HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

"The year 2018 was very rich and exciting. BEBUC has made tremendous headways thanks to the commitment and participation of each of us".

Karine Ndjoko Ioset

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1. SCHOLARS’ STUDIES

A. PhD Students/ Scholars

Arindo Lukawu Akwenti
PhD Candidate at the Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, University of Zululand, South Africa

Arindo was selected as a BEBUC scholar in 2009. He has subsequently been supported by the scholarship until the completion of his Bachelor degree in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Natural Resources Management at Université de Kinshasa, with a record of 4 distinctions. In 2013, he was granted a Master scholarship funded by UNESCO/ERAIFT and BEBUC. He did his Master research under the supervision of the Forester Management Unit of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liege, Belgium), the NGO Nature+, and the AFODEK project. He has conducted his Master research in the field of forest biomass estimations. In 2015, he successfully completed his Master degree with distinction at the Regional Post-Graduate School of Forest Management (ERAIFT). From 2015 to 2018, Arindo was appointed as a Tutor in the BEBUC system. In 2018, he was granted a PhD scholarship by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. He is currently pursuing his PhD studies at the University of Zululand.

Congratulations Arindo on this great achievement. All the best for your PhD studies!

Christian Isalomboto Nkanga
PhD Candidate in Medicinal Organic Chemistry, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

Christian completed his Bachelor studies in Pharmacy at the Université de Kinshasa with three distinctions in G2, P2, and in P3. He was awarded the BEBUC Master scholarship in 2015 and was admitted in the Department of Chemistry at Rhodes University for an MSc degree based on his research titled "Inhalable Particulate Systems for Anti-tubercular Drug Delivery". He successfully completed the training within one year and thereafter started his PhD studies. He was recently selected (out of hundreds of applicants from 140+ countries) by Novartis Pharma and the University of Basel as one of the 20 Next Generation Scientists (NGS) to participate in an intensive three-month internship (June-September 2018) in Research and Development. This program is currently running at the research site of Novartis in Basel (Switzerland), and will be accredited by the University of Basel. As part of this academic training, Christian carried out a research project in his field of interest, Drug Delivery, in the Department of Global Drug Research and Development. Christian gives a particularly good example in BEBUC. He entered the scholarship system in the Master phase only. He took the chance and thrives wonderfully.

Congratulations Christian on such brilliant achievements. All the best for your PhD studies!

Séverin Kavatsurwa Muyisa
Lecturer (Chef de Travaux) at Université Officielle de Bukavu (UOB) and PhD Candidate, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Séverin Kavatsurwa Muyisa is a BEBUC scholar since 2012, Dav studied Agricultural Engineering at Université de Kinshasa. With four distinctions, he received the BEBUC Award in 2013. He obtained his Master degree in Soil Sciences at AgroParisTech, Paris (2017). His Master thesis, carried out at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) ECOSYS research unit (Grignon, France), dealt with the mapping of the topsoil organic carbon content over cropland using combined optical and radar remote sensing. His research has been orally presented at the 14th NAPRECA Symposium held in Nairobi, where he met Professor Gerhard Bringmann, who talked to him about the BEBUC System. After their discussion, Séverin spontaneously got involved in the BEBUC system and supervised the organization of the first BEBUC evaluations in Bukavu in 2012. In 2015, he was awarded a grant from the German Collaborative Research Center 630 (“Novel Agents against Infectious Diseases”) to conduct a seven-month research in Prof. Gerhard Bringmann’s lab at the University of Wuerzburg. Since 2017, Séverin has been conducting his PhD studies under the supervision of Professor Vinesh Maharaj and the Co-Supervision of Professor Gerhard Bringmann and Doctor Dashnie Naidoo at the Chemistry Department of the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He has been a BEBUC scholar since January 2017. His PhD project in the field of natural product chemistry involves the isolation, structural elucidation, and biotesting of naphthylisoquinoline alkaloids, lignans, and flavonoids from Congolese Ancistrocladus and South African Monsonia plants. His PhD research paper has been recently published in the Fitoterapia Journal on the antiausterity activities of naphthylisoquinoline alkaloids isolated from a Congolese Ancistrocladus liana.

BEBUC is extremely happy to see how Séverin thrives. Congratulations and all the best for your PhD studies!

Dav Mwampongo Ebengo
PhD Candidate at the AgroParisTech, Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l’Environnement, University of Montpellier 1, France

Dav Mwampongo Ebengo is a PhD student at the AgroParisTech, Institut des Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l’Environnement, University of Montpellier 1, France. He has co-authored two articles related to the mapping of soil properties using remote sensing and combined fluorescence measurements.
Congratulations Freddy Bangelesa. What a journey! Keep it up!

Freddy Fefe Bangelesa
PhD Candidate in Climate Change Research Group, Institute of Geology and Geography, University of Wuerzburg, Germany

Freddy has been a BEBUC scholar since 2012 and took responsibilities in BEBUC as the Main Speaker of Kinshasa from 2014 to 2015. He is currently the first Vice Speaker of BEBUC external scholars and the Coordinator of the Agronomist Research Group. He has completed his Bachelor degree in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Université de Kinshasa with 4 distinctions. With regard to his academic records and commitment to BEBUC, Freddy received the BEBUC Award in 2014. He was awarded the BEBUC Master scholarship in 2015 and was admitted to the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. He has successfully completed his Master studies in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS). He took part in two important symposia: (i) the International Conference of Nutrition in Cape Town (funded by the Norwegian Agency for Developmental Cooperation within the Grownut Project); and (ii) the Sixth International Conference on Organic Matter in London, where he presented the results of his Master thesis as conference paper (funded by BEBUC). After his Master studies, he worked as an environmentalist GIS consultant for 3 months for AngloGold mining, the third largest gold mining in the world, based in South Africa. Since April 2017, he has been admitted as a PhD candidate at the University of Wuerzburg. His research topic is “Climate Change and Variability related to Crop Production and Malaria in Central Equatorial Africa: Evidence from the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. The project is funded by Norwegian Agency for Developmental Cooperation (NORAD) within Grownut project. Freddy is affiliated to Kinshasa School of Public Health, where he oriented his research interest on developing environmental variables using satellite remote sensing to address food insecurity, nutritional disease, and other health outcomes. Within this project, he will travel to Norway next year for some specialized courses in Public Health.

Congratulations Freddy Bangelesa. What a journey! Keep it up!

Gabriel Kambale Bunduki
PhD Candidate in Pathology/Antimicrobial Stewardship and Conservancy at the University of Malawi, Malawi

BEBUC scholar since 2011, Gabriel is a Medical Doctor and earned his MChB degree (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from the Université Catholique du Graben (UCG) with a distinction in April 2017. He is also an assistant lecturer at UCG. Few months after his graduation, Gabriel moved to Ghana for a training in Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT). At the same time, he completed a diploma course in MLT (DipMLT) before being admitted in the Master program of Clinical Microbiology at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana. With the support of Prof. Ndjoko, Gabriel won an ACEPHEM (Africa Center of Excellence in Public Health and Herbal Medicine) PhD fellowship at the University of Malawi. He has joined a research group in Blantyre and his on-going PhD project is in the field of antimicrobial resistance and pathogenesis mechanism of bacterial infection.

Congratulations Gabriel. All the best for your PhD studies!

Salomé Kahindo Mwanamolo
PhD Student at the University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Dijon, France

Salomé has been a BEBUC scholar since 2014. She completed her Bachelor studies at the Faculty of Economics at the Université Catholique du Graben (UCG) with a Great Distinction in 2016. She has been appointed Assistant Lecturer within the Department of Economics at the same university in September 2016. Salomé obtained her BEBUC Master scholarship in 2017. She carried out her Master studies in Agricultural Development Economics, Environment and Food at the University of Montpellier 1 with a great support of Professor Jean-Marie Boisson. Her Master thesis was about “The Economic Evaluation of the 4 per 1000 Carbon Storage Initiative in Agricultural Soils in France” at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), in the Public Economics Laboratory at AgroParisTech, in Versailles-Grignon. Her results, presented in a seminar at AgroSup Dijon in October 2018, show...
that storing carbon in the soil increases agricultural yields and ensures food security while mitigating climate change. It is therefore necessary to popularize carbon storage practices and promote their implementation. Nevertheless, the implementation of certain carbon storage practices entails costs and requires support from the public authorities, especially for small producers. In October 2018, Salome started her PhD program at the University of Bourgogne, where she will be working on “The Spatial Distribution of Agricultural Activities and Ecosystem Services: Land Sharing Versus Land Sparing”. Her PhD program is funded by the Doctoral School of Law, Management, Economics and Political Sciences (DIGEP) of the University of Bourgogne Franche-Comté. She is affiliated to the CESAER Lab (Center for Economics and Sociology applied to Agriculture and Rural Areas), which includes the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and AgroSup Dijon.

**BEBC is so proud of Salomé for her proactivity. Congratulations. Keep it up, Salomé!**

### B. Master Holders / Candidates

**Blaise Pascal Zirimwabagabo Migabo**

*Master of Law, Teaching Assistant, Department of Public Law, Université Officielle de Bukavu (UOB)*

Blaise Pascal has been a BEBCU scholar since December 2013. He holds a Bachelor in Public Law with distinction from the Université Officielle de Bukavu (UOB) (2014). During his 5 years of Bachelor studies at UOB, he obtained five consecutive distinctions (>70%). In July 2018, Blaise Pascal completed his 2-year Master program in International Business Law. He defended his Master thesis at the Panthéon-Assas Paris II University (France) in its program hosted by the of Faculty of Economics and Law (Vietnam). His thesis was titled: “State Practice Regarding Bilateral Investment Treaties in Central African Region. Balancing the Rights of Foreign Investors and Host States Regulatory Powers”. His research shows that bilateral investment treaties concluded by Central African States with capital-importing countries (mostly western and Asian countries) are unbalanced to the disadvantage of African countries. He suggested a paradigm shift in order to balance foreign investors’ protection and regulatory powers of the host states in the perspective of sustainable development. Blaise Pascal got 85% for his thesis and 75.35% for the overall result ranking him in the top 2 of his class. He has been granted the excellence scholarship of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland for a Master of Advanced Studies in International and Comparative Law commencing in February 2019. After that, he intends to start his PhD research in parallel with this program in September 2019. His project is titled “Environmental Policy Space and Bilateral Investment Treaties in the States of the River Congo Basin”. Since March 2017, Blaise Pascal acts as a Teaching Assistant within the Department of Public Law at the Université Officielle de Bukavu.

**Congratulations Blaise Pascal. You are such a great model in BEBCU!**

**Céleste Mujinga Musasa**

*Medical Doctor and Lecturer Assistant in Infectious Diseases at Université Protestante au Congo (UPC)*

Céleste is one of the first BEBUC scholars selected at Université Protestante au Congo (UPC). Scholar since 2012, she got her Bachelor degree from the Medical School in 2017, and was appointed Lecturer Assistant in the Department of Infectious Diseases at UPC.

From April 15 to 20, 2018, Céleste attended the 7th M.I.M. Pan African Malaria Conference, which took place in Dakar. Her participation to the conference was funded by BEBUC and the German foundation Else-Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung. In that conference, she presented a poster on her Bachelor thesis, which was carried out under the supervision of Professor Thierry Bobanga of the Université de Kinshasa (UNIKIN). The work was titled “Clinical Features and Outcomes of Malaria in Children Suffering from Sickle Cell disease”. This conference was also the opportunity for her to meet many great scientists working on malaria, such as Professor Harold Varmus, Nobel Prize Awardee of Medicine in 1989. During her internship at the National Institute for Medical Research (INRB) in Kinshasa, Céleste got the opportunity to be invited for a 6-month internship at the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington starting from October 2018. The abstract of her Bachelor dissertation has been accepted for a poster presentation at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 67th Annual Meeting (ASTMH), which was held from October 28 to November 1, 2018, in New Orleans.

**Congratulations Céleste on a wonderful path in your career. Keep it up!**
**C. Bachelor Students and a High-School Pupil**

**Gentil Ishara Musimwa**  
*Student in Economics and Management Sciences at Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB)*

Gentil has been a BEBUC scholar since 2015. He is a final year Bachelor student in Economics. He has passed each of the four previous years with a Great Distinction (at least 80%). Consequently, he has been awarded a scholarship from his university, giving him the right of paying only half of the tuition fees every year. Apart from his academic performance, Gentil is involved in many para-academic and social activities. At his faculty, he is the President of “Club Economique du Kivu”. This is a forum where students in Economics find an opportunity to gather and discuss current issues (both at a conceptual and a practical level) of Economics and Business Management. Gentil also organizes the same debate on the radio. This helps to connect Club Economique du Kivu with the local community. In addition, he is the director of two local magazines. The first one is “Ecomik”, a student magazine at the Faculty of Economics at UCB where articles related to Kivu economy are published quarterly. The second magazine is “Clocle des Jeunes”, a social magazine where articles related to social education are published every two months. Gentil is also part of the delegation team representing the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Great Lakes Regional Conference organized in Burundi every year by *Students for Liberty* ([www.studentsforliberty.org](http://www.studentsforliberty.org)). Gentil is still carrying out his project named GEP Scholarship, which consists of supporting children in rural areas (about 50 pupils are supported this year) by clearing their school fees. Some of the children supported by the GEP Scholarship are sponsored by BEBUC scholars to whom Ishara is greatly indebted.

*Congratulations Gentil on your excellence in your activities! BEBUC is so proud of you!*

**Daniel Lwanzo Paluku**  
*Bachelor student at Kazan State Power Engineering University Second year in Heat Power Engineering, class of 2021, Russia*

Daniel received the BEBUC scholarship for high-school students in 2013 and was prolonged in 2014 and 2015. Being among the best pupils who accomplished high school in 2015 with 81%, Daniel received the Russian Government Scholarship to pursue his studies in Heat-Power Engineering in Kazan, Russia, where he first learnt the Russian language during 9 months. In 2016, he was awarded the BEBUC scholarship for Bachelor studies as an external scholar. In January 2018, Daniel participated in the 6th Olympiad of the Russian Language Among Foreign Students of Russian Universities. He was brilliantly selected out of more than 600 participants, to attend the final part of the competition which took place in Moscow, where he won the Gold Medal (first place) in the category of 1st and 2nd years’ students in Engineering, Technical and Natural Sciences. From July 15 to 26, 2018, Daniel participated in the 2018 Summer Campus organized by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA Summer Campus). Over 200 brilliant young leaders from more than 35 different countries took part in this Summer Campus. During this course, Daniel had the opportunity to work effectively in teams, to acquire and improve the practical skills of project activities, as well as the skills to implement and develop a strategic approach for decision-making. His research paper on prospects for development of wind energy in the Republic of Tatarstan was selected among the 11 best research papers at the All-Russian scientific conference held on Moscow from 3 to 6 December, 2018.

*Congratulations Daniel. Well done! Keep making the BEBUC family proud of you!*

**Eve Loando Kavira**  
*Final Year of High-School, Institut Kambali (Butembo)*

Eve has been a BEBUC scholar since 2015. She is currently at the final year of her High-School studies at Institut Kambali in Butembo. From July to August 2018, she had the privilege to perform a one-month internship at the Congolese Embassy in Kampala precisely at the Commercial Section of Customs Representative, Bureau de Représentation de la Direction Générale des Douanes et Accises (DGDA). She was trained for several tasks in the office and joined all the activities organized by the company. At the end of the training, she got a Great Distinction (87.5%) as the general quotation and was appreciated by the Director of the company and all the workers. Expressing their joy and satisfaction to her, a special farewell meal was organized for her; such a dinner had never been organized before. Eve is so grateful to the BEBUC Excellence Scholarship Program, which has generously supported her and to everyone who helped her get this wonderful opportunity. She is deeply thankful to Dr. Hervé Lekuya, who kindly hosted her once more and made everything easier for her during her stay in Kampala, Uganda.

*Congratulations on being a good ambassador of BEBUC. Keep it up!*
2. TRAININGS AND SCHOLARS’ ACTIVITIES

Papin Tshama Tshibangu and Florent Tshibwid A Zeng
Medical Doctors at Université de Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi

Papin and Florent are BEBUC scholars from Lubumbashi since 2013. In July 2018, they graduated from the medical school at Université de Lubumbashi. Both are members of an NGO, African Hope, which was created in 2009, mainly by pupils of the Collège Imara with the aim of helping orphans living in neglected orphan houses. For the good functioning of the NGO, the organization depends on monthly contributions from its members (a dozen of young people living in Lubumbashi, most of them, recently graduated). Since Papin and Florent are BEBUC scholars, African Hope is benefiting from a special support from BEBUC scholars, Prof. Karine Ndjoko (who created a toy library in one of the orphan houses in order to make it financially independent) and Mrs. Sylvia Pöhlmann, who has kindly been supporting the NGO since 2017.

Christian Ahadi Irenge, Gauthier Bahizire Murhula, Christelle Migabo Nanzigi and Justin Bazibuhe Safari
Bukavu BEBUC scholars

These four scholars (Gauthier and Christelle from Medicine, UCB, and Christian and Justin from Pharmacy, UOB) attended the 2017 World Healthcare Students Symposium (WHSS), which was organized by Rwanda Pharmaceutical Students Association (RPSA) in the University of Rwanda (UR). Participating in this symposium opened doors for the four scholars for further fruitful international collaborations.

Goma Women Seminar and the Dungu Kiani BEBUC Honor Prize

On March 24 2018, the BEBUC scholars of Goma organized a Women’s Seminar combined with the Dungu Kiani BEBUC Honor Prize. During the seminar, Gloria spoke about the BEBUC scholarship program. And Noëlla presented about “Family life and women’s scientific achievements”. Afterwards, Prof. Dr. Muteho Kasongo presented her own experience as a successful professor. The “Dungu Kiani BEBUC Honour Prize” was granted to Mr. Cyprien Muhindo Lusenge, because of his countless support to his wife to pursue her studies after their marriage.

Excursion of Kinshasa scholars at Kadima’s Pride of Africa

The BEBUC scholars of Kinshasa (UNIKIN, GSMA, and UPC) organized their excursion to “Kadima’s Pride of Africa”, a wildlife and leisure park, on Sunday, 10 June 2018. Professor Virima Mudogo (Vice-President of UNIKIN) and Professor Hypolite Mavoko (Deputy of Public Relations) were also present at this excursion. The scholars visited beautiful flora and animals such as zebras, ostriches, buffaloes, reptiles, and many birds inside the park. A short discussion on tourism was part of the activities organized by the scholars as well. As usual, a delicious meal was shared among scholars afterwards. The trip was a great joy for the scholars, as they experienced a real moment of relaxation and togetherness in a different special environment.

Joint Activities of Goma and Bukavu

On August 4 and 5 2018, the BEBUC scholars from Bukavu and Goma jointly organized an open seminar and an excursion to the Monkey Protection Research Center of Lwiro. Held by a BEBUC Professor, Prof. Christian Kamala, the major point of the seminar was that the whole educational system in DRC needs to be reformulated. As far as the excursion is concerned, the BEBUC scholars had the opportunity to visit the monkeys in Lwiro.

Noëlla (left) and Yvette (right) around Prof. Dr. Muteho Kasongo, who was granted a special gift by the local BEBUC family for her inspiring experience.
3. BEBUC SCHOLARS’ 2018 SYMPOSIUM

On Saturday 24 November and 1 December, 2018, the third BEBUC Symposium was organized with the purpose of presenting different research group projects. Scholars from different regions of the DR Congo (Kinshasa, Kongo Central, Lubumbashi, Bukavu, Butembo, Goma, Kikwit and Mbuji-Mayi) and abroad (South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Germany, United States, France, Belgium, and China) were actively involved in this big event. BEBUC is certainly the first Congolese organization to hold an online meeting with more than 140 participants.

Since a time, BEBUC scholars are now classified according to their research interests or groups (Pharmacy, Agronomy, Economics, Biology, Medicine, Geology, Laws, Chemistry, and Engineering) and monthly seminars are organized in this regard. The symposium was that big moment during which every group delegate presented their future projects.

On Saturday 24 November 2018, the meeting started with welcoming words of the President of UNIKIN, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Gerhard Bringmann. After the Prime Speaker, Tania Bishola took the floor for an introduction word. In total, 4 presentations were held, each followed by a short discussion: (1) "BEBUC Pharmaceutical Research Centre for Innovation and Development" by the Pharmacy Research Group; (2) "Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)" by the Economics Research Group; (3) "Waste to Energy in the Congo" by the Engineering Research Group, and (4) "Intensification of Banana and Soybean Production through Agroforestry System in Eastern DRC" by the Agronomy Research Group.

The second day of the symposium, Saturday 1 December, 2018 started with welcoming words of Prof. Karine Ndjoko (the General Manager of BEBUC), and then a short comment by the Vice Prime Speaker, Georges Kasay. Similar to the first day, 4 research group delegates took the floor: (1) The Medicine Research Group presented about "Cancer Care Center: A program to Improve Cancer Management in the DRC"; (2) the Biology Research Group focused on "An Excellence Centre for Biomedical and Biotechnology Research"; (3) The Law Research Group intends to work on "Study on Child Rights Enforcement in the DR Congo"; (4) The Geology Research Group presented about "Water Scarcity in Rural Communities in DR Congo and the Way to Tackle this Challenge".

BEBUC Symposium in Butembo. Scholars listening carefully to the presentations (photo on the left) and projection of the screen on the wall (photo on the right)

BEBUC Symposium in Bukavu (photo on the left) and Prof. Gerhard Bringmann giving a welcome word to scholars

BEBUC Symposium in Kinshasa
4. THE EXTERNAL VIRTUAL INSTITUTE

A particular organizational challenge was how to involve international or external students in BEBUC traditional activities such as seminars.

In this respect, we created and defined, along with the BEBUC Panel, a new organizational entity named External Virtual Institute.

It comprises all the external BEBUC scholars, spread over the world – meanwhile over 50 scholars are part of the External Virtual Institute.

This External Virtual Institute is chaired by a democratically elected External Speaker, Deborah Kalambayi, strengthened by four Vice Speakers. It has already started its thrilling international and interdisciplinary virtual seminar program. These external speakers are also part of the Speakers’ Council, which acts as the parliament of all BEBUC scholars. It is chaired by the Prime Speaker and the Vice Prime Speaker, who are elected by the delegates of all 26 BEBUC institutions. Under their guidance, the Speakers’ Council meets in regular intervals, by video conference, and discusses and decides BEBUC-relevant issues.

BEBUC Scholars are grateful to the BEBUC Panel for the work they are doing for them.

BEBUC Scholars are also thankful to the partners of the NGO JUNIKIN for their support.

Organizing Committee of the BEBUC Newsletter 2018

- Directors: Tania Bishola, Georges Kasay, and Freddy Bangelesa
- Assistants: Members of BEBUC Speakers’ Council
- Designers: Gentil Ishara, Théophile Kabasele, and Déborah Kalambayi
- Reviewer: Prof. Gerhard Bringmann