

NEW OFFICE



Dermatologist moves practice

Special to Oconee

Dr. Stella M. Bulengo, a dermatologist with 20 years of experience, has opened an office at 1582 Mars Hill Road.

Bulengo — the mother of three children, ages 8, 12 and 15 — has lived in Athens for about five years. She previously lived in Michigan. She grew up in the African country of Tanzania, where her father is a physician.

In April, she opened Athens-Oconee Skin Cancer & Dermatology, at the Oconee County site, where she specializes in diseases of the skin, hair, nails, skin and laser surgery and cosmetic procedures. She also is trained in microscopic biopsy diagnosis of skin disorders and tumors.

She received her medical degree from the University of Michigan, did an internship at The Cleveland (Ohio) Clinic Foundation and a dermatopathology fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.

In 2007, she received the Gold Leader Volunteerism Award from the American Academy of Dermatology for her volunteer work in Tanzania and in her community. She also has done local volunteer work at the Athens Nurses Free Clinic.

Bulengo said because “of my dual training, I can combine what I see during an exam with what I observe in the lab to provide a faster, more comprehensive diagnosis. This gives me the opportunity to help prevent skin infections and cancers, rather than waiting until they’re at an advanced stage.”

She said her father and grandfather, both physicians, inspired her.

“I would see so many sick people and just hope I could serve humankind some day as a physician,” she said.