



August 2012

Varsity**Focus**

A magazine of the University of Nairobi



University excels
in performance contracting



Our Vision

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

Our Mission

To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

Our Core Values

- freedom of thought and expression;
- innovativeness and creativity;
- good corporate governance;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible corporate citizenship and strong social responsibility;
- respect for and conservation of the environment.



VarsityFocus

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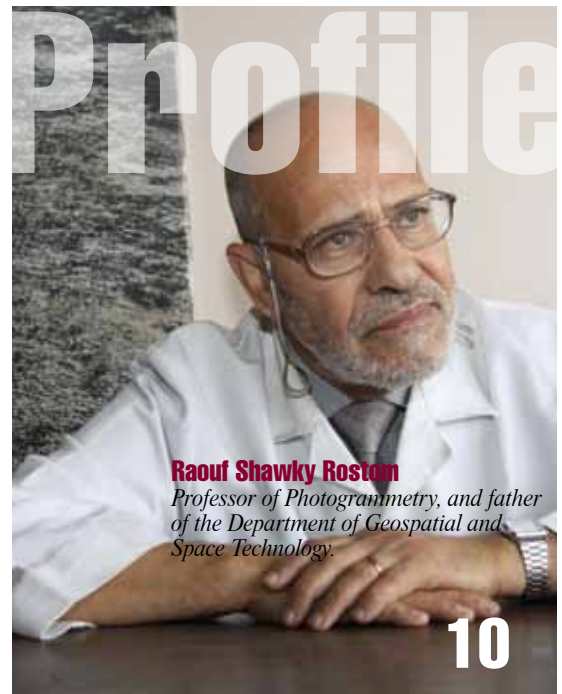
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Editorial

Welcome to the August edition of the Varsity Focus, a magazine that brings you updates on events, people and activities undertaken by staff, students and stakeholders of the University.

In this issue, we capture details of research undertaken by staff, physical and academic development and also update you on the international luminaries who interacted with staff and students including the Premier of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Kim Hwang-Sik US Senator, Christopher Coons, CEO and President, Dow Chemical Company, Mr Andrew Liveris and member of the European Parliament, Niccolo Rinnaldi among others.

We have also highlighted the University's commitment to outreach activities that included the fourth University Annual Open Day, and the Commission for Higher Education's exhibition held in Embu in March this year.

The University has maintained linkages and collaborations with universities in the Far East, Asia and of course the Americas which has improved its international presence. While teaming up with companies and organizations, the University has leveraged on scholarships, donations and financial grants that will assist it to engage in collaborative research, staff/student exchange and scholarship.

In the human interest section, this edition features the experiences of Raouf Shawky Rostom, Professor of Photogrammetry, and father

of the Department of Geospatial and Space Technology, School of Engineering, who shares his rich experiences with us. The section also gives you information about some of the prominent icons at the University of Nairobi and what they stand for.

The Alumni Association highlights their new strategy to increase discipline based chapters that will increase their involvement in building the University and assist it in achieving its vision of becoming a world-class university committed to excellence.

We congratulate the Student Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) for conducting its elections with decency and decorum befitting the status of a world class institution, which is a mark of true maturity of the student body. We also thank the Upper Kabete Campus students, for their relentless efforts in conserving the environment through the annual tree planting ceremony in collaboration with stakeholders.

We believe that this edition will excite you and rekindle your commitment to continue your relationship with the UoN. Enjoy your reading and do not hesitate to give us feedback on pr@uonbi.ac.ke

Charles E. Sikulu

Vice Chancellor

Taking the lead in excellence

The University continued to be first choice university in the region for intellectual discourse.

Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor



This has been a busy year for the University of Nairobi with events and activities that demonstrate our brand of excellence. As part of taking this lead, the University emerged the top in the state corporations category in evaluation carried out by the government for the performance contract of 2010/2011. The University has constantly performed well and it is no mean boast that since 2008, the university has been the leading institution among the state corporations under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology. This performance was replicated in web rankings where the University is currently ranked at position 14 in Africa.

We take pride in the interactions with diplomats, business executives, and members of parliament, senators and top leaders from Europe, America, the Middle East and the Far East.

We are grateful that the

government has continued to allow us leeway especially in the way of internally generated funds and grants. With such independence, we have increased our collaboration in teaching, research and consultancy. Joint research has added value to our usual practice of looking for scholars from international universities. We assure our stakeholders that with their continued support, we can increase activities in the areas of research and teaching.

In recognition of our brand, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) recently signed a memorandum of understanding for research into the elderly. This recognition of our excellence as an institute of higher learning is repeated in the selection of the University of Nairobi as one of 24 universities participating in the Development of Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) programme, for the next five years. This participation will ensure that our research and other relevant

work not only reaches, but also directly impacts on policy and practice in Kenya.

The University participated in the Commission for Higher Education's exhibition in Embu and held its 4th Open Day, with activities that showcased the quality of our products, programmes and services. These activities only serve to build a firm foundation to cope with the competition and to be a point of reference at regional and international community level. It is true that we are all fishing from the small pool and the catchment is not as developed as it should be. In spite of this challenge, the University has undertaken to maintain high standards and therefore continue to attract high caliber students. The University looks forward to further expansion of its programmes to many parts of the country and increased access to higher education.

I salute the staff and students for acting responsibly and meeting their commitments with dedication and professionalism.

University Excels in Performance Contracting

The University of Nairobi has once again emerged tops in performance contracting in the evaluations done by the government for the performance contract of 2010/2011.



H.E President Mwai Kibaki and the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, hand over the excellent performance trophy to the Chairman of Council, John Simba and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha. Looking on is the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Prof Margaret Kamar.

This time however, the University not only emerged top in the State Corporations category, it also managed the feat of scoring “Excellent”, the only state agency to manage that score since the government introduced performance contracting in the 2004/2005 financial year.

The results for 2010/2011 were released by H. E. the President Hon. Mwai Kibaki, flanked by the

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, on March 26, 2012. At hand to receive the trophy for best performing state corporation was the Chairman of Council, Mr. John Simba, Vice-Chancellor, Prof George Magoha and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F) Prof. Peter Mbithi.

The University has consistently performed well in the last few years emerging number 2 overall among state corporations in results for 2008/2009 and number

3 in results for 2009/2010. In these years, the University was also the leading institution among the State Corporations under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The University, which has become an authority in the management of the performance contracting process is under great focus by those who want to know the secret of a good performance.

The government is also involving the University management in giving advice to visitors from countries keen to copy the Kenyan Performance Contracting model.

In a separate development, the University has concluded negotiations for its 2012/2013 performance contract. This was negotiated with officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology on 3rd July 2012 and concluded at the vetting state with officials from the Performance Contracting

Department, Office of the Prime Minister on 17th July 2012.

The new performance contract, which became operational from 1st July 2012, will in the usual manner cascade its key targets and operations in the teaching colleges. Indeed, one of the new targets in the performance contract is the cascading of performance contracts to the downstream units.

Although the performance contract process has in the past been cascaded to the colleges and the key central departments,

most faculties, schools and institutes have not been on formal performance contract, though they actually contribute in meeting the college targets. This year (2012/2013) all faculties, schools and institutes will be put in performance contract with their respective College Management Boards.

The ultimate intention is to have the performance contract targets cascaded to individual staff and the same to be evaluated at the time of staff performance appraisal. This is due to happen in the next two years.

Performance Contracting: *putting my mouth in it*

In Performance Contracting results for the financial year 2010-2011, the University of Nairobi was ranked position number one out of 178 State Corporations, number one among public universities and the only one rated under the excellent category since the inception of the Performance Contracting system in public institutions. It was underscored that the University of Nairobi is one institution that has sustained its performance over the years.

When the news of the University's achievement was first broken to a group of staff attending an ISO refresher training, they burst into ululations, and there was joy and quite a bit of drama, because the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F) - the driver of the (PC) at UoN, Prof. Mbithi had stormed into the training hall, beaming with happiness and parading the trophy. For many, the tea break was spent remarking on the excellent performance, which justified the hassles associated

with the PC. It was also a time to actually examine the trophy closely and to ascertain that the name engraved therein was indeed our own-University of Nairobi.

Many senior level academic and administrative staff at UoN have been dealing with performance contracting, and ISO implementation, but maybe it is only a few who truly remember that beyond a duty, nay obligation, the effectiveness and improvement of the ISO Quality Management System (QMS) will take the PC to

Links

UoN signs Mou with University of Prince Edward Island

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Canada has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Nairobi that now includes more academic programmes in the collaboration. Previously, UPEI had a link in veterinary sciences with the Faculty of Agriculture.

Speaking during the signing of the MoU, Dr. Jim Randall, the Vice-President, Academic Affairs of UPEI, said that increased collaboration would increase the student and staff members exchange programme.

In her remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RPE) Prof. Lucy Irungu, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the agreement between the two institutions adding that the development will strengthen the academic programmes of the two institutions. Prof. Randall's visit is in reciprocity of a visit by UoN's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha to UPEI in 2011, where the possibilities of collaboration were discussed.

greater heights. It may not be a right to demand a reward for the role that one played in writing up or negotiation of the contract. It may not be one's right to complain that you do not believe in the excellence because you see some rot, the question on the tip of the tongue is what have you done about that rot, do you have a role to play in creating it.

Sometimes, I am inclined to wonder if a murky existence, devoid of order is not what the ordinary Kenyan loves. It may sound Eurocentric but we love destroying records, and if we assume office where there is order, it is interesting how soon we run down the order we find, an order that few seem to be interested in retaining. A friend of mine once explained this by way of referring to what women do when they move into a house that was the domain of another woman; they destroy all evidence of her, almost like attacking her presence. Indeed, the Vice Chancellor has on numerous occasions alluded to the urgent task of automating all the records so that there is effective analysis of bio data, easy access to data, updating the payroll constantly and auditing it on monthly basis.

There has also been the challenge of signage and determining the brand of the

University. For instance, when we are told that we can dress down on Friday, it does not mean that we wear the oldest, faded t-shirt that we can find. No, it calls for being casual smart and refurbishing ones collection of shirts. On signage and university colors', it is time that the University patented what should be our University colors, decide clearly that cyan blue, 70 percent is our color and keep to it faithfully without deviations. I guess this will make us tidier, and more appreciative of design.

On the use of facilities, we should all take pride in the grounds, in the buildings, learning to pick up any trash including using the waste bins, being mindful of each others welfare when we use the washrooms, observing a modicum of decency in dress, and attitude, and silence near teaching rooms. In short, we need to go further, each of us, in our personal habits which, lest we forget, are linked to excellence.

So performance contracting is not just for management, staff and students have to take up ownership in the results because ultimately they reflect our contribution to the overall excellence.

Academies to Strengthen Links with UoN

The University of Nairobi (UoN) recently hosted a high profile team from the local and international academies of science, who were on a mission to strengthen their relationship with the institution.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that an MoU would be developed to benefit staff and student exchange. Among the visitors were N. Sathyamurthy, the Vice-President, Indian Academy of Sciences (INAS), Airo Moitera, Executive Secretary (INAS), Prof. Lamine Ndiaye, African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Arungu Olende, Secretary General (AAS), B.M. Abegaz, Executive Director, (AAS) and Prof. Raphael Munavu, Chairman, Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS).

Sathyamurthy hinted that they will strengthen collaboration with UoN based on the long term development of science in Africa

through identification of priority areas and training of specialists. He also emphasized the need to work on the challenges affecting third world countries, particularly Africa and India.

On his part, Prof. Magoha said that the University of Nairobi has strong links with India, through scholarship and infrastructural development, and assured the delegation of UoN's support in strengthening the relationship with the academies.

Other KNAS officials who attended the meeting included Prof. Lydia Njenga, the Acting Dean, School of Physical Sciences, Prof. Kenneth Mavuti and Prof. Julius Mwabora.

Uon Inaugurates Student Affairs Board

The University of Nairobi has formally launched the Student Affairs Management Board.

The Board, to be chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, is charged with the responsibility of managing students' welfare in the University. The Board, which was formally launched on February 14, 2012, will oversee the running of various departments among them catering and accommodation, health services, office of the Dean of Students, sports and games, and other units touching on student welfare.

While launching the Board, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, urged members to liaise closely with the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, and familiarize themselves



Officials from the Indian Academy of Sciences, African Academy of Sciences, and Kenya Academy of Sciences shortly after paying a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

Student Affairs



activities, security and conduct of elections among others, to minimize potential points of conflict between students and the management.

The function was attended by various representatives of the departments which comprise the board among them; Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Director, Student Welfare Authority, Mr. Robert Lugwe, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen Ochiel, Dean of Students Dr. (Fr.) Dominic Wamugunda, acting Director, Sports and Games, Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi, Finance Officer, Mr. Michael Karue, Special Student Advisor, Prof. Godfrey Muriuki, Estates Manager, Mr. Tracisio Thuita, Chief Security Officer, Mr. Wilfred Wahome, acting Registrar Student Affairs, Ms Mariam Lugonzo (Secretary to the Board), senate representatives and SONU college representatives.

with Statute XXX of the University of Nairobi, as well as policies and procedures of the University that relate to the management of student affairs. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs had been in operation since 1st February, 2011, and it

was his desire that the Student Management Board plays a significant role in the management of student affairs. He emphasized that the University Management Board and the Council expect high standards in regard to the management of students' affairs including: discipline, sporting

UoN benefits from Africa-US Higher Education partnerships

The University of Nairobi is strengthening, studies in dryland farming through collaboration with stakeholders and partners from the United States.

This was revealed when the partners, through their representatives from the Africa-US Higher Initiative, visited the University of Nairobi. The delegation, which was received by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-

Chancellor, Student Affairs, on behalf of the University, included Tully R. Connie, Higher Education for Development, Jessie Brown, Associate-General, American Council in Education, John Vaughn, Association of American

Universities and Michael Cougher of Colorado State University.

It is envisaged that, the University, through partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies

(CSDES), which is a partnership between Colorado State University and UoN, will benefit from a two-year sponsorship with USAID-HED, which came into effect on June 3, 2011. The funding for UoN activities amounts to US \$393,655 and will support several activities in the pilot project including: research for development of seed grants for faculty, partial research fellowships for graduate students focusing on dryland research problems in

2011/2012 (10 PhDs and 3 M.Sc.) and 10 student interns.

This pilot project is one of 11 competitively selected partnership projects across Africa under the USAID-HED Africa Initiative Programme. Kenya was the only country that won two awards, one on Sustainable Drylands (University of Nairobi) and the other on Strengthening Secondary School Teacher Education

(Kenyatta University). The Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe is the Chair of the Center's Advisory Board, while the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture has supported the CSDES initiative at every stage. The CSDES initiative is led by the Chairman, LARMAT, Prof. Robinson Ngugi and Prof. Jesse Njoka, Coordinator/Director, Center for Sustainable Drylands.

Prof. Kaimenyi elected fellow of the International dentists body

Prof. Jacob Thurania Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs was elected a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, the first Kenyan to hold this position, during a colorful ceremony held at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra, Ghana, early this year. The ceremony also served as the inauguration of the African Region of the International College of Dentists.

Prof. Kaimenyi has the mandate to shepherd the growth of the East African chapter of the International College of Dentists. His election as a Fellow is a recognition of his distinguished service to the profession and to the public worldwide. The National College of Dentists, was officially born on 31st December, 1927 in

Prof. Kaimenyi has the mandate to shepherd the growth of the East African chapter of the International College of Dentists.



the United States and has several noble objectives, chief among them: to foster the growth and diffusion of dental knowledge, to recognize distinguished service to the profession and to the public

worldwide, to promote post-graduate study and research in the field of oral health, to contribute to the advancement of the profession of dentistry internationally and to encourage and support projects of a humanitarian nature.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Kaimenyi on his election and wishes him success in this additional responsibility.

Profile

Profile



Raouf Shawky Rostom

Professor of Photogrammetry, and father of the Department of Geospatial and Space Technology.

Meet Raouf Shawky

the father of photogrammetry at UoN

“The gentleman is always effacing; walking about the Campus, he is not so visible, but you feel he must be up to something. His eyes, a grey/green color, intriguing colors, he looks like a professor, he is so quiet, you can pass him on the way, without paying attention to him until someone tells you of the number of books and articles he has published”

This is a description of Raouf Shawky Rostom, Professor of Photogrammetry, and father of the Department of Geospatial and Space Technology at the University of Nairobi.

Born in 1938, in Cairo, Egypt and brought up as an Egyptian Coptic Orthodox, Raouf, now 74 years old was educated in Cairo and joined the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University, graduating in 1959 with a B.sc degree in Civil Engineering.

Because he was at the head of his group, the faculty decided that he should get a government scholarship to study for a Ph.D in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was the first choice of the then president Nassir, who during a visit to Moscow University’s department of photography, saw an opportune time for a student from Egypt to pursue that field as the country did not have enough specialists. Another circumstance for the choice of Moscow was that 1956 was the year that Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, therefore, Israel, France and England attacked Egypt, Moscow was the only major country to assist Egypt hence the cementing of a friendship.

This is where Rostom, the civil engineer changed, as it were, careers midstream. However, he quickly reassures me that in

photogrammetry one makes maps from aerial photography providing views that can be used by engineers to get appropriate alignment of engineering works in order to calculate the costs of a project.

Rostom arrived Moscow in 1961, and spent the next six years learning the language, enhancing his previous superficial background in photogrammetry; under supervision, Rostom ultimately combined B.sc, M.sc and Ph.D in photogrammetry. At the end of 1965, after completing his studies, Rostom went back to Egypt to a job at the faculty of engineering, Cairo University. In the next five years, of struggle as he states, he was not able to improve his knowledge due to bureaucracy, nor was he able to introduce a new programme in photogrammetry. In 1970, therefore, he took up a position at the University of Khartoum, on secondment. “It seems he says, with a twinkle in his eye, that they were glad to be rid of the ‘noisy Raouf’. The salary at the University was very low, so after only two years, Rostom moved to the University of Abu Zaria, Nigeria where he was informed, the survey department required his services. He served for two years and in 1975, completed his secondment and had to return to Egypt. But the University at Cairo had not changed; there was still no development, and it was thus both

Profile

luck and relief when he saw an advert placed by the University of Nairobi for a position in the Department of Photogrammetry and Survey. He posted his application in December 1975, and the University responded positively, they sent him a telegram appointing him Associate Professor and requesting that he confirm his acceptance. So I ask, "You were not interviewed, and Rostom cheekily says, no, I was not interviewed, it is my papers that spoke for me to a department that was in need of a member of staff".

So what did you find when you reported for duty, I ask. "Well, I found 4 British staff, two of whom then subsequently resigned. There was no Kenyan staffer and I suspect this is why they needed me. I tried to ask a few questions of the two year contract, I wanted to know the staff competence, the units taught etc. The salary was not much better than that in Egypt or Nigeria but rather, what appealed to me was that there was time for a real change, a challenge really because I needed to develop a program, staff also needed to be developed ready for mounting of the program. The only staff member at the time, of Kenyan extraction was a Mr. Nick, he was away studying for higher university education, then David Macoco, at the time was a tutorial fellow, I managed to send him to Oxford to pursue M.sc studies and he successfully completed his studies a year later and to date is still in the department".



Prof. Rostom with a student in his office.

As a father, Rostom has learnt a few lessons; the first is that one should let their children follow their dreams.

How difficult was it to develop the department? "This says Rostom, was not difficult, I simply lobbied the Faculty board and Senate, indeed, as soon as I reported on duty, I was made chairman of department, a position that I occupied for ten years. In that time, I exposed David Macoco to administrative work and it was easy for him to take over, when I got tired. As part of the program, I introduced what is called digital and analytical photogrammetry, remote

sensing (images from satellite), I used to teach four units per week". Prof. Rostom used external examiners to criticize the program staff, which was useful for the development of the program. Rostom also appointed some MSc graduates, and introduced MSc courses. getting scholarships for some of the students to study in Germany. Indeed, Rostom takes pride in some of these first graduate Msc students, who have moved from tutorial fellow to senior lecturers,

one of them, Professor Francis Aduol, is now Principal of the Kenya Polytechnic University College. "The poaching of staff, which has been perfected, is not new, I used to do the same, I can't tell you who they are, but I poached several staff from the Kenya Polytechnic and developed them" says Rostom.

Rostom embraces Kenya as his country. "I rarely go on home leave, I got my bride in Egypt but I brought her to Kenya and we have resided here for the last 36 years". He has two sons, John and Fagy, who have studied civil engineering at the University of Nairobi. "When my sons joined the University, I was not a citizen and it had proved difficult to get the papers, but one day when I learnt that Moody Awori had been appointed Vice President, I sent him a congratulatory message, and I was elated when he called me to express his appreciation, and organized for me to fill out the forms and get my citizenship".

As a father, Rostom has learnt a few lessons; the first one is that one should let their children follow their dreams. "You see, when my son Fagy was in second year, he was inclined to computers, but I prevailed on him to finish his course, perhaps hoping that he would forget. But no, after he completed his studies, achieved upper second class honors, he presented me with the certificate, and told me that he was now in the IT business. True, he runs his firm and even has a number of employees".

Rostom's, philosophy in life

surprisingly is "love" if you love your students, they will perform better, love and support your colleagues, they need appreciation, love your superiors, they will support you, love the cleaner, he will love, appreciate and keep the office clean. Love your job, attend meetings on time. Raouf Rostom, never misses meetings at faculty level, department level, or even at committee level. This last one is really important; keeping time is respect to the chairman and to the other members of the group.

Rostom draws inspiration from the word success. "When I find success, either I succeed in publishing, or when I succeed

in teaching a female student, or supervising a female Msc student, I am really inspired". If Rostom was to live life over again, he would not waste time, wastage is painful. Rostom wants his department to develop, there is still a shortage of up to date equipment and programs for students to use. "If the list of equipment that I have submitted for purchase materializes, then this will increase my happiness and love "

Raouf Shawky Rostom, remains a father, friend, colleague, superior and despite a wealth of experience, knowledge and years of service, a human being.

Raouf Shawky Rostom, remains a father, friend, colleague, superior and despite a wealth of experience, knowledge and years of service, a human being.



Prof. Rostom during one of the practical sessions.

Decentralising Alumni Relations at University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association is planning to decentralize its Alumni relations in an ambitious programme that will operate at college, school and faculty level, with development officers running events, communication and fundraising.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, Johnson Ileri Kinyua, the Executive Director of UONAA noted that decentralization is the next big thing in alumni relations in large universities like ours. It is definitely an emerging trend from universities world over especially when dealing with affinity groups. For example, the University of Washington, Boston College Alumni

Association, University of Iowa and Oxford University are taking lead in this. “as we benchmark with world-class universities, the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) is committed to developing a world class distinction model of choice in Africa and decentralization of alumni relations will be our key strategy to achieving this”.

Decentralizing alumni operations through college, schools, faculties and institutes and the creation of chapters that link with the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) will create an impact amongst our stakeholders; alumni, students, alma mater, donors and the community we serve. Each chapter will have its chairman with a team of 10 alumni champions comprising faculty and alumni from that college. The role of UONAA will be the overall coordination of the chapter activities. UONAA will back stop operations by providing logistical support to empower alumni champions with training and skills in fundraising,

communication, marketing and events management among others.

In large institutions such as the University of Nairobi, which has 10 campuses and more than 30 faculties, schools, colleges, centers and institutes, over 130,000 alumni and 60,000 students, decentralizing alumni operations can help personalize the experience of alumni. College based alumni officers know their alumni best, can identify engagement opportunities and make those experiences more tailored to their interests.

Decentralization then may be a most effective way to boost alumni engagement. College based operations will help us narrow that focus and give us better results. College based alumni officers can raise the profile of alumni relations, and increase engagement with faculty and students. There is need therefore for collaboration and responsibility sharing so that together we can achieve the ideals of an inspiring Alumni Association.



Johnson Ileri Kinyua
The new Executive Director,
UONAA

Faculty celebrates its 50th anniversary since inception

University of Nairobi marked another milestone, when the only Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya, celebrated its golden jubilee.

The colorful event held at Kabete Campus, brought together staff, students, partners, friends and alumni of the faculty. The ceremony was officiated by Dr. Jimmy Smith, Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) while the University top management was led by Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS.

In brief remarks, Dr. Smith noted the immense contribution that the faculty has made in the continued improvement of livestock in the country, and called upon the College to continue improving agricultural production by addressing the pressing livestock and animal health issues in the country. He alluded to the partnership that exists between ILRI and the University, with several projects incepted and completed.

In congratulating the Faculty, Prof. Kaimenyi particularly noted its contribution to the growth of the agrovet industry in the country. He challenged alumni, in all learning institutions, to ensure that they are engraved in the history of their former institutions, making their contributions to their alma mater including upgrading facilities.

In her remarks, Prof. Mwang'ombe, Principle, CAVS, attributed the growth and success of the Faculty to its staff, students and partners. The institution is known to produce highly qualified professionals whose contributions in the industry are felt worldwide.

As part of the celebrations, an exhibition showcasing different services and products by the College and partners ran alongside the celebrations. In addition, a monument with a granite plate engraved with the names of all alumni, since the inception of the Faculty in 1962 will be put up at the College, to act as preservation of the Faculty's history. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has a rich history which began when it offered a diploma in the discipline in 1942 under the umbrella of Makerere University. Later, in 1962, it began offering the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme under the then University of East Africa. With the dissolution of the University of East Africa in 1970, the Faculty became a fully fledged part of the University of Nairobi.



Stakeholders commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine since its inception.

UON Introduces ITES-BPO Certificate Course

In line with Kenya's Vision 2030, University of Nairobi in collaboration with the Kenya ICT Board, recently introduced a certificate course in Information Technology Enabled Services and Business Process Outsourcing (ITES-BPO).

The 15-week course seeks to produce highly trained, qualified and globally competitive certificate level human resource for absorption into the ITES-BPO sector. Besides the class work, the programme also includes a practicum session where students will have the benefit of experiencing a real-world ITES-BPO work environment.

Through the training, the students will be able to appreciate the role of ICTs in contemporary business contexts and apply basic ICT skills in the work environment. They are also expected to demonstrate knowledge and competence in call centre and contact centre operations. Through the programme, students will appreciate cultural diversity and leverage in the ITES-BPO industry.

The ITES sector is projected to grow rapidly locally and internationally with Kenya targeting to become a top BPO destination in Africa. The sector's



Students in a working session outside Education Building.

growth will offer numerous career opportunities for properly skilled persons. ITES-BPO will become the sector of employment for the youth and young professionals.

The first group of 22 students has already enrolled into the programme with the next intake set for September. The target group for the initial stages will be KCSE school leavers. With time, other levels of training such as diploma and degree will be offered.

University of Nairobi leads in web rankings

The University of Nairobi (UoN) is confirmed the top ranked University locally according to Webometric Ranking of World universities. UoN is ranked 2nd in East Africa, 14th in Africa and 1,435 worldwide, a massive improvement from previous rankings and the best position ever attained by a local university. It is second to Makerere University while University of Cape Town leads the rankings in Africa.

The top positions in the world are dominated by universities from the United States which scooped 394 positions among the top 1000, followed by Canada and Western Europe countries. In Africa, only University of Cape Town was ranked among the top 500 at position 366. Eight of the top ranked universities in Africa are from South Africa while two are from Egypt.

In another web ranking by 4 International Colleges and Universities (4ICU). UoN emerged 11 in Africa and top in East Africa, ahead of Makerere University which was ranked 12. Other Kenyan universities ranked in Africa included Strathmore at 54, Egerton at 60 and Kenyatta University at 61.

Youth under siege

Technology, is viewed as a necessary evil, those who are innovators seem to worship technology, while those who profess to be spiritual shun technology fearing it as the tool for evil by the mischievous with effects on the innocent.

Recently, NASA uncovered a mystery, covered by the media, and which seemed to startle many, the mystery was that NASA’s placement of a satellite, with mission to find other life sustaining planets had discovered life and land on Kepler 22b, a planet, that has incredible similarities to our lovely planet earth!

This revelation should not act as a damper on our faith as youth. The Bible exhorts us to “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you.” As

young ambassadors of our maker we should not be superficial and baselessly emotional with our professed faith. Superficial faith can more often than not dent the image of our creator and subject it to reproach. We should be grounded young men and women not easily swayed by every wind of vague doctrine.

The discovery of Kepler 22b re-affirms the statements “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.” Our creator himself speaks of the creation of worlds in the divine

writings! Discovering new worlds actually strengthens our faith.

It is not true to assert that because religion is faith based, we must put away our reasoning capacity. Indeed according to history some of the top scholarly institutions were started by missionaries to perpetuate ‘the word’. So Harvard, Yale and Princeton were founded by missionaries and philanthropists, to disseminate knowledge, maybe even our very own University, who knows, may have been started by religious organizations.



Bring it on, we are ready for the world, this young student leaders seem to be saying.

Picture Speak



1

1. Prime minister of South Korea, H.E. Sik receives a gift from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha when he visited UoN. Looking on is the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Margaret Kamar and the Permanent Secretary, Prof. Crispus Kiamba.



2

2. Niccolo Rinnaldi, a member of the European Parliament, during his interaction with staff and students on European relations with Africa.



3

3. US Senator, Christopher Coons, when he spoke on US-Africa relations at the University of Nairobi.



4

4. Republic of Korea, Ambassador, when he launched a book on Korean Studies in Kenya.



5

5. **SONU Chairman, Mr. D.M. Kiogora, being sworn in by the Chief Legal Officer, Rebecca Ngondo, shortly after winning the student Union elections.**



6

6. **UoN students who also double up as google ambassadors.**

7. **Prof. Peter Mbithi, Andrew Liveris, CEO, Dow Chemicals, with Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui, after Mr. Liveris interacted with staff and students.**



7



8

8. **Business and academic leaders after the recent AIBUMA conference organized by the School of Business.**

Kongi's Square

In the next few months, Kongi's square will be no more.

This serene ground, tucked next to the main administration block with its green lawn and the home of outdoor theatre, has been set aside as the site for the proposed University Towers.

The lawn was once home to *Ficus altissima*, and in recent years has been a quiet spot for study and reflection for many evening class students, ensconced on the alumni benches, great ideas and friendships have been forged on this lawn. I have been part of that history; I admit I did so enjoy sleeping on that lawn after a lunch of fruit and water, as a postgraduate student. I also remember sharing what I can only describe as a mass of food, on that lawn, where we would sometimes come together to share a packed meal of sandwiches, chips, juice, fruit, nduma, porridge and even githeri.



The White Peace Pillar flanking the edge of the lawn has a story of its own to tell. It was planted by delegates to the 4th United Nations Decade Conference for Women, held in Nairobi, in 1985. Forum 85, was actually held at the University of Nairobi; our lecture halls, seminar rooms hosted over 4,000 women attending the Forums on women, peace and development. The highlights of each day were bulletined by women in media and they used the

School of Journalisms' printing unit to compile and put out daily news sheets. The ceremony at the lawn, and another on the left side of the old entrance to the University, was truly a sight to behold. The drumming, the playing of flutes, trumpets, clapping of hands, tambourines, dance routines, by real feminist musicians, was remarkable. It was also here that the poems of Maya Angelou were recited, it is here where I first heard the poem, still I rise, I rise....I rise.

As Davis Syuki is taking pictures of this bastion, an eager student says he has always wondered what that white wooden pole is all about; another insists that it is a surveyor's mark, recently installed, under his eye. "What post, I have never noticed it says another. Well, they say, if that is truly the story of that pole, why has this lawn has remained for so many years without definition".

It is not my place to explain, the history and memories that we have of Kongis square. All we ask is that perhaps the white peace pillar can be relocated, to a site, maybe by the same women of the world who planted it, to symbolise that our students can soar to the sky in knowledge, peace and truth.

Celebrating 10 years of the gift of education to young African women leaders

2011/2012 was a year of great promise, challenges and achievements by WOSWA.

During the year WOSWA grew and benefited from support by the media and corporate who recognized that the organization was contributing immensely to women's empowerment especially through its education and mentorship

programmes. The Chairperson, Michelle Osok was invited to attend the Zawadi Leadership Conference in New York, which is organized annually by the Zawadi Africa Education Fund whose founder and president Dr. Susan Mboya-Kidero is one of WOSWA's mentors. Her mission was to inspire and be inspired and with the support of the University she left for New York in the last week of May 2012 for what has turned out to be a life changing experience.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, Osok narrates her experience. "The theme for the conference 'Entrepreneurship and Leadership' and the lineup of guest speakers starting with entrepreneur Ms. Eva Muraya, CEO of Color Creations,

BSD and the Chair of the Zawadi Africa Board made me view entrepreneurship as a way to light up Africa once referred to as the hopeless continent but now the rising star. Her 5Cs: courage to take the risk that is entrepreneurship, capability in terms of skills and knowledge, character which is resilience, integrity and fortitude, commitment to the success and growth of the business, compassion to see the plight of those around you and be part of the solution, was a remarkable way to begin the conference".

But inspiration did not stop there, Ms. Liza Kimbo, the CEO of Live Well Clinic, raised the temperature a notch higher when she posed the question, "so you think you want to be an entrepreneur?" Well, first you need to know your personality type. From my small test, I discovered that I am a 'blue' personality which is the ideal type for entrepreneurs. Secondly, you need to get a job; the job will enable you to obtain certain experience that will be important when running your business. Thirdly, try your entrepreneurial idea during your part time or free time to test its plausibility. Fourth, you must be prepared to live on less. Lastly, have a scalable, sellable model of your business. By the



Feature

end of Ms Kimbo's presentation, I was determined to venture into entrepreneurship. Dr. Susan Mboya-Kidero also taught us about social capital narrowing it down to enhancing our professional image. Kidero gave us three great pointers: Do not dress for the

job you have, dress for the job you want, mirroring which involves aping the actions of the person you admire or your boss and opinion is based on perception. Remember 55 per cent of your credibility is based on your appearance, 38 per cent on how you sound and 7 per cent on what you actually say.

The second day was just as inspiring, Ms. Almas Jiwani, President of the United Nations Women Committee of Canada, who is also president and CEO of Frontier Canada Inc took us through how to run a non for profit organization. My biggest interest was how to raise funds, particularly, as related to my experience in WOSWA. Her advice was: research and look for organizations that are related to your vision; then create a sponsorship package that is attractive to those organizations clearly spelling out the levels of sponsorship and the returns or benefits to the sponsors.



WOSWA leaders serving guests in an open day. Inset former WOSWA chairperson, Michelle Osok with Kenya's ambassador to the US H. E Ambassador Elkanah Odembo.

The second speaker of the day, Ms. Suzan Keerere, Senior Vice President and General Manager of American Express' Global Network Business, who was raised and schooled in Kenya, spoke to us about the work life balance of career women, based on her personal story. Her story was remarkable as it taught us four lessons: get help personally and professionally, reach out especially when overwhelmed; know your thing and do it; live, don't wait, no more procrastination and excuses. Lastly, be you!

The Zawadi Gala Dinner with the Kenyan Ambassador to the USA, H. E Ambassador Elkanah Odembo as the Chief Guest was again another of the highlights

of my sojourn, I was impressed by the story of Zawadi Africa, which began with 3 students, 10 years ago and currently is supporting 162 girls. The Zawadi journey has been long with its setbacks but nevertheless worthwhile. The girls, who are the student beneficiaries of the program are self disciplined, hardworking and visionary. The girls listen with a keen interest to learn, they are confident, speak flawless English and understand the value of time and seizing opportunity. These are traits that no longer feature in my generation of young people. I was amazed at their love and knowledge of the current affairs in Kenya, a fact that came out strongly during the Q&A session with Ambassador Odembo. My greatest lesson was from my fellow young women, the Zawadi Girls, their patriotism and ability to rise above their personal circumstances to be the best they can be. I can honestly say this is the most promising group of young people I have ever met.

Away from the conference, I found time to enjoy New York. We watched a Broadway show, 'Phantom of the Opera', visited the great tourist attractions such as the Times Square, dined in the best restaurants in the city and of course shopped till we dropped. It was the inspiration I needed especially now as I open a new chapter of my life after campus. On the question of 'who is Michelle Osok in 2020?' I know the answer but you will have to wait to find out.

Uon to Research on the Welfare of the Elderly

“Social Security Campaign”

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has signed an institutional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to research on the welfare of the elderly. Under the terms of the MoU, the Department of Sociology will implement a three-phase project entitled “Social Security Campaign”

The project envisions a three-pronged approach to improving

social security awareness among Kenyans, including raising the levels of consciousness of social security amongst Kenyans and facilitating the enrolment of Kenyans into the social security umbrella provided by the NSSF. It will also carry out a country wide survey into the perceptive cognitions and awareness levels of Kenyans regarding the NSSF.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor,

Prof. George Magoha welcomed the partnership and commended NSSF for being among the first local organizations to partner with UoN on a research initiative of such a magnitude, adding that this will mark the beginning of a strong relationship between the two organizations and help in finding solutions to the problem of pensioners.

The NSSF Acting Managing Trustee, Mr. Tom Odongo said that

The project envisions a three-pronged approach to improving social security awareness among Kenyans, including raising the levels of consciousness of social security amongst Kenyans and facilitating the enrolment of Kenyans into the social security umbrella provided by the NSSF.



Prof. George Magoha with the Acting NSSF Managing Trustee, Mr. Tom Odongo shortly after signing the MOU.

Research

the Fund is on a reform path and needs to ride on the good will of reputable institutions such as the University of Nairobi, to partner with, create awareness and promote the objectives of NSSF. He noted that the involvement of students in the awareness campaign has an added bonus of encouraging them to save for their old age. NSSF is currently being transformed from a provident fund to a pension scheme.

The MoU provides for collaboration in research, training, capacity development and any other activities, as may improve the corporate objectives of both the UoN and the NSSF.

The Department of Sociology is best skilled for such a programme since the discipline of sociology focuses on studying human behaviour and human welfare systems, the department offers a course on the sociology of the ageing that delves into the dynamics of pension systems and the welfare of the elderly in general.

Those in attendance included Deputy Vice-Chancellors: Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi (Academic Affairs), Prof. Peter Mbithi (Administration and Finance) and Prof. Lucy Irungu (Research, Production and Extension). Others were Chairman, Department of Sociology, Dr. Robinson Ocharo and Principal Investigator of the programme Mr. Ken Ouko, and top NSSF managers

Prominent scholars give insights at the PACE HIV Symposium

The Partnership for Advanced Clinical Education (PACE) project recently held the first HIV symposium at the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi (UoN).

The two-day symposium featured prominent scholars among them Prof. Robert Gallo, renowned for his role in the discovery of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the infectious agent responsible for AIDS.

Prof. Gallo made a presentation on viruses and epidemics with special emphasis on HIV-AIDS. He also pointed out some lessons from the past and prospects for control. He said that technologically, the world was prepared to deal with HIV but was lacking in attitudes,



Caption: Prof. Robert Gallo, a prolific researcher in HIV and Aids (R) with Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, College of Health Sciences and Prof. Godfrey Lule from School of Medicine



awareness and availability of responsible and qualified basic medical virologists. However with time, this is changing. There has been increased awareness of global health needs, funding and emergence of many surveillance groups.

The symposium focused on the role of training and research in health service delivery and the lessons learnt from the HIV pandemic. Roles played by different establishments in the fields of HIV prevention, care and treatment, training, diagnostics and research whether through original research that informs national health policy or as implementing partners in service delivery within the health sector were highlighted.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Academic Affairs,

on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, remarked that the symposium was a testament to the continued distinguished record of the University's achievements in teaching, research, development and consultancy while strategizing for a greater future as a centre of academic, research and professional excellence.

He challenged the participants to explore different ideas that will emerge from the symposium and come up with the best way forward. The symposium was attended by over 300 faculty drawn from six local public universities and various stakeholders among them government health bodies including the National AIDS & STI Control Programme, in-service health care providers, government implementing partners, patient bodies and international funding agencies.

PACE is a President's Emergency Plan Fund For Aids Relief (PEPFAR)/ CDC-funded program of the University of Maryland, Baltimore and University of Nairobi, working in close collaboration with the Kenya National AIDS & STI Control Programme (NASCOPI) to strengthen pre-service and in-service HIV education and training in Kenya.

Earlier, Prof. Gallo, together with other prominent scholars had paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha who while commending the visitors on the great research breakthroughs made in the area of HIV, pointed out a great concern, on the need to have more professional virologists especially in Africa to not only carry out research projects but to also disseminate the knowledge to upcoming virologists.

SOJMC's PhD Program a Big Success

“first two candidates beat the record by graduating two years into the doctorate”

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications PhD Program became a big success as the first two candidates beat the record by graduating two years into the doctorate, in a trend that is wooing more international communication academics and advisors into the University of Nairobi.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, the Director SOJMC Dr. Wambui Kiai said that when Antioch University professor, Getinet Belay, arrived at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SOJMC) in 2008, 27 years after the school had facilitated his PhD studies, the School did not have a PhD programme, Belay set out on a mission, to give back to the institution, with the inception of the SOJMC, PhD programme.

The programme is four years old now, but it has grown in leaps and bounds against odds and expectations, astounding scholars worldwide. In the period, three groups have been admitted, with two students successfully completing their PhD studies. The success is attributable to the hard work, humility and dedication of the SOJMC team to create new academic programmes to meet the growing economic and social

demands of the 21st century. The immediate take-off and instant success of the PhD programme has earned the School of Journalism praise along academic corridors, in seminars and even in the streets of major towns in the world.

The two, Dr. Ndeti Ndati and Dr. Hezron Mogambi, have since been incorporated into the School's academic and research team and take pride in being among the first group of five to be admitted to this prestigious programme in 2009, the others Wairimu Gichohi, Gerald Marete and Julia Mureithi are making good progress.

Ndati, who now teaches a course in mass communication research at the School, believes that the PhD programme prepared him well for research, teaching and professional leadership in his area of specialisation. According to Mogambi, the programme was the ultimate key that opened the door to his dream, to teach audience studies at the School.

While Prof. Belay, was the first professor to visit SOJMC and lead the establishment of the PhD programme, the programme now boasts of a number of visiting professors, including Professor Robert White, Professor Carole MacNeil, and Prof. Peter

Kareithi, an Associate Professor of Humanities from the University of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.

The SOJMC PhD programme aims not only at creating transformative journalists – the tradition of most journalism schools – but also creating communication experts who will lead the nation's policy formulation and implementation. It has encountered many challenges, ranging from curriculum formulation to challenges posed by ICT advancements in the university and in the communication profession. Despite the challenges, the School has been able to emerge the best in teaching PhD courses, as illustrated by the fact that through sheer hard work, students have been able to graduate within two years. The growth of the PhD programme also reflects the growth of the School of Journalism. In 1980, the School was smaller, offering only a postgraduate diploma programme. Today, it offers both undergraduate and post-graduate studies in Journalism and Mass Communication. The question can the School survive the future is superfluous; the sky is the limit and the future can only be brighter for those wishing to pursue the PhD communication programme.

Building research uptake management capacity at the University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi is one of the 24 universities selected to participate in the Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA) programme for the next five years.

The programme seeks to assist participating universities' ensure that their research and other relevant work reaches and directly impacts on policy and practice in their countries by supporting and strengthening their in-house expertise.

The benefits accruing to the University include: at least 10 bursaries to participate in a specialist programme of continuing professional development in research uptake management; access to a bursary programme to support staff to participate in an M.Phil programme in research evidence and impact; support to stage externally-facilitated events on research uptake management for up to 24 key staff members.

The DRUSSA programme is led by three partners: the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Centre for Research Evaluation,



Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC RPE, with members of the University of Nairobi network of researchers.

Science and Technology (CREST) and the Organization Systems Design (OSD), and is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID)

The DRUSSA Programme recognizes that such expertise can exist in several different areas of the institution therefore the programme aims at benefiting universities that already have a demonstrable interest in strengthening their engagement with policy makers and the wider community that they serve.

DRUSSA also aims at supporting links between emergent research managers in universities across east, west and southern Africa and has four key programme areas including: capacity strengthening via research management and update

modular training; organizational and institutional strengthening; evaluating the impact of research uptake within specific research projects at selected universities; and, the development of an online community for the 24 universities and a network for others who may be interested in the field of research management and uptake. The DRUSSA information services will be delivered on desktop or through telephone.

The DRUSSA programme comes at an opportune time when the University of Nairobi is embarked on building the management of research for a bigger impact on policymaking and on the society. The programme was launched in June 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where all the 24 participating universities were represented.

UoN holds ground breaking ceremony for the School of Pharmacy Building

The School of Pharmacy is set to have a new state of the art building to house its operations following the laying of the foundation stone for the building by Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi.



Top management being shown architectural drawings of the proposed School of Pharmacy building.

Speaking during the ceremony, Prof. Magoha challenged the School's alumni to support the project by either endowing a lecture hall or sourcing for resources that will lead to the successful completion of the building.

Established in 1974, the

School of Pharmacy has grown to be a leader in the training of pharmacy professionals, innovative research and provision of quality pharmaceutical services. Currently, it is the only facility in Kenya offering degree courses in pharmacy at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The state of the art building

will improve the School's learning environment, attract collaborators and spur research geared towards attaining Kenya Vision 2030. In addition, the customized building will give the School the much desired corporate image of a world class University. The site is next to Kenyatta National Hospital's Casualty Unit.

CEES launches flagship programmes

The College of Education and External Studies (CEES) recently launched two flagship programmes that indicate the resolve of the University to meet the objectives of Kenya Vision 2030, on the education sector. The two programmes: the Masters of Distance Education (MDE) and M.A in Project Planning and Management will be done through distance and e-Learning modes.

The MDE programme aims at providing advanced training and opportunities in distance education, exposing learners to the theories and concepts of planning, developing and producing effective distance

The University is committed to developing open, distance and e-Learning materials for diversifying, enhancing and enriching its delivery mode.

materials. In addition, the programme will provide learners with skills and knowledge necessary to critically evaluate the effectiveness of different media used in open and distance

education. The M.A in Project Planning and Management strives to provide training and opportunity in project planning and management as well as expose the learners to the concepts, principles and theories. It is envisaged that the two programmes will change the mindset of Kenyans to cope with the requirements of Vision 2030.

Speaking during the colourful launch ceremony, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance congratulated CEES on the great milestone and highlighted the need to develop more programmes which are in line with the social pillar of Vision 2030 on access to education for all Kenyans. He reiterated the commitment of the University to developing open, distance and e-Learning materials for diversifying, enhancing and enriching its delivery mode.

In his remarks, the Principal CEES, Prof. Henry Mutoro called on different colleges in the University to take advantage of the different technologies available and to adopt open and distance learning. The launch was attended by top management, staff and students.



Research

CAVS launches fish farming project

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) has launched a fish farming project at its newly established fishponds site.

The project which is jointly undertaken by the College and the Ministry of Fisheries Development has set up ten fish ponds with a stock of 10,000 fingerlings.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Prof. J.M. Ntiba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, congratulated the University on this achievement noting that the Government was keen on fish farming and the role it can play in Kenya's economy. To this end, he revealed that the Government is working on introducing educational fish farming programmes in all schools including universities.

Prof. Ntiba assured the College, of the Ministry's continuous support towards the project including training two members of staff on how to take care of the fish.

According to Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS, the fish farming project will enable the University to train students and the public in the science of fish farming. The project will also open up research opportunities on fisheries and aquaculture, and in addition the College will set up a processing and packaging plant to enhance the sale of fish. As part of long term initiatives CAVS is working towards setting up 50 more fish ponds.



Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe Principal, CAVS leads staff and students during the launch of fish farming at the College.

Collaborative Workshop on writing personal life experiences

The African Women's Studies Centre (AWSC) and the Department of Literature recently held a joint workshop on writing personal life experiences.

The workshop, held from 19th till the 23rd of March 2012, is part of the short courses that the Centre offers, and had the objective of developing the skills of men and women to write their own stories.

According to Don Delillo, writing is a form of personal freedom, it frees us from the mass identity we see in the making all around us. In the end, writers write not to be outlaw heroes of some under culture but mainly to save themselves, to survive as individuals." Indeed the participants got an opportunity to free themselves through writing, and, to be immersed in the emotion of sharing ones story with other participants.

The workshop facilitators,



Prof. Wanjiku Kabira, and Dr. Anne Mwangi award the winning student in writing personal experiences.

Prof. H. Indangasi and Mrs. A. Mwangi of the University of Nairobi, provided guidance to the participants to develop their skills. The topics of the workshop: the nature and function of personal stories, organization of personal

stories, writing for the ear- paying attention to the sounds of English language, perfecting sentence skills and acquiring a personal style, and mechanics of writing, provided impetus for the participants to test their understanding and perfection

of their talent and interest.

The workshop participants were reminded that personal stories are not for settling scores with those close to you, but rather to let go that which holds you back, which is best explained in ink. Additionally a good personal story is the one that demonstrates a conflict and how the writer either tried or struggled to overcome it. "Personal writing is not rocket science," said Indangasi. "But in a sense, it is harder, as it requires a sincere understanding of yourself and the defining moments of your life, and those moments must be of universal significance," the professor added.

Speaking during the handing over of certificates of merit to the participants, the Centre's Director, Prof. Wanjiku Kabira, promised to publish the reviewed stories soon.

African Women's Studies Centre (AWSC)

The African Women's Studies Centre (AWSC) is the latest kid on the block, a 'sui generis' Centre under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the main offices are at the Kenya Science Campus with a field office in Education Building Room 106.

The proposal to establish an African Women's Studies Centre was informed by the recognition that the experiences of African

women in almost all spheres of life have been invisible. These experiences have not been part of mainstream knowledge development nor have they been a source of public and legitimate knowledge. The mission of the Centre therefore, is to promote intellectual inquiry by and on the experiences of African women through research, teaching, publication and dissemination, and to engage with policy

makers, women's organizations and civil society organizations, in order to bring African women's perspectives into development and scholarship in Kenya, Africa and the world.

The African Women's Studies Centre offers African Women Studies Programmes that are interdisciplinary in nature and promote intellectual inquiry on African women on the continent of Africa and in the diaspora.

Exhibition at Embu

The University of Nairobi recently took part in the 14th edition of the Commission for Higher Education’s Exhibition, held at GTI, Embu in March 2012.



UoN staff serving visitors at the exhibition. Next: Group photo of exhibitors.

The exhibition, which attracted participation by over 42 public and private universities, was attended by over 2000 people. The University articulated the theme of the exhibition “The Role of Universities in advancing National Cohesion and Integration” by displaying over 400 programmes in its 34 stands and interacting with clients drawn from the Eastern Province. Prospective clients were interested in degree programs in all the disciplines as well as tailor made courses on entrepreneurship,

mass communication, home craft/hospitality, electronics, sales and marketing.

The University was honoured by being chosen as one of the stands that the chief guest for the closing ceremony, Eastern Senior PC, Ms Claire Omolo toured. Speaking to Varsity Focus, Ms. Omolo emphasised the need for the University of Nairobi to extend more programs to the province including some courses on survival skills and disaster management, given the aridity of many of the

districts in the Province. Ms Omolo reiterated that the provincial administration would support the University’s endeavour to partner with stakeholders in the education sector in the province to address the question of access and expansion of higher education that meets the needs of more people.

Varsity Focus wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate the Universities Exhibition Committee, chaired by Dr. Fred Otieno, and the exhibitors from various colleges/units for a job well done.

Indian religious scholar talks to students and staff

...it is important to be patriotic to our land and elevate all humanity instead of diminishing life.

Religion is a pervasive and significant cultural phenomenon among human beings, over the years, many people have sought to explain the nature of religion, the nature of religious beliefs and the reasons why religions exist in the first place. This was the opening statement by Indian theologian and priest, Prof. Sadhu V. Rangarajan, during a lecture, delivered at the University of Nairobi in June, 2012.

Prof. V. Rangarajan's topic was 'Hindu /Christian morality', a concept which he clearly understands as an Indian scholar and a disciple of H.H. Yogi Ramsuratkumar of Tiruvannamalai and Founder Trustee of Sister Nivedita Academy which shares deep insights on spiritual and human values.



Prof. Sadhu V. Rangarajan

Rangarajan, argued that the Hindu faith is the mother of faiths noting that as Homo sapiens, we seem to have a great desire to know ourselves, indeed, all humans have

a godly instinct that seeks to establish our identity, our life purpose and the outright destiny. In addition, people appear to seek liberation. We need to understand God to get liberated as individuals, within the family and the society at large. Through this we are not only at peace with ourselves, families and society but also plants and animals."

He called on people to be truthful, avoid stealing, meditate through yoga and withdraw from worldly pleasures. He pointed out that it is important to be patriotic to our land and elevate all humanity instead of diminishing life. The lecture which was held in the education building was hosted by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

A true history



Long long ago, before most of you were born, in the town of Nairobi, a young man called Julius met a girl called East Africa. East Africa was beautiful, she had clear eyes, white teeth, a lovely smile and as Julius was to later learn, a sharp and engaging mind. Julius fell in love with East Africa, and married her promptly.

Flash forward to 2012... a cheeky young man on the streets of Nairobi spots an older woman walking down the street. The woman is beautiful, elegant and prosperous looking. True she has a full head of hair, streaked with grey and white, and yet one

cannot discern her age, nor ignore the maturity and grace that belies a certain status in life.

He is so besotted that he approaches her, introduces himself and boldly tells the woman that he would like to get to know her. The woman only laughs, turns to the cheeky one and says, young man, I am older than you, and I have children and grandchildren who are almost your age. The young man starts sweating, her English is impeccable, her diction is just right and her candor reveals that here is an intellectual. But he is not about to give up the opportunity to engage this mama, tell me a bit about yourself he says,... well says the woman, I will tell you a bit about me

My name is Nairobi, I was born in 1956, and named for the city. My father was called Julius and my mother was called East

Africa. Soon after I was born, independence was declared in this part of the world, and with independence there was a need to rise above certain difficulties facing the nation states of the time, my parents, like most parents took their responsibility seriously and they raised us through difficult times... who is us the cheeky one interrupts, well says the woman, I am one in a family of four, there was my elder sister, Makerere, and then Dar es Salaam, and then just when my parents had given up along came Eldoret our little brother.

During our childhood, given the economic uncertainty and back up we were fortunate to have friends such as the Rock of Feller, Lever from Hulme, Dul from Everton, and young Ford the Foundation, kind friends who arranged for us to get a full education. Then there was

this old grand man called Carnegie who arranged for subsidies to enable our school get equipment and to pay our teachers. This kind gesture also extended to financing the schools recurrent budget, our school grew and flourished.

Some time in 1967, while I was still young, and in keeping to my father's customs, I was betrothed to a young man called Kenya. My father in law, was a fierce old warrior called Jomo Kenyatta, who was quite quick to pay dowry to my parents, he paid in full, unheard of in those days, but he promised my parents that when I reached my maturity, then I would be allowed full entry into his home, and of course with that entry, I would change my name signifying my changed status.

In 1970, Jomo threw a big party, goats and sheep were slaughtered, there was liquor and dance, and in the midst of the celebration, he called me in front and told me that I now had a new name. You are now called University of Nairobi. I owe a debt of deep gratitude to my mother East Africa, and to her great friend London, for ensuring that from the beginning I was steeped in academia and knowledge.

In front of the party, I promised Jomo that I would never isolate myself from the life of Kenya, his son. I had a vision of myself as a woman of fortitude and insight who would make optimal use of all the resources within the union

and seek the fruit of intellect and technology for my children. That vow, made that long ago has not been easy to keep, but I have struggled so that today, as you see me, I am the embodiment of the justified hopes and sacrifices of Jomo's people; I have remained a source of pride and honor.

My first child, Kenyatta was born in 1984. Later I fostered Egerton, a young orphaned boy. In spite of being busy caring for my two children, whom I was able to breast feed so that they shone with health, I assisted my little brother to establish a seedling forest. I provided a scion, which grew into a tall, beautiful tree. They called her Moi, she is now a full-fledged University.

One of the gifts that Julius and East Africa bestowed on me was asset expansion and friend raising. I have been busy mentoring the young people in the community in seven homes spread over the city of Nairobi. Beyond Nairobi, I have 14 outposts which I am using to counsel the youth. I have also acquired some property and interests in Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Embu, Kibwezi and Ngong. I have also raised friends in 100 locations in Europe, the Far East, the US, and Asia. You see I am known everywhere, and they often sing my praises, take a walk in this country and people will mention me, and I, because of my upbringing only laugh and say, let them talk!

I am very proud of my children. Kenyatta has shown great promise as an educator and is a favorite with teachers at all levels, her son Jomo, has a big love for agriculture and technology. Jomo deserves the attention that Mabel, a gifted student from one of my houses, whom I nurtured, is showing. Moi, a gifted, black and expansionist minded forester has a daughter, Maseno. Maseno is interested in education and the humanities; she certainly inherited a lot from her auntie Kenyatta. So you can see the flag that my children are floating, I am really proud of them.

I am an old lady, with plans for my children, I see myself as a benefactor to many, I have over 100,000 Alumni, and they have been important for this nation. I am at the point where I want them all to take stock of how they can improve this nation and society in general. If they do not do this, I know for certain that this nation will come to a standstill. I have a dream, I have a job to do, I have to continue mentoring and guiding household heads, so that Richard of Mibey, Olive she of Mugenda, Mabel of Imbuga, Dominick son of Makawiti can maintain those houses. The cabinet, and a third of the Parliament require the wisdom of the age. And then of course the Americano, the Catholic East Africa, the Daystar and the Adventist Baraton are waiting.

I watch her walk off, after telling me a really exciting tale, tall but what a tale.

ICONS

Over 30 years ago, a politician raised the pitfalls of heroes and hero worship, his argument being that Kenyans were deifying some of the leaders and the leaders were enjoying the pedestal. Closer home to where I stand, I have been accused, albeit politely, of trying to place my institution on a pedestal with claims that the University of Nairobi does not have that many buildings that can stand out as ICONS.

So in this particular column, I move beyond walkways and fountains, pools and squares to describe features away and around the main campus.

Gandhi Wing 1962

For the last 40 odd years, the Gandhi Wing has been standing here. For years, it was the home of the faculties of law,

commerce and arts, with each floor a donation by a company or a group; their names are inscribed in a master roll on the mezzanine floor near the senior common room.

Gandhi Wing remains a rich source of pride, for in a world rife with all sorts of icsms, a walk around the wing refreshes ones spirit, and quest for knowledge and from a vantage point one can see the fountain. The refectory is part of the floor and behind Gandhi Wing is the old fish pond reminding one of what a truly great university should be.

Thank God for Gandhi

American Wing- 1959

In 1954, the American government, through USAID, financed the genesis of the faculty of engineering, erecting the building that many call the American wing. This building houses the mechanical and civil engineering departments where technical training is emphasized. A plain building, the American wing understates the great innovations, findings and creativity of an African engineering mind.

Taifa Hall- 1963

This big hall was opened by a princess of the realm, Margaret came all the way to open it and of course she planted a royal palm on the sides. Taifa Hall seems big and forbidding to students who have sat exams here. To the Alumnus of the 70's, this is the hall in which he was received into the fraternity of student life. The Hall has witnessed public lectures, home coming lectures, plays and performances that have tickled the imagination. Perhaps part of the season of intellect is due to the bright blue star symbol emblazoned in the ceiling of this great hall. As one speaker remarked, after one lecture series, to come is glorious, but to come together is divine... in reference to coming back home to Taifa Hall. Taifa Hall, is a house of fame and glory, the walls need to talk, the rafters need to tell the story-spinning joyous and sorrowful tales of the life that it has witnessed.

The Star 1960

Beneath the rafters of the Administration block, teak beams have been arranged in the

shape of a star. The daily passer by barely has time to look up to appreciate this star, painted as it is, nor to savor the delicious coolness of the walkway, and the soothing wind.

The Star, as desired by Chancellor Kabarege Nyererere symbolized the synergy and energy to be found within the University. The Star has been a torch bearer for what must be protected, whose brightness we are challenged never to endanger, for it is the legacy of the University of East Africa.

Gandhi Memorial Library 1960

For the last 50 years, the Gandhi Memorial Library has been standing here. For years, it was the home of the library system of the university, and the repository of the east Africana and the UN collection in Kenya.

Each floor of this library was a donation, and the statue of Gandhi has remained standing in the foyer, a reminder of the pride of intellectualism, where in the face of all sorts of icsms, a walk around the library refreshed ones spirit, and quest for knowledge and from a vantage point one could always see the fountain.

This old Library is now disused, following our movement to The JKML. This library is now the centre of institute libraries including development studies, journalism,

Gandhi Memorial Library.



Hyslop building.



Vet Pathology.



The Biological Sciences Complex.



population studies and the book store.

The roof top is in the shape of a book, jagged edges defying description, but how illuminating!!

Hyslop building 1963

Hyslop is a building with symbols, or simply put the O building. The building is home to the department of geography whose staff for many years were prefixed O..O..O.

Hyslop is the name of the first Principal of the University College, Nairobi. Hyslop undertook the complex process of reorganizing the technical college into a university college. Until Chiromo was put up, Hyslop was the science block, hence the gas taps and the science theatres that are evident.

We have heard it said that the frontage of the building reminds one of ancient civilizations, of secrets buried in Egyptian an soil, that is because of the hieralygrhical looking signs emblazoned on the sides of the building. Again the outline of a book is part of the frontage of this building, matching the book shape of the old library.

Hyslop exudes nostalgia for the decades past when the

Infrastructure

University of Nairobi was the only University in Kenya.

Chiromo house- the Grog-1930

Once an old farm house, and the home of Grogan, spread on the serene fields of Chiromo, stands Chiromo house. The name Chiromo is from Zimbabwe, the point at which two of the rivers meet, I guess Grogan started his army life here in the old colony called Rhodesia.

The House is the centre of administration of Chiromo campus. The old farmhouse is splendid in age, refurbished it reflects and exudes the struggle from colonialism, the relics on the rooftop-white cat strong and majestic, black cat wizened and cowering is what Grogan saw of Africa.

But Chiromo is now the centre of African scientific activity, innovation and excellence, a challenge to Grogan who had only seen darkness, gloom and destruction for Africa, without Europe.. hohoho..where is the sting!!.

The Biological Sciences Complex 1963

After Hyslop, came Chiromo, a centre for scientific discovery, this building has the same roof top design as the Gandhi Memorial Library.

The roof top is in the shape of a book, jagged edges defying description, this complex was at the centre of discoveries by luminaries including Thomas Odhiambo, George Kokwaro, ad infinitum...

Adult 1961

Multi, handalt, is a natural Arhythm of local translations for the adult studies centre at Kikuyu. The centre was built with funds leveraged by the Dulverton Trust, and the Carnegie Corporation, to set up a centre for continuous education. This centre organized refresher courses for teachers, and obviously in the serene environment induced our teachers at primary level to want to continue learning-Adurut was a byword for education without end. For over 45 years, Adult has been standing there, a symbol of a wonderful spirit and goodwill, a reflection of mans eternal quest for knowledge.

Education building 1970

The Education building, that white building on the edge of the Great Court, was opened in 1970, as the home of the Faculty of Education. This building boast of a fine tradition-drama in education, and is the home of the free travelling theatre of the University of Nairobi, the rafters; walls and floors of the education theatre II

have witnessed marvelous plays, dramatic productions, citations and readings. The basement of education theatre II has been autographed by the drama stars of yester years, a true sight to behold. Education building continues to be home to drama, with cats trained by luminary directors; Waigwa Wachira, Oluoch Obura, Ciarunji Chesaina, Opiyo Mumma, Oby Oberiodiambo, Gichugu Makini, Joshua Teyie, Joni Nderitu, Kimingichi Wabende ad infinitum the list goes on.

Vet Pathology 1968

After, their pre-clinical at Chiromo, the Vet student found himself at Kabete Campus. Of necessity he had to study microbiology and pathology, so in 1968, with generous grants form Germany and the Netherlands, the University of Nairobi put up a vet pathology and microbiology complex at Kabete.

As a comfort to the vet student, this complex has the same roof top design as the Gandhi Memorial Library, and the biological sciences complex at Chiromo. The roof top is in the shape of a book, jagged edges, and the large number of laboratories, examination rooms, lecture theatres defy description, and continue the same theme of illumination. Greater still is the work, pioneering and necessary, on animal diseases.



Prof. Mugo's book and lecture

The afternoon of April 17th 2012 was a special day for the African Women's Studies Centre and the University of Nairobi in general as the hosts of a public lecture and book launch of Prof. Micere Githae

Mugo's book:

Writing and Speaking from the Heart of my Mind. The book is an account of Prof. Micere's life from childhood, academic life, achievements and the challenges she faced while growing up and working in Kenya, and especially standing her ground for the ideals and values that she has held dear. According to Micere, African women have come a long way in taking their space which for years

was guarded heavily by patriarchy, chauvinism and other diminishing practices by men. They have come out strong and an institution such as the University of Nairobi has not been left behind in supporting their efforts.

If you mention the name Prof. Micere Githae Mugo, you immediately conjure images of a respected don and writer, an accomplished reformist and a successful academic. But the journey to success has been steep

and rough; for years she faced the battle of oppression, joining many other Kenyans in seeking greater democratic space. Micere, ardently drew attention to the use of professional skills by scholars to develop society, saying they risk being irrelevant if they do not. She also underscored the importance of orature, acquiring one's own space, ignoring stereotypes, and condemned the continued marginalization of women in the society urging men to treat women with dignity. Micere who was quite insistent on the need not to personalize systems of oppression, but rather condemn them knowing that the problem is with the system and not the individual, also appealed to students to continue the tradition of searching for knowledge. "This University taught me to continue my rebellion, and to continue questioning, and be fearless irrespective of what is happening around me!" said Micere, in paying tribute to the University which nurtured her and trained her by building her capacity and helping her realize her potential. 'Do not let other people shape you. Protect your own space'.

Hon. Martha Karua, an alumnus

If you mention the name Prof. Micere Githae Mugo, you immediately conjure images of a respected don and writer, an accomplished reformist and a successful academic.

of the University of Nairobi, highlighted the number of women competing for what is viewed as "traditional" male space, their numbers have remained low but are gradually picking up. She noted that the struggle for women's rights and the journey towards claiming their space is a journey not just for Kenya or Africa but a journey for the women of

the world. "We are not there yet but great strides have been made by women and men committed to a better world." The NARC-Kenya party leader also expressed her frustration with the notion that "at this time and place we still hear of what women cannot be or do!"

The Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai, echoed earlier speakers noting that "The struggle to change this country is ongoing, and every day we must remind ourselves that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

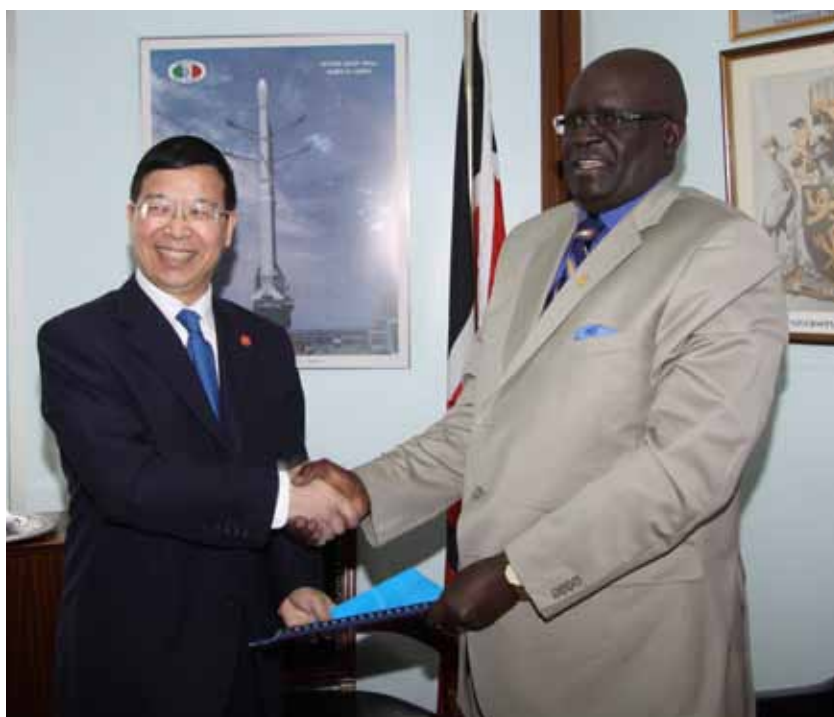
Among those present during the launch included: Hon. Martha Karua; M.P for Gichugu and NARC-Kenya party leader, Hon. the Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai, Dr. Edah Gachukia, DVC Academic Affairs; Prof. Kaimenyi, Prof. Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira, the deputy principal College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Prof. K'obonyo, Prof. Chris Wanjala, Prof. Maria Nzomo, Prof. Ciarunji Chesaina, Prof. H. Indangasi and commissioner of National Cohesion and Integration; Jane Kiano. Other guests included: Hon. Yusuf Hassan M.P for Kamkunji and former M.P and Human rights activist; Koigi Wamwere, lawyers, various corporate society representatives, members of staff, and students.

UoN Signs MoU with Shanghai Finance University

The University of Nairobi has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Shanghai Finance University (SHFU).

The signing ceremony between the UoN team and SHFU delegation led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. George A.O. Magoha, and President Prof. Chu Minwei of UoN and SHFU respectively, was held in the Vice-Chancellor’s Committee Room.

The MoU commits various schools of the two universities to collaborate in research, student and staff exchanges. According to Prof. Minwei, SHFU has over 10 schools including finance, law, english and economics with a student population of 11,000. The University has also a big African student component. Prof. Magoha on his part thanked SHFU for the interest in collaborating



President Prof. Chu Minwei of Shanghai Finance University exchange an MOU with Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi.

with UoN. He challenged the UoN community and Kenyans in general to emulate the Chinese work ethic of maximizing outputs with limited costs.

Present during the ceremony were SHFU Director of International Exchange Prof. Zhan

Jun. Those from UoN included the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru, Mr. Stephen Nzube, Dean, School of Business and Prof. Simon Mitema Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages.

Thousands sample UoN courses during open day

For the fourth year in a row, the University of Nairobi hosted its annual Open Day on 13th and 14th April 2012, at the Great Court, Main Campus.

The two day event attracted over 2,000 prospective students, parents, private sector players and the general public, providing an opportunity for the University to share information with its stakeholders on its programmes, products and services.

The chief guest during the Open Day, Ms. Stella Kilonzo, then the Chief Executive Officer, CMA, rooted for greater collaboration between the University and CMA especially in research and other areas that are pertinent to the two organizations. In his remarks, the Chancellor of the University, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, challenged the University community to improve on the good results recorded in performance contracting and the recent web ranking in which UoN emerged the best overall nationally with an excellent score in the former and posted improved performance regionally and globally in the latter. He said that over the years, UoN has remained steady on the journey



towards academic excellence and is working towards setting new standard in the country and reiterated that "the University will not relent in its endeavor to be a think-tank of what should be done."

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof George Magoha, in a speech read on his behalf by Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic

Affairs, acknowledged the hard work by students and staff and emphasized that UoN should build a firm foundation to cope with the competition. Echoing the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized that UoN will set standards, and be a point of reference not only in the region but to the international community as well, noting that the University has been expanding higher education to all parts of



Former Capital Markets Authority, CEO Stella Kilonzo (Centre) with the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui (Left) and Chairman of Council Mr. John Simba (right) at the School of Business stand. Below. A member of staff takes visitors through the programmes and services offered at the University.



the nation thus enabling more Kenyans to enroll for university education and training.

The academic units received many visitors who enquired about programmes on offer at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In addition,

student organizations among them AIESEC, WOSWA and SONU had the opportunity to showcase their activities and to engage prospective students. The Open Day also attracted various corporate entities among them: KASNEB, Barclays Bank, Capital

Markets Authority (CMA) and Techno Brain Limited, who were able to market their products and services.

At the end of the Open Day, the Chairman of the Exhibitions Committee, Dr. Fred Otieno, announced the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology the best stand, followed by the School of Engineering, while the Centre for International Programmes and Linkages took position three.

Among those who attended the Open Day included the Chairman, University Council, Mr. John Simba, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Principals and other top managers.

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QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Nairobi is committed to quality as the guiding principle in its decision making and leadership in the provision of university education and related services to its customers.

To realise this, the University management shall regularly monitor and review its performance for continual improvement and suitability by implementing an effective quality management system based on ISO 9001 standard.



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