

The Endowment Fund

Newsletter



Top Contributors to the Fund

Dr. Rose Nakasi
Dr. Joyce Nakatumba Nabende
Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha

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CoCIS
Students
awarded
scholarships

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Message from the Chairperson Board of Trustees

Ms. Sheila Migereko

Dear CoCIS Community, Partners, and Friends,

It is a singular honor and privilege to welcome you to this inaugural edition of our newsletter. We gather in these pages to celebrate a profound milestone in the history of our institution. The official launch of the CoCIS Endowment Fund marks a deliberate transition toward financial independence. This initiative represents a sustainable foundation that will secure our educational mission. Our overarching strategic vision remains absolutely clear. We are dedicated to eliminating financial barriers for our most talented students. Simultaneously, we aim to accelerate world-class research and ICT innovation across the African continent.

An endowment carries unique institutional power. It acts as a permanent financial anchor. The governance architecture of our fund ensures that the principal capital is preserved in perpetuity. The college will strictly utilize only the strategic investment returns to fund our core pillars. This mechanism guarantees that a gift given today will yield transformative societal returns for generations to come. Through this vehicle, we are addressing a growing and poignant challenge within our lecture halls. Far too many bright, high-potential students struggle to complete their higher education journeys. They are often weighed down by the heavy anxiety of outstanding tuition balances.

Our initial operations have already proven the

immense necessity of this strategic fund. During our inaugural board meeting at Entebbe, we evaluated dozens of shortlisted student applications. The selection process was exceptionally rigorous, objective, and transparent. Each vetted applicant demonstrated profound financial need alongside stellar academic performance. I am incredibly proud to report that the Board approved 18 beneficiaries for the current academic year. These students span our four foundational scholarship tiers. They are now pursuing their technical degrees with complete peace of mind. Every single beneficiary has maintained a commendable minimum cumulative GPA of 3.6. They truly represent the next generation of African technology leaders.

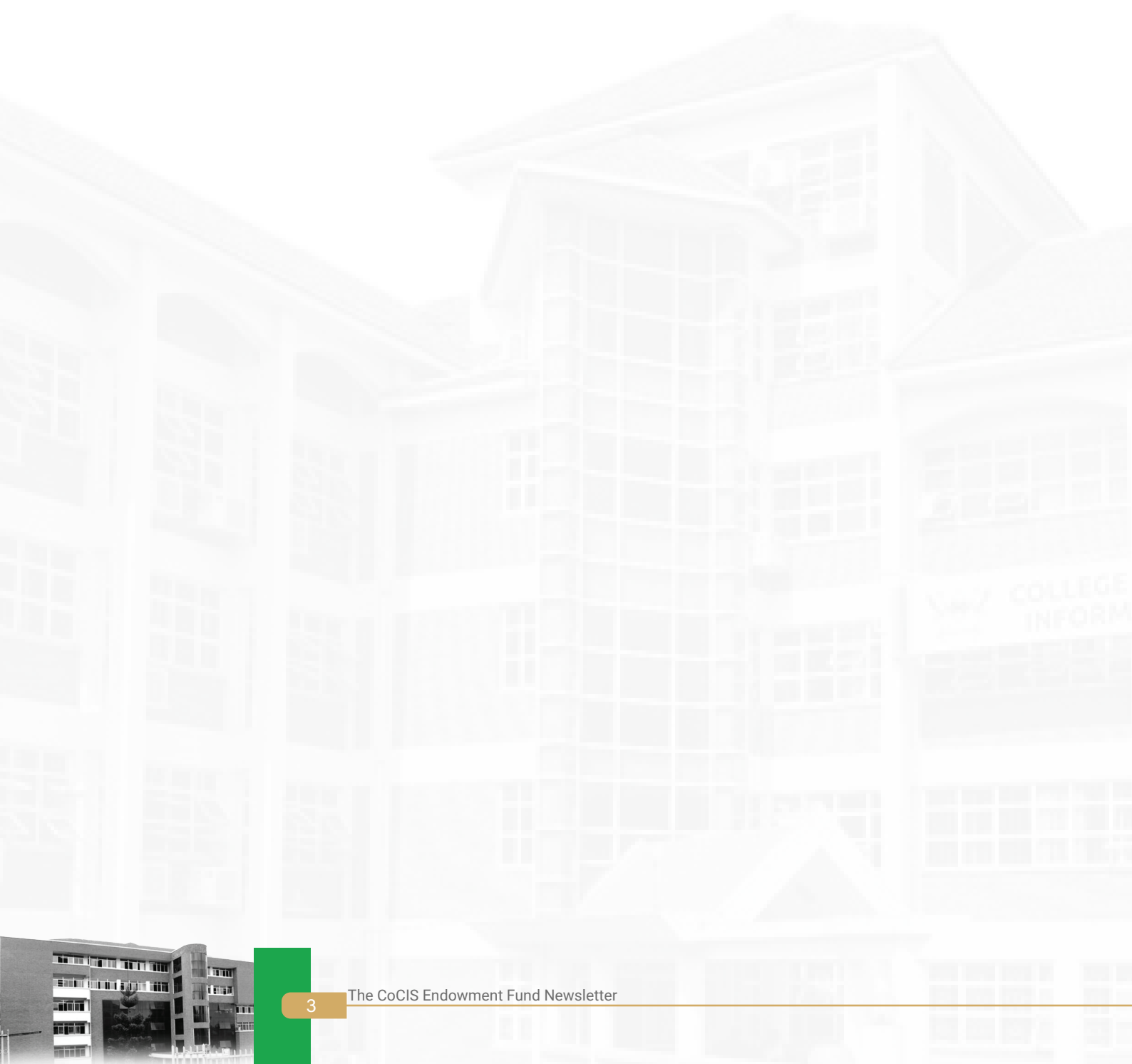
This historic milestone would not be possible without the excellence of our faculty. The Board extends its deepest appreciation to our top contributing researchers. We celebrate Dr. Rose Nakasi, Dr. Joyce Nabende, and Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha. Their exceptional grant-winning proposals have directly expanded the college's resource envelope. They have effectively breathed life into this endowment from its very inception. By translating academic innovation into financial sustainability, they have set a stellar example. They prove that our research can directly support our most vulnerable students.

Looking toward our future, we have set highly



ambitious operational targets. The Board of Trustees is fully committed to scaling the endowment's total capacity. We intend to exceed 2 billion Ugandan shillings by the conclusion of 2026. To secure this aggressive growth, we are actively implementing robust fundraising frameworks. We are building deeper, institutionalized partnerships with global tech industries. Furthermore, we are engaging our extensive, worldwide alumni networks. We invite every stakeholder to join us in this noble resource mobilization effort.

To our student beneficiaries, let these awards serve as a validation of your immense potential. The university believes in your future, so continue to work with unyielding discipline. To our partners, donors, and friends, your generosity does not simply settle an balance on a portal. Your kindness directly empowers an individual face, safeguards a struggling family, and fuels Africa's digital transformation. Thank you for standing firmly alongside the Board of Trustees. Together, we are building an enduring legacy of educational excellence and permanent financial independence.





Message from the principal

Prof. Tonny Justus Oyana

Hearing the true narratives of the recipients of College Endowment Funding is a humbling and extraordinary experience. Helping students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds by providing scholarship opportunities for them to study and earn their higher education is a fantastic idea that will allow them to reach their full potential and eventually contribute to accomplishing Makerere University's strategic aims.

The fund's principal goals are twofold: to help poor students and to attract and support outstanding research among faculty members. There are selection criteria that guide the identification of beneficiaries, ensuring that the fund is distributed objectively and transparently by a Board of Trustees comprised college members, student leader, community and industry leaders.

As a key proponent of this endowment fund, I hope it is fully utilized to give opportunities that enhance the college's objectives to be a prominent leader in ICT research and education across Africa. I would like to see its capacity increase to more than 2 billion Ugandan shillings by the end of 2026. I've encouraged the fund's board members to assure such growth through effective fundraising and focused fund mobilization strategies.

CoCIS strives to be a major global hub and center of excellence for the development and application of AI, sensors, usability studies, library and information science, IoT applications, and data science. With several groundbreaking discoveries currently underway, this endowment fund will enable our continued journey toward research innovation. Our mission is to produce and cultivate forward-thinking ideas, concepts, and technological advancements while maintaining our commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and ICT research.

As a permanently restricted fund, the endowment will maintain its purchasing power in perpetuity, with only investment returns being used for designated purposes. This endowment fund provides long-term financial sustainability through four main categories: scholarships and fellowships, programs and research funds, professorships and chair funds, and general use. The fund operates as a permanently restricted investment where the principal is preserved in perpetuity while returns support our core mission. This college endowment fund, approved by the administrative board, ensures that resources are strategically allocated to maximize impact on our educational and research objectives.



The College Endowment Initiative supports eighteen students annually through the following four scholarship tiers:

Scholarship Distribution:

- 1 student: \$2,000 (full scholarship)
- 2 students: \$1,500 each (substantial support)
- 5 students: \$1,000 each (moderate support)
- 10 students: \$500 each (foundational support)

Annual Investment: \$15,000 total, providing transformative opportunities for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds to secure their academic future and career success.

Eligibility Timeline:

- Standard programs: Second- or third-year students from our CoCIS undergraduate Programme
- Software Engineering: Third- or fourth-year students (due to extended program duration)

Academic Requirements:

- All beneficiaries must maintain good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 3.6 throughout their sponsorship period.

This suggested method of award assures that our endowment fund provides substantial chances for students from low-income families to complete their education and achieve future success.

In terms of research and innovation, our college is the region's premier computer, library, and information science hub for ICT innovation and research. Our exceptional faculty conduct innovative research in five areas of excellence: 1) artificial intelligence and data science; 2) software systems; 3) networked systems and their security; 4) the impact of digital technology on records management in libraries, museums, and archives; and 5) learning, policy, and information-seeking behavior in health, agriculture, ICT, land, law, and finance.

In terms of teaching and learning, our two excellent schools (the School of Computing and Informatics Technology and the East African

School of Library and Information Science) have robust undergraduate programs that include four flagship programs: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, the Bachelor of Sciences in Software Engineering, Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology, and Bachelor of Library and Information Science. We take great pride in providing these hallmark educational programs. Our programs continue to attract qualified students for consideration and admission to Makerere University. Our incredible undergraduate programs attract the top ten percent (top tier) of students nationwide.

This planned college endowment is motivated by the need to promote early-career faculty research and support high-potential students. Over time, we have observed that a significant and increasing number of CoCIS students struggle to pay tuition fees, and we believe that investing in these talented individuals will yield substantial returns for both the students and the institution.

Prof. Tonny Justus Oyana
Principal



Message from the Student's Leader



My Journey as Student Representative on the CoCIS Endowment Fund Board

In October 2025, I had the honor of being appointed Student Representative on the Board of the College of Computing and Information Sciences (CoCIS) Endowment Fund — a two-year role that placed me at the table alongside senior leaders, including the Principal, Professor Tonny Oyana, and Board Chairperson, Mrs. Sheila Migereko.

As a board member, my responsibilities went beyond simply holding a title. I was tasked with attending quarterly board meetings, reviewing financial statements and reports ahead of approval, and contributing to discussions that shaped the endowment fund's strategic direction. Above all, I was entrusted with representing the voice and interests of the student body in spaces where major decisions about the fund's future were made.

Serving in this capacity meant approaching every meeting with diligence — reviewing papers in advance, engaging thoughtfully in discussions, and ensuring that whatever decisions were made reflected good governance, ethical standards, and the fund's benevolent purpose. It also meant holding myself to a high standard of integrity: disclosing any conflicts of interest, maintaining confidentiality where required, and never using my position for personal advantage.

What makes this fund truly meaningful is its impact on students who need it most. The Endowment Fund exists to support disadvantaged students easing the financial burden that often stands between a bright mind and a completed degree. By providing this support, the fund helps students stay in school and complete their academics on time, rather than facing the disruptions, gaps, or dropouts

Arineitwe Charity

that financial hardship can cause. Beyond just staying enrolled, students who are relieved of financial stress are able to focus more fully on their studies, often leading to improved academic performance. Sitting on the Board gave me a close-up view of how decisions made in that room translate into real opportunities for students who might otherwise have been left behind.

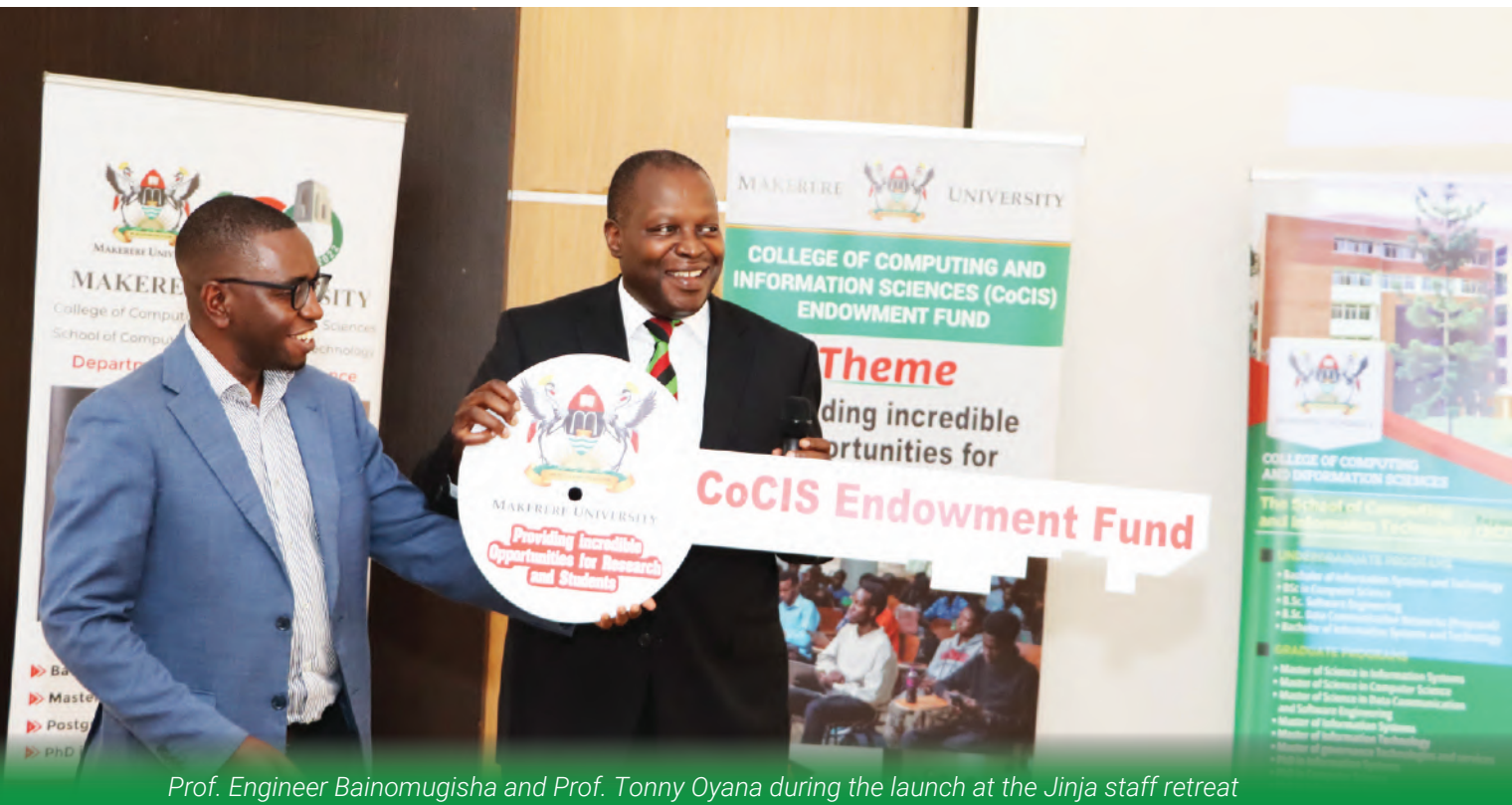
Being the only student voice on a board of seasoned professionals was both humbling and empowering. It reminded me that student representation isn't just symbolic it's a responsibility to ensure that the people most affected by an institution's decisions have a genuine seat at the table.

To those who will continue this work:

My advice to the next student representative and to the Board as it continues is simple: never underestimate the value of the student voice in governance spaces. Come prepared, ask questions even when you're the youngest or least experienced person in the room, and remember that your role is to bridge the gap between the Board's decisions and the students who will feel their effects. Endowment funds exist to serve future generations of students, so let that purpose guide every contribution you make.



THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH



Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha and Prof. Tonny Oyana during the launch at the Jinja staff retreat

The event, sponsored by CoCIS and AirQo, featured a keynote address from the College Principal, who shared the inspiration behind establishing the fund. He explained that the initiative was born out of the many requests from students seeking permission to sit for exams despite having outstanding tuition balances. These students, often exceptionally bright, face financial challenges that hinder their ability to complete their studies on time. The Endowment Fund was therefore created to provide a supportive hand, ensuring that deserving students can finish their education and realize their full potential.

The Principal further emphasized that the fund's primary focus is twofold: to support underprivileged students and to attract and retain excellent faculty members. He outlined the selection criteria that will guide the identification of beneficiaries, assuring participants that the fund will be governed transparently by a Board of Trustees composed of college members, alumni, and industry representatives.

Looking ahead, the Principal shared future operational plans for the Endowment Fund, including robust fundraising strategies and the development of partnerships with industry and alumni networks. The launch of the fund marks a significant milestone in CoCIS's mission to empower students, strengthen faculty, and advance research, paving the way for a brighter academic future.



Prof. Tonny Oyana giving his remarks during the launch at the Jinja retreat.



THE ORIGIN OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS



Mr. Emmanuel Kitamirike giving his remarks during the retreat

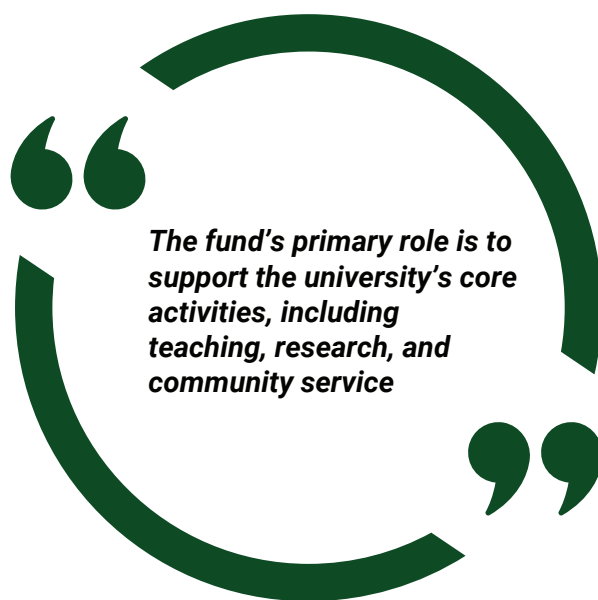
them that a dedicated link would be created to facilitate donations.

He congratulated the College Principal for initiating a similar endowment fund, stressing that such efforts are crucial for the growth and sustainability of educational institutions. His message underscored the importance of building strong financial foundations to secure the future of higher education.

Mr. Emmanuel Kitamirike, representing the General Makerere Endowment Fund Management, delivered a presentation on the history and future of Makerere University's endowment portfolio. He traced the origins of the fund back to 1922, noting that donors began contributing in 1930. These contributions were invested in the United Kingdom, where they remained for 70 years until 2014.

He explained that Makerere University has since strengthened its endowment by establishing a dedicated board of trustees to oversee its management. The fund's primary role, he emphasized, is to support the university's core activities, including teaching, research, and community service.

Kitamirike also highlighted the investment opportunities available to the fund, such as treasury bonds and unit trusts, which generate income to sustain its operations. He encouraged members of the College of Computing and Information Sciences to contribute, assuring



The fund's primary role is to support the university's core activities, including teaching, research, and community service



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Board Members: L-R, Ms. Viola Kemanzi, Prof. Tonny Oyana, Ms. Sheila Migereko, CPA Angida Francesca Mugyema, Ms. Charity Arineitwe, Prof. Gilbert Maiga, Mr. Patrick Feni, Jim Ainamaani, Ms. Ruth Eteu and Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha at a retreat on 10th - 11th May 2026 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel

The board comprises both internal and external members Chaired by Mrs. Sheila Migereko

The Board Members are:

- 1) Prof. Maiga Gilbert
- 2) Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha
- 3) Mr. Feni Patrick
- 4) CPA Angida Francesca
- 5) Prof. Tonny Oyana- Principal
- 6) A student leader – Jim Ainamaani

Secretariate

- 1) Ms. Ruth Eteu
- 2) Ms. Viola Kemanzi



TOP MOST CONTRIBUTING RESEARCHERS TO THE FUND

The Principal and his Deputy presented the CoCIS Research Excellence Awards to Dr. Rose Nakasi, Dr. Joyce Nakatumba Nabende and Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha as the most outstanding researchers who have contributed to the College

Endowment Fund. The trio have successfully written research winning proposals and attracted a number of grants boosting the college resource envelop from which the endowment fund is drawn.



Prof. Engineer Bainomugisha (C) receiving the plaque from the Principal





VC UNVEILS THE VISION FOR THE UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe Launches the CoCIS Endowment Fund late evening on 15th Aug 2025.

While officially launching the Fund, Prof. Nawangwe unveiled the strategic vision for the university's financial independence and future innovation. He conveyed the significance of endowment funds, observing that institutions like Harvard possess an endowment bigger than Uganda's GDP, granting them the capacity to act freely. He presented this model as **'the way to go even for us'**, confirming that the university council approved colleges establishing their own endowments, to be managed alongside the main university fund.



Prof. Tonny Oyana and CoCIS staff during the launch at the Source of the Nile Hotel Jinja.

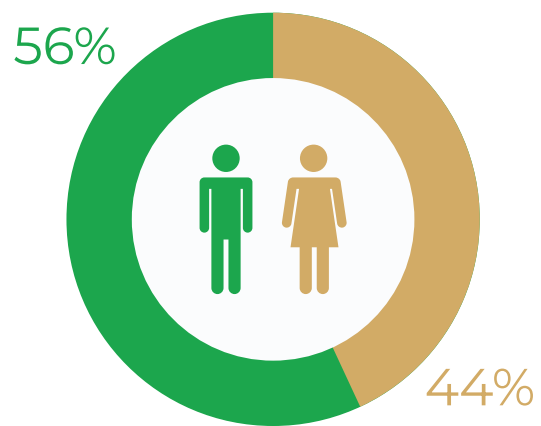


EIGHTEEN STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

CoCIS awarded scholarships to 18 outstanding students through this Endowment Fund. The announcement was made during the Board's inaugural meeting held from October 23 to 24, 2025, at Protea Hotel in Entebbe.

The scholarships are designed to support academically exceptional yet financially challenged students pursuing computing and information science disciplines at Makerere University. During the two-day retreat, chaired by Ms. Sheila Migereko, the Board reviewed 22 applications that had been shortlisted from an initial pool of 54. After a rigorous evaluation process guided by clear selection criteria including a minimum GPA of 3.6, valid

registration and credible evidence of financial need, the Board approved 18 applicants for full and partial financial support for the 2025/2026 academic year.



AWARD CATEGORIES

The Board gave full and partial financial support to the applicants listed in the table below for the academic year 2025/26.

#	Student name	Registration number	Course Name
CATEGORY 1			
1	Byali Maqueline Leya	23/U/07849/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering (BSSE)
CATEGORY 2			
1	Businge Pamela	23/U/07739/PS	Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences (BLIS)
2	Isingoma Edgar	23/U/24810/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
CATEGORY 3			
1	Ggayi Edward	23/U/08173/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
2	Katende Herman	23/U/09238/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
3	Najjuko Edith	24/U/08145/EVE	Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences (BLIS)
4	Nakatinda Ruth	23/U/13513/EVE	Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences (BLIS)
5	Walukagga Sudais	23/U/18461/EVE	Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology (BIST)
CATEGORY 4			
1	Nakabale Benjamin	23/U/25926/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)
2	Kemigisha Daphine	24/U/05683/EVE	Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences (BLIS)
3	Lutalo Allan	22/U/3330/PS	Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering (BSSE)
4	Namaganda Sandra	23/U/14261/PS	Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology (BIST)
5	Nankunda Lillian	23/U/15111/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering (BSSE)
6	Nansubuga Catherine	23/U/15224/U	Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology (BIST)
7	Okwir Moses	23/U/1675/PS	Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology (BIST)
8	Owori Boniface	24//U/10872/U	Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences (BLIS)
9	Ssenkungu Joseph	23/U/24518/EVE	Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology (BIST)
10	Sukwe Benjamin	23/U/EVE/EVE	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)



Beneficiaries Reports & Testimonies

The student stories reflect the broader impact of the CoCIS Endowment Fund which continues to provide hope and opportunity to students facing financial hardship, ensuring that talent and determination are not lost to economic challenges.



CATEGORY 1

Byali Macqueline Leya

Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering



Byali Macqueline Leya is grateful for the financial support extended to her during her academic journey in the year 2025/2026. The support, she said, reduced financial challenges and enabled her to focus more on her studies and personal growth. Since receiving support from the Endowment Fund, she has remained committed to academic responsibilities and continuous improvement in her studies.

"I have actively attended lectures, completed coursework, participated in group discussions and improved my understanding of various computing concepts and technologies. I used not to have time for the different events because I was thinking of how financially unstable, I was, like when and where I would eat. But this time, I was active in most of the events we have been having and have literally learnt a lot."

She cited some of the activities she fully participated in including the AI Fest and events at Innovation Village which had not been possible before. In addition, Byali reported improved performance through consistent revision, practical learning and engagement in academic activities. She attributed this to the scholarship that enabled her to stabilize and concentrate instead of worrying about how her parents would raise tuition for her and her siblings.

"Financial challenges had greatly affected both my academic life and my family. There were moments when concentrating on studies became difficult because of constant worry about tuition, personal upkeep and the wellbeing of my siblings at home. At times I could not even control the emotions as a first-born daughter."

Receiving this support became a turning point for me. It helped me improve my living conditions by getting a bed because honestly, I was initially sleeping down.

She has developed interest and skills in areas including Software Development, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Database Systems, System Analysis and Design, Cloud Computing and Software Architecture. She has also improved her professional and personal skills including teamwork and collaboration, communication and presentation, and continued learning of modern technologies and tools relevant to her field in order to prepare for future career opportunities.

Byali pointed out several positive developments in her academic and personal life.

"Receiving this support became a turning point for me. It helped me improve my living conditions by getting a bed because honestly, I was initially sleeping down. It is something simple but very meaningful to me because it gave me a more comfortable and stable environment to study and rest. I was also able to acquire a personal computer which has greatly supported my coursework, research, assignments and learning in technology-related fields. Access to a computer has made academic work more efficient and enhanced my



practical computing skills.”

Additionally, the financial relief extended beyond her personal education and positively impacted her family. Part of the support, she said, contributed towards her siblings’ school requirements, including tuition support for one who was starting Senior One, which helped them continue their education during a financially difficult period for the family.

“One of my sisters had delayed starting Senior One because of school fees challenges, but with the encouragement and support made possible through this fund, she was able to continue her studies. Seeing my siblings remain in school gave me hope and motivation to keep working hard academically.”

Byali extended gratitude to the CoCIS Endowment Fund management, the Guild Council leadership, and all stakeholders who

continue to support students academically and financially. She noted that the support has not only assisted her financially but has also motivated her to work harder toward achieving her academic and career goals.

“Most importantly, this fund reduced a lot of emotional stress and financial pressure that I had carried for a long time. For the first time since I joined University, I was able to study with a clearer mind, greater peace and renewed determination for my future.”

She recalled the advice from the College Principal:

“And still, as the College Principal once told me when I went to his office, that if you have been able to get help, when you also make it one time, don’t forget the roots. Always endure to also help others, and that I grasped and I believe, I will live to do the same when time reaches.”

CATEGORY 2

Businge Pamela Bachelor of Library and Information Science

Businge Pamela expressed appreciation to the CoCIS Endowment Fund management for the support she received during her final year of study. She explained that the assistance contributed to her academic progress and personal well-being, enabling her to remain consistent and focused throughout her journey.

“Academically, the support enabled me to attend classes consistently, complete my coursework with my colleagues since I would now be present instead of going for gigs to raise money”



“I have continued to make progress in my studies and last semester of Year 3 Semester 1, I managed to sit for all my exams. I currently have a CGPA of 4.35 which reflects my commitment. The funding helped me to focus more on school by reducing the financial pressure, enabling me to attend lectures and complete coursework on time”.

She noted that the scholarship motivated her to remain focused on completing her degree as she prepares for graduation and professional life after campus. The financial support eased her upkeep challenges, allowing her to concentrate



on academics rather than seeking side jobs to raise money.

"Academically, the support enabled me to attend classes consistently, complete my coursework with my colleagues since I would now be present instead of going for gigs to raise money," she explained.

Businge received the scholarship in her third year, second semester which enabled her to sit

for all her examinations. She described the opportunity as life-changing and pledged to remain grateful for the support that helped her overcome financial barriers and stay on track towards graduation.

Ntonde Edgar Isingoma

Bachelor of Computer Science

"I usually wondered, 'How will I get money this time? And when?' I gave more than usual thought to whom I shall call this time round to bail me out"

Before securing this scholarship, each semester for Ntonde Edgar Isingoma came with its own uncertainties.

"I usually wondered, 'How will I get money this time? And when?' I gave more than usual thought to whom I shall call this time round to bail me out."

But when he became a beneficiary of the fund, he was immediately at ease. He knew that his school bills were settled upfront and he was now able to focus more on his learning in class. This assurance partly contributed to his improvement in grades for the first semester of his final year and restored hope that he would graduate this time. Isingoma had not completed his previous bachelor's degree due to financial challenges.

"This final semester of my course has generally gone on smoothly because, for the first time in a



long time, I was also relieved from having to constantly find money for daily basics like food, because the excess from the amount I was awarded by the endowment fund covered this."

Isingoma was optimistic about making an excellent performance in this final semester. He extended gratitude to the management of the CoCIS Endowment Fund and other stakeholders involved in this course for choosing to help him achieve his educational needs.

"At the start of third year, first semester, my CGPA was 4.23. Since then, I have seen an improvement, with a GPA of 4.63 and a resultant CGPA of 4.30".



CATEGORY 3

Ggayi Edward

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Since the commencement of his studies, Ggayi Edward has maintained a strong academic record across all semesters, with a cumulative GPA of 4.21 reflecting consistent performance.

"In Year 3, Semester I, when I received the CoCIS Endowment Fund scholarship, I achieved the highest semester GPA to date of 4.76, with an 'A' grade in four out of five courses, including a score of 88.8% in User Interface Design".

His academic improvement resulting from the scholarship included the completion of Computer Science Project 1 (CSC3118) with a score of 81% (Grade A) demonstrating applied research, system design, and software development skills at an advanced level. He also recorded strong performance in cutting-edge technology courses, including Artificial Intelligence (77%, B+), Introduction to Machine Learning (73.3%, B), and Cloud Computing positioning him for relevance in the modern tech landscape. Other achievements included Grade 'A' in Advanced Programming (82%) and User Interface Design (88.8%) in Year 3, Semester I reflecting both technical depth and creative problem-solving ability. His consistent academic progression saw his CGPA improve from 4.18 (Year 1, Semester II) to 4.21 (Year 3, Semester I), with a semester peak GPA of 4.76 in Year 3, Semester I.

"Financial constraints have been a recurring difficulty, particularly in managing tuition payment timelines while maintaining academic



focus. In some semesters, the anxiety of unsettled fees created mental and emotional pressure that affected concentration. The support of the CoCIS Endowment Fund at the onset of Year 3 was vital in reducing financial stress at a critical stage, and my results speak for themselves."

For the first time in my university life, I entered a semester without the shadow of financial uncertainty hanging over me

Ggayi narrated that he often entered semesters with outstanding financial obligations, which created administrative stress and limited access to certain academic resources. With tuition covered, he was able to register early, access university systems without restriction and focus entirely on learning from the very first day of the semester.

"The impact was immediate and measurable. I achieved my best semester GPA of 4.76 that very semester, with Grade A in four out of five courses. This was not a coincidence. Financial stability created the mental clarity needed for deep academic engagement. The fund has been instrumental in ensuring I remain enrolled, focused and on track to complete my degree with distinction."

Recalling the turning point in his education, Ggayi remembered the day he was informed that he had been selected as a beneficiary of the Endowment Fund for Year 3, Semester I of the 2025/2026 academic year.



"I felt a sense of relief that is difficult to put into words. It was more than just tuition fees being paid, it was a validation. Someone, through this fund, had looked at students like me and decided that our potential was worth investing in. That realization shifted something deep within me. For the first time in my university life, I entered a semester without the shadow of financial uncertainty hanging over me. I registered on time. I had access to all university systems and resources from day one. I could attend lectures without worrying about being flagged for outstanding fees or being distracted by financial stress. The difference was immediate and transformative."

The impact of the scholarship, according to Ggayi, extended beyond his grades. It rekindled his self-confidence at a time when he needed it most. Third year is a critical stage in any degree programme because coursework intensifies, project demands increase and the pressure to perform is highest. Knowing that his fees were covered allowed him to approach this challenge from a position of strength rather than anxiety.

He became more engaged in class discussions, collaborated more effectively with peers on group assignments, visited lecturers during office hours to deepen his understanding of difficult concepts and spent more time in the library and on self-directed study.

"In short, I became the kind of student I had always aspired to be, one who is fully present, fully committed and fully invested in their own education. The scholarship also made me more aware of the privilege of education. I began to think more seriously about what I want to do with my degree and not just for myself, but for others."

Ggayi also noted that the idea of contributing to Uganda's technology sector and mentoring younger students became a guiding vision rather than a distant dream.

"To every individual, department, alumni, or organization that has contributed to the CoCIS Endowment Fund, your generosity has a face and that face is mine and many others like me. You may never know all the students whose lives you have touched through this initiative, but I want you to know that your investment is being honoured."

As he enters the final semester of his degree, Ggayi carries with him the momentum that this scholarship helped to build, a commitment to graduate with First Class Honours.

Katende Herman

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

"It helped reduce the tuition burden on my guardian, which gave me peace of the mind and allowed me to focus more on my studies"

Katende Herman was grateful to the CoCIS Endowment Fund management for the support he received during Year 3, Semester I. The support, he said, positively impacted his academic journey in a very important way.

"It helped reduce the tuition burden on my



guardian, which gave me peace of the mind and allowed me to focus more on my studies. Because of this support, I was able to continue attending classes, complete coursework



successfully and progress steadily in my program. The assistance also motivated me to work harder and remain committed to achieving my academic goals.”

Beyond academics, the support gave him encouragement and confidence, knowing that the institution believes in supporting students who are determined to succeed despite financial challenges.

As he finalizes Year 3, Semester II, Katende remained thankful for the opportunity and the positive impact it had on his education and personal development. He expressed hope to continue using the knowledge and skills gained to contribute positively to his community and profession in the future.

“Since receiving this support, I have been able to continue my academic journey with improved concentration and stability. The support from the Endowment Fund greatly reduced the financial burden of tuition on my parents and enabled me to focus more on my studies and academic development. I have successfully completed my coursework and semester requirements, improved my participation in academic projects and practical assignments, and I am maintaining commitment towards completing my degree program successfully.”

As a result, Katende successfully progressed through his coursework and is currently finalizing Year 3, Semester II.

Najjuuko Edith

Bachelor of Library and Information Science

Najjuuko Edith was struggling with tuition and daily transport to campus and it had reached a point where she was going to drop out because her mother’s income was, and still is, very low. Her mother was also burdened with debts and at the same time caring for her grandmother at Mulago Hospital, who eventually passed away on 13th December 2025.

“I don’t know how to thank you, dear committee members, but I will always pray a blessing for you and may God continue blessing you. I can’t put it all in words how grateful I am, but just know you are lifesavers. I was depressed that semester and only God knows how hopeless I was. You gave me hope, you brought light into my academic journey, you gave me a chance to genuinely be happy and smile, you gave me an opportunity to fulfill my dreams and break a generational curse of not studying in my family.”

She recalled how, for the first time in her entire academic journey, she was able to concentrate on revising her books without worrying that she



“***I was depressed that semester and only God knows how hopeless I was. You gave me hope, you brought light into my academic journey***”

might prepare and then fail to sit for exams. “Do you know that for the first time in my entire academic journey, last semester and this current semester, I have been able to concentrate on revising my books without worrying that I might revise and end up not sitting for exams?”

Najjuuko reported that the Endowment Fund



enabled her to improve her performance, as she no longer worried about tuition.

"I was able to shift from a second class upper (CGPA: 2.42) to a first class (CGPA: 4.23), and I am grateful for that. My mother was somehow relieved and has been able to pay off most of the debts she had incurred paying for my tuition. She

also loves you so much and prays for you daily."

She thanked the scholarship committee for believing in her and supporting her education, noting that this generosity changed her life, restored hope and encouraged her to work harder to achieve her goals and make her mother proud

Nakatinda Ruth

Bachelor of Library and Information Science

I vividly remember receiving the message confirming that my Year 3 tuition would be almost covered. At that time, I was facing uncertainty. While I had faith, I had very little hope of how I would complete my degree

Nakatinda Ruth received the generous tuition support of \$1,000 provided by the CoCIS Endowment Fund for her final year of study. She remembered receiving the news on 8th November 2025.

"I vividly remember receiving the message confirming that my Year 3 tuition would be almost covered. At that time, I was facing uncertainty. While I had faith, I had very little hope of how I would complete my degree. Receiving this news cast a smile and a renewed sense of purpose as a single mother and student trying to pave way for a brighter future for myself and my children."

Nakatinda narrated how the scholarship relieved her from the financial burden of tuition, thereby helping her to concentrate and consequently improve her academic performance.

"Last semester, I was able to dedicate my full attention to my studies without the constant



distraction of pending balances or the fear of missing exams. This new-found peace of mind allowed me to attend group discussions, resulting in a 100% pass rate with zero retakes registered across the entire study group last semester."

She explained that she has also been able to utilize the library, attend lectures regularly and achieve improved results compared to previous semesters.

Nakatinda extended her gratitude to Makerere University and the entire team at the College of Computing and Information Sciences for this life-changing opportunity. She also sent special to the CoCIS 91st Chairperson Ms. Arineitwe Charity, for her guidance and support throughout the process.



Walukagga Sudais

Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology

For Walukagga Sudais, receiving the CoCIS Endowment Fund scholarship was a memorable moment in his academic journey.



"I felt happy, grateful and motivated when I saw my name among the beneficiaries. The scholarship has reduced the burden of tuition and other academic expenses allowing me to focus more on my studies and personal growth".

"I felt happy, grateful and motivated when I saw my name among the beneficiaries. The scholarship has reduced the burden of tuition and other academic expenses"

Because of this support, he has been able to attend classes consistently, complete coursework on time, and improve his academic performance. Walukagga noted that the scholarship has also inspired him to remain disciplined and work harder toward achieving his educational and career goals.

"Since receiving the financial support, my academic journey has improved greatly. The scholarship has reduced financial challenges and allowed me to focus more on my studies." Since then, Walukagga has continued improving his

skills in computing, networking, and information systems through class projects and practical learning. He expressed appreciation to the CoCIS Endowment Fund for supporting students like him and giving them hope for the future.

CATEGORY 4

Nakabaale Benjamin

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Nakabaale Benjamin shared a testimony about the impact of receiving a USD 500 scholarship from the CoCIS Endowment Fund. He expressed gratitude to the Endowment Fund committee

and the Guild Council leadership, noting that the support came at a time when financial hardship had left him uncertain about continuing his studies.



"The assistance reduced the burden on me and my family and gave me renewed hope and motivation to continue pursuing my education".

He explained that before receiving the scholarship, financial challenges often prevented him from attending lectures consistently due to transport difficulties and tuition-related stress. With the support, he has been able to attend classes more regularly, participate in coursework and concentrate more on his studies.

Nakabaale reported academic progress, actively engaging in projects related to software development, machine learning, and embedded systems. He is focusing on areas such as deep learning model development, web application design, and programming systems, which have strengthened both his academic understanding and practical skills.

Reflecting on his personal journey, Nakabaale shared that continuing his education had been especially difficult after the loss of his father. His mother, without a stable source of income, struggled to support the family and at times he feared he would drop out of university.

"The Endowment Fund support brought relief and renewed hope into my academic journey. It reduced the financial pressure on my family and allowed me to focus more on my studies with

less stress and anxiety".

Beyond academics, Nakabaale explained that the scholarship motivated him to actively participate in CoCIS activities and events including symposiums and student programs.

The assistance reduced the burden on me and my family and gave me renewed hope and motivation to continue pursuing my education

He emphasized that the support was not only financial but also emotional, reminding him that there are people who care about students facing hardships and are willing to help them succeed.

"The opportunity has motivated me to work even harder and remain committed to completing my degree successfully. I am truly grateful for the kindness and support shown to me through the CoCIS Endowment Fund. I hope also that one day, I will contribute positively to society and help others facing similar challenges."

Boniface Owori

Bachelor of Library and Information Science

The support has reduced financial pressure that previously affected my concentration and academic performance. As a result, I have become more focused, disciplined and motivated to pursue excellence in my academic journey at Makerere University



Boniface Owori shared how the CoCIS Endowment Fund scholarship has transformed his academic journey. Since receiving financial support, Owori reported noticeable improvement in both his academic performance and personal development. The scholarship has enabled him to consistently attend lectures, participate in coursework and complete assignments and projects on time.

“The support has reduced financial pressure that previously affected my concentration and academic performance. As a result, I have become more focused, disciplined and motivated to pursue excellence in my academic journey at Makerere University”.

The scholarship according to Owori has also allowed him to acquire essential learning materials and improved access to internet and

research resources, which are critical for his studies. He emphasized that the assistance has created a more stable and conducive environment for learning, enabling him to concentrate fully on his academic goals.

“Before receiving this support, financial challenges sometimes limited my ability to fully concentrate on academics and access essential study resources. Through this scholarship, I have been able to study in a more stable and conducive environment. The support has motivated me to remain focused on my education and inspired me to work harder toward achieving my academic and career ambitions”.

Kemigisha Daphine

Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences

Kemigisha Daphine expressed appreciation for the financial support extended to her during Year 3, Semester I. The support, she said, reduced the financial burden of tuition on her parents and enabled her to focus more on her studies.

“Since receiving this support, I have been able to continue my academic journey with improved concentration and stability. As a result, I have



successfully progressed through my coursework and I am currently finalizing Year 3, Semester II.”

Kemigisha pointed out academic and personal milestones, including the successful completion of coursework and semester requirements, improved participation in academic projects and practical assignments and continued strengthening of her skills in software development, networking, and machine learning. She also highlighted her active participation in academic activities and her commitment to completing her degree program successfully.

“I remain grateful to the CoCIS Endowment Fund management for investing in students like me and giving us an opportunity to pursue our education with reduced financial stress. I am committed to continue working hard and making good use of the opportunity provided”.

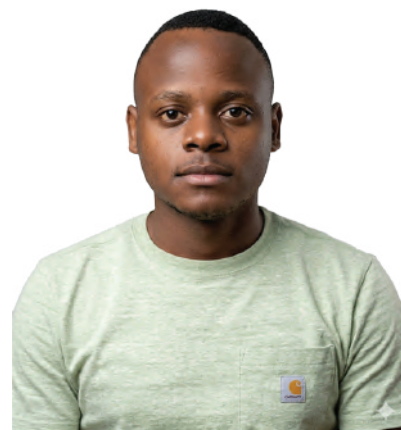
Since receiving this support, I have been able to continue my academic journey with improved concentration and stability. As a result, I have successfully progressed through my coursework and I am currently finalizing Year 3, Semester II



Lutalo Allan

Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering

Lutalo Allan received \$500 tuition support from the Endowment Fund. This financial assistance, he said, eased his tuition burden and allowed him to fully dedicate his focus to the final year of study. Sharing an update on his academic progress and milestones since receiving this support, Lutalo explained that prior to the funding, he held a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.76. Following the support, he successfully raised his Year 4, Semester I CGPA to 3.82.



substantial portion of his mental energy was consumed by the constant anxiety of meeting tuition deadlines and worrying about whether he would be cleared to sit for his final exams.

"Building on this upward momentum, I have consistently improved my academic focus. For the final semester of Year 4, I am on track and expect to achieve a CGPA of 4.00 or higher."

Beyond the classroom, the peace of mind provided by this funding allowed Lutalo to successfully engage in his final year software engineering capstone projects and practical coursework without the distraction of financial stress. He thanked the funders for investing in his education and future, expressing pride in being a beneficiary of the Endowment Fund, and committed to finishing his degree at Makerere University with academic excellence.

He intimated that receiving the \$500 support was a defining turning point in his final year at Makerere University. As a computing student, he explained that the academic journey demands intense focus, late hours in the labs and significant mental energy dedicated to complex programming projects and software development workloads.

He recalled that before receiving this funding, a

This fund did more than just a pay balance on my portal, it gave me the peace of mind required to excel as a software engineering student.

"With half of my tuition covered, I was able to transition from a place of financial stress to a place of pure academic focus. The results were immediate: I was able to dedicate undivided attention to my core coursework, collaborate effectively on my final year capstone project and steadily push my academic performance upward from a 3.76 toward a 4.00 track."

He described the fund as a big relief.

"This fund did more than just a pay balance on my portal, it gave me the peace of mind required to excel as a software engineering student. I am profoundly grateful to the CoCIS community and the donors who make this possible. Your investment has not only secured my graduation but has fuelled my passion to graduate with excellence and contribute meaningfully to our technology ecosystem".



Namaganda Sandra

Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology

Like others, Namaganda Sandra received support and has registered progress in her academic performance and personal development. The scholarship reduced the financial burden on her family and enabled her to concentrate on her studies and future career goals.

"Academically, I have improved my CGPA from 3.83 to 4.03. The financial support has enabled me to attend lectures regularly, complete coursework and assignments on time and access essential resources without interruptions caused by delayed tuition payments."

In addition to academics, Namaganda has been actively engaged in volunteer IT support activities where she has gained practical technical experience and improved her problem-solving abilities. She noted that beyond supporting her education financially, the Endowment Fund has also inspired and motivated her to work harder towards achieving her academic and professional aspirations.

"Receiving this support was one of the most joyful and memorable moments in my academic journey because the assistance came at a time when I needed it. Before, delayed tuition payments caused a lot of stress and affected my concentration at school. Meeting academic requirements became difficult due to uncertainty about school fees and other educational expenses."

Namaganda shared that the scholarship was a blessing to her entire family.

"When I received the scholarship, I immediately shared the good news with my mother, and it brought joy and relief to our family. We thanked God because the support not only helped me continue my education smoothly but also eased



The support not only helped me continue my education smoothly but also eased the financial pressure at home. My mother was then able to focus on supporting my siblings in their education, where one was joining Senior One and another Senior Five

the financial pressure at home. My mother was then able to focus on supporting my siblings in their education, where one was joining Senior One and another Senior Five".

She appreciated the CoCIS Endowment Fund managers, the donors, and the university leadership for investing in students like her and giving them hope for a brighter future.

"Your kindness and generosity have made a meaningful impact on my life, and I will always remain thankful."



Nankunda Lilian

Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering

The CoCIS Endowment Fund has been a big blessing to Nankunda Lilian's education and student life.

"Before receiving this support, meeting some academic requirements was difficult due to financial limitations, which sometimes affected my concentration, performance and mental health. With the Endowment Fund, I have had some relief and motivation to continue studying without constant worry."

Nankunda noted that as a fourth-category beneficiary, the fund could only take her for one semester specifically Year 3, Semester I. Though the support came in a bit late, hope was restored.

"The scholarship gave me peace to concentrate, attend all lectures faithfully, do my coursework in time and more importantly sit my exams without any hindrances. Above all, it relieved some burden from my father, my only provider, who has even been sick."

She narrated that the second semester of Year 3 became more difficult to handle. Being a category four beneficiary, only 556,607 UGX of the fund was remaining. This balance later covered her accommodation, leaving just 256,607 UGX for tuition.

"Seeing my father, my only provider, very ill and with no hope of getting more money to top up my tuition stressed and depressed me to the extent that I had to request for a dead semester and year."

However, after discussion and receiving counseling from financial administrators concerning her situation, the dead semester and year were postponed and she continued to receive support in upkeep and other areas.

"I must say that still this Endowment Fund



"The support reduced tuition stress, especially for the first semester of Year 3. In the past, it had become a serious challenge affecting both my academic concentration and my mental health"

balance saved the situation since it was the reason why the dead year couldn't actually go through. Because of this support, I believe I will be able to sit and complete my Year 3 even though I haven't been able to hit 60% of the tuition yet. I have learnt to have hope, to focus more on my academics, improve my learning experience and develop skills that will help me in my future career."

Nankunda appreciated the generosity and commitment of everyone behind the Endowment Fund for supporting students like her. She emphasized that their contribution is making a real difference in students' lives and inspiring them to work hard and give back to society in the future.

"The support reduced tuition stress, especially for the first semester of Year 3. In the past, it had become a serious challenge affecting both my academic concentration and my mental health. I was able to attend all lectures consistently, finish my coursework in time, actively participate in class projects, and sit all examinations without any hindrances. This contributed to stable academic progress, and I was able to maintain a CGPA of 3.8."



In addition, the scholarship motivated Nansubuga to remain focused, disciplined and determined to achieve her academic goals. Although she cannot tell how, she believes she will be able to sit and complete Year 3 even though she has not yet covered 60% of the tuition and possibly finish Year 4.

"My major challenge now remains the uncertainty of completing Year 4 in time, but after the

counseling session, I have hope that God will make a way. I look forward to seeing another chance of the Endowment Fund for students like us. Then I would be sure that I can complete my course in time, and I would be grateful to the college and the University at large. And this I have put upon myself - to later in future stand out to help other struggling students should the Lord bless me to complete on time and achieve the success I hope for."

Nansubuga Catherine

Bachelor of Information Systems & Technology

Since receiving support from the CoCIS Endowment Fund, Nansubuga Catherine has made progress in her academic journey.

"The scholarship has greatly contributed to my ability to study with less financial stress and focus more on achieving my academic goals. I am grateful to the Fund managers, donors and the university leadership. This is a kindness I will never forget and will always remember in my prayers".

Nansubuga narrated that receiving this scholarship was one of the happiest and most memorable moments in her life.

"I needed the assistance. I was stressed about where to get funds and the consequences of late tuition payments. When I received the scholarship, I informed my sister and it was good news for her to hear. The support brought relief not only to me but also to my family. My sister was able to focus on supporting my siblings to continue with their education."

She added that she has managed to add points to her CGPA, which reflects the relief the support brought, enabling her to attend classes regularly and complete coursework on time without worrying about delayed tuition payments.

Beyond academics, Nansubuga has also participated in volunteer work in IT support,



where she continues to develop practical technical skills and problem-solving abilities relevant to her career aspirations in the technology field.

"I needed the assistance. I was stressed about where to get funds and the consequences of late tuition payments. The support brought relief not only to me but also to my family. My sister was able to focus on supporting my siblings to continue with their education"

She appreciated the generosity and continued support offered to economically disadvantaged but bright students like her, noting that the scholarship has made a meaningful impact on her life and inspired her to work harder toward her academic and professional goals



Okwir Moses

Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology

To Okwir Moses, the support from the Endowment Fund has made a meaningful difference especially during his final year and final semester.

"It has helped ease financial challenges and enabled me to focus fully on academics, improve my grades and concentrate on completing my final year project. The assistance has also given me the opportunity to invest more time in learning practical IT skills such as WordPress website development, which I believe will greatly support my professional growth and future career".

The Fund has not only supported him financially but also motivated him to work harder toward academic excellence and self-development.

"I am truly grateful for this opportunity and appreciate the continued commitment toward supporting students in achieving their educational goals. Thank you for investing in my education and future."

As a final-year student in the final semester, the assistance has enabled him to better manage academic expenses and dedicate more time toward improving his academic performance and professional skill development.

Okwir has registered improvement in academic performance because the support reduced financial pressure, allowing him to concentrate more on coursework, revision and timely completion of assignments.

He is now devoted to the development and completion of his final year project, which has strengthened his practical knowledge in systems analysis, software development, problem-solving, and project implementation.

Beyond classroom learning, he is focusing on acquiring practical and marketable IT skills that will help him transition into the professional



world. In particular, he has been learning WordPress website development, website design and customization, basic deployment and content management and practical digital solutions for real-world business needs.

"These skills are essential for professional survival and self-reliance after graduation."

It has helped ease financial challenges and enabled me to focus fully on academics, improve my grades and concentrate on completing my final year project.



Ssenkungu Joseph

Bachelor of Information Systems and Technology

Joseph said the Fund has supported his academic journey by easing the financial burden and enabling him to concentrate on his studies.

"Before the scholarship list was released, I was unsure of what the outcome would be. I had given up on scholarships since I had tried out different applications including Madhvani, Mastercard, and loan schemes among others, but all in vain."

Fortunately, Ssenkungu's name was among the beneficiaries of the CoCIS Endowment Fund.

"I felt a sense of relief, joy and gratitude. For a moment, I kept looking at the list repeatedly just to be certain it was truly my name. Receiving this support reminded me that my efforts and determination had not gone unnoticed. The scholarship came at a time when I needed support, and it gave me renewed strength, peace of mind, and motivation to continue focusing on my studies and completing my bachelor's degree with confidence. During this period, I have managed to improve my CGPA from 3.89 up to 4.02."

Ssenkungu is thankful to everyone behind this initiative for positively impacting his academic journey and future aspirations.

"Since receiving support from the CoCIS Endowment Fund, I have continued to make steady progress in my academic program by attending



all lectures, completing coursework assignments, and sitting for the required assessments and examinations."

The support has enabled him to improve his understanding of various concepts in Informa-

tion Systems and Technology, participate in academic and practical projects, and enhance teamwork and communication abilities through group assignments while completing coursework and project requirements on time.

Before the scholarship list was released, I was unsure of what the outcome would be. I had given up on scholarships since I had tried out different applications including Madhvani, Mastercard, and loan schemes among others, but all in vain



Sukwe Benjamin

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Receiving support from the CoCIS Endowment Fund came at a very important moment in the academic journey of Sukwe Benjamin.

"The scholarship greatly lightened the financial burden on my family and allowed me to focus on my studies without constant worry about tuition and welfare needs. Because of this support, I improved academically, remained motivated, and continued pursuing innovative projects aligned with my passion for technology and problem solving."

Sukwe is grateful for the opportunity and support extended to him.

"The support was extended to me during a difficult period in my academic journey. The scholarship allowed me to continue my studies with improved stability, concentration, and motivation. The support particularly helped address tuition challenges and significantly reduced stress, enabling me to focus more effectively on academics. As a result, I achieved my strongest academic performance in a normal semester so far."

Since receiving the support, he has actively engaged in innovative academic and personal projects within the field of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

"I developed a prototype Wi-Fi based intelligent security system that uses Wi-Fi signals and Machine Learning techniques to monitor room activity and infer movement patterns through walls. I also designed a data warehouse intended to crowdsource local cultural artifacts and contextual information from communities surrounding refugee camps to support the generation of culturally relevant AI educational

content."

The support was extended to me during a difficult period in my academic journey. The scholarship allowed me to continue my studies with improved stability, concentration, and motivation.



Building on this work, Sukwe further developed a multi-agent AI platform capable of generating curriculum-aligned and pedagogically appropriate educational video stories based on local Ugandan contexts to improve learner comprehension. In addition, he independently designed a Domain Specific Language (DSL) for the education sector to support automated assessment and marking processes using compiler design concepts to improve consistency and clarity in

student evaluation.

Through these experiences, he has continued developing skills in Artificial Intelligence engineering, research, systems design, and educational technology innovation. His long-term goal is to become a technology entrepreneur focused on solving African challenges using AI and intelligent systems.

"I am sincerely grateful to the CoCIS Endowment Fund Committee for the support extended to me. Beyond financial assistance, the scholarship gave me peace of mind, encouragement, and the opportunity to continue pursuing my academic and professional aspirations with confidence. I remain deeply thankful for this opportunity and hopeful that I will one day positively impact others in the same way."





Call for Donations to the Endowment Fund

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for transforming lives, families and communities. Yet, many bright and deserving students continue to face significant financial barriers that threaten their dreams and academic potential.

As we celebrate the achievements, milestones and impact highlighted in this newsletter, we are reminded that behind every success story is an opportunity that was made possible through the generosity and commitment of others. Today, we invite our staff, alumni, development partners, friends, well-wishers and all stakeholders to join us in extending that opportunity to the next generation.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund provides sustainable financial support to academically gifted but economically disadvantaged students, enabling them to access quality education, complete their studies, and become future leaders, innovators, and agents of positive change. Your contribution is more than a donation, it is an investment in human potential, dignity and hope.

By supporting the Endowment Fund, you help

ensure that financial hardship does not stand in the way of talent, determination and ambition. Together, we can open doors for deserving students, empower families, strengthen communities and create lasting impact for generations to come.

We invite you to make a meaningful contribution to the Scholarship Endowment Fund and become part of a collective effort to transform lives through education. Every gift, regardless of size, brings a deserving student one step closer to achieving their dreams.

Give today. Change a life forever. Build a brighter future for all.

For alumni, development partners, and stakeholders seeking to make a lasting impact, your support will help ensure that no talented student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education because of financial constraints.

Donation Details

Account Name:

CoCIS Endowment Fund

Bank:

Standard Chartered Bank

Branch:

Speke Road

Account Number:

0105015207402



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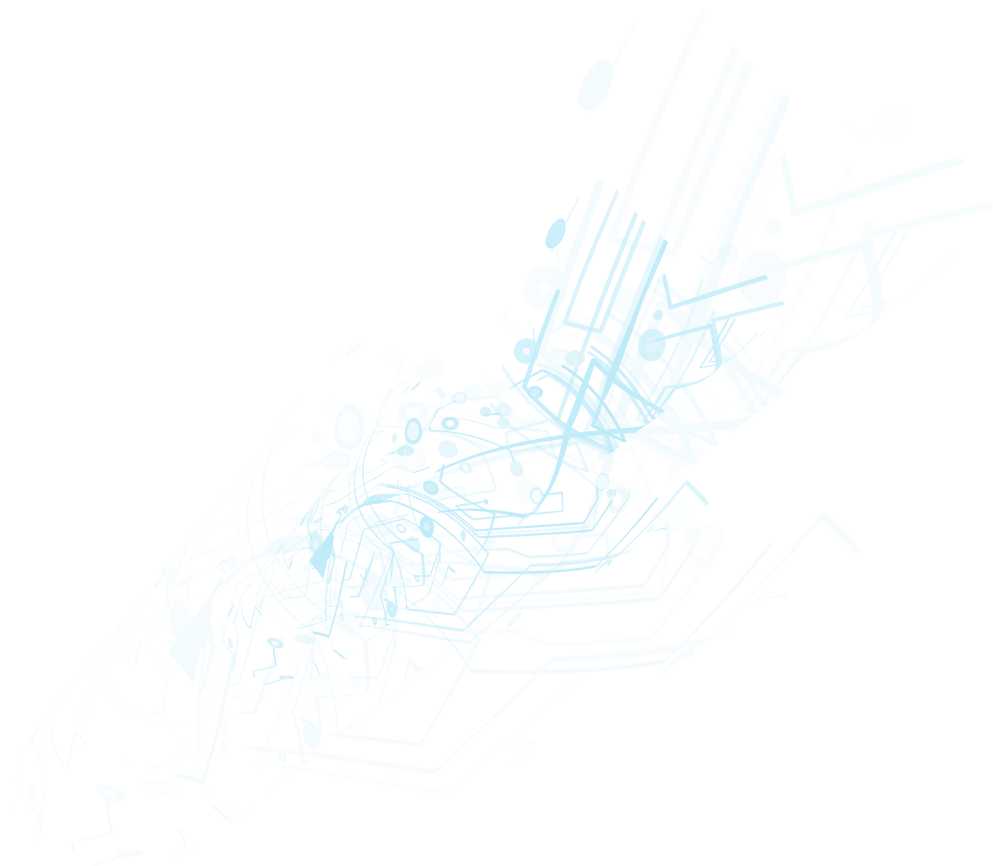


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