



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

DECEMBER 2018

# VarsityFocus

*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*



**UoN staff awarded  
for excellence**



## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

### **Our Vision**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence

### **Our Mission**

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

### **Our Core Values**

- Freedom of thought and expression
- Excellence
- Care
- Good governance
- Innovativeness and creativity
- Partnership and teamwork

**ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED**



# INSIDE



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
**VarsityFocus**

**Published by**

Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
Director of Corporate Affairs  
University of Nairobi  
P.O. Box 30197 - 00100 Nairobi  
Tel: 020 - 3318262 Ext 28263  
Tel: 020 4913193  
Email: director-ca@uonbi.ac.ke  
www.uonbi.ac.ke

**Copyright**

University of Nairobi, 2018  
All rights reserved

**Editor**

John A.O. Orindi, mCIPR

**Consulting Editor**

Otuma Ongalo

**Editorial Team**

Mariam Maina , mCIPR  
Peter Muturi  
Johnson Kinyua  
Brian Ouma  
Esther Nekesa  
Peter Oluoch  
Naomi Nyaboga  
Brian Abook  
Martin Mativo  
B.D Njuguna  
Florida Keru  
Julius Thuraniira  
Silas Katam

**Photography**

Charles Muriuki  
Kevin Wamola  
Peter Oluoch

**Creative Design**

Kevin Wamola

Staff honoured at  
inaugural awards  
ceremony



4



15

UoN Co-hosts  
Blue Economy  
Conference

Kenya Institute of  
Migration Studies  
(KIMS)  
Launched at UoN



19



27

Ajira Digital  
Programme for  
online jobs

Varsity League  
launched



41

# Employee rewards and recognition timely

Staff performance and organizational productivity cannot be sustained without integrating employee recognition and reward system into the organization's culture. In acknowledgement of the fact the employees are the most critical resource of the organization and in appreciating that reinforcing particular behaviours, practices, and activities motivates employees for better performance and positive results, the University held its inaugural staff awards on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The Chair of the University council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, declared that staff recognition and awards will be an annual activity in the university calendar in future.

There is no denial that employee recognition is a form of motivation for improving individual or organizational productivity, it also enhances loyalty and promotes collaboration among employees.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mbithi noted with appreciation that the university has in the recent past been recognized for its performance in public sector performance contract. It has also continued to feature prominently in competitive the Employee of the Year (EYA) awards 2017 and 2018 and posted good results in universities global rankings.

All these he attributed to the performance culture that has been entrenched in the University and the fruits of hard work by the University staff.

Rewarding best performing staff and units boost their morale and esteem and challenges the weak performers to improve. With various awards and Prizes in line for grabs, it

opportunity to encourage the Council to make budgetary provisions for the program. It is a step in the right direction. As the Vice-Chancellor put it, "That any asset which is of value must be appreciated and rewarded while any asset that has no value, depreciates significantly and is disposed by the organization".

The University is heading into the future well aware that competition, innovativeness and adaptation to the disruptive information technology and forging strong global partnerships will significantly impact on its performance and contribute to the academy and the society at large. This year, the university was proud to successfully host the Regional Universities Forum on Agriculture (RUFORUM) and 6<sup>th</sup> African Higher Education Biennial week 2018, co-hosted the Blue Economy

Conference with Kenyatta International Conference Centre and the University Research Week among other international events. All these are a confirmation that the University's infrastructure and staff are of world-class status. [VF](#)

**JOHN A.O. ORINDI, mCIPR.  
DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

“  
**Employee recognition is a form of motivation for improving individual or organizational productivity, it also enhances loyalty and promotes collaboration among employees.**”

is hoped that the University will continue to shine in all areas including research and innovation, resource mobilization and customer service.

Employee recognition programs should be all-inclusive, set on objective standards and need not be too expensive or extravagant.

Varsity Focus Team joins the management in congratulating the awardees and also seizes the

# UoN to explore the potential of artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies



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

As the University keeps pace with the world's top institutions of higher learning, there is need to offer more courses to harness the power of blockchain based innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), which can also support in the University administration. Artificial intelligence is seeping into our societies and lives in very profound ways. It affects the way we conduct transactions in our banks, receive medical advice and search for information in the web.

It is now time for AI to transform universities too as it offers a new scientific infrastructure tool for learning and research that UoN hopes to embrace and lead. Through excellent discoveries, UoN will maximize the use of AI to reshape education, innovations, science and the society at large. Some of the areas in which AI's potential can be maximized include; automating academic literature reviews, checking plagiarism; and promoting clinical and medical research collaborations between universities and industry partners.

AI will revolutionize university

education through automation of course schedules. Students will simply key in their desired job area or discipline and get suggested courses tailored to their need and that fits within the duration of their study. AI machine learning models present a solution for assessing student records to select courses that place the student on a successful path to graduation. This enables students to take courses that challenge them while at the same time they enable them to succeed.

I am pleased to note that through the UoN Skills Centre, 25 of our students and staff successfully completed the Huawei Certified Network Associate (HCNA) training and certification process that offers validation of the skills and knowledge required for basic maintenance and configuration of small to medium-sized networks.

Artificial intelligence will streamline the University's admission process by use of accurate predictions and forecasts to avoid over and under-enrollment. AI will also allow tracking of every student's performance to retrieve students' data easily.

It is my wish that UoN can maximize on artificial intelligence potential. However, for UoN to make AI innovations a reality, it must prepare for the new technology. AI and blockchain technologies require massive amounts of data. The University must therefore develop a system for aggregating and maintaining its data. Data in whatever form must be stored to enable the University reap from the massive opportunities brought about by artificial intelligence. Data is wealth and properly maintained data will become an invaluable resource for data analysts, scientists

and the University at large.

In September 2018, the University of Nairobi was selected as one of the five universities in Kenya which will host the African Development Bank's premier Innovation and ICT Centre of Excellence. This is a prestigious opportunity to collaborate with ADB to lead a revolutionary movement to nurture "Africa's next generation of digitally enabled workforce." The ICT skills training opportunity places the University on the right path to harnessing the power of new technologies.

On the other hand, blockchain technology offers another solution to transform University education. Blockchain is essentially a public ledger that verifies and records transactions automatically. This technology will help automate verification of academic credentials and reduce cases of fake certificates. Blockchain technology offers a solution for UoN to secure student records and make sharing of the records easy. This is done by the storage of records in a distributed ledger making reference to data easy. The University can also benefit from security cameras' protection, reduce use of paper through automated records management and minimize fraud and information leaks.

I wish to thank our staff and students for their sincere dedication to the University and wish everyone blessings and the very best in their endeavors. As the year 2018 ends, we pray that God's blessing follow us to 2019 as we continue serving the University diligently. VF

# Staff honoured at inaugural awards ceremony



(From R-L) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Chair of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo and Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE), Prof. Peter Ngau pose for a photo after CAE was named Best Performing College at the awards ceremony. Looking on is the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o.

The University of Nairobi held its first Annual Staff Award Ceremony to recognise staff with distinguished long service and exemplary performance through staff appraisal and performance contract.

The landmark event was presided over by the University Council Chair Prof. Julia Ojiambo at the historic Taifa Hall on December 14, 2018. It was witnessed by staff from all colleges and campuses.

The acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, emerged the overall winner as the Best Performing Deputy Vice Chancellor, followed by the acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o and the acting Deputy Vice-

Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Madara Ogot.

The College of Architecture and Engineering was position 1 in Best Performing College category. The second position was taken by the College of Biological and Physical Sciences while the third prize went to the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science.

In the schools category, the School of Engineering was the Best Performing School, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication second best, and Wangari Maathai Institute third.

Internal Audit Department was the best performing unit under Central Administration Units category, followed by Administration and Centre for Self-Sponsored

Programmes.

Prof. Walter Jaoko received the Senate Award for his outstanding research over the last 5 years.

Prof. Samuel Kuria Mbugua and Prof. Lilly Bebora were awarded for serving the University for 42 years in the Academic Staff category while Mr. Simon Kairangi, Mr. Bernard Kabiru and Mr. John Njoroge Kanori were feted in the Non-Teaching Staff category for 38 years of service.

In her keynote speech, Prof. Ojiambo applauded all the staff members for the team effort. "In this ceremony, we are all winners. This ceremony is meant to congratulate and celebrate our achievements as a team. Much as we will acknowledge a few colleges, units and individual awardees, I strongly recognize the

accomplishments of each one of you. I do agree that every other employee would have been worthy of this recognition yet you were noble enough to support our awardees today," said the Council Chair.

She said the ceremony's objective was to boost commitment to efficiency in exceptional service delivery and facilitate personal career satisfaction and development. Such events present a chance for recognition of the important part that individual efforts play to overall goals and direction as a University, she added.

"The award of various units and outstanding individuals is merit-based. It is supported by the University of Nairobi's Core Values as its pillars. The core values are freedom of thought and expression; innovativeness and creativity, good corporate governance; integrity, transparency and accountability; team spirit and teamwork; professionalism; quality customer service; responsible corporate citizenship; and respect for and conservation of the environment," said Prof Ojiambo.

The Council Chair reiterated that the University of Nairobi's core values enable the institution to create the best environment for career growth and development to employees and provide quality university education and training to the Kenyan people

and the global community. She encouraged staff members to uphold the spirit of being good employees who always meet assignment deadlines and demonstrate strong work ethics. "We need to show the initiative of going above and beyond the tasks that we have been assigned, take advantage of training opportunities to learn new skills, and take constructive criticism gracefully. Constructive criticism can give some good ideas about what people expect from us and are an indicator that our good performance has room to improve further," she advised.

The University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said the University has adopted a culture of staff performance measured through annual appraisal system. To sustain high performance, it is critical to ensure that staff are highly motivated through various methods, including rewards and making the job tasks more challenging, he said. Prof. Mbithi said the University has featured prominently at the highly competitive Employer of the Year Awards (EYA) 2017 and EYA 2018. "In 2017 we were the overall second runners up and we also won in various categories, such as Innovation and Productivity, Leadership and Governance and Corporate Performance. In 2018 we

won in Innovation and Productivity, Corporate Performance and Inclusivity and Diversity categories," said the Vice Chancellor.

He thanked the staff for being loyal to the University and urged them to always keep identifying with UoN even when they exit the institution on whatever grounds.

In conclusion, Prof Mbithi remarked: "Our University is perceived as a repository and generator of knowledge. Let us invest in our University in terms of generating funding for our teaching and research projects. This translates into producing highly skilled graduates that contribute to the economy as well as research that leads to innovation and develops our economy. We all have an obligation of equipping graduates so that they can obtain viable skills to our human capital. All these can best be achieved if we place more focus on customer service, research, innovation and publishing."

He said the management will continue to discharge its mandate in pursuit of excellence of employee satisfaction and enhance corporate performance. It will continue to make deliberate efforts to improve employee morale and the award ceremony shall be an annual activity in the University calendar. <sup>VF</sup>



**TOP THREE (3) BEST PERFORMING DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLORS, COLLEGES/  
CAMPUSES DEPUTY PRINCIPALS/DEPUTY DIRECTORS, SCHOOLS/FACULTIES/  
INSTITUTES AND CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION UNITS**

***Best Performing Deputy Vice Chancellors***

Rank	Deputy Vice Chancellor	Composite Score	Comment
1	Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&F)	2.8321	Very Good
2	Deputy Vice Chancellor (AA)	2.8699	Very Good
3	Deputy Vice Chancellor (RPE)	3.0261	Good

***Best Performing College/Campuses***

Rank	College/Campuses	Composite Score	Comment	Cash Award (Kshs)
1	College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE)	2.6442	Very Good	200,000/=
2	College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS)	2.6708	Very Good	150,000/=
3	College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (CAVS)	2.8979	Very Good	100,000/=

***Best Performing Deputy Principal/Deputy Directors***

Rank	Deputy Principals/Directors	Composite Score	Comment
1	Deputy Director (Admissions), Graduate School	2.8851	Very Good
2	Deputy Director, ODeL Campus	3.1167	Good
3	Deputy Director (Academics), Graduate School	3.1487	Good

***Best Performing Schools/Faculties/Institutes/Centres***

Rank	Schools/Faculties/Institutes/ Centres	Composite Score	Comment	Cash Awards (Kshs.)
1	School of Engineering	2.6931	Very Good	150,000/=
2	School of Journalism & Mass Communication	2.7191	Very Good	100,000/=
3	Wangari Maathai Institute	2.7422	Very Good	50,000/=

***Best Performing Central Administration Units***

Rank	Unit	Composite Score	Comment	Cash Awards (Kshs.)
1	Internal Audit	2.8697	Very Good	150,000/=
2	Administration	2.9217	Very Good	100,000/=
3	Center for Self-Sponsored Programmes	2.9272	Very Good	50,000/=



Award Cluster			Name of Awardee	Designation	H-Index	H-C Index	Dept/Unit
1.	School of Engineering, Institute of Nuclear Science	O	David Maina*	Senior Lecturer	11	12	Institute of Nuclear Science
		UC	Hussein H. Jama	Senior Lecturer	10	7	Mechanical Engineering
2.	School of the Arts and Design, School of Built Environment	O	Paul Syagga	Professor	12	4	Architecture
		UC	Luke Obala	Lecturer	4	3	Real Estate and Construction Management
3.	School of Agriculture and School of Veterinary Sciences	O	Linda Neilsen	Professor	31	21	WMI
		UC	Julius Okello	Senior Lecturer	22	19	Agricultural Economics
4.	School of Biological Sciences, School of Physical Sciences, Centre for Biotechnology and Informatics, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation	O	Wolfgang Mukabana	Assoc. Professor	31	24	Biological Sciences
		UC	Maina Wagacha	Senior Lecturer	16	14	Biological Sciences
5.	School of Computing, School of Mathematics	O	Peter Waiganjo Wagacha	Professor	12	10	Computing and Informatics
		UC	Tonny Omwansa	Senior Lecturer	9	8	Computing and Informatics
6.	Faculty of Arts Departments and Sub-Departments in Kiswahili, French, Literature, Linguistics, German Studies, Religious Studies, Social Work, Centre for	O	Douglas Waruta	Professor	7	3	Philosophy and Religious Studies
		UC	Reginald MJ Oduor	Lecturer	5	3	Philosophy and Religious Studies
7.	School Journalism and Mass Communication, School of Law, Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy	O	Patricia Kameri-Mbote	Professor	20	13	Law
		UC	Richard Mulwa	Senior Lecturer	11	9	CASELAP
8.	All Schools, Institutes and Centres in College of Health Sciences	O	Walter Jaoko	Professor	39	27	Microbiology
		UC	Muriithi Mugo	Senior Lecturer	23	16	Anaesthesia
8.	All Schools, Institutes and Centres in College of Education and External Studies	O	Peter Keiyoro	Senior Lecturer	16	18	Educational Studies
		UC	Mercy Muthoni Mugambi	Lecturer	16	7	Educational Studies
10.	Faculty of Arts Departments and Sub-Departments in Hospitality Management, Travel and Tourism Management, Psychology, Sociology, Criminology, Entrepreneurship Development, Environmental Planning and Management, Geography, Political Science, Library and Information Science	O	Charles Nzioka	Professor	15	10	Sociology
		UC	Samuel Owuor	Senior Lecturer	13	8	Geography
11.	School of Business and School of Economics	O	Germano Mwabu	Professor	35	19	Economics
		UC	Peterson Ogara Magutu	Lecturer	12	9	Business
12.	Institute for Development Studies, Institute of Anthropology Gender and African Studies, Population Studies and Research Institute, Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies	O	Karuti Kanyinga	Assoc. Professor	27	16	IDS
		UC	Mary Kinyanjui	Lecturer	13	7	IDS
	<b>SENATE AWARD</b>	O	Walter Jaoko	Professor	39	27	Microbiology
		UC	Julius Okello	Senior Lecturer			Agricultural Economics
Sub-total for Senate Award					22	19	
Total all Awards							

\*David Maina awarded Faculty Research Award 2018 in the Academic cluster 1 posthumously.

**TEACHING MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO HAVE SERVED FOR 30 YEARS AND ABOVE**

NAMES	DOB	AGE	EMP DATE	YRS	COLLEGE	DEPARMENT	DESIGNATION	GRADE	TERMS	GEN DER
PROF. SAMUEL KURIA MBUGUA	23-Sep-48	69	1-Jul-76	42	CAVS	FOOD SCIENCE TECH & NUTRITION	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	M
PROF. LILLY C BEBORA	18-Apr-49	69	5-Nov-76	42	CAVS	VET. PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	F
PROF. WANJIKU M. KABIRA	30-Nov-48	69	2-Nov-83	34	CHSS	LITERATURE	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	F
PROF. ZIPPORAH NGUMI	7-Sep-49	68	1-Sep-87	30	CHS	SURGERY	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	ASS. PROF. & EQUIV.	PERMANENT	F
PROF. FRANCIS M. MUTUA	15-May-52	66	23-Apr-87	31	CBPS	METEOROLOGY	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	M
PROF. SIXTUS MWEA	3-Nov-52	65	10-Dec-85	32	CAE	CIVIL & CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	M
PROF. WILLIS OLUOCH KOSURA	20-Dec-52	65	1-Oct-78	39	CAVS	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	PROFESSOR	PROFESSOR & EQUIV	PERMANENT	M

**NON TEACHING MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO HAVE SERVED FOR 30 YEARS AND ABOVE - GRADES A-F**

NAMES	DOB	AGE	EMP DATE	YRS	COLLEGE	DEPARMENT	DESIGNATION	GRADE	TERMS	GEN DER
MR. SIMON M KAIRANGI	3-Oct-59	59	2-Jan-80	38	CAE	PRINCIPALS OFFICE -CAE	ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT	A/B	PERMANENT	M
MRS. IKIUGU MARY K.	20-Nov-59	58	20-Nov-80	37	CENTRAL ADMIN	FINANCE	ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT	C/D	PERMANENT	F
MR. MURIUKI CHARLES	1-Jan-62	56	29-Dec-80	37	CENTRAL ADMIN	LIBRARY	PHOTOGRAPHER	D	PERMANENT	M
MR. WAMBU JOSEPH N	1-Jan-60	58	16-Nov-82	35	CENTRAL ADMIN	FINANCE	ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT	A/B	PERMANENT	M
MS. GICHURU MARY NJAMBI	9-Jan-60	58	9-Nov-83	34	CEES	PRINCIPALS OFFICE -CEES	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	A	PERMANENT	F
MS. KAMAU EUNICE M	6-May-60	58	5-Feb-82	36	CENTRAL ADMIN	VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE	SENIOR SECRETARY	D	PERMANENT	F

**NON TEACHING MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO HAVE SERVED FOR 30 YEARS AND ABOVE - GRADES I-IV**

NAMES	DOB	AGE	EMP DATE	YRS	COLLEGE	DEPARMENT	DESIGNATION	GRADE	TERMS	GEN DER
MR. BERNARD J KABIRU	30-Dec-58	60	18-Jul-80	38	CHSS	SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS	MACHINE OPERATOR	III	PERMANENT	M
MR. JORAM NDAYALA MACHAYO	22-Sep-59	59	1-Apr-83	35	CBPS	SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	GARDENER	II	PERMANENT	M
MISS. NYAMBURA EVERLYNE	8-Apr-60	58	14-Jan-79	39	SWA	CATERING DEPARTMENT	COOK	IV	PERMANENT	F
MR. KINYANJUI JOSEPH N	31-Dec-59	58	1-Jan-85	33	SWA	HALLS DEPARTMENT	CUSTODIAN	IV	PERMANENT	M
MRS. NGINYO CATHERINE N	31-Dec-58	59	7-Oct-81	36	CBPS	CHEMISTRY	TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	II	PERMANENT	F

**LIST OF STAFF WITH 30 YEARS AND ABOVE OF SERVICE GRADE 12-15**

NAMES	DOB	EMP DATE	YRS	COLLEGE	DEPARMENT	DESIGNATION	TERMS	GEN DER
MR. JOHN NJOROGE KANORI	1-Jan-59	7-Aug-80	38	CENTRAL ADMIN	LIBRARY	LIBRARIAN	PERMANENT	M
MR. JOSEPH K THIRIKWA	31-Dec-63	16-Jan-84	34	CENTRAL ADMIN	FINANCE	SENIOR ACCOUNTANT II	PERMANENT	M
MRS. ANGELA M KAMWATHI	31-Dec-58	14-Feb-84	34	CENTRAL ADMIN	FINANCE	SENIOR ASST. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	PERMANENT	F
MR. EZEKIEL HONGO WEDA	3-Nov-58	9-Jan-84	34	CAVS	VET. PATHOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY	PRINCIPAL TECHNOLOGIST	PERMANENT	M
MR. HESBON O ODONGO	31-Dec-60	1-Jan-84	34	CBPS	SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	PRINCIPAL TECHNOLOGIST	PERMANENT	M
MR. PATRICK OBONYO AGUTU	28-Dec-59	30-Oct-86	32	CENTRAL ADMIN	INTERNAL AUDIT	CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR	PERMANENT	M
MS. GRACE W MWAWUDA	30-Jun-60	2-Mar-87	31	CENTRAL ADMIN	DVC (A&F)'S OFFICE	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY II	PERMANENT	F

# University marks 60<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony



*Flash back... University of Nairobi's 1st Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephat Karanja, makes his inaugural graduation speech during the 1st Graduation ceremony of 1970. Seated are: Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, 1st Chancellor of UoN, Taiita Arap Towet, then Minister for Education and Bethuel M. Gecaga, Chairman of Council UoN,*

**T**he University of Nairobi Graduation Ceremony held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 is the 60<sup>th</sup> graduation since the establishment of the University in 1970.

The historic moment is a clear testament that the University has contributed immensely to the accumulation of knowledge and provision of the skilled human resource required by industry, the government and the other sectors of the economy.

With 60 graduation ceremonies, the University has produced over 200,000 graduates, many of them captains in the public and private sector, creating wealth and jobs both locally and worldwide.

It has been a momentous journey for

the University that now bestrides the regional and continental academic arena like a Colossus. Flashback to 1963: a graduating class of three faculties has produced 18 candidates in the arts, science and engineering in the federated university system of East Africa.

Flash forward to 1970: The first graduates of the University of Nairobi are 649, in the first ceremony presided over by the Chancellor, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. While appreciating the momentous day in the life of any nation when its own university is formed, Mzee Kenyatta states that our Republic expects from the University of Nairobi much more than criticism.

His speech inspired the University to

accelerate the production of medical laboratory technicians and medical doctors by the third graduation ceremony held in 1972. In response to the call for industrial development, the University has produced graduates in diverse fields, including urban, rural and regional planning; food science and technology; seed management; dietetics and nutrition courses.

Over the time, the University has responded to calls to take up a role as the custodian of knowledge. In the last 50 years, the university has produced graduates who have lived to this expectation. The University has developed programmes in anthropology, agricultural engineering, pharmacy, dental



Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, 1st Chancellor of UoN confers a PhD on a candidate during the 1st graduation ceremony of the newly inaugurated University of Nairobi in 1970.

**Chancellor's salute:**

Mzee Jomo Kenyatta presides over the 5th graduation ceremony. In the background is Council Chairman, Bethuel M. Gecaga and Vice-Chancellor, UoN Prof. Josephat Karanja.



President Daniel Arap Moi, 2nd Chancellor of UoN confers a PhD. In the background is Prof. Philip M. Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, UoN.

sciences, forestry, social work, international relations, and population studies. It has produced graduates with skills in communication, development, urban planning, soil conservation, public health, nursing and languages. There has been full use of resources within UoN to utilize technology for national prosperity. Along this journey, there has been realization that any healthy university must govern more by freedom than by restraint. Consequently,

autonomy in terms of organization, teaching and research is enshrined in the University Act. The University, through its vibrant University Press, has published extensively, contributing to vast range of knowledge worldwide. Graduates of the University have not only gained academic knowledge but also vital social skills, such as modesty and recognition of their limitations despite the immense contributions they have made to the nation. Since 2005, the University

has been holding two graduation ceremonies per year. The number of graduates has increased in order to meet the nation's demand for skilled manpower in a rapidly changing environment. The government, while promoting urban and industrial advancement, has concentrated on development in the rural areas and the counties. Many highly educated and professionally qualified individuals have been absorbed in various sectors. **VF**



Minister for Education, Mr. Peter Oloo Aring'o makes his address during the 20th Graduation ceremony. In the background is President Daniel Arap Moi, 2nd Chancellor UoN and Lawrence Sagini, UoN Chairman of Council.



Transformative Higher Education... President Mwai Kibaki follows proceedings during the 31st Graduation Ceremony. In the background are, Simon P. A. Wasawo, Chairman of Council and UoN Chancellor Dr. Joe Wanjui.



Former Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui confers a PhD on a graduate. Looking on is former Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi makes a speech at the 57th graduation ceremony. Seated on the front row is the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi.



# Varsity hosts inaugural Research Week

The first University of Nairobi Research Week officially commenced on October 22, 2018. The historic event comprised 10 conferences with 522 research papers and projects in different campuses.

The Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, presided over the opening ceremony of the Research Week, which ran from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

"I am delighted that the University through the Research Week will create an environment that can enhance the research discourse. It is a welcome initiative which is bound to build a sound foundation for strengthened research capacity and undertaking of well-targeted research projects. I am very proud of the contributions that the University is

making to development through research and sincerely hope that this initiative grows even stronger," said Prof Ojiambo.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, announced that the Research Week will be an annual event. The VC said research is the backbone of development, providing solutions to societal problems through the transfer of knowledge and technologies, interactions and reflections. He reiterated that the University of Nairobi is a research intensive university with a reputation for excellence and a strong and vibrant research culture, demonstrated by the continual growth in research capacity and portfolio.

"We have the leading knowledge development strategy and we have proof of that through a number of top-

performing researchers and scholars. We have new programmes that are attracting leading research partners and our resources are targeted at multiple fast growing areas of technologies," said Prof Mbithi.

The acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Madara Ogot outlined the components of the Research Week.

"The conferences covered a wide array of topics including victimology and victim support, African women's journey towards gender equality and social cultural transformation, Africa in the emerging world order, how reforms in education through research and innovation can contribute to sustainable development, among others," said Prof. Ogot. [VF](#)



Participants follow proceedings at one of the conferences that were part of the Research Week 2018. The conferences covered a wide array of topics.

## Talks on Universities' Role in Attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063 dominates RUFORUM



Cabinet Secretary for Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed officially opens the 6th Africa Higher Education Week and Biennial Conference (RUFORUM) on October 23, 2018 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

The University of Nairobi was privileged to co-host with nine other public universities, the 6th Africa Higher Education Week and the sixth Regional universities forum for capacity building in agriculture (RUFORUM) conference. The conference was officially opened on October 23, 2018 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre by Education Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohammed on behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Accompanied by Uganda's first lady and Education minister, Janet Museveni and 25 ministers and government representatives from across African nations, Amb. Mohammed underscored the economic importance of the agricultural sector in Africa and the role of institutions of higher learning in enhancing it. "Improving the performance and competitiveness of the agriculture sector remains a matter of great strategic importance for the region," she stated.

On the role of universities, she noted, "at the core of this agenda, is knowledge; and it is today widely

acknowledged that the quality of knowledge generated within higher education institutions, and its availability to the wider economy is increasingly critical not only to agricultural performance, but also to national competitiveness."

She reminded the institutions of higher of their central place of national competitiveness through academic research, education and strong linkage to farming communities. "Universities can play a central role in producing innovation-oriented yet practical solutions to local agricultural challenges and can be a critical player in strengthening the link of agriculture and business to create a competitive and indigenous agribusiness sector," she said.

On her part, First Lady Janet Museveni lauded the efforts of RUFORUM member universities and the important role it plays in building capacity in the area of agriculture in Africa. "Africa as a continent can no longer wait for the transformation we desire. There is need to embrace initiatives to improve human capital

development through initiatives of bodies like RUFORUM," she added.

"Young people who are dying in their numbers crossing the Mediterranean Sea are doing so without knowledge on how they can harness their skills set to contribute to and exploit the wealth of natural resources the continent is endowed," she lamented.

She decried the low higher education enrollment ratio in Africa but was encouraged that this trend was being reserved. She shared the Uganda experience where due to the success of the universal education program and universal post primary education, there was an increasing pressure on higher education sub-sector.

Speaking at the same forum, the University of Nairobi Council Chairperson, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, noted that the conference had come at a critical point as its deliberations would assist the country in realizing one of the Big Four agenda- food security. "In the Kenyan context, this conference is a boost to the Big Four Agenda namely: Universal

healthcare, manufacturing, affordable housing and food security. It is anticipated that this conference will help universities to outgrow their traditional ways of doing things in order to adapt to the new and ever changing environment," she said.

University of Nairobi Vice-chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, singled out the role various stakeholders could play in realizing Africa's Agenda 2063. "All of us should rise to the occasion and support RUFORUM and its member

universities to deliver the promise of training high quality researchers, impact oriented research and collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and government," he said.

"The wide participation of the youth on this forum is a positive pointer of the changing attitude of the African Youth towards agriculture. The youth must seize abundant opportunities in agriculture and the entire value chain," he noted.

Themed, "Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063," the week-long conference brought together over 800 delegates from across the continent with a large proportion of university students and vice-chancellors, policy makers, industry and development partners. In addition, key institutions represented at the meeting, included the African Union Commission, regional economic communities, higher education networks and institutions and research organizations. [VF](#)

## Prof. Gichaga receives RUFORUM Award 2018

Former University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga, was awarded the RUFORUM Award 2018.

Prof. Gichaga received recognition for initiating the micro-economic funding model for public universities when the Structural Adjustment

Programmes was driving public universities to financial crisis. His resilience against a strong wave of resistance created what is popularly known as Module II Programmes, which significantly changed the economic health of public universities.

The award was presented to Prof. Gichaga by Uganda's First Lady, H.E. Janet Museveni and the Cabinet Secretary, Education, Dr. Amina Mohamed at the official opening of the 6th Africa Higher Education Week and Biennial Conference (RUFORUM) on October 23, 2018. [VF](#)



Prof. Francis Gichaga receives the RUFORUM Award 2018 from Uganda's first lady, H.E. Janet Museveni and the Cabinet Secretary, Education, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohamed.



## UoN Co-hosts Blue Economy Conference

The University of Nairobi hosted various side events of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference which took place in Nairobi in November.

More than 4,000 participants from around the globe converged in the city from November 26 to 28, 2018 to learn and exchange ideas on harnessing the potential of oceans, seas, lakes and rivers to improve people's lives, particularly those in developing states, women, youth and indigenous peoples.

The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference also explored how countries can leverage on the latest innovations, scientific advances and best practices to build prosperity while conserving our waters for future generations.

The conference, whose theme was "The Blue Economy and the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development", had a wide range of side events on all facets of the blue economy. At the University of Nairobi, the side events included; the Maritime Security Forum, the Diaspora Forum, the Science and Research Symposium, the Civil Society Forum and the Youth Forum.

Various organizations showcased projects at the Great Court in line with the areas of focus. UNDP Kenya and Kenya Film Commission also set up a film and photo exhibition that captured the status of the blue economy in Kenya.

The University was privileged to host the Ministry of Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr Amina Mohamed, in the Blue Economy Conference luncheon. The Cabinet Secretary underscored the role science and research play in building a sustainable blue economy.

"Science and research ensure the delicate balance between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans is maintained. We must exercise care in the use of these resources sustainably. The world expects guidance from experts gathered here and looks forward to outcomes that will guide future actions in this important sector of the global economy," the Cabinet Secretary said.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said the sustainable exploitation of blue economy resources requires the active participation of all stakeholders.

"It is time to explore innovative mechanisms to promote sustainable exploitation of our blue economy, as the world is changing rapidly, more



The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, speaks at the Blue Economy Conference luncheon that was held at the University of Nairobi.



Panelists give their views at the Blue Economy's Youth side event at the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall.

so with the 4th industrial revolution. As a critical mass, and given the emergence of revolutionizing technologies, science and research contributions to blue economy innovations and best practices will help advance national-level development visions and long-term global development agenda through partnerships, peace and solidarity," said the VC.

Present at the luncheon were the Prof. Collete Suda, Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary,

University Education and Research; Prof. Micheni Ntiba, Principal Secretary, State Department for Fisheries and Blue Economy; UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi; members of the UoN Council led by the Chairperson, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, Vice-Chancellors from Kenyan universities; and representatives from local and international organizations.

President Uhuru Kenyatta officially opened the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, which was

attended by several heads of states and government. Leaders present included President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Filipe Nyusi (Mozambique), Abdullahi Mohamed (Somalia), Dr Ali Mohammed Shein (Zanzibar) and Danny Faure of Seychelles.

They committed themselves to the preservation and protection of marine resources, noting that if well harnessed, they will significantly improve the global economy. [VF](#)



H\_art the band crew perform one of their hit songs at the Blue Economy's Youth side event at the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall. The event brought together young people from different parts of the world.

## UoN scoops major awards at the Nairobi Trade Fair 2018

The University of Nairobi scooped the Best University Stand and the Best Stand in Youth Activities, Empowerment and Capacity Building at the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018.

In the Best Innovation and Invention category, UoN clinched second position and was number three in the Best Stand in Research and Development. The University also won various prizes in the Animal and Farm Produce categories.

Presiding over the opening ceremony on October 4, 2018, President Uhuru Kenyatta commended various organizations participating at the trade fair.

"This is an important event in our nation's calendar. It provides a platform to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the agricultural sector," said the President.

"The trade fair provides an opportunity for Kenyans to appreciate the potential we have as a country. But

more importantly, it is an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge on modern technologies and establish business linkages," he added. The President presented the Best University Stand trophy to the Chair of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Prof. Ojiambo congratulated the team on the excellent performance and

**"NITF provides a platform to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the agricultural sector"**

- President Uhuru Kenyatta

impressive display of innovations. "As we celebrate this achievement, let us remember that it is not our doing but God's doing," she said.

Among the innovations on display was

the use of assistive technology to bridge disability in educating visually challenged learners presented by Moses Gitari, a visually challenged student from the College of Education and External Studies. The University also showcased an innovative solar powered water desalination system that combines renewable energy and improved technology.

There was also an impressive livestock management system that uses radio frequency identification tag and a microchip implant in the animals. This invention is applicable in animal health tracking, animal information database, livestock insurance cover, market linkage and animal identification.

Celebrated scientist and scholar, Prof. Paul Kimani from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, showcased Kenya's first biofortified climbing bean varieties, and Kenya's first canned bean varieties, among other products.

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

President Uhuru Kenyatta presents the 'Best University Stand' trophy to the Chairperson of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi at Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018.



# A chat with the valedictorian

## Tell us briefly about yourself?

**M**y name is **Naomi Wangari Kamau**, 24. I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree at the University of Nairobi this year. I honestly never thought those 6 years of architecture study would come to an end. I'm glad it ended well and exceedingly beyond my imaginations. During my free time, I play the drums, the piano and the trumpet. Music has played a major role in my life. The discipline to pick up an instrument and practise and the perseverance to play the right notes is something that I translated to my course.

## Why did you choose architecture?

I knew I always had a passion to create and design and I knew I had to pursue it. Architecture, being the mother of all designs, gave me the platform to do so with so much ease. A job shadowing experience at SpaceForm Studio reaffirmed my decision to pursue architecture by. I spent a day with Arch. Charles Kahura, visiting various construction sites and observing the work he does at the office. The ability to actualise the idea of a building to its complete realization is quite fascinating. So I dared to dream big.

## How did you achieve valedictorian feat?

It took a lot of patience and persistence. There were days I felt like quitting and giving up, especially when the workload increased and the deadlines drew closer. That's when I realised I had to surround myself with eagles to become one. I surrounded myself with friends, family and mentors who guided me. They brought out the best in me

during my six years of study. I also had to consistently ensure I was amongst the best in my class every year.

## What are your major highlights of studying at UoN?

My first highlight is the friendships and the memories made in the design studios. When you've been in school for 6 years with your classmates, the countless sleepless nights combined with the rush of adrenaline to provide world class architectural solutions is completely blissful.

My second highlight is the opportunities. I got many opportunities to meet with professionals locally and internationally. I visited London and South Korea during my stay at University of Nairobi. I interacted with world renowned architects during conferences and industrial attachments.

## What challenges did you face while at UoN and how can they be addressed?

With the recent advancement in technology, many architecture schools around the globe have invested in 3D printers to improve design. I believe the investment in a 3D printer would be a game changer for the Architecture, Design and Development department. The ability to physically interact with the buildings we design would be the ultimate game changer.

Another challenge is the disconnect between the government and the department to actualise some of the final year projects done by the students. There's a gold mine of research that provides solutions to



challenges the built environment is facing in Kenya and the East African region at large. The government should bring to life some of the proposals done by the final year students or even launch further research into interesting topics of discussion.

## What have you been up to since graduation?

I recently got employed as an Assistant Architect at Lexicon + ion in Nairobi. I'm getting a mentored work experience that allows me to grow in all aspects of design.

## What is your advice to other students?

Don't give up on your dreams. Uphold them with integrity and with diligence. Nobody said it would be easy, so don't ever give up when it gets hard.

## Any last words?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who stood by me during my entire journey at the university. **VF**

# Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS) Launched at UoN

On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS) was launched by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and coordination of National Government, Dr. Fred Matiang'i at the University of Nairobi towers. While delivering his keynote speech, Dr. Fred Matiang'i said that this is the first time in the history of Kenya for an institution that will train the immigration officers on migration issues and boarder security. He emphasized, "This is one of the Government's responses in changing the global migration landscape." Dr. Matiang'i congratulated the University of Nairobi and all the partners for making the Launch of the Institute and the post-graduate diploma in migration studies a reality. He opined, "I would urge all the partners to have an open mind because migration is a very dynamic terrain. I would also like to add that there should be a mandatory course on public relations under this course. We need our officers at the airport and our boarders to smile more." He pledged his support by exhibiting and showcasing the Institute and the

course internationally. He concluded by saying that Government of Kenya and the Government of South Africa have made an agreement to give academicians visas of up to 10 years while travelling back and forth for purposes of teaching, learning and research. The Cabinet Secretary also said that in future, the principal migration officer and above will be required to undertake this course before seeking for a promotion. On his part, Vice Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the University is home to a number of global institutes and centers of excellence including the institute of Diplomacy and international Studies, Institute of Development Studies, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies and the population Studies and Research Institute where KIMS will be hosted. Prof. Mbithi said that migration can have both negative and positive impacts on regional economies and it is important therefore for policy makers and practitioners to be equipped with good knowledge that

will enable them to harness the vast opportunities that arise from migration. Dr. Anne Khasakhala, Director, Population Studies and Research Institute said that this is a demand driven course. "We expect our first students in May 2019. Applications for the Post-Graduate diploma are through the portal [www.application.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.application.uonbi.ac.ke)" she said. Governmental migration practitioners, University of Nairobi experts and experts from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance designed this course together, making it a unique combination of practical skills from regional expertise and academic excellence. The Better Migration Management Programme (BMM) supported the development of a post-graduate diploma course on migration in cooperation with the Kenya School of Government, the Department of Immigration, and the University of Maastricht. The course will be carried out by the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS) in Nairobi. [VF](#)



Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr. Fred Matiang'i launches the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS) at the University. Looking on (From L-R) are the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Director, Population Studies and Research Institute, Dr. Anne Khasakhala and the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru.

# Lecturers trained on pedagogy and andragogy

University of Nairobi lecturers from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) were trained on pedagogy and andragogy during a three-day sensitization workshop.

Speaking during the launch of the programme on October 31, 2018, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor Student Affairs and Acting Vice Chancellor Administration and Finance, urged lecturers to update their skills in delivery of lectures to ensure students enjoy the class sessions and become more competitive in the job market.

"The University of Nairobi is well rated by employers. We are the most preferred University in the region.

The learning environment has changed with the digital age and hence we have to redesign the teaching methodology," said Prof Mbeche, who represented the Vice Chancellor during the occasion.

He said unlike previously when lecturers dictated notes to students, the focus now should be on engaging learners, experiential learning, developing communication skills and confidence in students, curriculum development and lecturer-student mentorship to enhance learning.

Prof. Justus Inyega, Director Centre for Pedagogy and Andragogy (CEPA), said lecturers need to share

their experiences and best practices. He pointed out the 5Es that aid lecturers in effective delivery of lectures: engaging students, eliciting reactions from students on what they know about the study area, explaining the new concepts, extending or elaborating the concepts in detail and, exploring new areas.

The lecturers were taken through a series of videos and teaching aids that improve teaching methodology. They were told to embrace problem based learning and incorporate current affairs and social problems as part of the problems to be solved by students. More than 200 University of Nairobi lecturers have been trained. [VF](#)



Prof. Justus Inyega, the Director, Centre for Pedagogy and Andragogy makes a presentation at the sensitization workshop.

# Chinese delegation attends Global South Culture Immersion Programme

UoN received 20 students and 2 faculty members from Tsinghua University for the Global South Culture Immersion Programme at the University of Nairobi on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

The visitors participated in a two-week programme from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. The programme exposed the students and faculty to the Kenyan Regional Organizations, Government and Politics, State and Civil Societies, Culture, Gender, Governance Bilateral Relations, Development Milestones and Kenya's Foreign Policy, among other topics. They also visited various sites to experience Kenya.

As part of the MoU signed between the University of Nairobi and Tsinghua University on September 1, 2017, UoN has been sending 2

students annually to Tsinghua University to Experience China Summer School Programme.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, represented the Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi during the welcome ceremony. Prof Mbeche said the University of Nairobi is keen on nurturing the MoU with Tsinghua University and further benchmark with Tsinghua University on harnessing student potential and career dreams.

Established in 1988, the Tsinghua University Career Development Center (CDC) is one of the best career office set-ups that UoN can benchmark against. The recently launched Office of Career Services at UoN educates students on their career development and employment.

Xiling Li, from the International Office at Tsinghua University, said the visit was a great experience for the students to learn about Africa. It was the second time the University sent its students for the Global South Culture Immersion Programme in Africa, the first visit having been in Ghana.

Present during the occasion were Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Madara Ogot, Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal of College of Architecture and Engineering, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal of College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Mwangi Mbutia, Dean, School of Engineering, and Prof. Njihia, Dean School of Business. [VF](#)



Representatives from the University of Nairobi and the Tsinghua University for the Global South Culture Immersion Programme pose for a group photo when the group was in Kenya for a two-week engagement from August 26 to September 8, 2018..

# Pictorial



1. The Cabinet Secretary, Education, Amb. Amina Mohamed, former Vice President of Kenya and Chair of the board of Moran Publishers, Hon. Moody Awori, former Vice President of Kenya, Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka and the book editor, Amb. (Dr.) Kipyego Cheluget launch the book.
2. Celebrating the launch of new chapter: Invited guests cut a cake at the launch of the School of Nursing Sciences Alumni Chapter on December 11, 2018.
3. The Chair of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi join the staff in celebrating the University's achievements at the Nairobi International Trade Fair, 2018.





2



3



5



6

4. A participant at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, Photo and Film exhibition set up by UNDP and Kenya Film and Classification Board at the University grounds. The exhibition was a creative way of capturing the Blue Economy through Film and Photography.
5. University of Nairobi students pose for a group photo after a digital transformers talk. The students were taken through different issues by Branding Guru, Anto Neo Soul, CEO, Brighter Monday Kenya, Emmanuel Mutuma and Senior Manager Youth Segment Safaricom PLC, Angela Githuthu.
6. Mean Machine take a team photo after they were crowned Varsity League Champions after overcoming Kenyatta University's Blak Blad 15-12 in a pulsating final at the UoN grounds.

# Varsity to provide leadership on establishing a museum of art for East Africa

Friday, November 9, 2018, Nairobi... In 2017, United Kingdom travel publisher Rough Guides named Nairobi City the third best city in the world. Nairobi is the only city in the world with a national park within the city where wild animals roam free. There is so much the city has to offer the world and this includes its rich art and culture. To this end, the University of Nairobi (UoN) is planning to provide leadership to the establishment of the Museum of Art for East Africa in Nairobi under its aegis and on its territory.

The University convened a meeting of stakeholders to spearhead the rebirth of Nairobi city through the establishment of a world class museum of art that would eventually lead to the creation of culture and creative art zone for the city residents and visitors. "The goal is to build a world class museum of great artistic and educational value whose mission will be to collect, preserve and display the wealth and genius of East African Art for the citizens of East Africa and the broader public," said the UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. "I

therefore invite interested stakeholders to join us and support this noble initiative. It requires a strong coalition of ideas, resources, visionary leadership and positive energy."

The establishment of the proposed Museum of East African Art Nairobi was marked with a key note presentation by the Director of the Smithsonian Museum of Art (Washington D.C), Dr. Augustus

*I wish to express my gratitude and admiration to the leadership of the University of Nairobi for having the vision of creating a world class museum of art at its beautiful campus and its resolve to walk the talk for the creation of such a complex high profile institution. - Dr. Hayford*

Casely-Hayford and a high level panel discussion with panelists drawn from both the public and private sector.

"I wish to express my gratitude and admiration to the leadership of the University of Nairobi for having the vision of creating a world class museum of art at its beautiful

campus and its resolve to walk the talk for the creation of such a complex high profile institution," said Dr. Hayford. "In my own understanding of what is important about museums of the future and of all times is that museums of art preserve, protect and then show to humanity its better self, a crystallized, condensed version of what it means to be human in the best sense of the world."

Prof. Julia Ojiambo, the Chairman of the UoN Council, said that the University is ready to develop the initiative into a monumental success.

"Time is ripe for a Museum of Art in East Africa especially in conjunction the leading University, because of the symbiotic relationship between Universities and Museums as centers of preservation of knowledge and culture. Having a museum of art in contemporary society promotes understanding among global communities through exchange of intangible assets," she said.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Godec spoke on the importance of culture and heritage in the United States-Kenya partnership. [VF](#)



(From L-R) The Director of the Smithsonian Museum of Art (Washington D.C), Dr. Augustus Casely-Hayford, UoN, Associate Professor, Prof. Bitange Ndemo, Media personality, Julie Gichuru, Cabinet Secretary, Tourism, Hon. Najib Balala, Chief Executive of Twaweza Communications, Prof. Kimani Njogu and Executive Director, GoDowns Art Center, Ms. Joy Mboya.

# UoN wins two Awards at EYA 2018 Gala

The University of Nairobi received awards for first runners up in Corporate Performance and Innovation and Productivity categories during the 2nd Employer of the Year Awards (EYA) Gala on September 21, 2018.

British American Tobacco, (BAT) was the overall winner of the competition, while Safaricom and KenGen took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall runners up respectively.

While delivering her keynote speech, Cabinet Secretary, Public Service, Youth and Gender, Prof. Margaret Kobia, said people-focused organisations have high performance culture.

"A dissatisfied employee gives unsatisfactory service. Good

organizations are as a result of the people who work for them and how they are treated," she observed.

EYA is an initiative by the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) that promotes and encourages best Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management practices in organizations in Kenya.

Organizations that put people at the core of their businesses and have implemented policies, systems and processes that create and sustain productivity along with industrial peace and harmony are awarded.

Leadership and Governance, Corporate Performance, Innovations and Productivity, Responsible Business Conduct, Inclusivity and Diversity, Workplace Environment,

Learning and Development and Effective Human Resources Practices and Industrial Relations are the areas of focus. VF

*“ Good organizations are as a result of the people who work for them and how they are treated.”*

*Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Public Service, Youth and Gender,*



Celebrating excellence: Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Isaac Mbeche (In the middle) leads UoN staff in celebrating after the University won the first runners up in Corporate Performance and Innovation and Productivity award at the 2nd Employer of the Year Awards Gala on Friday, September 21, 2018.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# Centre for Translation and Interpretation



## Master of Arts in Translation & Interpretation

### Minimum admission requirements:

Bachelors Degree from any academic discipline with:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Upper Division or equivalent; or 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Lower Division with at least 2 years working experience or equivalent; or a Pass degree with 5 years working experience .
2. Must be highly proficient in **English** and at least one other language from among: **Kiswahili, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian** and **Portuguese**.

Pre-qualified applicants must sit and pass an entrance examination before admission into the programme.

**Mode of study: evening and Saturday classes (part time module II programmes)**

For further information contact:

**Director, Centre for Translation & Interpretation,**

**Tel: +254 020 4910000 or 0706 601 231 (sms)**

**Email: [info-cti@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:info-cti@uonbi.ac.ke) Website: [translation.uonbi.ac.ke](http://translation.uonbi.ac.ke)**

Application should be done online at [application.uonbi.ac.ke](http://application.uonbi.ac.ke)



## UoN and Soka University publish a book on values

The University of Nairobi and Japan's Soka University have published a book titled 'Value Creating Education in Kenya.'

The book, which was launched at the University of Nairobi on August 24, 2018, is a collection of past conference papers, journals and research work by members of staff from both universities.

Speaking during the launch, Dr. Manu Chandaria, Comcraft Industries Chairman, emphasized the need for a society with good values. He said education should produce graduates who have integrity and appreciate hard work.

"The Japanese work so hard and that is why they are very successful. It took a lot of guts for Japan to be a global powerhouse despite being a small country. Everyone has the opportunity to be great and successful," said Dr Chandaria.

The renowned industrialist called for

change in education system to impart good values in individuals and the society.

He urged the University of Nairobi students to shun tribal affiliations and perceive themselves as Kenyans. He told the students to cherish good moral values. "Over 120 high school dormitories have been burnt down. With good value system, such behaviour will be a thing of the past," he said.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi observed that the staff and students' exchange programme between the University of Nairobi and Soka University have been very beneficial over the last 30 years.

He noted that a good education system should prioritize value system as it equips students with skills required by the industry.

"The University has been keen on student mentorship and instilling

moral values by working closely with the staff members and professionals from the industry," said the Vice-Chancellor in a speech delivered on his behalf by Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Literature Department Chair, Dr. Masumi Odari, said the book was launched to commemorate 30 years of collaboration between Soka University and the University of Nairobi. The programme has been instrumental in nurturing global leaders.

She said Soka means value creation and it aims at producing ethical people who add value to the society. She noted that the book will equip students with moral values and help them live in harmony with others.

The book launch was attended by Japanese staff and students from Soka University who are on exchange programme. [VF](#)



*Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chairman, Comcraft Group, addresses guests at the launch of the book titled 'Value Creating Education in Kenya' on August 24, 2018 at the University of Nairobi Towers, Main Campus.*

# Ajira Digital Programme for online jobs

Millions of Kenyan youth are likely to benefit from the technological innovation that will help them to transition from learning to earning.

The good news to the youth follows the launch of Ajira Digital Programme at the University of Nairobi by Mr Joe Mucheru, the Cabinet Secretary, Information Communication and Technology. The premier online jobs will provide several job opportunities.

Speaking during the launch at Taifa Hall on September 20, 2018, Mr Mucheru said he is engaging government bodies and the private sector to put some of their tasks and jobs online. He said he is in the process of engaging the President of the Supreme Court, Justice David Maraga, on digitization of the judicial processes.

The CS said he hopes to make Kenya the epicenter of freelancing work and online jobs. With the support of the President, Mr Mucheru plans to roll out training in all the 290 constituencies in the country to help young people address the challenge of high rate of unemployment. He said he is working with Google and Telkom Kenya to roll out 85 gigabytes bandwidth that will power thousands of hotspots across the country.

The Permanent Secretary ICT, Mr Jerome Ochieng', challenged young people to embrace technological innovation. He said some three decades ago, energy companies were among the leading companies globally but they have now been overtaken by technology companies. He urged the young people to adopt technological advancements, such

as big data and artificial intelligence.

The University of Nairobi Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, said online jobs will help the youth to participate in building the economy. She urged the young people to grasp the available opportunities.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi regretted that many highly intelligent students cannot get jobs upon graduation. He noted that with the introduction of online jobs, graduates have the opportunity to continue learning and earning.

The event was attended by Deputy Vice-Chancellors, College Principals, University staff and students. Over 200 students have undergone training in the last 30 days and have since formed the Ajira Alumni Digital Club. [VF](#)



*The Cabinet Secretary, Information Communication and Technology, Joe Mucheru, launches the UoN Ajira Digital Club. He is assisted by the (left) the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.*

## UoN and Cherami Africa to establish cancer institute



(From L-R) Legal Officer, Collins Omondi, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Cabinet Secretary, Education, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohammed, Chairman, Cherami Group; Mr. Benson Chen, President, Cherami Africa, Mr. Wei Xiaolin and Chairman UoN Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo.

**T**he University of Nairobi has partnered with Cherami Africa to establish a cancer institute in Nairobi.

The proposed University of Nairobi-Cherami Cancer Institute (UNCCI) is set to be a premier cancer diagnosis, treatment and referral centre in Sub Saharan Africa.

Presiding over the launch of the partnership, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Amina Mohammed, lauded the partnership between UoN and Cherami. She said the partnership will address pressing health challenges in the country and regionally.

"I am excited to witness the signing of the agreement between Cherami Africa and the University of Nairobi which will kick start the process towards the establishment of the University of Nairobi teaching and research hospital with a Cancer Research Institute being the first phase of the development," said the Cabinet Secretary.

The UoN Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said the Cancer Institute will be situated within the university.

"UNCCI will be a multifunctional facility that offers modern and

outstanding teaching, training and research facilities for cancer health-care. It will offer holistic patient-centred cancer services, provide research and innovations and raise awareness about cancer," said Prof Mbithi.

The VC further observed that to enhance coordination among stakeholders, UNCCI shall work in conjunction with the National Cancer Institute to develop a comprehensive National Cancer Registry to ensure efficient and systematic utilization of resources.

When fully established, the institute will comprise Division of Laboratory Medicine ;Division of Radiology; Division of Radiotherapy; Division of Adult Oncology and Internal Medicine; Division of Paediatrics Oncology;; Division of Surgery; Division of Anesthesia, Critical and Palliative Care; Division of Nursing; Division of Pharmacy; and Division of Bone Marrow/ Stem Transplant.

The Chairman of the UoN Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo, stressed the importance of strategic partnerships. "Universities are facing a lot of challenges in resource mobilization for upgrading and modernizing their

teaching and research infrastructure. I am pleased to note that the University has taken the initiative to work with strategic partners like Cherami Africa group to mobilize the resources outside the Exchequer for implementation of impactful projects," said the Council Chair.

The Cherami Africa President, Mr. Wei Xiaolin, said Cherami Africa is a subsidiary of Guangzhou Cherami Investment Management Group, an afro-centric integrated financial services group with over 2 US billion dollars of Assets Under Management (AUM).

"Our core business lines are fund management, private equity, investment banking and international investment. In the latter, our priority areas are around real estate, healthcare, green energy and other environmentally friendly technology, agriculture, manufacturing and internet and mobile business," said Mr Xiaolin. He further observed that Cherami brings the best of Asian technology, knowledge and funds to meet the most socially impactful demands in Africa.

The event was held at the UoN Main Campus on September 17, 2018. [VF](#)

# Prof. Chris Wanjala:

## Demise of literary icon shocks the world



For many decades, Prof Chris Lukorito Wanjala bestrode the literary scene like a colossus so it was not surprising that his recent demise created shockwaves that reverberated across the globe. The epicenter of it all was at the University of Nairobi, which has been home to the fallen scholar for half a century. The boy born to Temeteo Lukorito and Ayasi Nakhatama in the little known Chesamisi village, Bungoma County, was a trailblazer in East Africa's literary criticism and one of the finest in the world.

Born in 1943 (official registration documents give his date of birth as 4<sup>th</sup> April 1944) Prof Wanjala overcame many hurdles to perch on the peak of academia. The long journey began at Kamusinde Primary School in 1953, where he sat the Common Entrance Examination in 1957 before joining Chesamisi Intermediate School in 1958. He was admitted to Bungoma Secondary school in 1962 and the then later to the prestigious Kamusinga Secondary School in 1966. From there he joined the then University College Nairobi, in

September 1968 and graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree in English, First Class honours, in 1971.

Later that year, he enrolled for his postgraduate studies, while at the same time working in the Department of Literature, University of Nairobi. Prof Wanjala rose from the position of Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer between 1971 and 1973. In 1978, he completed his Doctoral studies and graduated with a PhD in literature in 1979. His doctoral thesis, which would later be published as the seminal treatise *For Home and Freedom* (1980), was an important contribution to the Great Literature Debate

. In 1981, Chris (as he was fondly referred to, short for Christopher) was seconded from the Department of Literature to join the Institute of African Studies as a Senior Research Fellow. He became Director of the Institute in 1983. The same year, Chris won a Japan Foundation Fellowship and travelled to Japan several times, culminating in the inauguration of an African Research Institute at Soka University in Tokyo and establishing relations with that University that have now become a permanent feature between Japanese and Kenyan institutions of higher education. In 1985, Chris returned to Department of Literature, where he was appointed as the first African Associate Professor of Literature.

In 1991, Chris moved to Egerton University, Njoro, as a full Professor. He established the Department of Literature and after accomplishing the mission, he returned to University of Nairobi in October 2000. He delivered his inaugural lecture on

"The Growth of a literary tradition in East Africa in 2003. This was the first by an African Professor of Literature.

Outside his academic duties, Chris continued to serve as a key informant for literary, historical and cultural activities related to Kenya. He chaired the technical committee on the devolution of Kenya's Policy on Culture and Heritage.

Chris also sat on the Committee of Culture at the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and attended meetings on the implementations of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Kenya.

The scholar also served as Chairman of the National Book Development Council of Kenya (NBDCK) from 2007 upto the time of his demise. He was also a member of PEN Kenya. Through these organizations, Chris honed the skills of budding and established writers.

Chris was also a keynote speaker at several academic conferences, notably one for which he was invited in 2013 by President Olesugun Obasanjo of Nigeria on "Women and Youth in the Promotion of Cultural Security in Africa" where he presented a paper on "Cultural Events in East and Central Africa". Due to his significant contribution to Kenyan Literature, Culture and Book Development, Prof. Chris Lukorito Wanjala was honoured in 2012 with the award of Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear, (EBS).

The trumpet call for the man with a remarkable charming smile was sounded on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018. He was laid to rest in his Lwandenti home, Kakamega County, on October 27 2018. Rest in peace, Chris. *Varsity Focus* salutes you. VF



## Council signs Performance Contract with Government

The University of Nairobi Council signed the 2018/2019 Performance Contract (PC) with the Government.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Dr. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, urged institutions of higher learning to incorporate the Big Four Agenda of the Government in the fifth performance contract cycle.

The Big Four Agenda include; food security and nutrition, affordable housing, manufacturing, and universal healthcare. Institutions of higher learning like universities and technical colleges are expected to produce manpower that will ensure the success of the Big Four.

"The education sector has a

mandate to develop human capital, highly skilled manpower and to integrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The objective of the PC is to measure the performance against international practices. Your duty is to develop a critical mass of expertise needed for the Big 4 agenda," said the Cabinet Secretary.

The highlights of the 2018/2019 PC include; curriculum reforms, quality and relevance of education, integration of STEM courses, integration of people with special needs, and revision of the strategic plans to fit the Big 4 agenda.

Dr Amina congratulated the Kenya National Examinations Council for the job well done in ensuring the integrity of recent primary and

secondary schools exams. She said the Ministry of Education is working on programmes to ensure smooth transition of students.

She urged government agencies and departments to ensure prudent use of resources, pursue other sources of revenue and have internal conflict resolution mechanisms to ensure conflicts don't derail their activities.

The Education Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Dr. Richard Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary, who observed that expectations must be delivered. "Kenyans have high expectations on you and we are looking upon you to deliver it. Remember what gets measured gets done, hence the need for the performance contract," he said. [VF](#)



(From L-R) The Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Council Member, Mr. Isaac Kiprop, the Chair of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo and the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Amb. Dr. Amina Mohammed at the signing of the 2018/2019 Performance Contract (PC) with the Government.

# Customer Experience Centre established at UoN

The University of Nairobi has established a modern 24-hour Customer Experience Centre (CEC) to facilitate and improve interactions with all stakeholders through converged communication services. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi officially commissioned the centre on August 31, 2018 at the Main Campus.

“The Customer Experience Centre has been developed as one of the approaches of relating with our customers in a way that provides positive customer experience. To boost loyalty from our clients, our

excellent and empowered CEC frontline team will be expected to deliver services with professionalism, promptness, politeness and personalization to all our clients. You can now reach the University by simply dialing 020- 4910000,” said the VC.

Prof Mbithi said the Centre's launch was the beginning of a journey to transform the experience of University of Nairobi customers. “We have resolved as a University to take customer service to the top level where it should be. We have started in a humble way but we will continue

to learn and grow systematically to enhance efficiency using the latest technology available in the market,” he observed.

The unified CEC based, on IP Telephony solutions, enables integration of modern communication technologies with university systems in line with the broader university goal of providing excellent services to its customers. The initiative has received support from CISCO, Computech and Kansai Plascon, among others. [VF](#)



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi officially commissions the Customer Experience Centre on Friday, August 31, 2018 at the Main Campus.

# World AIDS Day 2018

The University of Nairobi joined the rest of the world in commemorating the World AIDS Day on November 30, 2018 at the Chancellor's Court.

Some of the services offered include HIV testing, NCD screening, reproductive health, vibrant wellness, eye checkup, cervical, breast and prostate cancer screening and TB screening.

This year's theme, "Know Your Status" #JI-JUE, encourages everyone to go for HIV testing. Participants were treated to entertainment by local artistes Sanaipei Tande and Jabidii of the famous Odi Dance. Teams also competed in tug of war, sack race, rope skipping, caterpillar walk, short relays, three legged race, balloon/condom race, obstacle race

and musical chairs.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge student affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, highlighted the initiatives taken by the University in HIV and AIDS.

"The University of Nairobi has an HIV and AIDS policy that provides education, support care and treatment for the infected and affected," said Prof. Mbeche.

"The University does not discriminate against students or staff living with HIV/AIDS. I wish to thank all those who have made a concerted effort, and those who have contributed immensely in HIV/AIDS work. We have come a long way together since the HIV/AIDS

epidemic emerged and we should continue to forge ahead to help bring it to a halt," the DVC added.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Doreen Asimba, highlighted the services offered at the University Health Services. They include HIV and AIDS sensitization, HIV testing and counseling, comprehensive care including provision of antiretroviral drugs to those living with HIV, psychosocial support and counselling, voluntary medical male circumcision, continuous research and collaboration, condom education and distribution, support for needy students and student organizations, HIV and AIDS mainstreaming and provision of PrEP and PEP for those exposed and at risk of getting HIV. [VF](#)



Jabidii of the famous 'Odi Dance' rocks the crowd at the World AIDS Day 2018 at the University of Nairobi.

# University shines in Graduate Employability Rankings 2019

The University of Nairobi was ranked fourth best University in Africa in the latest QS World University Employability Rankings 2019. The University tied with Ain Shams University from Egypt, Stellenbosch University, University of Johannesburg, University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of Pretoria – all from South Africa. They were placed in the group of 302-500 best Universities in the world.

The best University on Employability Rankings in Africa was University of Cape (South Africa) which was also placed in the group of 101-110.

Number two was a tie between the American University in Cairo (Egypt) and University of Witwatersrand (South Africa). They were both placed in the category of 201-250. Cairo University (Egypt) was number three and in the category of 251-300.

Universities have a part to play in making their students more employable. They cultivate their skills and absorb them into lifelong market-driven learning experiences that boost the student's flexibility in the labour market. Therefore, graduate employability ranking is essential because it gives an

understanding of how successful universities are at nurturing employability.

According to QS, Graduate Employability Rankings is an innovative exercise designed to provide the students with a unique tool by which they can compare university performance in terms of graduate employability outcomes and prospects.

QS Rankings acknowledge the fact that a university's ability to foster employability is affected by the economic performance of the country in which it is situated. [VF](#)



***“Universities have a part to play in making their students more employable.”***

## ESDA demonstrates value of universities' collaborations

The United Nations University (UNU) established the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) in eight Universities in Africa in 2009.

The University of Nairobi and UNU signed an MoU in the same year and since then, the University has been working with United Nations University in developing a Master of Science Programme in Sustainable Urban Development (MSc-SUD) and the Next Generation of Researchers (NGR). In 2016, the African Youth Entrepreneurship Society (AYES) and African MBA were added into the ESDA portfolio as a way of enriching the programme.

The ESDA programme was founded by the United Nations University in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Japan Trust Fund. During the Sixth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD) 2016 held in Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi was appointed the Chairman of ESDA for a three-year term (2016-2019) until the next TICAD 7 conference to be held in Japan in August 2019.

To take stock of what ESDA has achieved since Prof Mbithi took over in 2016, the United Nations University organized the ESDA Conference on 29-31 October 2018 in Tokyo. The forum was attended by

all the Vice Chancellors from the eight ESDA programme implementing universities. The meeting was arranged into two sections:

- International Symposium on Africa's Sustainable Development hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB); and
- 4th ESDA Consortium Meeting hosted by United Nations University.

As part of the ESDA October 2018 Conference, the United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and AfDB organized a one-day Symposium on 29th October 2018 in Tokyo. The conference participants discussed the role of universities in promoting Africa's Sustainable Development. They identified challenges and opportunities faced by universities and generated new ideas for partnership and support.

The objectives of the symposium were: to report on the results of AfDB grant project (for accountability and additional funding); enhance Japanese government's recognition of ESDA (for JICA support); and make a pitch for the role of universities in building an 'intellectual infrastructure' for promoting broadly-based socio-economic and cultural relations between Asia

(Japan) and Africa (in support of TICAD).

During the forum, Prof Mbithi emphasized the need of developing the next generation of scholars and researchers. He urged the Government of Japan and AfDB to sponsor 500 scholarships in Africa in the next five years to ensure sustainable development in the continent.

The decade-long experience of ESDA provides a useful example of how a network of African universities may develop through collaboration in education and research, mobilizing and utilizing their own human resources and experiences.

The ESDA Programme demonstrates the value of interaction between African and Asian universities, their faculties and students, to enrich the quality of teaching and research. The collaboration is a useful channel for sharing the relevant knowledge and capacities relating to industrial development policy and practice.

The ESDA experience indicates value for money in investing in the next generation of researchers to deliver useful research output and instructional material. Their next challenge is to explore and develop practical ways and means to work with stakeholders, such as young entrepreneurs. [VF](#)



# Huawei train students and staff on network certification

Twenty five students were trained on Huawei Certified Network Associate (HCNA) certification in November 2018. The training was offered by the University of Nairobi ICT department in collaboration with the Advancement Office and Huawei.

The training marked the beginning of a series of trainings to validate the skills and knowledge networking professionals require for basic maintenance and configuration of small to medium-sized networks.

It covered Ethernet technologies such as Link Aggregations, VLAN, RSTP and STP and their implementation on Huawei switches, TCP/IP technologies and basic IP network connectivity. With the HCNA certification, trainees are expected to demonstrate, design and implement a basic understanding of small and medium-sized networks and this

includes general network technologies.

Engineers who have HCNA certification are expected to develop simple networks then integrate storage, security, cloud, voice and wireless technologies into these networks to support a wide range of applications.

Huawei launched the HCNA Training and Certification based on its many years of experience in developing great insight into ICT industry developments and ICT talents.

Huawei also sponsored the “Huawei ICT Competition Southern Africa 2018-2019” on November 21, in which UoN students participated. The second runners up, Wanjohi Gachoki came from UoN, beating more than 4,000 participants from over 40 universities in Kenya. The competition focused on computer

telecommunications and networking and was tailored to create a platform for ICT students to grasp practical and technical skills.

During the Huawei ICT competition awards ceremony held on November 26, 2018, UoN won the 'Best ICT Academy' award. George Ndegwa, from the UoN ICT Department, won the 'Best Lecturer' award.

The Huawei ICT Training Program is an initiative of the Advancement Office and ICT Centre in collaboration with Huawei. The Program Coordinators, Mr. Johnson Kinyua (Advancement Office) and Joram Kinuthia (ICT Centre) and Trainers George Ndegwa and Clifford Nderi from the UoN ICT Centre are proud to have trained the first cohort of 20 students and plans to hold more training in collaboration with Huawei in 2019. [VF](#)



Top UoN student in the Huawei ICT Competition Kenya 2018-2019 awarded alongside top students from other Kenyan Universities.

# Israeli technology to boost dairy farming

Israel has proposed partnership with the University of Nairobi in dairy farming to enhance productivity and an extension on teaching and learning.

The Israeli Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Noah Gal Gendler, said the Israeli government has successful models in agriculture and farming and would like to share the models with UoN. The envoy was speaking during a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

While appreciating the years of partnership and relations with the

University, Ambassador Gendler noted that there are more areas of collaboration. "In tropical countries, weather challenges affect dairy farming and productivity. This is an area of partnership that we would like to explore and have mutual benefits between Kenya and Israel," said the ambassador.

Prof. Mbithi hailed the proposal as a great opportunity. He said the University has been looking for companies to partner with in dairy farming for the last two years.

Citing the success of the previous

areas of partnership between the University and the Israeli government, the Vice Chancellor said the proposed collaboration would enhance the productivity of the University farm, improve teaching and training of the University students while enriching and informing research.

Present during the courtesy call were Director of University Advancement, Mr. Johnson Kinyua, and Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr. John Orindi, among other senior University officials. [VF](#)



Israeli Amb. to Kenya H.E Noah Gal Gendler (Left) and UoN Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi (Right) engage in discussions on Friday, August 17, 2018.

## VC pledges to expand partnership with Chinese institutions

The University of Nairobi has pledged to strengthen collaboration with the Chinese Embassy and the Peoples Republic of China.

Prof. Mbithi noted that the University of Nairobi has immensely benefitted from a partnership with the Chinese institutions. "We have a vibrant Confucius Institute hosted at the University of Nairobi Towers. UoN students have been benefiting from Chinese Ambassadors scholarships every year. We have a big project going on, the construction of Confucius Institute Africa headquarters that will be hosted at the University of Nairobi," said the Vice-Chancellor when Chinese Ambassador to Kenya H.E Ms Sun

Baohong paid him a courtesy call on August 17, 2018.

Ms Baohong noted that the Peoples Republic of China and Kenya have many agreements being worked on ongoing projects. She said education is a top priority to the Embassy and hence many scholarships awarded to students.

"Over 700 people go to China yearly and 100 students benefit from the Chinese Ambassadors Scholarships," said Ms. Baohong. She congratulated the University of Nairobi for emerging fifth in Africa and requested the University to establish collaboration with top Chinese universities. Such collaborations, she observed, will be

beneficial to both students and staff who will be engaged in exchange programmes, joint research and academic programmes.

It was also noted that Shanghai Jiao Tong University has started discussions with the University of Nairobi to train engineers, technicians and human resource capital for the Standard Gauge Railway. Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, will lead a delegation to China to engage the partners. The Vice Chancellor requested the Chinese Embassy to consider funding of UoN Teaching and Referral Hospital and the Engineering Science Complex. **VF**



University of Nairobi, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithia (Left) and Chinese Ambassador to Kenya H.E Ms. Sun Baohong (Right) when he paid her a courtesy call.



# UoN don celebrates 50 years in medicine

**P**rof. Peter Amollo Odhiambo celebrated his 50 years of practice as a medical doctor.

Popularly referred to as 'Kenya's first heart surgeon,' Prof. Odhiambo has served the University for 43 years! He is a former Dean, School of Medicine.

At the celebrations held in Taifa Hall, every speaker who took to the microphone had something momentous to say about Prof. Odhiambo. He was described as a man who has given distinguished service to the world.

Memories from the early days of learning and teaching medicine were shared. There was something new to learn for everyone in attendance as a

carefully selected panel of eminent scholars shared their views on various topics.

The panelists included Prof. Raphael Munavu, Chairman, Kenya Academy of Sciences, who spoke on scholarship and professionalism, Prof. Gideon Okelo, Secretary, African Academy of Sciences who shared highlights of clinical medicine, Prof. Shem Wandiga, Chancellor, Egerton University and Kenya's Representative at UNESCO who gave the keynote address on climate change.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o congratulated Prof. Odhiambo for outstanding professional

career.

"For the past forty-three years, since January, 1976, you have served this country through this University. We celebrate your commitment and faithfulness to the profession and University. Your contribution outside the University gave us mileage and contributed immensely to our competitiveness in the region," said Prof. Ogeng'o. "Your stints in Kenya Cardiac Society, Pan-African Society of Cardiology, Tobacco Control Board, editing and publishing of a medical journal and more, contributed positively to our image. It was your generation that gave Kenya the unshakeable foundations of specialization in medicine!" **VF**



*Prof. Peter Amollo Odhiambo is assisted by his daughters to cut the cake at his 50 years of practice as a medical doctor celebrations.*

# Centre for International Programmes and Links attracts foreign students



Prof. Ogara (third right) with international students during review of the Student Union Constitution.

When the Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL) was set up in 1995, one of its main responsibilities was to facilitate and enhance global visibility and profile of the University of Nairobi.

Led by Prof. William Ogara, CIPL has attracted many foreign students across the world to pursue studies at the University of Nairobi.

"We are committed to providing an international environment within the university by enrolling an increasing number of international students and inviting international scholars to create partnerships and collaborations in research and knowledge dissemination without borders," says Prof. Ogara.

More than 850 international students are pursuing various programmes at the University of Nairobi either on full time basis or on student exchange programmes.

Good global rankings and high

quality academic programmes have made the University of Nairobi a popular choice for many international students. The prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Ranked the University of Nairobi among world's top 500 in 2018. According to Webometrics ranking of world universities, the University of Nairobi is ranked among top 8 universities in Africa and the best in East and Central Africa.

Agathon Angembe, a diploma in Public Relations student from the Democratic Republic of Congo, says: "As a young African, I'm glad because the University of Nairobi is shaping me to be a leader and problem solver in the society."

Dr. Wazid Alli, from Nepal, is studying for Master's degree in Medicine. He says the University of Nairobi provides world class training. "This is an opportunity for me to boost my knowledge and skills

so that I can stay relevant in my medical profession," he observes.

Diana Kimani, a local third year Bachelor of Economics student, lauded CIPL for facilitating the admission of more international students to the University of Nairobi.

"My interaction with students from all over the world has enabled me to deal with a broad range of nationalities. If I travel abroad for studies or work I will easily fit in my new environment and communities courtesy of my experiences at the University of Nairobi," she says. VF



Agathon Angembe, a student from DRC.

# Varsity League launched

The inaugural edition of the Kenya University Sports Association Varsity League was launched on September 17, 2018 at the University of Nairobi.

The competition marks the beginning of an exciting period for University Sports, especially Rugby 15s. It will feature sides from eight Kenyan universities and is expected to provide ground for development and opportunities to showcase talent.

Sponsors and sports stakeholders at

the Press briefing emphasized the importance of sports. It was underscored that the youth need sports to keep them off drugs. The organizers of the event also highlighted future plans of partnership with companies to sponsor outstanding players.

Eight teams took part in the tournament held from 29 September 2018 to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The teams were Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Catholic University of East Africa, Egerton

University, University of Eldoret, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Technical University of Kenya and Technical University of Mombasa. The matches took place at UON Grounds, CUEA Grounds, KU Grounds, Egerton University Grounds and RFUEA Grounds

Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA), Sports Options, Fidelity insurance, Samurai, and Homeboyz are among the sponsors and partners of the Varsity league. [VF](#)



Mr. Nicholas Malesi, Fidelity Insurance, Marketing and Business Development Manager, shaking hands with Mr. Aggrey Chabeda, Managing Director, Sports Options, Looking on is KUSA Chairman and Director Sports, UoN, Mr. Mbaabu Muriithi and CEO, Homeboyz Radio, Mr. Myke Rabar.

# Students win 10,000 Euros in business competition

Ten students from the School of Business won in two categories of a business competition that attracted students from Ghanaian and German universities. University of Nairobi students emerged the overall winners and the second runners up, winning a total of Euros 6,000 and Euros 4,000 for first and third positions respectively.

Speaking during the dummy cheque presentation ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi congratulated students for winning the business competition and improving the brand image of the University. "GAUP is one among the many partnerships we have at the University of Nairobi. We are happy when staff and students travel all over the world and win in major

competitions," he said in a speech read on his behalf by Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

He urged the winners to implement the business ideas since they have the financial resources.

GAUP project is an initiative of three universities. It was established with the aim of; coaching business startups, integrating business research programmes, cultivating young entrepreneurs after business competitions, encouraging staff and student exchange programmes between the partner universities and developing a centre of excellence in business entrepreneurship.

The Dean of School of Business, Prof. James Njihia, said the School is

taking a new strategic direction that will help in increasing revenue as opposed to relying on the traditional revenue streams like teaching. He observed that partnerships, research and internationalization are the way forward.

Prof. Justus Munywoki, GAUP, Project Leader, said the GAUP project is aimed at enhancing youth employability through entrepreneurship. The project is working on establishing a center of entrepreneurship and small business development to nurture business startups and help them grow.

Varsity Focus congratulates the students on winning the business competition that took place in Germany. [VF](#)



The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru (3<sup>rd</sup> left) congratulates students from the School of Business who emerged the overall winners and the second runners up in the business competition.

## Kenyans urged to embrace Non Violence in resolving conflicts

**K**enyans have been urged to embrace non-violence while resolving conflicts. The call was made during the celebration of the 12th International Day of Non-violence at the University of Nairobi in remembrance of the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

The keynote address during the celebration on October, 2, 2018 was delivered by Prof. Gilbert Edwin Meshack Ogutu, who proposed the establishment of a center of excellence on non-violence to entrench the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. He observed that the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi influenced many leaders, including Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Julius Nyerere, Patrice Lumumba and Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai.

Gandhi was described as a nationalist, an environmentalist, and a man of action who was devoted to the independence of India. He galvanized millions of Indians to reject the British imperial rule,

culminating in India's independence in 1947,

"Gandhi was a great philosopher. Philosophers never die. Men of wisdom never die", declared Prof. Ogutu. He said the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi will flourish for thousands of years to come.

Using civil disobedience, faith in God, and simplicity, Gandhi taught his followers to accept suffering as a way of life and pray to God. Gandhi embraced everyone in the society.

The Director General United Nations Office in Nairobi, UNON, Ms. Hanna S. Tetteh, noted that a world free of violence is at the core of the United Nations' work. "His philosophy remains an inspiration. We recall his commitment to social justice. His commitment to human dignity lights our paths," she said.

The ideals of Mahatma Gandhi have been adopted by the United Nations in resolving conflicts around the world. The United Nations has been using arbitration and negotiations as a way of achieving peace.

University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that the International Day of Non Violence is a day of reflection on peace and tolerance. He observed that the University has strong ties with the Indian Community, which has been very generous since its inception in 1956 as Royal Technical College. They contributed resources that helped in the construction of Gandhi Wing and the Administration block.

Prof. Mbithi stressed the importance of embracing peace, noting that it is the best environment for growth and development. "Education is the best change agent in the pursuit of peace. I believe Gandhi philosophy will continue to be relevant in our lives," he said.

The celebrations were attended by the High Commissioner of India Ms. Suchitra Durai, Makueni Governor Prof. Kivutha Kibwana and Ambassador Christopher Chikaa from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [VF](#)



(From L-R) Dr. Kenneth Obongi, KIFA Chairman, Prof. Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor UoN, Hanna Tetteh, Director General UNON, Suchitra Durai, High Commissioner of India, Amb. C. Chikaa, MFA, Prof. Meshack Ogutu, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor Makueni, Abdul Dawood MP North Imenti, Pheroze Norjee, Senior Council.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## CONGRATULATES THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2018

**2005**

UoN Alumni Association Established

Over **240,000**

Alumni Permeating every sector of the economy

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

**16**

Alumni Chapters Launched since inception



Globally **competitive** Alumni

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

Over **30** ↑

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

**Ksh. 21 M**

Bursary Fund Disbursed to support Needy Students at UoN



Alumni offer Mentorship and Coaching to our Students

### Our Alumni, Our Strength

JOIN US TODAY AND REMAIN CONNECTED TO YOUR ALMA MATER

Tel: 020 4916713, Cell +254 724 820 908  
Email: [alumni@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:alumni@uonbi.ac.ke)

Website: <http://alumni.uonbi.ac.ke>  
LinkedIn: University of Nairobi Alumni Association

Facebook: University of Nairobi Alumni Association  
Twitter: @uonaaalumni

# University of Nairobi Conferencing Services



Chandaria Auditorium



Catering services



Cocktail Area

For more details contact:

**The Office of the Vice-Chancellor**

Director of Corporate Affairs, University of Nairobi | P.O. Box 30197 - 00100 Nairobi

Tel: 020 - 3318262 | 020 4913193 | Email: [director-ca@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:director-ca@uonbi.ac.ke)



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# Varsity**Focus**

---

[www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)

