

Looking At The ISSUES

April 6, 2007



Walsh: Stark County's Emerging International University

On a dusty back road of a peninsula jutting into Lake Victoria, a young African woman walks clutching a wine-colored canvas tote bag emblazoned with gold lettering. The equatorial sun here is fierce and now at noon it has erased most shadows from the landscape.



The woman doesn't mind the sun, its glare, or the heat, for today she rejoices in the dawning realization of a great dream. One day she wants to head a school. She wants to help bring education to hundreds of small children in her land, long torn by war and afflicted by poverty and AIDS. To do this, she needs a university degree and today she starts her journey towards that degree for the gold lettering on her tote says Walsh.



The scene depicted above will become a reality this fall as Stark County's own Walsh University takes a step unprecedented for any Ohio college or university. In partnership with the Kisubi Brothers Center of Uganda Martyrs University, Walsh will simultaneously launch a joint Master of Arts in Education (MAED) Leadership program both in North Canton and Uganda.

What makes the program unique is that while course offerings are virtually the same, with each course meeting the same standards, content will be localized to meet the specific needs of those pursuing the principalship or other school leadership positions in Ohio and in Uganda. Courses will be jointly planned by faculty at both locations requiring a level of international collaboration seldom seen in higher education.

Looking At The Week

Stark Education Partnership Board member, Paralee Compton, has been selected as a Woman of the Year to receive the President's Award from the Junior League of Canton. This honor will be presented on May 12, 2007 at a brunch at the McKinley Grand Hotel.

Adele Gelb attended the semi-annual Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) Member Advisory Council meeting in Columbus on Wednesday, April 4th. Adele is part of the Professional Development Subcommittee charged with programming that will assist in the ongoing operations; development of workshops, trainings and the annual conference; and the development of strategies to help retain more students who are being served by OCAN member organizations through college degree completion.

Here in North Canton, the program represents a new venture for Walsh who has offered an MAED for teachers for years. Now, for the first time, educators can pursue a degree that will qualify them to pursue principal licenses.

To most colleges and universities, international education means hosting foreign students or offering internet courses and degrees or an occasional faculty exchange. The nuance here is that two fully qualified faculties, one American and one Ugandan, will be teaching at each location. Students at both locations will be Walsh students.

Former Walsh President Brother Francis Blouin will help coordinate the program in Uganda while Dr. Carol Sandbrink, Chair of the Education Division at Walsh will coordinate locally.

While the program in Uganda will add to Walsh's enrollment, the university will realize no profit from its operation. As Dr. Laurence Bove, Walsh's Academic Vice-President, puts it, "rarely is one blessed with developing and implementing a venture that more directly speaks to the heart, mind and soul of our mission."

For Walsh, that mission is now international, and countless future students in an emerging African nation will be forever linked to Stark County and its university.

For Your Information

Check out TED (www.ted.com) – an event that brings together more than 1,000 thought-leaders sharing the latest ideas in technology, entertainment and design as well as business, science and the arts...in fact any subject area offering something fresh and important. Gain understanding of how your own work fits into the larger web of knowledge.



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