since it looked like my dad was going to die at that time, I approached our regional superior and asked him if it was possible to speed up my priestly ordination. I had already been in the Society for twelve years so ultimately, I was ordained a priest on the 30th August of 2002.

De facto assistant parish priest, university chaplain and full-time lecturer in Applied Ethics

I went back to the States and finished my licentiate in moral theology specializing on the ethics of war and peace. I have always been interested in the history of wars particularly in low intensity wars such as guerrilla warfare and guerilla conflicts which I

witnessed while growing up in South Africa.

So, after finishing up my Theology I came back to South Africa and was made an assistant parish priest at the Holy Trinity, our Jesuit Parish Church in Johannesburg; I was also hired to work as a lecturer in Applied Ethics and coordinator of the Master's program in Applied Ethics at St. Augustine College of South Africa, which is a small Catholic University. There, I taught full-time for about three years, while also working part-time at the parish, which by that time had become the university chaplaincy as well, since it was amalgamated. So, I was a de facto assistant parish priest, university chaplain and a full-time lecturer in Applied Ethics.

Then I went for Tertianship, the final stage of the Jesuit formation in the Philippines. While there, it was decided that we were going to set up a social center/retreat center/communications center. The Jesuits in South Africa are a tiny group; we were about 20 men maximum effectively working in the country, and so, we didn't have the manpower to start the retreat center like Mwanganza.

At the same time, we couldn't have a specially dedicated social apostolate center, or an independent social communications center, therefore we decided to mush all the three into one: retreat center, social apostolate and

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Hilton-Hekima Sisters Scholars Program (HHSSP)



Dr. Jacinta Opondo, FSSA, Program

Hekima University College has introduced a new program targeting the Religious Sisters in Africa. Starting this Academic Year, the university is offering introductory courses in Theology for spiritual/human development. The one-year program gives the participants an opportunity to grow in their vocation and mission.

According to the coordinator, Sr. Dr. Jacinta Opondo, FSSA, this program which has been born out of a collaboration between Hekima University College and the Hilton Foundation (**Washington?**) targets all religious women in Africa especially those who do not have the opportunity to attend longer periods of study.

The classes are offered in the evenings in order to

allow participants to attend to other commitments.

The courses cover the basic areas of Theology and are, according to Sr. Jacinta, a component preparing students for their mission as well as for possible further studies.

While the Hilton Foundation supports the program through grants, Hekima University College coordinates and oversees the implementation process. A total of 164 students registered for the program which began in August 2021. According to Sr. Jacinta, the department had initially intended to admit 150 students. However, the response was overwhelming.

The next intake will be in August 2022 when the current group graduates. Although the scholarship program purely targets the religious women, there are some lay students especially men and women who work in the diocesan offices and other church institutions, taking the courses. They are, however not on scholarship so they have to pay.

For the scholarship, the candidates must state a valid reason for applying as well as present a minimum of C+ certificate in their high school exam. The candidates must also be African religious women. Being a blended program, the sisters are required to have a laptop with a reliable internet connection for the online classes. The English language is a prerequisite.

For more info., contact the coordinator
(Sr. Dr. Jacinta Opondo, FSSA)
scholarship@hekima.ac.ke

Hekima University College Communications Center

Hekima University College has opened a Communications Center which aims at providing communications services to the institution in addition to language facilities, in which the Biblical and modern languages are taught. These languages are provided essentially for students of the Jesuit School of Theology

(JST) and the Jesuits of the African Assistency.

The languages offered include:

Ancient languages: Greek, Hebrew and Latin. The center aims at enabling students for further studies in the languages of the Scrip-

tures and other areas in Theology. The languages are essential for engaging with the text at a greater depth. These languages are already part of the Theological curriculum at HUC.

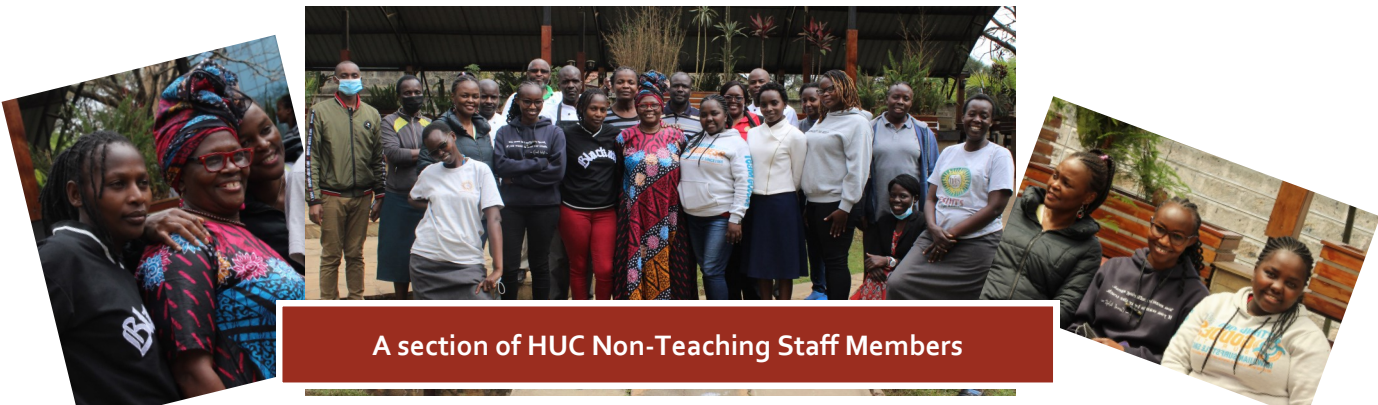


PHOTO GALLERY

A section of Second Year Theology Students

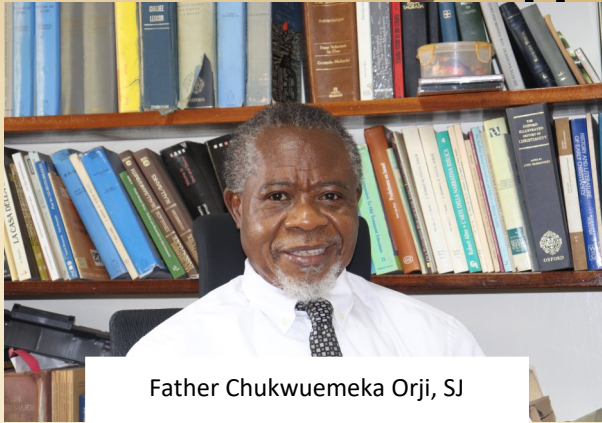


First Year Theology students



A section of HUC Non-Teaching Staff Members

HUC Library Appointment of Library Supervisor



Father Chukwuemeka Orji, SJ

Fr. Chukwuemeka Orji, SJ has been appointed to replace the chief librarian at Hekima University College. He supervises and directs the entire work of the HUC Libraries (JST & HIPSIR). Prior to that he was the HUC chaplain for two years.

At the same time, he was appointed the Director of the new Communications Center. Teaching the Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at HUC, he brings along his wealth of experiences in Biblical interpretation and fluency in many European and African languages. 📖

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social communications.

After my tertianship in the Philippines I came back via South America, Brazil and Argentina where I looked at what the Jesuits in those countries were doing in terms of social centers. And that fed into the formation of the Jesuit Institute of South Africa (JISA) in 2007. I was one of the founding members of JISA together with Peter Knox, SJ, and three lay women who already started some form of Ignatian Spirituality Program.

Basically from 2007 up to August 2021 I remained at JISA and while there, I was also lecturing at St. Augustine College in Applied Ethics as well as sitting in the Ethic Committee of the University of the Witwatersrand Medical Faculty. I also became a part-time lecturer at the Steve Biko Bioethics Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg from 2012-2019. There I managed to supervise four PhD students and about ten Masters students.

While at JISA, together with An-

drew Russel Pollitt, SJ, the third director of JISA, we managed to develop a very strong Social Communications center where we were able to issue press statements, as well as getting involved with the coalition of civil society. Apart from that we also trained people on spiritual direction

and our work involved many protestant clergy and lay people.

How did you land at Hekima and what does it feel like to be part of the institution?

It is interesting, it is exciting. I wanted to get full time back into academic work. I am now 55, and I got another lease of about ten years in which I can do some serious academic work and so I approached my provincial, and asked him if he would be willing to let me work for JCAM because HUC is a project of JCAM.

My provincial's response was that, Anthony you have been at



Rev. Dr. Egan, SJ

the Jesuit Institute for South Africa for 14 years, it is time for a change. I then approached JCAM President and he put me into contact with HUC Principal and from there we had a conversation and here I am.

I am still learning all the sort of interesting and unique things about Kenya and Hekima and so I am slowly settling in. I will be lecturing as well as assisting as the acting Deputy Principal for Administration and Finance. In the meantime, I intend to make good friends with some very important people here, the librarian and the cooks. 📖

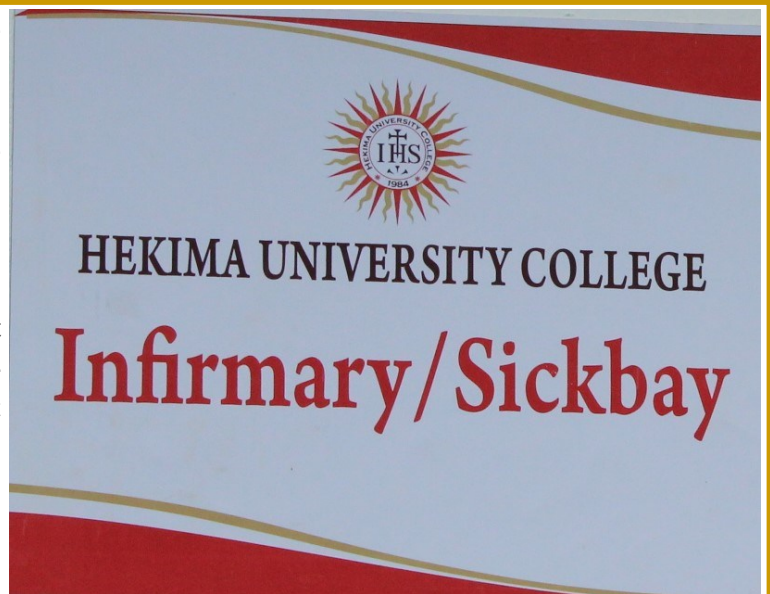
HUC Opens a Medical Clinic at its Post Graduate center taking no chances amid the coronavirus pandemic

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the world and to claim the lives of millions of people, individuals as well as institutions are trying their best to put in place measures that would ensure safety as well as prevent the spread of the virus.

Hekima University College (HUC) is not left behind in this quest; the institution's management has decided to set up a medical clinic at its Post Graduate Campus to cater for the immediate health needs of the academic community.

Speaking during the Inauguration of the Hekima University College 38th Academic Year, the Principal Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ, said that the pandemic has struck Hekima hard and continues to affect the way the institution carries out its mission. This, however, is not going to deter it from achieving the goal as Hekima is set to adapt to the "new normal."

"We must remain vigilant in the face of an invisible enemy, therefore as inconvenient as it may seem, the wearing of a mask is mandatory at all times in the two campuses in Hekima whereas lectures shall be in blended mode with some classes being attended in person and others remotely," Dr. Ibhakewan-



lan expressed.

Other measures that the college has taken to curb any possible spread of the virus include, holding the weekly college Mass in groups as well as conducting other college events in light of social distancing and other necessary health precautions, strictly adhering to all safety measures.

The Principal asked for full cooperation of all in this regard for the good of the Hekima University College academic community members. 📖

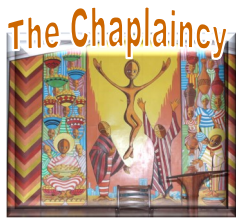
The Jesuit Center for Safeguarding In Africa (JCSA) helping humanity to get a better expression of itself



Participants of JCSA Training Program

Hosted by Hekima University College (HUC), the Jesuit Center for Safeguarding in Africa is a project of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). According to Rev. Dr. Joachim Zoundi, SJ, the director of the center, the objective of JCSA is to offer growth opportunities to children in Africa, which enable them to have a

(Continued on page 15)



New HUC Chaplain Promises to be Availability to all

Having served HUC to as the chief librarian for three years,

Rev. Dr. James Campbell, SJ becomes the new chaplain at the institution and promises above all to be available to the whole community.

Having previously served in the same capacity at various institutions including schools and hospitals, Dr. Campbell is looking forward to being at the service of anyone at HUC who might need his services as a chaplain.

“The chaplain has to be present at all times, he has to be available to the students and all community members within the institution. And in order to do this, he has to be completely independent; not so much engaged in other things, because he needs adequate time to be able to attend to everyone,” Fr. Campbell explained.

Listening and being able to make people feel secure is key to the role of a chaplain and Dr. Campbell says that he will try his best to do exactly that. He promised not to be too busy or get captured by a little group, but rather be open and available to all.

Fr. Campbell noted that the major challenge he encountered was at the beginning of his work at Hekima when he just arrived in Kenya and had



adjust to the new country, new place and new ways of working. However, the dedication, courtesy and general friendliness of the people he met on the spot helped him to cope.

“The study of theology has been seen as *‘the adoration of God by the intellect’*, which is a most apt description as we seek to align our study, research, writing and contemplation. Let us then renew our passion for learning and devote ourselves to the pursuit of knowledge in the various disciplines offered here at Hekima University College not for vainglory but for the love of God and the service of men and women everywhere. As St Paul says, let us have our answers ready,” he advised the students. 📖

JESUIT HISTORICAL INSTITUTE IN AFRICA

Preserving the Memories of the Jesuit Evangelization Works in Africa

Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa Presents a more Vibrant and Interactive Website



JHIA Director, Rev. Dr. Jean Luc, SJ, Shows some of the books available at their library

All human encounters, interactions, activities and inventions amount to memorable moments, memorable feelings, memorable acts and memorable things that are worth preserving, worth re-living and worth re-experiencing.

In 2010 the Society of Jesus in Africa opened an institute to pre-

serve the historical knowledge of the Society’s evangelization and mission in the continent of Africa. It was an idea of the then Father General of the Jesuits, ARPN Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., to encourage the study of the evangelical activities of the Order in

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brighter future.

“The work involves a total care that ensures a harmonious development of the child. As such we are concerned with issues such as the child soldier, child trafficking and the abuse of vulnerable adults,” Dr. Zoundi explained. In addition, the activities of the center extend to seriously looking into possible abuse cases in Church institutions where power may be over exercised on others.

The project started in January 2020 when the Jesuit Conference approached Hekima University College (HUC) to discuss the possibility of hosting the center. In response, the HUC Principal Rev. Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan, SJ proposed that the center be located at the Post Graduate Campus on Riara Road.

What JCSA considers as child protection and safeguarding involves a wide range of issues. There are a



Rev. Dr. Joachim Zoundi, SJ, Director JCSA

series of problems extending to corporal punishment, the neglect of the rights of children, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse and even spiritual abuse.

Dr. Zoundi argues that “Children have a right to eat well, to be taken care of and to be loved. The lack of any of these may impair the development of a child, which in turn may give rise to countless difficulties for the child.”

“We intend to train specialists in the Church for a change of attitude with regard to children and vulnerable adults. In His mission, Christ defended the weak, and we too must follow and defend the most vulnerable.”

The center offers the opportunity of getting to know firsthand the difficulties of children and vulnerable adults. “The future of humanity depends on these most vulnerable people, therefore caring for them means safeguarding the future of humanity. This is what JCSA stands for.

The center has offered a certificate course for the first group, which began on August 28 and ended on October 9. The weekly four-hour classes were held every Saturday from 8.00 am to 12 noon with 20 participants. The center plans to hold at least five to six certificate groups each academic year.

The work will envisage recruiting a research coordinator who will put out programs according to the needs of the people.

“We need to be on the scene, engage the people and be abreast of how various cultures are attempting to deal with the problems,” Dr. Zoundi expressed pointing out that the African dimensions of this global problem must be brought in as we learn from the European experience. 📖

(Continued from page 14)

Africa, which was largely unexplored.

Thus, the Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA) through its new website, has now become a better and richer resource bank for anyone who is interested in the history of the Society of Jesus in Africa.

In 2014 when he made the proposal, Father Nicolás felt that the time had come to have each continent interpret its own history; European historians have all along been the sole ones interpreting the realities in the less developed continents such as Asia, Africa and Latin America. At the time, Father Nicolás pointed out that the interpretation by Europe was not adequate owing

to her own prejudices and narrow views. And this was why he thought it proper that Africans interpret their own history. And similarly, with the Asians and the Latinos.



to her own prejudices and narrow views. And this was why he thought it proper that Africans interpret their own history. And similarly, with the Asians and the Latinos.

instead of having the typically big Jesuit Historic Institute in Rome.

Appointed in 2018, the Director of JIHA, Rev. Dr. Jean Luc Enyegue, SJ, explains that there has not been much going on in the website apart from basic information – the journey of Jesuit Evangelization and Mission in Africa and Madagascar, an online catalogue of African Jesuits, and the listing of Dissertations on Africa, written by African Jesuits.

Among the many important documents preserved at the institute is the oldest Catechism on the African soil obtainable in Latin, Portuguese and Kimbundu (language of DR Congo).

JIHA Website www.jhia.ac.ke

The newly revamped website is quite rich, with newsletters from different Jesuit Provinces in Africa, biographies and autobiographies in which the stories of all iconic Jesuits in Africa and Madagascar are preserved. Important events, reports, relationships of



“The Latin Americans have done it, already there are some very good historians who have interpreted the history of Latin America and it sounds very different from what has been seen by Europe,” commented Father Nicolás in an interview he did in 2014 when he made the proposal. His vision was to have a network of small historical institutes all over the world

(Continued on page 17)



Rev. Dr. John –Okoria

Ibhakewanlan , SJ, Principal HUC

(Continued from page 3)

education.

“There is a heritage and value we uphold in Jesuit education that we must transmit to Africa, so that the continent can benefit from what the Jesuits have to offer,” the Principal expressed.

– **Competency Based Curriculum in Education**

The characteristics of a good curriculum of Education are competence and care for the individual person. An Educationist himself with a long experience in Jesuit Education, he draws attention to the work of Jesuits that started in Messina in the early years of the Society of Jesus in Italy, and

spreading out globally to this present day where Jesuits are running hundreds of universities and schools in the whole world. But this is not so in Africa, where Jesuit Tertiary Education has recently, although slowly, begun to take a foothold.

The Kenyan Government is implementing its new Competency Based Curriculum on Education, intending to promote the talents or gifts of the individual person. This highlights the acquisition of skills towards the capability of contributing meaningfully to the economy.

“If you ask any Jesuit institution, what one of the hallmarks of Jesuit education is, they will tell you that it is what we call the *cura personalis*, care for the individual person,” Dr. Ibhakewanlan expressed, adding that Hekima University College hopes to contribute to the initiative here in Kenya by creating an educational system that looks at the competency of each child in relation to the needs of the society.

“You cannot put a fish, a bird and a monkey in a classroom and say that you want to teach all of

them how to fly. While the bird will excel, the fish will be wondering what to do in that classroom, the monkey who is accustomed to climbing will have no interest at all in learning how to fly.” This, Dr. Ibhakewanlan points out, is what competency-based curriculum is meant to prevent, by taking into consideration the skills and talents of each child, developing it and producing people who will make a difference on the continent.

“I always laugh at some of my colleagues who hold a PhD in mechanical engineering, yet when they have a flat tyre, in the middle of their journey, they stand by the roadside for hours waiting for a mechanic to come and help them out. If you are like such people, don’t you think that something is not right about all that education that you have received?”, quipped Dr. Ibhakewanlan, adding that Africans have to find a way of making their education very relevant to the circumstances. Hence the need to embrace the competency-based curriculum. 📖

(Continued from page 16)

the Society with the Church, other entities and all noteworthy documents or activities are normally recorded in the Society’s archives.

There is a section of news, news blogs, downloads, photo/video gallery. One can also find the official obituaries of Jesuits as well as a depot of important documents of the Society of Jesus. But not all these documents in

the archives are accessible to everyone; only with permission may the general public access them.

Book store: Books and journals are available for purchase in a small store at the institute. Practically, all these are authored by renowned Jesuits in Africa and Madagascar. 📖





Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) promises to continue striving for excellence amid the pandemic

As the quest for academic excellence continues, competitiveness defines the existence of any institution of higher education; this is to say that every institution of higher education must create a niche which distinguishes it from any other institution. That can only be created with a mark of excellence.

For Hekima University College, the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) is a unique institution established in 2004 to respond to the challenges of peace and conflict resolution in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Offering courses at the postgraduate level in peace studies and international relations, HIPSIR has for the last 17 years trained

the secret to the institution's success lies on its competitive program. It has a unique pedagogy that is rooted in Christian values and Jesuit educational tradition. The institute puts the students at the center as it labors to make them achieve their full potential of integral development.

“HIPSIR has taken the lead in training hundreds of students and responding to the challenges that confronted our East African Region and the whole continent of Africa and beyond,” Dr. Ruta-



HIPSIR Dean, Rev. Dr. Elisee Rutagambwa, SJ,

studies.

HIPSIR's resilience and triumph have been proven during this Covid-19 pandemic period, when despite operating under difficult conditions, the institute has been gratified by the graduation of its 16 Master's Degree Students.

“These students faced a dire situation, making their research work even more challenging and, at times, almost impossible. Nonetheless they have been very productive and resilient all along,” Dr. Rutagambwa expressed.

During this academic year 2021-2022, HIPSIR welcomes nine new MA students from different parts of Africa. The dean wishes all students, faculty members and staff a successful year.

Academic excellence calls for full commitment on all fronts, and so HIPSIR expects everyone to maintain discipline, and passion for peace, which constitute the reason for the program. 📖



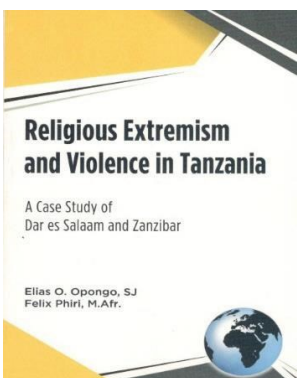
energetic and passionate scholars and peacemakers who are now engaged in different sectors and positions and are impacting the society positively in different parts of Africa.

According to the HIPSIR Dean Rev. Dr. Elisee Rutagambwa, SJ,

gambwa explains adding that the institute's commitment to academic excellence, its rich scholarly resources and international experience enables HIPSIR to offer competitive program in a friendly university community and a conducive environment for

Center for Research, Training and Publications (CRTP) Providing intervention mechanisms in the areas of peace, conflict and reconciliation in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Center for Research, Training and Publication (CTRTP) is an arm of the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) which coordinates research on diverse issues in the continent. It carries out trainings



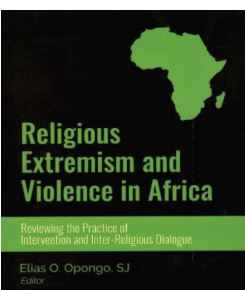
in peace-building, leadership and management, human rights and governance. Reflecting on, and applying the Catholic Social Teachings, the center also publishes their research work.

Regarding the training activities, the center in the recent past managed to carry out a three-phased training for chartered mediators conducted in August 2020, November 2020 and January 2021. The sessions intended to expose participants to various perspectives on extractive industries.

What impact do these have on the community? What benefit for the community? What intervention techniques? What forms of mediation, negotiation and advocacy knowledge will enable them to have a long-term role in the future? How can the different raw materials in their communities be protected? How will this training and mediation facilitate equitable benefit sharing among the people?

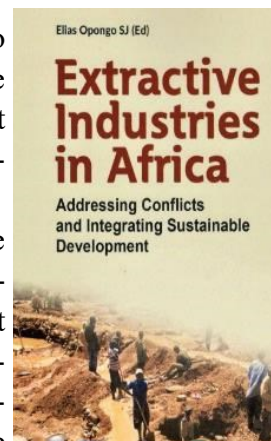
The center has managed to put together a conflict monitoring tool for Kenya, South Sudan and DR Congo after conducting a regional analysis in 2018. From the recommendations of the research, the center developed tools and mechanisms for supporting peace practitioners in 2019.

Also, in terms of research the center has engaged in the mapping out of the structures of the Regional Faith and Civil Society Organizations with



an aim to learning more about what brings a sustainable change in the lives of communities. It tries to understand the theory of change applied in social interventions.

In the area of publications, the center has produced a number of books including *Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Societies in Africa*. Paulines Publications Africa: Nairobi, 2016; *Religious Extremism and Violence in Tanzania: a case study of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar*. Kolbe Press: Nairobi, 2017; *Extractive Industries in Africa: Addressing Conflicts and Integrating Sustainable Development*. Paulines Publications Africa: Nairobi, 2018; and *Religious Extremism and Violence in Africa: Reviewing the Practice of Intervention and Inter-Religious Dialogue*. Kolbe Press: Nairobi, 2019; among others.



New Appointments

HR and House Management



Sr. Petronella Imo, LSSF

Sr. Petronella Imo, LSSF, has been appointed the head of Human Resources and House Management at Hekima University College. She previously served as the Acting Deputy Principal for Administration and

Finance.

Her new office is at the Post Graduate Campus. We

wish her all the best.

Accounts Department

Meanwhile, pending Council confirmation, Ms. Emmaculate (Imma) Muluva has been appointed Senior Accountant and acting head of the Accounts Department at HUC. We congratulate her on this significant promotion.

The two appointments went into effect in August 2021.



Ms. Emmaculate Muluva

Hekima University College Communication Center



Language Immersion Program Participants for July 2021 .

(Continued from page 10)

Modern languages: The modern languages refer to international languages, which include English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The majority of Hekima students are bilingual, at least in French and English. The aim of the center is to attain proficiency in reading, writing and speaking. The center will also help with works of translation.

African languages: The African Languages here include Hausa, Kikuyu, Kiswahili, Shona, and Zulu. The purpose of providing a space for learning these languages, personally or with the help of others, is to help immerse students in a local culture, to lay foundation for further studies of particular languages and their impact on theology or any form of study. More than 90% of HUC students are from various African countries, so the center will help affirm some of the African heritage in the students.

Writing Component: Over the years, HUC lecturers have noticed that many of their students need assistance with writing, and there seems to be no mechanism for systematically helping such students. Hence the Centre also hopes to help HUC students with their writing skills especially in English.

The modern language programs are based on the student's proficiency level, which is ascertained following an entry language test. The levels include: A1 (Beginners), A2 (Elementary), B1 (Intermediate), B2 (Upper Intermediate). Each level takes 120 hours to complete upon which a student is issued with a certificate. The charges for

the modern language program are US \$ 5.5 (Kenya shillings 550) per hour.

The grades obtained after successful completion of the modern language programs are however not included in Hekima University College transcripts. Nevertheless, the language courses that may be taken as electives in the normal HUC program for JST students are graded and incorporated in the transcripts.

Success Stories:

In July 2021, the center organized and carried out a successful one-month English and Spanish Language Immersion programs which were attended by seven students from Arrupe Jesuit University in Harare, Zimbabwe and three students from Madagascar Province. Out of the ten students, eight joined in the English Immersion Program while two partook in Spanish introductory classes.

For more info., contact the coordinator
(Pamela Adinda)
communications@hekima.ac.ke