



June 2013

# Varsity **FOCUS**

*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*

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## CONSTRUCTION OF 22-STOREY **TOWER** **COMMENCES**

 **Award of University Charter**

 **OVER 7000 FIRST YEARS ADMITTED**

 **Collaborations**





## 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 governance and integrity;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible citizenship;
- national cohesion and inclusiveness.



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## THE FACE OF MAIN CAMPUS SET FOR A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION

### Varsity**Focus**

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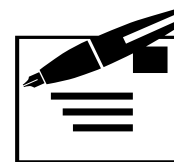
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# Editorial

WELCOME YOU TO THIS EDITION OF THE VARSITY FOCUS – THE FIRST EDITION OF 2013 THAT REFLECTS ON OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE RECENT PAST.

This year goes in the history of the Institution as a defining one, in the Infrastructural development of the University of Nairobi. The ground at Main Campus was broken on May 17, 2013, to pave way for the construction of an ultra modern, eco-friendly University of Nairobi towers that will house increased academic and administrative service. The towers will be located between the Education building and the Gandhi Memorial Building and will take 120 weeks to complete construction.

Still on infrastructure the Alumni Association has began its fundraising activities to build its office block along Arboretum Drive to house its activities and increase its visibility and activities of supporting and marketing the

University of Nairobi brand. Already KPMG has led the way by making a donation of Kshs. 1 million. We request other well-wishers to come on board and help us realize this goal.

The University also admitted over 7,000 first years in May. This being the first time the University is admitting Module I freshers in May as a step forward in accelerating admission of government sponsored undergraduate students who normally take 20 months before joining the University. The 2012 K.S.C.E group will now join in January 2014 and 2013 K.S.C.E group is now set to join the University in September 2014. The acceleration will effectively eliminate the one year waiting period and regularize intakes.

It is also worth noting that the legal status of the University has been changed following the enactment of the Universities Act 2012. UoN like other public and private Universities will now operate under the Universities Act 2012 and the University of Nairobi Charter. The previous University of Nairobi Act 1985 was repealed. The new Act occasioned the appointment of a new lean Council headed by Dr. Idle Farah and set in motion the

process of appointing the Chancellor which is ongoing.

Internationally, the University continues to increase its collaborations with Universities from the US, China and Africa seeking ties to enhance research, student and staff exchanges among other academic activities. Our alumni have also continued to scale the heights of success as exemplified by two young ladies: Linda Nkatha and Njoki Wamai Linda who are pursuing their doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge. Ms Nkatha is an architect and the valedictorian in the class of 2010.

Of important mention is the appointment of the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Jacob Thurania Kaimenyi as the Secretary of Education in the recently constituted cabinet. Congratulations to Prof. Kaimenyi for his appointment to the cabinet – the cabinet comprises more than half University of Nairobi Alumni, which is a firm statement on the quality of our products.

These stories are among the activities featured in the current edition of the Varsity Focus. Enjoy reading and feel free to give us feedback.

**Charles E. Sikulu**  
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# Revitalizing our core agenda

**2**013 Is a year of great promise as the university embarks on a ambitious programme of improving infrastructure. As a first step, we recently commenced the construction of the University of Nairobi Towers. This 22 storey building will accommodate the increasing academic activities and administrative services.

The University will develop this visionary state-of-the-art tower block leading the way in ecologically sustainable design in its Main Campus. The Tower thus will not only provide the much-needed teaching space but also assert and affirm the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader of architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision of environmentally friendly-solutions.

The University maintained its role of facilitating researchers to undertake world-class scholarly work. Again in exercise of its gender mainstreaming policy, two women staff members are among 70 women scientists from 11 African countries chosen for the prestigious fellowship African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) 2013 AWARD is generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and Agropolis Foundation.

We take pride in the interactions that continued to take place with global leaders, scholars, the private sector, as well as other prominent guests. Among some of the guests included former Israel Deputy Supreme Court, Judge Eliezer Rivlin, the 2000 Physiology/Medicine Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Sir John Sulston, and the The World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy.

In mid May, we broke with the tradition of admitting in October. The 2013/2014 cohort of 5,000 students was admitted to the six Colleges of the University. The

freshers were successfully oriented and have commenced class, ready to learn and to gain new experiences.

In keeping with best practices, the University of Nairobi's reconstituted Council, under the Universities Act, 2012, has been inaugurated. The new council is chaired by Dr. Idle Omar Farah, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Museums of Kenya and comprises four other members namely, Dr. Betty Gikonyo, Mr. Joseph Tui Hamisi, Mr. Manu Chandaria, and Mr. Kitili Mbathi. The Council, appointed by the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology will be in office for the next four years. The new council which is a rich mix of professionals from different fields with wide experience, will be an asset in working and moving the development of the University to the next level. We believe that this team will improve on the gains of the previous team which was led by Dr. John Simba.

I am proud to report that the University of Nairobi underwent an assessment for award of a University Charter. This followed the enactment of The Universities Act, 2012. The quality audit conducted by a panel from the Commission for University Education (CUE) revealed that we have in place systems for quality accreditation, regulation, monitoring and evaluation and our policy and criteria for

admission is above average.

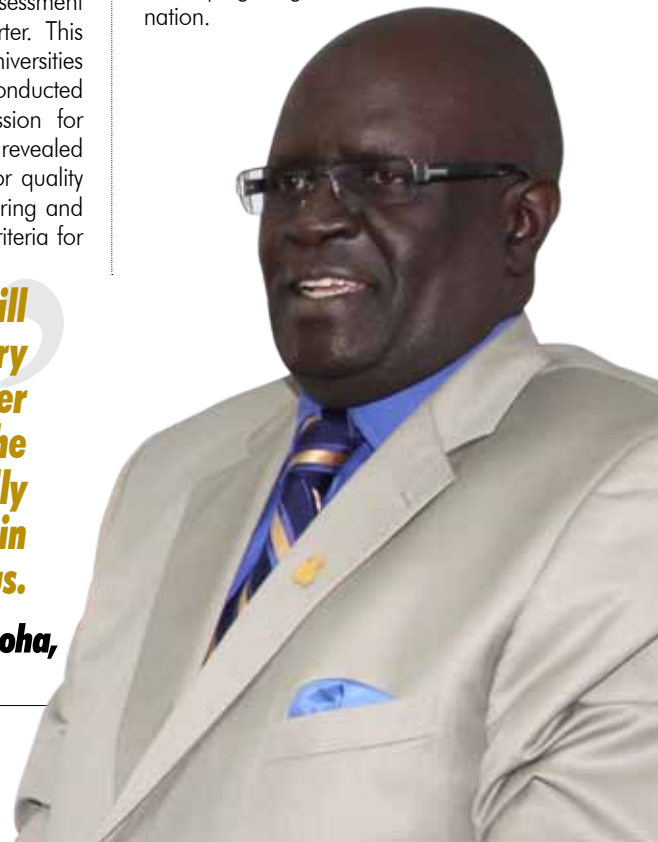
The University of Nairobi has improved its performance in the Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics) 2013, by being ranked position 12 in Africa up from position 14 last year. At world level, the University is now in position 1,326 up from 1,435 recorded in 2012. Our academic web presence, and support for Open Access initiatives for increasing significantly the transfer of scientific and cultural knowledge generated by the university to the whole society are not in doubt.

We are grateful that the government has continued to give us leeway and independence to pursue intellectual knowledge and in terms of governance.

We welcome the government of President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto and pledge to work with the new team especially in the important task of training capacity for developing this great nation.

**The University will develop this visionary state-of-the-art tower block leading the way in ecologically sustainable design in its Main Campus.**

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



# The face of main campus set for a major transformation

*The project will be financed mainly by internally generated funds and donations. Leading businessman and philanthropist Manu Chandaria has pledged Kshs 125 million.*

Proposed University of Nairobi towers whose construction commenced on May 17, 2013. Facing page: ground breaking ceremony by the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui.



**T**HE OUTLOOK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS SET FOR MAJOR CHANGES after the ground breaking ceremony was held on May 17, 2013 to pave way for the construction of a 22-storey building at the Main Campus to accommodate the increasing academic activities and administrative services. The ceremony was held at the construction site between Education building and Gandhi Memorial Library Building in an elaborate ceremony

presided over by the Chancellor Dr. Joseph Wanjui. The last major building to be constructed at the Main Campus was the Multipurpose Hall commonly referred to as the 8.4.4 in 1990.

The University Towers will have 22 floors with learning facilities to accommodate 3000 students and house the following facilities: the Vice-Chancellor's Suite, All the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's



Suites, Senate Boardroom, Council Meeting Room, one lecture theatres of 500 persons, four lecture theatre of 300 persons, and several lecture rooms to cater for a minimum of 60 persons, a floor for the Graduate School and a floor for the Graduate School of Business. It will also have a helipad.

The project will be financed mainly by internally generated funds and donations. Leading businessman and philanthropist Manu Chandaria has pledged KES 125 million. Owing to this contribution, the building will be named the Manu Chandaria, University of Nairobi Towers and will also have the Manu Chandaria Theatre for Performing Arts.

The University is developing a visionary state-of-the-art tower block leading the way in ecologically sustainable design in its Main Campus. It is envisaged that the Tower will not only provide the much-needed teaching space but also assert and affirm the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader of architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision of environmentally friendly-solutions.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, the University of Nairobi, is seeking to construct an ecologically sustainable building to house the top University administrators and several teaching facilities. The building will be world class particularly in its aesthetics and its environmental design considerations. It is expected to meet stringent carbon foot print criteria achieving close to 100 percent carbon neutrality. The new building will meet the indicated spatial requirements and demonstrate leadership in the development of a holistic green environment and must attain the highest green rating standards globally. The building will also demonstrate a new approach to workplace design and create a model for others to learn world-class acoustic treatment.

The building will enhance the quality of outdoor space and the balance between indoor and outdoor spaces. The University of Nairobi Towers is expected to be an inspiring and attractive showcase of "green" buildings and once realized, the final facility should attain signature status in all aspects of cutting-edge architecture. The facility will be a place where users shall be proud to undertake world-

class scholarly work, receive global leaders, scholars, the private sector, as well as other prominent guests.

The architect for the building is Waweru and Associates who won the project through an architectural design competition held in November 2011, in an exercise presided over by an international jury comprising various experts. According to the architect, Gathecha Waweru, The University of Nairobi Towers, is a bold, innovative, sustainable building, which draws from the University's Great Court's strong architectural character, fits into Nairobi's urban context, harnesses its tropical location to design advantage, as it unapologetically explores, formal, material and technological innovations of the future.

The North-South oriented tower, and the podium upon which it sits, is conceived as a green building, incorporating natural ventilation, day lighting, room acoustic design, rainwater harvesting, and grey-water recycling, passive ventilation design for good indoor air quality.

The building's podium, through design, creates harmony with the existing scale and character of the Gandhi Memorial Library Building, and the Education Building, and becomes the further thoroughfare through which the Great Court will be accessed, expounds Architect Waweru.

The contractor of the project, China Wu Yi, has pledged to complete the towers within 120 weeks as scheduled. The contractor has a 24-hour license to ensure that his work is completed on schedule. The building is mainly funded from

*continued on pg 9*

# UoN awarded Charter

**F**OLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2012, the University of Nairobi (UoN) successfully underwent a quality audit conducted by a panel from the Commission for University Education (CUE) which culminated into the award of a new Charter to replace the University of Nairobi Act, 1985. The University of Nairobi received its Charter in a ceremony presided over by the then President of the Republic of Kenya H.E Mwai Kibaki. The Charter, as the legal instrument, defines the operations and obligations of the University. The objects: seal, logo, and the mace remained as symbols of authority of the University of Nairobi as before.

CUE is the successor to the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) which only used to regulate private universities but, with the new Act, the body will regulate higher education in all public and private universities. The Universities Act,

***The Charter was awarded by the President after the University satisfied the requirements for the establishment and operations of a university to offer education in Kenya.***

2012 places all universities under the Act and repealed the previous Acts that had established individual public universities. UoN is now established under the Universities Act and the University of Nairobi Charter. The Charter was awarded by the President after the University satisfied the requirements for the establishment and operations of a university to offer education in Kenya.

According to the Universities Act, all public universities satisfied the conditions set by CUE before they were recommended for the award of the Charter. The Commission is charged with the promotion of university education in the country, accreditation,

regulation, monitoring and evaluation; develop policy and criteria for admission to universities among other functions. All chancellors of public universities will be appointed through consultation with the respective senates and the alumni.

While presiding over the award ceremony, which also involved other public and private universities, the President Kibaki lauded the growth in the higher education subsector in the last ten years, and challenged institutions to ensure that high quality academic standards are upheld.

The Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, led the UoN top management which included the new Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha in receiving the Charter from the president.

Prof. Tolly Mbwette, the Vice-Chancellor, Open University of Tanzania led other experts contracted by CUE in assessing UoN.







**Caption: Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi receives the cheque from Mr. Philip Muema, Corporate Social Investment, KPMG Kenya. Looking on is Secretary for Education, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.**

## Alumni project receives support from KPMG

**T**HE SETTING UP OF AN ALUMNI CENTRE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UONAA) received its first major boost from corporates, when KPMG Kenya made a KES 1 Million contribution towards the construction of the centre which it has been estimated will cost KES 1 billion.

During the presentation ceremony, KPMG Kenya's Corporate Social Investment manager, Mr. Philip Muema commended the University for its contribution to the nation and challenged the Alumni Association to build strong associations and increase its capacity of networking, hold

interesting alumni sessions and conferences where people can share knowledge and experiences. According to Muema, 60 per cent of KPMG Kenya's human resource is alumni of UoN and this informed the company's decision to partner with UONAA on the Alumni Centre project.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said that the Alumni Association needs to be strengthened with areas of growth for the Association were identified and worked on. Prof. Magoha challenged the Association to benchmark its activities with world class universities where alumni associations are contributing

immensely to the development of their alma mater.

The Alumni Centre is a viable project which the alumni can identify with and act as a means of pooling resources towards the development activities at the University through partnerships. The Centre will be put up on two-acres of land along Arboretum Drive.

Present during the ceremony was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs. UONAA was represented by the Vice Chairman, Prof. R.A. Obudho, Treasurer, Mildred Owuor and the Executive Director, Johnson Kinyua.

# CSU and UoN cement relations

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) AND COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the already existing 50 year-working relationship between the two institutions.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN, said the move will further facilitate the University's efforts in dealing with issues of food insecurity, population, health and climate change. He said that Kenya is relying on institutions of higher learning to provide the expertise towards sustainable solutions. To this end, the University through its various academic constituents has been addressing pressing issues in agriculture thereby ensuring food security and combating climate change.

On his part, Dr. Tony Frank, the President of



**(Left) Dr. Tony Frank, President, CSU and Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN sign the MoU. Looking on is Ms. Rebecca Ngondo, Chief Legal officer and Prof. Peter Mbiti, DVC, Administration and Finance.**

CSU, said that it was important for universities to develop a more sustainable future. He pointed out that the overall challenge is to accept the responsibility to deal with these problems now, as the future generation will hold this generation accountable.

The areas of agreement as stipulated in the MoU will include: a strategic plan for engagement between the two universities in dry land education, research and outreach, fellowships for PhD students in outreach to dry land

communities, internships for undergraduate students, research grants, higher education needs assessment for dry land development and conservation which will lead to the development of relevant pre-university diploma courses, distance education, changes in curriculum to focus on dry land issues and scholarships.

In 2011, UoN and CSU obtained a joint grant, funded through the Higher Education for Development (HED) by USAID, under their Africa-US Higher Education Initiative. The partnership

led to the establishment of the Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies (CSEDES) at UoN to develop an integrated approach to sustaining Kenya dryland societies and ecosystems by linking research, higher education and communities.

UoN thus is the leading university for the study of drylands for the region and serves 29 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa through its Dryland Resource Management PhD Program. The Centre enhances UoN's capacity to produce high-performing graduates who engage in demand-driven research that contributes to sustainable and productive dryland ecosystems and societies and will build the higher education capabilities of dryland communities in Kenya and beyond. The Centre also provides a major point of engagement for students and faculty from CSU, in dryland education, research and outreach.

The CSU delegation's two-day visit to UoN comprised a series of meetings, a tour of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) farms and a public lecture by Dr. Tony Frank on Universities- Community Partnerships.

# Prof. Kaimenyi appointed as Education Secretary

The University of Nairobi scored another first when one of its top managers Prof. Jacob Thuranira Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs was appointed as the Cabinet Secretary, Education by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Prof. Kaimenyi is a Professor of Periodontology. He first joined UoN in 1974 in the pioneer class of the then newly introduced Bachelor of Dental Surgery Degree programme. He has worked for the University since March 1985, where he started off as a lecturer of periodontology and periodontics in the department of dental surgery. In 1987, he was promoted to senior lecturer and four years later, he

was promoted Associate Professor in the same department.

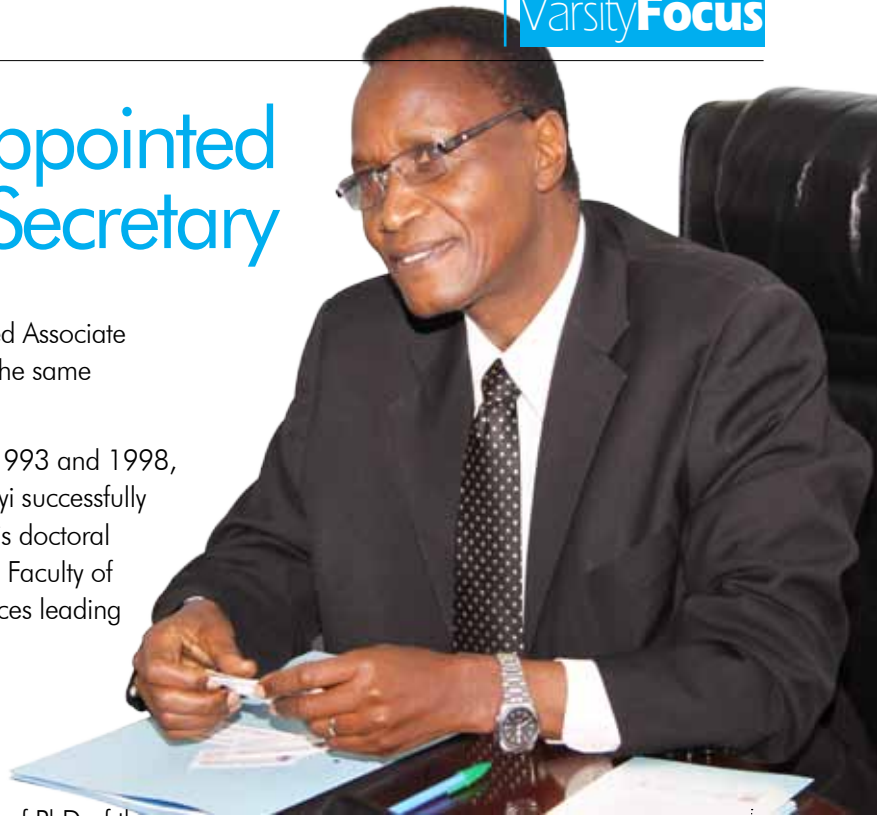
Between 1993 and 1998, Prof. Kaimenyi successfully completed his doctoral studies in the Faculty of Dental Sciences leading

to the award of PhD of the University of Nairobi. He was promoted to the position of full Professor of Periodontology in 1998. He was appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs in June, 2004.

Also appointed as Cabinet Secretary, for Environment

Water and Natural Resources is Prof. Judy Wakhungu, who was a member of the recently inaugurated University of Nairobi Council.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Kaimenyi and Prof. Wakhungu on their appointment and wishes them success.



## University tower to reshape main campus

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internally generated funds. The University Towers is among the projects that the University has embarked on to increase its capacity to absorb increased academic and administrative activities. Other ongoing projects include the construction of

the School of Pharmacy building and the construction of the Kisumu Campus towers.

The construction has come with some disruptions to our routine. Parking space and entries to Main Campus have been reorganized

to accommodate the construction. Consequently the entrance opposite Fairmont Hotel has been relocated to the Uhuru Highway slip road during this period of construction.

Those present during the ground breaking

ceremony included Chairman of Council, Dr. Idle Farah, top managers, businessman Dr. Manu Chandaria and his wife, the architects of the building, staff from Waweru and Associates, students and staff.

# Young Alumni win prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship

**Two university of nairobi graduates won the prestigious gates cambridge scholarship to pursue doctoral research at the university of cambridge and are encouraging other students to take up similar opportunities.**

**L**INDA GICHUYIA NKATHA AND NJOKI WAMAI LINDA ARE TWO OF FIVE KENYAN STUDENTS who have been elected Gates Cambridge Scholars since the Scholarship was established in 2001 through the generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Linda Gichuyia Nkatha, graduated with a Bachelor of Architectural

Studies and a Bachelor of Architecture of the University of Nairobi in 2010. Linda was the valedictorian of the 44th Graduation Ceremony held in August 2010. A tutorial fellow at UoN, Linda has just begun a PhD programme in Architecture at the University of Cambridge. Her research focuses on buildings and climate change because as studies reveal, buildings contribute significantly to the global warming process. Nkatha, argues that buildings and the climate are inextricably linked and the main



Linda Nkatha at the University of Cambridge. Inset: with Wamai Linda and a colleague.

challenge to designers now is to develop robust alternative responses to adaptive building design in a carbon constrained climate.

Njoki Wamai did her undergraduate degree in food science and technology at the University of Nairobi and won a Peace and Security Fellowship African Women, a joint initiative of King's College London and the University of Nairobi. She is currently undertaking Sirdes PhD at the University of Cambridge, in Politics and International Studies, focusing on how the 2008 Kenya national reconciliation process outcomes have impacted on peace building in Kenya. Previously, she has researched on increasing women's participation in mediation processes and the African Union's mediation capacity in Libya and Kenya. Her PhD will trace the long-term impact of external mediation processes on local politics in Kenya. "The aim is to inform mediators about how to improve mediation processes while building a sustainable policy which takes women's issues on board. These issues are normally overlooked," she states.

The scholarships emphasise not only academic brilliance but leadership capacity and commitment to change the lives of others. Competition for the Gates Cambridge scholarship is intense. There are currently over 1,100 scholars and alumni from over 95 countries. There

are two admissions rounds - one for US-based scholars who must submit one application pack for both the University of Cambridge and a Gates Cambridge Scholarship - and the other for international students. The closing dates for applications are mid October and early December, respectively.

In the last round, 50 successful international candidates were selected from a pool of 4,500 applicants. Departments in Cambridge rank the top students that apply for the scholarships and they are then interviewed in the Spring, either in person, over Skype, or the telephone.

According to Linda and Njoki, the

*"I am constantly inspired by the Gates community of amazing change makers in diverse fields from all over the world."*

scholarship has not only meant that they can continue their studies but has introduced them to a global network of future leaders. Njoki says: "I am constantly inspired by the Gates community of amazing change makers in diverse fields from all over the world."

The two are, however, concerned that there are few African students who apply and they hope that in the coming years the Gates Cambridge scholarship will be as popular as other well-known scholarships in Kenya which students apply to such as the Commonwealth, Rhodes, Chevening and Ford scholarships. They are encouraging other University of Nairobi students who excel in their studies and have a passion for change to apply for graduate studies at the University of Cambridge and for the Gates Cambridge scholarship, which is the most prestigious scholarship in the University of Cambridge.

Linda says: "The application process is straightforward once you access the online application on the University of Cambridge admissions website and we encourage students from our former alma mater to apply." Current Gates Cambridge African and Caribbean scholars and alumni are happy to advise prospective scholars on the application process in order to increase the number of applicants.

For more information, go to [www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org) and to get in touch with Linda or Njoki email: [mjg209@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mjg209@admin.cam.ac.uk)

# 1st Cohort UoN HIV Fellowship Programme

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) HIV FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME WAS ESTABLISHED in 2008 to build the capacity of indigenous Kenyans to run large scale HIV programmes. The aim of the program is to provide Leadership and Management skills to professionals managing health programs in Kenya and support service delivery in partner institutions.

The Fellowship is funded by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is implemented by the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID) in collaboration with the University of Washington (UW). Within the University, UNITID, works closely with the School of Business, School of Computing and Informatics, School of Medicine, School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the School of Continuing and Distance Education. The fellowship programme prides itself in providing competence based training that creatively combines class based training with experiential learning and mentorship.

The programme provides three types of training: The Long Term Fellowship, targeting mid to senior level public health professionals in the public and private sector to build their capacity to provide evidence-based and effective public health leadership and management. Training is full time for 24 months (6 months class based training, 18 months experiential learning). Fellows can specialize in HIV Program Management, Health Informatics and Health Economics.

Medium Term Fellowship In Monitoring and Evaluation is an in service training targeting professionals working in health institutions. The program is designed

to build institutional capacity through training individuals in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Training is for 6 months (2 months class based training, 4 months experiential learning). The admission requirements are a relevant Bachelors degree; familiarity with the Kenya health care system and HIV/AIDS programs; an interest in applying M &E in health.

The short courses are designed to provide specific skills to programme managers at all levels. The courses are implemented via face to face or through web cast technology. Training is for 5-10 days. Candidates are sourced from the private and public sector depending on the specific course.

Through this programme, over 1,200 participants across the country have attended various short courses while through online short courses, people in far flung areas like Wajir and Lamu have accessed training. To date the program has trained 30 fellows. The programme graduated 12 graduates during the 1st Cohort UoN HIV Fellowship Programme ceremony held on Tuesday, December 18, 2012.

*The program is designed to build institutional capacity through training individuals in monitoring and evaluation (M&E)*

# HIV/AIDS management and reproductive health services at the University of Nairobi Health Services

**T**HE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS), PROVIDES HIV AND AIDS PREVENTIVE, care and treatment services for students, staff and staff dependants. The UHS also provides treatment for sexually transmitted infections and other reproductive health services.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Stephen Ochiel noted that it is important that everyone knows his or her HIV status so that those who test negative work towards protecting themselves. Those who test positive have the opportunity of being enrolled for care and treatment services early before the immune system is severely damaged by the HIV virus. In this regard, the UHS runs HIV testing and counseling (HTC). A further comprehensive care service for those living with AIDS is ongoing. Under the programme on comprehensive care, patients are provided with adherence counseling and support, medicines for prevention of opportunistic infections, antiretroviral treatment for those with AIDS and antiretroviral drugs

***“...it is important that everyone knows his or her HIV status so that those who test negative work towards protecting themselves”.***

for prevention of mother to child transmission.

Another service that UHS runs is condom use education and distribution. Condoms use education is provided during HIV sensitization programs in all campuses. Condoms are also available in all the campuses and efforts are being made to increase the number of condom dispensers in all the campuses.

The UHS has invested in screening for breast and cervical cancers. This has become a necessary and important service within the University community, such that, the service advises women and even men to regularly attend screening so that the problems are detected early enough.



**Bob Collymore, CEO Safaricom at Kabete Campus during the World Aids Day Celebrations.**



Justice Eliezer Rivlin

## Former Israeli Supreme Court judge gives public lecture at UoN

**I**N KEEPING WITH ITS TRADITION OF HOSTING TOP INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COMMUNITY, recently interacted with Justice Eliezer Rivlin, former Deputy President of the Israeli Supreme

Court on the interesting topic “Facing Special Challenges: The Supreme Court of Israel” In a lecture held at the University of Nairobi’s 8-4-4 auditorium. During the lecture, Justice Rivlin tracked the history of the Israeli constitution and pointed out some

***He described Kenya’s constitution as modern and liberal, and focused on ensuring that the judicial system plays a key role in implementing human rights and freedoms in Kenya.***

of the constitutional changes and challenges that the country has gone through.

Justice Rivlin, took a thought-provoking approach where he compared and contrasted Israel’s and Kenya’s legal systems and commended Kenya for doing away with the independence constitution after introducing a new constitution; something that the state of Israel has been unable to realize.

He observed that it has not been easy for the state of Israel to develop a comprehensive constitution. He said that Israel was keen on protecting human dignity and liberty and the Israeli court has over the years played a leading role in ensuring that the rights of its citizens are upheld. The court has been viewed as an activist court and has been criticized for this.

He described Kenya’s constitution as modern and liberal, and focused on ensuring that the judicial system plays a key role in implementing human rights and freedoms in Kenya. The Chief Justice/President, Supreme Court of Kenya, the Hon. Dr. Willy Mutunga and Prof. J. Otieno-Odek, former Dean, School of Law were among the panelists.

Among those present during the lecture included, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, University staff and students, members of the judiciary, and the general public.



# Special Korean Envoy visits UoN

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS BEEN COMMENDED FOR ITS STRONG RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS KOREAN INSTITUTIONS including a partnership with the Korean Foundation that led to the establishment of the Korean Studies Centre at the University. This was evident recently when Hon. Choung Byoung-gug, a Special Envoy of H.E. Ms. Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, paid a courtesy call on the Vice- Chancellor.

Hon. Choung Byoung-gug reiterated that the Republic of Korea is keen on strengthening this relationship and specifically strengthening Korean studies in the University, indeed, he noted that the Korean government was impressed by the progress made. UoN is currently collaborating with four Korean institutes of higher learning in partnerships with a strong student exchange component: two Korean students are currently studying in the Department of Sociology while three UoN postgraduate students are enrolled in Universities in Korea. In addition, seven professors from both countries are on staff exchange.

**Hon. Choung Byoung-gug, a Special Envoy of H.E. Ms. Park Geun-hye.**

***“the partnership between the University and Korea provides opportunities for staff and students interested in Kenya and Korea relations to acquire relevant information and skills”.***

During the meeting, Prof Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, who received the envoy on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor said that the partnership between the University and Korea provides opportunities for staff and students interested in Kenya and Korea relations to acquire relevant information and skills.

The Republic of Korea, Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Chan-Woo Kim, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Preston Chitere, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Prof. Peter Wasamba, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts are among those who were present during the courtesy call.



# Firming up ties with Liberia

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA to ensure that there is knowledge transfer and expertise in commerce and industry. This was said by Hon. Robert Kilby, Auditor General, and Republic of Liberia who led a delegation from the General Auditing Commission on a visit to UoN.

Kilby's visit coincided with the graduation of 33 students from Liberia who were admitted in January 2011. The students, who were sponsored by the General Auditing Commission for their Masters in Business Administration (MBA) studies, are expected to benefit from the experience and the good relations existing between Liberia and Kenya.

While receiving the visitors on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Academic Affairs, reaffirmed that the University of Nairobi will continue its pledge to help rebuild Liberia, which can only auger well for international relations. He called on the visiting team to give the students an opportunity to practice what they have learnt.

The Liberian delegation also

*“the University of Nairobi will continue its pledge to help rebuild Liberia, which can only auger well for international relations”.*

interacted with Liberian students in the University. Upon graduation, they are expected to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to grow Liberia as a country and Africa in general.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Stephen Nzuve, Dean, School of Business and Prof. S. Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links.



**Hon. Robert Kilby, Auditor General, Republic of Liberia.**

# Collaboration with Linköping University



**Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, UoN and Dr. Helen Dannetun, Vice-Chancellor, LiU sign the MoU.**

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN), THROUGH THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND EXTERNAL STUDIES (CEES) has entered into a partnership agreement with Linköping University (LiU), Sweden.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) which was signed between the two universities focuses on student and staff

exchange programmes, cultural exchange programmes, joint academic course development and research exchange. In addition, a collaborative partnership on joint applications for funding will also be factored in. Each University may exchange up to six undergraduate or postgraduate students in the field of education.

The partnership between the

two universities dates back to 2009 when a visiting lecturer from LiU made a request to the School of Education for a joint meeting of staff and students from the UoN's Geography Department and Linköping and Gothenburg Universities. This marked the beginning of a successful relationship with UoN which has led to the signing of the MOU.

Dr. Helen Dannetun, Vice-Chancellor, LiU, said that her university focuses on contributing to technological and professional education and research and is optimistic of a long term and steady collaboration with UoN.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, said that one of UoN's objectives is to collaborate with other institutions of higher learning to improve the quality of its programmes. He said that UoN aims at participating in the discovery and transmission of knowledge and the stimulation of intellectual life and development of Kenya.

Prof. Henry Mutoro, Principal, CEES, Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages, Prof. Samson Gunga, Dean, School of Education among others, witnessed the signing of the MOU.



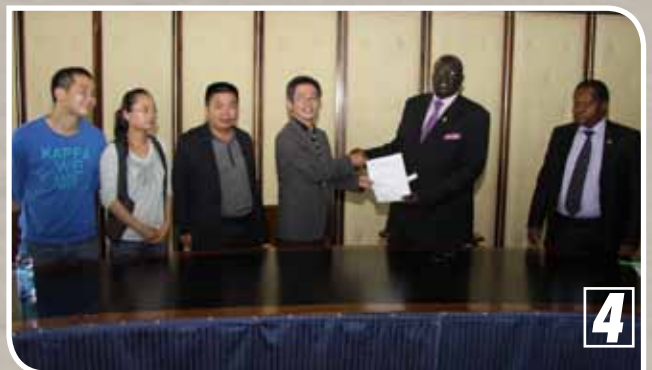
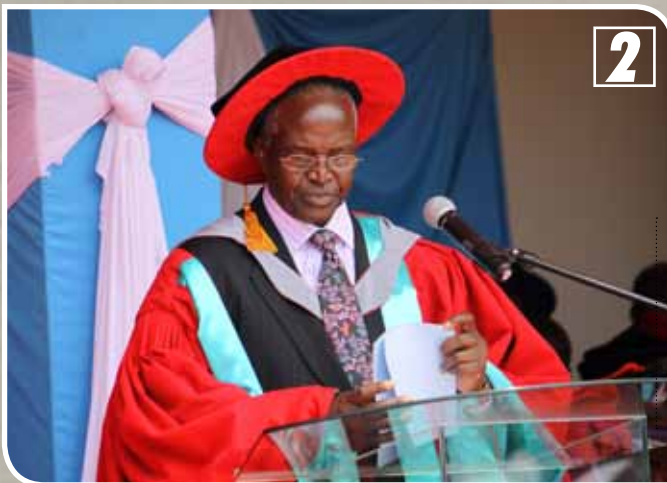
**1. The World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy, Dr Mukhisa Kituyi nominee for the position of Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) during an interaction at the School of Economics.**

**2. Former Chairman of Council Dr. John N. Simba making his acceptance remarks after being awarded with a honorary doctorate during the 48 the Graduation ceremony.**

**3. Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui breaks ground for the construction of the University Towers.**

**4. Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha exchange contractual documents with the Contractor of University Towers.**

**3. Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, joins staff from the School of Business in launching the School of Business journal.**





**6. Students, staff and sponsors from Mitsubishi after receiving scholarships from the company.**

**7. Vice-Chancellor with officials from Google company.**

**8. UoN and University of Manitoba top managers.**

**9. Immediate former President H.E. Mwai Kibaki with Council and Senate members shortly after the University was awarded the Charter.**

**10. University of Nairobi Choir performing during the award of the university charters in March 2013.**





**Council Chairman, Dr. Idle Farah, with Council members: Prof. Judi Wakhungu and Kitili Mbatia. Prof. Wakhungu has since been appointed as a cabinet secretary.**

# New council inaugurated

*The University of Nairobi's reconstituted Council, under the Universities Act, 2012, has been inaugurated.*

**T**HE NEW COUNCIL IS CHAIRED BY DR. IDLE OMAR FARAH, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA and comprises four other members namely, Dr. Betty Gikonyo, Mr. Joseph Tui Hamisi, Prof. Judi Wakhungu and Mr. Kitili Mbatia. The Council, appointed by the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology, will be in office for the next four years.

While inaugurating the Council, the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, pointed out that the members are a rich mix of professionals from different fields with wide experience gained from their careers. Dr. Wanjui added that these two variables would be an asset in working and moving the development of the University to the next level. He challenged the Council members to improve on the gains made by the previous team which was led by Dr.

John Simba.

While wishing the new team well, Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN, urged the Council to remain focused and to play its role in the development of the University in order to achieve its mandate.

UoN Deputy Vice Chancellors, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Administration and Finance, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Academic Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Student Affairs and Prof. Lucy Irungu, Research, Production and Extension are among those who witnessed the inauguration. Others who sit on Council are Dr. Salome Gichura, from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Dr. Manu Chandaria.

The University wishes the new Council success in discharging its duties.

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI RECENTLY HOSTED SIR JOHN SULSTON, THE NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE in Physiology/ Medicine for 2002, in a lecture dubbed 'People and the Planet- how can we all live and flourish on a finite earth?'

The interactive session which was moderated by Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), Research, Production and Extension, UoN, attracted University staff and students, various corporate bodies and the general public, and focused on the People and the Planet report of April 2012. Sir John chaired the Royal Society's People

## Nobel Laureate gives public lecture at UoN

and the Planet 21 month Study by an international working group of 23 experts.

In his moving presentation, Sulston analyzed the links between global population, consumption and the environment, and the implications for sustainable development concluding that the impact of the growing population and the growing consumption of resources by the richer countries are bringing us to the limits of what the earth can sustain. He

said that population and consumption should be considered together as it is the combination of the two that determines sustainability in a finite planet.

Sulston, made reference to the recommendations in the People and the Planet April 2012 report, and called on stakeholders to look into practical and sustainable solutions that will resolve the current unsustainable population and consumption trends.

The event was a joint venture by the UoN's Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI), African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), Network of African Science Academics (NASAC) and the Royal Society for Medicine.

Prof. Jacob Kaimnyi, DVC, Academic Affairs, Prof. Peter K'Obonyo, Deputy Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Lawrence Ikamari, Director, PSRI, Dr. Eliya Zulu, AFIDEP and Eng. Dr. Shem Arungu-Olende, NASAC, are among those who attended the lecture.



Sir John Sulston with Prof. Lucy Irungu Deputy Vice-Chancellor, RPE.

# Messages of peace prevail during relocation of Peace Pillar

*'Peace will not prevail because Kenya has a new constitution. Peace is a perception of the heart and of the mind. It is your perception of each other.'*

**T**HOSE WERE THE WORDS BY DR. EDDAH GACHUKIA, ONE OF KENYA'S LONGEST SERVING AND RESPECTED EDUCATIONIST, during the relocation ceremony of the White Peace Pillar from Kongi's square to the Great Court, outside Education Building, Main Campus. The Peace Pillar was planted in 1985 by delegates to the 3rd United Nations Decade Conference for Women held in Nairobi, as a symbolic reminder of the need to be peaceful.

During the ceremony, organized by the African Women's Studies Centre and the Department of Literature, those present were taken through the journey that culminated to the Forum 85 which saw Kenya host over 4,000 women from all over the world. The Conference, which was held at the University of Nairobi, was given the mandate to seek new ways to overcome obstacles to achieving the decade's goals which were, equality, development and peace. At that time, Dr. Gachukia was the Head of the Department of Literature and the Chairperson of the Women's forum in Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi's Free Travelling Theatre entertained guests with song and dance as the Pillar was being relocated and planted in its new spot. Kongi Square has been set aside as the site for the proposed University Towers.

***May Peace prevail on Earth!***



**Top women leaders at site of the peace pillar before it was relocated. Above: students relocate the pillar in song and dance.**



# Varsities challenged on peace

## UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN URGED TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE TOWARDS DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE CULTURE OF PEACE.

This was articulated in April, 2013, by Prof. Goran Hyden, a distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and former Director, Center for African Studies, University of Florida at Gainesville, USA, when he made the keynote presentation during a forum that brought public and private universities together to contribute towards the creation of a sustainable culture of peace.

In his presentation, Prof. Hyden said that there are several challenges that need to be addressed to bring about the culture of peace. He pointed out that for any country; a culture of peace is an important complementary to good governance.

Pertinent issues on peace were raised by panelists, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Dean, School of Law, UoN, Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, Institute for Development Studies (UoN), Prof. Michael Chege, Advisor, Kenya Treasury Economic Planning and Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, Institute for Development Studies, UoN. The audience also got an opportunity to ask questions and share their views. Reflections on the relative quiet following the outcome of this year's general election and ways of domesticating and entrenching a lasting culture of peace in the country dominated the debate.

The interaction dubbed Wajibu Wetu, was aired live on KTN and was moderated by Louis Otieno of KTN. Dr. Joseph Wanjui and Dr. Idle Omar Farah, Chancellor and Chairman of Council, UoN, respectively, also attended the debate.

(Left) Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, Institute for Development Studies, UoN and Prof. Goran Hyden, a distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science during the forum .



Guests register for the launch of the School of Business journal.

## School of Business unveils management journal

*The Department of Business Administration, School of Business, University of Nairobi, yesterday launched the DBA Africa Management Review Journal.*

### THE JOURNAL , WHICH IS PEER REVIEWED, TARGETS ACADEMICIANS AND

practitioners and is in its 4th edition. It is a quarterly publication that carries original papers based on theoretical or empirical research, management case studies described in real-life situations and book reviews.

Speaking during the launch, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs commended the department for the initiative. He challenged other units in the University to follow suit as there is need for platforms to share research findings and called on scholars and practitioners to

publish widely and subscribe to various journals in the market.

Some of the thematic areas covered in the DBA Africa Management Review Journal include: strategic management, insurance and risk management, marketing management and human resource management.

Among those who spoke during the ceremony include Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), Prof. P.O. K'obonyo, Deputy Principal, CHSS, Mr. Stephen Nzuve, Dean, School of Business and Dr. Justus Munyoki, Chairman, Department of Business Administration.



**Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, RPE with Doyin Akinyanju, Schlumberger's Country Manager for Kenya and Ethiopia as members of staff look on.**

been on fostering relations with universities in the countries that they operate in. The company normally partners with key universities to establish state of the art laboratories for the purposes of teaching and research, to service and provide manpower for the highly specialized oil and petroleum exploration and drilling industry. To date, Schlumberger has partnered with over 100 universities in 80 countries.

In a meeting with representatives from Schlumberger, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, said that the University was ready to work towards implementing the terms of the partnership. He lauded the importance of establishing linkages with industry and noted that the partnership was timely especially for research and training in oil and gas exploration. The initiative will not only improve the University's premier position in the region but also increase the realization of the economic pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, CBPS, Prof. Lydia Njenga, Dean, School of Physical Sciences, Prof. Simon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages, Dr. Okeyo Amir Yusuf, Chairman, Department of Chemistry and Dr. Christopher M. Nyamai, Chairman, Department of Geology, were present during the meeting.

## School of Physical Sciences and Schlumberger Oilfield to set up laboratories

**A**CEMENT LABORATORY FOR 'OIL AND GAS' AND AN ENERGY AND PETROLEUM (E&P) SOFTWARE LABORATORY will be set up at the University of Nairobi's College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS). The initiative has been made possible following a partnership agreement between the University and Schlumberger Oilfield Limited. A subsidiary company, Tullow Oil, will provide computer infrastructure and furnish the laboratories.

The two laboratories will be hosted in the, Departments of

Chemistry and Geology respectively. The E&P laboratory will be used for research and training by faculty in petroleum exploration and drilling technologies, while the Cement Laboratory will be used to support Schlumberger's core objectives as well as research and training of students and faculty in the department. A site for the construction of a block comprising the laboratories and offices has been identified in the College. Faculty and alumni support programmes will also be put in place.

According to Doyin Akinyanju, Schlumberger's Country Manager for Kenya and Ethiopia, the company is

## UoN signs memoranda with Yonsei University, Korea and Shiga University of Medical Science, Japan

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS ENTERED NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH YONSEI UNIVERSITY, Korea and Shiga University of Medical Science, Japan. These partnerships include but are not limited to joint research activities and exchange of faculty, students, and research fellows, among other mutually beneficial activities.

The partnerships initially will foster closer links with the School of Medicine of the University of Nairobi and will enhance the University of Nairobi's visibility in the East especially more specifically because Yonsei University's Medical School is the first and best Medical School in Korea, while Shiga University of Medical Science is currently ranked the second best Medical School in Japan.



**Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor making a presentation at Shiga University.**

## Theatre troupe set to visit Osaka

**T**HE FREE TRAVELLING THEATRE OF THE UNIVERSITY of Nairobi will be travelling to Osaka, Japan, in September, 2013, on a one month tour. This was revealed recently in a meeting between the University and the Osaka in the World Committee. The President of the Osaka in the World Committee Mr. Yamanishi Ippei, said that the organization has over the years hosted students from various parts of the world and this year, it was found fit to host an African country. Kenya and in particular the University of Nairobi were identified out of respect and admiration of the initiatives of Nobel Laureate, the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice-

Chancellor, Academic Affairs, cited the importance of peace and cultural exchange programmes. He said that the Kenyan constitution emphasizes the promotion of culture as it gives people from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to learn about each other. Without such interactions, negative attitudes and beliefs are cultivated and as a result misunderstandings develop which in the long run affect peace and harmony.

The 17 students, accompanied by three members of staff, will be involved in activities that promote global peace through cultural exchange programmes. The students



**President of Osaka in the World Committee Mr. Yamanishi Ippei (second right) with Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs with other officials from the two institutions.**

will be accommodated by Japanese families; and will have an opportunity to interact with students from various primary and secondary schools in Osaka as well as the community at large. At the end of their stay, the students will be named peace ambassadors.

Those present during the meeting included Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages and Prof. Peter Wasamba, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts.



**Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS hands over bean seed varieties to representatives of Kenya Seed Company.**

# CAVS hands over high yielding bean variety to Kenya Seed Company

**T**HE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HANDED OVER WHITE LABEL BREEDERS SEED of the Kenya sugar bean variety to the Kenya Seed Company.

The Kenya Sugar bean variety is an invention of the University of Nairobi (UoN), through the University of Nairobi's Seed Company (UNISEED) in collaboration with the Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMI) project. The project has embarked on breeder seed production of bean varieties bred by scientists at the University. The project seeks to

address one of the greatest challenges faced by seed companies in Kenya and Africa which is accessing breeders or foundation seed for certified seed production.

Through the Plant Science and Crop Protection Department, several high yielding bean varieties have been bred and released for certified seed production for farmers in Kenya. Six of these bean varieties are licensed to the Kenya Seed Company which has entered into a memorandum of agreement with UON to commercialize the bean varieties. Last year, the University handed over

800 kilograms of white label breeders seed of two bean varieties, Kenya Red Kidney and Miezi Mbili.

Breeder's seed production is the first stage in the production of certified seed and involves rigorous quality checks by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS). Once KEPHIS is satisfied that the seed bean crop conforms to the varieties specifications, then the crop is issued with a white label certificate which allows for further production of the seed to the next stage in the process of certified seed production.

## Sasakawa scholarship directors at UoN

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) HOSTED A TEAM FROM TOKYO FOUNDATION which administers the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF Programme). The programme, has since its establishment in the University in 1989, presented fellowships to nearly 150 outstanding postgraduate students drawn from the social sciences and humanities.

Mr. Takashi Suzuki, Director, SYLFF Programme, said that Sasakawa was pleased with how the University management has been utilizing the funds and announced that the organization was looking at other opportunities for



**Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance and Mr. Takashi Suzuki, Director, SYLFF Programme during the meeting.**

*...the programme was unique in its structure, and challenged the stakeholders to look at ways of improving and ensuring that the programme's objectives are realized.*

the scholarship beneficiaries including funding of up to \$5,000 for postgraduate research.

Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance thanked the Foundation for the support towards postgraduate students for close to 24 years. He said that the programme was unique in its structure, and challenged the stakeholders to look at ways of improving and ensuring that the programme's objectives are realized.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Eunice Mutitu, Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS), and Prof. Seth McLigeyo, Deputy Director, BPS and Mr. Michael Karue, Finance Officer.

## UoN and IRD expand collaboration

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) AND THE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (IRD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will facilitate the expansion of joint research activities.

Dr. Alain Borgel, Country Representative for IRD, said that the drafting and signing of the MoU was an indication that there are several joint research programmes by the two parties that need to continue. He said that the University can leverage on the partnership and establish links with the French Government and institutions. IRD is a French public

science and technology research institute under the joint authority of the French ministries in charge of research and overseas development. In addition, a number of UoN staff members in the Department of Geology and School of Mathematics are on IRD PhD scholarships.

Speaking during the signing of the MOU, Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN, thanked IRD for the support extended to the University over the years and cited the University's commitment to partner with institutions that support productive research initiatives.

**Continued next page**

**Cont. from previous page**

Indeed, the University of Nairobi is strengthening research especially in the humanities.

UoN is one of the institutions that has a long term partnership with IRD and focuses on environmental variability and climatic change, biodiversity, natural resources, renewal energies, agro-ecosystems, food security, migration and national planning and development, among others. IRD has supported various initiatives at UoN including an awareness workshop on wetlands and financial support to the School of Mathematics training on computer sciences tools for biomathematics.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences and Prof. Lydia Njenga, Dean, School of Physical Sciences were among those who witnessed the signing of the MoU.



**Prof. Aggrey L. Abate, the Vice-Chancellor, UJ and Dr. Henry Onoria, Legal Education and Training Advisor, ILDO South Sudan Country Office shortly before signing the MOU with UoN.**

## UoN and UJ sign MOU

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF JUBA (UJ) HAVE ENTERED into a memorandum of understanding to work together in different areas of collaboration including establishing student and staff exchange programmes and research and production partnerships, curricula development, among others.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor during the signing ceremony, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Student Affairs, welcomed the initiative and cited the importance of partnerships. He said that UoN has admitted over 200 students from Sudan, and is therefore honoured to be involved in capacity training for the country.

Prof. Aggrey L. Abate, the Vice-Chancellor, UJ said that regional cooperation is important especially when dealing with regional problems and opportunities. In addition, regional cooperation will enhance the

acceptability of graduates in the region. The partnership will also go a long way in assisting UJ deal with some of the teething problems it has been experiencing since the move back from Khartoum to Juba, especially in regard to training in legal studies. The University of Juba, is being assisted in the endeavor by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), indeed, the UJ has also entered into agreements with the University of Dar-es-Salaam and Makerere University for revamping legal education and training in South Sudan particularly with UJ's College of Law.

Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, DVC, Academic Affairs, Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. S. Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL) and Dr. Henry Onoria, Legal Education and Training Advisor, ILDO South Sudan Country Office were among those who witnessed the signing of the MOU.

# Staff and students in a successful tree planting exercise

*The University of Nairobi (UoN) marked this year's annual tree planting ceremony by planting 11,000 indigenous trees at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) Veterinary Farm- Kanyariri.*



**Participants at this year's UoN Annual tree planting.**

Themed 'Creating Greener and Cleaner Environment' the exercise was done in partnership with the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), ILRI, Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) who not only donated indigenous tree seedlings but also participated in the planting. The University Library, Procurement Department, the University of Nairobi Press, staff and students and a team from the Kenya Air Force- Moi Air Base also took part. The chief guest

was KTDA Foundation Manager, Ms. Jackie Mathaga.

In her remarks, Ms. Mathaga commended the University for its efforts in conserving the environment through planting trees. She said that it was important for Kenyans to contribute in different small ways and reverse the damage already done to the environment.

Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe,

Principal, CAVS, thanked those present for their generous contribution towards tree planting and called on Kenyans to plant trees in large numbers in order to increase the country's forest cover which stands at less 10 per cent.

This month alone, CAVS is targeting to plant a record 15,000 indigenous trees in an intense tree planting programme in various University stations. Last year, the University planted about 9,000 trees.

# Collaboration with University of Manitoba reach 32

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UoN) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding for another five years. The signing ceremony marked the continuation of a productive partnership that began 32 years ago.

Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN and Prof. David Barnard, President, University of Manitoba, signed the MOU at the University of Nairobi extending the partnership. Speaking during the

ceremony, Prof. Magoha said that by renewing the MOU, the operations and management of the UNITID facilities will proceed as planned. He noted that the Institute has made tremendous strides in research in infectious diseases. Prof. Barnard singled out the collaboration with UoN as one of the most successful ventures and pledged more support from Manitoba.

The collaboration between the two institutions has been sustained over the years as evident in the establishment and growth of the University of Nairobi's Institute for Tropical and Infectious Diseases

(UNITID). UNITID was established in 2003 with the mandate of harnessing research activities and initiating training programmes towards the management and control of infectious diseases. The Institute houses two Biosafety Level 3 Laboratories which are run through joint partnership between the two universities and the National Microbiology of Canada.

Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, CHS, Prof. S. Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages and Prof. Walter O. Mwanda, Director, UNITID witnessed the signing of the MOU.



**Prof. David Barnard, President, University of Manitoba presents a gift to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.**





# Partnership with Google

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) HAS ENTERED INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT with Google Kenya on the Google Apps Supporting Programs (GASP). This was revealed during a meeting presided over by Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor, UoN, to mark the beginning of the GASP programme in the University.

Prof. Magoha welcomed the initiative saying that it was important for institutions of higher learning to embrace technology; he noted that the University is keen on the use of the internet and has been reviewing new approaches to enhance its infrastructure development.

Universities in Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa still face accessibility challenges at the expense of research opportunities and visibility. Mr. Joseph Mucheru, the Google Sub-Saharan Africa Ambassador and Country Manager, said that the company is working towards growing Kenya into an ICT Hub. He said the partnership was timely as UoN will be part of the growth.

GASP is a Google initiative designed to catalyze internet usage and Google Apps adoption in Sub-Saharan Africa universities through

the provisioning of Google Apps for Education. The apps include email, document sharing, sites, calendar, and more. As part of the partnership, Google will work with UoN in strengthening its existing ICT services through infrastructure matching grants, provide technical consulting and training for staff and students, as well as increase the University's web presence via Google sites for student organizations. Google will also give access to a UoN YouTube channel where the University can post relevant videos. In addition, the Google Student Ambassadors (GSA) Program, will take a leading role in introducing the University to new Google tools, technologies and creating awareness about Google opportunities for university staff and students.

Already Google has provided zero IT infrastructure cost for UoN student email (<<http://mail.students.uonbi.ac.ke/>> [mail.students.uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:mail.students.uonbi.ac.ke)). The platform is fairly active with over 28,000 student email accounts.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Mr. Ibrahim Otieno, Director, ICT, Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, and Mr. John Wesonga, Technical Program Manager, GASP.

**Google will also give access to a UoN YouTube channel where the University can post relevant videos.**

# Partnership with IOM



**Ashraf El Nour, Regional Director, Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa, IOM with Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (A&F) Prof. Peter Mbithi.**

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI (UON) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to contribute to migration health in the region.

Ashraf El Nour, Regional Director, Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa, IOM, thanked the University for supporting IOM over the years. He said that IOM is also committed to the MOU and is looking forward to

participating in various initiatives as a result of the partnership.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, welcomed the initiative as timely, especially in regard to the University's commitment in improving the quality of research in the country. He said that research on migration health is important as it influences key decisions made by the government in a bid to accommodate migrants and ensure

they receive quality services.

The partnership is a culmination of discussions between UoN's Clinical Epidemiology Unit, located at the College of Health Sciences (CHS) and IOM. The MOU will promote research on migration health, and student internship opportunities among other opportunities. The partnership thus has placed the University at the forefront in addressing migration challenges.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, CHS, Prof. Simon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages, Prof. Erastus Njeru, Director, Clinical Epidemiology Unit were among those who attended the meeting.

***“Research on migration health is important as it influences key decisions made by the government in a bid to accommodate migrants and ensure they receive quality services”.***

# Female scientists receive fellowships from AWARD

**D**R. VIRGINIA WANG'ONDU AND MS. CATHERINE KITONDE

from School of Biological Sciences, University of Nairobi (UoN) are among 70 women scientists from 11 African countries chosen for the prestigious fellowship African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) 2013.

The two outstanding women scientists who were selected from among an impressive cadre of 1,094 applicants will benefit from AWARD's two-year career-development program that is focused on building their science and leadership skills. The fellowships are granted on the basis of each scientist's intellectual merit, leadership capacity and the potential of her work to improve the livelihoods of African smallholder farmers, most of whom are women.

Generously supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United States Agency for International



**Ms. Catherine Kitonde**



**Dr. Virginia Wangeshi**

Development, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and Agropolis Foundation, AWARD is a professional Development Program that empowers African women in agricultural science to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

While receiving the award, Dr. Wang'onda, a Lecturer in Microbiology and Marine Ecology at the School of Biological Sciences encouraged fellow scholars at post bachelors, masters

and doctorate level to apply for the highly competitive International AWARD Fellowship and thus help maintain the University as a centre for academic excellence not only in Sub-Saharan Africa but also globally.

Wang'onda, is a researcher in the field of Aquatic Sciences prioritizing in improvement of the livelihood of the coastal people through sustainable resource utilization and development of alternative livelihoods to decrease pressure on the mangrove ecosystem which is an important resource and a carbon sink helping in climate change mitigation. She is also passionate in mentoring students at undergraduate and post graduate level in training and supervision of research projects.

Ms. Catherine Kitonde is a Graduate Assistant, involved in optimal delivery of lectures and practicals in the section of Microbiology, at the School. She is a PhD Botany student in the field of Microbiology and Economic Botany, focused on improvement of the livelihood of small-holder farmers, especially Maasai women in North Narok in Kenya, by encouraging and training them to use affordable and environmentally friendly bio-pesticides in the management of fungal pathogens affecting wheat production, to increase yields and maximize their income and therefore reduce hunger and poverty. She is the first graduate from Kajjado Children's Home, a home that supports and raises the less fortunate in the Maasai Community.

Ms. Kitonde hopes to be a role model to many and engage in mentoring willing and talented young scientists to be responsible leaders and citizens. She is also willing to collaborate with researchers from different disciplines and policy makers to share ideas, experience, and expand her research area for the benefit of the society.

Varsity Focus congratulates Dr. Virginia Wang'onda and Ms. Catherine Kitonde on this achievement.

# Over 10,000 freshers admitted

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS ADMITTED OVER 10,000 FIRST YEARS

during the 2013/2014 academic year, to join the institutions' 69 undergraduate programmes. The students, who reported on Monday, are registered in the Module I, Module II and Module III programmes. This year's admission in the month of May is a departure from the previous practice of a September admission, and is meant to reduce the waiting period of admitting Module I students which previously took almost two years after successful completion of their

fourth form. The Module I cohort now being admitted sat their KCSE in 2011. The 2012 KCSE candidates will be joining in January 2014 and the 2013 group will join in September 2014 finally reducing the two year period that students had to spend at home before joining campus down to the traditional nine months.

While addressing the students, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said the early admission will fast track pace at the University. He advised them not to get involved in partisan politics which may disrupt their

studies. He promised the fresh students that the University will ensure that campus life becomes a fulfilling experience by inculcating positive virtues and preparing them intellectually to face the expectations of the world.

Prof. Magoha welcomed the students to university life and at the same time cautioned them that the freedom they would enjoy on campus is subject to rules and regulations. He advised students not to engage in behavior which comes with a lot of risks including exposure to social risks such as HIV/Aids, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The freshers have been undergoing a week-long orientation in their respective schools before commencing their lectures next week. Most of the other continuing students in the regular program have proceeded on their vacation after completing the 2012/2013 academic year. The freshers were also addressed by heads of departments and student leaders.

The University of Nairobi has over 63,000 students registered in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. About 48,000 are undergraduates while 15,000 are postgraduates.



First year students follow orientation proceedings at the Main Campus. Over 10,000 undergraduate first years joined the University in May.

# Prof. Kameri Mbote presents her inaugural lecture

**P**ROF. PATRICIA KAMERI-MBOTE PRESENTED HER INAUGURAL LECTURE ON MULTIPLE

**EXCLUSIONS** of Law and Legal Discourses early this year and became the fourth female professor to present her inaugural in the history of the University.

Prof. Kameri Mbote is the Dean of the School of Law following elections held at the School early this year. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and former Chair of the Department of Private Law, University of Nairobi's School of Law. Prof. Mbote studied law at the University of Nairobi (UoN), Warwick, Zimbabwe and Stanford and currently teaches Biotechnology and the Law,

Patents Law, International Environmental Law, Law, Science and Technology and Feminist Jurisprudence at the Faculty of Law, UoN.

Mbote has also taught international environmental law at the University of Kansas; Trade, Environment and Law at the University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa; and Women, Access to Resources and the Law at the Women's Law Centre, University of Zimbabwe. She serves as external examiner to the Faculties of Law at the Universities of London, Maker ere and Dar es Salaam.

Prof. Mbote is a prolific author and reviewer and has published widely in the areas of international law,



**Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote presented her inaugural lecture on Multiple Exclusions of Law and Legal Discourses.**

environmental law, women's rights and property rights and participated in international, regional, national and local conferences. Her research interests include environment and natural resources law and policy, human rights, women's rights, land rights, intellectual property rights, biotechnology policy and law and economic law.

## SONU elects new officials

In elections held in April, the following were elected by the student body to serve as officials of SONU for the Year 2013/2014

1. Chairman	Zack Kinuthia
2. Vice-Chair, (Admin and Finance)	Philbert Kongola
3. Vice-Chair, (Academic Affairs)	Maggy Nyokabi
4. Secretary General	Edith Mwirigi
5. Treasurer	Jane Chege
6. Organizing Secretary	Steve Biko
7. Secretary, Health, Catering And Accommodation	Sam Iliwa
8. Secretary, Sports And Entertainment	Junior Tollo
9. Secretary, Legal Affairs	Isaac Muuo
10. Secretary, Gender Affairs	Linda Sohelo

# Impressive performance in a regional championship



Rugby team 'Mean Machine' in action and below Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs Prof. Isaac Mbeche receive a prize from the Director, Sports and Games, Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi.



**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS HAD AN ACTIVE SPORTS LIFE THIS YEAR. Early in the year, it took part in the East Africa Inter University Games which were held at the University of Dares Salaam. The University was represented by a contingent of 118 players' volleyball basketball and swimming athletics scrabble, chess, badminton, tennis and martial arts. At the end of the championship, University of Nairobi teams won a total of 52 medals – most of which were won by the women's swimming team.

An outstanding performance came from Stacy Okoth Wairimu who scooped 15 Gold medals, emerging the best in the swimming event. The UoN team emerged overall winner and was presented with the coveted trophy.

Stacy was nominated

by the Kenya Universities Sports Association(KUSA) to represent the country during the summer World University Games to be held in Kasan, Russia, from 6th-17th July 2013. Her travel expenses will be fully catered for by the Federation of International University Sports(FISU).

*At the end of the championship, University of Nairobi teams won a total of 52 medals*



## 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.



Varsity**Focus**

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