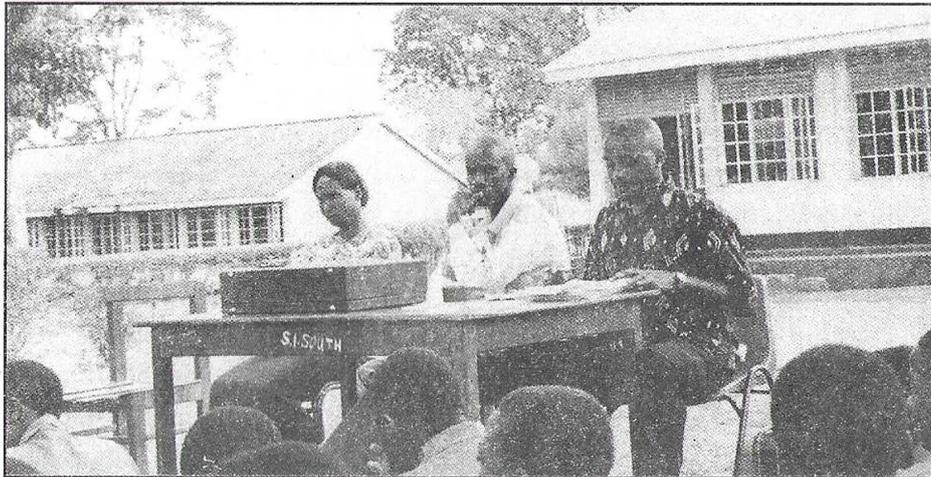




PEN Uganda holds a series of Workshops

By Danson Kahyana



Assistant Patron Iganga Pen Centre, Ms Rachael Nabirye(L), Laury Ocen (C) and Danson Kahyana (R) listening to questions from Iganga S.S. penmates during a workshop

PEN Uganda has successfully conducted a series of workshops and consultative meetings with each of its centres. These centres are: Iganga Secondary School, Nabumali High School, Ngora High School and St. Katherine's Secondary School. Other centers are: Gayaza High School, Kibuli Secondary School, Kings College, Buddo, St. Lawrence Citizens High School (Horizon Campus), Mengo Senior School, Maryhill Girls School and Ntare School.

The workshops and meetings, conducted in the month of November 2003 under the theme **Harnessing the Writing Talent**, were well attended, thanks to the unwavering support of centre patrons and assistant patrons.

Basically participatory and interactive in nature, the workshops and meetings were facilitated by Prof. Timothy Wangusa (PEN Uganda President), Mr Julius Ocwinyo (Treasurer), Mr Laury Ocen and Danson Kahyana.

The major points these facilitators emphasised were: the need for young writers to expand their horizons and try a hand at essays, short stories, skits and children's books over and above poetry; the need to experiment with different writing techniques under the guidance of the patrons, and the need to be original lest one is charged with plagiarism.

The open discussion sessions raised other issues that the facilitators responded to. Some of these issues were: 'How does one publish a book, say a novel; 'What problems does one face in publishing a book; 'How does one gain through writing; 'Isn't writing a risky thing, especially in a country like Uganda?'; and, among others, 'At our age, what did you facilitators write / publish, and how did you go about it.'

Judging from the enthusiasm the workshop and meeting participants showed, it was clear that the sessions had provoked them. This observation

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PEN UGANDA PRESIDENT GIVES INAUGURAL LECTURE

By Danson Kahyana

PEN Uganda President, Prof. Timothy Wangusa, has delivered an inaugural lecture at Uganda Christian University (UCU), Mukono Campus.

The lecture, given on 18th November 2003, came in the light of UCU's appointment of Prof. Timothy Wangusa (popularly known to his students as Uncle Tim) as Research Professor in the Faculty of Education.

The lecture, entitled **WHAT A PIECE OF WORK IS A MAN!** had six sections, poetically labeled calabashes. These calabashes were:

- One:** What a piece of work is a man!
- Two:** An Aristotelian Object
- Three:** A linguistic Animal
- Four:** A story telling Animal
- Five:** A paradoxical Animal
- Six:** Hanging by a Golden Chain

In Calabash One, the Professor reflected on the marvels of two poets – William Shakespeare (in *Hamlet*) and King David (in Psalm 8) – at what a piece of work man is. Though man does not delight him, Hamlet finds him noble in reason, infinite in faculties, express and admirable in form and moving, angel-like in action, god-like in apprehension – in brief "The beauty of the world! The Paragon of Animals!" As for King David, he marveled at God's love for man, a love reflected in the fact that he made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honour.

In Calabash Two, he reflected on Aristotle's description of man as a two-legged unfeathered thing, a description that in one way or another betrays the Greek Philosopher's contempt for man and echoes the question Shakespeare's play, *King Lear* asks – **What is a man when he has been**

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