

December 2020

SEED Institute Newsletter

Science Education to Enhance Development



As 2020 comes to a close, we reflect on the difficulties this year has brought to the people of Kanungu and look forward to a brighter future.

Great Lakes Regional University (GLRU) was forced to close its doors in March because of the coronavirus. The government of Uganda imposed a total travel ban which led to great economic hardship throughout the country. With the loss of jobs, hunger became a problem and **SEED** assisted in providing food support to faculty and staff on unpaid furlough. The graduating class was allowed to return in October to complete their studies but there was no incoming freshman class and consequently a huge decrease in the fees which are necessary to support the university.



SEED Computer lab in use pre-covid

The university shutdown provided an opportunity for the administrative team to develop new and more transparent financial policies and to engage in a strategic planning process to guide its mission for the next 5 years. We are grateful for the very able leadership of Honest Wilkins as University Secretary and head of CHIFCOD (the community development group of which GLRU is a part) and Dorothy Kabugo, the Acting Vice Chancellor.

As for **SEED**, the team has taken the opportunity to carry out necessary repairs and renovations to the building, installing new lab benches with sinks and gas supply. Windows and sills have also been upgraded to minimize water damage. The whole building has received a new coat of paint (see below).



Another positive development this year has been significant upgrades to the local health centre, including a new maternity wing. Uganda Development Initiative (our parent organization) and International Rotary played significant roles in these improvements.



As we enter 2021, **SEED** hopes to provide access to a new and larger class of future science teachers by providing financial assistance through the Future Teachers Fund and upgrading facilities through the General Fund.

Great Lakes Regional University, located in Kanungu in southwest Uganda, draws its students from a remote rural area of subsistence farmers. The goal of the SEED Institute, within the University, is to train much-needed high school science teachers for the region and to improve access to all qualified students on the basis of need and merit through scholarships and loans.

We are grateful to all who have expressed interest over the years in the **SEED Institute** and particularly those who have supported us with their financial contributions. If you would like to find out more about **SEED** or contribute to its ongoing work, please visit:
<http://www.ugandadevelopmentinitiative.org>

Thank you! Yebare munonga!

from Paul and Jessica Schendel