

**Pastor Chad Brekke Visits SEKUCo**

A delegation of five members from St. Matthew's, Chester Springs returned in early July from their second vision trip to East Africa this year. This was the tenth St. Matthew's trip to Tanzania led by Pastor Brekke. During their visit to SEKUCo, Provost Anneth Munga shared the progress and also the great challenges currently facing SEKUCo. It was encouraging to see all the braille typing machines provided through the Africa fund at St. Matthew's being put to good use. Access to enough fresh water has developed into one of the most pressing challenges, which the University will need assistance to address. Anyone can participate in a St. Matthew's Vision Trip to Tanzania—choose the Africa link at [www.stmatthewslutheran.org](http://www.stmatthewslutheran.org).



Provost Munga reviews water pond

**Michelle MacLuckie Reports**

In June, Pastor Chad Brekke and his group carried a suitcase full of materials to SEKUCo, including texts for the Eco-Tourism and Special Education Departments as well as materials for the Visual Impairment Department. The new canes, talking calculators, and brailled maps were exciting additions to SEKUCo's resources for instruction. Dr. Nwaogu, chair of the Education Department, sent a wonderful thank you note. Over the coming months we will send many additional books and a few laptops. With up to 10 students sharing core textbooks, the need for books is continuing. Gifts of \$25 to \$50 will buy a key textbook. For more information, contact Michelle at [mmacluckie@msn.com](mailto:mmacluckie@msn.com).



Pastor Brekke delivers books

**REMEMBER  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th  
is SEKUCo SUNDAY  
in our  
SYNOD  
PLAN YOUR  
CELEBRATION NOW!**

**SEKUCo Financial Needs Are Great**

SEKUCo needs financial help in so many ways. In Provost Munga's article, we learned of a critical need for rain water collection systems. Many debts remain from the renovations of buildings, the internet needs vast improvement and text books are needed. Please consider sending a donation to SEKUCo today. Your gift will make a difference. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank You!

Make Checks Payable to: **SEPA-SEKUCo Project**  
Wiedemann Center—Attn: G. Bailey  
7241 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19119



\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I (We) will help SEKUCo finish its campus, improve the internet, provide books, and resolve water problems

\_\_\_\_\_ I (We) enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help right now; \_\_\_\_\_ I (We) pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

(All gifts will be acknowledged and are 100% tax deductible.)

Response by October 31, 2009 is desired

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Church (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in



**Synod SEKUCo Sunday is October 4, 2009**

Our companion Synod, the North Eastern Diocese (NED) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) opened a new University College near Lushoto in October 2007. The College is named SEKUCo for the Diocese' first African Bishop Sebastian Kolowa--University College. Anneth Munga, wife of the current Diocesan Bishop, Stephen Munga, has been the driving force in the founding of this College and is now Provost. During its second year, 438 students attended SEKUCo with an emphasis on Special Needs Education. The student body is expected to increase to 800 by October 2009, the start of its third year. Our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA) has supported this new College through individual and congregational assistance and giving.



SUSAN PURSCH

Our Synod has played a key role in the development of the new University. Provost Anneth Munga was present at the November, 2005 Bishop's Convocation and asked us to join them. In this venture, we have responded in many ways.

A SEPA SEKUCo Coordinating Committee was formed in January 2006. In addition to financial support, we have provided significant additional resources over the years:

---Michelle MacLuckie, New Hanover, Gilbertsville, developed the curriculum, and coordinated procurement of textbooks and materials. She also engaged the International Association of Special Educators (IASE) in a partnership with SEKUCo.

---Jane Weidner, St. Luke's, Gilbertsville, and her committee provided the computer framework and technology infrastructure.

---Amanda Grant, spent a year at SEKUCo, as chair of the Special Needs Education Department and had many other roles.

---Janet and Bruce Waechter, have provided communications expertise and other support as needed.

---Joanne Carlson, the Synod staff person for Global Ministries, has assisted with record keeping, thank-you responses and other connections with the Diocese.

---Faithful services on the Coordinating Committee have been provided by Pastor John and Marcia Hougen, Kate Gara of KenCrest, and Pastor Bill Rex.

---Other partners are mentioned in this newsletter: KenCrest Services, Holy Trinity—Wallingford, St. Matthew's—Chester Springs, Penn State University as well as 80 of our Synod congregations. Through the donations of individuals and SEPA congregations we have raised over \$350,000. Thanks be to God!

With significant expansion at SEKUCo, the need for continuing contributions is apparent. With this newsletter we invite you to join us in celebrating the incredible accomplishments. Watch for information in Synod mailings and on MinistryLink.org to develop your plans for **Sunday October 4th--SEKUCo Sunday.** All ages can participate!

God bless you for all your support.  
Susan Pursch  
SEPA SEKUCo Coordinating Committee Chairperson

**From Susan Pursch, Chair, SEPA-SEKUCo Coordinating Committee**

Our SEPA Synod Council designated October 4th as SEKUCo Sunday 2009. Above is a brief history of SEKUCo.

What was only a dream in 2005 when a delegation from SEPA visited Tanzania has grown to a full-fledged University College with 800 students expected in the Fall. It's a remarkable story!

## Report from SEKUCo's Provost

We completed SEKUCo's second year on June 25th and are mindful of the tremendous progress made over the past several years. For the second year we had 288 first-year "Bachelor of Education-Special Needs" students and 136 second-year students, as well as 14 "Bachelor of Law" students. For the third year we are adding the Nature Conservation and Eco-Tourism Programme with plans for 50 students. Coupled with an anticipated additional 300 first-year "Bachelor of Education-Special Needs" students and 20 additional "Bachelor of Law" students, we expect an addition of 370 students for a total enrollment of over 800 students. Of these, 240 can live on campus, another 250 in nearby Magamba, and the remaining will be commuters. Classes for the third year begin October 12 for "freshers" and October 19 for continuing students. We are tentatively planning our first graduation in late October, 2010.

### Water Problems

One of our biggest problems at SEKUCo continues to be the availability of water. In the beginning of the year, water available from rainfall was down by two-thirds. With the help of money from Holy Trinity-Wallingford, surveyors scanned the SEKUCo site and determined that water from wells was not a viable solution, and therefore more collection pools for rainwater must be built. With Holy Trinity's support, pumps, piping and other equipment to collect and transport water is being purchased now, and collection dams will be formed. Pray for rain!!

### Books and Computer Power Supplies

SEKUCo's library is growing, thanks to SEPA's Michelle MacLuckie's efforts to procure and collect books, many of them transported from the States by visitors. (see article page 4.)



Reverend Dr. Anneth Munga, Provost

In addition, partners in Germany continue to bring in books for our library and curricula. Also the recent gift of \$10,000 from SEPA was used to purchase 75 Universal Power Supplies for our new computer labs for Campus B, so we now have 90 computers up and running for instruction at SEKUCo and an additional 25 computers for administrative and academic staff. Our critical needs at SEKUCo include better internet connectivity and improved e-Granary library.

### Recent Visitors

Over the last few months we have been blessed with many visitors, including in April, the new ELCA Regional Representatives for Tanzania and Rwanda, the

Lowdens; Pastor Chad Brekke and others from St. Matthew's, Chester Springs, in late June; Professor Ladi Semali from Penn State in early July and Professor Marilyn Kaff and her colleagues from the International Association of Special Educators (IASE) in late July. We are thankful for the interest and support that all our visitors from the States provide.

### Summary

In summary, SEKUCo continues to grow and prosper thanks to the dedicated work and support of various partners around the world who are united by their commitment to this mission. SEPA has been a faithful partner from the beginning with the support of their Bishops and the SEPA SEKUCo Coordinating Committee under the devoted leadership of Susan Pursch. SEPA continues to raise funds, provide books and equipment, assists in obtaining lecturers and engages more congregations and Universities to support this work. I hope many SEPA representatives will join us for our first graduation in October 2010. For the opportunity of serving SEKUCo with you, I say **"Thanks be to God"!!!**

Anneth Munga, Provost



Campus B Computer Lab

## Report from ELCA Regional Representatives in Tanzania, JMe and Bob Lowden

The partnership between the SEPA Synod and the North Eastern Diocese (NED) in Tanzania is a wonderful model of what is possible in Companion Synod relationships. In particular, your work with SEKUCo is making a huge impact on the future of education in Tanzania. We visited SEKUCo in early April, met with Rev. Dr. Anneth Munga, and took a very thorough tour of the campus. Over lunch, Dr. Munga showed



JMe and Bob Lowden  
ELCA Regional Representatives  
in Tanzania

us a PowerPoint presentation about the University. We were particularly impressed with how much has been accomplished in such a short period of time. The facilities are very nice, and the students were obviously appreciative of the educational opportunities offered by the University. The plans for the expansion of Campus B and additions to the educational offering are ambitious; however, the leadership is very positive about achievement of the goals. We peeked in on the large lecture hall and it was filled with students listening attentively to the professor as he used PowerPoint to display his lecture outline.

Since JMe was a special education teacher before going to seminary, she was very interested in the SEKUCo

focus on special needs education. She is aware of the lack of educational opportunities for children with special needs in most of Tanzania. We are thankful that the ELCT and NED, in particular, have been in the forefront of providing special education institutions. SEKUCo provides a unique focus on developing special needs teachers and emphasis on assisting persons with special needs to succeed in their higher education.

As a former IT (information technology) person, Bob enjoyed seeing the computer lab and talking to the IT director. He was impressed with the number of computers that have been donated by SEPA Synod. The staff involved seemed to be very knowledgeable. In the future, we will be returning to SEKUCo to see how the campus improvements and programs are progressing. Of course, the anticipated celebration of the first graduation of SEKUCo students will be put on our calendar as soon as we know the date in 2010.

Blessing and peace,  
JMe & Bob Lowden

## Reflections of a Teacher -Yvonne Bui

During my sabbatical from the University of San Francisco, I participated in the Volunteer Services with the International Association of Special Educators (IASE) and taught four months at SEKUCo. From the moment I arrived, the staff and students at SEKUCo were so warm and welcoming. The word that I heard most often was **"Karibu"** which means "Welcome". I taught three classes: Introduction to Special Needs Education, over 300 first-year students; Introduction to Cognitive Disabilities, 160 students; and Research Methods, 135 second-year students. As a result, I was more or less able to interact with every student at the University. Teaching three courses every week was exhausting (not to mention grading).



Yvonne Bui

Once I asked "visual impairment" students to write a one page "reflection" after each class session (not a brilliant idea when I had 360 reflections to read twice a week). I was thoroughly impressed with the students. Despite many obstacles, the students never gave up! They were so wonderful and eager to learn, they made it a pleasure to teach. They came to class on time, wanted to sit near the front of the room, participated in class discussions, and asked questions. They appreciated all the information I was able to share with them and were mature, polite and respectful. I am grateful to the Provost, staff and students at SEKUCo for their generosity, hospitality and making me feel **"Karibu"**

Yvonne Bui



Students at Campus B