



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DECEMBER 2017

VarsityFocus

A magazine of the University of Nairobi



On the path to stardom:
celebrating UoN talents



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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
- Excellence
- Care
- Good governance
- Innovativeness and creativity
- Partnership and teamwork

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VarsityFocus

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Redefining the Comrades Power!

There is a high concentration of student talent at the University of Nairobi. Hosting such a large population of talented youth is both a blessing and a challenge. It is incumbent upon the University authority to harness their potential by providing the space for them to think widely and wildly, and exercise their faculties responsibly. That's how to create innovators and leaders for the future.

private sector and other global institutions to create an environment where students can get inspiration, experience mentorship and be challenged in order to become problem solvers other than being a burden and causing perpetual pain to society. A wind of change is blowing at the University of Nairobi. A new crop of UoN students have resolved to give new meaning to the infamous phrase "comrades power". The new concept is about working

I encourage UoN students to adopt a culture of innovation and

discipline. The students' behavior should reflect positively on the brand image because they need the brand identity to excel. They must realize that it took serious efforts and sacrifices to build a brand with a strong reputation like UoN.

The thrust of this edition of the Varsity Focus is to expose to our readers the hidden treasure within the UoN in the form of abundant talent at the University. This edition features stories of students who have undergone self discovery and utilizing "comrades power" to impact positively on society through innovation, sports and arts.

We encourage our esteemed stakeholders to support the University management in their endeavor to improve students' welfare at the University through provision of scholarships, corporate sponsorships for both academic and extracurricular activities, investments in infrastructure and providing mentorship and coaching services to students.

JOHN A.O.ORINDI
DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AFFAIRS

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A new crop of UoN students have resolved to give new meaning to the infamous phrase 'comrades power'

together to harness the rich talent at U o N a n d e m p o w e r i n g students on the grand march to excellence and prosperity. No more confrontations and

intolerance!

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We encourage our esteemed stakeholders to support the University management in their endeavor to improve students' welfare

List ening to the Vice-Chancellor doing his ritual welcome address to campus freshmen, Professor Mbithi maintains that in order to sustain the transformative agenda of the University, there ought to be a paradigm shift both in the way students' welfare is managed and also in the students' mindset. In pursuit of the foregoing the University cannot be alone actor. Productive engagement with stakeholders in student-centered programs must be encouraged and if possible rewarded by the Management.

The University has opened its doors for collaboration with the

UoN has made great strides and guards its integrity fearlessly



*Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi,
Vice-Chancellor*

Universities shape lives and have never been more important to people than they are now. The validation for the existence of a university is its preference to preserve the connection between knowledge and positive transformation of lives within the society. Our society's changing times have compelled universities to respond quickly, through the proper application of innovative research and academic excellence, to the inflating demands that have persistently been placed on them. In view of that, any university that fails in this value has no reason for existence. For more than six decades, the University of Nairobi has exercised a powerful impact on the nation and the world. It has had an impressive history of leadership as a world-class university committed to scholarly excellence. In a recent research on Universities, Employability and Inclusive Development Research and Advocacy Project in which the British Council commissioned the Institute of Education at the University of London, the graduates from the University of Nairobi were ranked as the most preferred for recruitment in the

region. This was as a result of the graduates being the most preferred in many fields in the university's ranking in Africa, and the fact that a large number of senior managers in blue-chip companies are alumni of the institution.

The University of Nairobi, through its student-centered nature of management, relentlessly focuses on providing holistic education and graduate training programmes that prepare the student with innovative and nontraditional forms of modern skills set and scholarly development in order to advance with the changing market demands and trends. The newly revised student-centred curriculum has often had insightful benefits in catering for both the students' and employers' needs and thus building a stronger bond between teaching, the curriculum and external industry. It has also improved the students' active participation in the management of student affairs within the University.

Looking to the future, the University's Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has been positioned to deliberately reinforce its critical contribution to sustainable development through its core academic functions of research and teaching and to amplify focus on internationalization and graduate employability.

Building a vibrant brand takes the efforts of all our staff members, students and stakeholders. I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank our scholarship partners like Rattansi Educational Trust, Chinese Embassy, Techno Mobile, Rotary Foundation Trust, among others, for their continuous efforts towards supporting our outstanding but needy students. Through such scholarships, the

graduate's profile and student learning experiences have improved significantly. Scholarships have also had vast career benefits to our students. Earning a scholarship, for example, essentially contributes towards making the student become a more attractive job candidate. Most employers who understand the competitive nature of the scholarships will distinguish it as an accomplishment. I, therefore, appeal to other stakeholders and organizations to take part in actively supporting the University and the students in both their curricular and extracurricular activities.

The University of Nairobi preserves its tough measures towards protecting academic integrity. It acknowledges that it is essential for every student to recognize the necessity of strict adherence to all examination rules and the set standards of academic integrity to avoid any unauthorized practices. To ensure consistent production of quality graduates, we will intensify the fight against academic dishonesty to protect the sanctity of a revered University.

To conclude, the implementation of the 2013-2017 lectures' Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and commencement of the negotiations of the 2017-2021 CBA, presents an opportunity for the uninterrupted running of University programmes on research, teaching and mentoring of the students and by this means, actively contributing to our shared mission of transforming lives and societies through education, research and innovation.

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY

University celebrates blossoming talent

The University of Nairobi remains firmly rooted to its vision of a world class university committed to scholarly excellence. This commitment has been clearly evident in the accolades the premier university continues to receive from respected organizations that monitor and rank the quality of higher education worldwide.

According to Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings 2017, the University of Nairobi was ranked first in the region, third best in Africa and top 300 globally on Graduate Employability rankings. The QS Ranking came hot on the heels of other recent impressive rankings – Webometrics Ranking and Ranking Web of Repositories - that have confirmed UoN as the citadel of academic excellence.

Beyond academic excellence, the University is dedicated to produce all round graduates who are equally world class in other endeavours, such as sports and leadership. This issue of Varsity Focus covers some of the budding scholars and leaders who have made remarkable contributions while still in the mould of the University of Nairobi.

It captures innovators whose creativity has attracted world attention and placed them in the league of innovation gurus. As succinctly stated by the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi during the launch of Innovation Week 2016, Kenya's capacity to compete in the global market greatly depends on the ability of her people to innovate and apply the relevant technology for growth

and development. The young innovators and scholars captured in this issue, and many more others at the University, carry the hopes of UoN and the whole nation to be a trendsetter in cutting-age technology.

We also tell the tales of young UoN scholars who despite their busy academic schedules have won numerous accolades in sports and sports leadership. They are valiant soldiers in the national aspiration to maintain the spirit of a sporting nation.

Their tales are impressive but they remain a microcosm of the rich history of the University of Nairobi as a premier institution committed to world class academic excellence and other spheres of life. VF



Visitors at the Nairobi Innovation Week 2017 admire a building model made by University of Nairobi students. The University has established various platforms for students to showcase their innovations and talents.

Young app guru in the league of veterans

George Muriithi: An app guru

In today's tech world, there are hundreds of apps and games on Google Play. Through the Google Play Store, Android users easily search and download apps and games onto their smart gadgets. Some of these apps are free while others come at a cost. What most people assume is that these apps are created by tech gurus in China, the US and other technologically advanced nations.

Mr George Muriithi, a student at the University of Nairobi, has not one but two Android apps on Google Play Store. "The two apps on Google Play Store are 'MyHeart_KE' and 'AIESEC in UoN'," says George, a first year UoN student pursuing civil engineering.

'MyHeart_KE' was a commissioned

app by a company known as Stowelink Inc. to provide information about heart diseases, ways to prevent them and how to treat them.

"The need to have this app arose from the fact that heart diseases are the number one cause of death globally and hence people need to be informed and carry this information with them as well as share it. The app targets everyone as the information covers every age group," he explains.

The 'AIESEC in UoN app' gives information about AIESEC in the University of Nairobi.

"It has all upcoming opportunities and events for the organization as well as information about the members," he elaborates. "One can also sign up to go on exchange

through the app. It was recently published and more segments will be added like exchange stories to sell exchange opportunities far and wide. The app targets AIESEC in UoN members and those who want to be a part of the organization either by going on exchange or joining the organization."

The 18-year old tech enthusiast is working on eight other Android projects that are yet to be published on Google Play Store.

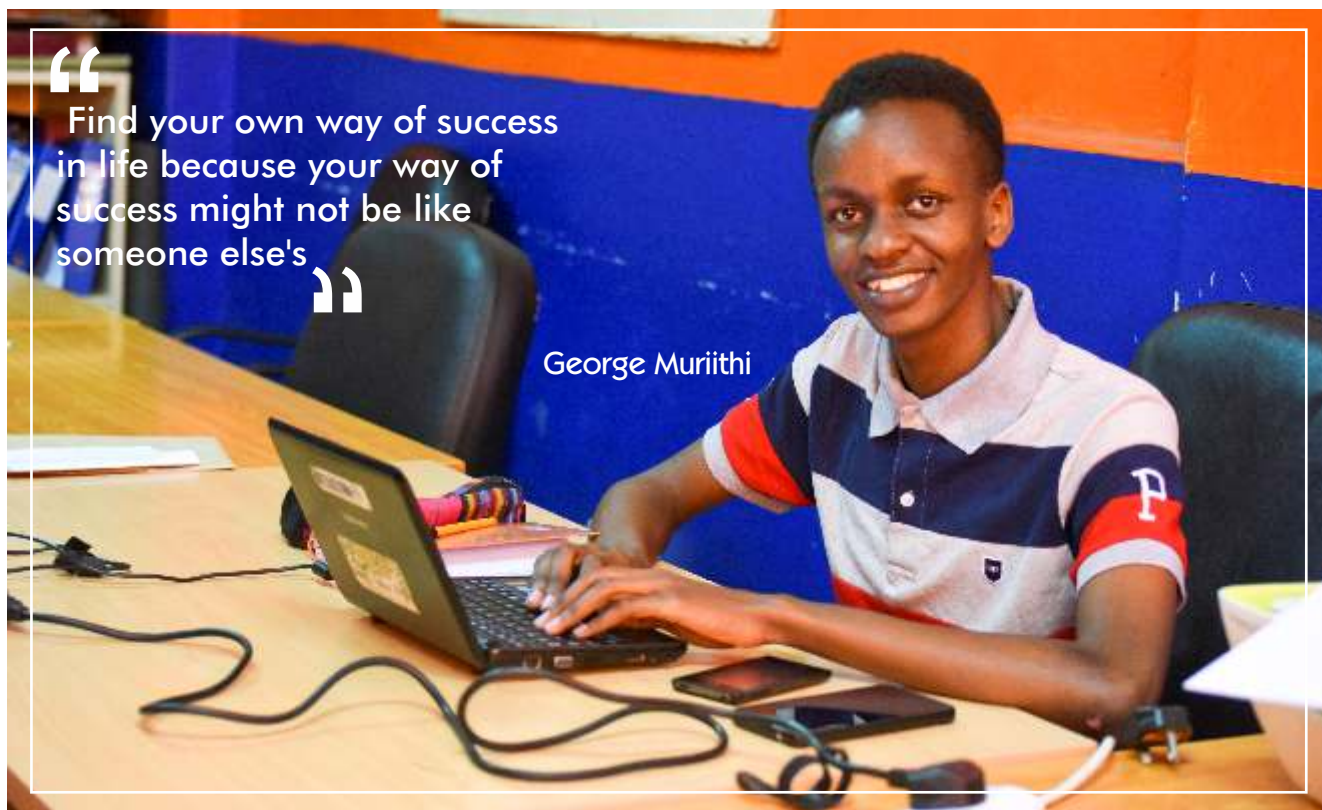
"My main motivation for app development is the fact that apps are an efficient way to have information at the fingertips of users and it is also a very wide sector," he says. "It is also a niche in the tech market, especially in Kenya, that needs to be exploited. Aside from app development, I am

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Find your own way of success in life because your way of success might not be like someone else's

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George Muriithi



also motivated to venture into tech both professionally and as a passion because of the endless opportunities it offers. There will not be a point in time where we will stop and say that tech has come to an end. That will never happen.”

George runs a company called Afrikinu. “I started this company with a friend of mine, Jack Mamai, who is also a tech enthusiast and with whom I share goals in tech. I got interested in programming at the age of eleven and ever since, I have been learning bits here and there about programming. I am a self-taught developer. I learn by challenging myself even with challenges that seem impossible to overcome at first.”

The main challenge that he faces is adding that 'spark' to each and every app that makes users come back to the app for more. He explains that this is a common challenge in app

development.

“Having only published two apps, I am still carrying out research and collecting feedback from users. Nonetheless, people are very receptive of app ideas,” he explains.

There are many opportunities that come with being an app developer. According to George, the demand has grown not only locally but also globally due to the usefulness of apps in organizations and other areas. He says that tech gurus can venture into entrepreneurship and concentrate on developing apps and offer app development services such as consultancy services.

“There are very good avenues for employment as well as self-employment. One of the ways that apps bring revenue is having advertisements on them. This can bring in revenue when the app has traffic. It is an approach used to monetize free apps,” he explains.

Having been in the university for only one year, George is yet to fully indulge into many activities. He decided to join AIESEC because of the vast learning experiences and opportunities it offers in many areas. However, he plans to join a music club and the basketball team.

“Venturing into tech is among the best gambles I have ever made. It is not as concrete as other sectors and has very many opportunities. It is the future backbone of every sector in the economy,” he says. He calls on his peers to seek and confidently follow their passions no matter what they are.”

If you do something from your heart, you will never have any regrets. Find your own way of success in life because your way of success might not be like someone else's. We have the sun and the moon, but each of them has its own time to shine and its own way of doing it,” he advises. ^{VF}

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Loice Opere: A young innovator

Young innovator makes Caesar's work stress free

At the age of 23, Loice Opere has an innovation in her name. Loice has developed an Automated Toll Collection System (ATCS), which is an electronic system used to collect tax/tolls thus eliminating the time and fuel wasted while waiting in long lines.

"My innovation provides the advantages of using an automated toll system using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) technology over other techniques implemented," she explains. Loice is a recent University of Nairobi graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical and Information Engineering.

"I have designed the system to operate in a manner such that when a vehicle approaches the toll booth, the user swipes his/her RFID tag on

an RFID reader that has been placed at the toll booth centre. The system then checks whether there's a balance in the user's prepaid account and automatically deducts a pre-determined amount thus authorizing the vehicle to pass through. The system will then update the user's new balance and store it," she says.

If the user has insufficient balance, the system sends an alert to the user and authorities notifying them and gives them the option to recharge the account before being granted passage.

Loice recently exhibited her innovation at the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2017, attracting the interests of many show goers.

"I would be happy to see my innovation adopted into the market," she says. "Charging for using roads is becoming a major issue around the world, with several governments,

Fascinated by technology

Loice has always been fascinated by technology. "I wanted a challenging experience that would eventually be rewarding in that I would hone my problem solving skills in the process of my university studies," she explains.

Loice says it is not always working hard that gets you where you want to be, but working smart plays a huge role in one's success too.

"Having joined university, I had to remind myself no one would spoon-feed me. Lecturers cover a small percentage but the rest is up to you." For the young innovator, it has not been an all too smooth a journey at the university. She recalls an incident where she and her classmates sat their exams amid student demonstrations. She longs for a day when students can peacefully air their grievances and have uninterrupted academic sessions.

"In my first year of study I remember despairing at how long five years in school would be and wondering how I would pass time. Looking back I now realize time flies. I made new friends; attended different social networking events arranged by UoN, the Engineering Students Association and the Lions' Club International Foundation. All these made being at the University much more enjoyable."

After graduating in September 2017, Loice secured an internship at Nokia MS.

"It is a wonderful opportunity as it gives me a chance to practically apply my theoretical knowledge," she says. "University life is where we as millennials want to have fun and attempt things we normally would not. To those still pursuing their studies, it is important not to forget what brought you to UoN. Books come first and the rest will follow." VF



Loice Opere

A great vision for youth despite challenges

Kenneth Kinoti: A heart for the youth

In the 2017 Nairobi International Trade Fair, the University of Nairobi was ranked third in the best stand that promotes youth activities, empowerment and capacity building. This was a great achievement for young Kenneth Kinoti as his idea, a proposed performing arts youth centre in Eastlands, was one of the three entries at the trade fair.

"I was elated when I received the news that we had emerged number three in the youth category," says Kenneth, a student at the College of Architecture and Engineering. "It was not easy presenting the project to the judges assigned to evaluate the projects in the various categories. We had to ensure that they understood that the project was an innovation by a youth for the youth."

According to Kenneth, the project's site fronts the Nairobi River and is located between Kiambiu, a low income neighbourhood and Buruburu, a middle income neighbourhood. The first challenge of the project was connecting the youth in the two neighbourhoods. The second challenge was responding to the existing church and residential staff houses on site. The third challenge was designing bearing in mind the terrain as well as the Nairobi River. The fourth challenge was designing spaces for youth activities based on the parameters studied in the thesis, which include context, function, sensorial aspects of

space and flexibility of space.

"In my 5th year of study, we explored low income neighbourhoods and engaged in their design. This led to my 6th year where I sought to make a difference for the youth of Kenya by researching on and designing a youth centre," explains the 25 year-old. "This concept is ideal for Kenya as the youth need to be empowered. If we had such a centre, we would be able to host a variety of talented young people be it in performing or visual arts."

Kenneth believes that the ideology of the education and training received while in campus is not to do a 'cut and paste' of what is taught.

"We can all be different and create a niche for ourselves in our fields of

study. We should strive to be different. To be employers not to be employees, to create opportunities for others where there is none, to make a difference in our communities and to uplift each other as well as work as a team," he says. "Going against the grain is sometimes difficult but we should wage war against the forces of can't, maybe or shouldn't. I believe we are the generation that will be quoted in history books because we refused to conform."

Kenneth calls on his fellow students to tap into their creative ideas and to have as much fun as they can while on campus, make many friends and network, and follow the rules.

"Give your all to your studies. It has taken a lot from you to be where you are," he advises. **VF**



“We should strive to be different. To be employers not to be employees, to create opportunities for others where there is none”

Kenneth Kinoti

The best among UoN's chosen few

Asya Essajee: The valedictorian class of 2017



“Live life in moderation by setting your priorities right.”

Asya Essajee was elated when she received a call from the University of Nairobi's Academic Division office, informing her that she was the valedictorian class of 2017.

“I knew I had done well in my undergraduate studies but I did not think I would emerge top in my cohort,” she says. At the age of 25, Asya holds two bachelor degrees; one in Architecture and another in Architectural Studies.

“Architecture was a calling for me. Growing up, I followed with keen interest the ongoing construction of my parents' house. I have always admired buildings and awed at the various designs. I enjoyed art and

physics in high school. I also fell in love with the art of designing and with that, I knew I wanted to do architecture.”

The valedictorian says that it was by the grace of God, hard work, dedication and a good team of family, friends and lecturers, that she was able to do well in her studies.

“My greatest pillar in my education system is my father,” she reveals. “He is a graduate and a lecturer at the University of Nairobi and fully believes in the high standards of the university and encouraged me to pursue my first degree at UoN. I enjoyed the support, encouragement and a sense of

communalism from my classmates, my seniors, lecturers and also support staff.”

Asked about her highlights while studying at UoN, Asya said that she loved the studio culture at the School of Architecture and Built Science, the team work and motivation for each other. However, she did face various challenges.

“We had only one printing office, by the Architectural Students Association, so during class presentations, we had to deal with long queues and this caused a lot of delays in getting the work done. As Muslims, we barely had a secluded place to pray from. We would either pray at the balconies or go to the gardens and look for a private spot. Probably the University can introduce enough prayer spaces for Muslims.”

Having graduated on September 22, 2017, Asya is already pursuing a masters degree in Architecture at UoN. “I am also freelancing on small projects. I am taking up some of the interest that I had kept on hold for a long time like henna body art, cooking, swimming and the likes,” she says.

Advice to students

Asya cautions students to be in control of their lives: “Live life in moderation by setting your priorities right. Learn how to balance your social life with your education and have good friends with a positive attitude. Your university life is so much more than your course. Do not limit yourself. There is always room to expand your horizons and move in different directions.” VF

The force behind Dynamites explosive victories

Ann Nduta: Basketball team leader

Ann Nduta comes from the school of thought where basketball is more than just a sport; it is a life teaching tool that imparts team work, discipline, commitment and endurance. She knows this too well, through her passion for the sport since her high school days.

"Basketball has taught me a lot in life. I joined my high school team when I was in Form 2. This was a great achievement for me as being in the main team was a big deal. In campus, I joined the University of Nairobi ladies' basketball team, the Dynamites, through the inter-campus games where the coach picked good players from the various campuses."

Ann started playing for the University team in 2015. One year later, she became the assistant captain, and rose through the ranks to become captain in 2017.

The 23 year-old is a final Bachelor of Commerce degree, Accounting option student, at the Lower Kabete Campus. She is also a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya and is undertaking Association of Certified Chartered Accountants course on part time basis. Besides basketball, she is a member of Accounting Students Association, Finance Students Association, and the Rotaract Club, Lower Kabete. With such a tight schedule, Ann still manages to fulfill her responsibilities as team captain.

"My main responsibility as the captain is making sure that team members feel part of a family. As a leader, you must encourage and motivate your team. I also do some

administration work such as keeping up to date team records and ensuring that Dynamites appear and play all scheduled games."

Ann's major high in her tenure as captain is leading Dynamites in undefeated stretch in the 2017 regular season Nairobi Basketball Association league. In addition, the team has had various inspiring interactions with young girls playing for their high school teams.

"The greatest challenge we are facing as a team is financial support. Players representing the school use personal funds for transport to and from training as well as to and from games," she says. "As a result, some players have joined other teams with better financial support. It is the captain's responsibility to keep the team together. We are hoping to get secure more support from the University."

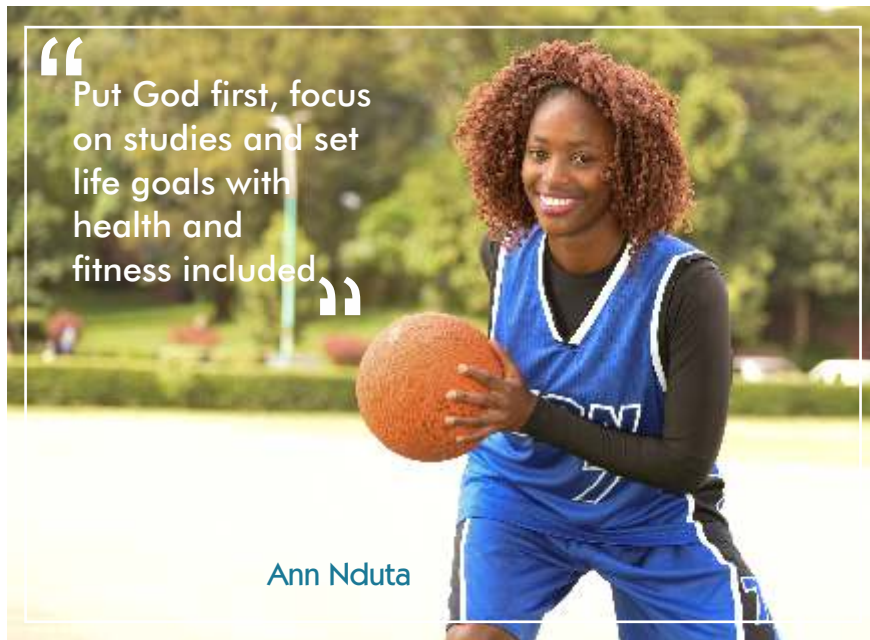
Ann has a plan for the Dynamites as soon as she graduates. "As an alumni of UoN, I will support the Dynamites once I am in a better financial position. I will continue playing basketball even when working as an accountant. I would love to take part in coaching other basketball teams, playing at a professional level and officiating basketball games."

Her advice to fellow students with a love for sports is to put God first, focus on studies and set life goals with health and fitness included.

"I have been a student at the University of Nairobi for four years. In my time, I have heard that co-curricular activities excite students and distract them from their studies. This is not true since the activities help you plan your time well and be organized even in life. All work without play makes Jack a dull boy," she ends. **VF**

“Put God first, focus on studies and set life goals with health and fitness included”

Ann Nduta



The captain of the gentlemen's game: Rene Inyanga

In the sporting world, it is said that 'Rugby is a game played by disciplined hooligans and watched by gentlemen.' Indeed, this is reflected by Rene Inyanga Nambiro, the captain of the University of Nairobi's rugby team, Mean Machine. For Rene, it takes self-discipline and hard work to be a true rugby player.

He takes his role as the captain with the seriousness it deserves. "My main responsibility as a captain is to marshal my forces to and in the battlefield," he says.

Rene is the link between his players and the team patron, as well as the University administration. "I ensure to the best of my ability that I have provided the best conditions available to my players to think and play rugby at their optimum all year round."

The 23 year-old is a final year student, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at the College of Architecture and Engineering. His love for the game and for Mean Machine is unfathomable.

"Rugby is something I enjoy not expecting rewards. The moment I set foot on the pitch my system clears off all frustrations of life and for the little time I am there it is all about that pass, that sidestep, that drop-kick; nothing else matters. But the minute I am out, I long for the next opportunity I will have to pass that ball."

In the Mean Machine team, Rene adorns shirt number 13. In rugby jargon, he plays the first and second five eighths or the midfield positions.

"My role is to ensure the forwards and wingers have a go forward ball by sucking in defence to give them striking opportunities on attack," he explains. "On defence I am tasked with marshalling players across the width of the field and making defensive decisions depending on the position on the field."

Winning the Mt. Kenya 7's was a turning point in Rene's rugby career. "This victory is a major highlight because it came after a losing streak of almost three years. We finally hit our pivot," he says.

After that, more winnings followed Mean Machine. In 2017, the team won the 'Kings of Rugby' trophy twice after emerging winners among university rugby teams. One trophy was awarded to Mean Machine after they beat competing universities in the first series of 'Kings of Rugby' league played at Dedan Kimathi University, Nyeri. The team won the second trophy during the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) series last league in July 2017.

"We have bagged many more silverware for the university," he says. "I mean it is a habit for us to win."

However, the team is confronted by different challenges, such as lack of proper and sufficient kit, equipment and gym facilities. The team is also seeking sponsors. "We need more support from the University administration. We have various ideas that if implemented, we can achieve much more. In my opinion sports should be a marketing tool for the University of Nairobi."

Besides playing rugby, Rene is also engaged in the annual Nairobi Innovation Week and other C4D Lab activities. In future, he hopes to play professional club rugby, in Kenya or abroad.

"My advice to sports students is just do what you love without anything or anyone pushing or pulling you to it. The universe never sleeps and the more the hours you commit to whatever it is you are doing, devoid of the prevailing conditions, the universe will reward you accordingly." **VF**



“We have bagged many silverware for the university. I mean it is a habit for us to win”

Rene Inyanga

Hockey skipper with trail of successes

Agnes Maina: Hockey captain

2 2 year-old Agnes Maina loves her sport. As she narrates her story, one can easily pick her passion and joys of playing hockey.

"To many people, hockey is a boring game but to us who play and enjoy it; it is part of us," says Agnes. "Hockey is a brain game. It improves creativity. What motivates me most is the love I have for the game and also its power to refresh my mind and collect my thoughts together. I not only enjoy playing hockey but also love it."

Agnes is the current University of Nairobi's ladies hockey team captain. She points out that field hockey is a team sport in the hockey family. The hockey enthusiast adorns number 2 and plays defence, left side. She is currently in her fourth year of study, pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Her hockey star started shining brightly while still in high school, when she received the Best Hockey

Player award at Karima Girls High School in 2011.

"I was the hockey team's captain back then. Under my leadership, our school set a record by reaching the upper provincial levels for the very first time. As a result, I received a scholarship to the university."

In campus, Agnes has led her team to bag various awards, including the coveted Champions Cup in the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Women's Championship 2017. The UoN ladies hockey team also received the first runners-up cup in the KUSA National Playoffs 2017.

"This places us in a good position among the Kenyan hockey teams," she says. "This has only been possible due to the endless efforts and commitment of the team members. We are strong believers in team work. Individual attitude and commitment is important in the development of a hockey player."

Her responsibilities as the captain

include passing of information from the sports office to the students and vice versa, ensuring that students are aware and present for their games, deciding and availing the uniforms to be worn in a particular game, choosing the first 11 to begin in a particular game as well as assigning different roles to the teammates. She is also charged with welcoming new members into the team and ensuring that the players get their allowances after every game. Agnes also ensures that the team has enough sport equipment and training sessions. This, she says, is a challenge as the team lacks equipment and kits.

"We try our best to do with what we have but at times it is difficult," she reveals. "We have already engaged the university administration through the sports department to assist us address some of the challenges. We need equipment, team uniform, prompt payment of allowances and reliable transport arrangement to and from games."

Agnes plans to continue playing hockey beyond campus, maybe in one of the ladies hockey clubs in Kenya. She notes that there are several career opportunities that one can take advantage of after school, such as becoming a professional player trainer, consultant and team manager.

"If you are a student and excelling in sports, continue playing and giving your best. I believe that sports can bring out the best of ourselves, making us team-players; which is very essential in the industrial field," she ends.

Besides hockey, Agnes is an active member of the Main Campus Christian Union and a Bible study leader. [VF](#)



“Hockey is a brain game. It improves creativity.”

Agnes Maina

Libero propels players to greater heights

Kevin Naibei: Volleyball team captain

The 23 year-old Kevin Naibei is the captain and libero in the University of Nairobi men's volleyball team.

In volleyball jargon, the libero is the player specialized in defensive skills. "The libero must wear a contrasting jersey colour from teammates and cannot block or attack the ball when it is entirely above net height. When the ball is not in play, the libero can replace any back-row player," says Kevin, who adorns the number 1 jersey in the team. The libero is the most skilled defensive player in a volleyball team.

"Volleyball is not just a sport; it is a career. There have been numerous opportunities presented such as mentoring young volleyball players at Peponi School, meeting and interacting with other peers across the nation," says Kevin.

His best highlight was playing for the University at the East African games in 2016. Recently, he played for Commercial Bank of Africa at the inter-banks competitions. "It is really encouraging to have organizations take you up as a team member," he says.

The fourth year student is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree double major - Political Science and Public Administration and Conflict and Peace Studies.

He says leadership calls for responsibilities and as team captain, he ensures that players work as a team, training is conducted as scheduled, discipline is upheld among players and the team voice is heard in the campus. The young man is looking forward

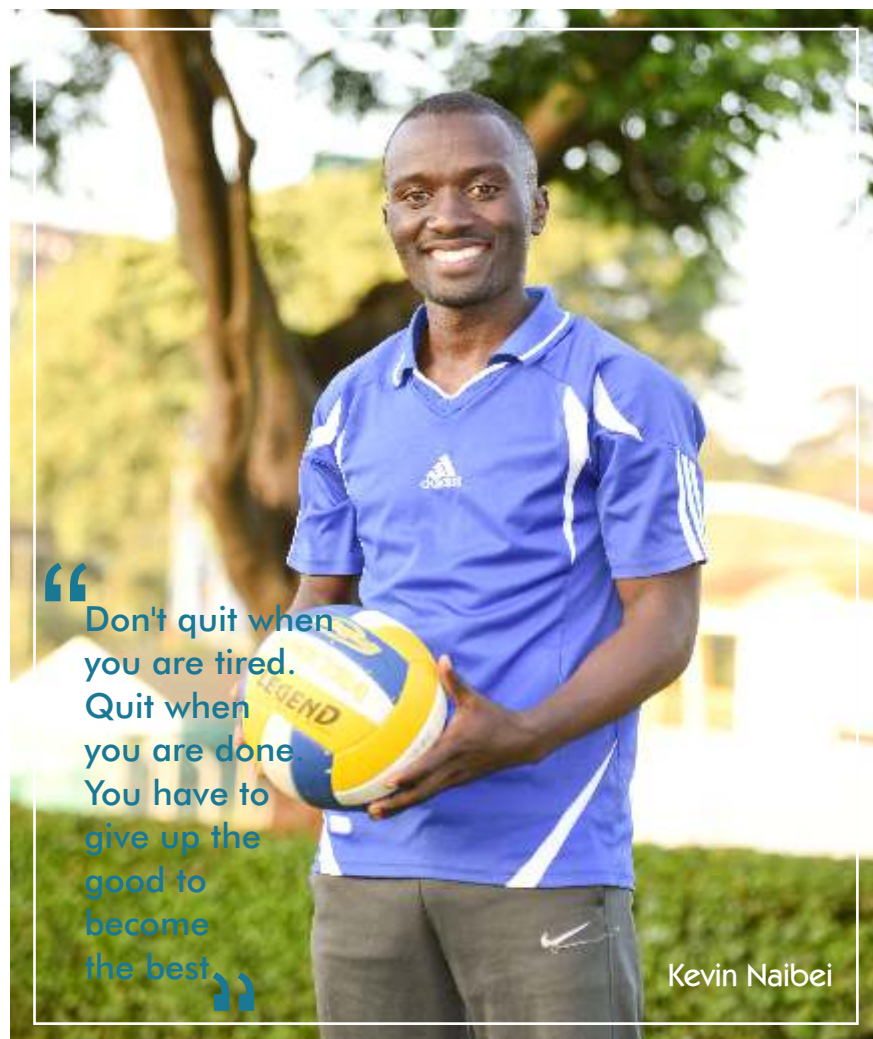
to joining one of the best volleyball clubs in the country and, more so, the national team.

"After graduation, I am hoping to give back to my alma mater by coaching the university volleyball team," he reveals. "There are various career opportunities in volleyball that one can take up, such as signing up as a professional player and coaching."

He calls on fellow sportsmen to work hard in order to achieve impressive

results. "Don't quit when you are tired. Quit when you are done. You have to give up the good to become the best. Spirit is not finished when it is defeated. It is finished when it surrenders," he observes.

Besides sports, Kevin has been active in charitable activities at the University, such as visiting children's home, the sick in hospital, and running mentorship programmes. The libero is the chairman, Peace Ambassadors Kenya-UoN Chapter. **VF**



“Don't quit when you are tired. Quit when you are done. You have to give up the good to become the best.”

Kevin Naibei

UoN reaps key awards at Nairobi Trade Fair



President Uhuru Kenyatta presents the trophy for best university stand to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi at the opening ceremony of the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2017.

The University of Nairobi maintained its sterling performance in various categories during the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2017.

The annual event that brings together local and international exhibitors is organized by the Agricultural Society of Kenya. It took place between September 29-October 8, 2017.

UoN was ranked first in the best stand in research and development, the best university stand as well as the stand that best interprets the show theme (Education/ Research category). Besides winning several prizes in the Farm and Animal Produce section, the University was ranked third in the best stand in youth activities, empowerments and capacity building.

Innovations on tracking of produce from the farm to the market and a 3D microscope were showcased by

university students and researchers. Other innovations included a novel bio-pesticide from bacteria pest control, a 360 degrees CCTV surveillance enterprise that merges all video streams into one stream and an automated toll collection system used to collect tax/tolls using RFID and GSM technology.

The university utilized the event to showcase its cutting edge innovations, programmes and services relating to the country's agricultural and industrial growth.

Presiding over the opening ceremony on October 4, 2017, President Uhuru Kenyatta commended the different organizations at the trade fair.

"This is an important event in our nation's calendar since it provides a platform to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the agricultural sector. The trade fair also

provides an opportunity for Kenyans to appreciate the potential we have as a country. But more importantly, it is an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge on modern technologies and establish business linkages," said the president.

The president presented the best university stand trophy to the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. The University's display attracted the interest of the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Willy Bett, who visited the stand on October 3, 2017 and congratulated UoN for its impressive innovations.

The Nairobi International Trade Fair accords the University an opportunity to share with the public some of its innovations and research outputs. This year's theme was 'Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade.' **VF**

International Day of Non-Violence celebrated

The United Nations International Day of Non-Violence celebrations were held at the University of Nairobi on 3rd October 2017. The day coincides with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

The keynote address, 'Celebrating Ahimsa: Advances in Non-violence', was delivered by Ms. Rajni Bakshi, an eminent Gandhi scholar and member of Executive Committee of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) of India.

Ms. Bakshi called upon Kenyans and the world to uphold non-violence, saying that one does not have to be a great soul to cultivate non-violence. "Mahatma Gandhi once said that 'non-violence is as old as the hills.' This simply means that in history, non-violence existed. Every day, the media reports news of violence in different parts of the world. One thing we need to understand is that violence will never get you power. This is a truth that cannot be

overemphasized. To Gandhi, non-violence is simply a science... knowing what works and what does not work."

Ms. Bakshi cited historical events and great quotes by Mahatma Gandhi that the world could embrace. "A world with no violence can exist. It is up to you to embrace each other and co-exist. We do not need guns to pass a point across. Let us emulate the life of Mahatma Gandhi because his life is his message."

Amb. Tom Amolo, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said everyone can be involved in creating a culture of peace. "We should start preaching peace to the youngest of minds. We need to embrace non-violence in resolving conflict and embrace co-existence," said Amolo, who represented Amb. Amina Mohamed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi said Mahatma Gandhi was an intensely active personality who inspired many people around the world.

"As a university, I urge you to uphold the universal purpose of non-violence by promoting culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and integrity in our institution of learning. It is therefore incumbent upon us to resist the pressure to think and conduct ourselves in a formatted manner. We must resist the temptation to give in to popular beliefs and choices without questioning and objectively investigating their real value to society," said the VC.

The Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Amb. Sanduchitra Durai, urged the gathering to embrace the wise teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. "His life history is his message to us. We have so much to learn from him and that is why the UN marks this day as an international celebrations day," said the ambassador.

The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) Director-General, Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, said the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi are relevant to Kenya, given the recent political tensions, and urged a culture of tolerance.

The event was organized by UoN, the United Nations Office in Nairobi, the Indian High Commission in Kenya and Kenya-India Friends Association (KIFA). VF



Ms. Rajni Bakshi, an eminent Gandhi scholar presents the keynote speech. Listening on is Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, UoN, Ms. Sahle -Work Zewde, Director- General, United Nations Office at Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, UON, Amb. Sanduchitra Durai, Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Amb. Tom Amolo from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and Dr. Manu Chandaria, a member of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Fund.

Plans underway to enhance outreach programmes

The University of Nairobi and Rainbow for Africa UK have established plans to enhance medical corporate social responsibility and medical outreach to the society. A team of medical doctors from Liverpool was at the University on September 13, 2017 to explore areas of collaboration.

Rainbow for Africa UK is a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to increase the quality, specificity and accessibility of health systems in developing countries. They respond to humanitarian needs, supporting clinical staff to travel to areas requiring their targeted expertise with direct patient care or by training local clinicians. They aim to make

sustainable improvements, living skills and expertise within the region once their specific mission is complete.

By partnering with other organizations like Liverpool and Turin, they work in partnership with local churches and community groups to present a practical demonstration of the gospel in action within the locality.

Dr. Reginald Nalugala from St. Paul's Free Medical Camp observed that the medical team from UK is willing to continue working with the St. Paul's University Chapel to enhance student exchange programmes, especially for those in the medical field. The students who participated

in the medical camps got a chance to learn and interact with experts from medical profession.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said the University of Nairobi aims at producing holistic graduates and there are several opportunities through which students can be developed through professional associations like Medical Students Association, Environmental Club, and Business Students Association to impact the society.

Also present during the meeting were Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. F. Were, Ag. Principal, College of Health Sciences and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. M. R. B. Otieno. [VF](#)



Officials from the University of Nairobi and Rainbow for Africa UK, take a group photo after paying a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor.

Entrepreneurship course for women launched



Celebrating a milestone: Invited guests and officials from the University of Nairobi pose for a group photo during the launch of the entrepreneurship course.

The Africa Women Studies Centre, UoN, has launched a three-day entrepreneurship course that aims at impacting women with practical ideas on entrepreneurship.

The course was launched by Dr. Manu Chandaria, the Chairman of Comcraft Group. The renowned industrialist urged business women to work together to achieve great exploits.

"It has always been said that women are their own worst enemies. I urge you to change the narrative and lift each other up. Work together and you shall achieve great success," he said. Dr. Chandaria gave personal examples of how he and other business leaders approached the government so solve the issues that bedeviled the manufacturing sector. Several speakers urged women to

work, grow their businesses to international standards and compete on the global scale. Mrs Tabitha Karanja, CEO, Keroche Breweries, highlighted the key challenges she faced during the expansion of her business venture. She said has since learnt to rely on business mentors to overcome her challenges. Mrs Karanja advised women to be resilient in order to survive in business.

"My competitors wanted me out of business. They found me resilient. I believed in myself. For me, the sky is the limit. Wake up and focus on your goals. There are many challenges. One day, I woke up and found all my sales team packing. They had been bought by our competitors. I have since learnt to fight. I have fought the big giants and won."

On marketing, Mrs. Tabitha urged

women to continue marketing their products and services. At the beginning, she said, it is always a challenge to get credit and hence, women entrepreneurs should be ready to work with personal savings, but as their business empires grow in size, the banks will come in handy to finance the operations.

The university academic community was challenged to expose students to practical entrepreneurship. Students were encouraged to seek internship, apprenticeship opportunities and solve the problems of the industry. The university staff were challenged to bring in experienced business community to give public lectures to students and change their mindset. University Management were told to train their students to be employers and not just employees. **VF**

Medics, stakeholders wage war against medicalization of FGM

Medical practitioners and other stakeholders held a two-day workshop to develop a curriculum aimed at abolishing the medicalization Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C).

The workshop was hosted by the College of Health Sciences (CHS), University of Nairobi and the Africa Coordinating Centre for the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (ACCAF).

Speaking during the opening of the workshop, acting CHS Principal Prof. Fredrick Were said FGM/C must be stopped immediately because it contravenes several basic rights of women and girls. The workshop was held on 14th and 15th September, 2017 at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi.

"In many places around the world, the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women are tenuous at best, and years of progress can be washed away instantly by socio-political changes. FGM/C in particular contravenes several basic rights of women and girls, including the right to life and right to be free from inhumane and degrading treatment," Prof. Were said.

According to Prof. Were, an estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide have undergone FGM/C and more than 3 million girls are at risk of FGM/C each year in Africa. He noted that in Kenya, the overall prevalence of FGM/C is on the decline.

"The percentage of women aged 15 to 49 who have undergone the procedure according to 2014 Kenya

Demographic and Health Survey is 21, which is a decline from 27% in 2008/09, 32 percent in 2003 and 38% in 1998," Prof. Were said.

He raised concerns over the growing trend where FGM/C is performed by health-care providers, saying this will not reduce the long term complications of the practice, has no benefit whatsoever, has no medical indication, and thus its performance violates the code of medical ethics.

"With a wave of modernity sweeping across societies so is the dynamism of FGM/C to include both the modern and traditionalist women. While the practice was initially a preserve of traditionalist, health professionals including doctors, nurses, midwives and clinical officers have also been looped in performing FGM. This is known as medicalization of FGM/C practice. It is therefore important to determine the magnitude and evolvement of the practice to eliminate it.

"One way of determining this is through research, when institutions and programmes publish and share what they have found out in their areas of study. The society is better placed to know the extent of the practice and how to tackle it. This will accelerate the efforts of abandonment of this practice and thus the opportunity of all institutions to come together and come

up with an integral approach to preventing FGM/C, which in this case is a curriculum," Prof. Were said.

However, Prof. Were noted that the new curriculum should lead to better teaching and learning to avert the medicalization of this practice.

"For this reason the discussion here today will ensure that we come up with a curriculum that through training and capacity building we will develop skilled manpower for management of complications arising from FGM/C and averting medicalization of FGM/C in Kenya. Our success will depend on our determination and collective efforts. If each of us could play part conscientiously we will in turn be helping vulnerable women and youth affected by FGM/C get quality treatment and care countrywide," Prof. Were said. VF



Prof. Fredrick Were, the Principal, College of Health Sciences, addresses the participants at the workshop.

School of Business launches Executive Development Programmes

The School of Business has launched a series of Executive Development Programmes.

The programmes aim at equipping executive managers with practical leadership skills to help them steer their organizations to greater successes. The programmes were launched on October 19, 2017 at the Chandaria Auditorium, University of Nairobi Towers.

Speaking during the event, Mr Vimal Shah, Chief Executive Officer, Bidco Group of Companies, challenged the School of Business to benchmark with the best schools in the world, so that learners can get maximum return on their investment.

"We need more case studies of African businesses. We read books on Microsoft, Apple, Google and overseas companies but not local companies. We need to read and learn about local companies too," he said.

Vimal Shah added that the economy

of Kenya is growing and doing better than its counterparts in the continent, such as South Africa and Nigeria, and hence the country needs to take its rightful place as a leader in the region and on the continent.

"Coupled with the highest internet speeds in the region, Kenya is ready for take-off. Moreover, Kenya has been able to attract multinationals like British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), CNN, Google, and Microsoft. To be competitive in today's technology era, we need to think on our feet. We need to embrace lifelong learning. I challenge graduates to embrace digital economy and create more jobs. For us to succeed, we have to learn, unlearn and relearn."

Mr. Shah also appealed to the financial institutions to fund youth startups. He called on corporations to hire young people to increase innovation at the workplace.

Presiding over the launch, the Public

Service Commission Chairman Prof. Margaret Kobia observed that most employees in the public sector lack competencies for jobs and hence the executive programmes should be need based. She challenged the School of Business to train manpower that will create jobs and wealth.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, noted that the programmes will update business executives with the latest trends in the market. He said employees who benefit from company training programmes tend to be more productive at work compared to non-trained ones. They are also more loyal and likely to stay longer at the organization.

The programmes will be packed with practical leadership skills that will help executives develop broader perspectives in business. The executives will also be equipped with skills to enable them lead cross-functional teams. Prof. Mutoro noted that the University is ready to work with the private sector, public sector and counties to develop leadership skills. **VF**



Prof. Margaret Kobia, the Chairman, Public Service Commission, gives the keynote address at the launch of the Executive Development Programmes.

Prof. Ogeng'o tips anatomists during inaugural lecture



Prof. Julius Alexander Ogeng'o, a Professor of Human Anatomy, delivers his inaugural lecture on November 13, 2017 in Taifa Hall.

Prof Julius Alexander Ogeng'o, a Professor of Human Anatomy, has cautioned medical practitioners to be vigilant when they observe anatomical variations.

These variations, said Prof Ogeng'o, have led to loss of human lives in some instances where medical practitioners overlook the variations and erroneously cut them during surgical procedures or misdiagnosis.

"No two people are identical. Variations influence vulnerability to diseases and influence complications and outcome. Variations are a major cause of doctors' malpractice and hence litigations," said the professor when he delivered his inaugural lecture on November 13, 2017 at Taifa Hall. The title of the inaugural lecture was: "Anatomical Variations among Black Kenyans: Relevance in Health and Disease."

Prof. Ogen'go said variations have led to frequent abortions, trauma and hypertension. He observed that variations exist in 14% of Kenyan population. The variations, he observed, can lead to heart attack, abdominal attack, neck attack, spontaneous abortions, and appendicitis. He said variations can occur in any party of the body, such as bones, kidney and brain.

Prof. Ogeng'o advised members of the academic community to embrace teamwork, keep good company and enlarge their worldview. These, he observed, have helped him to be one of the most published scholars in the university and around the continent.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi introduced Prof. Ogeng'o moments before his lecture. He said Professor Julius Ogeng'o is a medical doctor specialist in Human Anatomy, and

holds BSc, MBChB, PhD and MD degrees from the University of Nairobi. He is currently the Director, Centre for Self-Sponsored Programmes at the University of Nairobi, the immediate former Managing Director of UNES, and long serving Chairman of Department of Human Anatomy.

As the Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, Prof. Ogeng'o mentored several doctors and prides himself as 'the father of anatomists and a net exporter of anatomists in Kenya'. He introduced technology to the department and that enabled students to study in groups and refer to notes online from his online journal, ogatomy.org. His leadership skills helped in the construction of the Chiromo Funeral Parlour and Surgical Skills Center.

He has wide management experience, characterized by extensive knowledge, skills and competencies in strategic frameworks for administration of university education, resource management; visionary result oriented leadership, management of academic programmes, managerial skills, strategy formulation and implementation.

The lecture was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, who urged the University administration to put in place a policy that will ensure that professors give inaugural lectures before being awarded full professorship. In attendance were UoN staff, students, medical practitioners and members of the public. [VF](#)

UoN Press forges links at Nairobi International Book Fair

The University of Nairobi Press participated in the 20th edition of the Nairobi International Book Fair. The fair, which opened its doors to the public on September 28, 2017 at the Sarit Centre, attracted participants from all over the world under the theme, "United in Reading."

Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, Hadi Farajvand, visited the UON Press stand during the opening ceremony. He said the Iranian

embassy is forging links with the University of Nairobi, pointing out that its motto, *unitate et labore*, resonates with the aspirations of the book fair.

The Press received trade enquiries from bookshops in Uganda, Tanzania, the Library of Congress, and the School of Social Studies in Amsterdam. The areas of enquiry include social history and labour movements, devolution, business, national development, and public relations. There were also several

enquiries on programmes on offer, the University of Nairobi catalogue, and the last two issues of the *Varsity Focus*.

The University of Nairobi and the Press were also identified as new ground for internship, apprenticeship and transfer of skills and knowledge. The Press will be inviting partnerships with authors, communicators, and a number of individuals who indicated interest in documenting their experiences. [VF](#)



Ms. Njeri Muhoro, an editor at the University of Nairobi Press, interacts with Iran's Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Hadi Farajvand at the Book Fair.

Pictorial



1. University of Nairobi students perform at the Confucius Institute Day celebrations held at the institution on October 6, 2017. The celebrations were marked by traditional dances, instrumental music and fashion show, among other activities.
2. Bachelor of Arts students from the University of Nairobi donate food stuff to Young Life Africa Children's Home in Ruiru on November 16, 2017.
3. The Belt and Road University Presidents Forum (BUCT*2017) December 6-7, Beijing, China. Seated, extreme right, is Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi.



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4. King Kaka, a local musician, moves the crowd during the National World AIDS Day 2017 Commemoration concert held at the University of Nairobi.
5. EU Ambassador to Kenya, Stephano Dejak, speaks to University of Nairobi students, urging them to apply for the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship program.
6. (From left) The Executive Director of County Governance Watch, Kevin Osido, GlaxoSmithKline PLC, Debra Mallowah, Managing Director, Kenya Women Microfinance Bank (KWFT), Mwangi Githaiga, the Governor, Bomet County, Dr. Joyce Laboso and Cabinet Secretary, Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Sicily Kariuki were the main panelists at the 3rd Nation Leadership Forum, titled 'Kenya's Gender Dilemma.'

Chase your dreams and prosper, VC tells new students

The University of Nairobi welcomed first year students at two separate colourful ceremonies graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi and top university management.

The first lot of freshers, who reported on September 4, 2017, were admitted in the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, and College of Education and External Studies.

The College of Health Sciences welcomed its new students on November 23, 2017, while those of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences will report on January 8, 2018.

While welcoming the first batch of students, the Vice-chancellor challenged them to make right choices in life.

"For most of you, university is the first real experience of freedom: freedom of intellect, freedom of expression and all manner of other attendant freedoms. I urge you to exercise this freedom responsibly. Ultimately, your own actions will make or break you. Choose today which master to serve," said Prof Mbithi.

In his highly inspiring speech, the Vice-Chancellor called on the budding scholars to follow their dreams. He observed: "Do not chase other people's dreams. Make choices that will make you happy, choose to tear the script, chart your own course and discover new shores. Do not settle for less for you are neither sons nor daughters of a lesser God. If you choose to work hard and work smart, a world of endless opportunities will unfold before your very own eyes.

You can be somebody you want to be and you can choose to be, anything that you want. You can dream big and reap big here at the University of Nairobi."

The students were sensitized on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, drug abuse, and other aspects that are part of students' lifestyle. The students were urged by the administrators to concentrate on their studies and engage in positive extra-curricular activities.

College of Health Sciences

During the second ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor told the College of Health Sciences students to take advantage of their time in the University and prosper in their respective areas of study.

"The University is endowed with a lot of resources. Proper utilization of such enormous and readily available resources will serve to transform you into a holistic individual, impart excellence in your experiential learning and cultivate positive ethics

and values in you," said the VC.

Prof. Mbithi noted that healthcare in Kenya faces a shortage of competent professionals. He said a 2016 audit by Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists Union indicated that the number of doctors has dropped to 3,956 serving more than 40 million Kenyans. He further noted that according to the World Health Organization, Kenya should have at least 83,442 doctors in line with the minimum recommended ratio of 230 doctors per every 100,000 people.

"For sure your skills and training are needed to fill the gap to create a transformational community outreach. Grab that opportunity and follow your dreams," said Prof Mbithi.

The students were taken through a detailed induction programme that included familiarization with colleagues, interaction with university staff and tour of facilities and infrastructure for academic and extracurricular activities. VF



Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, interacts with the new students admitted to the College of Health Sciences.

UoN to boost SOS Technical Training Institute capacity

The University of Nairobi has pledged to establish collaboration with SOS Technical Training Institute (SOS TTI) on vocational training initiatives.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, made the announcement at the second graduation ceremony at the SOS TT in Nairobi, on November 13, 2017.

"Most universities do not offer vocational training in their curriculum. The University of Nairobi, in partnership with SOS TTI, will be linking young people with these skills training to the SOS TTI School," he said.

Other notable avenues of partnership with SOS will be through offering scholarship opportunities to excelling young people to study at the University of Nairobi, access to HELB loans for university entry and TTI students' participation in

University of Nairobi's open days and the Nairobi Innovation Week.

SOS, founded over three decades ago, has been home to over 1,000 children, mostly orphans and abandoned children. The institute has five children villages, two primary schools, one secondary school and a technical training institute. SOS provides a home for children in need and tools towards self-reliance. In the technical institute, students learn courses like fashion design, food and beverage, woodworking and electrical installation. Prof. Mutoro inspected various labs at the institute. He noted the University of Nairobi is endowed with much potential in the field of engineering, which SoS can tap from. "You can work with our professors in electrical engineering and we can improve the quality of

your electrical engineering, installation and the quality of your training programmes," he said.

Dr. Alice Kibui, SOS Kenya Education Director, advised the graduating class to remain focused in life in order to achieve their goals. She told the graduands to use their knowledge to make a living and as well as a difference in the society.

The Principal, Mr. Gabriel Maina, congratulated the class of 2017 for a job well done and urged them to be proud employers. He emphasized the need for the graduands to continue their academic endeavours.

SOS Institute is supported by Housing Finance, CBA Bank, Safaricom, Shangilia Mtoto Africa, Dandora Baptist Church, Kariobangi Catholic Church, Lewa Wildlife, PCEA Kariobangi North, among other institutions. Prof. Mutoro pledged the join the long list of donors who support SOS. [VF](#)



(Second from right) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, at the second graduation ceremony at the SOS Training Institute. With him are officials from the institute.

Staff trained on customer care and service

The Administration Department, UoN, trained its staff on customer care and service.

Speaking during the sensitization workshop, Dr. Mary Kinoti, Associate Dean, School of Business, stressed the importance of minding the welfare of customers through efficient delivery of services.

"Customers want special treatment. Both internal and external customers are the heart of the organization. They are a source of revenue, profits and without them, there is no business," she said.

According to Dr. Kinoti, customer care skills involve good

appearance, being observant, listening to customers and talking to them. She highlighted outstanding customer care elements such as professionalism, efficiency, reliability, friendliness, expert knowledge, care and trustworthiness.

Dr. Owuor Olunga, Director, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies, outlined the benefits of gender mainstreaming at the University of Nairobi.

"Gender determines entitlement to resources, access to services like health, opportunities to education, and choices and freedoms," he said. Dr Olunga urged staff to

tolerate each other at work. "If there is a colleague that you are not happy with, please go and make peace. Work to make an impact. Increase your relationship with others."

Ms. Monica Mwakazi from the Performance Secretariat urged the University staff to help customers get access to relevant information and treat customer information with confidentiality.

The staff members were also sensitized on the Service Delivery Charter and achieving client expectations, as well as offering quality and timely services. [VF](#)



Dr. Charles Olungah, Director, Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African studies , University of Nairobi facilitates a session at the workshop.

UoN, Cambridge Trust pursue exchange programmes

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and Cambridge Trust have agreed to pursue collaboration in staff and student exchange programmes and offering scholarships to student to study abroad.

The collaboration plan was discussed when the Director, Cambridge Trust, Prof. Hellen Pennant and the President, Ms. Dame Barbara Stocking, paid a courtesy call on the UoN Vice-chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. Prof. Pennant observed that working

with the University of Nairobi will boost African research and collaborations. Their maiden visit to Kenya and to the University of Nairobi was to explore ways of increasing the number of Kenyan students' enrollment in Cambridge University. Prof Pennant noted that there are over 500 student scholarships annually and urged students to apply.

Prof. Mbithi expressed the need to have students and professors from Cambridge visit the University of Nairobi and vice versa. The Vice-

chancellor pledged to support the collaboration which will help the two universities produce more 'global citizens.' He added that the University of Nairobi believes in global collaborations to produce holistic graduates.

The Vice-chancellor recalled university staff would be trained in the universities abroad, as part of the staff development programme, to be equipped with skills in efficient and effective service delivery. He noted that the programme is no longer effective.

The two institutions agreed to explore agreements which will guide how they will work together and the specific activities to be undertaken. **VF**



Prof. Hellen Pennant, the Director, Cambridge Trust, presents a gift to Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi.

UoNAA donates Kshs. 2M to needy students

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association, (UONAA) has donated Kshs. 2 million towards the University scholarship fund to support needy students. The cheque was presented on November, 14, 2017, to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi by the alumni association executive committee led by the Secretary, Prof. P.L.O Lumumba. Prof. Lumumba observed that he is looking forward to the endowment fund and supporting more students to enable them pursue their career goals without financial struggles.

Prof. Mbithi thanked the alumni association for supporting the University. He shared the latest QS ranking with the Alumni Association, noting that the University was position 66 globally in alumni relations and 300 globally for employability of its graduates.

Dr. Anne Assey, Vice-Chairperson, UONAA, said the alumni association has awarded Ksh. 19 million bursary since 2009. She said the association is vibrant and is ready to support research and university activities like open days, Innovation Week, and Prize-giving

Day.

"The association has 14 alumni chapters, which will be approached to support various University endeavours," said, Dr. Assey. She thanked the Vice-Chancellor for supporting the association with human capital to help it run its affairs efficiently.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Godfrey Muriuki, Special Students Advisor, Mr. John Kenduiwo, Director, UNES, Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director University Advancement and Mr. Keneth Sawe, Executive Director, UONAA. [VF](#)



Prof. P.L.O Lumumba, Secretary, UoNAA presents the cheque to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. Looking on (from left) is Prof. R.A. Obudho, Dr. Anne Assey, Mr. John Kenduiwo and Mr. Keneth Sawe, all members of the UONAA Executive Committee.

ESDA programme to be enhanced

Plans are underway to enhance the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) programme at the University of Nairobi.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi made the announcement when he presided over the induction workshop of the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa – Sustainable Urban Development (ESDA-SUD) on October 10, 2017.

“This programme presents many opportunities for our country especially in the area of sustainable

urban development. We need to strategize and plan how we shall enhance the ESDA programme by enrolling more students, securing more partnerships and offering more scholarships,” said the VC.

Dr. Boniface Wambua, the Chairman, Geography Department and the Alternate ESDA-SUD Coordinator, said the masters programme is being coordinated by Wangari Maathai Institute. “Since establishment in 2014, the programme has 9 students pursuing studies in various specializations,

including water and sanitation. The students are enrolled in the Department of Geography,” he said. According to the ESDA-SUD Coordinator Prof. Nzioka Muthama, the programme is designed to nurture multi-disciplinary partnerships and knowledge.

“This project addresses Vision 2030 development agenda on sustainable urban development. We have the opportunity to interact and provide solutions to the local and global problems, thereby making a difference in society.” ^{VF}



Participants take a group photo at the induction workshop of the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa – Sustainable Urban Development (ESDA-SUD).

UoN and University of New South Wales propose award of joint degrees

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the University of New South Wales, Australia, have proposed partnership to produce students with joint degrees. If the deal sails through, students will study in both universities as they pursue their careers and their certificates will bear the logos of the two universities. This idea was explored at the meeting between the two universities on November 15, 2017 at the Council Chamber, UoN. Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension, observed that the University of Nairobi is keen on enrolling more students to pursue doctorate courses. "There is a real need for postgraduate and post-doctorate.

Kenyan universities have a target to produce over 2,000 PhDs by 2019. As the University of Nairobi, we aim at producing at least 50 PhDs at every graduation," she said.

Mr. Antony Badgery, Manager, External Relations, University of New South Wales, noted that their university is strong in engineering, business and science courses and would wish to partner with the University of Nairobi to strengthen the academic output of the two institutions.

"We are strong in research and we are ranked among the top 50 universities worldwide. We are also strong in global development and giving back to the society. In this regard, we are working with Gulu

University, Uganda, to help them improve the quality of their engineering outputs. University of South Wales is a leader in mining, petroleum engineering and architecture," said Mr Badgery.

The two institutions of higher learning will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on how the two institutions will work together.

Also present during the meeting were Prof. William Ogara, Director, Center for International Programmers and Linkages, Ms. Brenda Warble, Regional Manager East Africa, Australian Trade and Investment Commission and Mr. Humphrey Webby, from the Academic Division. [VF](#)



Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension interacts with Mr. Antony Badgery, Manager, External Relations, University of New South Wales and Ms. Brenda Wabule, Regional Manager East Africa, Australian Trade and Investment Commission during the meeting.

Cuba seeks partnership in sciences

The University of Nairobi and the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Kenya have entered into talks on partnership in health, biological and physical sciences.

The Cuban Ambassador to Kenya, Ernesto Gomez Diaz, floated the idea when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi on September 26, 2017.

"We are interested in building a relationship between the University of Nairobi and Cuban universities. Cuba has rich experience in high level innovation in various disciplines," said the envoy.

Prof. Mbithi thanked the ambassador for reaching out to UoN for partnership. "At the University of Nairobi, we respect and value partnerships. Universities of the 21st century must embrace innovation in order to remain relevant. This can only be achieved by establishing global linkages of mutual benefits."

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu noted that it is important for UoN to link with Cuban universities and tap into each other's strengths.

Others who spoke during the meeting were the Principal,

College of Health Sciences, Prof. Frederick Were and the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda. ^{VF}

“ We are interested in building a relationship between the University of Nairobi and Cuban universities. ”

Cuban Ambassador to Kenya, Ernesto Gomez Diaz



The Cuban Ambassador to Kenya, Ernesto Gomez Diaz and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi during the meeting.

UoN and Hitachi strike Kshs. 4M research deal

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and Hitachi Limited, Japan, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of a grant amounting to Kshs. 4 million for collaboration in capacity building and discovery science in infectious. According to the terms of agreement, UoN and Hitachi will conduct joint research on ethno-pharmacology of malaria and other infectious diseases. The research will seek to identify potential drug targets against malaria parasite using herbs commonly used by local herbalists to treat malaria. In addition, there will be a one-year fellowship at Hitachi by UoN students, potential for investment in research promoting activities and infrastructure and creation of an avenue for joint application and access to international research funds.

The MoU was signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi and the General Manager, Centre for Exploratory Research, Hitachi, Dr. Shinji Yamada on September 12, 2017.

According to Dr. Yamada, the initial contact between UoN and Hitachi began when the Hitachi delegation visited College of Health Sciences (CHS) in 2015. During the visit, Dr. Julius Oyugi, the then acting Chairman of the Department of Medical Microbiology conducted a tour of the research facilities and shared his research interest.

"We were impressed by the on-going research activities at the College and felt the need to partner with UoN as one of our focus business domains is public healthcare," said Dr. Yamada. Prof. Mbithi thanked Hitachi for considering the proposal from the University and for the award of the

grant. The Vice-chancellor said UoN is strong in the area of health sciences and that the collaboration with Hitachi will improve on the quality, learning and research outputs.

"Our desire is to work together to get solutions that are global but can also address our local problems. The University management is committed to ensuring that the tenets of this agreement are implemented," said Prof Mbithi.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu, Ag. Principal, CHS, Prof. Frederick Were, Chairman, Department of Medical Microbiology, Prof Walter Jaoko, Dr. Julius Oyugi, CHS, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages, are among those who witnessed the signing of the MoU. [VF](#)



Dr. Shinji Yamada, General Manager, Centre for Exploratory Research, Hitachi and Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, exchange signed copies of the MoU.

Varsity hosts Confucius Institute Day celebrations

The Confucius Institute Day was celebrated at the University of Nairobi, Main Campus, on October 6, 2017.

The celebrations were attended by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Dr. Liu Xianfa, who urged Kenya and China to uphold the good relations

several needy students.

The bilateral relations between Kenya and China have contributed to the growth and development of infrastructural projects in the country. The two nations enjoy improved bilateral trade and tourism.

The celebrations were marked by traditional dances, instrumental music and fashion show. The dances incorporated both Chinese traditional dances and contemporary Kenyan dance styles. The University of Nairobi, Donghua University and Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) sponsored the event. The organizers were Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi, Donghua University Art Education Center and Donghua University Student Art Troupe. VF

between the two countries. "Friendship and goodwill provide strongest force for bilateral relations," he said. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter

Mbithi thanked the Chinese Ambassador for regular support to the University, such as scholarship to



The University of Nairobi community joined the Chinese community in celebrating the Confucius Institute Day at the University of Nairobi, Main Campus on Friday, October, 6, 2017.

2018-2023 strategic planning process underway



The University of Nairobi has embarked on the development of the 2018-2023 strategic plan.

"The current University of Nairobi Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 is set to expire in June 2018. The strategic plan has served the University well, and we are now primed to develop

the Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi announced.

The strategic plan team is being coordinated by Prof. Timothy Waema, of the School of Computing and Informatics, with representation from all colleges. The plan is expected to be launched in April 2018.

another 5-year strategic plan. A team to develop the new strategic plan has been constituted and has started working,"

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Isaac Mbeche said the University has had a strategic plan since 2005.

"The 2005-2010 Strategic Plan aimed at transforming UoN to a world class university with the running theme of 'world class excellence.' This was later reviewed in 2007, and the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan steered the University towards responding to emerging challenges and opportunities. With the running theme 'sustaining progress towards world class status,' the 2013- 2018 Strategic Plan was embodied on the Kenyan Vision 2030, ISO 9001:2013, UoN Charter 2012," said Prof Mbeche.

The strategic plan team has been visiting colleges and other units to collect data. VF

UoN hosts ESDA-SUD workshop to boost MA programme

Education for Sustainable Development in Africa– Sustainable Development ((ESDA-SUD) held the first workshop at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS).The workshop brought together faculty members, students and stakeholders to discuss sustainability issues in Kenya.

The meeting, held on September 25, 2017, brought together 24 participants from different institutions. The theme of the

workshop was 'Sustainable Urban Development: Lessons and Perspectives'. The workshop's main objective was to enhance the understanding and quality of the EDSA-SUD masters programme in order to achieve the mission and vision of training leaders for sustainable development in Africa.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, Prof. Stephen G. Kiama, dubbed the meeting “a gathering of those who care.”

“I hope that this workshop will develop initiatives that will provide reforms in the delivery of the agriculture curriculum to ensure it transforms learners to be change agents in communities they serve. A curriculum whose intended outcome is to ensure communities are empowered,” he said.

Four key note presentations were delivered during the morning plenary session.The afternoon session involved a lively ESDA students' debate facilitated by ESDA faculty. **VF**



Participants at the workshop for Education for Sustainable Development in Africa– Sustainable Development ((ESDA-SUD) held at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS).

University of Nairobi graduates most preferred by employers

Graduates from the University of Nairobi are the most preferred by employers in Kenya and most parts of Africa.

A recent British Council Report on Universities, Employability and Inclusive Development indicated that employers prefer to recruit graduates from institutions where they have successfully recruited in the past, with the University of Nairobi graduates being the most preferred in many fields due to the university's ranking in Africa, its reputation as the oldest university in Kenya and the fact that a large number of senior managers in blue-chip companies are alumni of the institution.

Its rankings placed the University of Nairobi at position one in Kenya as the most preferred institution for graduate recruitment.

The British Council commissioned the Institute of Education at the University of London to undertake the Universities, Employability and Inclusive Development Research and Advocacy Project. The research was

conducted in 2016 and findings through their research are aimed at contributing to the development of university systems in Africa and the UK.

According to QS Rankings 2017, the University of Nairobi was ranked as 3rd best in Africa and top 300 globally on Graduate Employability rankings; beating most of its key competitors from South Africa and Egypt. It was ranked after University of Cape Town (Position 1 and in the range of 101-110 globally), The American University in Cairo, Cairo University and University of Witwatersrand (all tying at position 2 and in the range of 201-250 globally).

QS World University Rankings is a reputable annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) from the United Kingdom.

Graduate employability ranking is essential because it gives an understanding of how successful universities are at nurturing employability. It acknowledges the

fact that a university's ability to foster employability is affected by the economic performance of the country in which it is situated.

The ranking indicators for Graduate Employability are: Employer reputation-which is measured using a global survey, in which graduate employers are asked to identify the institutions producing the best graduates in their field; Graduate employment rate- which involves measuring the proportion of graduates in full- or part-time employment within 12 months of graduation; Employer-student connections- which involves summing the number of employers who are actively present on a university's campus, providing motivated students with an opportunity to network and acquire information and Employer partnerships which assesses an institutions' engagement with industry partners in research and other areas. It narrows to the average number of distinct global companies collaborating with the University.

Another key indicator for the graduate employability ranking is the Alumni outcomes. This component analyzes the educational pathways of the world's most innovative, creative, wealthy, entrepreneurial, and or philanthropic individuals with the aim of establishing the universities that are producing world-changing graduates and highly successful individuals, each measuring desirable outcomes in a particular walk of life. Further, in this indicator, QS Ranked the University of Nairobi at position 66 globally and 3rd in Africa. **VF**



Graduands during a past graduation ceremony at the University of Nairobi.

University mourns departed staff



PROF. DUNCAN OKOTH OKOMBO - DEPARTMENT: LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

Sunrise: 8-11-1950 Sunset: 11-02-17

Prof Okombo was a brilliant intellectual and a wonderful mentor to young scholars. He obtained first class honours in his Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics, had a Master of Arts Degree in Linguistics and African Languages and a PhD in Linguistics and African Languages. He was considered as a leading light in the field of Nilotic and the father of sign language studies in Africa and is a globally respected tower of intellect. His theories of interpretation will continue to resonate with many, especially the intellectuals in the sub-field of literary and linguistic scholarship.

Many will remember him as a remarkable translator of Grace Ogot's Miahia (The Strange Bride).



PROF. SAIDI HASSAN - DEPARTMENT: HUMAN ANATOMY

Sunrise: August 03, 1965 Sunset: 29th August 2017

Prof. Saidi Hassan held a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Human Anatomy, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), Master of Medicine in Surgery (MMed) and PhD (Surgery) degrees from the University of Nairobi and had received additional training in digestive and laparoscopic surgery in Germany and USA.

He was an excellent teacher of Anatomy, with a thirty-year experience in instruction and teaching Human Anatomy at the University of Nairobi, Aga Khan University Nairobi and the University of Pennsylvania. He taught over 4000 undergraduate medical students, supervised over 60 postgraduate students in Surgery and Anatomy and mentored many renowned surgeons, doctors and clinical officers. Several generations will feel this loss. He will be missed by many.



**PROF. WILLIAM OKELLO ODONGO
DEPARTMENT: SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS**

Sunrise: 31 January 1953 Sunset: 26th October 2017

Prof Okello-Odongo held a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Northwest Missouri State University, Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University and PhD in Computer Science from the University of Essex.

He had a vast experience of over 25 years in teaching and mentoring both undergraduate and postgraduate students. He created significant intellectual contribution in research areas such as distributed computing architectures and technologies, Computing systems security and Cyber-physical systems and participated in many funded research and consultancies at the University of Nairobi.



**DR. JOSEPH MBINDYO
DEPARTMENT: SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION**

Having joined the School of Journalism in **1982**, Dr Mbindyo was as a veteran journalism lecturer at the University of Nairobi. He had a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Sociology from the University of Nairobi and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Communication from Stanford University, California, in the United States.

He was also a Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi as well as a consultant for various international organizations.

University of Nairobi and its entire fraternity condole with the families of the late members of staff.

May their souls rest in peace.

Varsity hosts World AIDS Day commemoration

The University of Nairobi hosted the national World AIDS Day commemoration celebrations on December 1st 2017.

The colorful event was held in partnership with the National AIDS Control Council, at the Chancellor's Court, Main Campus. HIV testing services, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), counseling, blood sugar and hypertension screening, and Body Mass Index (BMI) are among the services that were offered at the event.

Themed "Step Up for HIV Prevention: Youth Na Plan," young Kenyans were called upon to get tested and know their status. Local artistes entertained the participants who also had a chance to visit various organizations exhibiting at the celebrations.

Presiding over the ceremony, the chief guest and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr. Julius Korir said Kenya has made tremendous

progress in HIV response.

"We have recorded a reduction in new HIV infections, more people are receiving antiretroviral treatment and there is growing recognition of the benefits of treatment as prevention," he noted. "We have seen an enhanced uptake of services of Kenya's unique HIV Tribunal. Systems for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, commodity availability have increasingly been strengthened. However, despite these advances, it is noted that indicators such as new infections among adolescents and young people, are off-target demonstrating that the work is not yet done."

The Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda, represented the Vice-Chancellor during the occasion. Prof

Aduda noted that the University of Nairobi continues to adopt a multi-faceted approach focusing on clinical practice, research and policy formulation. He said much work remains in a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on most vulnerable populations to prevent new infections.

"The University of Nairobi HIV/AIDS policy helps in implementing various interventions thus allowing the University to make progress in HIV/AIDS control and management. UoN has continued to partner with other stakeholders in research, training and dissemination of HIV/AIDS information. Through its networks, UoN provides sponsorship for HIV fellowship programmes to enhance capacity building and management of HIV/AIDS," said Prof Aduda. [VF](#)



Commemorating World AIDS day: Participants march to the University of Nairobi as part of the days celebration.

A story of successes and lessons at AIESEC

I vividly remember being in one of the many meetings we've at AIESEC in University of Nairobi, and if there is one question that struck me till today during our get to know each other session is the question, "What one word would you use to describe your 2017 so far?"

Now as simple as this query may have seemed, it drove me to a state of very solemn and in-depth reflection (which is something that I rarely do. My personality just seems to have an affinity for the present compared to past events and experiences). After long roaming and searching amongst my very limited vocabulary, the most appropriate answer I could think of is "dynamic". Yes, I know that this may seem like a very absurd response given that most students have had a relatively static academic year but hear me out.

Like every other person that can attest to this, 2017 has not been one of the smoothest years we have had for a while now. This is especially the

case for any University of Nairobi student let alone AIESEC in University of Nairobi member but make no mistake, this is not to say that it has been an entirely terrible year. My 2017, like the title suggests, has been a journey of both successes and lessons. I am pretty sure by now you've noticed the absence of the word "failure" throughout all this writing.

It is well known that the opposite of a success is a failure. But, the true failure only comes in the failure to learn from a failure (kindly pardon my reluctance to use a synonym for failure). Amongst all the many things I have learnt through AIESEC (which I am eternally grateful for), this is undoubtedly the greatest lesson I have learnt from a both theoretic and practical perspective.

The fear of failure is definitely an aspect of our lives that we can all associate with. For all those reading this in a similar predicament, here's a little something that could help you with it. *If you are not willing to fail,*

then you are not willing to learn. And if you are not willing to learn, then you are not willing to grow. And if you are not willing to grow, then what are you willing to do? Ideally, growth is the essence of humanity and without it we would be a slow dying species. My advice would be to shift your perspective of failure as a horrid fear to a more accommodative learning view.

AIESEC in University of Nairobi offers multiple platforms through all the applications and team experiences to engage, learn, develop and even unlearn certain aspects of our character and well-being. This dynamic year has exceeded all my expectations by the widest margin and I honestly cannot wait for what is in store for next year. All the successes and lessons that 2017 has offered us will be immeasurable compared to what awaits us in the coming year.

By Arnold Anampio



AIESEC in UoN members take a photo with NTV's Ms. Kobi Kihara when she hosted them at the Better Living programme.

Photo: Courtesy

New Students Council undergoes training

The new Students Council leaders were taken through a one-day sensitization workshop on leadership and the operations of the University.

Student leadership was previously represented by Student Organization of Nairobi University (SONU), which has been replaced to usher in the Students Council following amendments to Universities Act.

Speaking during the training held at the KCB Leadership Centre, Karen, on September 29, 2017, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, urged the Students Council to be transparent in handling public resources. Student leaders were also urged to develop a budget, work on the new constitution, and develop procurement plans for financial year 2017/2018. The DVC appealed to the new leaders to champion the sensitization of students on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. The leaders were asked to lead by example and take good care of the physically challenged students. They

were told to be peace ambassadors and help to curb against campus riots. "We need to churn out socially and academically able graduates," he said.

Prof. Mbeche told students that they have the opportunity to be better leaders, with good grades. He told them that they have an opportunity to learn and grow.

The Dean of Students, Rev. Fr. Dominic Wamugunda, urged the new student leaders to think outside the box, outside hooliganism, indiscipline, impunity and all other ills that have bedeviled the University.

He added that leadership is about 5Ps: Purpose, a leader needs to know what he intends to achieve. Picture, a leader needs a mental image of where he is taking his followers. People, leadership is about people and lastly, participation, people need to participate in the leadership process. Father Wamugunda said leaders should have passion for their jobs "You are coming in at a critical time when students have entrenched the

culture of hooliganism. Student leadership must reform. We need a new culture. We need a strategic plan," he said.

Students leaders were briefed on the various jobs and internship opportunities available through the office of Dean of Students. Placement Officer, Mr. Jamleck Njoka, told the leaders to be on the lookout for various advertised vacancies. Student leaders were also urged to play a key role in mobilizing other students to attend career talks in various campuses and colleges. In the recent past, various companies and multinationals have come to the University for employees and interns.

Students were also engaged in the inner workings of the University by various departmental heads among them, including Mr. Jackson Maalu, Director Students Welfare Authority, (SWA); Mr. Joseph Mokaya, Procurement Manager; and Ms. Margaret John, Finance Officer, in charge of students finance. VF



Heads of various departments in the University of Nairobi take a group photo with members of the new Student Council.

150 students complete Ready to Work Skills programme

The first cohort of 150 students in the Ready to Work Skills programme graduated at a ceremony held at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS).

Ready to Work Skills, an online course training students on work, people, money and entrepreneurial skills, is a partnership project of Barclays Bank and University of Nairobi's Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab).

The programme developed by Barclays Bank and implemented by C4DLab sets to address the skill gap prior to employment experience.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony held on September 11,

2017, Barclays Bank's Ms. Antoninah Moturi said the Ready to Work programmes aims at making young people prosper in the skills learned.

The Principal of the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof Benard Aduda, advised the graduates to actualize what they had learnt in order to seize self-employment opportunities. "The world has become competitive and you have to create a niche for yourself by gaining people, entrepreneurial, money and work skills," said the Principal.

Graduates were challenged to seek innovation to solve societal problems, especially with a focus on

the Sustainable Development Goals. The Director of C4DLab, Dr. Tonny Omwansa, acknowledged the importance and value of using electronic means as the current method of offering services, a move which is valued at the University.

Students and graduates from local universities, including KCA University, Multimedia University of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Maseno University also participated in the four-module online course and graduated. ^{VF}

You can apply for the free online Ready to Work course at: <https://readytowork.barclays/home>



Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, (centre) presents a certificate of participation to a student from the School of Mathematics and a graduate of the first cohort of the Ready to Work programme. Looking on is Ms. Antoninah Moturi, from Barclays Bank.

UoN travelling theatre crowned five times

The University of Nairobi Travelling Theatre won five trophies during the Kenya National Drama and Film Festivals. The trophies include best entertainment film, best standup comedy, best creative dance and most original modern dance. The group also received several certificates that accompanied the trophies, which were presented to the Vice-chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi on September 12, 2017. The team led by Prof. Enos Njeru, the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "Through the

Travelling Theatre, we will make the University of Nairobi a film hub," he said. The theatre group and the Department of Literature have been at the forefront in the development of drama and film curriculum in the country. They also mentor secondary schools in the development of drama and film. The Vice-Chancellor pledged to support the students to produce high quality films and showcase quality plays. He urged the students to nurture their talents, create films and be entrepreneurs. "The university must influence

society and become relevant. I urge you to take your academic endeavours seriously and together with the film talents, the society will be blessed abundantly. Ideas precede resources. Put your ideas, dreams and intellect together and you will definitely get the funding," said Prof Mbithi.

The VC promised to bring in other departments, such as the Advancement Office, to help the team in getting the funding to establish film businesses.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Masumi Odari, Chairman, Department of Literature, Prof. Hellen Mwanzi, Dr. Tom Odhiambo, and Dr. Wabende Kimingichi. VF



“Through the Travelling Theatre, we will make the University of Nairobi a film hub”

Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi commends students from the University of Nairobi Travelling Theatre when they presented the trophies to him.

Techno Mobile supports varsity teams



Techno Mobile, a multinational mobile telecommunications company, has donated 140 jerseys and sporting equipment to the University of Nairobi football, rugby and basketball teams. The company has also put up shades and benches in strategic points at Main Campus. Speaking during the event, Techno Mobile Managing Director, Washington Xu, encouraged students to pursue their dreams both

in sports and in academia. He said Techno Mobile will continue supporting the University's sports department.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, congratulated the teams for winning various trophies and awards. He cited the rugby team, Mean Machine, which won several awards during the university sports season.

Prof. Mbithi urged students to work hard towards meeting the vision and mission of the University of Nairobi

by excelling both in sports and academics. "Sports unite people globally and Kenya has been a leading example and one of the countries with top men and women in athletics domain," the VC observed.

The event held on September, 20, 2017, was attended by Mbaabu Mureithi, Director Sports and Games, Johnson Kinyua, Director, University Advancement and John Orindi, Director, Corporate Affairs.



"Sports unite people globally and Kenya has been a leading example and one of the countries with top men and women in athletics domain,"
 Prof. Peter Mbithi
 Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Peter Mbithi, Techno the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi and Washington Xu, Managing Director, Techno Mobile, present a copy of the partnership agreement. Looking on (from left) is Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director, University Advancement, John Orindi, Director, Corporate Affairs and Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi, Director Sports and Games, all from the University of Nairobi.

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI TOWERS



Performing Arts Theatre



Lecture Theatre



Engineering Laboratories



The Helipad



Serene Learning Environment

For more details contact:

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H.E. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India (1952–1962), addresses the guests when he presided over the opening ceremony of the Gandhi Memorial Academy at the University of Nairobi in 1956.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



CONGRATULATES THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017

2005

UoN Alumni Association Established

Over **200,000**

Alumni Permeating every sector of the economy

UoN Alumni Association Ranked **Position 66** by QS University Rankings.

15

Alumni Chapters Launched since inception



Globally **competitive** Alumni

Over **50%** of the **Kenyan Cabinet, Judiciary and Parliament** are Alumni of UoN

Over **30** ↑

UoN Alumni serving as **Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and Chairmen** of Councils of several Universities both Public & Private

Kes 19 M

Bursary Fund Disbursed to support Needy Students at UoN



Alumni offer Mentorship and Coaching to our Students

Our Alumni, Our Strength

JOIN US TODAY AND REMAIN CONNECTED TO YOUR ALMA MATER



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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