



UR MONTHLY

The official newsletter of the University of Rwanda

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UR law students scoops Moot Court Competition in contract law

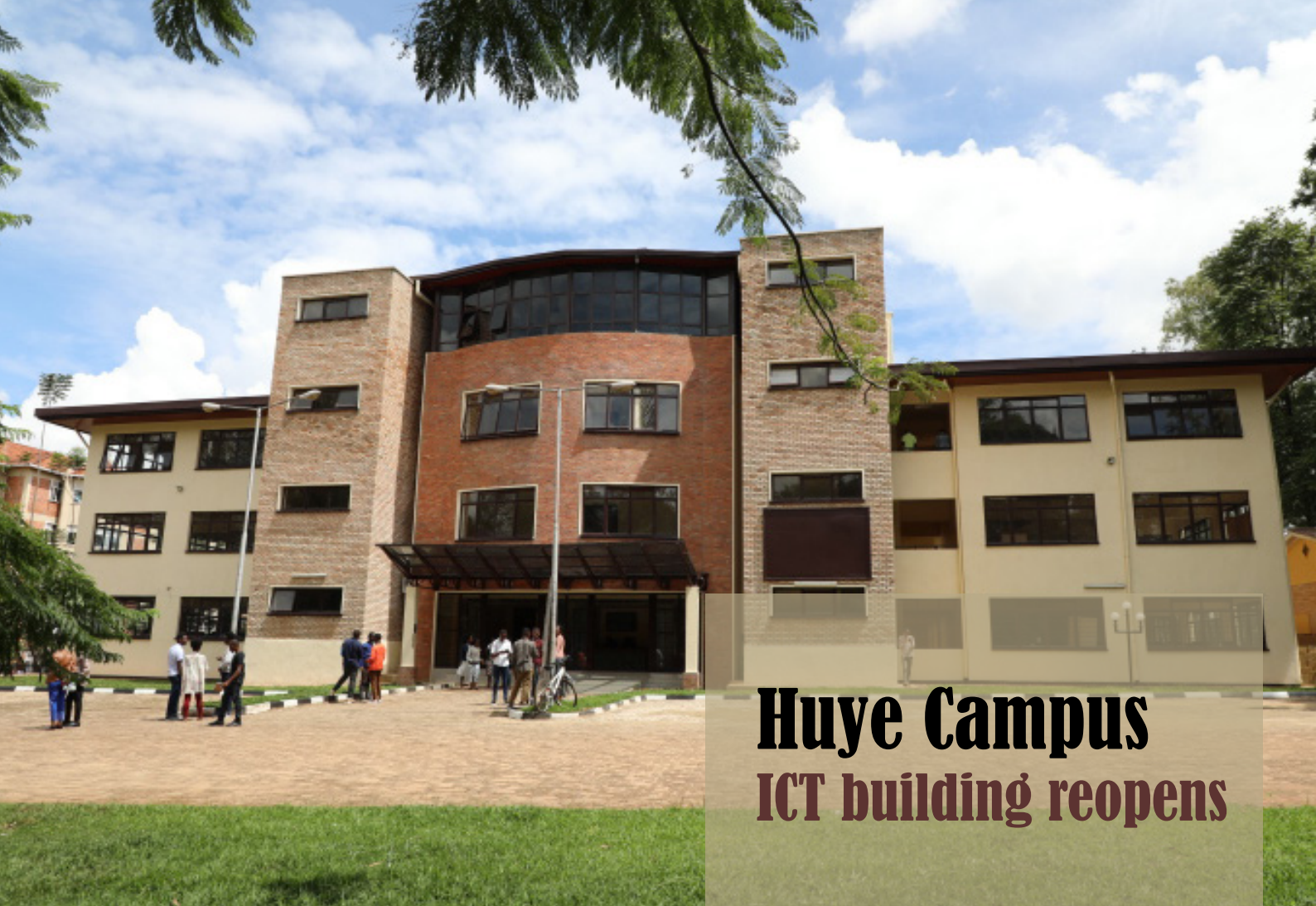
Eight students from the School of Law at the University of Rwanda emerged winners during the Law Moot Competition which brought together four other local universities. The moot court competition is deemed to be extracurricular activity where students from different law schools take part in simulated court proceedings usually including drafting Memorials and participating in oral arguments.

During the proceedings, the University team split themselves into two sections composed of four pleaders and other four as a backup team. UR team interchangeably pleaded as respondents and then as applicants before a fictitious court against teams from other local universities. The UR team scooped the first phase of the competition and climbed up the ladder to the finals. The final competition took place at the Rwanda Supreme Court and the UR team was crowned with a competition prize as the final winner of the entire contest.

The competition also awarded individual prizes and Phoebe Kayitesi, a member of UR team was awarded a trophy for being the Best Female Pleader throughout the competition. In other areas UR was awarded a trophy for having submitted the Best Memorials.

The competition was organized by Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights (iPeace) in collaboration with private and public universities in the quest to deepen and strengthen law students' skills and knowledge on specific issues related to national laws.

The competition also raises awareness on main legal issues faced by Rwandans in relation to most used laws and procedures in Rwanda. In addition, it improves students' knowledge and analytical, research, writing and oral skills while highlighting key principles and rights enshrined in most used laws in Rwanda among others. The competition was organized around the theme "Adjudication of Contract Disputes before Rwandan Courts: Challenges to the Enforcement of the Law Governing Contract (2011)".



Huye Campus ICT building reopens

Inaugurated Nine years ago; in 2011, this building was no longer in use because of some faults that occurred after its construction and inauguration. As KOICA was source of funding during the construction, this time Korea agency also funded its rehabilitation and ICT equipment to be used by the School.

Activities started in November 2018 and the total cost of rehabilitation is around 400 million Rwandan francs while other more than 200 million Rwandan Francs were spent in purchasing ICT equipments mainly computers.

In his speech BYUNGHUHA Lee country Director of KOICA said that they are willing to support ICT education in Rwanda.

Dr. Musafiri, the UR DVC/SPA while speaking at the occasion said "This building is a result of good partnership between Rwanda and South Korea." This ceremony is a sign of witnessing the vision of Rwanda, which is knowledge based on technology, he added.

University of Rwanda Deputy-Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Administration Dr. Papias Malimba Musafiri, his colleague in charge of Finance Ms. Françoise Kayitare Tengera alongside of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Country director in Rwanda Byunghuha Lee presided the reopening ceremony of ICT building commonly known as KOICA Building in Huye Campus.

The ceremony was also attended by the Principal of the College of Science and Technology (CST) Dr. Ignace GATARE as well as the dean of the school of ICT Dr. Musabe Richard. Today the CST/ school of ICT has 1108 students and almost 300 are based in Huye Campus. It is planned that the whole school should move from Nyarugenge campus to Huye campus.



OUTREACH

UR-CAVM intensifies campaign of its academic programmes for secondary schools

The University of Rwanda –College of Agriculture Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM) organized awareness campaign of undergraduate taught programmes in different Science Technology Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) secondary schools located in Kigali, Muhanga, kamonyi, Rubavu, Musanze, Gicumbi, Rulindo, Rwamagana, Kayonza, Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Kirehe, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Nyamasheke and Rusizi Districts.

The objective of the campaign is to strengthen its ties with secondary schools by raising the educational aspirations and capabilities of students from STEM secondary schools. This serves to give them an overview of UR-CAVM by introducing its 4 schools, 9 departments and available programmes in 3 campuses while informing them about Entry requirements and all opportunities they can gain after completing studies.

The campaign started in Eastern Province in which the UR CAVM team led by Dr Musana Fabrice visited six secondary schools located in Rwamagana and Kayonza districts. The awareness campaign covered the brief introduction of UR CAVM that's 4 schools (School of Agriculture & Food Science, School of Veterinary Medicine, school of Agricultural Engineering and school of Forestry & Biological conservation). He also explained that under each school there are departments. The School of Agriculture & Food Science, has 4 departments (department of crop Production, soil sciences, Rural Development & Agricultural Economics and food science & technology); The school of veterinary medicine has 2 departments (Animal Production and veterinary medicine departments) The school of Agricultural Engineering has two departments (department of Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation and Drainage) and lastly the school of forestry & Biological conservation with 1 department of forestry and nature conservation.

Based on the mission of the college, Dr Musana Fabrice also explained the need for understanding the roles that Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine plays in development of country. According to him, the focus is put on shifting from traditional ways for practicing Agriculture to modern Agriculture which requires skilled personnel who can translate knowledge into practice to boost country Agriculture industry. "The agriculture we want to teach you is no longer the Agriculture our ancestors were doing but it is an Agriculture which use technology where the farmer gains not only what to eat but also what to sell and get money" Said Musana.

Students were invited to work hard and get at least two principal passes with higher marks in STEM which is the minimum requirement to qualify for CAVM and to choose UR-CAVM while applying for University after showing them many opportunities that UR CAVM graduates can get in the Agriculture, Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine sectors.

Spirulina to fight malnutrition among children



Isaie Mushimiyimana, PhD

According to Mushimiyimana, one gram of Spirulina per day can correct malnutrition in a small child in a few weeks. Spirulina can be produced locally in tropical countries and is cheaper than carrots or spinach.

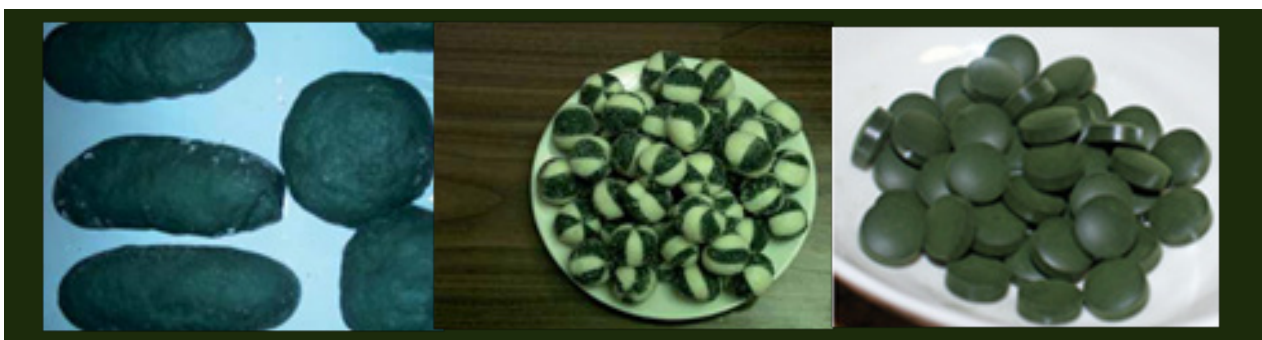
In 1974, Spirulina was declared by the United Nations World Food Conference as the "best food for the future". Spirulina was found in the highly alkaline lakes of Tchad and Mexico. In Japan and in the United States. Business executives take spirulina tablets to combat stress. Athletes and joggers take spirulina for quick energy synthesis.

Dr. Isaie Mushimiyimana is a University of Rwanda researcher at the College of Agriculture, Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, (UR-CAVM), Department of Food Science and Technology. In his book, *Unique Intervention to Fight Malnutrition among Children using Spirulina: The Best Food Of Tomorrow*, Mushimiyimana states that spirulina can get rid of malnutrition effects.

From his point of view, Mushimiyimana noted that to solve the shortage of deficiency disease Spirulina can be used for the reduction of hunger and to combat food crisis. Children are globally facing the shortage of food protein which is a result from suffering a leading protein deficiency disease kwashiorkor.

Malnutrition is directly or indirectly related to the infant mortality rate under 5-years. It also covers 50 percent of the infant mortality cases. Therefore, Spirulina offers fantastic potential for individuals fighting malnutrition. It has immune-stimulatory and antiviral properties that are of great interest in the fight against malnutrition.

Some of underdeveloped countries like in Sub Saharan region are facing major food and nutrition deficiency problems. "We are what we eat" is an old proverb. Health, physical and mental faculties depend on the food we eat and how we eat it. Spirulina is called a "Super food", the "best food of tomorrow", or "wonderful future food source" it is the most nutritious, concentrated whole food known to humankind.



Spirulina and its products' variety

ACE in Data Science moves towards international accreditation

UR is now poised to earn another premier accreditation from the Data Science Council of America (DASCA) – the global giant in data science standards and credentialing. Notably, the UR's African Center of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS) is Africa's first institution to be earning the prestigious DASCA accreditation.

The clincher is that we will now deploy curricula and content that is aligned to the world's most advanced standards to prepare data science talent that addresses the talent needs of the entire African industry, and not just Rwandans



A team from DASCA met the Center Management in the evaluation process of programs to be accredited

The ACE-DS Director, Dr. Charles Ruranga is confident that this will propel this World Bank - funded Center of Excellence in Data Science further ahead of the curve in Data Science learning and research in Africa. "The clincher is that we will now deploy curricula and content that is aligned to the world's most advanced standards to prepare data science talent that addresses the talent needs of the entire African industry, and not just Rwandans" says Dr. Ruranga.

DASCA accreditation comes on the back of the UR's College of Business & Economics (CBE) becoming an Authorized Education Provider of DASCA, and gives ACE-DS now the capability to offer world-class Master's and PhD programs in frontier areas of Data Science. With the CBE adding the capability to offer DASCA certifications in big data analytics and big data engineering to undergraduate and postgraduate students, the University of Rwanda now seems to have developed a robust data science education and research ecosystem which can offer the widest range of academic,

professional and executive programs in Data Science to all types of education seekers.

With DASCA accreditation, ACE-DS also gets to implement vendor-neutral curricula with cross-platform coverage and treatment of data science tools and techniques. "We need our students to be versatile across platforms and agile to emerging technologies. That is only possible if we graduate to a curricular structure that is advanced, and yet generic in its core on the one hand, and on the other, it covers all platforms and tools in practice today and those on the horizon." Explains Dr. Ruranga.

The DASCA accreditation is also expected to push up the global visibility of ACE-DS and the University of Rwanda as seriously capable Data Science educators. DASCA accreditation of ACE-DS is expected to help the Centre accelerate the creation of a data science talent pool of senior professionals who can lead data science projects and help organizations in Rwanda and across Africa implement world-class analytics in business and governance.

The programs being offered which are expected to be accredited are: Master's & PhD programs in Data Science (Biostatistics, Data Mining, Actuarial Sciences and Econometrics).



Prof Phil Cotton UR Vice Chancellor received a delegation from

UR and Columbia University/ Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement move to create partnership

Representatives from Columbia University in New York City, USA including individuals from the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement and the Global Programs initiative met with the Vice Chancellor of UR and Prof Beth Kaplin of the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management to discuss collaborations and to sign an MoU between the two universities. Prof Lisa Dale, a lecturer at the Earth Institute, Columbia University began working with the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda in 2019 as a Fulbright Specialist.

Dr Dale and Prof Kaplin developed a training workshop on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Governance in July 2019, taught by Dr Dale and attended by postgraduate students and academic staff from UR. Dr Dale returned in January 2020 to offer an active teacher training workshop for UR academic staff. She also won funding to launch a one-month course for Columbia undergraduates and UR undergraduates to study and learn together in Rwanda under the Columbia University Global Scholars Program. Unfortunately, this unique program had to be cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic, but these initiatives led to the signing of the MoU between the two institutions which will lead to collaborations in teaching and research.



Dr Lisa Dale from University of Columbia

Among her activities in Rwanda Dr Lisa Dale led a training course held at the College of Science and technology, University of Rwanda for postgraduate students in the fields of biodiversity and climate change. The course mainly focused on global connections about climate change and sustainable development from a policy perspective.

In the course of the training, students were able link the global policy context with their scientific and technical skills, which would help them to be experts who understand the policy implication in their own fields. Students also learned about the global dimensions of where they fit and where Rwanda fits in to the global picture.

According to Prof Lisa Dale, Rwanda is making tremendous strides, the fastest growing country in Africa but faces significant threats from climate change. She believes that students will figure out ways to integrate sustainable development with attention to climate change for the work they do in their own scientific fields.



Through its Cooperation and Cultural Action Service (SCAC), the French Embassy in Rwanda has offered two scholarships to students from the University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The scholarship opportunity includes support for both the first and the second year of the master programme. Students in the fields of medicine, public health, clinical epidemiology, pharmacy, paramedical, odontology, and Nursing are encouraged to apply.

The scholarship is part of the French Embassy's Policy of supporting higher education and scientific research in Rwanda. SCAC usually awards advanced trainings and scholarship support to students registered for master's degree in French Universities

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

- Medicine
- Public health
- Clinical epidemiolog
- Pharmacy
- Paramedical
- Odontology
- Nursing

UR CMHS Benefits Scholarships from French Embassy in Rwanda

