



FRIENDS OF HOPE AFRICA UNIVERSITY

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Technology at Hope Africa University-An Update by Dr. Barbara Rose

In order to fully appreciate the status of current technology at HAU, it helps to start with some history. In January 2009, I taught my first course at HAU with thirty-five computer science majors taking Calculus II. Their instructor was mostly lecture and demonstration, as there were no computer labs. In January 2012, Friends of Hope Africa University (FHAU) partnered with Spring Arbor University (SAU) to assist HAU in technology development. SAU supported Dr. Todd Marshal's visit to HAU in June 2012 to diagnose technology needs. He found a radio internet system connected via ethernet cable to a single residential wireless router and some switches to other locations. There was no functioning server except in a few offices with a LAN and limited power, security, and data backed up on a portable USB drive. In response, a container from SAU arrived in 2014 with thirty used desktops and supporting equipment. One of my students from 2009, who had gone to India for a master's in IT and networking facilitated the installation of the SAU computers, brought fiber optic internet to the university, and installed six more routers brought by FHAU.

With an increase in the size and complexity of HAU, technology became even more crucial; the solar power installed by FHAU contributed to the feasibility of new development. In 2019-2020 FHAU was able to finance two computer labs with twenty-four computers each and in 2022 fifteen computers were installed in the library for general use. FHAU also supported the purchase of a software management system for student records. It became apparent there was a critical need for a firewall and network to manage the security and use of technology on campus. My former student who had earned his Cisco Network Security and Fortinet Certificates and started a company in Bujumbura was hired to design a campus-wide network plan, lay cable, and install a firewall and server that now functions across campus. During these years, FHAU visiting faculty continued to bring donated laptops, printers and projectors to HAU to support the growing enrollment; they also trained the finance staff at HAU, Kibuye, and Van Norman Clinic in the use of QuickBooks.

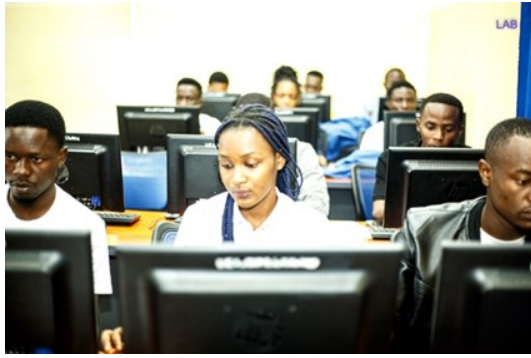
HAU has come a long way in technological development in just ten years. There is a small but committed IT staff and faculty, who are competent and hardworking in supporting the needs of the entire campus. These developments have paid off, as currently there are over **2,000 majors** in the computer science and information technology programs, doubling since 2022. FHAU

recently provided money for additional computers, but more lab space is needed to support the **6,000** students attending HAU.

As HAU continues to grow in size and complexity, the university needs appropriate technology to support its infrastructure and academic programs. Technology touches every aspect of the university; it impacts the effectiveness of academic program support, including the library. What a blessing it is to partner with HAU! Students are eager to learn and leave HAU to be a blessing in the world.



One of the two computer labs



Team standing in front of new fire-wall and network

Students in the lab

New Leadership at HAU



Dr. Servilien Nitunga takes on the role of Rector

In March, the Board of Trustees at HAU announced the hiring of a new Rector and Vice Rector. Dr. Servilien Nitunga takes on the role of Rector, replacing Victor Barantota, and Edouard Niyongabo, now serving as Director of Quality Assurance Programs has been appointed Vice Rector.

Dr. Nitunga brings to the role a wealth of experience in finance and budget management from his work with the Burundi government to improve fiscal management of municipalities across the country. He has worked with the UN on issues of country security and stability, and has an academic background in community development and organizational management.

No stranger to HAU, Dr. Nitunga has served as an adjunct faculty in the community development department.

We ask the many friends of HAU to join us in praying for God's blessings, guidance, and protection for these new leaders.

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