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DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION
Office of the Chair

PRESS RELEASE

M.A in Journalism and Communication reinstated

The Department of Journalism and Communication in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University will resume teaching the Master's in Journalism and Communication programme next academic year 2012/2013. The programme was put on hold last academic year due to lack of senior staff.

According to the Acting Chair, Department of Journalism and Communication, Dr. Aaron Mushengyezi, the staffing situation continues to improve and by August 2012, the Department will be in a better position to administer the programme. Dr. Mushengyezi also pointed out that some of the senior lecturers who are currently on leave are expected to resume duties in August this year while the University Administration has authorised appointment of more staff to replace those who left. Associate Professor Goretti Nassanga, who is currently on sabbatical leave and Mr. William Tayeebwa who is on study leave in Canada are expected to resume their duties in the Department in August this year.

The University has also appointed new members of staff namely Dr. Patricia Litho, Mr. John Baptist Imokola and Ms Florence Namasiga to address the human resource gap that we have been facing. This team brings to the Department of Journalism and Communication a great wealth of knowledge from the respective spheres of their training and practice. Also, the university has regularized the appointment of Mr. Fred Kakooza and Mr. Wilson Kaija who have been serving on temporary contracts.

In addition, in April 2012 the Department will host a visiting Fulbright Professor, Paul Voakes, from the University of Colorado in the US, and an accomplished media practitioner Mr. Conor Brady from Ireland who will spend one semester in the Department next academic year 2012/2013. Mr. Brady's visit is funded by the Irish Embassy.

Dr. Mushengyezi also re-affirmed the commitment of two former members of staff in the Department, Dr. Monica Chibita and Dr. Peter Mwesige, to continue offering part-time services to the Department in form of graduate teaching, supervision and examining dissertations when the M.A programme is reinstated.

Department of Journalism and Communication wins UNESCO Grants

In other news, the Department of Journalism has won two grants funded by UNESCO worth **USD 52,000**. One is a joint project with Daystar University in Kenya worth **USD 27,500** which will enable the two Departments to carry out a training of trainers programme in new media journalism, participate in a curriculum review programme and conduct staff exchange visits in critical areas of need.

The second grant worth **USD 25,590** will enable the Department to conduct a study on the media landscape in Uganda using the Media Development Indicators (MDIs).

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