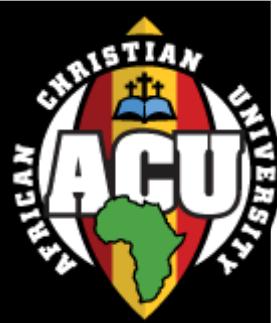




July 2019 Vol. 11 No. 7



In This Issue

Agricultural
Programme

Interview with
Kendra Hawley

Agricultural Programme

By Ben Kilian

Assistant Professor in Agricultural Science



Zambia's potential for agriculture is great, and comes from both vast natural resources and her people. I believe Zambia will become not only self-sufficient, but the breadbasket for Africa and a major source of agricultural commodities. Seventy percent of Zambia's population is involved in the agricultural sector of the economy. Many of these individuals are not equipped to maximize the potential this great land has to offer. At ACU we want to change that. Our students are taught to recognise their gifts and potential and become the best workers God made them to be. This requires discipline, dedication and sacrifice. As the first leader of the programme I have been tasked with heading the initial charge toward this goal. It is a privilege and responsibility that I do not receive lightly. Our desire is to see the programme develop and mature with the reputation for producing graduates not only with the highest calibre training, but with godly character. Graduates of our programme will excel in diverse and challenging career paths.

My experience at ACU has been enlightening and encouraging. I am humbled by the students we serve in our programme. It has been a delight to get to know them personally and also engage with them beyond the classroom. These students have sacrificed much to join ACU. They joined an untested programme and are enduring our stumbles without complaint. They are growing in grace and knowledge and I am thrilled

to see them flourish as young men and women. It is my joy and privilege to see them rapidly progress in their understanding of the course material. They have been gracious with me as we learn agriculture in the Zambian context together.

Over the past year, several external opportunities have allowed the students to expand their understanding of agriculture in Zambia. The AgriTech Expo in Chisamba was the ideal environment for the students to meet experts and practitioners in various areas of agriculture. It was good for them to observe the broad range of opportunities that their training could provide. Additionally, they attended the INSPIRE Zambia conference where they experienced training for Foundations for Farming and were encouraged to live as Christians in agriculture. They also have toured small agricultural businesses such as Precision Farming. The students got a glimpse into planning and logistics and learned the importance of working as a team to coordinate an efficient agricultural operation. These experiences and many more are just the beginning of what we hope to see God accomplish in our students.

We are excited to be offering Soil Science next term. Professor Obed Lungu has over forty years of teaching and research experience and is an internationally respected expert in the field. We are excited to learn from a professor of his calibre.

How can you join our team? If you have agriculture or science-related expertise we have opportunities for you. We have openings for instructors in foundational science courses (Biology, General Chemistry) as well as Animal Science and practical farming techniques (among others). Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Interview with Kendra Hawley

First ACU Librarian



1) What has your involvement been with ACU in the past?

I had the privilege of serving as the Librarian at ACU from 2014-2016. During the time I was in Zambia, I inventoried nearly 7,000 donated items cataloguing about 2,500. I also consulted with others to construct the Jonathan Edwards Library which is housed in a converted shipping container, drafted the library policies and procedures, and trained the current assistant librarian, Jacob Hamayobe.

2) What brings you back to Zambia and ACU? After three years back in Canada, God provided me with the means and opportunity to revisit the many friends I made while living in Zambia and also check in with ACU to see the progress in this time.

3) How have you found ACU coming back after being away for some time? When I left in 2016, classes had just begun so I found ACU much busier during this visit. Since I have been away many things have grown such as the number of students, the staff and lecturer count, and even the plants on the property. I was also glad to see how well the library has been taken care of and how many people come and go from the space.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

*Pray for the raising of funds for the land and construction.

*Pray for the Salvation of students in the Scholars Programme.

*Pray for Ben Kilian as he leads the Agricultural Programme.

*Continue to pray for the ongoing accreditation process of our Programmes.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

*Thank the Lord for the Hoffmans who were blessed with a baby boy.

*Thank God for Kendra Hawley who has come back to visit and volunteer with us after three years of being away.

*Thank the Lord for Colleen Johnson who came from Canada to volunteer with us and help review our educational Curriculums.

*Thank the Lord for the generosity people have shown in donating items for the men's hostels.

4) What have you been up to since leaving Zambia? When I returned to Canada, I took a contract position at the public library where I had worked before coming to Zambia. When the contract was finished, I moved to Ottawa where I now work in an elementary school library. I enjoy being part of Calvary Baptist Church, spending time with the many friends I have, and the opportunity to get outside doing activities like ice skating, bicycling, and playing Ultimate.

5) How can we pray for you? Please pray that I will continue to grow in my walk with the Lord, that I may continue my journey in a Proverbs 3:5-6 manner, and that I can be a testimony with those I work with and interact with from day to day.