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Keep an eye



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A FAREWELL ODE TO UGHE'S GUIDING STAR: DR JOEL MUBILIGI SETS COURSE FOR NEW HORIZONS!

EGIDE ISHIMWE



A symphony of emotions resonated through the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) as we bid a bittersweet farewell to our beloved Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Joel Mubiligi. His well-deserved promotion to Chief Innovation & Growth Planning Officer at Partners In Health marked a turning point, not just for Dr. Mubiligi, but for the entire UGHE constellation.

The evening of farewell was filled with heartwarming moments, a delightful cake-cutting ceremony, and an exciting Karaoke session: "From This Moment," dedicated to Dr Mubiligi and his wife, and "It's Only a Goodbye," capped off by Voz Armonia, accompanied by heartfelt speeches, which led to the flow of tears freely (witnessed by many, including Secret Atukunda), all in honor of out-going UGHE Vice Chancellor, Dr Joel Mubiligi, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

To many at UGHE, like Secret Atukunda, a student of the class of 2028, Dr. Mubiligi wasn't merely the captain at the wheel; he was our celestial navigator, a visionary leader who charted a course that propelled UGHE into the stratosphere of academic excellence in Africa. Under his watchful eye, our academic offerings blossomed into a vibrant constellation of cutting-edge programs. These programs attracted a stellar student body – the future astronauts of knowledge, destined to strengthen healthcare systems and become the brightest stars in the medical field!

Under Dr Joel Mubiligi's guidance, faculty members shone with their groundbreaking work, while students, like Denise Rwamu, testified to the enriched student experience. From vibrant campus life to initiatives that empower students, Dr Joel Mubiligi fostered an atmosphere of growth and support, earning admiration from students like Joselyne Dusabimana of the class of 2029.

Research, under Dr Mubiligi's guidance, experienced a quantum leap. Faculty research shone like supernovae in the firmament of esteemed publications and UGHE research day that happens every year is a testament to the nurturing environment Dr Mubiligi fostered.

His influence stretched far beyond UGHE's local galaxy. Dr Mubiligi, a champion of global collaboration, forged academic partnerships that span the vast expanse of the educational universe, like the one he spearheaded in his last days of out-going with Novartis Global Health, rocketed UGHE's reputation to new heights. UGHE's reputation, burnished by his tireless efforts, now rivals the brilliance of a distant star, quasar, a beacon of excellence visible and respected on the international stage.

The farewell ceremony was a supernova of emotions itself. Faculty, alumni, and current students – each a twinkling star in UGHE's constellation – shared stories that illuminated Dr Mubiligi's unwavering leadership and support. In his farewell address, Dr Mubiligi, radiating the warmth of a setting sun, expressed his profound gratitude and immense pride in UGHE's remarkable achievements. With unwavering belief, he painted a picture of UGHE's future – a future as luminous as the Milky Way itself. He issued a heartfelt plea to students, urging them to stop him, not to test his recognition, but to simply introduce themselves – "Hey, my name is _____ and I'm from UGHE!" This simple act, he expressed, would fill him with immense joy, a testament to his desire to connect with every member of the UGHE family.



Cutting the farewell cake.



Tears of joy as the students wished Dr Joel success in his new endeavor.



The students body gave Dr. Joel a memorable gift of his portrait.

Dr Joel Mubiligi ([read more](#)) may set sail on a new course, but the UGHE he leaves behind is a thriving testament to his visionary leadership. It is an institution poised for continuous innovation; a beacon of excellence ready to launch the next generation of healthcare leaders.



It was a good time to write messages of goodbye.

MBBS 29' STUDENTS DISCOVER NEW VARIATION IN BODY VASCULATURE

STANSLAS
SSEMWOGERERE

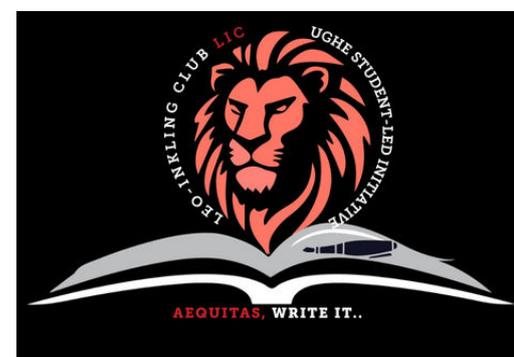


I was shocked to learn that we had a dissection bootcamp in the fourth week of our Basic Medical Sciences. Just like my ex-girlfriend who kept claiming, "It's a little too early for us...", I also felt like this was instantaneous. Everybody else in my class was excited for the dissection, probably because we were to be freed from the daily quizzes for at least one week – to an MBBS student that in itself is salvation.

We had an eleven-hour journey to Huye during which people on my bus sang their souls out. Everyone seemed high, except me who was caught up reading about Frederick Douglass' narrow escape from slavery. Listening to the beautiful, improvised melodies was a memorable experience for me. We had a stopover at Meze Fresh for some tacos, quesadilla, burritos and sodas. Some people were seen ordering for Mützig in vain, at least beer was present, but the Rolex – my favorite Ugandan delicacy, had never appeared at Meze Fresh!!!

The sudden shock due to changes in accommodation bothered many and the thought of having to see cadavers the next morning terrified some people more. One nice thing about Huye is the greeting style, I was still adapting to the hugs on campus only to find girls who add a peck to the greetings. A stranger hugged me during the first night, then she pecked at me, and for a moment I started visualizing my kids in my house in Huye.

I guess you are now getting tired of the non-medical nonsense, so we entered the lab, put on our PPE, uncovered the chests of the cadavers and started dissection. I lost conscience for some time but regained it rather quickly. Our donor (the cadaver) was special, he did not have the right subclavian artery branching off the brachiocephalic artery. Once Prof. Krammer said that he had never seen anything like this during his career, I started thinking we were close to the Nobel prize; we just discovered something new for the world. It turns out to be another variation of the circulation. Further dissection revealed the subclavian to be branching off directly from the descending aorta. This explained why the guy's right hand had more muscles than the left. Let me stop here before I start cooking you on what this vasculature implied.



CAPTIVATING CULTURAL CELEBRATION AT UGHE'S CULTURAL SHOWCASE

SAMUEL I. BAKER.



Arena & Christa performing Rwandan traditional dances.

The hallowed halls of the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) were recently abuzz with a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, as the institution hosted its annual Cultural Day on April 25th, 2024. The event was a dazzling display of the rich tapestry of traditions and talents that make up the UGHE community, drawing guests from near and far. The event commenced with a colorful parade, where students, contractors, community group and staff donned traditional attire representing their respective countries and cultures. The campus became alive with a symphony of vibrant colors, showcasing the beauty of cultures from all corners of the world. The parade culminated in the central auditorium (aka Flat studio), where a stage was set up for performances.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the performances by the renowned Inganji traditional dance troupe from UGHE. Their mesmerizing routines, steeped in Rwanda's rich cultural heritage, captivated the audience and left them in awe. The troupe's skilled narrator, Gisele Hirwa Uwacu, seamlessly guided the audience through the performance, her words complementing the troupe's continuous blending of intricate footwork, vibrant dressing, and enchanting melodies.



Rwandese community at the entrance time.



Inganji traditional dancing troop during a top and awesome performance.

The Inganji troupe's display transported everyone in attendance to the heart of Rwandan culture, a testament to the country's resilience and perseverance. A brand-new drummer, Bertin A. Izere, provided a synchronous drum accompaniment, as dancers Arena, Tona, and Jerry, along with the troupe's distinguished performers, mesmerized the crowd with their coordinated movements. Adding to the power of the performance, Inganji's singing group, led by the captivating voice of Genisse M. Ingabire, reminded the audience of old Rwandan ceremonial songs, further immersing everyone in the country's cultural traditions. The seamless collaboration and dedication of the Inganji troupe created a truly unforgettable experience for all in attendance.

But the cultural showcase didn't stop there. An Ethiopian lady, impeccably dressed in a tailored suit, graced the stage with her poise and confidence, showcasing the sartorial elegance of her homeland. Not to be outdone, a group of courageous Liberian men took the stage, bravely sharing the story of their beloved country through a series of captivating slide presentations.



*David Saizay, MBBS'29
representing Liberia.*

The excitement reached a fever pitch with the arrival of Jamaican "bad boy" Tabeal, whose electrifying performance of classic Jamaican rap had the audience energized and, on their feet, reliving the infectious rhythms of the island nation.

However, the true showstoppers of the day were the Malawian entertainers, whose mesmerizing dances had the entire audience on their feet, swaying and clapping to the infectious beats. The MBBS class' youngest member, the talented Kasamba, also left everyone in awe with her professional-level dance moves, proving that age is just a number when it comes to raw talent.

The MGH class students also made a strong statement, unifying themselves in a stunning display of Rwandan cultural dress, showcasing their commitment to embracing the diversity of the UGHE community.

The cultural festivities were further enriched by the efforts of four remarkable women – Marie Jose, Nadia Mugeni, Secret Atukunda, and Elysée Irakoze – who brought the past to life through their captivating demonstrations of traditional Rwandan domestic activities.

The event reached its crescendo with the awe-inspiring performance of the Butaro Youth Club, whose energetic and skillful display earned them the coveted Best Exhibitor award, solidifying their place in the hearts of all in attendance.



The Best cultural performer, an award presented by Prof. Rex Wong and Sir Rogers Rutikanga.



The Butaro Youth Club/community was present and won the award for the best exhibition.



The prestigious members of MGHD'24 showcased a distinctive class culture through their compelling dressing.

UGHE's Cultural Day 2024 was a true celebration of the institution's commitment to fostering a global community of changemakers, united by their passion for improving the world's health. The vibrant performances, the inspiring stories, and the infectious energy of the day will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on all who were fortunate enough to witness this remarkable event.

CELEBRATING THE TRIUMPH OF MBBS'28

MELISSA F. MBABAZI



On February 21, 2024, a special warmth and excitement filled Butaro air as 41 extraordinary individuals walked across the stage in their crisp white coats and stethoscopes, symbolizing their transition from basic medical sciences into medical clerkships. It was a day filled with emotion, hope, and the promise of a future where these students take a closer step towards making a profound difference. The White Coat Ceremony wasn't just about receiving a coat—it was about embracing a calling to heal, to listen, to genuinely care and to act.

Every one of these 41 students had a unique story, a journey that led them to medicine. For some, it was a personal battle with illness that gave them a deep empathy for patients. For others, it was witnessing a loved one's struggle in a fragmented healthcare system, fueling their passion to make a change. Regardless of their path, their stories converged on that one moment and a shared goal of becoming doctors who make a difference.

The White Coat Ceremony was also a reminder that while these students are beginning their journey, they are not alone. The support and encouragement from faculty, mentors, family, and friends creates a strong foundation. This collective support system reinforced the idea that it really takes a village, and that healthcare is not just about individual achievements but about building a community dedicated to improving lives and that supports each student to reach their maximum potential.



MBBS'28 before being given white coats and stethoscopes.



Official doctor-dressing of the "Physician in training" to Gloria Kevine Iradukunda.

Heading up to hang their official signature as Clinical student at the reception.



MBBS'28, 41 students swearing in, The Hippocrates Oath.

As Ms. Ada, the student representative speaker that day, put it; "We are not here today because we are the smartest but because we share a common goal with our late chancellor, Dr. Paul Farmer, to fight the inequities in healthcare. Just like him, my classmates & I are determined to overcome these inequities." A simple yet deep statement that shows how despite everyone having a different path, recognizing each one's niche and using that to advance equity is key. One could not end this without saying a big heartfelt congratulations to the MBBS class of 2028.



THE GAME OF HEARTS: A CAMPUS ROMANCE TALE

FATMATA T. O. KAMARA



"A blind date is a leap of faith, a fortuitous encounter where two souls meet with open hearts, hoping for a spark that could ignite something extraordinary."

"Cupid's arrow might not always hit its mark, but on Valentine's Day, blind dates offer a playful twist on love's lottery, where laughter, adventure, and maybe even a spark of connection await."

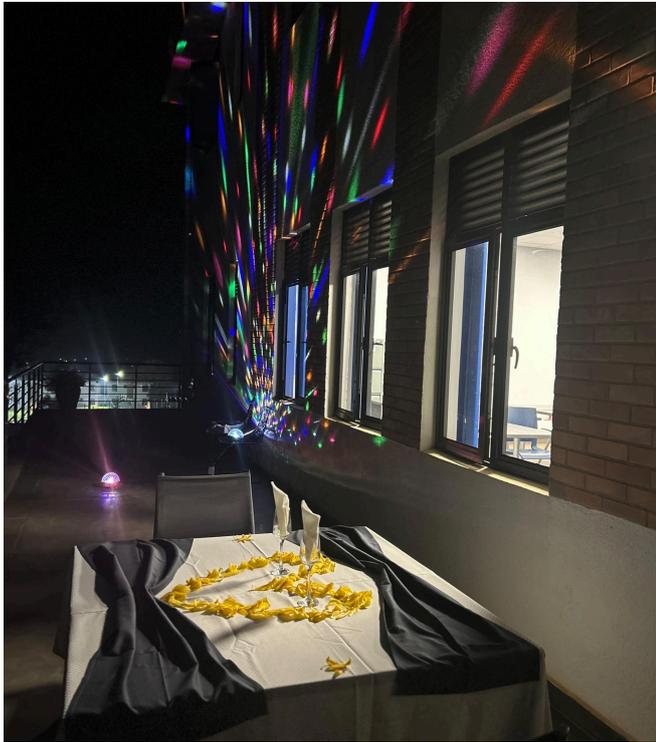
Dear readers, on the jolly day of February 12th, 2024, it was slowly approaching the day of love (February 14). UGHE students were buzzed with excitement across campus following the invitation to a blind date.

The blind date came with a little twist: friends were pinned against each other to get into the blind date with the person they find most attractive. The game played by the students that signed up for the blind date in order to make them qualified for the date was a game of The Bachelor/Bachelorette. This game format features a single person going on dates with multiple contestants, or rather, questioning multiple contestants who were locked away in another room with a voice changer activated. Then there was a person conducting the questions sitting on something I will call the hot seat, and in that hot seat, you are given the privilege to ask the bachelor or bachelorette locked away in a room away from the crowd any question you deem fit to ask them, and the hidden contestants must try their level best to impress with their answers.

"Dear reader, isn't love a crazy thing?" And ultimately, the individual (bachelor or bachelorette) will have to choose their favorite among the hidden contestants. While not always a direct competition, the contestants try to impress and gain the affection of the individual on the hot seat. Upon the nominations of all the eligible individuals for the date, they were paired up and set for the date night.

With the longest anticipation from both the university students and the eligible participants, the highly anticipated blind date night has finally been announced for March 24th, on a Sunday. On that day, the appointed location, the balcony at the G building, was set up with cool music and night skylights to set the mood for the participants.

I know, my curious readers, that your minds might have been wondering who these lucky few are that made it to the finals of the blind date and had the privilege to enjoy a private meal prepared by the great and honorable La Paillotte. Well, you most certainly shouldn't wait any longer. The lucky two were as follows: Adoratha Gentile effortlessly won the heart of Naol Belema Gemechu.



All was set for a blind date.



Jennifer the modulator, and Catia blind date participant.

The night unfolded in a private and delightful manner for the participants, leaving the details of their interactions to your imagination, dear reader.

Intrigued by the curious nature of love, I can't help but wonder: isn't it a bit bizarre how two seemingly different souls can be brought together by this powerful force?



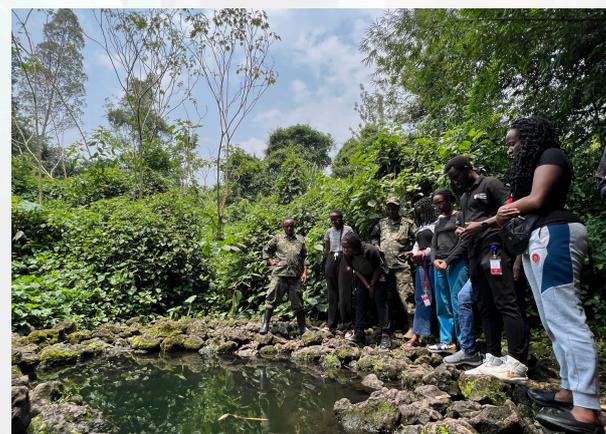
SOHIC CHAMPIONS ONE HEALTH THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

BERTIN A. IZERE



Have you ever considered humanity's impact on the Earth's natural world? Since the dawn of humankind, ecosystems have provided us with sustenance, shelter, favorable climates, medicinal resources, and countless other benefits. Unlike other species, humans often view themselves as superior, entitled to rule over other living beings and the non-living components of the environment. This dominance carries significant weight, influencing phenomena like climate change, disease outbreaks, and species extinction.

In recognition of this interconnectedness, the Student One Health Innovation Club (SOHIC) has been actively engaged in promoting a One Health approach throughout the first trimester of this year. Their initiatives included a field trip to Buhanga Eco-Park, participation in Anti-Microbial Resistance Week, and a Swamp Sustainability Activity. Let's delve into some of these noteworthy events.



SOHIC members surrounding a mysterious pond.

BUHANGA ECO-PARK TOUR

On National Heroes' Day, February 1st, 2024, SOHIC members embarked on an educational and enriching tour of Buhanga Eco-Park, nestled in Nyakinama, Musanze. Accompanied by esteemed staff from the Center for One Health, the group had the opportunity to explore Rwanda's diverse ecosystem and delve into its historical significance. Before reaching Buhanga, they visited Kinigi, renowned for the Kwita Izina gorilla naming ceremony, which attracts celebrities, conservationists, and political figures worldwide to celebrate the growth of endangered mountain gorilla families. This awe-inspiring location boasts majestic potato plantations on one side and towering wooden statues of mountain gorillas on the other, all set at the foot of Mount Sabyinyo. After capturing photos, the group was led through Buhanga by an experienced guide.

Buhanga Eco-Park offered a unique and unforgettable experience. The members encountered a variety of unfamiliar trees, explored intriguing caves, observed moss-covered rocks, and learned about the fascinating "three-species tree." They even heard captivating tales about the legendary "forest-guard snake." Notably, they discovered that Buhanga once served as a royal sanctuary within the Rwandan kingdom, where royal heirs underwent pre-kingship rituals before assuming their roles in the palace. These rituals often involved bathing in a specific cave and participating in ceremonies using royal ointments, all under the guidance of the king's advisors, known as Abiru. The group also witnessed a mystifying small water pool that never dries up, its source remaining an unsolved riddle.

The trip highlighted the dedication of the surrounding community to preserving the eco-park and protecting it from harmful human activities. Their awareness of the detrimental consequences of environmental damage underscores the importance of respecting nature in all its forms, including animals, plants, and the non-living environment. Despite the rainy weather, everyone left Buhanga exhilarated, eager to return someday and committed to becoming champions of One Health.



Despite the rain, SOHIC members enjoyed shots in the woods.

COMBATING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE RUGEZI SWAMP

Burera's growing population and increased human activity around the Rugezi Swamp have unfortunately led to a rise in plastic waste. Plastic consumption has become a hallmark of human ingenuity, offering convenient and durable containers. However, these seemingly harmless and inexpensive materials pose a significant threat to both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. On land, plastic contributes nothing to soil fertility, and in water, it becomes a lethal menace to aquatic life. Recognizing this threat, SOHIC partnered with the Butaro Youth Community (BYC) to address the issue of plastic pollution in the Rugezi Swamp.

On the morning of Good Friday, March 29th, 2024, volunteers from UGHE, alongside SOHIC and BYC members, participated in a plastic waste removal event. The activity focused on collecting plastic waste, particularly in the area behind the Rusumo market. The event successfully collected a significant amount of plastic waste, raising awareness about the importance of swamp sustainability. Following the cleanup, participants gathered at the sector office, where people from Butaro received hygiene materials, including soap, to promote cleanliness.

By participating in these impactful activities, SOHIC embodies the One Health approach, emphasizing the interconnectedness between human health, animal health, and the health of our environment.



Plastic removal from the swamp marked an unwavering contribution to pollution-free waterbodies.



SOHIC was joined by a big community of Butaro.

SONO OLYMPICS

JERRY MUGISHA



On March 9, 2024, the halls of our esteemed medical school were abuzz with excitement and competitive spirit as students and faculty gathered for the inaugural "Sono Olympics Day." This innovative event, the first of its kind, transformed traditional ultrasound training into a series of engaging and challenging activities designed to enhance learning through play. The concept behind Sono Olympics Day was simple yet groundbreaking: to leverage the educational power of gamification in the teaching of ultrasound techniques. Medical students often face the daunting task of mastering complex diagnostic tools under high-pressure conditions. By introducing a competitive and playful environment, organizers aimed to reduce stress and make learning more enjoyable and effective.

The event's itinerary included activities such as: speed scanning, anatomy identification, clinical case simulations, image interpretation puzzles and other exciting activities went on during the event.

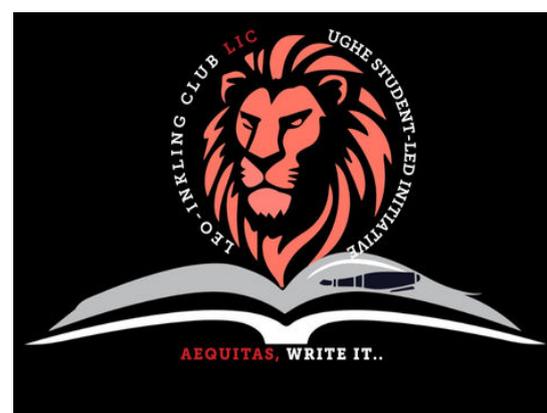
The success of this event highlights a broader trend in medical education towards interactive and student-centered learning. As medical schools continue to innovate, initiatives like Sono Olympics Day will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the doctors of tomorrow, ensuring they are not only skilled and knowledgeable but also adaptive and collaborative.



Contenders showing up their ultrasound skills.



Group photo of contenders and organizers of the event.



BRIGHTEST MEDICAL MINDS AT UGHE FOR MED-Q 2024 FINALS

BERTIN I. IZERE



Imagine the tense moments of trying to choose the correct answer from a tricky five-option multiple-choice quiz after class. On Saturday, May 11, UGHE became the arena for the final round of the Med-Q Competitions, orchestrated by the Medical Students Association of Rwanda (MEDSAR). This event was a collaboration with Rwanda's medical schools and the University of Medical Sciences and Technology (UMST) from Khartoum, whose students had relocated to Rwanda due to the war that erupted in April 2023.

The Med-Q Competition featured a variety of challenges, including pre-clinical questions, clinical scenarios, and an essay contest where participants wrote compelling articles on health issues. These competitions allowed Rwandan medical students to demonstrate their expertise and clinical knowledge. Initial rounds took place at individual universities, with the top performers advancing to the finals. As the final day unfolded, a buzz of excitement filled the air at UGHE, with participants from both the University of Rwanda and UMST having traveled great distances, all eager to claim victory and accolades.

The event, held in the Flat Studio, was honored by the presence of Prof. Rex Wong, Director of the Bill and Joyce Cummings Institute of Global Health. The focus was on learning from each other, not rivalry, with an emphasis on gaining knowledge to become excellent future doctors. Challenging questions were displayed on screens, and only the contestants could reveal their chosen answers to the audience. This format applied to both the pre-clinical and clinical categories.

In the pre-clinical Med-Q, Florian Gombariro, a first-year student from the University of Rwanda, triumphed, showcasing impressive medical knowledge. The clinical category proved to be the toughest, leading to an intense final showdown. Heritier Mfura (MBBS'25) and Eric Niyindorera (MBBS'26) ended the initial round tied, pushing the competition into a thrilling overtime. Heritier won the last additional case and became the champion of the day.

Participants relished both the competition and the warm hospitality at UGHE. Senior professors and organizers emphasized the importance of continuous learning, beyond the classroom, from patients, fellow students, and doctors. Prizes, including cash, stethoscopes, and certificates, were awarded to the champions and runners-up in each category, celebrating their achievements.



Heritier MBBS 25, the first winner in clinical category.



Eric MBBS26, the first runner-up in clinical category.



UGHE RESEARCH DAY

ROBERT LHAN PROVIDENT

RESEARCH DAY →

It was on April 4, 2024, that the research day at the University of Global Health Equity was held. Several intellectuals from different corners of the world had prepared themselves for insightful speeches that they were about to deliver to countless other intellectuals and research enthusiasts ready to learn from them.

As Professor Daniel Seifu gave a flow to the event, starting with his beginning remarks and welcoming every scholar who had managed to come in, it proceeded with receiving a note from the former vice-chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity, Joel Mubiligi. Professor Abebe Bekele, the dean of the University of Global Health Equity's School of Medicine, proceeded with his research presentation, entitled "The Pan African Surgical Healthcare Forum: An African Consensus Propagating Continental Surgical Healthcare Policies and Plans."

The event proceeded with other research presentations, including another one entitled "Insights into stunting among under-five children in Rwanda: A multisectoral research approach," presented by Dr. Chester Kalinda. However, before Chester Kalinda presented his research, there had been a panel discussion about global health research, whose participants were intellectuals from different parts of the world, like Tsion Yohannes, Chair of the Center for Gender Equity at the University of Global Health Equity.

The event proceeded with a student research competition where various students from the University of Global Health Equity and the University of Rwanda gathered information to fulfil their curiosities in global health and presented their information to the public. This first day ended with a research trivia game, composed of various questions and proved to be an interesting stress reliever for medical and research enthusiasts.

April 5, 2024, marked the end of this research event. However, on this day, in addition to the panel discussion that took place entitled, "Reimagining locally driven, equitable, global health research," there was also another program of announcing and awarding the best student research presentation, best student research proposal and best student research poster, all which were from the student research competition that had taken place the previous day.

This event was ended by the closing of the Dean of Research at the University of Global Health Equity, Professor Daniel Seifu, and that is how the research day of 2024 at the University of Global Health Equity went.

HOW THE LIONS OUTMUSCLED INES RUHENGERI

STANSLAS
SSEMWOGERERE



Once upon a time, the story of how INES University had beaten UGHE eleven goals on zero welcomed us into Butaro. I never witnessed that game, but I witnessed the rematch. We hosted INES in Butaro, and there, with all the birds and trees of Butaro present, with the support of the Butaro community, we roared.

The games started off at 11:00 am with volleyball. You will never see UGHE students playing volleyball during their free time. It is clearly not that appealing to the lions, so they granted INES a win.

We proceeded to the basketball match. Before we even made our first shot, INES students were already giving excuses like, "This is not our first team, our first team went for another competition." Such mind games were irrelevant because our first team members were all somewhere having their clinical rotations. With Mr. Chris as coach, we managed to put up a heated game. The main highlight of the game were Jean Luc's consecutive three points in the late minutes of the game. Even as I write, I can still visualize this kind of man high in space, pushing the ball into the loop. He left many wishing he had started the game. We almost won, but it was hard luck for us. Probably, when the management avails a part-time coach, the odds of the game shall be different.

The climax of the day was the football game. INES footballers were treated to a sumptuous lunch, which caused them metabolic shortcomings – like metabolic acidosis. Some of them were seen vomiting during the game, which was sad! It was a chilly evening, with a bit of drizzle, the kind of weather said to be for two. With Adolphe MBBS'28 on the touchline, we secured a 2-1 victory. Special thanks to Mr. Patrick who captained our team into victory. Special thanks to the entire football team, you are the pride of this den. INES has joined RICA and other football teams that have faced our wrath.

We gave INES students the kind of treatment that a visitor from a very long journey deserves. We allowed them to win volleyball, we allowed them win basketball with narrow margins, but once they got their feet off the main campus, we mistreated them on a neutral playground – where we were neither hosts nor visitors – at Rusumo Sports Complex.



High jump services, spikes and blocks made the game enjoyable.



Lions had the best experience of the court, but they lost.

SOLEMNITY OF EASTER

ROBERT LHAN PROVIDENT



In the annals of history, during the waning hours of a typical Friday in the middle of the third decade of the first century BC, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, enduring immense physical torment, culminated in his passing on the cross, etching an indelible memory in the hearts of his faithful followers. This solemn event, commemorated by Christians as "Good Friday," heralds the onset of Easter weekend, comprising Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. An annual observance, this weekend beckons believers to engage in introspective practices, delving into the profound significance of Christ's sacrificial death and jubilantly celebrating his resurrection on Easter Sunday, often through congregational gatherings known as "Sunday service."

On March 29, 2024, the members of the Association of Christians UGHE Students (ACUS) at UGHE, mindful of the sacredness of this occasion, resolved not to let this foundational event in their faith pass without commemoration. Thus commenced the Easter festivities on the UGHE campus, inaugurated by an evocative movie night bearing the enticing title, "Easter Extravaganza, Let the Enchantment Begin." Eager hearts within the UGHE community anticipated receiving the spiritual message conveyed through the selected film, "The Passion of Christ," meticulously curated by the ACUS committee.

Following the screening, attendees grappled with profound emotions evoked by witnessing the harrowing depiction of Jesus Christ's crucifixion—his scourging, the piercing thorns, the arduous journey bearing the cross to Calvary, and the agonizing crucifixion. This poignant portrayal left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of believers, serving as a poignant reminder of the pivotal moment in Christian theology.

As dawn broke on the subsequent day, another event awaited the faithful congregants at the UGHE flat studio: "The Easter Concert," scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The campus buzzed with anticipation as promotional posters and videos disseminated information about this eagerly awaited event. Attendees meticulously adorned themselves in their finest attire, cognizant of the significance of this celebration in the Christian calendar.



ACUS Worship Team helped the attendees worship.

Curated by Soleil Ishimwe, MBBS' 2026, the concert featured stirring performances by the ACUS worship team, whose celestial voices reverberated within the hall, accompanied by soul-stirring melodies that resonated with the audience. The theatrical rendition, orchestrated by the ACUS Evangelism Department, elicited empathy for Marvin Murenzi, MBBS' 2029, portraying the crucified Christ. As the evening unfolded, Deborah Umutoni, MBBS' 2026, delivered a touching sermon on the transformative power of the cross, leaving a profound impact on the congregation.



The congregation from all over the campus.

The conclusion of the concert heralded the dawn of Easter Sunday, a pinnacle moment in ACUS history, marked by a resplendent service where worshippers, adorned in regal attire, lifted their voices in praise. Stirring hymns such as "Thank you, Jesus, for the blood" stirred the souls of attendees, while Ernestine Kanyana, MBBS' 2026, delivered a compelling sermon underscoring the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of Christian faith and living. Easter, a sacred commemoration for Christians, stands as a testament to their profound beliefs. The series of events unfolding on the UGHE campus during the Easter weekend exemplifies the reverence with which Christians hold the resurrection of their Savior, Jesus Christ. As the UGHE community embraces diversity, it also honors and respects the religious convictions of its Christian members. This comprehensive narrative of the Easter weekend festivities at UGHE underscores the significance of this occasion and fosters anticipation for future events organized by the Christian community within UGHE.



With Peniel, MBBS'29, on keyboard- the music in a night to remember.



The congregation reflected on "The Passion of Christ."

THE SAVOIR PLUS SHOWDOWN

JOSÉLYNE DUSABIMANA



On the night of February 7th, 2024, the flat studio was filled with an echo of buzzing buzzers. Lions and lionesses, including MBBS and MGH D students, embarked on an intellectual battle to be the Alpha Team in the Savoir Plus Competition, hosted by the MedLions Hub club.

Savior Plus, meaning "Know More" in English, was a competition that aimed at appreciating the beauty of a multifaceted mind and encouraging medical students to venture beyond textbooks and PowerPoints. It consisted of questions from all fields of life; social sciences, entertainment, and history, among others.

About thirteen teams of not more than four, carefully paired based on registration, took their places, ready to engage in a battle of intellect and insight. Buzzer in hand, each team was ready for action. The questions were fired at them, with only fifteen seconds to come up with the answer: every split-second that passed determined their fate. At the battleground, the atmosphere was tight but also electric as audiences cheered on their peers, each cohort wanting to take the trophy home.



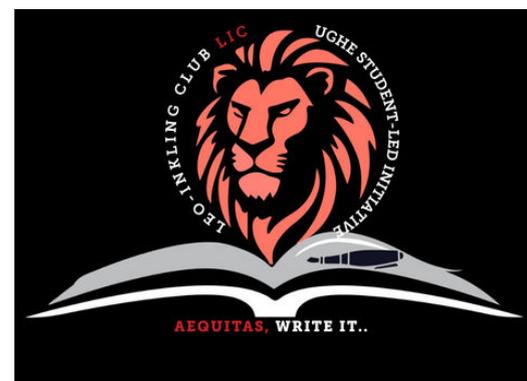
Students at UGHE proved their brilliancy about various fields of life.

As they say, everything has an end, and there is always a winner. Enigma, composed of Aline, Belinda, Sylvie, and Kendra from MBBS 28, emerged triumphant and was crowned the Alpha Team. Their comprehensive knowledge, combined with quick reflexes and teamwork, propelled them to victory. Following closely behind were Einstein's Angels, represented by Aimé Pacifique, Ernest, Jennifer, and Princiana, who secured the second-place spot with their remarkable performances. Rounding out the top three was the Quantum Quartet, featuring Merci, Adoratha Gentile, Ada Mola, and Chance, whose courage earned them third-place honors. The event ended with the winners receiving their prizes and certificates to commend them for their hard work. Congratulations again to the winners!

These winners, along with all participants, embodied the spirit of Savoir Plus—a commitment to becoming well rounded doctors who know more than just anatomy.

The MedLions Hub applauds all the participants for their dedication and pursuit of knowledge. Remember, every question answered, and every challenge faced was a testament to our collaborative and ambitious spirit, one that will set us apart and let our roar be heard.

Let's keep the fire of curiosity alive!



BUTARO HILLS WELCOME THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE: NEW LIFESAVERS ARRIVE!

EGIDE ISHIMWE &
BERTIN A. IZERE



12 June 2024, Wednesday — The serene hills of Butaro, home to the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), have become a melting pot of cultures and aspirations as a new cohort of students embarks on their journey to become medical doctors. These future lifesavers, the MBBS'30 Cubs, are bringing fresh energy and perspectives to the campus and the community, and their early experiences are nothing short of extraordinary.



Lions and lionesses arrive in the beautiful Butaro campus. (Photo credit: UGHE Comms)

Naomi Nkhoma from Malawi has found her first days in Butaro to be a tapestry of warm welcomes and thrilling new experiences. "My first days in Butaro have been amazing and full of a whole lot of awesome encounters," she shares with a smile. From being greeted by distinguished members of the university to making friends and exploring the picturesque mountainside, Naomi's transition has been filled with highlights. "I first explored UGHE through YouTube tours by one of the students here. My experience has matched what I saw, and it's has even started being better," she says, her eyes sparkling with excitement for the adventures ahead.



Naomi Nkhoma from Malawi on her experiences at UGHE.



Angelo Charles Dukuze, from Rwanda, entered UGHE with expectations of a rigorous, no-nonsense environment. However, he was pleasantly surprised by the community's balance of hard work and leisure. "The UGHE community is nice, welcoming, and funny. So far, I have had a very good experience here with my class, as well as with other classes, and even with the staff," Angelo reports, his voice filled with contentment. His initial concerns were quickly dispelled as he found a supportive and lively campus life awaiting him.



For **Nelly Teta Ineza**, also from Rwanda, stepping into UGHE was both thrilling and nerve-wracking. Her fears of the unknown were soon replaced by a sense of belonging and joy. "UGHE provided me with treasures my heart longed for," Nelly reflects. From hiking in the mountains and visiting the Butaro community to engaging in a myriad of activities like games, movies, singing, and dancing, her experience has been beyond her wildest dreams. "Everyone here is kind, and I sometimes catch myself surprised by the mesmerizing beauty of the scenery I am surrounded with," she adds, her enthusiasm palpable.



Yvette Isite, another new student, was initially taken aback by the chilly weather but quickly adapted. "The community is so nice. People are kind, welcoming, and supportive," she notes. The warmth of the people has more than compensated for the cold, making her feel at home in this new environment.

These students' stories paint a vivid picture of life at UGHE, a place where academic excellence meets a supportive and vibrant community. As they begin their studies, they carry with them not just the hopes of becoming medical professionals but also the dreams of making a significant impact on global health.

In the quiet corners of the Butaro hills, amidst the laughter and camaraderie of new friends, the future of healthcare is taking shape. These MBBS'30 Cubs are not just students; they are the harbingers of change, ready to tackle the world's health challenges with compassion and innovation. The journey ahead is bright, and the UGHE community is eager to see these bright minds flourish.



The biggest cohort of 60 students was welcomed by the Dean of School of Medicine. (Photo credit: UGHE Comms)



As part of welcoming, MBBS'29 defeated MBBS'30 in a friendly basketball game. (Photo credit: UGHE Comms)

DON'T LET THE MYTHS HOLD YOU BACK: LIFESAVING THROUGH BLOOD DONATION

QUEEN GIHOZO



The University of Global Health Equity embraces blood donation as part of its culture. On March 13th, 2024, a blood donation event took place from 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Some people may wonder how this heroic activity began, how each blood donation can help, or may have questions about common beliefs about blood donation. Since this is an important topic, it's crucial for people to have enough information to feel comfortable donating, and for those who are afraid to find the courage to join this life-saving community of blood donors.

Brief History

Imagine a world where a simple blood transfusion could be a gamble with life itself. That was the reality for centuries, as the story of blood transfusion began in 1665 with Dr. Lower's successful dog-to-dog experiment. Early attempts on humans, however, were fraught with danger, often leading to death.

The 19th century brought a glimmer of hope with Dr. Blundell's invention of a transfusion instrument and the critical discovery that only human blood could be safely transfused. But the true turning point arrived in the 20th century. Dr. Landsteiner's identification of blood groups, followed by breakthroughs in preventing blood clotting and extending its storage life, paved the way for the lifesaving blood banks of the 1930s and 40s. These groundbreaking discoveries were sealed by the discovery of the rhesus factor by Dr Karl Landsteiner and Dr Alexander Weiner, solidifying the foundation of modern blood transfusion practices.

Blood Donation FAQs

1. Is donating blood safe?

Absolutely! Donating blood is a safe process. All supplies used are sterile and disposable, ensuring your safety throughout the procedure.

2. Can I still donate blood if I'm taking medications?

Many medications are compatible with blood donation. It's best to consult your doctor to confirm your eligibility and discuss any concerns you might have with the blood center staff.

3. How often can I donate blood?

The frequency depends on the type of donation:

- Whole Blood: You can donate whole blood every 56 days as your red blood cells replenish within two weeks.
- Platelets: Platelets (apheresis: A process in which a machine removes blood stem cells or other parts of the blood from a person's bloodstream then returns the rest to the body) can be donated twice in a 7-day period or up to 24 times in a year. Platelets and plasma components replenish faster than red blood cells, with platelets returning to normal levels within hours and plasma taking a few days.



Christa Tona, blood donor from MBBS'29.

Myths about blood donation

Myth 1: Having a tattoo disqualifies you from donating blood.

Fact: In most states, you can donate blood immediately after getting a tattoo if it is done in a state-regulated shop. Otherwise, a waiting period of 3 months applies. However, in some specific states, a 3-month wait is mandatory regardless of the tattooing facility.

Myth 2: Donating blood depletes your own supply.

Fact: A person's body contains about 10 pints of blood and a typical donor gives about one pint. On average, a person's blood volume will return to normal in about 24 hours. Red blood cells, however, take about four to six weeks for complete replacement. That's why it's recommended a healthy donor donate every 56 days.

Myth 3: High blood pressure makes blood donation dangerous.

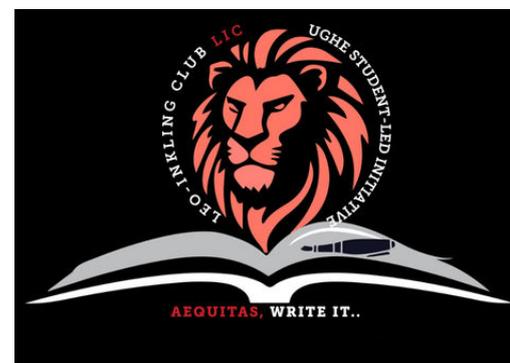
Fact: Your blood pressure will be checked during the health exam. If the top number is below 180 and the bottom number is below 100, it's safe to donate even if you're on blood pressure medication.

Fun Facts

The reality is that one donation, multiple lives are saved. A single blood donation can be separated into four components (red blood cells, platelets, plasma, and cryoprecipitate), potentially helping up to three needy people.

Blood is Irreplaceable which means there is no substitute for human blood. It can only be sourced through donations, making each contribution vital. Over 38,000 blood donations are needed daily to meet the ongoing demand.

It's also a mutual benefit to the donors for instance, donating blood involves a mandatory health screening, which can identify potential health problems or risk factors for certain diseases in the donor. Regular blood donation helps reduce the body's excess iron stores, potentially lowering the risk of hemochromatosis, a condition caused by iron overload. In addition, donating blood can positively impact your mental health by reducing stress and fostering a sense of satisfaction from helping others in need. Do you want to read more? Refer to the [link](#) to access the sources.



**** A letter to Jenny ****



Sylvia Dushime, MBBS'29

Dear Jenny,

As I write this letter, I hope that your soul is at rest and that you will find a place in your heart to forgive me. I haven't been a perfect friend to you. If I were one, you could not have been found lying dead on the cold floor with your parts scattered. I know you have crossed a bridge I cannot follow. I am very sorry that we can no longer hold hands, but I promise that I will permanently settle for the ghost of you. I'm afraid I didn't care as much as I should have, and it's my biggest regret.

The memories we shared are ecstatic. Remember our favourite beats? Tatiana bangas; Like You, You Mean to Tell Me and Don't Forget by Justin Bibier. Recall the evenings you gave me a hard time refusing to blend in with the new design, and I sang to you " But if you let me explore you, I will sing for you just before you sleep." How I wish you were here to fill my neck with your touch, full of love and care. Your love is all I got, and I cannot trade it for anything else.

Hey, pay attention. You exemplified hard work, dedication, and creativity. You taught me that life has many faces and that it is up to us to paint life in the colours of our interests and passions. When I can't see the beauty in the world, the maroon, gold, and white colours that filled my neck every time you were around me are a sign of my victory and progress. You provided me with so much comfort, and in your memory, I want to do things right this time.

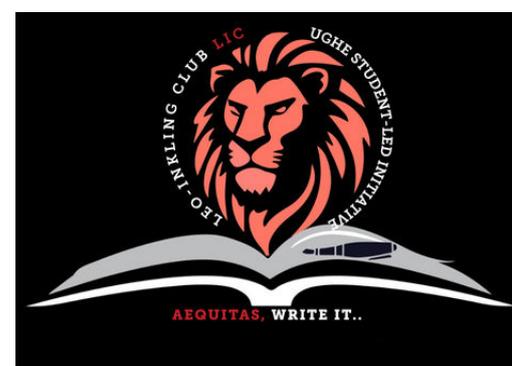
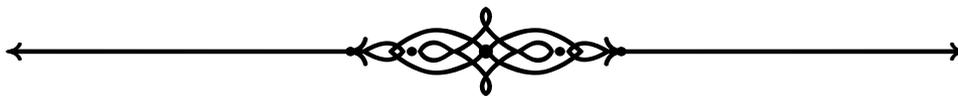
Like many others, I no longer valued and respected you. I treated you like an ornament, but you meant the whole world to me. You were what Diamonds can't buy. A treasure worthy of praise and recognition, a treasure that provided me with happiness that the world could not offer. A treasure that understood me like no one else and always raised my dopamine without any other intention but to make me happy and bring the best out of me.

I am very sorry that I did not recognize the pain you were going through. I stopped caring when I gave you Ora as a gift. I was a fool to assume she would give you the affection she gave me. I thought she would keep you in a box to protect you from high sunlight and keep you in a place of low humidity to keep you young and fresh. I was too late to notice how quickly you aged and worn out. I plead for a second or a millionth chance.

Now I know the essence of beauty, its subjectivity and ambiguity. Many treat you like a non-living thing simply because you cannot respire, excrete, grow, or reproduce. They take you as just a necklace, but you breathe love to me. An object that is meant for beauty and design and nothing more. What is more valuable than making life beautiful? Isn't that what you gave me? A life of adventure and trying out new things. An experience of trying out whatever my mind comes up with because every mistake I made while connecting the beads to make you complete meant a new design. Your outward beauty drew me in, but your inner beauty captured my attention and taught me to love what I do because that is all that matters.

I failed you because I thought that someone else would love you just like the way I loved you. Dear Jenny, do not worry, I will not repeat the same mistake. I will make people see what I see in you, the beauty of life. I refuse to judge your beauty by your appearance. You have given me another chance to think about myself and always protect what I love. As I make many copies of yours, I promise to be a good friend and to always protect them. I am willing to travel to the end of the world to save what you left with me. Creativity, stillness, and a dash of love. If I had wings, I'd fly higher to where you are, and believe me, if I had to pick my favorite craft work, Jenny, I'd pick you repeatedly.

Plenty of Love,
Sylvia



****Heart echoes****



Joselyne Nzisabira & Felicite Munezero

Great news!

Our beloved, Joselyne Nzisabira and Felicite Munezero, have a new book! Read a note from them below:

'Dear book and poetry lovers, we are excited to tell you that there are more wholesome poems in our new book Heart Echoes. We are reflecting on life, friendship, love, joy, growth, healing, selflove and many more themes. We would love your support in all forms. Grab your own hard copy in UGHE store, and contact us on WhatsApp at +250790166622 or jossynzisabira@gmail.com if you want a soft copy '



Here is a glimpse of pieces in the book...

Mirror on the wall
 Standing naked to see through me,
 Absorbing every reflection from the mirror,
 Appreciating the contour of the face,
 The shape of the belly,
 The width of the hips with length of the legs,
 Acknowledging the foot pressing through the
 floor, bearing all the weight seen and unseen.

I do not see the fats and the muscles; I see the
 home of my soul.
 I see the source of my energy,
 The battles that have been fought, Be of the
 mind, the heart, or the soul.

With a blurry mind, the eyes become a judge;
 The belly is the first to get criticism.
 It is not flat and flattering enough;
 Get some ways to get rid of the extra fat.

However, now, I stand before this,
 And I let all get absorbed in through the eyes.
 Not for criticism, but for affection;
 Giving tender love to every part of the body,
 Appreciating its participation in life,
 Binding the parts together for union.
 The union that shall conquer the blurry min
 ~~~~Felicite  
 A Toast to Love  
 Look up and count the number of stars in the sky,  
 I believe it matches the love I have for you my dear.  
 You are the song that I want to sing every day;  
 The shoe was perfectly made for me.

If I was to meet the Almighty once,  
 I would thank Him for creating you before asking  
 for anything. For if I was to request, I would desire  
 to be in your arms forever,  
 Cuddled by the most handsome man on earth.  
 I toast for love – an underrated feeling.  
 ~~~Joslyne

Photo of the Season



The two amazing photographers from MGHD'24 (Tabeal, left; and Murithi, right) added excitement to the attendees of UGHE Cultural Day. (Photo credit: UGHE Campus Life)

Magazine

Meet the Team!



Wednesday, February 25 2026

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AEQUITAS

