

CHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



Dr Amir Yusuf, Chairman

The Department of Chemistry and indeed other units of the University have continued to discharge their mandate of teaching and undertaking research. 1st year January 2014 intake completed their 2nd semester exams on 15/8/14 and are currently on vacation until January 2015 when they will start 2nd year. 3rd and 4th year 2014/2015 academic year reported on 8/9/14 and will complete their 1st semester exams on 20/12/14. The same applies to 2nd year (2013 intake) group who will clear their 2nd semester exams at the same time. 1st year (2014/2015) joined a week late (15/9/14) and their exams will start on 5/1/15 and end on 16th January 2015. Their 2nd semester starts on 19th January 2015. MSc programmes are in phase with 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students and they will commence 2nd semester lectures on 12th January 2015. The January 2014 intake who are now on vacation will come on 12th January 2015 as 2nd year to start their 1st semester.

PROMOTION

In academics four senior lecturers were promoted to Associate Professor. The four are: Dr. David K. Kariuki, Dr. Amir O. Yusuf, Dr. Hellen Njenga and Dr Jacob P. Kithinji. Dr Leonida Kerubo and Peterson Guto were promoted to senior lecturer. Mr Patrick Tum and Mr Fredrick Mwazighe were who have been Graduate Assistants were also promoted to Tutorial Fellow. The department wishes them well in their new roles.



Prof Yusuf Prof. Njenga Prof. Kariuki Prof. Kithinji Dr. Kerubo Mr Mwazighe Dr P. Guto Mr P. Tum

STUDY LEAVE

The following proceeded on study leave: Dr L. Kerubo went to Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany where she will be from 14th October 2014 to 17th January 2015 researching on anti-cancer compounds from natural products; Ms. Ruth Odhiambo, Lund University (Sweden), 15th August to 15th November 2014 researching on ruthenium complexes as possible sensors; Ms. Rachel Njogu, Lund University (Sweden), 1st September 2014 to 31st March 2015 researching on use of transition metal catalysts in the synthesis of furfural alcohol. The Department wishes them the best in their research.



Ms R. Njogu Dr L. Kerubo

VISITORS

The following visited the Chairman:

Prof Ndiege Isaiah (Kyambogo University Vice-Chancellor, Uganda); Prof Segum Adebisi (Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria); Barasa Wanyonyi (Pest Control Products Board,); Hannah S., Poot R. (Royal Society of Chemistry); David Jakubovic (Procter & Gamble); Mr Sopha K. (University of Laos); Dr C. Dembele (University of Science and Technology, Bamako, Mali); Dr John waswa (Makerere University, Uganda); Negussie Rfegera (Addis Ababa University); Dr Samuel Yeboah (University of Botswana, Gaborone); Dr Paul Savadogo, (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso); Prof Ernest Yanful, (Western University, London, Ontario, Canada); Norah Basopo (Zimbabwe); Onesmus Munya (Zambia); Carlo Lupi (UNDP); and Francis Kihumba (UNDP). The Chairman held discussions with them on areas of mutual benefit.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Dr Joyce Kithure joined the Department on 15th July 2014 as lecturer in environmental chemistry. She is a holder of BEd (Sc) (Moi), MSc (Kenyatta University) and a PhD (UoN). Join me in congratulating her.

PUBLICATIONS

The University of Nairobi was given a publications target of 500. This was cascaded downwards to the lowest unit ie CBPS, SPS, Dept of Chemistry, finally to individual members of staff. This is a load for all of us. Chemistry has a target of fifteen (15) publications each year. The following is a list of staff who have published during the period July-November 2014:

Name	# of pub.	Name	# of pub.	Name	# of pub.	Name	# of pub
Prof. Yusuf	4	Prof . Orata	2	Prof . Abiy	3	Dr. Kerubo	2
Prof. K. Kariuki	2	Dr. Derese	1	Ms. Ndunda	1	Mr. Wafula	2
Dr. Mbui	2	Prof Hellen	1	Prof. Midiwo	1	Ms. Marina	1
Dr. Guto	2						

To boost webometric ranking, staff are encouraged to publish at least ONE paper annually.

OUTREACH SERVICES

The Department hosted the following groups of students:

1. 72 students from Maseno University who were on a familiarization tour to learn about theory and practical aspects of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). The lectures were delivered by Mr Charles Mirikau and Prof. Abiy Yenesew. These undergraduate and postgraduate students were accompanied by Dr. Obuya Were and Dr Grace Muriithi.
2. 57 students from Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) who were on a familiarization tour to learn about theory and practical aspects of HPLC, UV-VIS spectrophotometer, Infrared Spectrophotometer, Flame Photometer, Gas Chromatograph and Atomic Absorption Spectrometer. The facilitators were Prof Yusuf, Mr Mirikau, Ms Macharia, Mr Katembu, Mr Orangi, Dr Madadi and Ms Checha. These diploma students were accompanied by Ms. Dorice Situma.

WORKSHOP /SYMPOSIUM

The Department held the following three activities:

1. Royal Society of Chemistry-Procter & Gamble organized a two-day international symposium entitled "Regulatory harmonization, hygiene and sustainability", held on 4-5th November, 2014 in MH1, Chiromo Campus.

2. UNEP organized a two-day workshop entitled "Africa Regional Drafting Workshop for the second monitoring report on persistent organic pollutants", held on 30-31st October, 2014 in Arziki Conference Centre, Chiromo Campus.

3. ISP organized a three-day symposium entitled "International Science Programme (ISP) projects", held on 17- 19th November, 2014 in African Academy of Sciences Boardroom, Karen, Nairobi.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY STUDENT ENROLMENT 2014/2015

Programs	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Grand Total
	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total	
BSc. Chemistry	9	26	35	4	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Bsc. Analytical Chemistry	4	3	7	0	3	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	12
BSc. (Industrial Chemistry)	11	21	32	8	25	33	5	16	21	9	16	25	111
<i>SUB-TOTAL 4</i>	24	40	74	12	44	56	5	17	22	10	16	26	178
MSc. Analytical Chemistry	2	4	6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
MSc. Chemistry	0	5	5	8	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
MSc. Environmental Chemistry	4	5	9	7	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
MSc Industrial Chemistry	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>SUB-TOTAL 4</i>	6	14	20	17	12	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
PhD (Chemistry)	2	3	5	1	1	2	4	2	6	0	0	0	13
<i>SUB-TOTAL 4</i>	2	3	5	1	1	2	4	2	6	0	0	0	13
TOTALS	32	49	104	30	57	87	9	19	28	10	16	26	240

GRADUAND STATISTICS 2013/2014

Year	BSc Industrial Chemistry	BSc Analytical Chemistry	MSc In Chemistry	MSc Environmental Chemistry	MSc Industrial Chemistry	Ph.D in Chemistry	Total
2013/2014	29	2	12	2	1	5	51