

University of New Brunswick holds final Kenyan convocation

Songs in Swahili, incantations in Latin and the skirl of Scottish bagpipes were all part of a special University of New Brunswick (UNB) convocation held recently near Nairobi, Kenya.

The ceremony signalled the end of direct involvement by Canadians in the operation of the Kenya Technical Teachers College (KTTC) they helped to create.

The convocation was presided over by UNB President James Downey, assisted by Vice-President Robert Burrige and Dean of Education Donald MacIver. Darrell LeBlanc, co-ordinator of the KTTC project, was also present. Other members of the UNB delegation included New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield, President Emeritus Colin Mackay and the university's chancellor Lady Aitken.

During the ceremonies UNB conferred bachelor of education degrees on 32 Kenyans. These students are among the last of 90 Kenyans to earn degrees in Canada, mostly at UNB, as part of the largest educational program yet sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

With their degrees in hand, the graduates will be ready to take the place

of the last Canadians on the faculty of the Kenyan college. The Kenya Technical Teachers College will then be — as was planned and right on schedule — a Kenyan institution, run by Kenyans and training Kenyans to help raise the technical level of their countrymen.

UNB has played a dual role in the CIDA project. First, the university recruited the Canadian staff who taught at the school during its formative years. Secondly, UNB worked its way out of this responsibility by training Kenyans to replace the Canadians in Nairobi.

In 1973 the government of Kenya and CIDA signed an agreement to proceed with the KTTC project. The new school brought together both the existing as well as new technical teacher training programs in Kenya.

Two years later, CIDA contracted with the University of New Brunswick to provide teaching staff and technical assistance in the organization of the college and to train Kenyan students on scholarship at UNB and — when necessary — at other schools in Canada and the United States. Once their degree work was completed, these students returned to Kenya to do their practice teaching and eventually to replace Canadians on the KTTC faculty.

By 1983 the college was to have an all-Kenyan staff.

The recent convocation was the third graduation ceremony UNB held for Kenyan students in Nairobi. The university conferred 29 degrees in a special convocation in March 1979 and 24 degrees in a second ceremony in December 1980. With the 32 newly-graduated students UNB will have trained more than enough Kenyans to fill all posts on the KTTC instructional staff. Eleven students still on scholarship in Canada will finish degrees within the next two years. Kenya has 14 polytechnics and numerous secondary schools that require staffing.

Since the KTTC began operating in 1975, it has trained hundreds of students in business education, industrial arts and various trades. The college accepts up to 700 students. They come from all parts of Kenya to enrol in programs lasting from a few weeks to four years. Classes are free. The campus residences provide free accommodations for up to 500 students.

Stamps depict pioneer ways

Three stamps, depicting articles used by Canadian pioneers, were issued in April by Canada Post.

Like the low-value definitive stamps issued in 1982, the new medium-value stamps feature heritage artifacts and represent aspects of life in Canada during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The artifacts shown touch on three of the essentials of pioneer life in Canada: breaking the land to plant crops; raising children; and heating the home in

a rigorous climate. The 37-cent stamp features a plough, the 48-cent stamp shows a cradle, and the 64-cent stamp a stove. The stamps were designed by

Jean-Pierre Beaudin and Jean Morin of Montreal, as were the low-value definitives. The stamp designs employ the same duotone technique for the artifacts as was used on the low-value definitives. The rich, but subtle background colours speak of the humble circumstances of the average Canadian pioneer home.



Containers for flying cattle

New shipping containers that offer advantages over wooden crates in current use have been developed to fly Canadian swine and sheep to long-distance markets.

The new metal containers were developed by Sea Air International Forwarders Limited of Mississauga, Ontario and were partly funded by Agriculture Canada. Unlike wooden crates, the new ones are reusable. The units are constructed of 2.5-centimetre-square steel tubing and welded steel mesh that is dipped in rust-resistant heavy paint making them easier to clean and disinfect for reuse.

The containers are also collapsible so they can be stacked on standard aircraft pallets to minimize their bulk on return flights. They weigh about the same as wooden crates.

Since the sides and floors are made of steel mesh, they have excellent ventilation for the animals and watering devices can be easily installed for long flights.

The units were originally developed for shipments in Canada, but have been used in export shipments as well. The most recent use was for a shipment of 1255 pigs to Singapore. The new containers offer shippers a great deal of flexibility and will fit a variety of aircrafts, including *DC-8*, *DC-10*, *Boeing 707* and *Boeing 747*. They can also be adapted to others.