



Hi, we are delighted to share with you the Uongozi Connection.
It is our hope that you had a fruitful first quarter of the year 2021.



To date, it is three months since our last group of scholars left Kenya to join their universities and colleges in the USA and the UK. We have already received great feedback from many institutions with beautiful success stories and excellent attainment reports. Well done scholars and keep it up!

I am also very pleased with the progress of the setting up of our Alumni Association. A big ASANTENI SANA to the members of the Electoral Commission and the members of the UC management team who have been involved! It is because of your superb work that we will be able to hold our very first elections at the end of this month. The Association will not just form a support network for scholars abroad and in Kenya, but will also play an important role in the advancement of the MPESA Foundation Academy through meaningful relationships, Give Back programmes and active support of the Academy's vision. I would like to encourage all scholars to get engaged with their regional branches as soon as they are up and running.

We are currently preparing to welcome our new cohort of 192 scholars. Initially, we had planned to have 96 resident and 96 non-resident scholars. However, we have decided to give everybody an opportunity to spend at least some time here at the Uongozi Centre and we look forward to receiving the first cohort on May 3rd and the second one on June 15th. Both groups will be joining the second part of their programmes remotely.

Finally, please allow me to share an article from Forbes Africa [here](#). It is Forbes Africa's way of celebrating its 100th issue and a well curated list of ideas, inventions and influential role models that have contributed significantly toward the growth of our beloved continent over the last decade. It is my hope that this article will inspire current and future MFA students and UC scholars even further. Enjoy the reading and stay safe and healthy.

Yours



Christian Gülzow,
Director, Uongozi Centre.

My Concordia Experience by ANDREW MUNYWA



Many people would call it starting life on a new slate, but for me joining Concordia College in Moorhead- Minnesota State, is a “renewed” slate. Although I had never attended the institution or any university before, I knew that whatever brought me here was a continuation of my heart’s desire. These statements gave me a lot of strength, especially during the first two days after arriving on campus. Being in a completely new environment which was very cold and always snowing, I kept thinking “ooh poor me!”. Having spent over 95% of my life in 24-degrees Celsius environment, experiencing -25 degrees Celsius was more than a freezer room for me! Every open space was covered by a snow sheet and as if that was not enough, the foreign food was also a different experience for me. Although I still find some of the meals strange to date, I have gotten used to their unique taste.

Fortunately, the community here is amazing. My fellow scholar Ashley and I greatly appreciated the support, right from the reception we received on arrival, through the campus tour and finally settling in. The Admission Officers and Office of the International Students helped us settle and catch up with schoolwork. It was through this, that we became acquainted with the system and everything started flowing well.

I started venturing into my areas of interest and I joined the Broadcast Group, Concordia On-Air, and surprisingly I was granted the opportunity to go live on the first day I reported to work. I could not believe my dream was actually unfolding slowly. I presented news alongside a colleague and it was an amazing experience. Since then, I have been writing and presenting news every Wednesday from 6.00pm. I look forward to advancing my skills especially in investigative news journalism in the next four years. Additionally, I joined the

junior Brass band who are part of the music department. I hope to advance in these two activities as I explore more opportunities.

I want to express my gratitude to the AHEC team for the arrangements they made for us prior to, and after arrival. Special thanks to Miss Laurah, who, out of her kindness and care bought Ashley and I warmers. It was so kind of her! Without forgetting the Uongozi Centre Fraternity, I would like to thank you for the continued support.

I miss Kenyan food; ugali, chapati, oh my goodness! I miss the warm climate, family and friends! However, I'm certain time will treat me well, and I'll get used to this new environment and culture.



Meet GIDEON SIMIYU, a visionary entrepreneur and alumnus of MPESA Foundation Academy.



Living the Dream by EUPHEMIA EVA

Have you ever felt like you were living in a dream?

I think we scholars still are. If you asked any of us if we'd seen ourselves ever going to the north of the United States, our answer would be a definite No! stern and firm.

Minnesota is one of the coldest states and where we safely landed on the 10th of January, 2021 after a series of flights summing up to 24 plus hours in the air.

We have all experienced mixed feelings especially for me, a challenge that we all took up, a decision we made and honestly a journey we all started. Most of the things we were afraid may happen, actually happened, just as it is written.

The exploring, discovering, trying, adventuring, winning, losing, convincing yourself each day that you will make it because that's what took you out of your world. Getting up each time after you feel like you are losing again and again.

Personally I will tell you how ambivalent my reactions have been and how my expectations have had to be lowered. In my opinion this is not all the land of milk and honey that you have been told about. But have you tried buying the honey and milk and having a blast. If it's a saying that has misguided us all along is that "It will get better". No it doesn't, you make it happen. You actually chase the better.



I was not going to forget a great team that has made transitioning to higher level education a success. Thank you is not enough but making something good out of this opportunity will be the best thank you. From the MPESA Foundation all the way to Uongozi Management. We say a big thank you, for making this and continuing to make all these opportunities a success. it's not easy to do all this and we can not only see but feel the support given. It feels great to be here and personally I can't wait to have a whole book filled with a life time memories.





Listen to Kenya's future Chief Justice- JOYCE NYAWIRA an MPESA Foundation alumna and Law student at Strathmore University.



My College Experience By GLORY MAKENA MBAABU

My name is Glory Makena. I am a scholar at Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC) in Nairobi, Kenya. I am pursuing a Swiss Diploma in Culinary Arts for two years and a Bachelor Degree in Culinary Arts in Business & Hotel Management School in Lucerne, Switzerland.

As an alumna at the Mpesa Foundation Academy, the school introduced me to different food cultures, which encouraged me to know more about various dishes. I also developed a passion for culinary arts from the agricultural classes I attended. Seeing how the school catering department used to work hard together and the collaboration they had, making sure the food presentation was excellent motivated me to join the culinary department. My thirst for hospitality continued to develop through the MFA catering department's help and mainly from Mr. Martin Okaka, who has been mentoring me all through.

Honestly, my experience in the hot kitchen is not comfortable; standing for more than 5 hours and preparing is not easy. Yes, for me, it's fun and enjoyable getting to know how to design your meal and eating it after the Chef's remarks. Learning how to prepare different dishes, especially French Cuisine, Pastry, and getting to know other cuts of vegetables such as julienne, brunoise, and many more has definitely been my best experience. So far, I have taken my practical exams, and I can confidently say that I am doing well based on my positive results. Working in the kitchen needs a lot of dedication, discipline, respect, and good presentation to show exemplary professionalism in you. Getting to learn from different Chefs like Chef Loice and Chef Lenah is a great experience. By the end of my two years in BIHC, I plan to get to learn more and attain a distinction in my academics with the staff's help and participate in the BIHC culinary championship and represent BIHC and Kenya at the Young Chef Olympiad.

My all-time motivator is my mother. She loves cooking, and I am happy to learn culinary arts because I will introduce her to different food cultures and travel to new places. She believes in me so much and trusts that I will make it in this career path I am undertaking. In my professional field, what encourages me to work hard is to improve the outlook of hospitality in my home county and help introduce a culture of delivering quality hospitality experience throughout the country.

As for the future, hospitality is a growing field every day, and the fact that people will never cease to eat, we need to explore more in the hospitality industry. Let's all try to experience new food and have the courage to know the preparation method used, ingredients, and importance. We should develop the mentality of wanting to learn more about what we consume daily.

All the gratitude goes to my MPESA Foundation Academy Family.



Cuts of bayonet french fries



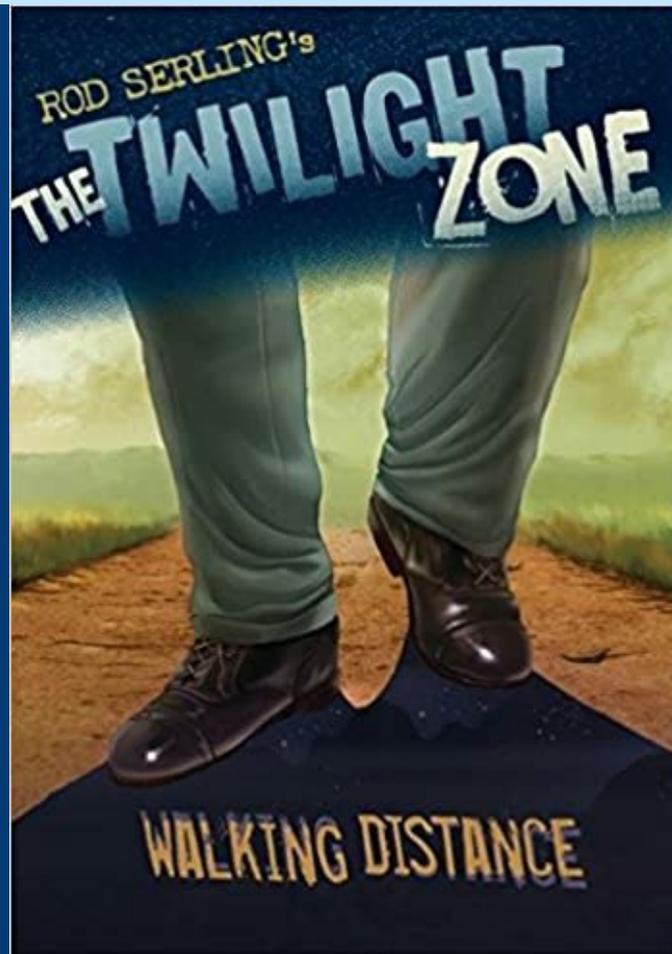
Chocolate Mousse



Jam pancakes and pineapple fritters



Swiss Roll



Book Review: Rod Serling's Walking Distance by IVY WAIKWA

This is part of the Twilight Zone series and is a powerful story of Martin Sloan Avery, a successful man living in New York City. He is the Vice President of a company in charge of media. As he drives through the country, he thinks about how his life has become hectic and he hardly has fun anymore. His car gets a flat tyre and he leaves it at a gas station and walks to his home town.

On his way home, he goes to a coffee shop and realises it looks the exact same way as it did when he was a boy. At that point he does realise that he mysteriously went back in time. His memory becomes reality and he sets out to try and warn his younger self to enjoy his childhood before it is too late. After trying to convince his parents that he is their son from the future, he succeeds only in proving his insanity and his father asks him to go back to the future.

The lesson I derived from this book is that, we cannot waste opportunities and chances given to us because we might not relive that moment to change the outcome of our choices. Even if we try going back to change anything in the past, circumstances or even people will make sure we don't. We should therefore make changes while we still have time to make sure we do not regret it in the future and that includes everything we do.



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