



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHUSS

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2026: ISSUE 1



CHUSS Presents the Highest number of PhDs at the Mak 76th Graduation

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Principal	2	CHUSS in the News	4	Makerere Hosts 5th JICA Chair on Peacebuilding and Post-war Reconstruction	8
Highlights (January – March 2026)	2	Makerere Research and Innovation Impact 1:	4	Ham Mukasa Photo Exhibition Brings History to Life at Makerere	9
College Fact File	3	Makerere impact through Research and Innovation 2:	5	Pictorial of Events	10
The Kyabazinga of Busoga Graces the Internal Mother Language Day and Launches Lusoga at Makerere	4	Makerere Hosts German Language Festival 2026	6		
		CHUSS Hosts Inspiring Ham Mukasa Public Lecture	7		

Message from the Principal



Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala,
Principal, College of Humanities and
Social Sciences

Welcome to the first issue of the CHUSS Quarterly Newsletter, covering January–March 2026. This publication highlights the major milestones and contributions of our college community to scholarship, research, and societal transformation. As one of the largest and most vibrant colleges at Makerere University, CHUSS continues to nurture critical thinkers, researchers, and leaders whose work shapes national and global conversations in the humanities and social sciences.

This issue captures some of the remarkable moments that defined the beginning of 2026. We hosted the Kyabazinga of Busoga to celebrate Language Day and the launch of Lusoga language teaching. The Rotary International President graced the CAPSTONE event on 19th February, where our graduate students showcased their community projects. During the 76th Makerere University Graduation Ceremony, the College presented the

highest number of PhD graduates, totaling 45 (including students admitted to CHUSS through IGDS and MISR). We also hosted several impactful engagements, including sessions with Russian UPDF students, German Day, French Day, PhD graduate support sessions for students at both the field data collection and proposal stages, and capacity-building workshops for journalists on peace and gender-sensitive reporting.

Together, these and many other stories reflect CHUSS' growing role in advancing research, promoting cultural heritage, strengthening public dialogue, and building human capital for Uganda and beyond. As you read through this issue, we invite you to celebrate the dedication of our staff, students, and partners, whose collective efforts continue to make CHUSS a true hub of excellent minds.

We hope this newsletter keeps you informed, inspired, and connected to the vibrant work of the college.

Highlights (January – March 2026)

CHUSS recorded a vibrant and impactful first quarter of 2026, marked by high-level engagements, academic milestones and strengthened research and community outreach.

- His Majesty William Gabula Nadiope IV visited Makerere University on the eve of International Mother Language Day to officially launch the teaching of Lusoga.
- Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo visited Makerere and graced the 9th Capstone Conference.
- During the 76th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, CHUSS presented the highest number of PhD graduates, totaling 45.



His Majesty William Gabula Nadiope IV visited Makerere University on the eve of International Mother Language Day to officially launch the teaching of Lusoga.

- Research Fellows at the Great Lakes Centre for the Study of the United States in the Great Lakes Region reported progress on a major book project scheduled for publication in August 2026.
- Ahead of Uganda's January 15 general elections, journalists received specialised training in peace and gender-sensitive reporting to promote responsible media coverage.
- The College celebrated academic excellence: Prof. Rev. Sr. Dipio Dominica and Prof. Neema Stella received the 2026 Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award, while Julian Namiyingo, Assistant Lecturer and PhD candidate, was recognised with the Best PhD Thesis Award.
- Teaching and learning progressed steadily, with the semester reaching its midpoint with minimal disruptions.
- Student engagement included interactions with Russian UPDF students and successful celebrations of German Day and French Day, reinforcing CHUSS' commitment to cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Graduate training remained robust, with targeted support sessions for Gerda-Henkel-funded PhD 2024 and 2025 cohorts at field research stages and proposal development.
- Interdisciplinary research initiatives gained momentum, strengthening research development across the College.
- The College sustained outreach efforts through teaching engagements at UPDF training institutions.
- Experiential learning was enhanced through field trips for graduate students in Peace and Conflict Transformation, as well as History students conducting studies in the Albertine region.
- The History Photo Exhibition showcased the College's commitment to public scholarship.
- Student life remained dynamic, with active participation in interschool debates and sporting activities, including football matches with sister universities.
- International engagements included hosting Korean professors under the Department of Political Science and convening the 5th JICA Chair meeting.
- In strengthening institutional partnerships, CHUSS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank to establish an Environment and Social Sustainability Center in collaboration with CAES.
- Academically, new curricula were approved, while staff capacity was enhanced through appointments, promotions, and some departures.
- The College maintained strong community engagement through continued visits from primary and secondary schools.

College Fact File



Staffing: 287

Staff distribution by rank

	Rank	Female	Male	Total
1	Professor	2	8	10
2	Associate Professor	6	9	15
3	Senior Lecturer	6	33	39
4	Lecturer	20	61	81
5	Assistant Lecturers	31	45	76
6	Administrative and support staff	43	23	66
	TOTAL	108	179	287

Student population: 3720

Student Number Distribution 2025/2026			
	Female	Male	Total
Diploma	9	42	51
Undergraduate	1668	1135	2803
Postgraduate Diploma	28	29	57
Masters	436	306	742
Doctorate	35	32	67
TOTAL	2176	1544	3720

Courses offered:

10 Bachelors,
24 Masters,
2 Undergraduate Diplomas,

3 PGD and
4 PhD programmes

New courses:

Lusoga officially launched

The Kyabazinga of Busoga Graces the International Mother Language Day and Launches Lusoga at Makerere



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and His Majesty William Gabula Nadiope IV after launching Lusoga teaching in the Main Hall on 20th February 2026.

In a landmark cultural and academic development, His Majesty **William Gabula Nadiope IV** visited Makerere University on the eve of International Mother Language Day to officially launch the teaching of Lusoga. Organised by the Department of African Languages in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the event was held under the theme

“Languages Matter: Harnessing Technology to Document and Develop Uganda’s Indigenous Languages,”

marking a major milestone in the promotion of indigenous language scholarship.

CHUSS in the News

Lusoga Launch at Makerere University

- Kyabazinga Launches Lusoga at Makerere: New Vision
- Government Planning Lusoga Lectures at Makerere: New Vision
- Busoga King Leads Call to Digitize Indigenous Languages: New Vision
- Makerere University Adds Lusoga to Language Courses: Daily Monitor
- Makerere University Launches Lusoga Teaching on YouTube: YouTube
- Welcoming Busoga & Lusoga to Makerere University: YouTube
- Makerere Launches Lusoga Teaching, Expands Indigenous Language Programme: Campus Bee
- Makerere University on Boards Lusoga: Elix News

- Makerere University Officially Launches Lusoga Teaching for International Mother Language Day: Parrots Media
- NBS Video: Makerere University to Introduce Lusoga as a Subject: Facebook
- TikTok Coverage: NBS TV

Rotary International Visit

- VIDEO: President of Rotary International, Francesco Arezzo, Visits Makerere University: Facebook
- VIDEO: Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo Commends Makerere University: Facebook
- Rotary President Francesco Arezzo Visits Makerere: Nile Post
- As it Happened: Day 1 of Rotary President Visit at Makerere: New Vision

Makerere Research and Innovation Impact 1:

CHUSS Presents the Highest number of PhDs at the Mak 76th Graduation ceremony



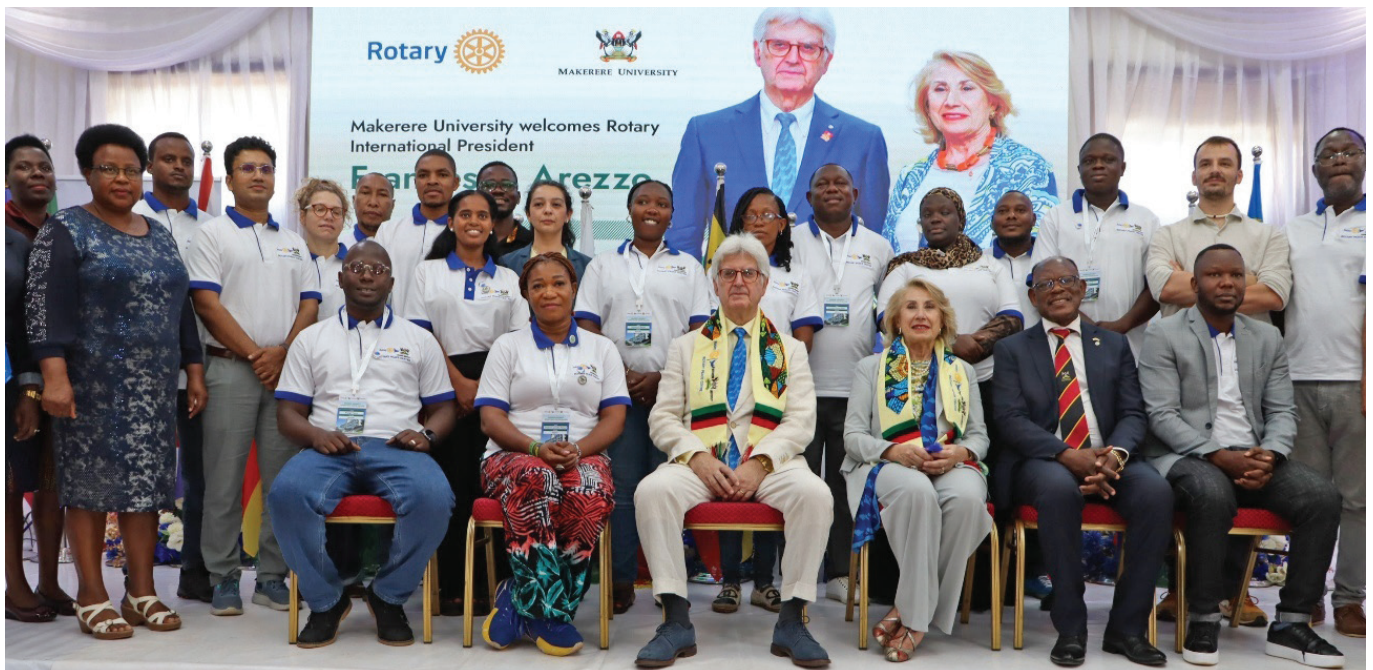
A section of PhD candidates after the graduation in the Freedom square on February 27th in University Freedom Square

At the 76th Graduation Ceremony of Makerere University, held on Friday, 27 February 2026, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) presented the highest number of PhDs, totaling 45 (including candidates from IGDS and MISR), underscoring the College's growing contribution to research and advanced scholarship. In addition, CHUSS awarded degrees to 371 Master's candidates, 629 Bachelor's candidates, two Diploma graduates,

and over 100 Postgraduate Diploma candidates. The graduating class included officers from the Uganda People's Defence Forces, Uganda Police Force, and Uganda Prisons Service, as well as more than 100 Rotary Peace Fellows who completed postgraduate studies in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Among them, six security officers earned a Master of Security Strategy, 18 completed a Master of Defence and Security, and 106 were awarded a Bachelor of Defence Studies.

Makerere impact through Research and Innovation 2:

The International Rotary President Francesco Arezzo visits during the 9th Capstone Conference



President Arezzo and his wife (3rd and 4th) Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe in the group photo with students on February 20, 2026 in the Senior Common Room Makerere university.

The International Rotary President Francesco Arezzo and wife visited and presided over the 9th Capstone Conference held from February 19–20, 2026, at Makerere University. Peace fellows Cohort 9 presented their Social Change Initiatives that have impacted on lives in various countries. The conference convened peacebuilders, scholars, Rotarians, and global leaders under the theme

“Collaborative Peace Building for Societal Transformation,”

while also welcoming incoming scholars from Cohort 11.



Visit by the International Rotary President Francesco Arezzo during the 9th Capstone

Makerere Hosts German Language Festival 2026

The Department of European and Oriental Languages (DEOL), under the School of Languages, Literature and Communication (SLLC) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), successfully hosted the German Language Festival 2026 on Saturday, 21st March 2026 at Makerere University's Yusuf Lule Auditorium. The event was organized in partnership with the German Embassy in Kampala, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Goethe-Zentrum Kampala, and the Association of Teachers of German in Uganda.

The festival brought together over 700 participants, including more than 600 students from secondary schools across Uganda and about 100 invited guests. Similar reports from partner organizations confirm that the festival convened learners from multiple German-teaching schools, underscoring its growing national significance as a platform for promoting German language and culture.

Gracing the occasion were the Principal of CHUSS, Prof. Nambalirwa Nkabala, and the Deputy Principal, Assoc. Prof. Awich Ochen. The Chief Guest, Mr. Peter Primus, Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, emphasized the importance of



Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, emphasized the importance of language in strengthening cultural ties and expanding educational and professional opportunities for Ugandan students

language in strengthening cultural ties and expanding educational and professional opportunities for Ugandan students.

The German Language Festival continues to play a vital role in advancing German language education in Uganda, where the language has been taught for over

four decades and is supported through initiatives such as scholarships, teacher training, and international exchange programmes. Through performances, exhibitions, and interactive presentations, students showcased their linguistic skills and creativity, highlighting the relevance of German in academic, cultural, and career pathways.

The 2026 festival not only celebrated excellence in German language learning but also reinforced the enduring collaboration between Makerere University and German cultural and educational institutions.



CHUSS Hosts Inspiring Ham Mukasa Public Lecture

On 6th March 2026, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), through the School of Liberal and Performing Arts and the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, hosted the Ham Mukasa Public Lecture at Makerere University. The event brought together scholars, students, and members of the wider public to reflect on the life and enduring legacy of one of Uganda's most influential historical figures, Ham Mukasa.

The lecture was delivered by Mr. James Galabuzi Mukasa, a descendant of Ham Mukasa, who shared insights into the life and times of the renowned Buganda chief, author, and political figure. According to historical records, Mukasa played a central role in Buganda's governance during a transformative period and served as secretary to Sir Apolo Kagwa, one of the most prominent leaders of the kingdom.

Ham Mukasa is also widely known for his written account Uganda's Katikiro in England, which documents Buganda's early interactions with Britain and offers valuable insight into Uganda's political and cultural landscape at the turn of the twentieth century. His work continues to serve as an important historical reference for scholars and students alike.



Makerere University
Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies

Ham Mukasa Public Lecture

His Life and Legacy. A Public Lecture by James Galabuzi Mukasa, Ham Mukasa's Grandson

Friday
6 March 2026
2:00pm–4:00pm

Location:
Makerere University Main Hall

Zoom code: **919 6129 8166**
Zoom password: **404 657**

Abstract: This lecture examines the life and legacy of Ssekiboobo Ham Mukasa (1871–1956), a prominent chief and statesman in Buganda whose public career spanned a period of profound political, religious, and social transformation. To be delivered at 2pm, on 6th March 2026 at Makerere University by his grandson, James Galabuzi Mukasa, the lecture situates Mukasa within the turbulent transition from pre-colonial monarchy to British colonial rule. Born into the palace service of Kabaka Mutesa I, Mukasa witnessed and served during the reigns of Kabaka Mutesa I, Mwangwa II, Daudi Chwa II, and Kabaka Mutesa II. He survived the 1885 martyrdom crisis, participated in the religious wars of 1888, helped secure the reinstatement of Kabaka Mwangwa II, and later served as regent to Daudi Chwa II. Appointed Chief of Kyagwe (Ssekiboobo) in 1905, he contributed significantly to political stabilization, the introduction of formal education, and the promotion of scouting in Uganda. Despite lacking formal schooling, he emerged as a prolific scholar and writer. The lecture draws further insight from James Galabuzi Mukasa's recent book, *The Untold Story of Buganda's Past*, which re-examines Mukasa's life and situates it within Buganda's wider historical transformation. Together, the lecture and the book invite renewed scholarly reflection on African agency, leadership and modernity in Uganda's past.

for questions, contact muhozicc@gmail.com or edgartaylor@mak.ac.ug

The Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Makerere University, as highlighted on the Makerere University CHUSS platforms, remains committed to promoting historical research and public dialogue. The public lecture provided an opportunity for critical reflection on historical memory, identity, and the relevance of past leadership in shaping contemporary society.

Through engaging discussions and shared perspectives, participants underscored the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and strengthening historical awareness among younger generations. The Ham Mukasa Public Lecture continues to affirm CHUSS' role as a hub for humanities scholarship and meaningful community engagement.



Photo Credits: Buganda Media Centre (<https://x.com/BugandaMedia>)

Makerere Hosts 5th JICA Chair on Peacebuilding and Post-war Reconstruction

On 29th March 2026, the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Makerere University, under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), successfully hosted the 5th JICA Chair as part of the JICA Program for Japanese Studies. The event, held at the School of Public Health Auditorium, highlighted the growing academic collaboration between Makerere University and Japan International Cooperation Agency in advancing global knowledge exchange.

The lecture focused on the theme “Post-war Reconstruction and Peacebuilding in Hiroshima and Japan,” offering participants a unique opportunity to reflect on Japan’s historical experience and its relevance to contemporary global peacebuilding efforts. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Chisa Mikami, a distinguished expert affiliated with the Ashinaga Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Drawing from Hiroshima’s post-war recovery, she shared powerful insights on resilience, reconciliation, and the role of education in rebuilding societies after conflict.



The JICA Chair initiative is designed to promote the study of Japan’s development experience and to foster mutual understanding between Japan and partner countries. At Makerere University, the program has continued to grow as an important platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, particularly within the humanities and social sciences.

According to reports published on UG Newslines, CHUSS reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening collaboration with JICA, emphasizing the value of such partnerships in enriching academic programs, supporting research, and exposing students to global perspectives.

The 5th JICA Chair not only deepened academic engagement on peacebuilding and historical reconstruction but also reinforced Makerere University’s position as a regional hub for international scholarly exchange.







THE 5TH JICA CHAIR

JICA PROGRAM FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

Theme

Post-war Reconstruction/Peace Building in Hiroshima and Japan

SCAN ME



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ms. CHISA MIKAMI

Member of the Board of Directors, Ashinaga Foundation
Head of Hiroshima Office, United Nations Institute for
Training and Research (UNITAR)



25th March 2026

9:00am - 2:00pm

School of Public Health Auditorium

Hosted by Makerere University: Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, School of Liberal and Performing Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Ham Mukasa Photo Exhibition Brings History to Life at Makerere

The Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Makerere University recently hosted a captivating Ham Mukasa Photo Exhibition, offering students and the wider university community a visual journey into Uganda's rich historical past. The exhibition was organized as a precursor to the Ham Mukasa Public Lecture held on 6th March 2026, forming part of a broader effort to promote public history and heritage appreciation.

The exhibition features a collection of rare photographs, archival materials, and interpretive displays that highlight the life and legacy of Ham Mukasa, one of Buganda's most influential chiefs and early chroniclers of Uganda's history. Mukasa is widely recognized for his role as a political figure and for documenting key historical events, including Buganda's engagement with the British during the colonial period.

Drawing inspiration from preservation efforts such as the Ham Mukasa Museum, which houses artifacts, photographs, and personal records related to his life, the exhibition emphasizes the importance of visual archives in understanding Uganda's past. Visitors are able to engage directly with historical imagery that illustrates social, political, and cultural transformations during Mukasa's time.

The exhibition has created an interactive learning environment that bridges academic study and public engagement. Students and attendees continue to gain a deeper appreciation of how personal narratives, photographs, and material culture contribute to reconstructing history beyond written texts.

the Department reaffirms its commitment to innovative approaches in teaching history and preserving heritage

The exhibition is still ongoing at the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, providing an opportunity for more members of the university community to experience this rich historical showcase.

By curating the Ham Mukasa Photo Exhibition, the Department reaffirms its commitment to innovative approaches in teaching history and preserving heritage. The exhibition not only set the stage for the public lecture but also underscores the role of Makerere University as a leading center for historical research, cultural preservation, and community engagement.

<https://dhahmak.wordpress.com/>



Pictorial of Events

The international Mother language Day and the Launch of Lusoga Teaching at Makerere University



The Mak 76th Graduation highlights on 27th February 2026



EDITORIAL TEAM

- 1. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Principal
- 2. Jane Anyango, Principal Communication Officer
- 3. Mr. Eric Lubega, IT Officer
- 4. Ms. Eunice Rukundo, Deputy Chief-PRO
- 5. Mr. Agaba Issa Mugabo, Brand/Marketing Officer

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