

# SAVE the MOTHERS.org

STM's networking E-newsletter for alumni, students & staff

**Now receiving applications for Masters of Public Health Leadership (MPHL) 2019 intake**

**Share the news with your networks**



To apply visit [www.ucu.ac.ug/applynow](http://www.ucu.ac.ug/applynow). Also send your CV & motivational essay to: [savethemothers@ucu.ac.ug](mailto:savethemothers@ucu.ac.ug) AND [mimmutabazi@gmail.com](mailto:mimmutabazi@gmail.com)

**No mother or child should be harmed or die**

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## STM connects with Bozeman Health, Montana, USA



Recently Save the Mothers (STM) was honoured to host health workers from Bozeman Health at Mirembe Hall, Uganda Christian University (UCU), Mukono. Great opportunity for friend-raise for safe motherhood cause.

**Photo: Dr Miriam Mutabazi (centre), Director Save the Mothers East Africa catches a photo moment with the Bozeman team: Heidi Godwin, Kelly Damberger, Hillary Elder and Haleigh Peterson.**

## Narus Regina presents at International Day of Midwives symposium

Narus Regina, is an MPHL alumnus who hails and works in Napak district, Karamoja sub-region, Uganda. Her MPHL research was on Community-Based Maternal Death Surveillance and Response in Napak District, Karamoja sub-region. At the International Day of Midwives Symposium in Mbarara, western Uganda on 4th May 2019 presented her research findings.

In her study Narus explored the factors affecting community-based maternal deaths surveillance and response. The results revealed that the community health extension workers needed to be motivated to carry out maternal death surveillance and response. Culture too played a major role as a barrier. The in charges of selected health facilities have to do more support supervision and conduct regular monthly meetings, because data collection that had allowances attached to it by partners, was easy to track and monitor progress.

**Dissemination of study findings is one of the ways to share gaps and best practices in Maternal and Child Health (MCH). Share stories of how you are using your MPHL study findings.**



**Narus (third from left) clad in a Nkajong traditional attire poses for a photo with her colleagues.**

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**In May 2019 Save the Mothers conducted a tracer study of the MPHL alumni. Thank you for making this study possible through your participation. Findings of the study shall be used to enrich the MPHL program thus improve MCH using multi-disciplinary professionals. STM appreciates your continued support.**

## Academics updates

**Every year Save the Mothers holds three research writing seminars to support students finalise research.**

The research writing seminars primarily target students who have completed data collection. The academics office conducted the first seminar in February and the second one in May 2019. These seminars are a great strategy for supporting students finalise the Masters Public Health Leadership (MPHL).

During the February 2019 seminar 20 students participated. Of these 18 students defended in April. STM's Academics office celebrates the sweet fruits of the writing seminars with 17 out of 18 students ready for graduation on 5 July 2019.

STM constantly reviews academic processes for better study outcomes. During the examiners post defence meeting in April, the external examiners made these observations:

Prof Otham Kakaire - "The quality of research was good with a wide range of topics covered and choice of topics is also good." He also noted the need to have supervisors well involved.

**Right:** A student presents to panel one examiners



**Below:** Panel two examiners give a student feedback.

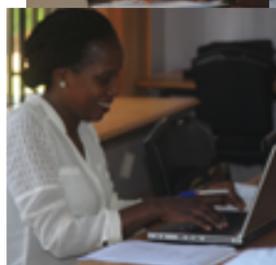


Susan was one of the students.



**Left:** J Kawuba, one of the examiners takes notes.

**Right:** Panel three examiners interface with one of the students.



Prof Robert Basaza: *There was better ownership of work than last year. However, the power-points were not so good.*

Dr Romano Byaruhanga: *"Every year we examine, I see the quality of research improving. Invitation to other students in lower years to attend defence should be considered for learning purposes."*

**Save the dates and share with students who have not yet completed the MPHL**

**31 July 2019** - Second defense

**October** - Third research writing seminar, 2019.

**16 December** - Third and final defense in preparation for March 2020 graduation.

## Multi-disciplinary professionals improve MCH



**STM East Africa (EA) is remodelling the old Mityana Hospital maternity ward that shall serve as a unit to decongest the current maternity ward.**

It will be a unit for women with bad maternity outcomes.

Dr M Mutabazi, Director STM EA inspects the works.

STM EA is thankful to all partners contributing resources to make the works possible.

Funding for the remodelling is from STM USA. Technical expertise is provided by Mityana district engineering department. While STM alumni in Mityana district under the leadership of Rev Moses Ssemugooma and Hon Sylvia Ssinabulya conduct regular follow ups to monitor work progress.

**A big thank you to Save the Mothers family members for the donation to Mityana Hospital towards improving Maternal and Child Health (MCH).**

The hospital administration raised a concern to STM about damaged mattresses in the maternity ward that expose patients to sepsis.

When STM called upon its network they responded:

Etolu Samson class 2006: 300,000 Ugsh.

Anonymous one: 500,000 Ugsh.

Anonymous two: 1,460,000 Ugsh.

Total raised: 2,260,000 Ugsh (650 dollars).

**The donation shall be used to procure 8 mattresses and 8 mattress covers.**

## STM Retreat

**Recently Save the Mothers staff took time off to reflect on their work at a 3-days staff retreat at Sapphire Hotel, Lweza, Kampala.**

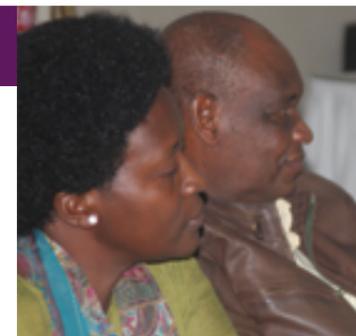
The Dean of the School of Medicine, Dr Edward Kanyesigye also attended the retreat. Save the Mothers-Masters in Public Health Leadership is under the School of Medicine Faculty-Uganda Christian University (UCU). The Dean's message to the team was:

'Let there be love.'

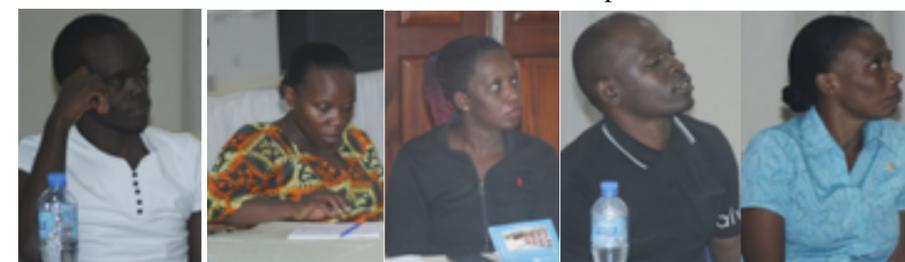
'Let there be love.'

Also present was Prof Pius Okong, STM East Africa Board Chairperson. Prof Pius is also one of STM founder members.

In his presentation Prof Pius shared the story of STM evolution and changes thus a call to adaption.



**Above left:** Dr Miriam Mutabazi (Director STM East Africa) and Dr Kanyesigye listen to a presentation by the lead facilitator Dr Sam Luzobe.



**Prof Pius presents to STM staff the evolution process. Left to Right: Evan Gumusiriza (intern), Dr E Nakabembe (Mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, director), Saida Asaba (cleaner), Fred Musisi (Warden Mirembe Hall), Christine Ajambo (cleaner).**



Prof Pius



Group photo

**Left to right: Juliet Kawuba ( Administrator), Lilian Tushabe (Communications officer) and Wilson (cleaner). MY OPINION IS...: The retreat was defined by the staff sharing their views openly and listening to one another.**

## Which way Save the Mothers?



**Save the Mothers conducted a strategic planning retreat on 24-25 May 2019 at Sapphire Hotel, Lweza, Kampala.**

**The strategic planning retreat had representatives of various STM stakeholders who included among others STM staff, board, UCU, students and alumni.**

**Left: Group photo**

**Right: Group presentations**



**Above:** Group discussions.

**Right:** Mr David Mugave (STM Board member).

