

# David Anderson Africa Trust

## NEWS

**Winter  
2003/2004**

**Supporting education  
and training in Africa**

**[www.daat.org.uk](http://www.daat.org.uk)**

**Reg'd Charity No. 1001425**

## Top results for Tanzanian women



Another three women sponsored by DAAT have completed their degrees at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT). **Irene Tarimo** and **Rehema Mningo** were awarded their degrees in March 2003, and **Justina Niragire** graduated in September 2003.

### ***A First Class achievement***

**Irene Tarimo**, a teacher at Weruweru Girls' Secondary School in Kilimanjaro region, was awarded a BSc with Education. Irene broke the OUT record by being the first ever graduand at OUT to be awarded a First Class degree. This outstanding result pays tribute to all Irene's hard work and dedication.



*Irene Tarimo: a truly outstanding result*

### ***Raising the status of women in Tanzania***

**Rehema Mningo**, a school inspector and mother-of-three from Songea, completed her BA with Education, specialising in English literature and Kiswahili.

Both Irene and Rehema hope to pursue further studies, which will not only enhance their careers, but help to raise the status of women's education in Tanzania.

**Justina Niragire** had to overcome many obstacles to complete her BA with Education. When she enrolled, she lived in a remote region of Tanzania and had to travel eight hours by bus to take her exams.

Now a teacher at Bwiru Girls' Secondary School in Mwanza region, Justina is passionate about raising the status of women in Tanzanian society. She has shown to other women teachers the importance of upgrading, and two of her colleagues have now started degree courses with OUT.

### ***A lifeline for women***

OUT's distance learning system enables women such as Irene, Rehema and Justina to combine a University education with a full-time job and family commitments.

*We aim to support ten women students each year. Fees are paid directly to OUT. We also plan to offer a book grant to each woman: books can be very expensive, and library copies can be hard to obtain.*

## **SUPPORT A STUDENT**



If you would like to support a woman student at OUT, please complete and return the enclosed donation form.

***Just £15 per month pays for the tuition fees and books for one student.*** Students are expected to take six years to complete their degree, though some may graduate after four years.

# FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE: Congolese refugees achieve their dream of a university education

*Frank Byaombe, aged 28, and Theophile Elekamo, aged 30, graduated from Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2003. Both men, who are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) showed remarkable courage and determination in their quest to gain a university education.*

## **A life-changing experience**

Frank Byaombe relates what it means to him to have gained his degree, a BA in Community Development:

*'It's amazing how life changes from being hopeless for the future and an expected end. I did not know that I would be in the position that I am in today.*

My life started in the great lakes region of DRC where, at a time of war, all was lost and my hope was gone as I saw many fall at the hand of the sword, disease and hunger.

Today, I have achieved my goal of completing my degree in Community Development, with a minor in Conflict Resolution Studies, through the support of DAAT.

## **Filling the skills gap**

The degree, for me, is an attempt to help fill the skills gap in the African work force. I hope that this will help to develop the African nations for future generations and have a positive impact on political, economic and social conditions.

I am proud of my achievement, for it has indeed transformed me. I have a broader perspective of the world and the way things work. It has given me the confidence that I can handle any situation and be responsible in the field of my speciality.

## **Towards peace, justice and development**

I therefore seek to serve in the civil rights movements and the struggle for peace, justice and sustainable development in the great lakes regions of DRC.

*I wish to express my gratitude to all who gave. Thank you for your support: my life has been changed because you gave. God bless you.'*

## **Practical skills**

After completing his studies, Frank spent several weeks in the USA working with Youthworks Inc. This involved liaising with local organisations, and coordinating, facilitating and leading services at community venues. Frank enjoyed interacting with young people and putting into practice the motivational and leadership skills learned on his course.

He then went on to work with Daystar US, participating in a series of church visits to talk about Africa and promote sponsorship of African students, especially those from war zones.

Frank looks forward to being able to return to DRC and putting his skills to use there.

## **Restoring hope for the future**



*Theophile Elekamo*

**Theophile Elekamo**, now a graduate in Business Administration and Management, says:

*'I don't have words to express what I feel about what you've done for me. I had lost hope of going back to school, but you really helped me and supported me a lot through my four years at Daystar.*

*I just want to thank you so much and hope that you can be able to respond to other people's needs. I'm desperate to go back to my country, and I'm praying for an end to the war.'*

*DAAT is supporting two further students from DRC at Daystar University. Sibomuhire, 27, and Jimmy Kasongo, 29, are both studying for their BA in Community Development.*

# EDUCATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

*There are many visually impaired people in Tanzania, who are severely disadvantaged and have very limited access to higher education.*

To open up opportunities for visually impaired people to study, a ground-breaking project was set up by the Open University of Tanzania and DAAT in 1997. With a grant from the Community Fund, audio recording studios were built and two of OUT's courses – a Foundation course and a BA with Education – were recorded on to audio tape.

## ***Vision for the future***

There are now over 40 disabled students in Tanzania studying for degrees with OUT. DAAT is keen to continue its involvement with the project, and plans are being made to record a Law degree on to audio tape.

## ***Prizes for visually impaired students***

Two visually impaired students who recently completed courses at OUT have been awarded prizes for excellence in their work.

The DAAT prize (a talking watch, presented to OUT by Mary and Janis Anderson during their visit in 2001) was given to Raphael Semsei of Tanga, who graduated in 2002.

Rumisha Massamu of Moshi, who last year completed his Foundation Course, also received a prize.

## ***Research boosts student support***

*We are delighted to report that Eurelia Muyinga has completed her research into counselling and support for visually impaired students in Tanzania. She was awarded her PhD from Reading University in September 2003.*

Eurelia's research provides the key to building on the success of OUT and DAAT's audio project. It provides vital data on how visually impaired students are coping with their studies, and what support systems are needed.

During her fieldwork in Tanzania, funded in part by DAAT, Eurelia interviewed students and staff at nine of OUT's Regional Centres and also collected information using diary techniques. The responses provided a wide range of opinions, ideas and concerns relating to counselling and learning support for visually impaired students.

Eurelia has extensive experience both as a tutor and as a disability counsellor. Her recommendations include proposed models for counselling and student learning support services, as well as a reform of the distance learning delivery system.

Before returning to Tanzania, Eurelia was able to visit the unit for students with disabilities at the UK Open University, where she saw examples of the latest computer technology.

Eurelia is now in a position to play a key role in the development of OUT's services for visually impaired students.

*We congratulate Eurelia on her superb achievement and look forward to working with her to open up access to university education for more disabled people in Tanzania.*



*Eurelia Muyinga's research will help in the development of services for visually impaired students*

## TALKING BOOKS for blind students

As is the case in most African universities, all courses at the Open University of Tanzania are in English. So the visually impaired students, whose mother tongue is Kiswahili, need to develop good listening skills in English to make the most of their courses.

To help them with this, DAAT is making a collection of talking books to be distributed to hard-working students at OUT. The more the students can hear spoken English, listen to different subjects and even hear songs in English, the better their listening skills will become, and the more they will gain from their studies.

By studying for a degree, students are able to improve their

standard of living and make a valuable contribution to their communities – for example, by upgrading teaching qualifications.

### ***We need your help!***

Please send us your donations of new or used talking books, as well as music cassettes (jazz, pop, etc). Or you can send us a gift of money to buy talking books. Talking books cost around £10 each – for more information see the website:

**[www.talkingbooks.co.uk](http://www.talkingbooks.co.uk)**

*Please send your donations of money or cassettes to the correspondence address opposite.*

## Trustees

Ms Janis Anderson; Mrs Mary Anderson; Ms Cath Attlee; Dr Davina Hoile; Mr Jason Pennells; Mr Tim Sheehy; Mr John Thomas.

Our Adviser in Tanzania is Mrs Prudence Eliapenda.

The Fund Administrator is Ms Anna Wilson-Nunn.

## Contacting us

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For more information about the David Anderson Africa Trust, check out our newly updated website at:

**[www.daat.org.uk](http://www.daat.org.uk)**

## KENYA: Special needs education

DAAT is looking into the possibility of a collaborative project with Maseno University to improve and increase provision of special needs education in Kenya.

In Kenya there are around three million disabled people, many of whom are under 20. But there is a shortage of special education teachers, and only about 15,000 young people have access to special education services.

The Department of Special Needs Education at Maseno University runs a B.Ed in special needs education. A Master's

course is being planned, to be launched early in 2004.

DAAT Trustee John Thomas visited Maseno in summer 2003. He was very impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment to special needs education.

DAAT is considering providing support for students on the MA programme. This would have far-reaching effects on special education provision in Kenya, not only increasing the number of special education teachers, but also helping provide more qualified teacher trainers.

## SUPPORT US!

Your donations, as always, are vital to continue our work in Africa.

Funds can be allocated to a particular project if you prefer – just make a note of this on the donation form.

Please send all donations to the correspondence address above.

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