



## CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2018

# It's double joy as both MKU law programmes are fully accredited

### Council of Legal Education accredits both diploma and degree courses

It is double joy as Mount Kenya University's (MKU's) law programmes receive full accreditation. This marks an eventful year for legal training at the institution which a government study ranked among the top trainers with the highest student pass rates in the Kenya School of Law Bar examination over the last ten years.

On 30 July, the Council of Legal Education (CLE) fully accredited Mount Kenya University's Parklands Law Campus and its Bachelor of Law programme (LLB). MKU hosted a luncheon on 3 August to celebrate this historic milestone that made it the 11th university in the country to attain full accreditation.

This sets the stage for the university to offer a Master in Law (LLM) programme.

Then on 25 October, CLE inspected the campus's facilities and resources in respect to the university's Diploma in Law programme. Satisfied, CLE licensed MKU as a Legal Education Pro-



MKU Law Campus students celebrate the facility's full accreditation

vider pursuant to the provisions of five years with effect from 22 November 2018.

More stories on pages 2 to 6

## Varsity among top recipients of research funding

Mount Kenya University (MKU) is among the top ten universities in research in the country. This is according to a survey conducted by research firm CPS International between May and June and released in August.

The survey ranks MKU second among private universities that received the highest amount of funds for research. MKU received 2.9 per cent of the research funds received by universities last year.

Full story on page 12

## MKU transitions to ISO 9001:2015 quality management system



Full story on page 6



President Uhuru Kenyatta congratulates Ms Ruth Mutahi, Director, Mount Kenya University Institute of Film and Creative Arts, at State House. MKU retained its "Best Private University" crown during this year's Kenya National Music Festival.

## Prof John Struthers installed as MKU's Second Chancellor

*Respected Scottish economics don succeeds Prof Victoria Wulsin*

Multitudes present at the 14th Graduation ceremony witnessed Mount Kenya University (MKU) install its Second Chancellor. The 5,000 graduands, their families, invited guests and the MKU fraternity cheered on as Prof John Struthers was installed on 3 August at the Thika Main Campus.

Full story on page 13



Prof. John Struthers being installed as the New MKU Chancellor by Council Chairman Prof David Serem during the University's 14th graduation ceremony.

## Law Campus

# MKU in league of varsities with full rights to offer law

Council of Legal Education, the regulator, gave the overall greenlight on July 30

On 30 July, Mount Kenya University (MKU) received full accreditation from the Council of Legal Education (CLE) to offer law programmes. It has now set its eyes on offering a Master in Law programme (LLM) in the near future.

MKU joins 11 other universities with similar credentials in the country. Most other local universities still operate using provisional accreditation.

At a luncheon held mid-August to celebrate the achievement, MKU Parklands Law Campus director Ms Nelly Wamaitha said the full accreditation gave the university a strong platform to start offering a Master in Law programme (LLM).

Hon Moses Cheboi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, said following the accreditation, MKU law students can now get attachment opportunities in Parliament. He represented Speaker Justin Muturi.

Ms Wamaitha said the road to accreditation has been challenging, but appreciates the support and guidance of CLE along the way.

"We appreciate CLE because of their positive criticism and guidance," she said. "We also appreciate support from staff, faculty, management and the board of directors. The board went an extra mile to equip the library and furnish the moot court."

The Mount Kenya University School of Law started in Nakuru Campus, but due to the inadequacies of physical infrastruc-



Rwanda High Commissioner to Kenya Hon James Kimonyo with lawyer Fred Ngatia during a luncheon to celebrate MKU Law Campus's full accreditation by the Council of Legal Education.

ture, the students were transferred to the Thika Main Campus.

The first batch of Bachelor of Law students were admitted to the programme in 2009. They numbered about 30 and commenced classes at Uniafric Building situated on Koinange Street in Nairobi.

Later, the school was moved to MKU Towers Building on Moi Avenue, Nairobi.

In January 2015, the School of Law was transferred to the Parklands Campus. This was after the university bought the building from another university that had ceased operations.

The current campus hosts a student population of approximately 1,000. The campus has facilities that support modern legal education and learning, including an up-to-date moot court.

On July 14, 2017, the law school launched the Centre for International and Development Law (CIDLaw).

Mr David Ngira, lecturer and quality assurance co-coordinator at CIDLaw, says: "The objective of the centre is to define the school's niche area, being

### Vision

To be a leading centre of practical legal and advocacy training.

### Mission

To offer quality practical legal and advocacy training for law students.

international and development law. The centre is designed to spearhead research, partnership and training in line with the emerging trends in legal practice. The centre also runs a journal, which acts as a platform for research publication and dissemination."

#### Journey to full accreditation

The journey to full accreditation of MKU to offer law studies began in 2011, when it was granted provisional accreditation.

Mr Collins Odongo, who was there during the school's early days, noted that the provisional accreditation triggered massive human resource, academic, curriculum and infrastructural development towards full accreditation.

MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo constituted a committee to look into all the legal, academic and infrastructural needs towards accreditation.

The committee worked closely with the school, legal education stakeholders and CLE on the accreditation process.

CLE then carried out several audits and inspections. The feedback by the council went a long way in helping the school to strengthen its programme.

Last year, the school identified the areas of international and development law as the niche to focus on. Accordingly, all programmes in the school are tailored to this direction.



Mount Kenya University Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo (right), Prof PLO Lumumba (second right) MKU Chairman and Founder Prof Simon Gicharu, (second left) join students in a mock unlocking of the MKU Parklands Law Campus. This was during a luncheon to celebrate the Council of Legal Education's (CLE) full accreditation of the campus and the programmes it offers.



A student in a library at the law school campus in parklands

# Meet new dean of MKU law school

**L**aw scholar Prof Tushar Kanti Saha is the new dean, Mount Kenya University School of Law (MKU SoL). He was appointed to this position in April 2018.

Widely travelled and vastly published, the law scholar, lecturer, examiner and university administrator brings a wealth of experience to MKU SoL.

His academic journey, right from his university education to teaching and management, has taken him to different countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and America.

## Special relationship with Africa

Prof Saha has a special relationship with Africa, where he has taught law or managed institutions at the highest levels. He has served in various capacities in more than seven universities in sub-Saharan Africa. He has taught and managed in Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Eritrea, Lesotho, Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Sudan, amassing immense experience along the way.

Prof Saha's association with MKU stretches back to 2015 when he was a visiting don.

Immediately before his recent appointment as dean of MKU SoL, Prof Saha was visiting professor at Mount Crest University in Accra, Ghana.

Earlier, he had served as vice-chancellor of Starford International University in Juba, South Sudan.

In 2006, he was visiting examiner to the Islamic University in Uganda, and most recently (2017) to the University of Dar-es-Salaam.



Prof Tushar Kanti Saha

He also once served at Kenyatta University (KU) School of Law as professor of public law. That was from 2014 to 2016. He was the coordinator of Postgraduate Programme for the LLM and PhD in International Criminal Law.

Students gave him a 96 per cent approval rating for his teaching performance during his time at KU.

Between 2001 and 2002, Prof Saha served as the Founding Director of the School of Law at the University of Asma-

ra in Eritrea.

## Seven law books

Over the last two decades, Prof Saha has published seven law books and other papers in the United States, Europe, India and Kenya. Most of his titles are used as text books, including a research publication titled, "Democracy in Danger", a book on India's electoral law and practice.

The other titles are: *Administrative Law*

– *Law of Tort and Consumer Justice; Legal Methods, Legal Systems and Research, Constitution of Lesotho; and Law of Contract – Theories and Principles.*

Prof Saha is currently polishing his latest book titled, *Constitution of Kenya – Architecture, Structure and Texture*. It is signed by a publisher in the Netherlands.

## Refereed journals

Prof Saha has also contributed to more than 10 chapters of various books. He has published 20 papers to refereed journals and a host of other articles and publications focusing on intellectual property rights and environmental law.

He has visited close to 100 countries on academic missions and presented papers in national and international conferences.

## Academic achievements

Prof Saha undertook his three-year Barrister-at-Law course at Lincoln's Inn, London, with Lady Edwina Mountbatten Award for Commonwealth Students.

He obtained his LLB from the University of London and received his Master's Degree in Law (LLM) standing First in Order of Merit and PhD (Law) from India's oldest university, University of Calcutta.

His PhD Thesis, titled "*Corrupt and Illegal Practices in Parliamentary Elections in India*", has impacted the qualitative change of Indian democracy over the last few decades.

## We're committed to producing the finest legal minds in the country

**Prof Tushar Kanti Saha is the new Dean, Mount Kenya School of Law (MKU SoL). Here, he outlines his vision for the school:**

### Q. What is your vision for the MKU School of Law?

A. We are positioning the MKU School of Law to be numero uno, not only in Kenya but in the region. Our students are already ranked number two in clearing the Bar Examination at the Kenya School of Law, which can be used as a bench-

mark. Our students have already made their mark. We are committed to producing the finest legal minds in the country.

### Q. On academics, what are the outstanding aspects about MKU SoL, comparing with what you have witnessed in other universities in the region?

A. We have a very strong, well-qualified, dedicated faculty with a very healthy teacher-student ratio for a close interactive learning process. Our class size is restricted to less than 50. This is one school where every single lecture is delivered and monitored on daily basis (fail-safe).

The school is strategically placed in an autonomous campus in Parklands, close to the courts in the city of Nairobi. Students benefit from judicial attachments and academic visits.

Eminent speakers such as Attorney General and eminent Professors from abroad occasionally visit our law school to intellectually equip students with legal skills and the art of advocacy.

We will soon add to our ranks a powerful team of international faculty to train our students.

Our in-house law journal brings together the legal scholars who are making distinctive contributions in

the development of jurisprudence in tandem with Kenya's Vision 2030.

The MKU Law School is unique inasmuch as it provides uncompromising quality legal education at an affordable cost.

### Q. In your view, what is the impact of MKU SoL's latest accreditation?

A. The accreditation is a recognition of our standing as a premier Law School to provide legal education at the highest level of excellence in the country towards 'Unlocking Infinite Possibilities' out there.

Students and parents can have peace of mind in nurturing the tal-

ents of the young budding lawyers in the hands of our competent faculty, many of whom have been trained in the US and the European Universities.

The accreditation is an imposition of responsibility to maintain professional standards and excel as we move up on the ladder to the summit. We know success is ours.

### Q. Any other comment?

A. Finally, we exhort all prospective law students to join our mission to build a new Kenya based on equal brother and sisterhood in pursuit of truth and justice.

## Law Campus

# Tough food for thought from law experts at MKU event

Universities further urged to prepare law students to venture into new niche areas

New developments are expanding the legal space, and bold lawyers can specialise in ever-green areas of law that have great potential.

Likewise, universities that train lawyers in Kenya can prepare their students to venture into emerging niche areas of law.

That was the message by key speakers at Mount Kenya University's luncheon to celebrate the Council of Legal Education (CLE) award of full accreditation to the university's school of law.

Prof PLO Lumumba, in his presentation on the role of a lawyer in democracy, said that to young lawyers, human rights may not appear to be an obvious area of practice. However, according to him, this is an unexhausted goldmine.

Fellow speaker Fred Ngatia, too, alluded to this, saying technology was creating new possibilities for lawyers. He gave the example of a near-human robot named Sofia, created by artificial intelligence.

Intelligent, beautiful and emotional Sophia has been granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia.

Said Mr Ngatia: "You start to wonder; if Sofia has all these qualities as near as any other lady has, what is her position in society? Saudi Arabia gave her citi-



Mount Kenya University Vice Chancellor Prof. Stanley Waudu (right), MKU Chairman and Founder Prof. Simon Gicharu, Lawyer Fred Ngatia and Prof. PLO Lumumba holding a plaque commemorating the special achievement after the varsity gained full accreditation in Law courses approval by Council of Legal Education

zenship. She is the first robot to be a citizen of a country. By being a citizen of a country, it means therefore, she has rights and obligations."

Mr Ngatia wondered what if Sofia mar-

ries and later decides to divorce. Are there lawyers trained adequately to handle such a complex situation?

He said universities should train their law students so that "they can draw

lessons from any situation they come across" however complex.

Prof Lumumba challenged African nations to create constitutions not in line with the "conceptual West" but those that fit their circumstances – constitutions that do not borrow from the legal framework of the West.

"We must begin to interrogate what we are training in our law schools," said Prof Lumumba. "If you were to be accredited, you still must read books written about the English common law. One can ask, that after 60 years of independence, have we not developed our law that we can say this is the common law of Kenya as it stands now? We are still required to read commercial law books, including books on the law of property and land written by British lawyers."

Prof Lumumba further posed: "What is the curriculum that we have that is being deployed for purposes of equipping the lawyer in the area of development? Are we present in the law of the sea? Are we present in artificial intelligence? Are we familiar with Africa agenda 2063 and the seven pillars thereof? Are we familiar with the sustainable development goals? Are we familiar with the legal instruments in East Africa?"

## Keeping with the times in legal study

Mount Kenya University Librarian Ms VICTORIA MUNYAO explains how the university's law library continually adapts to the changing landscape of legal education to ensure students get relevant support at all times:

**Q. How critical is the idea of a specific library for law students?**

**A:** Law students, in their day-to-day studies, seek and generate a lot of information due to the nature of their coursework. This demand on them goes back to medieval times.

The law library has some rare books and information materials that are sometimes too expensive for the average student to purchase. Here, they can easily retrieve and use them.

The university has spent a lot of money to stock books and e-resources in the Parklands Law Campus Library.

**Q. What makes the MKU School of Law library unique?**

**A.** The MKU SoL library continually adapts to the changing landscape of legal education. Unlike other common libraries that serve a large demography of users, the law library houses documents related to legal affairs that always requires special skills to handle. This refers especially to court judgements, legislative enactments, constitutions, treaties, administra-



Ms Victoria Munyao, MKU Librarian

tive rules and regulations. Apart from these text books, reference books and professional journal publications are the core contents of any law library.

The library acts as a dynamic centre for idea interaction, whereby we are not only a "warehouse of books" but also a centre of cooperative learning. We have discussion areas,

vast reading areas and an e-resource centre to provide multiple academic support service in one convenient location.

Our goal is to provide adequate information at the right time to fulfil the mission and help to increase libraries' operational efficiency and cater to the ever-increasing needs of our clientele.

**Q. What kind of resources does MKU's law library boast and in what volumes?**

**A.** MKU SoL boasts of a myriad of resources with our physical collection of over 15,000 volumes. These include both local and international law resources and a growing list of an electronic database of law reports, statutes, journals and internet resources (such as Lexis Nexis, Jstor, EBSCO Host), Kenya law reports and many more.

As MKU SoL, we have found out that we can deliver a higher level of service quality with electronic resources. We are shaping our e-resource subscription portfolios to address this reality.

For many, if not most campus users of journals, electronic access is a productivity enhancer. MKU's law library has invested in an e-resource centre and off-site access (virtual library). Students and faculty can access our e-resource database from outside the campus,

anywhere in the world. Free internet and a Wi-Fi throughout the library and campus as a whole provides easy access to the available resources.

**Q. Are there plans to add on to existing resources?**

**A.** The library is continuously increasing its resources and updating to the changing technological advancements.

**Q. Any other comment?**

**A.** MKU Law Library staff members are highly qualified and take a leadership role in supporting learners. They work with the legal writing programme, creating special training modules and joining with the faculty in developing the necessary curricular components. The aim is to enhance the training of students in the use of technology in research, such as use of legal databases in legal research.

The librarians maintain close contact with students and faculty, thus making them part of the legal effort at the other end of the process. They protect the availability and quality of legal information, and ensure open and equal access to legal information by everybody.

I will end with a quote from J.K. Rowling: "When in doubt, go to the library".

# Law school initiative that benefits students and the public at one go

**JUDY NGURU-WALLA**, lecturer and Coordinator, Public Legal Clinics at Mount Kenya University's Parklands Law Campus sheds light on the institution's free legal aid service. Excerpts:

**Q. What do the Public Legal Clinics by the School of Law entail and when was this initiative started?**

Since 2015, the SoL has organised Public Legal Clinics where law students offer free legal aid services to citizens of Kenya. The free Public Legal Clinics offer a chance for the public to meet with qualified law students and lecturers who then provide valuable legal advice and assistance.

The rationale behind the initiative is that disfranchised and vulnerable groups face great challenges in accessing justice – and they are many throughout the country. As such, our Public Legal Clinics help fill that gap by providing free legal aid to these groups in the hope that they, too, can access quality legal services to protect their human rights.

So far, we have carried out Public Legal Clinics in Kibra, Dagoretti, Embakasi South, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Thika,

Langata Women's Prison and Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Prison.

**Q. How do students benefit from the clinics?**

The Public Legal Clinics offer law students the opportunity to sharpen essential practical skills and values, such as client counselling, critical thinking, legal research, legal analysis and professional responsibility. The clinics also offer the students a chance to gain practical experience while delivering much needed legal services as they come in contact with real clients. Simply put, these clinics offer the law student a moving picture of the current law practice.

**Q. When did you conduct the last one and where? How many people benefited?**

The last Public Legal Clinic was conducted at the Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum Prison in May 2018, where about 100 people in remand were given legal advice on their criminal cases by law students.

**Q. When is the next clinic and how many people will it reach?**

We are planning to return back to Nairobi Remand and Allocation Maximum



Happy MKU law students and lecturers ready to offer free legal services.

Prison in September 2018 with aim of reaching approximately 100 people in remand.

**Q. What are the future plans for the initiative?**

We plan to become an accredited legal aid provider in Kenya from the National Legal Aid Service (under the Legal Aid Act 2016). We also plan to extend our legal services to neighbouring counties. There is a recognised need to reach out beyond Nairobi.

However, note that the process of appli-

cation is still being deliberated on and developed in the draft regulations to the Legal Aid Act.

**Q. Anything else worth sharing with our readers?**

The SoL is committed to providing quality legal services, being inclusive and respectful, and making a difference through the Public Legal Clinics. Our hope is that we play a significant role in ensuring all disfranchised and vulnerable persons in Kenya are able to access quality legal services to protect and defend their human rights.



Ms Nelly Wamaitha, MKU Law Campus Director

## Making law students happy, comfortable

*In any education institution, student welfare is critical in promoting learning.* **DR JUDY NGAYU**, Associate Dean at Mount Kenya University's Parklands Law Campus, explains what her office does to ensure learners are well taken care of.

**Q. On student welfare at the MKU School of Law, what are the main issues that the Dean of Students office addresses?**

Student welfare at Mount Kenya University's Parklands law campus falls under the associate dean of students' office.

Under this department, we have an associate dean of students, chaplain, sports and clubs' coordinator, nurse and counsellor.

**Student governance**

We strongly believe in democracy. So, students carry out elections

and decide on their leadership. This leadership is called Mount Kenya University Student Association (MKUSA). They deal with all issues to do with student welfare such as student activities, social welfare, sports, trips and academics.

We also have monthly class representative meetings where we address class issues. The class representatives have an opportunity to learn from each other on how to communicate information to the class and how to be an effective leader.

**Dress code**

In order to prepare our students for the office, it is a requirement that the students dress in dark suits on Mondays and Tuesdays. We have received great feedback from institutions where our students have worked as interns that their work and dressing is professional.

**Chaplaincy**

We have various religious groups under the leadership of our chaplain. There are various activities for Muslims, Young Catholics Students Association, Seventh Day Adventists and Christian Union. Each of them has a place of worship within the campus and has active members. They are all enthusiastically engaged in moulding others. They carry out ministry work within the campus and outside, e.g. prisons and children's homes. Through this movement, they have been trained to be commissioners for the MKUSA elections.

**Counselling and Health**

We have an in-house counsellor and counselling facilities. We also train interested students on peer counselling. They support their peers and educate them on issues that affect the student of today.

We also have a qualified nurse

and a fully equipped clinic at the campus.

**Student Activities**

The management of MKU student entertainment falls under the social welfare secretary. We pride ourselves in nurturing talents through vibrant sports (both indoor and outdoor), clubs, drama, music activities etc.

**Q. Are there initiatives in the pipeline to improve student welfare?**

The Council for Legal Education (CLE) upgraded the MKU Parklands Law Campus in 2015. Consequently, several plans are underway to enhance this status. One is to have our own student leadership whose focus will be solely on MKU Parklands Law Campus. We are in the process of preparing and improving office facilities for the new Parklands MKUSA who will take charge next year.

## Vice-Chancellor's Desk

# Prof Waudo on how varsity has increased access to and raised standards of learning

Universities should extend the boundaries of higher education to make it more accessible and affordable. They should invest more in information and communication technologies (ICTs) to make this possible.

That is the view of Mount Kenya University (MKU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo.

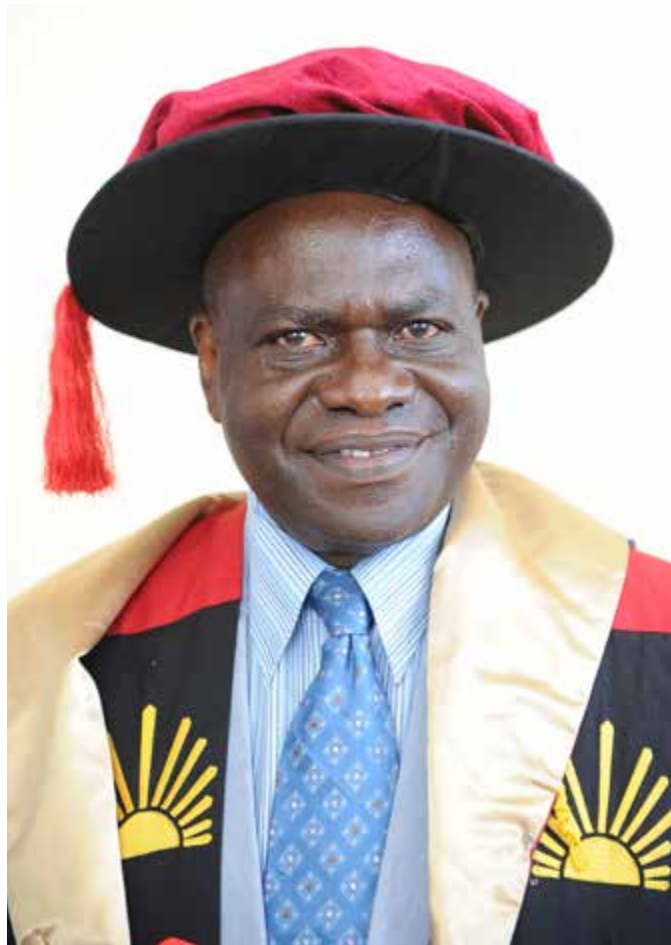
The VC shared this thought during MKU's 14th Graduation Ceremony on 3 August at the main campus in Thika. He was addressing the graduation theme, "Financing of Higher Education in Africa for Quality and Sustainability."

He said that using ICTs, MKU had enabled students who previously could not pursue higher education due to competing exigencies of work and family, and due to distance and time, to surmount those challenges.

He added that MKU's Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODEL) Centres spread across Kenya and complemented by the Digital Varsity, had made higher education accessible and significantly affordable.

### Curricula

The university, he stressed, knew that it existed to mitigate societal challenges.



Prof Stanley W. Waudo - Vice Chancellor

That is why it has aligned its curricula to the "Big Four Agenda" and the Kenya Vision 2030; Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) and African Union Agenda 2063; and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards this end, the university revises its programmes regularly. This year, the University Senate reviewed 52 programmes.

### Quality assurance

Prof Waudo explained that MKU had robust internal quality assurance mechanisms that ensured it produced graduates who had the desired knowledge, skills, creative abilities and moral qualities. To complement this, the university has strong academic advisory services office to provide support to students.

The VC thanked all MKU students and their leadership for their consultative approach to seeking solutions on matters affecting them. Through this consultative process, the university has amended the Mount Kenya University Students Association (MKUSA) Constitution and the Student Elections Guidelines.

### Security

He said MKU had successfully installed the biometric security system at the Main

Campus, Thika. All students and staff have to be biometrically verified and authenticated to access the University facilities. The biometric system supplements other security measures, including floodlights, security awareness campaigns and intensified night security patrols on and off campus.

### Research culture

Prof Waudo said the university's investment over the years to build a robust research culture continued to bear fruit. There is an increase in articles published in peer reviewed journals and participation in research dissemination forums, which accord the university greater presence and visibility, leading to improved local and global ranking.

On research resource mobilisation, MKU continues to win local and international grants, with a corresponding increase in local and international collaborative research.

"We have continued to become an attractive collaborative research university due to our policy of efficient use of research funds, timely disbursement and accountability," said Prof Waudo.

## Why MKU invests in quality systems

### Varsity now ISO 9001:2015 certified

University training must be responsive to the challenges and needs of the country and the region. The training should be relevant and of the highest quality, says Mount Kenya University (MKU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo.

Hence, Prof Waudo adds, MKU has continued to integrate effective quality assurance and control mechanisms in its operations.

The University has in place systems that ensure the expectations of students and of other stakeholders are met.

For example, the university's ISO

certified Quality Management System (QMS) ensures that the teaching and learning environment and processes are effectively managed to world standards.

"The university management is committed to ensuring that all our programmes meet national and international quality standards," the VC stresses. "It is out of this commitment that we ensure we are in good books with the regulator, the Commission for University Education."

The university transitioned from the ISO 9001:2008 QMS to the

revised standard – ISO 9001:2015 QMS – in September.

MKU first obtained ISO certification on 19 December 2012.

"ISO 9001:2015 is a quality management tool that enhances efficiency in operations," Prof Waudo explains. "We have benefitted immensely from ISO 9001:2008. So, it was natural that we transition to the upgraded standard."

MKU has also amended its Service Charter and improved the framework for development and evaluation of performance contracts.



# 14th Graduation Ceremony



From left: MKU Board member Madam Jane Nyutu, MKU Chairman and Founder Prof Simon N. Gicharu, MKU Council Chairman Prof David Serem and the New MKU Chancellor Prof John J. Struthers during 14th Graduation ceremony at main campus Thika.



Elated graduands are all smiles on their big day.



New MKU Chancellor Prof John J. Struthers confers a doctorate on a graduand during the 14th Graduation Ceremony.



Proud family members are happy to be photographed with their graduand.



The smiles on the graduands' faces tell how important the occasion was for them.



Newly minted pharmacists and their medical colleagues look serious as they prepare to serve the nation.



ALL SMILES: School of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Management graduands celebrate their achievement.

## 14th Graduation Ceremony

# Makerere VC urges varsities to expand sources of income, offers some ideas

**A**frican universities must enhance third stream income activities to sustainably fund higher education.

This was said by Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University.

Prof Nawangwe was the guest speaker at Mount Kenya University's 14th Graduation Ceremony held on 3 August at the Thika main campus.

He addressed the theme, "Financing of Higher Education in Africa for Quality and Sustainability."

He observed that the theme was relevant and futuristic for any university in Africa.

Prof Nawangwe noted that universities were under pressure to increase their financial base and to control costs to effectively cater for growing student populations.

The Makerere University VC lauded Mount Kenya University for establishing additional institutions through which it served the community. These include the Research Enterprise, Innovation and Development Centre, Mount Kenya University Foundation, Graduate Enterprise

Academy, Equip Africa Institute and Centre for Professional Development. The last one, newly created, is mandated to coordinate income generating activities as a third stream of income.

"The income generating activities in African universities are a good example of an entrepreneurial approach to funding universities," asserted Prof Nawangwe.

Promoting research through clear policies will scale up income generation related to research activities, said Prof Nawangwe.

Noting that university-industry partnerships were a good approach to promoting academic growth and economic development, Prof Nawangwe urged universities to forge more of such relationships to also stimulate collaborative income generating activities.

He warned, though, that a donor would only invest in an organisation with best financial management and reporting.

He therefore said: "Prudent financial management is the best practice for a university. Internal transparent and accountability guided by a policy framework on financial matters promotes



From left: Makerere University Vice-Chancellor Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, MKU Council Chairman Prof David Serem, MKU Chairman and Founder Prof Simon N. Gicharu and MKU Board member Madam Jane Nyutu discuss a point during the university's 14th Graduation Ceremony. Prof Nawangwe was the Guest Speaker during the event.

cost-cutting and attracts external funding."

The Makerere don observed that consultancy services offered by faculty were also a feasible source of income to a university. Additionally, consultancy

would provide opportunities for faculty to maintain professional skills.

Prof Nawangwe thus commended universities that offer administrative and policy support for consultancies by the faculty.

## Council approves new varsity policies and guidelines

The Mount Kenya University Council has approved several new and amended policies and guidelines. These are meant to guide decision making and institutional operations.

Council Chairman Prof David Serem revealed this during the 14th Graduation ceremony held at the main campus in Thika on 3 August.

The Undergraduate Research Projects Guidelines set out the criteria to be used in determining undergraduate students who qualify to undertake projects as part of their course. They also elaborate the procedure to be used in selecting a topic and the process of administering and examining the project.

The Academic Progression Guidelines will provide a framework that shall guide the University's approach to supporting students in maintaining satisfactory academic progression from one level of learning to a higher level.

The Information Communication Technology (ICT) Disaster

Recovery Policy shall ensure that ICT services, when interrupted, are quickly re-established. The Framework for Development and Evaluation of Performance Contracts shall be derived from the University Strategic Objectives Implementation Matrix and the job descriptions, and shall guide the performance evaluation process at the University.

The amended Guidelines on Moderation of Examination Results are designed to ensure fairness, accuracy and consistency in setting, marking and the provision of results that are an accurate reflection of performance.

The integrity of the University examination process depends, in part, on the quality of invigilation. The amended guidelines shall provide a framework for ensuring examination security and integrity.

The amended Credit Transfer Policy is in compliance with the requirements articulated in the Universities Standards and Guidelines, 2014(PROG/STD/10).

The objectives of the amended Academic Advisory Services Policy are:

- To provide information on career planning and choices
- To promote student academic performance and progression
- To promote a highly interactive and personalised learning environment.
- To promote mentorship
- To respond to student academic concerns

The amended Finance Service Charter has been designed to reflect the automated service delivery in the University.

Prof Serem said the Council recognises that staff welfare, a key pillar in the University 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, is critical to sustaining a motivated work force that can sustain effective and efficient University operations. Therefore, the University Council is committed to continuous improvement of staff welfare by ensuring that facilities, services and benefits are steadily enhanced. The University Council is also committed

to ensuring that the university staff enjoy statutory staff welfare schemes such as work injury benefits and provident fund.

MKU, said the University Council Chairman, is committed to continuously offering timely service, to ensure an awesome customer experience. Attending to customer needs is a priority at Mount Kenya University.

"We recognise that effective customer care service delivery is a pre-requisite for developing and sustaining competitiveness, and therefore place our customer on a pedestal," he said.

His message to graduands was: "May all those that interact with you hereafter, affirm to the fact that you were properly trained here at Mount Kenya University.

"I urge you to be our good ambassadors as you strive to be the best you can as you pursue your dreams and career aspirations. Demonstrate hard work and integrity always as they are the key measures of success."



Prof David Serem, MKU Council Chairman

# Prof Gicharu urges African states to fund higher education more...

Africa should invest much more in higher education to help its young people develop their talents and engage in decent work. Trained individuals are better placed to solve intractable problems such as disease and poverty that nations grapple with.

This is the view of Mount Kenya University founder and Chairman, Prof Simon N. Gicharu. He said this at Makerere University Business School's (MUBS) graduation ceremony on July 18, where he was the keynote speaker.

Prof Gicharu decried the continent's failure to adequately fund higher education, forcing its youth to seek better prospects abroad, sometimes with dire consequences. He was referring to frequent reports of African immigrants illegally crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, with some drowning at sea.

Prof Gicharu also noted that the Arab Spring of Northern Africa was largely driven by youths who thought they had lost their opportunities.

Down south, the Xenophobia scare in South Africa displayed similar frustrations by that country's young people, who felt that the presence of citizens of other nations in their country was denying them opportunities.

The MKU chairman went on to point out further that the robust radicalisation



MKU Chairman and Founder Prof. Simon Gicharu (Right) receive a recognition award from Uganda's Vice President Edward Kiwanuka Sekandi (left) during 8th Annual International Leadership conference at Entebbe Uganda. Looking on is Makerere University Principal Prof. Waswa Balunywa.

of the youth in West and East Africa by the Boko Haram and Al Shabab terrorist groups respectively, thrived because young people felt they had been denied a chance to improve their livelihoods.

Hence, Prof Gicharu said that given another chance, he would still invest in education because of its power to posi-

tively change the world.

The thrust of his talk reflected the views of Dr Jonathan Chuks Mba, the director of research and academic planning at the Association of African Universities (AAU), who is strong on the view that African states should scale up funding for higher education.

Since inception, MKU has invested heavily in capital development, human resource development and in student welfare.

Prof Gicharu resolved to establish an institution of higher learning after a postgraduate training on entrepreneurship in the UK. His creation, MKU, now operates 13 campuses and has a student population in excess of 35,000.

Since inception, MKU has invested heavily in capital development, human resource development and in student welfare. This is because of the founder's belief in the power of education.

Vice-chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo concurs that education is the path of the greatest opportunity.

Says he: "While getting employment is the most obvious reason why people invest in education, there are other reasons. It changes the way societies solve problems. It provides opportunities for socio-economic and political success. It is the great leveller, the choice giver and the door opener for a happy tomorrow."

Prof Gicharu asserts that adequate financing of higher education is a must in order to achieve development goals such as the global Sustainable Development Goals; Africa Union's Agenda 2063; Uganda Vision 2020; Rwanda Vision 2020; and Kenya Vision 2030, among others.

## ... calls for books on varsities, lasting reading culture

Kenyan authors should pen more books tackling issues that students and scholars are grappling with at the higher education level.

In addition to growing the body of knowledge available by local writers for students pursuing different courses in colleges and universities, such literature would offer students scenarios they can relate with and help them in developing solutions to challenges experienced locally.

This is according to Prof Simon Gicharu, Chairman and Founder of Mount Kenya University (MKU).

Prof Gicharu has at the same time challenged learning institutions to cultivate a lasting reading culture among students; one that goes on even after they are done with col-



Kenyan writer and Peace Ambassador Chairperson Muthoni Likimani (centre) sign a book she presented to MKU Chairman and Founder Prof Simon Gicharu (right) as Kenya publisher Association Chairman Lawrence Njagi looks on. This was during Kenya Publishers Association 21st Bookfare held at Sarit Center. Prof. Gicharu challenged the Kenyan authors to write books for Higher Education Institution.

lege.

Speaking at the Nairobi International Book Fair, he said: "It is unfortunate that many people today would be found to have lost some skills acquired in school due to an apparent detachment from reading. They lose the reading and even communication skills. This can be avoided by embracing a steady reading culture. All possible should be done to ensure our reading capacities do not decline with time irrespective of what our occupations are."

Prof Gicharu also challenged authors and publishing houses to keep up with the readers. Many of have taken up technology, yet the industry is slow in rolling out e-books, he said.

The MKU Founder revealed that

the university would be equipping its campus in Rwanda with additional books worth Ksh2 million, mostly on language.

Prof Gicharu, a published author and whose more recognisable books included the co-authored Applied Mathematics for Craft Engineering, also met renowned Kenyan authors, including Muthoni Likimani, who is an ambassador for the International Forum for the Literature and Culture of Peace (IFLAC).

The Nairobi Book Fair is in its 21st year and has over time grown to attract thousands of participants from different countries.

- By John Muchucha

## Medical Camp

# Free medical camp screens 5,000 for lifestyle diseases

*Initiative mounted at a cost of Ksh20 million*

Between 30 July and 1 August, Mount Kenya University (MKU) and its partners hosted a medical camp at its main campus in Thika. The camp, mounted at a cost of Ksh20 million, focused on free lifestyle diseases awareness and cancer screening.

More than 5,000 people, mainly drawn from Kiambu County, were screened for lifestyle diseases at the camp.

MKU collaborated with the County Government of Kiambu (through the Thika Level 5 Hospital) and the Nanavati Super Specialty Hospital, India.

The visiting Indian doctors, Dr Jaydeep Palep and his wife, helped carry screen non-communicable diseases. Dr Palep is based in Mumbai, India, and has practised medicine over the last 18 years.

Dr Palep is the first fellowship trained Robotic Gastro-intestinal surgeon from India. He has to his credit more than 3,000 GI surgeries performed over the last 15 years.

This year's medical camp is one of the university's outreach initiatives aimed at improving the health of communities.

County of Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu said the Public-Private Partnership



MKU Principal, Students and Alumni Affairs Mr Peter Waweru (right) with Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement Dr Evans Mwititi lead university staff during the free cancer screening medical camp at Thika Main campus.

(PPP) between MKU and Thika Level 5 Hospital is among the best examples of such an undertaking in the East Africa region. It is also in line with the Kenya Vision 2030 strategies.

The governor said the partnership with MKU benefits all concerned parties.

"The state-of-the-art funeral home put up by Mount Kenya University on a PPP model benefits Kiambu residents. Like-

wise, students and professors at MKU's College of Health Sciences use the same facility as their anatomy laboratory."

MKU founder and Chairman, Prof Simon N. Gicharu, observes that the burden of disease from lifestyle illnesses and cancer is high in Kenya. They account for 27 per cent of deaths of Kenyans aged between 30 and 70 years, equivalent to almost 370,000 people every year. This reduces productivity, curtailing economic growth and trapping the poorest people in chronic poverty.

Prof Stanley W. Waudo, the university's vice-chancellor, said MKU's medical activities support the Beyond Zero Campaign spearheaded by the First Lady, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta. The campaign fights maternal and child mortality.

MKU and its partners recently presented Bungoma County with nine neonate facilities worth Sh50 million across eight sub-county health facilities.

Titled, "Collaborative newborn support project," and funded by the County Innovation Challenge Fund (CICF), it aims at increasing newborn survival. Bungoma is among six counties with the worst new-born mortality indicators at 32 deaths for every 1,000 live births.

Prof Waudo terms medical camps as "the biggest hope in respect to promoting disease prevention."

He says medical check-ups empower people to make decisions that reduce risks of ill-health. They make it possible for one to learn about his or her health condition and take corrective measures before it is too late.

MKU also partners with Partners for Care in the latter's anti-jigger drives in different parts of the country.

## State urged to finance more research

Kenya should invest more in health research to fight increasing cases of cancer and other lifestyle diseases. These diseases are becoming a national burden, Mount Kenya University Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu observes.

He said treating and managing these illnesses is expensive.

Gicharu spoke during a free cancer screening medical camp sponsored by MKU at the institution in Thika.

He said medical research should be emphasised to help fight diseases, including hypertension, diabetes and cancers such as cervical, prostate and breast.

"Research in health sciences in our country and East Africa at large is

at very low levels. This is a concern that should be seriously addressed by all stakeholders to find solutions to many diseases we are grappling with," Gicharu said.

He urged other higher learning institutions to undertake intensive medical research. The MKU chairman urged the state through the Ministry of Health to support medical research.

He said MKU has injected Sh10 million to facilitate a medical research project by the institution's College of Health Sciences and their counterparts from Makerere University in Uganda.

Gicharu said as part of MKU's community outreach programme, the institution will spend Sh20 million

to facilitate the four-day medical camp. The camp will benefit more than 5,000 residents.

The medical camp is a collaborative initiative between MKU's College of Health Sciences, Nanavati Hospital from India, Zambezi Hospital and the Kiambu government.

He said screening of non-communicable diseases, cancer, nutrition assessment and health education on lifestyle diseases, as well as counselling services will be conducted at the camp. "I'm happy we have made available a vital opportunity that will allow many Kenyans at the community level obtain both preventive and curative medical services at no cost," Gicharu said.



MKU Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Research Affairs Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi (in grey top and blue jeans) warming up with other staff during the Free Cancer screening Medical camp at Thika Main campus.

## School of Engineering, Energy and the Built Environment

# Varsity equips engineering school with new Ksh30 million equipment

*Aim is to strengthen training of engineers and scientists*

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) has equipped its School of Engineering, Energy and the Built Environment (SEEBE) with new equipment worth Ksh30 million.

The assorted machinery, handed over to the School this month, is part of the Ksh1 billion investment the university is pumping into the training of professionals in the School and that of Pure and Applied Sciences. The amount will be invested over the next five years.

The aim is to strengthen training so as to produce engineers and scientists capable of tackling increasingly complex problems that humanity faces these days.

On behalf of the university's Board of Directors, Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo handed over the equipment to Eng Frederick Mulei, the School's Ag Dean. Students cheered on excitedly.

One of them, **Henry Kiggundu Tama-le**, was visibly impressed. Henry is a Fourth Year engineering student who hails from Uganda.

He said: "Working with the best possible equipment will equip us with the cutting-edge skills we need to study emerging technology fields. It can also jump-start our careers."

He added: "We have the opportunity to apply theory to solve real world problems with maths, physics, and engineering theory. But, we will also tap significant design and hands-on lab experiences so that we are ready for the challenges of the 21st Century. Our jobs will entail solving difficult problems, creating



**MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo (second left) hands over state-of-art engineering equipment to Fredrick Mulei, Dean, School of Engineering, Energy and Built Environment. Engineering students and the DVC Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement, Dr Evans Mwitii look on.**

new things and working with innovative minds."

### Excellence in applied sciences and technology training

MKU is building a standalone modern school of engineering in Thika to be completed by 2022. The university is harnessing its 22-year heritage of excellence in applied sciences and technology training.

Henry noted that by the time he obtains his degree in Energy and Environmental Technology, he "will have acquired knowledge across many disciplines related to the built environment and renewable and traditional energy resources", which he promises to use to

raise the quality of life.

He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Energy and Environmental Technology.

Also impressed by the new equipment is his colleague, Erestinah Zighe Malombo. She is a Second Year student studying for a degree in Petroleum Exploration and Production.

She says the equipment will make it easier for them to undertake lab research and other experiments, thus giving them a hint of what to expect in the world of work.

Prof Waudo, in his speech when handing over the equipment to the school, acknowledged that, "to train up-to-date graduates able to meet mounting technological challenges, a university needs state-of-the-art training facilities and laboratories."

### 'Big Four' agenda

Eng Mulei, the Ag. Dean, said well-trained engineers will drive President Uhuru Kenyatta's 'Big Four' agenda.

He noted that real estate management training and research would be useful in helping build decent, affordable houses.

Eng Mulei added that competent engineers alongside energy and petroleum experts would drive the production and use of energy and power. Both resources are critical to Kenya's industrialisation. These experts will also play a role in research and training in energy and petroleum.

He observed that attaining universal

health care coverage required modern intelligent equipment and devices operated by competent personnel with computer electronic skills, and medical engineers for maintenance and design.

### Training for Africa

Eng Mulei sees MKU-trained engineers leading Africa's socio-economic drive since the university trains a lot of non-Kenya students, many of them from Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania and Sudan.

Third Year Bachelor of Science in Energy and Environmental Technology student Amran Abdi says the new equipment will help her in broadening the practical skills necessary in undertaking responsibilities "as a competent graduate."

She pledges to use her skills to help the country attain energy-related sustainable development goals.

Another student, Solomon Mwenda, adds: "I am grateful to the School for bringing in this equipment. It has come on time as we await our internal attachment, during which we will thoroughly interact with the equipment."

"The new equipment will boost our training because there is strong connection between lecture and lab work. Practical lab work will reinforce the principles we have been taught during lectures. We shall become competent graduates with the skills demanded in the job market."

### 'Green' buildings

MKU's School of Engineering, Energy and the Built Environment is designing "green" buildings which will be wholly served with solar photovoltaic energy to meet their energy needs and generate additional power that shall be sold to earn the university revenue.

### Relevant human resource

Prof Waudo said the continuing struggle to reduce diseases, tackle poverty and improve infrastructure can only be sustained if relevant human resource is developed.

He added: "The engineering equipment is a testimony to our continuing effort to ensure that the university has requisite academic resources to support offering of quality training and education."

The university's programmes, he asserted, are designed to train and produce human resource with competencies and skills relevant to national development goals.

We have the opportunity to apply theory to solve real world problems with maths, physics, and engineering theory



**MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo examines some of the Ksh30 million engineering equipment.**

## Research

# MKU among top recipients of local research funding

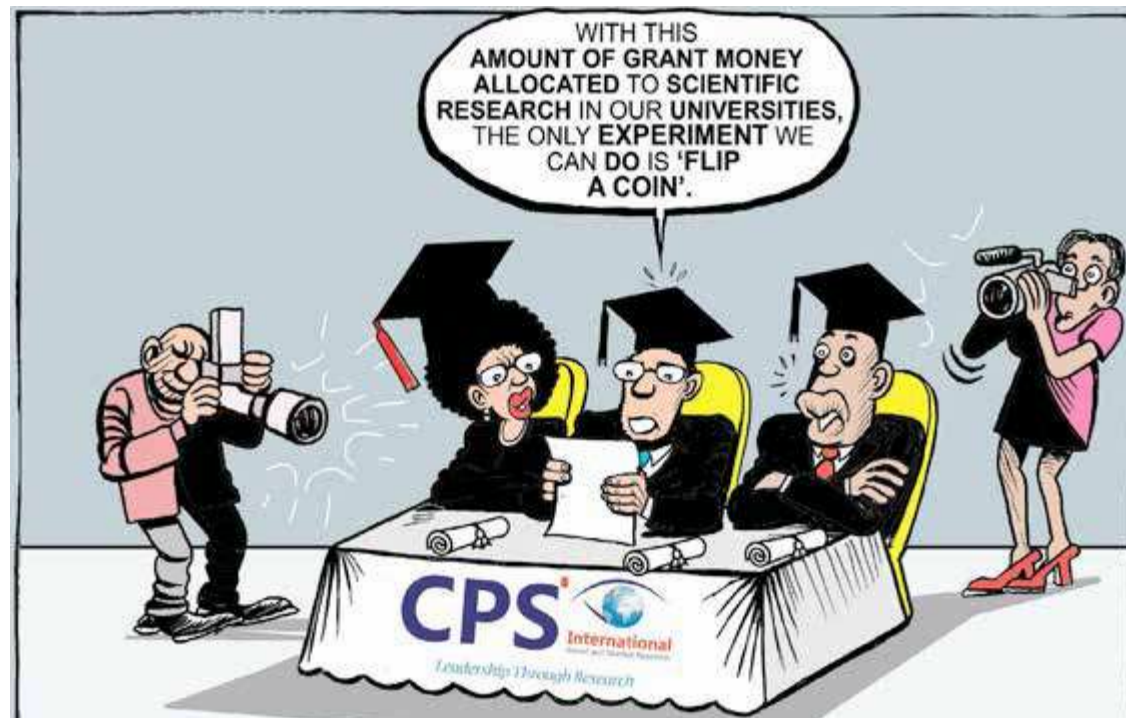
**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) is among the top ten universities in research in the country. This is according to a survey conducted by research firm CPS International between May and June and released in August. The survey ranks MKU second among private universities that received the highest amount of funds for research. MKU received 2.9 per cent of the research funds received by universities last year.

A report on the survey shows that in the academic year 2017/2018, universities received approximately Sh1.85 billion from government for research funds. They also got Sh1.16 billion from industry, donors and other sources.

Only three private universities appeared in the list of the top 10 universities category nationally.

The survey report explains that data was collected on the research status of all Kenyan universities. The exercise undertook to determine the impact, volume and value of research funding.

This, the report released this month says, "aimed at establishing the state of research funding and ranking universities nationwide. The study also sought



to determine if the funds released by the national government, county governments, institutions, industry, NGOs and other donors were impactful."

The study indicates that a university is required to have qualified staff to conduct and supervise research projects. It should have laboratories and incubators for experimentation.

Prof Francis Muregi, MKU's Director for Research, Grants & Endowments explains that the university has excelled in research due to deliberate measures put over the years to support staff and students in building a research culture.

"This began in 2011 with an internal research seed grant termed as the Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation Grant. This fund is meant for building capacity or scholar's in the field of research."

He lists the following as the reasons why the university has succeeded;

- A robust Research Team
- University management support in form of internal seed grants
- Local and international collaborations and partnerships
- Community-gear research: The focus of MKU research has been community focused, and donors have shifted their research funding from blue skies research to implementation research.
- Multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial research
- Products and services geared research
- Incentives that include waiver of teaching for scholars committed to research based on University's Balance between Teaching and Research Guidelines
- Robust grant management and accounting system
- Research monitoring and evaluation system

In its research undertakings, MKU has partnered with both local and international universities.

## Nkubu Campus



MKU Board of Directors member Madam Jane Nyutu donates books to Nkubu Campus. She was the guest speaker during a Campus Mentorship Forum. Receiving the books are Campus Director Madam Karen Mungania, Deputy Director, Academic and Research Affairs Makau wa Mutua and Campus Librarian, James Kaburia.

## Eldoret Campus



MKU Eldoret campus receives delegates from Arizona University. University Council Chair Prof Serem and the Campus Director Dr Emily Kirwok received the visitors.

# Prof Struthers takes the reins as MKU's second Chancellor

Thousands of people witnessed Prof John Struthers being installed as Mount Kenya University's (MKU's) new Chancellor. Among them were his family, friends and colleagues.

Prof Struthers big occasion arrived during MKU's 14th Graduation Ceremony on 3 August at the Thika main campus.

A Scottish economics don with four decades of experience, he thanked all who contributed towards the decision to appoint him as MKU's second Chancellor.

He vowed to play his part in "making Mount Kenya University the best university in Africa."

Further, he promised to expand MKU's partnership base in support of the university's mission.

He noted that all universities must seek third stream income generation opportunities, most of which come through partnerships.

Prof Struthers invited other stakeholders to partner with MKU, saying that the university had more than 100 partners, which include the University of West of Scotland, where he teaches.

Over the past two years, strong links between Prof Struthers' University of West of Scotland and MKU have been developing. Such links are evident in the universities' schools of law and in enterprise development and entrepreneurship through MKU's Graduate Enterprise Academy (GEA).

The new Chancellor thanked Makerere University Chancellor Prof Bamabas Nawangwe, the guest speaker during the graduation ceremony.

He observed that the Makerere VC was a strong believer in the capacities and ambitions of MKU, and therefore one of its most vibrant partners.

He acknowledged that partners had contributed greatly to the work of MKU as evidenced by the outstanding contribution by the first Chancellor, Prof Victoria Wulsin of the University of Cincinnati, USA. He appreciated that his predecessor had contributed hugely towards making MKU what it had become.

Addressing graduands directly, Prof Struthers said: "The degrees that you are being awarded today represent a journey rather than a destination. The journey of education never ends, but continues."

He added: "You now have all the skills,



MKU Newly installed Chancellor Prof. John Struthers (left) MKU Council Chairman Prof David Serem (centre) and MKU Vice Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo, during 14th graduation ceremony

**You now have all the skills, knowledge and attributes to be successful in your future endeavours. Go forth to the job market with confidence that success lies ahead. Believe in yourselves but also trust in God, be honest and live an ethical life as you face the world of work, and success will be on your side."**



MKU Founder and Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu with the Chancellor Prof. John Struthers

knowledge and attributes to be successful in your future endeavours. Go forth to the job market with confidence that success lies ahead. Believe in yourselves,

but also trust in God. Be honest and live an ethical life as you face the world of work, and success will be on your side."

## Don's vast experience



Prof. John Struthers

A distinguished economics don, Prof John Struthers has contributed to the world of academia in a wide range of capacities. His experience as lecturer, researcher, published scholar, university administrator and consultant spans more than four decades.

### Teaching Experience

Prof Struthers has taught at the University of West of Scotland, formerly University of Paisley, from 1978 to date. He first taught there as lecturer, then as senior lecturer and now as Personal Professor.

He also taught at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, from 1975 to 2000; University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Open University in the UK, which has its headquarters in London; University of Sierra Leone; Dubai Polytechnic and Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia.

### Research Experience

Prof Struthers has conducted research in diverse areas in the field of economics and in different geographical areas, both in Europe and Africa.

He has published four books and over 30 articles in refereed journals, and has also served as a reviewer for different journals and books. Prof Struthers has further presented over 40 conference papers.

A respected researcher, Prof Struthers has successfully supervised over 100 Masters and 20 PhD candidates to completion. He has also served as external examiner for over 35 PhD theses at over 10 universities across the globe.

### Administrative Experience

Prof Struthers has worked as the Head of Graduate School, Dean of the Faculty of Business at the University of the West of Scotland. He is currently the Director of Centre for African Research and Enterprise Development (CAREED) at the same university.

### Public Appointments

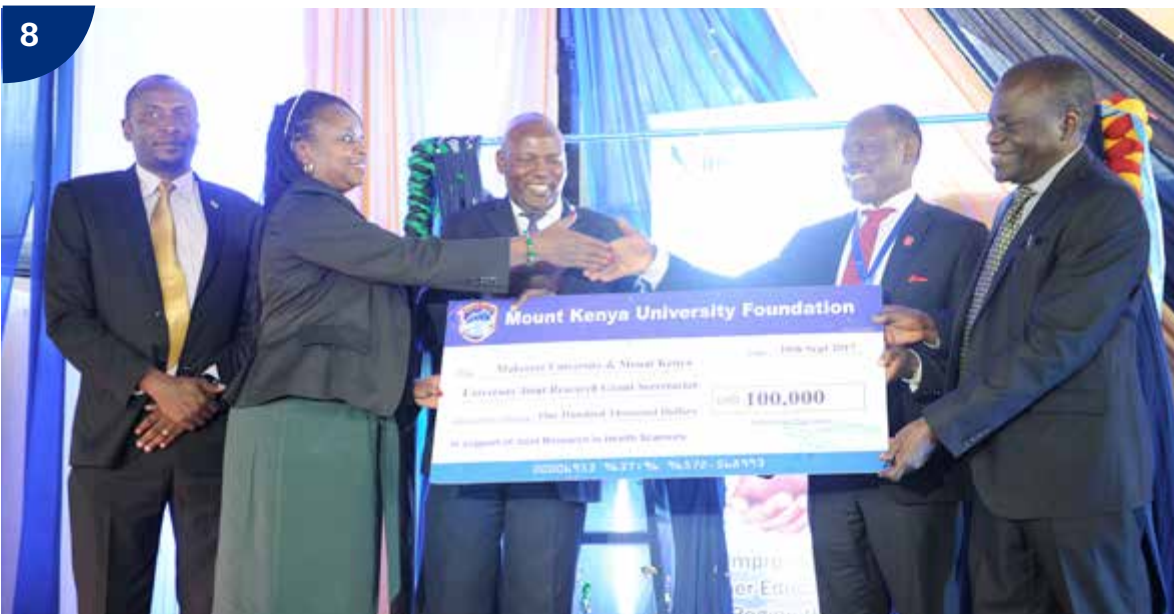
Prof Struthers has been a Board Member of the Waterwatch, Scotland. He is the Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland since 2015.

## MKU in Pictures



1. MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo receives the nursing programme accreditation certificate from Ms Edna Tallam-Kimaiyo, Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) Registrar and Chief Executive Officer. The ceremony took place at the university's main campus in Thika.
2. Hon Kimani Ichungwa (right), MP Kikuyu Constituency gives a cheque of Kshs 200,000 to MKU Foundation towards education fund.
3. MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo (centre), presents a token of appreciation to Janine Kaiser (left), STEP Coordinator, Leuphana University Rector of Germany. Looking on are Manuela Oehler (second left) and MKU Foundation Director Dr Peter Kirira.
4. Mr Henry Orion, a tech guru from Silicon Valley, USA, delivers a public address to students at the MKU Indoor Arena.
5. Participants including entrepreneurs, managers, heads of various institutions and universities, business owners attended a three-day workshop at MKU Eldoret campus, Uasin Gishu County. The objective of the training was to discover and use data analytics knowledge to scale up their business models.

## MKU in Pictures



6. Mount Kenya University Foundation Director Dr Peter Kirira presents a sponsorship cheque to Kikuyu Constituency Member of Parliament Hon Kimani Ichung'wa (right) as MKU Foundation Head of Grants Bonface Malala looks on. The sponsorship will Easy the kikuyu constituency Education fund needy students, MKU Foundation has invested heavily in schools and colleges, equipping them with world-class laboratories, ultra-modern computer centres with fast internet for easy access to e-learning resources.

7. Mount Kenya University Chairman and Founder Prof Simon N. Gicharu (left) presents a gift to Dr Jaydeep Palep and his wife Reshma Jaydeep. The two Indian doctors were guests during a free lifestyle diseases awareness and cancer screening at MKU main campus.

8. Madam Jane Nyutu, MKU Co-founder and board member hands over a sponsorship cheque worth \$100,000 to Makerere University Vice-Chancellor Prof Barnabas Nawangwe during the launch of a joint research fund.

9. Deputy Mayor of the city of Poland Mr Mariusz Wisniewski (left) receives a gift from MKU Founder and Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu. Prof Gicharu and his entourage paid him a courtesy call at his office in Lublin during a trip to Vincent Pol University in Lublin, Poland. Both MKU and VPU are beneficiaries of the Erasmus+ programme funded by European Union.

10. MKU brass band members pose for a photo with Supreme Court Judge Prof Jackton Boma Ojwang' and School principal Mr J. N. Muraya during Thika High School's 61st speech, prize giving and family day.

## Academic & Research highlights

# On the path of continuous improvement

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research Affairs* **Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi**, explains what Mount Kenya University is doing to enhance learning and the competitiveness of its graduates

**How is MKU increasing access to quality higher education?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** Mount Kenya University ensures that all its programmes are approved by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and by the relevant regulatory bodies. Currently, the university has 164 programmes approved by CUE.

Through a well-structured network of campuses, the University is broadening access to quality higher education in Kenya and the larger East African Community.

Recently, the University approved the elevation of the position of the Director, Coordination of Campuses, to Principal, Coordination of Campuses. This is in the interest of improving the management of the campuses, thus improving quality.

Currently, MKU is the most preferred private university. For the last three years, the university has received the highest number of government sponsored students among the private universities. Our numbers have also been steady despite the challenges of fewer students qualifying to join university education.

**Q: How innovative is MKU approach to curricula development and teaching? What are outcome of such an approach?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** MKU conducts a market survey to inform the need

before developing any curriculum. Thereafter, stakeholders, including industry, are involved to ensure that the curriculum is tailored towards producing graduates ready to address existing job needs.

On teaching, the university has a Directorate of Teaching Programmes, whose mandate is to sustain a conducive environment for teaching and learning. The directorate monitors class attendance by both the lecturers and students through a well laid down procedure of clocking in and out of lecture rooms. This has not only improved compliance to contact hours stipulated in the curricula, but also the students' performance. Students are sharing this through word of mouth, and as a result, more students want to study at Mount Kenya University.

**Q: Problems of 21st century are getting increasingly complex. How does MKU ensure it produces graduates who can cope with, and actually, offer solutions to these problems?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** The University has invested heavily in infrastructure that supports quality teaching, and thus production of a graduates who are highly competitive in the markets.

MKU boasts of an ultra-modern learning infrastructure that matches global standards, such as the well-equipped award-winning, multi-media library.

The University has invested heavily in ICT infrastructure that has earned the overall university award for ICT excellence in the coveted annual Information and Communication Technology Association of Kenya (ICTAK) awards.

Recently the University set up an ICT innovation hub that will house students with innovative projects.

An empowered, the Division of Student



**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, ARA**

Welfare Services continuously re-engineers and positions itself to unlock emerging talents among students through diversified extra curricula activities, career orientations and international linkages/partnerships for students to achieve their full potential.

The University has established a centre for professional development to offer professional courses that add value to students, thus giving them a competitive edge in the market.

The University has continued to establish more laboratories to ensure that the students acquire practical skills in addition to theory knowledge.

On the global stage, the recent webometric survey ranked MKU E-repository number one among private universities in Kenya, 22nd in Africa and 1013th in the world.

A recent survey carried out by Corporate Staffing Services Limited ranked MKU graduates to be the most preferred by employers in Kenya.

**Q: Continuous learning and improvement enhances any institution's academic capabilities. Does MKU benchmark with, or learn from other institutions on how to improve its teaching in line with global pedagogy best practices?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** Yes. The university recognises benchmarking as an international best practice. It continues to support staff to benchmark with local and international universities.

Last year, a team led by myself as DVC Academics visited the University of South Africa (UNISA) to benchmark on open learning. The visit culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions.

A team of faculty from the College of Health Sciences also visited Makerere University to benchmark on medical courses.

The Dean, School of Nursing visited Johns Hopkins University in the United States on a benchmarking mission.

The university also hosts other universities whose faculty come to benchmark against our practices. These institutions include, Kenyatta University, Zetech University and United States International University (USIU), among others.

## So much going on in research

*The Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic and Research Affairs, Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi highlights research developments at MKU.*

**What have been the outputs of research at MKU?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** Mount Kenya University has supported various research activities for the past five years.

The university has attracted external grants amounting to Ksh502 million.

It has supported 52 publications, 103 local conferences and 98 international ones.

The Vice-Chancellor's Research and Innovation seed grant awardees over this period are more than 50.

The university has supported more than 30 capacity building workshops or seminars.

Over the five years, the university has organised five international conferences.

Over the same period, Mount Kenya Univer-

sity-Ethics Review Committee (MKU-ERC) has reviewed and approved 941 proposals (from faculty and students in MKU and other universities).

The university subscribes to the Turnitin anti-plagiarism software checker annually.

**Q: From experience gathered over the last few years, has MKU figured how to best support faculty and students to undertake impactful research?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** We are implementing various strategies to realise this. Such strategies include:

- Research sensitisation for both students and staff
- Collaborations with other institutions to allow complement resources such as laboratories (MKU-KEMRI)
- Encouraging joint research, e.g. MKU-Makerere University joint research in health science
- Increased capacity building workshops

- Reduced workload to the faculty members (Balance between Research and Teaching guidelines) to allow faculty have more time for research
- Train staff on entrepreneurial research (Collaborative Entrepreneurial Partner Universities-CEPU).

**Q: Is there a need to revise the MKU research policy?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** The Vice-Chancellor's Research and Innovation Grant Policy has already been revised to equalise funding opportunities across schools and departments during research dissemination.

The Research Strategic Plan will be revised to capture research areas for the newly introduced academic programmes and new fundraising strategies.

The Research Policy will be revised so as to capture the aspect of co-funding, co-investigation and new research areas.

The Intellectual Property Policy will be revised

to capture patent filing procedures, revised co-innovation sharing rates and establishment of innovation hub at Mount Kenya University.

**Q: How much do you see MKU researchers contributing to the realisation of national development policies (Big 4 agenda and Kenya Vision 2030)?**

**Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi:** MKU researchers carry out cross-cutting studies. For instance, the County Innovation Challenge Fund (CICF) developed and equipped nine New-born Units (NBUs) in the nine sub-County health facilities and handed over the project to the Bungoma County Government in December 2017. In addition, innovators through Mount Kenya University Innovators Platform (MKUIP), have come up with a 3-D printer with ability to print many machine components. This innovation could revolutionise the manufacturing industry in Kenya.

# MKU's life-changing telemedicine innovation

**N**ew-born babies in Bungoma County are now assured of quality specialised care, thanks to the launch of a telemedicine application (app).

The app is mobile phone based, and has features that link clinicians in the remotest areas of Bungoma County to a pool of specialised consultants.

The success anticipated from this innovation may yet prove to be the game-changer in the health landscape. This may very well spell the end to the present situation where patients have to travel from upcountry to see specialists in the capital or in major towns. The gains that would accrue cannot be over-emphasised.

The resource-poor and most vulnerable members of society would not need to exhaust their meagre resources in travelling and consultation costs. All it would require is a nurse at the local health facility to examine the patient, key in crucial parameters and press the submit button to the specialists available online.

At the touch of a button or iPad screen, the specialist would relay life-saving diagnoses and prescriptions. A dream that would previously be unthinkable of receiving care from top medics would have become a reality.

MKU researchers who conceptualised this novel idea propose that the economics around this innovation tell an even bigger story.

The entire County of Bungoma has only one paediatrician. This unfortunate reality is replicated in many counties.

Testament to the dire shortage of specialised health providers is the recent move by the government to ship in



**Dr Jesse Gitaka, Head of Pure and Applied Sciences Research Programme.**

Cuban specialist doctors.

Even with the situation as bad as it is in the country, the rural populations are the worst hit, since the few specialists available prefer to work in urban centres.

The potential of the innovations that MKU is implementing is that they may provide an alternative to the prohibitively high cost of training specialists that the taxpayer incurs. With just a few specialists in a location of their choice, the rural folks would receive otherwise highly inaccessible specialised services.

Followed closely by this innovation was a launch of eight refurbished and equipped new-born units in Bungoma County. Dr Jesse Gitaka, himself a new-

born care specialist and the principal investigator, opines that this has revolutionised new-born care in Bungoma County and elevated it from among the poorest performing to be one of the best equipped in the country.

A parallel effort is also ongoing to provide continuous mentorship to the frontline providers of new-born care. Paediatric trainers from Kenya Paediatrics Association (KPA) and MKU have partnered with the county in the provision of continuous training.

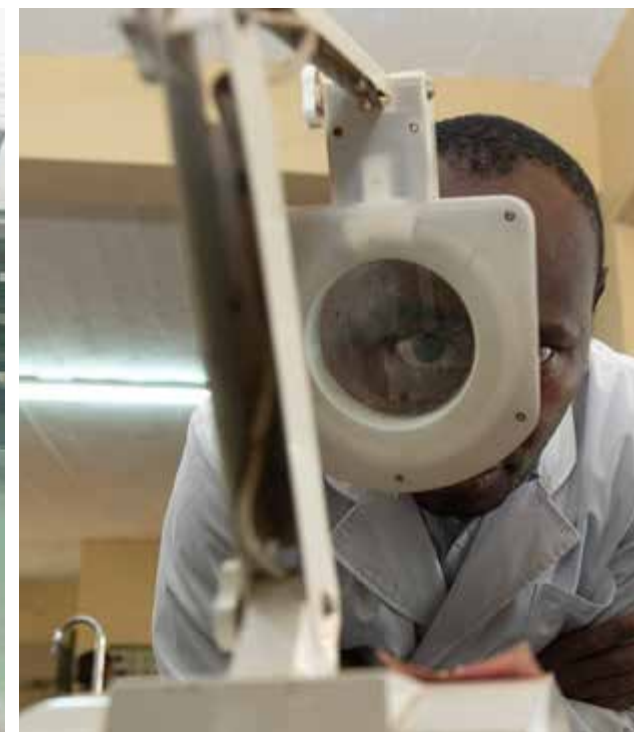
Mr Daniel Gatungu, who is in charge of project implementation, was quoted as saying that the mentorship had been

central in building the confidence of clinicians in tackling complex cases that would previously have occasioned automatic referrals.

"These referrals have been identified in our studies as causing major delays in care-seeking, which has contributed to the abnormally high new-born mortality rates in this county," he said.

It is envisioned that these partnerships between MKU and other like-minded institutions will lead to net health benefits for the community.

**By Dan Gatungu  
CICF Project Officer  
Mount Kenya University**



## Partnership talks with Gujarat University

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudu hosted the Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Technical University (GTU) Prof Navin Sheth, and the two leaders discussed modalities of collaboration in areas of engineering, human health, education and students' business innovation and incubation processes.

The GTU Vice-Chancellor invited MKU to send delegates to Gujarat summit to be held from 18 to 20 January, 2019. The collaborative MoU is being discussed.

## MKU joins peers in project to nurture student innovations

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has joined a newly formed consortium of universities in Africa that support student innovations through incubation or acceleration centres. This was during a workshop held in July at the INES, Ruhengeri, Rwanda.

MKU was represented by two dons: Prof Peter Wanderi (MKU Kenya Principal, Corporate Services) and Dr Claudia Rusibana, a lecturer at MKU Rwanda.

The newly formed consortium referred to as Business Innovations and Incubation Centres-Africa (BIICA), is headquartered at INES Ruhengeri, Rwanda. It is under the chairmanship of Nshimiyimana Gonzalves, a lecturer at INES.

Prof Wanderi is the interim East African Liaison for BIICA.

## Penn State University Carnegie fellow at MKU on malaria research project

Prof Esther Obonyo, a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow from Penn State University, is working with Mount Kenya University researchers to fight malaria.

She is collaborating with Dr James Mutuga, a faculty member in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) and MKU's principal investigator for the grant (\$25,000) on a mosquito-proof housing research project.

Other MKU collaborators

include Dr Mary Muriuki and Dr Peter Kirira.

The work involves field activities in the Mwea Irrigation Scheme and selected sites in Kisumu.

The MKU management, including the Vice-chancellor Prof Stanley Waudu and the Dean, SPAS, Dr Mary Muriuki, received Prof Obonyo at the Thika main campus on July 2.

In addition to working on the mosquito-proof housing project, Prof Obonyo has

also been actively involved in co-learning activities directed at enhancing the research capacity of faculty members in SPAS. She has also provided mentoring for graduate students.

The outcome of the visit will be packaged into proposals to be submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in USA and local agencies such as the National Research Fund (NRF).

## Alumni

# Blessed Eric: How I found my destiny

"My name is Eric Mwenda, otherwise commonly known as Blessed Eric. I am the last born of eight brothers and one sister, born in Meru County. Growing with only the support of my mother in the midst of deep poverty, I was determined to be successful.

From the outset, my mother Silvana Erastus, inspired me to persevere. "My son, this animal called poverty needs us be of one mind. Hold the head and I'll hold the legs. If you release the head, we'll be defeated. If I release the legs, we'll be defeated. But if we agree to hold on no matter what, we'll win", she said with a lot of conviction.

After completing high school with a lot of financial constraints, no one would have thought that I'd proceed to a private university, under the parallel programme. I feared to even mention this idea to my mother. But I was so determined to learn.

Before joining university, I stayed with a man of God called apostle Samuel Jackson of Wisdom Ministries International, based in Mwea. He taught me how to handle tough situations and advised me to read a lot of books. My culture of reading books kicked in. I read the book of Hebrews and saw how by faith a mighty man of God accomplished many things. Therefore, by faith, I decided to go university.

I told my mother that I had received sponsorship to pursue further studies, but first I should pay my first semester. She sold the only cow she had and paid fees for my first semester. I was sure that henceforth I was on my own. Nothing else could be sold.

In May 2012, I joined Mount Kenya University to pursue Bachelor of Science in Travel and Tourism Management degree. In faith, I had to do whatever it would take to accomplish my dream.

The first semester ran smoothly.

Then a floodgate of problems opened in the second semester. No fees. No money for a hostel.

Moses, my one and only male classmate, took me in. But, lacking tuition fees, I had to take an academic leave.

There was no hope at home. Everyone even my own brothers didn't believe in me. They never believed that I was schooling. Although I don't blame them for doubting me.

During my forced leave, I visited family friends in Dar Es Salaam. There, I read a book by Robert H. Schuler, *Success is never ending, failure is never final* and his other title, *Tough times don't last, but tough people do*.

So I knew I had to be tough. Toughened by my readings, I returned to



Eric Mwenda, MKU Student

MKU without a penny. I approached Mr Emmanuel Owuor, the the associate dean, (now the Dean of Students) and explained my case. I told him I need one month and I'll pay the fees. He wrote a letter to the finance department through my Head of Department. Just imagine my joy when I was readmitted. That why I have always affirmed that Mount Kenya University is the best university. It's a home. No issue is too big to the university to listen to.

Having known Mwea rice farmers, I went to the person in charge of the MKU staff café, I asked if I would supply rice to the canteen. I brought a sample and it was accepted but my price denied me the deal.

I didn't give up. I went to an Oilybia Cafe in Thika town and sold my idea. Luckily, I got the job. But because I didn't have cash, I had to convince my supplier to wait for three days I get paid then pay him. I was so happy!

But my joy was short-lived.

In the second month, my supplier gave me low quality rice. And my contract was terminated. I approached practically every hotel in Thika hoping to clinch a tender to supply rice. None accepted my proposal.

I didn't give up. I had read a book by John C. Maxwell titled *How successful people think*. I learned that successful people don't give up or become negative.

I approached the campus supermarket and asked if I could supply bottled drinking water. I got the deal, but the company closed down shortly afterwards.

I had to figure out something else.

I urged my two friends and classmates, Moses and Janet, that we establish a business in Mwea.

My mother had sold a goat and some farm produce and sent me about Sh12,000. I chose to invest the money which was a drop in the ocean when considering the tuition fees I was to pay.

So, we started a milk bar. It thrived for some months until thieves broke in and stole everything.

Nevertheless, Moses and I set up a local hotel close to the previous shop. But because we operated the business by phone, the landlady made the hotel theirs.

I was back to drawing board.

I explained my situation to my Mr Wangombe, then our head of department. He wrote me a recommendation letter which helped me get a job with a tour company in Nairobi. But because of distance, I lost the job on the first day.

But I didn't give up.

I was growing in confidence and wisdom. I met with people who challenged me. Then I learned through the Scriptures that a gift of a man opens door for him and makes him sit with kings. I knew I had a gift of creativity. I used to write poems and skits in our church. I could organise and direct a drama in church.

So I went to the associate dean and told him about my talents. He wrote a letter to the director marketing, Mr Boniface Murigi. I wanted to script an advert for the institution.

But Mr Murigi told me: "You cannot look at a person and say he or she can sing. Go and bring your idea on a compact disk."

He also gave me a disk of some people who had done similar work

I accepted the challenge and did comical advert with help of my friend in the Christian Union.

I took it to Mr Murigi, and he sent me to Mr Wilson Mbugua, so that we redo the ad using professional cameras.

Mr Mbugua was happy and willing to help me. I showed it to madam Nancy, a a teaching staff in human resources and she was happy for me. She encouraged me to keep it up and promised to link me with some companies I do adverts for them. A lawyer friend of mine linked me to the then MD Vivo, Mr Polycap Igate, to do an advert for Shell company. Mr Igate informed me that they don't pay individuals but

companies.

That was another big challenge.

I came back and informed Mr Murigi and madam Nancy. They encouraged me to register one.

In the meantime, out of my good association with the director, I started doing marketing for the university for free. I would take brochures to high schools whenever I went to preach.

I would ask the director to guide me on how to market. I learned so much in marketing that Mr Murigi agreed to reward me with Sh5,000 for every student who came through me.

I read books on marketing, finance and on successful personalities. The story of the chairman and founder of Mount Kenya University, Prof Gicharu inspired me. The support and goodwill of the university administration gave me hope to go on.

Mr Kelvin Nyamai, then the Head of Department, would call me to His office often to listen and encourage me.

One day I was invited to Wisdom Sanctuary, a church located in nelion center in thika led by pastor James G. Maina, to link them to prison and hospitals since I was leading the group that used to visit and share love with such people. While I was there I was found by default in a group that was preparing to present a skit. I happened to help them in developing the story and even playing a role in acting. Afterwards, the leader of the group Dr. Maina, gave me Sh30,000 to register my own company.

Dynamic Beacon Ltd was born and launched on 2 October 2015 in indoors arena, Mount Kenya University. I was rewarded as the best innovative student in MKU by Prof Chege, by then the DVC SWAMA.

The journey started, Mr George Mburu, an author of many books in MKU, would take me to colleges to give inspiration to fellow youth.

In 2017 I was employed as a manager in a hotel in Machakos and resigned after 43 days. I set up a tyre business in Chuka Meru and I am now a big shareholder of Destiny Structures company, having four big excavators, owns a FVZ tipper and running a Real estate and House management agency in Ruiru; Dynamic Beacon real estate and house management agency. WiFi installation and the best is yet to come.

My mentor and partner Mr Batista, always tells me that success is not far from where you are. I have leant a lot including financial matters and am willing to share and inspire anyone who interested.

“My son, this animal called poverty needs us be of one mind. Hold the head and I'll hold the legs. If you release the head, we'll be defeated. If I release the legs, we'll be defeated. But if we agree to hold on no matter what, we'll win

# Career and alumni services now harmonised

Mount Kenya University has complied with the Ministry of Education directive to harmonise career and alumni services. This is by housing the career advisory services under the new Directorate of Career and Alumni Services (DCAS).

The MKU Senate has approved the new directorate. This comes earlier than the December 2018 deadline set by the Ministry of Education.

The career advisory services will be handled in the new directorate, and therefore, group and individual walk-in students will be served by the expanded staff structure.

The Directorate of Alumni Services, established in February 2014, has grown over the years and offered services to alumni and current students. It has served these groups through employability soft skills training, career talks, industrial attachment, job placement and alumni tracker studies.

Previously, other career services were provided under the related administrative units, such as marketing, linkages, research, admissions and registration.

The new directorate will cover three major sections: Students' Entrepreneurial and Innovations; Student Career Counselling and Advisory; and Alumni, which will continue to track the performance of former MKU students in the job market.

The directorate's industrial partnerships will link students and alumni to industry for industrial

visits, attachment, internships, volunteerism and job opportunities.

The career advisory service is key to enabling students to turn their dream professions into reality. It helps students to choose courses depending on the natural strength and their abilities, understand their fit into the job market, and balance class with other professional activities such as career talks, career clubs, career coaching and mentorship services.

To boost student innovative abilities, the office will nurture their innovative and entrepreneurial spirits, and coach and mentor them to commercialise their innovations.

Thus, two committees – the career and alumni committee and the student business and innovations board – will oversee the successful implementation of the new directorate.

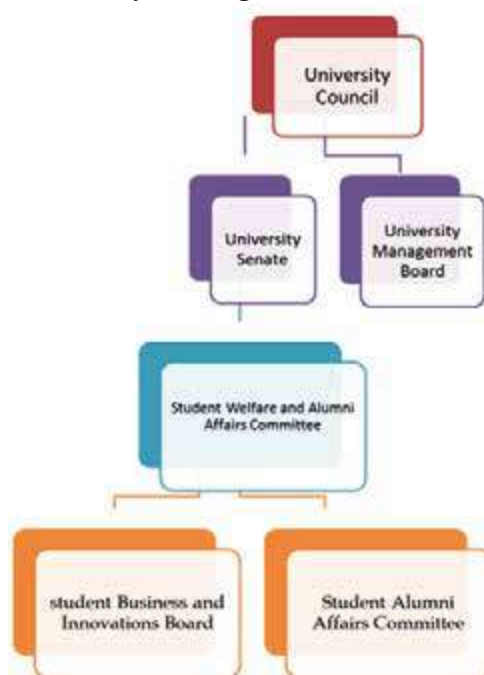
The committees have a mandate to develop, review policies, guidelines and procedures to successfully implement the directorate's mandate and recommend annual budgets to enable the execution of its objectives.

Mr Afubwa Musumi, the Director designate, says: "I welcome the new restructuring as this will give the best services ever to the students and alumni at large. The area of innovations while at the University is key to increase job creators and reduce job seekers."

support from the MKU fraternity/lecturers/professors and other stakeholders, ensure their growth into spin-offs/start-ups.

- To oversee planning of the University annual innovation challenge week and other innovation activities with other partners
- To solicit ideas from relevant stakeholders, identify and recommend partners.

## University Management Structure



## Terms of reference of the Career and Alumni Committee

- To oversee the functions of the Directorate of Career and Alumni Services
- To develop, propose and recommend programmes, strategies, policies and guidelines for running and governing the Directorate to the University Management Board and Senate, for approval through the Students and Alumni Management Committee, for quality delivery.
- To oversee the effective implementation of approved programmes, strategies, policies and guidelines
- To oversee preparation and recommend budget estimates and other resources for approval by the University Management Board and ensure prudent resource management
- Any other duty that may be assigned by the Vice-Chancellor.

## Terms of Reference of Students Business and Innovation Board

- To promote students' innovations and business ideas, and grow them to patentable/commercial products and services
- To develop, propose and recommend the programmes, policies and guidelines to manage student business and innovations
- To oversee the development and establishment of the university-based science / Innovation Park.
- To oversee the coordination of students' innovations and business ideas, and with

## A fulfilling public lecture by Cloud pioneer

Mount Kenya University fraternity enjoyed a public address by Mr Orion Henry and his wife Dr Jamie Henry on digital health. Mr Henry, an IT guru from the Silicon Valley, pioneer of cloud computing and serial entrepreneur, delivered a public address at the MKU indoor games arena.

He is the co-founder of Heroku and has also worked as a Principal Architect at *salesforce.com*.

Mr Henry was the Executive Producer of the film, "The Right to Heal". The film sheds light on neglected diseases globally and the need for organisations and individ-

uals to unite in bringing essential surgery to poorly-served areas of the world. It has been screened in over 60 countries, and has been reviewed and featured in The Lancet.

Dr Jaymie Henry is the Founding Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance).

During the public lecture, students interacted with the ICT guru and explored the chances of venturing into self-employment after they complete their studies.

## MKU on course to set up e-health programme

Mount Kenya University has partnered with two organisations to set up an e-health programme to provide access to medical care digitally.

The deal with Henry Family Trust Fund and Afya Switchnet was unveiled during the 14th Graduation Ceremony in Thika.

The programme, which will cost Ksh15 million, will be based at the university's innovation hub in Thika. It will help academicians and researchers build successful digital health solutions.

Dr Jaymie Henry said the organisation will provide technical support through software development, but its management will be handed over to Kenyan doctors.

The hub will support and advance mobile technologies, cloud services, computer aided diagnosis and innovative care

options.

MKU chairman Prof Simon Gicharu said the initiative will see doctors reach more patients.

"They will work closely with our School of Medicine. The organisations will provide technical and financial support," Prof Gicharu said.

"Access to healthcare in the region remains low. We hope that this new initiative will support this programme," he added. "I am delighted to say that we are creating our own Silicon Valley within the university."

Prof Gicharu continued: "Our students now have a chance to use the latest technology to conceptualise and realise their innovations."

## PLOTS BENEFICIARIES



MKU Chairman Prof Simon N. Gicharu (centre, wearing black cap) joins delighted staff who the university gave free plots in Thika for their service. Helping staff to acquire affordable housing is in line with MKU's welfare and motivation scheme.

## MKU Kigali

# Kigali campus gets HEC nod to develop roadmap to become independent varsity

The application by the Mount Kenya University (MKU) campus in Rwanda to operate as a fully-fledged university has received the Higher Education Council's (HEC) nod.

The regulator has allowed the campus to develop a roadmap to transition into an independent university.

HEC gave its approval on 6 October, triggering the formal process of transforming the campus into a complete university.

The Ministry of Education is expected to later issue its approval through the Cabinet. The ministry's order will allow the university to operate within the national guidelines for education in Rwanda as an autonomous, fully-fledged university.

The institution is in the process of rebranding to MKU International University of Technology (MKUIT).



The Royal Media complex at MKU Rwanda campus in Kigali.

Vice-Chancellor-designate Prof Edwin Odhuno said the immediate impact of this change of status will be the university graduating students at its campus in Kigali beginning next January.

Previously, graduands from the campus had to travel to the MKU Thika to graduate. Those who could not afford to travel to Kenya participated in the graduation ceremony through video conferencing.

MKUIT, Prof Odhuno explained during an interview, is busy constituting its autonomous Council and Senate.

He added that the Council will approve the Senate's decisions and this will boost the ease of decision-making on academic issues, including examinations.

The university's administrative structure will change. "We will adopt the structure used in Rwanda," Prof Odhuno explained. "The university will thus have

a distinctly Rwandan character but with international faculty as well. However, MKUIST and MKU will share a Chancellor: Prof John Struthers."

The university will offer programmes accredited locally by the education authorities. This will be under the Rwanda National Qualification Framework.

"Students who graduate from MKUIST under this framework will not need to go to the Ministry of Education for equivalence assessment of their qualifications," said Prof Odhuno.

He explained that the university will gradually transition to the Rwanda National Qualification Framework as new students enroll.

MKUIT will develop a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with MKU, the mother institution, to allow students who wish to graduate under the Kenya National Qualification to do so.

## Growing success: Ultra-modern broadcasting center

I am very excited about the new chapter of our radio station that continues to be a success story in the lives of Rwandans. Our success begins with us being able to broadcast the right content for the right listener and attracting the right business partners.

Today, we add to our growing success, not only a permanent broadcasting center but an ultra-modern, state-of-the-art radio that will give a great experience to our staff, listeners and you our advertising partners.

We are very grateful to the government of Rwanda for advancing fundamental freedoms and promoting public access to information which is essential to bolstering good governance and the rule of law, deepening inclusion and dialogue.

What started as a very small station in 2013, as a platform for our school of journalism has now become a trend setting radio. A market leader by far in innovation and on air activations. We are proud to host the first English breakfast show – Kigali In The morning and this will go further to strengthen the English Language adoption for the Rwandan Community.

The completion of the media complex at the cost of over \$ 400,000 and setting up a modern studio is a major milestone which will usher in many advantages to radio broadcasting quality in Rwanda. The facility as you have witnessed has a radio library – the first in this country and with all nature of literature regarding the broadcast professional. We want our on air personalities to inform

our audiences from a very well informed perspective.

Our On air studios will now not only give you an incredible ambience when you come for PR interviews but also you our give advertisers digital mileage with our Video for radio services. Our Production studio is fully equipped for services like radio spot production, drama production and all sort of audio advertising solutions. Today Royal FM can broadcast any event live from location with our outdoor broadcasting VAN and mobile studio.

My ultimate objective as a sponsor of this project is to contribute to Rwanda's economic and educational growth. The media complex will help us train the best and grow our school of Journalism as a centre of excellence. Alongside radio, the facility will host the Royal integrated corporate communications strategies arm, an office that will major in comprehensive brand corporate communications and Public relations. We want our customer to find all communications solutions in a one stop centre.

Radio provides an enduring platform to bring communities together. Radio remains a crucial source of information and knowledge, spanning generations and cultures, inspiring us with the wealth of humanity's diversity, and connecting us with the world.

Radio gives voice to women and men everywhere. It listens to audiences and responds to needs. It is a force for human rights and dignity and a powerful enabler of solutions to



MKU Chairman and founder Prof Simon Gicharu (left) with Director General of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RuRa) Lt. Col. Patrick Nyirishema (2nd left) Rwand Higher Education Council Executive Director, Dr. Emmanuel Muvunyi and Kenyan Ambassador to Rwanda John Mwangemi (right), cut ribbon to mark the official launch of Royal media complex at MKU Rwanda campus .

the challenges all societies face.

As a young man growing up in a simple rural home in Kenya, I had a dream of starting up a radio station for purposes of using it as a tool to reach out to the masses especially the poor who could not afford to

go to school. After many years, the dream has been birthed here in a beautiful country of a thousand hills.

This state of the art Royal media Complex is another milestone to actualize my dreams that I believe will empower our next generations.

# Three niche courses MKUIT is banking on

The proposed MKU International University of Technology (MKUIT) has re-launched its Royal FM studio as it moves to enhance its niche programmes.

The radio station's studio, boasting state-of-the-art equipment, supports the training of journalists and other media professionals.

Vice-Chancellor-designate Prof Edwin Odhuno says the equipping of the studio is part of the university's drive to invest in equipment that aids quality practical learning.

"The university has identified three centres of excellence in teaching journalism and media; hospitality; and nursing," said Prof Odhuno.

The don explained that MKUIT had decided to invest massively in these areas of training to gain a competitive edge in higher education. It has, however, not ignored the other programmes it offers and will keep enhancing them.

Prof Odhuno said MKUIT's hospitality infrastructure, used in the training of hotel and tourism management students, is among the best in Rwanda.

He added that enrolment for the nursing programme offered at MKUIST is on an upward trend. He believes the ultra-modern skills lab at the university is a key attraction.

"We are also investing more resources in postgraduate training," Prof Odhuno said.

On student welfare, he said the university had acquired more land close to its campus to build hostels.

"Sitting on the 2.5-acre piece of land is a structure we can refurbish to accommodate 150 students," said the don. "The Rwanda cabinet made it compulsory for any institution of higher learning to have hostels."

Prof Odhuno said he expects the hostels to be ready by next January.

Students at MKUIT largely comprise the working class drawn from Kigali. Up to 80 per cent of the student population belongs to this group.

Prof Odhuno said the university was eyeing to enrol more students fresh from high school. Because most of them will come from other parts of Rwanda, the university has to build hostels for them.



MKU Chairman and founder Prof Simon N. Gicharu with Director General of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority Lt Col Patrick Nyirishema and Kenya's Ambassador to Rwanda John Mwangemi get a feel of Royal FM Radio station's new studio at the Mount Kenya University Rwanda Campus.



MKU Chairman and Founder Prof Simon N. Gicharu (right) presents a cheque to journalism student Kayitake Orvier. Looking on is Lt Col Patrick Nyirishema, Director General of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority. This was during the official opening of the Royal Media complex in Kigali.



Sina Gerard Enterprise Urubwiso Managing Director Mr Gerard Sina receives a certificate of appreciation from Dr Mercylene Kamande, MKU Rwanda Deputy Vice-Chancellor designate in charge of academics. Mr Sina gave a public lecture on strategic management to staff and students.

## MKUR's unique deal with Sacco to grow teaching profession

Mount Kenya University Rwanda (MKUR) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Umwalimu Sacco to strengthen teacher education in Rwanda. The move will see teachers and students access study loans from Umwalimu Sacco to further their education at MKUR.

The university will act as the knowledge partner in building the needed teacher training capacity in the country and exchange of information relevant to training and research.

MKU chairman and founder Prof Simon Gicharu lauded the partnership, terming it a step in the right direction that will help grow the teaching profession in the country.

"We note the effort the government is

putting in to grow the profession. And as a university committed to excellence and empowering generations through quality education, we are committed to training and being part of growing the profession in the country," he said.

"We shall continue investing in our niche areas and expand to offer quality education. One of our main goals is to complete the students' hostels such that teachers from far places can easily access education," Prof Gicharu added through a statement read during the MoU signing ceremony on 18 November.

MKUR has vast experience in developing teachers. It has so far graduated over 1,000 teachers in four programmes that include Bachelor of Education in

Arts and Science, Postgraduate Diploma in Education in Science and Arts, Master of Education and Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education.

Speaking during the ceremony, U wambaje Lawrence, the director general of Umwalimu Sacco said: "Teachers get into their profession because of their love for learning and care of students. Now we want to contribute to grow the profession by helping education teachers further their education through flexible pay back option loans with our partner MKUR. Teachers who do not have enough money to further their education can now apply to Umwalimu Sacco to get the money to further their studies at MKUR," said Uwambaje.

## Journalism

# MKU students win 'Top Story Season 2' journalism contest

Of the investigative pieces that 20 participating universities presented, 'Taps of Misery' edged the rest

**T**hey thought they had to graduate first before their work could air on TV. They were mistaken. As they would learn in March, fate had other plans in store for them.

The trio, Ruth Ondiso, Ken Njenga and Samuel Gititu, were in for a delightful surprise; a career-defining moment.

They represented Mount Kenya University (MKU) at the Top Story Season 2 investigative journalism competition organised by media firm, Africa On Air. The reality show aired on KTN Home.

Of the investigative pieces that the 20 participating universities presented, the trio's story, 'Taps of Misery', edged the rest.

The story detailed the suffering Nairobi residents endure at the hands of greedy and devious water cartels.

The three fourth-year Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media and Communication students reaped the fruits of teamwork.

They were ecstatic when they were declared the winners. As their reward, Africa On Air, sponsored their trip to BBC's and Skysports' offices in London. There, they learnt more about their craft from seasoned TV journalists.

Winning the award "has launched my career and I don't have to wait until I graduate," Ruth declares.

Ken adds: "Through Top Story Season 2, I've learnt a lot from top journalists in the world such as Anas Arenenyew."

Ken now stresses that choosing to study at MKU remains one of the best choices he has ever made in life. "Thanks to dedicated lecturers and availability of resources vital to journalism training, I can anchor and produce any news item," he says.

Samuel concurs, saying: "The award has truly launched our careers as investigative journalists. I became a journalist so that I can tell people stories that change their perceptions and expectations on matters that affect them every day."

He adds: "When we were investigating, recording and packaging 'Taps of Misery', it was about bringing our minds together as a team to tell a compelling story to the world. We successfully did."



Award-winning journalism students, their colleagues and staff celebrate the win.

Ruth explains further how they went about their task: "We shared out roles among ourselves. Sam was the main camera person and Ken the reporter. I was the producer and also camera person for the cutaways. Despite the defined roles, we helped each other out."

The journalism students say producing 'Taps of Misery' was a big challenge. However, through persistence and teamwork, they delivered the story.

"This was a great challenge given that we were dealing with cartels whose rot was not easy to dig out," Ruth says. Ken agrees: "Unearthing water cartels is a delicate issue." Sam stresses how they had to "dig deep" to unearth the facts that made the story compelling.

"I will never regret being part of such a wonderful institution," Sam says, adding that he values "the environment and the commitment of the lecturers".

He says: "The availability of requisite equipment was all we needed. MKU provided all that. All we had to do was go out there and tell an effective story."

Ruth thanks the MKU fraternity for trusting them with the task of representing the university in the competition.

Josphat Githua, Head of MKU's Journalism and Communication Department, in analysing the students' success, cites aggressive and positively mentored students, qualified and dedicated staff, committed leadership and maximum use of available resources as factors behind the

university's win.

"We have sufficient, state-of-the-art training facilities in our department," he says. "Each student has access to all studio facilities and equipment."

The department has produced some outstanding names, among them sports reporter Robinson Okenye, writer Peter Ngila and outstanding Kiswahili master of ceremony Sarah Mauti, seen especially during state functions.

Many other students have gone through the department's training and are doing well in their various places of work. They include Amos Weru Mwangi, a BBC radio journalist, and Halima Gongo, a reporter with NTV.

## Education student blogs and wins trip to World Bank, IMF meetings

Mount Kenya University (MKU) student Benazir Mohammed Yusuf left for Washington DC on April 13 to attend the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings. The meetings will take place from April 20 to 22.

The fully-paid trip, which ends on 23 April, is her reward for emerging one of the three winners of the World Bank's "Blog4Dev Contest 2018".

The trip helps young people to network with other youths across the world, and gives them a chance to learn more about development issues.

Her winning blog was selected out of over 1,000 blogs. It masterfully addressed the common topic, "What it would take to end Gender-Based Violence".

Diarietou Gaye, World Country Director for Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, congratulated Benazir and informed her that, after the Washington meeting: "You will participate in a conversation with Government of Kenya officials sometime in May this year".

Benazir, a Bachelor of Education Arts student, hails from North-Eastern Kenya where, she says, "Women have been side-lined and denied opportunities to participate in decision making".

"This year's World Bank's blog competition offered me the chance to share my story," she says. "My blog focused on female genital mutilation, rampant in the area, and how to set up community centres where survivors can get assistance."

A teacher at a girls' high school in Garissa County, she also runs a community-based organisation called Silver Lining Kenya, [www.silverliningke.org](http://www.silverliningke.org). It aims at upgrading the life of the pastoralist community, with a focus on women's



Benazir Mohammed Yusuf, a Blog4DEV contest 2018 winning Blogger

and girls' unique needs.

The second-year Distance and Institution-Based Learning (DIBL) student says the World Bank award is a great opportunity for her to explore and learn more.

"As a gender activist, I will network

with and learn from the people I shall meet during the Washington Spring meetings. This is also an opportunity for me to develop my skills as a blogger and pursue my dream of becoming a writer one day," she says.

## Webometrics ranking: MKU among top 10 most popular universities in Kenya

Mount Kenya University (MKU) is among 10 most popular universities in Kenya. This is according to the latest Webometric Ranking of higher education institutions in the country.

MKU jumped from position 14 in the previous ranking to 10 in the latest survey.

The July 2018 ranking placed MKU among the top three private universities in the country and tenth overall among the 87 higher education institutions ranked.

Webometrics Ranking considers the volume and quality of the contents a university publishes on the Web.



## Counseling services at MKU

Seeking professional psychological counseling seems problematic to most people. Unlike other mainstream traditional medical procedures, it is not easy to discern when to seek help. Yet all people are mentally sick. However, it is the severity of the mental condition that separates those who need treatment from those who do not need treatment. Studies have continuously revealed that mental conditions such as dementia do not surface at old age but they have been present all along one's life. Such life threatening conditions during old age usually begin early in one's life especially during one's productive years (20 to 65 years). These mental conditions usually manifest themselves as distress arising from daily life hustles and are therefore overlooked by many.

Most people at risk of mental illness are those who are employed more so those with families because of their juxtaposed roles. They are disposed to multiple personalities as they attempt to fulfill these roles so to satisfy both the employer and the family simultaneously.

How do I know that I need counseling?

Consider the following: have you been crying intermittently of late without knowing why? Even without being provoked? Have you been frequently anxious or fearful before your employer/supervisor or spouse even after fulfilling your tasks or obligations? Have you lately been avoiding contexts (places or people) that you once frequented because you feel that you don't what to? Are you feeling unhappy even when good things are happening around you like a promotion or salary hike? Are you frequently having angry outbursts to your colleagues or family members or spouse without or with slight provocation? Are you feeling



Dr Maroko Mokua, PhD  
Head of Psychology Department

guilty because you failed to perform your obligations as expected? The list is long. What am I insinuating? Your mental well being is slowly degenerating! You need professional psychological counseling. You are suffering from distress. A greater percentage of people suffering from it end getting well without any intervention because they have stronger self-rectifying defense mechanisms, however, to the smaller percentage who don't recover, the condition will continue progressing thereby taking a toll in their mental health (Do you know the strength of your defense mechanisms? Nope - I guess). It may sometimes become a precursor to schizophrenia (madness). Seek psychological counseling help near you.

Do you know where to seek psychological counseling help?

Here at Mount Kenya University, do you know where to seek psychological counseling help? Many students and staff may not be aware that they are at risk of compromising their mental wellbeing and therefore need help. You can get professional psychological counselling help from three points:

1. Dean of students - counselling services centre,
2. life-skills centre
3. Department of psychology.

The three points have enough accredited counseling psychologists who can help you normalize your mental wellbeing.

For more information, visit the counseling website at <http://counseling.mku.ac.ke/>

## Partnerships

# First lot of STEP students complete training

Enterprising Mount Kenya University (MKU) students who completed a 10-week training on entrepreneurship received certificates. However, those who excelled in the Students Training for Entrepreneurial Programme (STEP) walked home with some cash too.

"Informal sector is the new economic reality," said MKU vice-chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo at the ceremony marking the completion of training of the first lot of MKU students to go through STEP.

"STEP has empowered the youths to excel in the informal sector. Leveraging on the informal sector is the way to go since it is faced with lack of skills and funds," he added.

STEP, developed by Leuphana University (Germany) in collaboration with Makerere University Business School (MUBS), enables students to practise what they have learnt in class.

The programme is research-based, uses real money in real time and is fully sponsored in Kenya by Leuphana University in partnership with the Kenya National Commission for Unesco (KNATCOM-Unesco).

Students are given Sh10,000 in groups of five to try out their entrepreneurial skills during the training. They return the seed money at the end of the programme but keep the profit.

KNATCOM- Unesco Secretary General,



Winners of the first STEP business competition proudly display their certificates. Also present is MKU Principal, Corporate Affairs, Prof Peter Wanderi (left), (and at the back from left) MKU DVC in charge of Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement Dr Evans Mwiti, MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley W. Waudo and MKU Council Vice-Chairman Dr Vincent Gaitho.

Ms Christine Maingi, a guest at the ceremony, urged the students to use the skills they had learnt to create employment.

Dr Vincent Gaitho, MKU Council vice-chairman asked the students to be innovators; "to identify problems in the

society and find solutions", advising them further that "money shall follow later".

STEP has so far been introduced in close to 20 countries worldwide, and MKU is the second Kenyan university to embrace it.



Some of the students who completed the STEP training cannot hide their happiness as they proudly display their completion certificates.



Students from Germany's Bonn Rhein Sieg University pose for a photo with their MKU counterparts. The Germany students were in Kenya on a cultural exchange programme.

## BRSU Cultural Exchange Programme

In February, MKU received eight students from Bonn Rhein Sieg University in Germany for a three week long Cultural Exchange Programme. The purpose of this programme was to expose these students to the Kenyan culture while at the same time having them attend classes in their various disciplines.

The students would earn credits in their University for participating in the programme. While here, the students integrated well with their counterparts from MKU making many friends in the process. They also got the opportunity to compare learning in Germany with that in Kenya.

Trips to our national such as Aberdare and Maasai Mara were also organised

to give them a wildlife experience. They also got a taste of the rich cultural diversity of Kenya at the Bomas of Kenya. The Library, the swimming pool and all other university facilities were available for the students during their stay. MKU students on the other hand had the benefit of interacting with students from an entirely different background, attending classes together and sharing experiences.

The University is aggressively seeking after such collaborations in order to give our students a more holistic experience during their stay in the University. In the future, the University will organize for many more such programmes with Universities from all over the world.

## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# A feel of the Great Rift Plaza

The building housing Mount Kenya University (MKU) Nakuru Campus is a magnificent structure located in a quiet area in Nakuru town.

Previously, MKU Nakuru was housed in Resma Plaza on Oginga Odinga Street. A growing student population meant that the university would need more spacious premises. The university opted to construct one for itself. The Great Rift Plaza was the result. The campus occupied it in 2016.

The exterior design depicts a centre of learning. There is a book and a hand that holds the world, symbolising the power of education to the universe.

The security desk is manned by professionally-trained officers who handle the university clients with dignity. Security checks are thorough and well-coordinated for the safety of the whole MKU family.

“The exterior design depicts a centre of learning. There is a book and a hand that holds the world, symbolising the power of education to the universe.”



The modern customer care lounge in Nakuru campus



## CUSTOMER CARE

The customer care office past the parking lot reflects the beautiful face of the university. The exterior is made up of transparent walls to let in natural light.

The waiting bay inside is a luxurious and spacious lounge. The furniture are comfy, and guests can sample copies of university magazines and other journals that give them company at the coffee table. On the wall is a digital television set. Hence, there is never a dull moment at the customer care desk.

The customer care officers manning the desk are professionals with vast knowledge about the operations of the whole university. Talk of elegance; the customer care desk is as welcoming as it can be.

## BASEMENT

At the basement of the Great Rift Plaza is the university clinic and science laboratories.

A student centre will soon be ready for use. It will comprise a gym, kitchenette, facilities for indoor games and a common room where students can watch



Study Villas in Nakuru campus have power ports for charging laptops

television and get entertainment. The whole area is connected with free Wi-Fi.

## STUDY VILLAS

On the other tip of the building, the rooftop, are study villas. Students can take some time off lecture halls and the

library to study in these open structures that also provide a refreshing view of Nakuru town. The cool breeze relaxes the mind.

The study villas are fitted with power ports where users can charge their laptops.

Unlocking Infinite Possibilities

## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# On a change mission: Meet the Director of Nakuru Campus

**D**r Emily Nyabisi was appointed Director for Nakuru Campus in January 2018 following her exemplary performance in the office of the Deputy Director, Academic & Research Affairs.

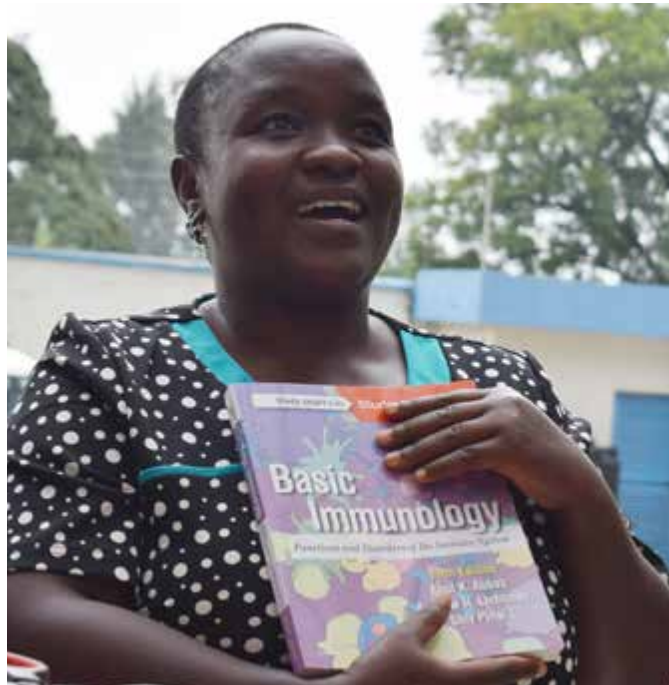
Dr Nyabisi holds a Doctorate and a Master of Philosophy degrees in Educational Management and Policy Studies, both from Moi University. Her undergraduate studies at the University of Nairobi earned her a Bachelor of Education.

At MKU, she also serves as a lecturer in the School of Education, where she teaches both undergraduate and post-graduate courses. She also supervises students at both masters and PhD levels.

She has worked in different capacities at the university since May 2011, in Eldoret and Nakuru campuses. She also served as coordinator in the School of Education and School of Post-graduate studies; Assistant Registrar, Teaching Programmes; Coordinator, Quality Assurance; and as Deputy Director, Academic and Research affairs.

Sitting at the helm of leadership in Nakuru Campus, Dr Nyabisi is a renowned scholar and researcher in the field of educational leadership.

As the Nakuru Campus director, she is on a mission to change the perception regarding the duty of the office. She wants it be viewed not as a seat for providing administrative direction, but more as one that offers academic leadership. "All the other functions should come in to support the academic progress in Nakuru Campus," she says.



Dr. Emily Nyabisi, Director, Nakuru Campus

As a passionate educationist, her dream career goal is to be in a position where she can positively effect change in educational policies, practice and procedures at the highest level.

Talking to the MKU family, Dr Nyabisi says: "We can only be great as we think we are. Before anyone else can believe in us, we must believe in ourselves."

She emphasises on the values of efficiency, effectiveness, integrity and accountability to God.



## Making Nakuru Campus neat and attractive

The Nakuru Campus has an Estate Office to make the environment habitable and comfortable. This office, headed by Mr Joel Gesicho, keeps all the facilities clean, including offices and hostels. Mr Joel Gesicho ensures that all campus structures are well maintained and repaired.

His office is further responsible for landscaping and grooming of the grounds. And because MKU Nakuru took charge of maintaining the Kenya Farmers Association roundabout in Nakuru town, this office is in charge of that too.

To effectively execute these duties, "cooperation and respect are some of the virtues among the staff, students and the office," Mr Gesicho says.

## Guess who keeps the busy KFA roundabout neat

**I**f you are in Nakuru town and the KFA roundabout catches your attention for its neatness, think about Mount Kenya University (MKU) Nakuru Campus. The campus is responsible for the maintenance of this arguably busiest roundabout in the populous town.

Located on the Nakuru-Eldoret highway, the roundabout serves as the connecting junction to Kabarak and the Westside Mall. It also connects the busy Kenyatta

Avenue to the highway.

The MKU Nakuru Estates Department is tasked with its general maintenance. Mr Joel Gesicho, the Estates Manager, ensures the grass is well trimmed and that the facility is kept clean. He also ensures the flowers are well tended for the needed aesthetic value.

The place is a beauty to behold for many. Nakuru residents say this shows MKU has the best interest of their town at heart.



## Taking time off to give scholars career tips

**E**very year, Mount Kenya University (MKU) Nakuru offers free career advice and mentorship to secondary school learners. The campus sets a day for students from secondary schools in Nakuru to interact with and get advice from specialists in different fields.

The event was this year held on 12 May.

The day's programme started with a tour of the university premises, giving the visiting young learners the opportunity to interact with university staff in different departments.

From the science laboratories, the library, journalism studio to other learning facilities in the campus, the young scholars had a fruitful day that also included educative presentations at the university's Hall 701.

Mr Peter Njenga, the Deputy Director-Academic Research Affairs, led the university management in hosting the visitors.

Well prepared presentations and eye opening career advice marked the day.

The high sense of humour in information delivery kept the young learners attentive.

At the end of it all, teachers representing different schools praised the university for its commitment to nurture the young generation.

### Outreach

The campus does not stop at hosting a career day, but also sends out representatives to offer guidance and educational mentorship in neighbouring counties. Once such outreach was held on May 19, a week after the career day.

Representatives from every MKU school set off to Nyandarua County, led by marketing officer Nelly Kayanda. The delegation had been invited to offer mentorship at a career event in Njabini town, Kinangop constituency.

Gracing the event was the area Member of Parliament, Hon Kwenya Thuku, accompanied by counterparts Amos Kimunya (Kipipiri) and David Kiaraho (Ol Kalou).

## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# Campus plant trees in Nakuru launch ceremony

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) made a notable contribution at the launch of a tree planting campaign by the National Government in Nakuru County on 5 April 2018.

The event was held at Mogoon Primary School in Kaptembwa, Nakuru West Sub-county.

MKU Nakuru Campus staff and students, led by marketing officer Nelly Wanjiru, came armed with seedlings.

The ceremony was graced by representatives from the national government, county government, forestry and the local community. Parents, students and staff from MKU were also involved.

A total of about 600 trees were planted on that day.

Speakers at the occasion lauded MKU for always getting involved in activities aimed at improving the lives of communities.



A student plant a tree during tree planting exercise in Mogoon Primary School, Kaptembwa.



MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo (right) join MKU Council Vice-Chairman Dr. Vincent Gaitho (left) and MKU board of directors member Jane Nyutu during the official commissioning of Great Rift Plaza Nakuru Campus

## *New strict rules raise exam credibility*

Mount Kenya University (MKU) stands for transparency and quality in teaching and administration of its functions. To ensure this, the university reviews policies from time to time to make them better.

At the start of 2018, MKU adopted new examination rules, which have enhanced the credibility of exams.

Among the new rules posted on the university notice boards and on students' portals, mobile phones are strictly not allowed into examination rooms.

The exam period in March and April recorded no incidents of attempted cheating. This led to smooth transition of students from one level of study to the next without delays associated with exam malpractices.

Mr Peter Njenga, the university's xxxxx, visits exam venues to see to it that the new regulations are applied.



Examination in session. New rules and regulations are strictly adhered to.



MKU School of Public Health officers attend to volunteers who turned up for free medical checkup at MKU Nakuru Campus recently. Thousands turned up for the exercise. MKU is at the fore front in helping the government to control non-communicable diseases through screening and awareness, the medical camp is part of the university corporate social responsibility.

## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# New DIBL sessions kick off in style

**A**rguably, the busiest time of the university calendar is during the Distance and Institutional Based Learning. This is usually in the month of April, August and December. Students mainly from the school of Education are taken through learning and exams over the holidays.

A sizable number of students were admitted and oriented for the task ahead learning. On Sunday the 8th April, 2018 all new students converged at the university hall 701 in floor seven for orientation. The campus management, associate dean of students and the school coordinators were all present for the event.

The school coordinators introduced themselves and outlined their areas of service to the students. The top management led by the director took them through the university systems and encouraged them to go for greatness. The DIBL students are also invited to be ambassadors of the university in their respective places of work.



MKU Nakuru campus Registrar-FAM Ms. Suzanne Standa addresses DIBL students during orientation on 8th April, 2018



A section of DIBL students during the orientation

## *Giving students a real feel of how to care for animals*

MKU Nakuru has invested in animal health demonstration farms. One facility is at the ASK showground in Nakuru. The other is at Gitonga farm in Lanet.

These are tracts of land where different animals are reared for practical learning. Students studying animal health visit the farms with their lecturers to be shown how to professionally take care for the animals.

Among the animals reared at the ASK showground are pedigree cows, sheep,

goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, poultry, fish and donkeys.

A variety of farm crops are also grown in the expansive piece of land.

These resources are used by the School of Pure and Applied Sciences and the School of Public Health, coordinated by Mr David Gathura and Dr Muhoro respectively.

The Gitonga farm in Lanet hosts Friesian cows and various breeds of pigs for the same purpose.



Friesian cows in Gitonga Farm-Lanet managed by MKU



Fish pond at the MKU Demonstration Farm at the Nakuru ASK showground



Pedigree cows at the MKU Demonstration farm in Nakuru ASK Showground

## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# Taking a healthy break from books

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) Nakuru Campus holds a sports day every semester. This is in line with MKU's undertaking to promote holistic development of its students.

The Nakuru campus holds its sports day at the Nakuru Athletics Club. This is usually held over the weekend when most regular students do not have classes.

In February, the campus held one of the biggest such tournaments that also invited participants from other universities.

In this event, MKU Nakuru campus emerged the overall best, beating Kabarak University in most of the competitions.

Besides sport, MKU Nakuru also encourages talent growth through other creative activities, such as drama and pageantries.

The reigning Mr MKU (Nakuru?) 2017/2018 is Tonny Kiplangat Chirchir, while Miss MKU (Nakuru?) is Leah Kawira. Ms Kawira is also the reigning Miss Igembe Constituency in Meru County.

MKU Nakuru has a vibrant drama club that has performed plays in different parts of the country.



Mr. Peter Njenga (left) hands the trophy to the winners of the open tournament in Nakuru Athletics Club. Henry Odhiambo (in black jersey) the campus sports coordinator looks on.



The Drama Club performing a play titled "the well" for Nakuru campus students and staff in Hall 701



Leah Kawira - Miss MKU Nakuru campus



Tony Kiplangat - Mr. MKU Nakuru Campus

## Opportunities for spiritual empowerment

**M**ount Kenya University Nakuru Campus provides students with the opportunity to challenge their minds, and that includes space for religious expression and learning. Prominent in this are three Christian organisations run by students through facilitation by the university administration. We briefly profile them:

### Christian Union

The Christian Union is an outreach ministry. It is an interdenominational union, and is independent in all its activities.

"We get support from the administration to use campus facilities when we require them for worship. We also get transport from the university to attend rallies. This is done by the help of the patron, who is appointed by the administration to be the link between us and them," says the chairman.

Popularly known as CU, the Christian Union brings together all students of the protestant Christian faith. Some of the activities it carries out include missions, keshu (night vigils), lunch hour services, bible studies and worship practice.

Within the union are several ministries. They are run by appointed officials under the guidance of the chairperson.

The union promotes leadership skills among members, not only in the spiritual context but also in the field of studies. The core values of the union are integrity, spiritual development and conscious mindedness.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Young Christians Society

Comprised of members of the Catholic faith, the society is commonly referred to in its abbreviated form, YCS.

The officials are elected annually, and

members are encouraged to spread the word of God in the university.

The YCS matron and patron are very close to members. Through their strong support, so much has been achieved.

The society has managed to go for trips, which have helped them intermingle with other campuses and share ideas on how to grow spiritually.

The following verse keeps the society moving: Ephesians 3:20-21: "To Him by means of His power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of; to God be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever! Amen."

### Seventh Day Adventist

The Seventh Day Adventists at MKU Nakuru are led by a group of more than 40 active members, who ensure their activities run smoothly. The group's driving force comes from the Book of Philippians 4:13: "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

Through this, the group has managed to organise outreaches and visitations to churches. It has hosted events and members have had the opportunity to intermingle with peers from different universities and colleges to promote spiritual growth.

The group is also active in music and has been busy recording volumes since 2015.

Dr Oigara xxx, being the patron, has helped the group to achieve their spiritual growth dreams, not forgetting Madam Jacqueline Omuya, who has been mentoring members.

"We acknowledge their support to the group and pray that the Lord keep and guide them as we anticipate for his second coming," says xxxxxx, the group's xxx.



## Focus on Nakuru Campus

# Welcome to Nakuru's resourceful library

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) has invested in an ultra-modern library at its Nakuru Campus. Spacious, well lit and adequately ventilated, it gives users a comfortable environment for studying.

The facility has a seating capacity of 600, and information resources have been increased over time with introduction of modern computers to the e-learning section.

The library has also invested in an electronic security system to safeguard learning materials, and CCTV cameras to boost surveillance.

It is connected to all MKU libraries countrywide. Students from all MKU campuses can access services from any library in the sister campuses.

Additionally, the library is registered with the Kenya National Library Service,

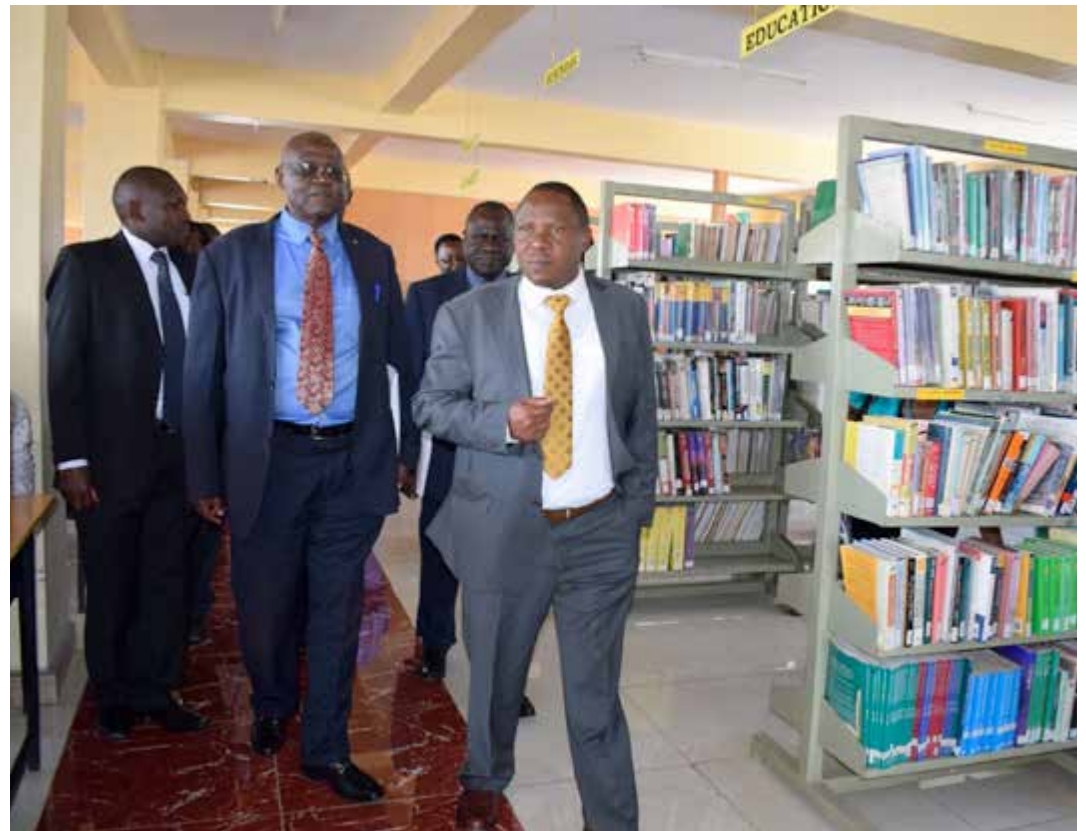
which enables exchange of information among all member libraries.

The different sections of the Nakuru library accommodate users with varying information needs. For instance, the e-learning section allows users to access e-books, e-journals and other electronic information sources.

The library has set aside some private space from where one can have quality reading time alone.

There is a spacious newspaper section for users who want to keep abreast of national and international current affairs. The dailies are kept here.

MKU Nakuru library is headed by Mr Henry Odhiambo, who is presently responsible for ensuring the facility stays in the right path towards becoming a centre of research for everybody.



University Council members visiting the library during a routine visit to ensure the campus has adequate academic resources

## Students leadership

The Nakuru Chapter of Mount Kenya University Students Association (MKUSA) is headed by Anthony Too, who took the reins of Nakuru Campus students leadership in elections held early in the year.

MKUSA provides an organised platform for students to voice their interests and to contribute to the maintenance of a conducive learning environment.

Every year, students hold elections to choose their leaders. The elected officials sit in the students' council – MKUSA – which is made up of six positions.

The council is mandated to bring positive changes in academics, students social welfare and sports, among other areas of interest.

"I aspire to see an impact in the areas of recreational facilities

within the university," says Too. "For instance, we expect to have a fully functional students centre by the end of the year."

Too adds that he would like his leadership to have a long term impact, saying he looks forward to seeing MKU students from Nakuru "being absorbed by the most competitive corporates".

## Ultra-modern studio at Nakuru Campus

MKU Nakuru has a modern studio where students of mass communication are trained using state of the art facilities. The journalism studio is located on the fifth floor of the Great Rift Plaza.

The Bishop of Nakuru Catholic Diocese, Rt. Rev Maurice Muhatia, while commis-

sioning the journalism studio, congratulated the university for the bold step in equipping students with up-to-date skills in the new world of broadcast technology.

Students from the department continue to be absorbed in mainstream media.



## Academic trips

Students from the university also enjoy academic trips fully facilitated. Early in the semester, students of Public Health visited the Kenya Meat Commission in Athi River accompanied by their lecturer Mr. David Gathura.



Public Health students on an academic trip to the Kenya Meat Commission in Athi River.

# Seeking the link between science and religion

Mount Kenya University (MKU) Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu has challenged the Christian Scientific Association of Kenya (CSAK) to promote coexistence between science and religion.

He said this during CSAK's regional conference that ran from 29 to 30 August in Naivasha.

Prof Gicharu commended CSAK for the work it was doing as the first such association in the region.

He reiterated that the University Management was committed to continuing supporting the Association. MKU allocated 5,000 square feet of office space to CSAK at the main campus in Thika.

MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo said a blend between science and religion was necessary as a guide to human behaviour, practices and activities.

Several MKU faculty members presented their research on the nexus between science and Faith.

Mr Andrew Harrison performed the play, Mr Darwin's Tree, a show about the life of Charles Darwin, who is recognised for his vast contribution to evolution science. It was the first performance of the play in Africa.

The conference theme was: "Interaction of Science and Religion in Africa: The current and future perspectives".

Scholars from Europe and Africa, as well as CSAK members, attended. Close to 200 people from the different affiliate institutions where CSAK has members participated too.

## Guests and Speakers

The CSAK Regional Conference was graced by keynote speakers from the United Kingdom, Nigeria and Kenya. The Chief Guest was Professor Mwenda Ntarangwi, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission for University Education. The Guest Speaker at the opening ceremony was MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanley Waudo.

There were six other key speakers at the conference:



Mount Kenya University Founder and Chairman Prof. Simon Gicharu (right) present a gift of recognition to Prof. Andrew Briggs a researcher from Oxford University, during Christian and scientific Association of Kenya (CSAK) Conference held at sweet lake resort in Naivasha.

- Professor Joseph D. Galgalo, Vice-Chancellor, St. Paul's University, Kenya, and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology.  
**Topic:** The future of the discourse of science and Christianity in Kenya
- Professor Andrew Briggs, a Professor of Nanomaterials in the Department of Materials, University of Oxford.  
**Topic 1:** How does science help in knowing God? Insights from a Quantum Physicist  
**Topic 2:** The future of religion in the era of technology and transhumanism
- Professor Oyewale Tomori, former President of the Nigerian Academy of Science and an ordained pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church

of God (RCCG).

**Topic 1:** Human uniqueness and the image of God: Bridging biology, theology and culture

**Topic 2:** Opportunities and challenges in resolving perceived conflict between science, religion and culture: An African perspective

- Dr Fiona K. A. Gatty, Research Fellow at the Department of Materials, University of Oxford and Programme Adviser for the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

**Topic 1:** Hostility between science and religion: The lies, the myths and the truths

**Topic 2:** The dialogue between religion and science: Challenges and future directions

- Professor Bernard Boyo, a Professor in Bible and Theology, Hermeneutics and Contextualization at Daystar University and Chairman of Board of Management of CSAK.

**Topic:** Science and Religion: An African Reconnaissance

- Professor Francis W. Muregi, Director Research & Innovation, Mount Kenya University and CSAK Project Leader.  
**Topic:** Naturalism and the limits of science

## About CSAK

Christian and Scientific Association of Kenya (CSAK) is a professional, non-political, non-sectarian Association established to enhance coexistence of science and religion. The Association is registered in Kenya.

## Its objectives are:

- To promote understanding of science and religion
- To explore interactions between science and faith in the African context
- To provide a platform for narrowing the knowledge and attitude gap between science and religion
- To promote synergetic interaction among science, culture and religion.

The Association's membership has grown tremendously to 285 members drawn from more than 30 universities and research institutions. The Association has launched five chapters in different institutions and plans to establish others in November.

To continuously engage and enhance the harmonious coexistence of Faith and science, CSAK has organised successful outreach events such as debates, workshops, conferences, trainings and two essay competitions for postgraduate students. The essay competitions are meant to encourage young scholars to contribute to the discourse on science and religion.

## MoU with Ningxia Normal University

Mount Kenya University (MKU) and China's Ningxia Normal University (NNU) have signed an MoU to collaborate in promoting education. The curious word "Normal" in NNU means teaching in Chinese parlance.

NNU offers broad courses in teaching, including the training of teachers. The Chinese university will initially collaborate with MKU's School of Education as

well as the languages.

MKU's delegation at the signing ceremony at Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi was led by Council Vice-Chairman Dr Vincent Gaitho. Also in attendance were Dr Evans Mwiti, MKU's Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Planning and Institutional Advancement (APIA), and the Mayor of Ningxia City, among other dignitaries.



## Eldoret Campus Talent

# Plenty talents at Eldoret Campus

### Annet Wamunyokoli

**Talent: Beadwork**



"I would first like to thank Almighty God for this far He has brought me. Secondly, I would like to give my heartfelt gratitude to campus director Dr Emily XXX, Mr Amos Monoi, the head of marketing, and the Career Department for their great support.

With their constant advice and encouragement, I see myself reaching new heights in beadwork. This is a profita-

ble business that demands passion and interest. It also needs excellent planning and the services of a designer, since it involves creative bead arrangement.

The craft includes making table mats, key-holders, serviette holders and colourful, moulded flower bottles of different sizes. As a girl child, I want to be self-reliant and above all self-motivated, not only in business but also academically. I look forward to growing my business into a big entity.

I started this business to test my innovativeness and to assist my dear parents to pay a portion of my school fees. I come from a humble background and I would love to financially support my parents.

I also have a positive mind-set. I believe I can do what others can, differently but equally well, if not better. Where there is a will there is always a way.

Lastly, I would like to encourage fellow youths to wake up and think big since life is what you make it. Opportunities come once. I would also advise them to develop a positive personality. They should, however, note that while personality will always open doors, only character will keep them open ever.

I am determined to do my best through the support of my campus."

### Ian Duncan Manyara

**Course: XXXX**

**Talent: Singing**

Ian Duncan Manyara started singing while in Form One at Leshau Boys High School, Nyahururu. So, when he joined the Eldoret Campus, he continued to cultivate his talent.

He has been performing in clubs and at social events. Ebru TV hosted him once as a main guest. He has also been interviewed on Hero Radio.

Mr Manyara has produced three songs. Two of them are audios and the other a video, which he produced with the assistance of Kenyan celebrity DJ Crème de la Crème. He plans to release other songs soon.

He was to work with comedy duo Amos and Josh on some project but the plan fell through due to high collaboration fees.

His main challenge is video production



fees and marketing expenses.

Meanwhile, he engages in Karaoke in clubs. "Although performing Karaoke does not generate lots of money, it helps to make society aware of my existence as an artist," he says.



### Nesmus Ingolo Madaga

**Course: Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting and Finance)**

**Talent: Music**

"I am a former student leader who served in the Mount Kenya University Students Association (MKUSA) as the social welfare and entertainment minister 2017/2018. This helped me in nurturing the talents of others and mine too.

I thank the university management for supporting me and for making

my dream come true.

I am a talented songwriter, pianist, singer and performer. As a recording and performing gospel artiste, my stage name is 'Nestar\_Musiq\_Kenya'.

I perform at MKU forums and events with the MKU Band Eldoret.

An active member of the MKU Drama & Music Club, I have been



### Edwin Omedi

**Course: Journalism**

**Talents: Clothes and material design**

Omedi Edwin is Mr MKU Eldoret Campus 2018. He is passionate about clothes and material designs of all types. He has been interviewed on Y254 TV once.

Mr Omedi's designs and passions were featured in BTR Magazine.

This is what the magazine wrote about his work:

"This week, we interact with a designer who takes us back to the days when vintage material dominated the fashion industry. He blends them with official outfits to develop something explicit..."

Read more about The Omedi Designs only on"

### Daniel Mutinda

**Course: Accounting**

**Talents: Marketing and motivational speaking**

Daniel Mutinda is a student in the school of business studying for a degree in accounting. He is talented in corporate marketing and motivational talks (both Christian and academic talks). He has been marketing Safari Forex Bureau in Eldoret and MKU Eldoret Campus under the guidance of head of marketing, Mr Monoi Amos. This work has enabled him to pay his tuition fees up to Third Year.



### Josephine Cherop Kakuko

**Course: Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication**

**Talent: Music**

"I am 23. I hail from West Pokot County, Kacheliba Constituency.

I have a passion for music. I am a talented singer. I have been singing since my childhood, especially in church.

I began my singing career seriously in December 2016 following a spiritual vision which instructed me to evangelise through singing. Using my personal savings, I recorded my first song, 'Chomecha', which means God loves us all.

Because of my humble background, I lack funds with which to shoot a video and to record more songs. I often fail to pay fees on time and end up missing some classes. I will highly appreciate any assistance.

"Thank you. May God bless you abundantly as you support me!"



### Kituy Nekesa Mary

**Course: Diploma in Banking and Finance**

**Talent: Music**

Kituy Nekesa Mary hails from West Pokot County, Pokot South Sub-County. She joined MKU in September 2017 to pursue a Diploma in Banking and Finance. She started singing back in high school at Tartar Girls' School in West Pokot. Nekesa specialises in Kiswahili gospel music.

She realised her potential in music after joining the supportive MKU Christian Union, which paved the way for her to record some of her songs.

Nekesa performs in various churches and events hosted by MKU. She has produced three songs with more awaiting recording. She says her main challenge is getting finance to produce her songs.



part of the troupe that competed at the national level at Kasarani, Nairobi. I have also performed during MKU marketing activities.

I have recorded three songs and shot one video, which is on YouTube. The song is called, "Deep in my heart." The link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss4krHljBtI>.

I officially launched the video early this year on KBC national television.

My dream is to become successful in my music career while also excel-

ling in my accounting profession. However, my big challenge is how to raise money to record, produce, shoot video and market my music.

I have composed many songs, but lack of money has hampered me from recording them.

It is my humble request, hope and prayer that through MKU, my dream will come true.

God bless Mount Kenya University for believing in me. God Bless Kenya."

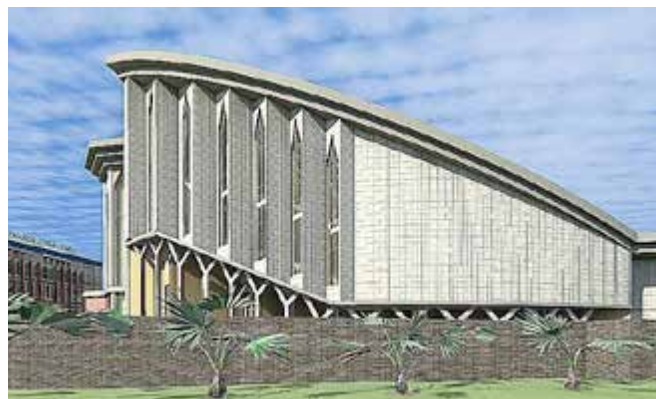
## Upcoming MKU convention centre



Artist impression of the Convention Centre front & Alumni Plaza rear view with proposed library extension



The Convention Centre interior



Convention Centre side view



Convention Centre side view

## Varsity establishes ICT hub to mentor talented graduates

Mount Kenya University (MKU) has established a facility for mentoring and incubating talented information technology graduates so that they may help develop solutions for local businesses.

The facility, dubbed iHub, is the University's contribution towards reducing reliance by local enterprises, on expatriates.

Dr Bibianne Waiganjo-Aidi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic and Research Affairs, says many businesses in Kenya source IT experts from abroad, despite local universities offering various computing courses. She says what local IT

graduates lack is mentorship – and that is what iHub will provide.

“Although Kenyan universities release a sizable number of computing graduates every year, most of them lack essential exposure in developing innovative business solutions needed in the market,” says Dr Waiganjo-Aidi. “Mentorship and exposure would build on the potential of such graduates to enable them develop ICT solutions and businesses that work in supporting the growth of the Kenyan economy.”

The university aims at identifying its highly talented computing students or graduates it will mentor

in developing solutions for modern businesses. The centre will serve as an incubator for innovation and as a mentorship platform for software developers, who will produce unique solutions needed by modern business enterprises and other sectors of the economy in Kenya.

The university will admit students or graduates to the centre at a time, and mentor them for four to six months.

The newly established MKU School of Computing and Informatics's iHub has top-notch computing facilities, including hardware, software and high-speed internet connection.



## Linkages

# And finally, an MoU with KU

After 10 years of closely-linked institutional engagements, Kenyatta University (KU) and Mount Kenya University (MKU) have now formalised their relationship.

The respective vice-chancellors, Prof Peter Wainaina and Prof Stanley Waudo, signed the agreement at a colourful ceremony at KU.

Members of staff and student leaders from both universities, as well as officials from partnering organisations, witnessed the ceremony.

The two universities agreed to collaborate on, among other areas, research, exchange of staff and students, games and entrepreneurial activities such as Students Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP).

MKU and KU are already linked by the Collaboration of Entrepreneurial Universities (CEPU) project sponsored by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service).

The three-and-a-half-year project brings KU and MKU together as the two Kenyan partners alongside five counterparts from Germany, headed by the Bonn Rhein Sieg University (BRSU) of Applied Sciences, to promote entrepreneurial teaching.



Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University and Prof. Stanley Waudo Vice-Chancellor, Mount Kenya University (R) display copies of the MoU signed between the two universities, a Collaboration for Entrepreneurial Universities (CEPU) Project at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre.

## All-new collaboration for entrepreneurial varsities

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is sponsoring a project at MKU known as Collaboration for Entrepreneurial Universities (CEPU). The project, in which MKU teams up with Kenyatta University (KU) to collaborate with counterparts from Germany, aims at strengthening entrepreneurial teaching.

It commenced last July, and it is scheduled to run for three-and-a-half years.

A total of 35 MKU members of staff were trained on HEInnovate, which is a DFID sponsored self-evaluation process for higher education institutions. The second phase of training took place from 1 to 4 October.

The German institutions involved in the project are a consortium of the following: Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (consortium leader); Hasso-Plattner-In-

stitute; Leipzig University; Leuphana University Lüneburg; and Wismar University of Applied Sciences, Robert-Schmidt-Institute.

All consortium members have conducted projects in the field of labour market orientation and/or promotion of entrepreneurship, with different focuses on Africa.

The institutions have enjoyed lasting relationships, leading to the idea to form a consortium and combine expertise.

The Kenyan partner universities too – Kenyatta University and Mount Kenya University – are equally strong collaborators and have implemented different entrepreneurial teaching modes.

The project coordinators at MKU are Prof Peter Wanderi, Principal, Corporate Services, and Dr Peter Kirira, Director, MKU Foundation.

## Unique partnership to uplift Kiambu dairy farmers

The MKU Department of Animal Health in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences has joined Caritas Nairobi to support dairy farmers in Kiambu County.

Caritas is the social development arm of the Catholic Church. The Nairobi chapter has imported improved breeds of dairy cows from Italy and supplied them to farmers in Kiambu County.

MKU animal health students will get field attachment with the project, while lecturers will be involved in monitoring and evaluation.

Sr Mary Mbacki of Caritas Nairobi paid a courtesy call to MKU's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Stanley Waudo, and explained that the collaboration covered the entire milk production value chain, right from the supply of animal feeds to milk processing.

Other schools and departments in MKU to be roped into the programme are nutrition and dietetics, the Graduate Enterprise Academy and the School of Business and Economics.



His Excellency, Mr. Ferdinand Waititu, the Governor of Kiambu County, pose for a photo with Members of Caritas Nairobi led by Sr. Mary Mbacki and joined by the Principal Corporate Services, Mount Kenya University Prof. Peter Wanderi after a meeting in the Governor's Thika office that discussed a tripartite partnership on dairying at Kiambu County.

## AT A GLANCE: The CEPU Kenyan and German Universities



Unlocking Infinite Possibilities



Promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

## Data analytics for SME training takes off at MKU campuses

In July 2017,  $\mu$ Data Analytics Institute ( $\mu$ DAI) approached MKU to collaborate and facilitate a North-South technology transfer in the field of data science.

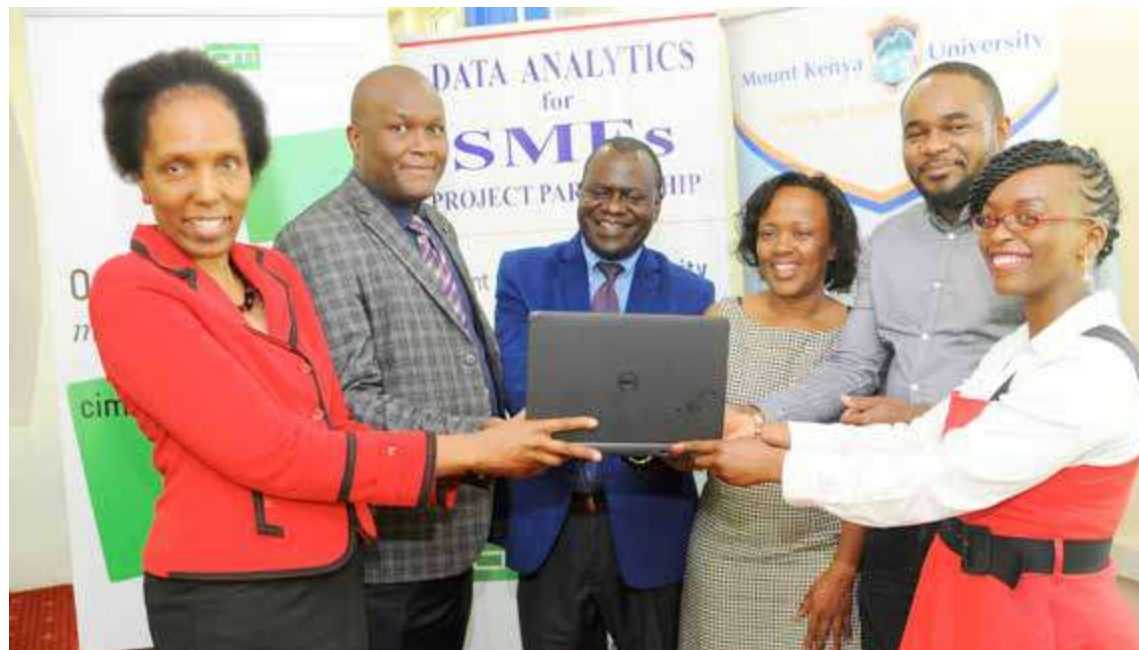
$\mu$ DAI is a non-profit organisation headquartered in Dortmund, Germany. Its strength lies in its team of Diaspora members spread in more than five countries (many in Africa) and their years of experience in multiple fields and sectors of data science, both in practice and in scientific research.

$\mu$ DAI felt strongly that MKU was an invaluable project partner due to its grassroots representation throughout the country and in the region. Additionally, MKU has a track record in successfully mentoring entrepreneurs (under the Graduate Enterprise Academy), and providing training for SMEs in Kenya (through Equip Africa Institute).

A team from Equip Africa Institute and MKU's School of Computing and Informatics developed a concept which was successfully presented at the Centre of International Migration and Development (CIM), Germany, for funding by  $\mu$ DAI.

The proposal was awarded a Euro 40,000 grant to be administered by  $\mu$ DAI as the German partner.

The concept envisioned the training of SMEs in the field of data science as a 'currency' for entrepreneurial growth, leveraging on  $\mu$ DAI's data analytics expertise and MKU's extensive campus locations to deliver trainings.



MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Stanley Waudo (3rd left), ICT Authority CEO Katherine Getao (left), MKU board member John Roigo and u-Data Analytics Institute Founder during the Launch of Data Science Project between Mount Kenya University and u-Data Analytics Institute.

Executive trainings will be conducted in three phases every alternate month to cover 14 months in five counties: Nairobi, Nyeri, Nakuru, Usain Gishu and Mombasa.

The project was officially launched at a colourful ceremony on 23 February at MKU Thika. Dr Kate Gitao, ICT Secretary in the Office of the President and Cabinet, presided over the event.

The Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) chair, Charles Waithaka and

CIM representative in Kenya Cynthia Kamau also attended the function.

### Project Progress

The project has so far completed two phases of the two-and-a-half days' training workshops:

- Phase 1 involved training in Nairobi and Nyeri counties held between 2 - 7 July at Parklands School of Law and Nyeri campuses. A total of 27

SMEs, including two GEA alumni, were trained in Nairobi, where seven MKU staff also attended. The Nyeri training attracted 11 SMEs from Nyeri, Othaya and Muranga. Five MKU faculty members were also trained.

- Phase 2 involved training at MKU Nakuru and Eldoret campuses from 17 to 22 September. Six SMEs, seven MKU faculty members and one MKU master student attended the training in Nakuru. In Eldoret, 34 individuals comprising 14 SMEs and 20 MKU staff benefitted from the same.

- Phase 3 is planned for Mombasa County in December with a one-day closing conference.

The MKU- $\mu$ DAI team is especially appreciative of the support provided by the campus directors towards hosting and marketing of the training programme within their areas.

For purpose of long term impact and sustainability of this concept of SME training in data science, three MKU faculty members have been identified as trainer of trainers and are part of the team at all trainings. They are: Philip Mbugua, SCI, Nairobi Campus; Kelvin Njagi, SCI, Thika Campus; and Peter Njau Mbogo, Time-tabler, Nakuru Campus.

The purpose of having ToTs is for  $\mu$ DAI to coach MKU faculty to extend data science expertise to SMEs at the grassroots level at minimum cost after the project is concluded.

## Membership to International Professional Associations: Member AACSB

The School of Business & Economics is a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB is a global, nonprofit membership organization of educational institutions, businesses, and other entities devoted to the advancement of management education. Established in 1916, AACSB International provides its members with a variety of products and services to assist them with the continuous improvement of their business programs and schools. AACSB provides internationally recognized, specialized accreditation for business and accounting programs. The AACSB Accreditation Standards challenge post-secondary educators to pursue excellence and continuous improvement throughout their business programs. AACSB Accreditation is known, worldwide, as the longest standing, most recognized form of specialized/professional accreditation an institution and its business programs can earn.

In addition to providing its members with products and services, AACSB International strives to identify challenges and trends that are facing the business education industry through its research and various initiatives.

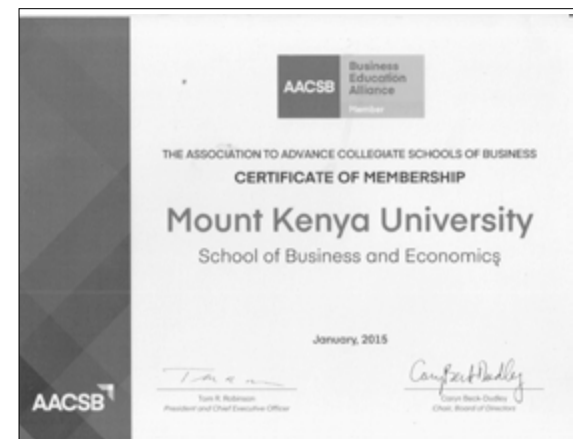


The association also educates students, parents, employers, and counselors about accreditation and how to choose a quality business degree program that will fit their needs. AACSB conducts research, assesses trends, host over 60 conferences and seminars annually and brings together business school leaders to learn from each other. More than 1,369 in 89 countries are members of AACSB international, with about 711 member institutions that hold AACSB accreditation.

MKU School of Business & Economics was admitted as a member of AACSB in January 2015, following a preliminary inspection visit by AACSB accreditation officer (Jane Lawler) and AACSB chief operations officer -COO (Dr. Jan Le Clair) in June 2014. The school is in the process of perusing full accreditation, an achievement that will propel the school to join the top 1% business schools globally. By so doing, the school will cement her position

and commitment to be part of this unique association of top level and diverse institutions focused on advancing quality management education globally.

MKU School of Business & Economics has now officially received the initial membership certificate and the letter of authority to cite AACSB in its activities of promoting research, social and economic development.



## International Mission

# Outcomes of MKU's external missions

Students outside Kenya are studying for Mount Kenya University (MKU) certificates, diplomas and degrees. The university seeks to support them and has sent missions abroad to find out what their needs are.

### MoU with the University of Bosaso, Garowe campus

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Mount Kenya University (MKU) and the University of Bosaso (UoB), 43 students successfully sat the January/April 2018 exams at Garowe.

Previously, students had to travel more than 750km to Hargeisa to sit for exams.

To market its courses in Garowe and Puntland, MKU recruited Mr Abdulkadir Abdirahman Mohamed as a temporary marketing officer. He will be responsible for recruiting and assisting open and distance education learning (ODEL) students in Puntland.

### Visit to Burundi

MKU has extended its footprint to Burundi and has 74 masters' students there pursuing courses through the ODEL programme.

Early this year, the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Education and the Commission for Higher Education, had a fruitful meeting with MKU on ODEL programmes. Apart from certificates equation, the meeting also discussed benchmarking of the ODEL programmes and other areas of mutual interest.

### Fact Finding Mission to Nigeria

MKU sent a delegation to Nigeria on a fact-finding mission.

The delegation included Prof Peter Wanderi, Principal, Corporate Affairs; Dr Ronald Maathai, Registrar, Academic Administration; Mr Daniel M Kiriti, Deputy Director, Marketing and Branding – Diaspora; and Yusuf Usman, Masters' in Nursing student and lead guide.

The delegation found that Nigeria, with over 180 million people, had many uni-



MKU Delegation to Nigeria and the Deputy Speaker Zamfara State House



MKU Delegation and HRH the Emir of Zamfara State

versities scattered across the country. Most are in the South.

The MKU delegation established that the universities couldn't satisfactorily satisfy the education needs in Nigeria. Many students sought education outside the country. State governments such as Kano sponsored students to foreign countries such as Uganda. Out of 30,000 applicants received in one particular state university, only 5,000 were admitted in one intake.

The University will continue working with the Kenya High Commission in Nigeria to facilitate examinations for ODEL students in Nigeria.

MKU also welcomes qualified applicants from Nigeria willing to join the university as regular students to do so through the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) equation system.

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The MKU Diaspora and ODEL office had a fruitful discussion with the Director, Diaspora and Consular Services in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The government official expressed the ministry's commitment to assisting MKU conduct its exams in the Diaspora.

He praised MKU for assisting Kenyans in the Diaspora to access affordable quality education from anywhere in the world. That other nationalities in over 25 countries studied digitally was proof of MKU's commitment to be a global institution offering world class education, research and innovation.

MKU has 25 Diaspora exam centres and more are coming up as students continue to enrol in the various programmes available on the ODEL platform ([www.odel.mku.ac.ke](http://www.odel.mku.ac.ke)). Garowe, Pretoria, Berlin and Belgium are new centres, bringing the number to 28.

- Prepared by Daniel M. Kiriti, Deputy Director, Marketing and Branding (Diaspora)

## Main Campus hosts talk on use of GIS in tourism

After holding a very successful event in 2017, the Kenyan chapter of the International Federation for Information Technology and Travel and Tourism (IFITT) this year hosted a talk on the application of geographic information systems (GIS) in tourism. It took place at Mount Kenya University Main Campus in Thika on 8 November.

The event was organised in collaboration with IFITT, MKU, Kenyatta University and

Karatina University.

IFITT is a global platform that pools members into discussing, exchanging and developing knowledge on the use and impact of new information and communication technologies in travel and tourism.

Every year, in addition to its main eTourism annual conference, IFITT encourages members to organise local workshops in chapters around the world. These workshops are called IFITTtalk.



# My life-changing experience as Erasmus+ programme beneficiary

**M**y name is Everlyn Wairimu Kahinga, a course finalist in the Bachelor of Science in Travel and Tourism Management, and an Erasmus+ programme beneficiary. I spent the winter semester as a Vincent Pol University student.

## Preparation

The trip to and stay in Poland was magical, as this was my first time to travel abroad.

## Accommodation

During the five months, we stayed at Cube Squash and Fitness in Mackiewicza, Lublin. The student facility, well-equipped with a study room and a gymnasium for leisure, was also a good environment for learning. I interacted with other students from diverse cultures, as Cube was a home for foreign students.

## Academics

Vincent Pol University offers high quality education. Students are fully involved in classwork through the multiple group discussions, interactions with lecturers, as well as group and individual presentations.

The teaching method improves students' computer skills as modern technology is used all through. The library is also equipped with computers and books, which one can borrow whenever they want.

The education gave me an opportunity to improve my abilities. I gained vast knowledge. All the classes involved a lot of research work. I also learnt a lot about pictorial PowerPoint presentations and how to use video for presentations.

## Internships

The university gave me the chance to work at a high-end hotel: Hampton by Hilton. It was a very important learning experience, as my field of specialisation is travel and tourism.

I improved my communication skills, learnt about using the OnQ Booking system, acquired guest relation skills and became well-rounded with knowledge in other varied skills-sets, given that I handled different responsibilities.

I also worked at Lublin Tourist Infor-



MKU's hospitality students Everlyn Wairimu Kahinga (second left), Winnie Otieno and Brian Alphayo Esikuri with international colleagues during their study tour in Poland.

mation Centre, where I handled tourists from different parts of the world. Here, I learnt to use paper maps and improved my photography skills, as my practical lessons on fieldwork involved a lot of photography.

I also improved my customer care skills, teamwork, tour guiding skills and techniques, and also time management, which was among the most important things I learnt during the stay.

## Everyday Life and Leisure Time

I visited other towns in Poland, for example, Warsaw, Krakow, Gdansk, Lubartowska and Kasmierz Dolny to explore their historical and cultural heritage sites.

I also enjoyed sampling their traditional foods in the cultural restaurants. I visited museums, old monuments especially for night sightseeing and shopping malls. I also went to the theatres.

My days were quite busy, as I used to go to school then dash to the internships.

Christmas season was an important religious event as the Polish are mostly

Catholic. I enjoyed the religious shows and exhibitions.

## Conclusion

This was undoubtedly a unique and life changing experience for me. I also like to call it a self-discovery wholesome experience, as I discovered a lot of potential that I have and I had not known about before. Every moment was full of learning, networking and fun.

I would also like to congratulate the entire Mount Kenya University fraternity for giving students the opportunity to experience education on an international level.

I thank our Dean, School of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, Madam Jane Kuria, for her hard work in making the collaboration a success. I also thank the entire family from our Department of Travel and Tourism Management for the continuous support during this wonderful and successful journey.

I am proud to be associated with Mount Kenya University and will forever be grateful for the opportunity.

God bless MKU.

## 'Erasmus undoubtedly a unique, life-changing experience for me'

By **BRIAN ALPHAYO ESIKURI,**  
B.sc in Tourism & Travel  
Management

I spent my winter semester at Vincent Pol University in Lublin, Poland, as an Erasmus exchange student.

## Preparation

Ahead of travel, the Dean of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Mount

Kenya University, Dr Jane Kuria, gave us all the necessary support relating to what we required for the stay-study in Poland.

## Accommodation

We were accommodated at the Cube, which is a top facility located near Vincent Pol University. We all shared one apartment and took care of each other. The apartment administrators were very cooperative. They were always there to

help. We got all the basic necessities, such as furniture, internet, bed-sheets, blankets curtains, television and laundry machines. We also had access to squash, gym and fitness facilities at an affordable monthly fee.

The Cube apartments were open to all other students from various universities in Lublin and other people of all races and diversities, enabling us to be part

Read more on page 38

## 'Sweet memories of my short stay in Poland'

"The opportunity to learn, see and grow from new experiences was one of the best things about the Erasmus+ exchange programme. Having a different class set-up with diverse cultures and interactions made learning quite interesting.

Winter season was really cold, but it was very worthwhile to experience such kind of weather.

Right from arrival at Warsaw Chopin airport, everyone I met was friendly and helpful. From changing to Zlotys at the bureau to taking a bus to Lublin.

Vincent Pol University was close to where we stayed, hence making it accessible for many of us foreign students. It has a conducive learning atmosphere and friendly lecturers, just like in my home University.

The classes were interactive, and included dialogue amongst students and group work. Most lectures were through PowerPoint presentations and films of the tourism industry. We also learnt the history of Lublin Old Town.

In addition to this, we participated in extra-curricular activities scheduled on the timetable. They included sports and dance. Coffee vendor machines were available for those small in between breaks or the study discussions students engaged in.

All course units were quite interesting as taught by the lecturers, the best being national and regional cuisines, which exhibited the Polish cuisines and we had practical lessons for preparations of the same.

It was also a privilege to train at an international hotel - Hampton by Hilton Hotel - for three months. The employees at Hampton were kind, cheerful and very reliable. They practised not only hospitality but more so 'Hamptonality', a term they used to refer to the totality of their services and 100 per cent guest guarantee offer. The hotel had very tasty dishes, lovely décor and ambience, which summed up the meal experience.

The Annual Christmas party occurred on 18 December and Santa (Head chef) had gifts for everyone. I was very humbled to be given a Hampton Hamper despite being a trainee.

I am grateful to God for this experience and every day grace. We were able to visit sites around Lublin, like the Old Town, Lublin Castle and Kazimierz Dolny, and learn the rich history of the places.

Besides all these, the interaction with students from Turkey, India, Spain, Italy and other European states, all under the Erasmus group, was really amazing. Having such friendships was good. To learn of their culture and backgrounds and their experiences is a memory I carry with me.

The malls were in close proximity as well for any needs that we had. Getting around was not difficult due to the bus app available.

I remain grateful to the University for creating international linkages and enabling students to experience lifetime opportunities. I also thank the Chairman, Prof Simon Gicharu, for what Mount Kenya University is today, and the Dean, School of Hospitality in conjunction with departmental heads, for their support and assistance towards the whole journey - from departure to coming back. Dziękuję bardzo (Thanks a lot, in Polish)."

- Winnie Otieno

## School of Pure & Applied Sciences

# Science school wins quality lab kits from American firm

**M**ount Kenya University's (MKU's) science training received a major boost in April when an American firm awarded the institution vital laboratory equipment.

The university's School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) is among the 16 in the world that qualified to receive laboratory instruments from Seeding Labs' 2018 Instrumental Access Program.

Instrumental Access Program makes high-quality laboratory equipment and supplies them to university departments and research institutes in developing countries. It is the flagship programme of Seeding Labs, a US-based non-profit working to help scientists make discoveries that improve life and the planet.

MKU outlined how an infusion of scientific equipment would remove barriers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and research at the institution. This would pave the way for new avenues of scientific inquiry and expand hands-on opportunities for students.

Dr Mary Muriuki, the Dean, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, received the award on behalf of the university. She thanked Dr Nina Dunkin, chief executive of Seeding Labs, for the instruments, which she said will benefit many students.



"The School of Pure and Applied Sciences is focused on providing world-class scientific skills to our students as well as carrying out life changing research. Our main challenge is that the school lacks adequately equipped laboratories for teaching and research based on chromatography and spectroscopic analysis."

She added: "The equipment from Seeding Labs will not only improve our students' output but also boost research in

the school and the university."

SPAS' research interests include human health, agriculture and livestock, ecology, zoology, natural products and biodiversity.

Instrumental Access notes that with a large and growing student population, MKU, a private university focused on applied sciences, deserves equipment to support practical training and research.

**'Erasmus undoubtedly a unique, life-changing experience for me'**

From page 37

of many cultures and learn new things from each other.

### Academics

Our host university helped us to select the best units related to our study programme. We also learnt some basics of the Polish language to enable us to appreciate the host culture and for ease of communication.

Apart from the special Erasmus English courses, we were also allowed to take part in other academic activities inside the university. These included motivational and academic talks.

Apart from the curriculum, the class environment itself was a platform to learn a lot more. Being in a class with students from different countries of the world, having discussions, presentations and listening to varying perspectives and ways of thinking, was an enriching experience.

The final exam assessment method varied from one unit to another, and according to the preference of the lecturer. Most lecturers used the final written test, while some chose detailed individual and group PowerPoint presentations for the final assessment.

We also had a chance to undertake a one-month internship at Lublin Tourism Information Centre, where we were able to interact with guests from different parts of the world. This was a great milestone in my professional life.

### Everyday life and leisure

Lublin is one of the biggest cities in Poland, and it has a very high student population. There's a lot to do and explore in the city. It has good a transportation system, making movement very easy.

The city also has traditional, continental, Asian, Chinese and fast food restaurants. The prices are generally fair, making the city attractive to students.

The Polish people are friendly and love to have fun and party.

Apart from the happenings in the city, the Erasmus students network also organises events and parties for programme beneficiaries to come together and feel at home.

I also had a chance to travel to some cities in Poland with my newfound Polish, Spanish and Turkish friends. The cities included Warsaw, Biala Podlaska and Kazimierz Dolny.

My exploration of Poland was also made easier through our guided field classes.

### Conclusion

This was undoubtedly a unique and life-changing experience for me. Every moment was full of learning and fun.

I consider myself lucky to be part of the Erasmus programme. I thank God, Mount Kenya University and Vincent Pol University for enabling me to undergo this successfully.

## Delegation from Germany visits MKU School of Engineering, Energy and the Built Environment

A delegation from the Institute of new Energy Systems (InES) at Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt (THI) and Hochschule Neu-Ulm (HNU), Germany, visited Mount Kenya University to foster collaboration for the recently launched DAAD-funded initiative "Network development and qualification measures based on the model of the German universities of applied sciences in Kenya".

The overall aim of this project is to inform interested Kenyan University lecturers and young scientists about the model of Universities of applied sciences and offer suitable training courses.

Besides, the link between German and Kenyan institutions of higher educations shall be established or strengthened in order to generally promote applied research and teaching methods in Kenya.



# MKU hosts yet another international conference

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) hosted the 5th International and Interdisciplinary Research Conference 2018 (5iIRC2018) from 17 to 19 October at its Thika main campus.

The theme for this event, which attracted more than 500 delegates, was “*Digital Innovation and Knowledge Economy: Opportunities and Challenges Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals*”.

The annual conference is a collaborative effort of four African universities: MKU, Kyambogo University (Uganda), Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (Nigeria) and University of Eldoret (Kenya).

These universities formed an interdisciplinary research consortium in 2014 to host joint conferences as a way of disseminating research findings, among other mandates.

Conference organising committee chairman Dr Vincent Gaitho said the conference provides the perfect platform for delegates to address some of the challenges facing society today.

More than 200 delegates personally presented their papers.

Dr Gaitho, who is also the MKU Council Vice-Chairman, added that university libraries are research treasure troves that



Participants display programmes during the official opening of the 5th International and Interdisciplinary Research Conference held at MKU's Thika main campus. The conference attracted delegates from 30 universities spread across the globe.

can yield solutions to society's myriad problems.

“Through such conferences, institutions

of higher learning get to share information buried in libraries,” Dr Gaitho explained. “A good example is digital

innovations that help people share information.”

The conference focused on 12 key topics, including fake news, cyber-crime, the digital revolution, ICT in education and health, and artificial intelligence.

“The digital revolution is a new frontier that has benefits and drawbacks,” Dr Gaitho pointed out, asking for example, “how do you authenticate information on social media and sift real news from fake reports?”

University of Eldoret hosted the first conference in 2014. Chukwuemeka hosted the second conference in 2015. Kyambogo took the baton in 2016 and handed it to University of Eldoret, which hosted last year's conference.

This is the fourth international conference MKU is hosting within a span of five years. In 2014, the University hosted the National Water Summit in Turkana County. The following year, it hosted the ICABUMPA conference at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). Last year in the run-up to Kenya's General Election, it hosted an international peace conference, again at KICC.

Dr Gaitho said holding this year's interdisciplinary and international conference at MKU Thika offered delegates the opportunity to sample the university's facilities and enjoy its hospitality.

“Universities should showcase the facilities as centres of training at the highest level,” he explained.



MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof Stanely Waudu (left) Kenya's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom His Excellency Manoah Eshipu (centre) and CEO Kenya Film Classification Board Dr Ezekiel Mutua follow the proceedings during the 5th International and Interdisciplinary Research Conference hosted by MKU at its Thika main campus.



MKU Council Vice-Chairman Dr Vincent Gaitho (left), Kyambogo University Vice-Chancellor Prof Eli Katunguka, MKU VC Prof Stanley Waudu and ICT Authority CEO Katherine Getao, during the official opening of the 5th International and Interdisciplinary Research Conference at MKU's Thika main campus.

## STEM Mentoring

# Faculty member learns from trip to Egypt to mentor girls in science

**M**ount Kenya University's drive to promote science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) among girls continues to gain momentum. Faculty members get opportunities to learn more on how to improve STEM teaching so as to train more girls in this field.

Early this year, Dr Nancy Cheseto participated in a TechWomen high level trip to Cairo, Egypt. She was selected by the US Government.

The delegation was hosted at the Marriott Hotel in Cairo.

The delegation visited various universities and institutions of learning to give keynote addresses and mentor young girls in STEM. The delegation also visited technology firms and various STEM projects in Egypt.

TechWomen is an initiative of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

TechWomen empowers, connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in STEM from Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East, by providing them the access and opportunity needed to advance their careers, pursue their dreams and inspire women and girls in their communities.

### Visit to the Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx

Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx are some of the most magnificent man-made structures on Earth. The largest and most famous of the pyramids, the Great Pyramid at Giza, has a base covering 13 acres and stands over 450 feet tall. More than 4,000 years after they were built, the Egyptian pyramids still retain their majesty, providing a glimpse into the country's rich and glorious past.

### Discussing Power of Mentorship at the American Centre

In collaboration with the US Embassy in Cairo, the delegation had a chance to meet with members of the Egyptian public and engage in conversations about the power of mentorship.

### Workshops with Women in Tech and Entrepreneurship

The delegation connected with women in tech and entrepreneurship and discussed areas such as being resilient leaders in



Dr Nancy Cheseto

professional roles within a company or in a start-up.

Through short workshops, mentors provided training sessions for leadership, professional growth and individual or business branding. This event was hosted in collaboration with Microsoft.

### GrEEK Campus

The TechWomen delegation engaged with women entrepreneurs working in technology innovation. Attendees practised their business pitches and had the opportunity to discuss feedback and ideas in small groups.

### Girls in STEM Career Fair

The Girls in STEM event was an opportunity for students to be exposed to specific professional roles and career pathways in STEM. The discussion included a focus on why girls should embrace STEM opportunities, how the country would benefit from having more people involved in STEM and the future of STEM professions. Students had the opportunity to be involved in various activities exposing them to the relevance of and excitement in STEM.

The delegation was joined by high school girls from the local community and alumnae of ECA's TechGirls programme.

### Innovation Integration: Networking Reception with TIEC

This networking reception, hosted at the Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship Centre (TIEC), brought industry professionals together for an opportunity to connect and learn from each other.

Through fireside chats and a panel discussion, mentors and fellows discussed hot trends and issues related to technology, and explored the challenges and opportunities in entrepreneurship.

### Discussions with Vodafone: Reaching your Potential

Several TechWomen fellows work in Egypt's Smart Village, a high-technology business district that "represents the ultimate interactive community".

Smart Village Egypt "has become the hub of business community and the pacemaker of economic growth in Egypt".

The delegation had a chance to connect with TechWomen fellows and their networks of women at one of these

companies – Vodafone – and share their perspectives on issues facing women in STEM.

### Visit to STEM School for Girls

The delegation visited one of Cairo's STEM schools to introduce the students to the diverse career opportunities available through STEM and share perspectives of powerful women from Silicon Valley. Through two workshops, students learnt practical applications of their curriculum, including how to use STEM to address challenges in their society. Mentors and fellows also led hands-on interactive tech workshops.

### Soft Skills Workshops at the American University in Cairo

The delegation met with university students in different areas of study and led soft skills workshops, discussing new trends in tech from Silicon Valley. Mentors also had the opportunity to speak about their career journeys.

### Reception with US Embassy at INJAZ and Visit with Teenpreneurs

The delegation joined US Embassy staff and a team from INJAZ, a non-profit organisation empowering young people to own their economic success.

Teenpreneurs is an initiative started by TechWomen fellows. This initiative targets teenagers from 13 to 17 years old to unlock their potential and open their minds and eyes to how technology and entrepreneurship can bring a better future. The three pillars of Teenpreneurs are passion finding, innovation and entrepreneurship.

### Youth Programme Professional Development Sessions with Awa

Alwan wa Awtar (Awa) is a non-governmental organisation that has since 2005 worked with children and youth living in the unprivileged Zelzal area in Mokattam, Cairo.

Among a number of programmes, Awa provides professional development programmes for youth.

The TechWomen delegation delivered a number of sessions for the Awa youth with a focus on professional skills development.

# Foundation staff in Germany on job-shadowing visit

Dr Peter G. Kirira, the Director of Mount Kenya University Foundation (MKU-F), and Mr Bonface Joel Malala, Head of Grants Office, are on a 10-day job-shadowing visit to Bonn-Rhein-Siege (BRS) University of Applied Sciences, Germany. The visit is sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) through the Collaboration for Entrepreneurial Universities (CEPU) project, which has seven partners: Five from Germany and two from Kenya (MKU and Kenyatta University).

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the entrepreneurship and labour market-oriented approach to training at universities.

In their job-shadowing mission, Dr Kirira and Mr Malala have had the opportunity to interact with staff involved in fundraising activities at BRS University.

In addition, they have visited various Germany-based international organisations and agencies, including the United Nations (UN) University Headquarters located in Bonn. They discussed joint collaboration in fundraising for both research and student scholarships.



From left: Mr Bonface Joel Malala, Dr Peter Kirira (MKU), Mr Peter Andika (KU) and Ms Christine Freitag (CEPU project leader) and Mr Julius Held (BRS, Germany).

The UN-Education Programme Officer, Ms Margaret Koli, explained that UN University is currently engaged in over 180 research projects spanning the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She lauded MKU for the good efforts it has made in establishing international linkages that will help it grow globally through exchange of ideas and access to

resources.

She intimated that the UN University is open to future collaborative initiatives with MKU.

In Africa, the UN University is currently offering postgraduate programmes in collaboration with a number of universities in West Africa.

## Updates from MKU Foundation

Mount Kenya University Foundation (MKUF) has had a busy year. It has disbursed grants to student clubs and associations, beefed up its staff, and funded health proposals jointly developed by researchers from Makerere University and MKU colleges of health sciences.

### New members of staff

The Foundation received two new members of staff. Mr Bonface Malala joined as the Head, Grant Office. Before this appointment, he was a research assistant at the Directorate of Research & Innovation, a position he held for three years.

The foundation also recruited Ms Fiona Melisa Oyatsi as research assistant.

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**Joint Grant to MKU and Makerere University colleges of health sciences**  
MKU in collaboration with Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MKU-MakCHS), funded 13 researchers from the two institutions to carry out research on human health. The seed funding ranges from Ksh300,000-Ksh450,000.

MKU donated Ksh4.4 million seed grant for the research that is aimed at improving health in the region.

The collaboration further strengthens the relationship between the two universities.

### In Brief:

- Six (46 per cent) of the proposals are on cancer (cervical, prostate and others) prevention and management
- Seven (54 per cent) of the proposals have a staff from MKU as the principal applicant
- All the proposals have a research student as part of the team.

### External Scholarships

Between January and April, 1,137 Mount Kenya University Students attracted scholarships worth over Ksh19 million from external sources. These grants were received from County Governments, Constituency Development Funds, NGOs, multinationals, education funds and others.

MKUF has initiated a programme of sensitising students on alternative sources of education financing to enable the needy ones access available bursary opportunities.

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### African Higher Education Leadership in Advancing Inclusive Innovation for Development

The African Higher Education Leadership in Advancing Inclusive Innovation for Development (AHEAD) is a project that brings together universities from Africa and Europe to learn from each other's

best practices. It is funded by the European Union and Erasmus.

The project aims to improve innovation at partner universities during its three-year period.

The AHEAD partner universities from East Africa are: Mount Kenya University, Kenyatta University, Kisii University, Kibabii University and Catholic University (Kenya); Dar Es Salaam University and States University of Zanzibar (Tanzania); and Lari University and Makerere University (Uganda).

AHEAD European partner universities include Birmingham University (United Kingdom), Petru Maior University of Targu Mures (Romania), Warsaw University (Poland) and University of Molise (Italy).

The AHEAD project coordinator is Dr Gergana Dimtrova from the European Centre for Quality in Bulgaria.

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### Planning to start Annual Week

MKUF is planning to establish an endowment kit worth Ksh100 million by the end of 2019, through donations.

The Foundation will organise an Annual MKU Foundation Week for people to make donations. This money will be invested to generate annual income for distribution to support scholarships, research and community outreach activities.

## A helping hand to progressive student clubs

Mount Kenya University Foundation (MKUF) set aside grants worth Ksh3 million to fund student clubs and associations with worthy projects. Proposals by six student groups impressed the Foundation, which then gave them Ksh200,000 each to carry out their activities. Here are profiles of the groups:

### Catholic Association

*Project: YCS Enterprise*

Catholic Association focuses on expanding its existing enterprise that involves selling stationery, t-shirts and CD production.

The project supplies branded stationery and t-shirts to the MKU fraternity at fair prices, and also provides Catholic sacramental to students and staff. These include rosaries, prayer books, motivational books, crucifix and own songs in DVDs.

### Christian Union

*Project: Christian Union Magazine Project*

The Christian Union (CU) Association aims at empowering the society through quarterly newsletter/magazine articles touching on various aspects, among them social, economic, mental and spiritual matters.

The magazine will be sold at the MKU campuses to sustain the enterprise. The quarterly magazine will help popularise the University and aid in attracting more students.

### Economics Club

*Project: Motivational Talk Project*

The club aims at promoting Mount Kenya University (MKU) through visits to secondary schools in Kiambu County, and having motivational talks with mainly Form Three and Form Four students. The talks will be about career choices, self-

worth and choice of university.

### Pharmacy Association

*Project: Reproductive Health Awareness*

The Pharmacy Association aims at educating society on matters relating to: STIs; contraception and family planning; sexual relations; hygiene and safer pregnancy; reproductive health services; adolescent sex; and attitude change.

The objective is to build knowledge and influence change of behaviour among especially young people, so that they may make responsible choices.

### Environmental Club

*Project: Tree Nursery Project*

Environmental Club plans to establish nurseries for fast growing hardwood seedlings. It will plant the trees at all Mount Kenya University campuses for learning and also for aesthetic value.

The nursery will supplement the University's botanical garden at the Pavilion Happy Valley to boost research in botany. Fruit tree seedlings will also be produced for commercial purpose to promote sustainability of the club.

### Student AIDS Information and Foundation (SAIF)

*Project: Slang Language Effect Project*

The project focuses on using "slang language" to communicate information on HIV/AIDS among young people at Mount Kenya University, other institutions of higher learning and within communities.

Creative and effective communication on HIV/AIDS among youths will help reduce the prevalence of the infectious disease.

## The Creative Arts

# Varsity retains crown, scoops 24 trophies at national music festival

**M**ount Kenya University (MKU) successfully defended its national music festival crown, edging other universities and colleges competing to dislodge it.

Eight of MKU's campuses competed in 54 items from 10 to 16 August and performed brilliantly to help the university retain the trophy it won last year.

MKU received the Best Private University trophy.

The university scooped 24 trophies, up from the seven it took

home last year. The institution artistes won numerous certificates and trophies. In addition, the MKU cultural troupe awaits a cash award from Kenya Commercial Bank after winning two verses based on the bank's *Tujiajiri* (Self Employment) Project.

The MKU Main Campus scooped 10 of the twenty four (24) trophies. Nkubu led the other campuses with their four (4) trophies followed closely by Kisii, Nakuru, Mombasa and Kakamega.

Daisy Nabuyaya, a first year student taking Diploma in Journal-

ism and Mass Communication moved the auditorium to tears as she narrated her ordeal in drug addiction in her Solo Verse titled *Merimela*. She scored a whopping 91 per cent.

The 92nd edition of the Kenya Music Festivals 2018 was hosted by Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Nyeri County. The theme of the festivals was *'Enhancing National Unity, Cohesion and Integration through Kenya Music Festivals.'*



MKU students celebrate after winning drama festival held at Nakuru, officiated by the Deputy President William Ruto and MKU Vice Chancellor Prof. Stanley Waudu

## Poetry Corner

### Every Day Steps

Life is like a game of chess  
to win you have to make a move  
In the confrontation between the stream and the rock  
The stream always wins, not through strength, but through persistence

Everything in your life is a reflection of a choice you made  
If you want different results, make a different choice

Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still  
The only person you should compare yourself to is the one you used to be

Change is inevitable but personal growth is a choice  
A person can grow only as much as their horizon allows

To grow yourself starts from knowing yourself  
Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone  
A comfort zone is a beautiful place but nothing grows there

We are either progressing or retro-grading all the while  
There is no such thing as remaining stationary in life

Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know  
I've never seen a monument erected to a pessimist

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change  
The realist adjusts the sails, what we think, we become

Personal growth is not in learning new information  
It is in unlearning old limits

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail  
Self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice

They say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing  
...  
That's why bathing is recommended daily....

@wahupat



Wahu

### Stop for a second.....

Sometimes we go through life so fast  
Until we forget to appreciate the little things in life  
The small things that money cannot buy

Sometimes we get caught up in life  
Looking for tomorrow and searching for the future  
Until we forget to cherish the current moments

Sometimes our lives get crowded  
And we get lost searching for this and that  
Until we forget to let gratitude flow

Sometimes what we cared about goes away  
Never to return until life gets to a halt  
Until we forget the things that added a smile on our lips

\*\*\*\*\*

There comes a time when you slow your speed  
And enjoy what is around:  
And appreciate the small things that our senses can sense  
The white puffy clouds in the sky; some people cannot see them  
The sounds of the singing birds; some people cannot hear them  
The sweet fragrance of a blooming flower; some people cannot smell it  
Gratitude shifts your focus from what you lack  
To the abundance that is already present

\*\*\*\*\*

As you walk around each day  
Speak words of gratitude to those you encounter  
Selflessly offer an umbrella for shelter  
Offer your seat to a standing vulnerable person  
Share a handshake with those who least expect it  
Hold doors for strangers

Be kind  
Your kindness may heal a sharp pain in someone's heart  
And dry tears that have flowed for years  
Kind miniature gestures give this life so much more

@wahupat

**REPORT ON KUSA OUTDOOR GAMES PLAY OFFS**

Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) play offs took off at TAITA Taveta University – Voi (19th to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. Four teams qualified for this National event that brings together all regionals conference champions across the country. A total of over 25 Universities were involved.

NO	TEAMS	PERFORMANCE	AWARD
1	HANDBALL LADIES	WINNERS	TROPHY
2	HANDBALL MEN	WINNERS	TROPHY
3	SOCCER LADIES	LOST AT QUTER FINALS	
4	VOLLYBALL LAIDES	LOST AT QUTER FINALS	

The above table shows how exemplary the teams performed.

**KENYA UNIVERSITIES SPORTS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL INDOORS PLAY OFFS- HELD AT KIBABII UNIVERSITY – MAY 2018**

Karate ladies – winners overall  
 Table tennis men – winners overall  
 Karate men – third overall  
 Badminton men lost at quarter final  
 Swimming men – second best.

**KENYA UNIVERSITIES SPORTS ASSOCIATION WOMEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT MASENO UNIVERSITY 2018**

- Handball women – overall winners
- Volleyball ladies – third best overall
- Athletics ladies – third best overall

**KENYA UNIVERSITIES NATIONAL GAMES**

The Kenya Universities National Association (KUSA) Games took place at the Dedan Kimathi University Nyeri- County.

Mount Kenya university teams put up a performance never seen before since the inception of the games by emerging the Second Best University after bagging 55 medals.

The table below shows how the teams involved performed.

NO	TEAM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Karate men / ladies	6	5	4	15
2	Athletics Men / ladies	4	9	6	19
3	Swimmers men / ladies		4	14	18
4	Football ladies	1			1
5	Handball Ladies	1			1
6	Handball men		1		1
	<b>Total medals</b>				<b>55</b>

With a total of 120 students involved.



Nyeri's winning football team



Handball team - men and ladies

**KENYA UNIVERSITIES SPORTS ASSOCIATION – NAIROBI CONFERENCE KUSA NAIROBI LEAGUE 2017/18 WINNERS OUTDOOR SPORTS**

SPORT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
SOCCER MEN	KU	KU RUIRU	KU PARKLANDS
SOCCER WOMEN	KU	MKU THIKA	JKUAT
BASKETBALL MEN	KU	KU CITY	JKUAT
BASKETBALL WOMEN	KU	KU RURU	USIU AFRICA
VOLLEYBALL MEN	ST PAUL'S	KU	JKUAT
VOLLEYBALL WOMEN	KU	ST PAUL'S	MKU THIKA
HANDBALL MEN	ST PAUL'S	MKU THIKA	KU
HANDBALL WOMEN	MKU THIKA	KU	ST PAUL'S
HOCKEY MEN	USIU AFRICA	KU RUIRU	MKU THIKA
HOCKEY WOMEN	USIU AFRICA	JKUAT	KU
NETBALL WOMEN	JKUAT	KU	MKU THIKA

**INDOOR SPORTS**

SPORT	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
TABLE TENNIS MEN	KU	KU RUIRU	MKU
T/TENNIS WOMEN	KU	JKUAT	MKU
TENNIS MEN	KU	MKU	JKUAT
TENNIS WOMEN	KU	MKU	JKUAT
CHESS MEN	KU	JKUAT	MKU
CHESS WOMEN	JKUAT	KU	MKU
SCRABBLE MEN	KU	JKUAT	MKU
SCRABBLE WOMEN	KU	MKU	KU RUIRU
ROLLBALL MEN	KU	JKUAT	MKU
ROLLBALL WOMEN	KU	JKUAT	ST PAUL'S
BADMINTON MEN	KU	MKU	KU RUIRU
BADMINTON WOMEN	KU	JKUAT	KU RUIRU
KARATE MEN	MKU	KU	JKUAT
KARATE WOMEN	MKU	KU	JKUAT
TAEKWONDO MEN	USIU	KU	JKUAT
TAEKWONDO WOMEN	KU	USIU	JKUAT
SWIMMING MEN	KU	MKU	JKUAT
SWIMMING WOMEN	KU	JKUAT	MKU
ATHLETICS MEN	MKU, KU, JKUAT TO BRIN G CAPTAINS WE WILL		
ATHLETICS WOMEN	HAVE T HE WINNERS BY THEN		
WOODBALL MEN	KU	KU RUIRU	JKUAT
WOODBALL WOMEN	KU	MKU	ST PAUL'S

1.6 Mku rugby team wins division two of driftwood sevens 2018 in Mombasa



# Many reasons explain various world phenomena

## But there are 22 reasons why MKU is a preferred destination for students

1. **Accreditation:** Accredited by the Commission for University Education, Kenya.
2. **International recognition:** The University is fully chartered, and is ISO 9001:2015 certified, meaning that it is committed on compliance with international standards on quality.
3. **Convenient fees payment mode:** Affordable and flexible fees payment in easy percentage instalments of 30:30:20:20.
4. **Accessible campuses:** Students have a choice to study from any of its accredited campuses in Kenya and other countries, hence increased access to and equity in university education plus Digital varsity.
5. **Digital window:** Wi-Fi internet access across all the campuses.
6. **Superb staff:** Qualified and committed teaching and non-teaching staff.
7. **Academic resources:** Well-equipped Science and IT laboratories, Library and other academic resources.
8. **Flexible study options:** Flexible modes of learning, which include fulltime, digital learning, Institution-based learning, part-time (evening and weekends).
9. **Course completion time:** Students are able to complete their course within the stipulated time. Students' academic progress is monitored and evaluated on a continuous basis.
10. **Student welfare support:** For the convenience of the students, the University has in place accommodation facilities and a student centre that houses a restaurant serving international cuisine. The university also has a gym and a salon/barber shop. There are also shops for the basic needs of students, laundry and dry cleaning services.
11. **Academic/Social trips:** The University has in place a fleet of buses. Transport is always available for academic and social trips.
12. **Academic exchanges:** Students' benefit from academic exchanges with foreign and local institutions of higher learning.
13. **Career placement:** The University produces highly skilled graduates who are employable. Others go into self-employment and create jobs.
14. **Multicultural diversity:** The University recognises the diversity of its student population and develops talents through organising of cultural events. There is unity in diversity.
15. **Community Service/Engagements:** Mount Kenya University is committed to carrying out corporate social responsibility based activities that add value to the community we live in.
16. **E-Learning facilities:** Use of ICT and other technologies, such as kindles.
17. **Research and Development:** We create innovators and support them to commercialise innovations and inventions.
18. **Academic Character:** Mount Kenya University offers an all-rounded education, including moral and professional education to all persons irrespective of religion, race, gender, political affiliation, social or cultural background.
19. **Transition rate:** Students progress from one level to another at a very high rate, which is an indicator of satisfaction.
20. **Security:** Enhanced security in the University and within its environs through 24-hour CCTV camera surveillance and night patrols by security agencies.
21. **Synergetic Partnerships:** University partners with research institutions, Universities, hospitals and forges strong industry – academia linkages
22. **International students and staff exchanges:** With the Bonn Rhein Sieg University (BRSU) of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Vincent Pol University (Poland) taking a lead, MKU, encourages students and staff from universities abroad and vice - versa to engage in collaborative exchange programmes.

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