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Varsity**Focus**

A magazine of the University of Nairobi

UoN receives grant to renovate Taifa Hall



 **Collaborations**

 DISCOURSE

 **Alumni Affairs**

 **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Varsity Focus



Our Vision

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

- freedom of thought and expression;
- innovativeness and creativity;
- good corporate governance;
- team spirit and teamwork;
- professionalism;
- quality customer service;
- responsible corporate citizenship and strong social responsibility;
- respect for and conservation of the environment.



VarsityFocus

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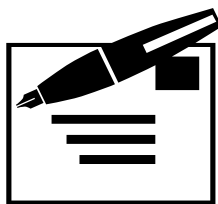
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School of Journalism
to collaborate with China
Communication University





A year full of many achievements

On this front, Universities from the US, UK, China, South Africa, Uganda and Sudan among others have either formally signed memorandum of understanding or began collaboration talks with UoN.

Our final edition of the 2012 Varsity Focus highlights some of the recent activities of the last quarter of this year and in a nutshell, reflects on some of the major accomplishments. This year we recorded the highest ever number of graduates from the University of Nairobi - the 47th and 48 congregations have released over 13,000 degree and diploma holders into the job market, highlighting the strategic importance of University of Nairobi in providing quality human resources to drive the country towards the attainment of the Kenya Vision 2030.

The University has also increased collaborations with leading international universities to raise resources that will aid research, student and staff exchange and scholarships among others. On this front, Universities from the US, UK, China, South Africa, Uganda and Sudan, among

others, have either formally signed memorandum of understanding or began collaboration talks with UoN.

The University also hosted local and foreign dignitaries in intellectual discourse with students and staff. The President of Ford Foundation, Antony Louis Ubiñas, the Chief Justice, Dr. Willy Mutunga and representatives from the UN, IMF and World Bank have interacted with the UoN Community in recent times. The Ford Foundation President, while giving his talk also announced a grant of USD 500,000 to refurbish Taifa Hall and modernize it to suit the academic activities it has become synonymous with.

Students on their part have been active in participating in international forums and engaging in innovative ventures. Wallace Chwalla, an engineering student, was privileged to share a forum with the UN

Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, while three School of Business students were named worthy Google Ambassadors, for seizing the opportunity to use technology to promote sustainable development. The Women Student Welfare Association (WOSWA) through the Chairperson Nzilani Muia, participated in regional forums which advocate for faster development by integrating women into key decision making positions in grassroots organizations and at a national level. The Psychology Club in conjunction with other stakeholders, engaged in corporate social responsibility activities by helping needy children in Kawangware, through counseling and mentorship. These and other stories constitute our 2012 final edition of the Varsity Focus. I hope you enjoy reading it. Do not hesitate to give us your feedback.

Charles E. Sikulu

Maintaining International Links



Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice Chancellor

The outcome of such links was sharing expertise, professionalism and common experiences and solutions to problems

In 2012, the University of Nairobi took up a fundamental part of its business, which is to maintain and forge programmes and links with universities and other institutions worldwide. This year, the university entered over 15 new international collaborative arrangements.

Education with an international component is necessary to equip students with knowledge and skills to survive and grow in a competitive labour market. Most links and collaboration activities included institutional capacity building (staff training and development, infrastructure, equipment and donations of consumable) collaborative research, book donations, joint publications, journals, international and local conferences, workshops, seminars, symposium, contribution to the world of science, colloquia etc.

Again through such links, academic members of staff and students have avenues through which to further their research activities and at the same time jointly source for funds in order to promote research activities', institutional capacity building and exchange of publications and journals. Some of the areas identified include agriculture, food

security, engineering, architecture, economics, and the arts. For instance, Lanzhou University, China, is working with teams in the areas of dry land agriculture and new agricultural technologies.

An example of a major and very international collaboration is the link project with University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, which is centred on components of teaching, research and community engagement in public health, engineering, social sciences and palaeontology.

Another example of a major ongoing collaboration project is that between the School of Business and the Switzerland Management Centre, which aims at strengthening training and applied research at PhD level, with online programmes in Entrepreneurship and Human Resource Capital.

A third exciting and major collaboration link is that with the Chinese Earthquake Administration, and the department of geology. Under the MoU, there will be, the establishment of a Centre for Seismological Training and Research in East Africa. The Centre will be the base for expanding the four seismic stations running in Kenya and will also serve to train international and local postgraduate students in order to increase the human resource base in earthquake mitigation technology and research.

It is not in doubt that promoting collaborations and links has strengthened the institutional and human capacity in African universities. We are delighted that the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa

(USHEPIA) Advisory Committee Meeting, held in October 2012, at our University and with partners drawn from :Universities of Botswana, Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Makerere University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, noted that since its inception, 52 persons had been awarded degrees. A further eight fellows are on the completion list, indicating that higher education in Africa is being impacted on. The Programme sponsors, The Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and the Andrew W Mellon Foundation have indeed done a wonderful job with funding of fellowships in the humanities and social sciences.

State of the Tropics: Life shorter in the tropics

A world-wide initiative to define the challenges facing the peoples of the tropics was launched by 13 leading research institutions across 12 countries. The group released an early insight of its planned State of the Tropics Report with details of why life expectancy is lower in the region than in the rest of the world.

The full report to be published next year will shed light on the critical importance of the people on issues of the tropical world, and contribute to efforts to improve the lives of the peoples of the Tropics and their environment.

The 13 institutions involved are:

- **University of Nairobi, Kenya;**
- **Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Ecuador;**
- **James Cook University, Australia;**
- **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, England;**
- **Mahidol University, Thailand;**
- **Singapore's National**



UoN among 13 institutions involved in the study of life in the tropics

- **University and the Nanyang Technological University;**
- **Organisation for Tropical Studies, Costa Rican hub;**
- **University of Copenhagen, Denmark;**
- **University of Hawaii – Manoa – USA;**
- **University of Papua New Guinea;**
- **University of the South Pacific, Fiji; and,**
- **Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Brazil.**

According to Professor George Magoha, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, the facts and figures relating to life expectancy in the Tropics show significant improvements over the past 60 years. But there is still a substantial gap between the Tropics and the rest of the world.

The insight reveals that life expectancy in the Tropics has increased by 22.8 years to 64.4 years between 1950 and 2010 and the gap between the life expectancy of women and men has widened in favor of women over the same period.

Infant mortality in the tropics fell from 161 deaths per 1000 live births to 58 over the same period. However in the rest of the world it is 33 and the rate of improvement has been greater.

As a general rule, regions that have experienced large falls in the absolute infant mortality rate also report large improvements in life expectancy.

“The exception is Central & Southern Africa, where although infant mortality



rates have fallen significantly, high mortality rates in the non-infant population, largely related to HIV/ AIDS, have constrained overall improvements in life expectancy," Professor Magoha said.

Professor Sandra Harding, the Vice Chancellor of Australia's James Cook University which initiated the State of the Tropics project, said that over the past half-century, the Tropics has emerged as an increasingly critical region. More than 40 per cent of the world's population now

lives in the Tropics and this is likely to be close to 50 per cent by 2050. The region generates around 20 per cent of global economic output and is home to some 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity. However, the resources to sustain larger populations and economic growth are imposing ever-increasing pressures.

Issues of concern include relatively poor health outcomes, with more than one billion people suffering from tropical diseases, unacceptable levels of infant mortality and reduced life

expectancy; extreme poverty; poor educational outcomes; environmental degradation; and, in some cases, political and economic instability. The key objective of the project is to enable a better understanding of the tropical world, the key challenges of the region as well as the opportunities it provides.

Professor Magoha said

that in Africa, the reality was that there was still a considerable health 'deficit' relative to other regions of the world. "Greater national and international efforts are necessary to improve the health, living conditions and security of the tropical African population,"

Life expectancy in Kenya has increased by 12.7 years to 55.0, a modest improvement relative to the region, where life expectancy increased by 16.0 years to 52.8.

Other findings relative to

Central and Southern Africa include:

Madagascar reported the largest improvement in life expectancy between 1950-55 and 2005-10, increasing by 29.1 years to be 65.8 years in 2005-10, with large reductions in both infant and adult mortality rates.

Life expectancy in Zimbabwe declined by two years over the period, to be 46.6 years in 2005-10. Zimbabwe was the only nation in the world to record a decline in life expectancy. In regional terms, Zimbabwe has a low infant mortality rate, but a very high adult mortality rate (it is the highest in the world). In 2008 more than half the deaths in Zimbabwe were related to HIV/ AIDS (again, the highest rate in the world).

Of the ten nations with the lowest life expectancy in 2005-10, seven are in the tropical region of Central & Southern Africa.

It is intended that the State of the Tropics Report will be published every five years with a annual State of the Tropics paper focusing on a key issue.



The launch of a regional Surgical Skills Centre

A new surgical skills centre has been established at the University of Nairobi to offer training in the region. The Nairobi Surgical Skills Centre (NSSC), a joint initiative between the University of Nairobi, Johnson & Johnson and Philips Healthcare Technologies, was officially launched in November, 2012, at the University of Nairobi, in a colourful

ceremony presided over by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Located at UON's Chiromo Campus in the Department of Anatomy, the state-of-the-art facility will impart practical surgical experience among health care professionals in Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Centre will address the acute shortage of specialist

skills amongst medical practitioners in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, recent studies indicate that these countries have less than one surgeon per 100,000 people, which is below the WHO recommendation of one surgeon per 5000 people.

NSSC will provide a wide range of skills in open and laparoscopic

surgery, general surgery, gynecology, orthopedics, general practice, theatre nursing and other disciplines at basic, intermediate and advanced levels. The course will be led by a faculty made up of renowned local and international experts.

Speaking during the Launch ceremony, Ag Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that the Centre is a welcome addition to enhancing medical practice in Africa and is also a perfect example of Industry/Public cooperation. Prof. Mbithi pledged the full support of the University to ensure that the Centre's operations are not derailed.

The Chairman of NSSC, Prof. J. O. Mulimba, thanked the University of Nairobi, Johnson & Johnson and Philips Healthcare Technologies

The Centre will address the acute shortage of specialist skills amongst medical practitioners in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

for ensuring the successful establishment of the Centre, while Mr. Steve Brockie, General Manager, Johnson & Johnson, Sub-Saharan Africa said that the Centre is part of the company's commitment to support professional education in Sub-Saharan Africa and that it will help advance the skills of health care professionals in the region. Besides providing the physical facility, the partnership will see the University acquire and prepare cadavers and source local faculty. Johnson & Johnson will provide equipment to facilitate training, ensure availability of cadavers and provide external staff.

Also present during the launch ceremony were: Mr. Mukesh Mehta, Group Managing Director, Phillips Pharma Group of Companies, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. J.O. Mulimba, NSSC Board Chairman, and Dr. Chris Samkange, President, College of Surgeons in East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA). Also present were representatives from the Ministry of Medical Services and Kenyatta National Hospital.

UoN alumnus named 'Hero of Chemistry'

Dr. George Njoroge, a scientific researcher based in Indiana, United States, was recently inducted into the coveted scientific 'Hall of Fame', when he was named the 2012 Hero of Chemistry, by the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society.

The honors come in the wake of the discovery and development of the Hepatitis C drug Victrelis by Njoroge and a team of scientists working at the global pharmaceutical firm, Merck Research Laboratories. The drug, which is the first oral Hepatitis C virus protease approved by the FDA, has been approved in 43 countries, and is in the market in 23 of these countries.

Njoroge, an alumnus of the University of Nairobi, graduated with a first class honors in Organic Chemistry, and pursued further studies graduating with a PhD in Organic Chemistry from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio in 1985. In 1988, Njoroge joined the Schering-Plough Corporation (SPRI), as a researcher and focused on the design and synthesis of orally bio-available small molecules for treatment of viral diseases and cancer.

A prolific scholar, Njoroge has published extensively in professional journals on synthetic organic chemistry and drug design. To his credit he has authored and co-authored more than 120 scientific publications and been granted 78 US patents. Further, Njoroge is a recipient of numerous awards including the meritorious Emerald

Award for Professional Achievement in Industry and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award for emerging therapies.

Varsity Focus congratulates Dr. Njoroge and his team on this achievement.



Meet the **legendary** Mathematician

It is a fine afternoon in November, with birds chattering, chirping, and students briskly moving along the corridors. Inside one tiny but cozy cubicle, Ganesh Prasad Pokhariyal is extolling on the virtues of discipline, commitment and hard work.

G. P. or Pokhariyal as he tells me, is Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Nairobi and unlike what you expect from a don of surliness, cold eyes and a perpetual, I have been misused bowed shoulder, Pokhariyal is a happy man. I am happy, I like the scholarly environment and the best part of this is the fact that whatever suggestion or what I get to put across is taken and implemented. What else

do you need from an organization? You must always in life show you appreciation for an entity that does not ignore you, and this is what will make your life so much more important.

Prof. Pokhariyal was born over sixty years ago in India; the former Uttara-Pradesh state, his family's home overlooked the Himalayan range, Uttarakand, his home town, is at the foot heels of the Himalayas and is a religious pilgrimage state for Hindus. Again, the state also has an institution that trains Islamic philosophers at Devband. Pokhariyal remembers his early life growing up in the hills. "Life was tough, we walked everywhere, that hard life always gives you a humbling effect. The huge mountain always in front reminds you, making you appreciate the heavens and the creation of God, and the environment reminds you that you should never dare challenge the rules. This was always a lesson in humility.

Pokhariyal studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for his B.sc degree at Allahabad University; he pursued a master's course in

Mathematics in 1966 at Allahabad, and again in Physics at the same University in 1968, and graduated with a PhD in Mathematics in 1971 from Benares Hindu University. Pokhariyal was able to submit his DS.c work from Nairobi and he was examined and awarded the degree from Benares University in 1988.

A devote Hindu, Pokhariyal traces his humility and discipline to the inspiration and support that his parents gave; his father was a popular advocate and freedom fighter and indeed his uncle and four brothers have followed that line. He was tutored by Prof. R. S. Mishra whom he describes as a philosopher and scientist extraordinaire. In Kenya he has continued to draw inspiration from Samuel Kinyanjui - his landlord whom he says is a peaceful man, he only comes to the house when invited. He makes life easy. It is intriguing that, rising from the line of law, Pokhariyal would chose mathematics as a course of study. Quickly, he assures me that his desire to study mathematics stems from high school where he was a mathematics and physics scholar-the general theory of relativity (Eistein theory) is actually based on logic "I tell my students that math's is the most logical and the simplest discipline because it is self verifying -you immediately know if you are going on the right track. You

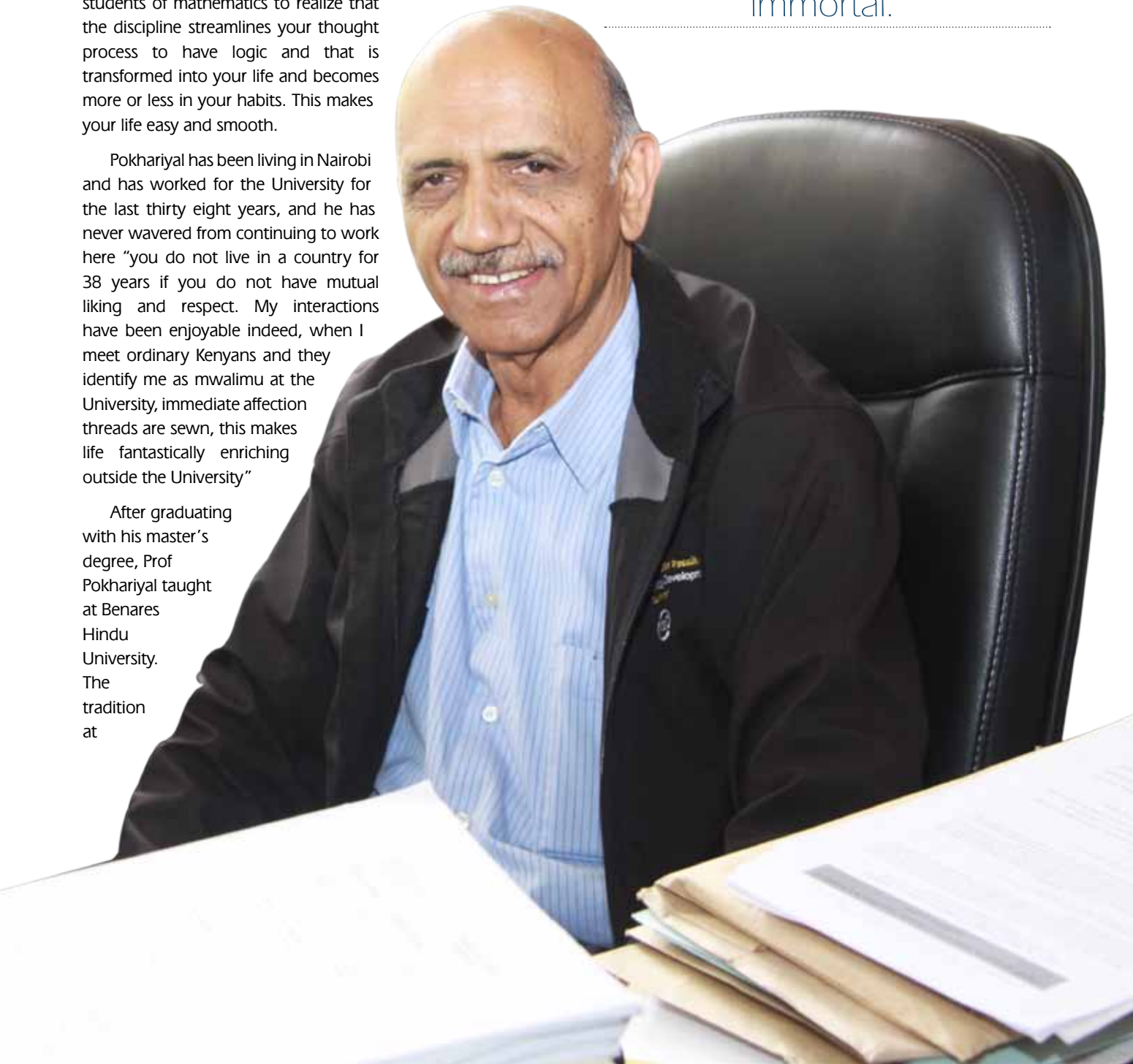
do not need anybody to verify the path for you”.

According to Pokhariyal, math’s matches with mythology; mans-energy relationship, is akin to the body and soul relationship and it matches mortal and immortal. It is therefore important for students of mathematics to realize that the discipline streamlines your thought process to have logic and that is transformed into your life and becomes more or less in your habits. This makes your life easy and smooth.

Pokhariyal has been living in Nairobi and has worked for the University for the last thirty eight years, and he has never wavered from continuing to work here “you do not live in a country for 38 years if you do not have mutual liking and respect. My interactions have been enjoyable indeed, when I meet ordinary Kenyans and they identify me as mwalimu at the University, immediate affection threads are sewn, this makes life fantastically enriching outside the University”

After graduating with his master’s degree, Prof Pokhariyal taught at Benares Hindu University. The tradition at

According to Pokhariyal, maths matches with mythology; mans-energy relationship, is akin to the body and soul relationship and it matches mortal and immortal.





The serene Chiromo Campus

Benares was that one could get a research position and still teach. What drew him to Benares however was that his supervisor, Prof. Mishra, shifted to Benares. "When he approached Mishra to supervise him for his PhD, destiny matched so much with what his father, who had studied at Benares wanted me for me. My father was very happy with me. He had been given an offer to join the philosophy department, but opted to look after family property.

Pokhariyal taught at Benares between 1968 and 1970 and was enlisted on a post doctoral research position, where he also helped junior research fellows. In 1970, he saw an advert in the "Nature magazine. "I simply applied and was offered a job in the University. I was born in a big state 'Utter Pradesh, and was supposed to join politics by consensus of the people. But my father persuaded me and the community to allow me to first earn and utilize my professional capacity. I guess if I was still in India, and given the turmoil in Utter Pradesh, I would be in jail."

Pokhariyal taught at KUC between 1974 and 1979, he started teaching at UON proper in 1976, at the time for the Faculty of Engineering, where he taught the geometry course. In 1978, he was offered a full time position at Chiromo and finally joined the UON on 1st April 1979. "When I joined the University, remuneration was okay; our students were so good that we were proud to be associated with them. I believe that the same holds today, that in any part of the world our students would do well. If we are mean enough to give them a B+, they get A+ at Harvard and Stanford. Again when I joined we had fairly good interaction with global academic institutions through external examination, staff was fairly international.

So tell me, I ask, where did the rain hit us? Frankly, a misnomer was introduced with the shift to 8/4/4. The challenge introduced is that the fresher's were not prepared mentally and academically to take up independent study. The lights in the

city, the dazzle of life complicates and makes them so emotional that it will take time for them to catch up. Now given that mathematics and English were core and they used to be given in the two year period of form five/six, we now have to prepare them in the first semester, but it is not only the system of 8/4/4, there is perhaps a

problem, with mathematic's standards and moral aspects of teachers globally, teachers seem to lack dedication, they have not made the effort to teach mathematics and in the spirit of taking shortcuts inculcate a spirit of hatred for the discipline. I do not see any reason why girls and boys cannot do well in math's and physics. I know that in high school, teachers tell girls that math's and physics are not for them.

The conversation is heating up, and Prof. Pokhariyal gives me what is a new thread, that training of teachers is not adequate in terms of the teaching methodology and the subject content. "Mathematics should be approached with its possible applications shown to the students, for instance, mathematics has a fantastic application in every discipline, once this is injected in every students mind, that hatred will go down. We should capture students at the catchment level at high school. At the School of Mathematics, there is an out-reach programme that goes to schools to demonstrate. One methodology for teaching that works



entrepreneur and has a sharp maths education can be successful in their venture, they immediately see the consequence of numbers, margin of profit, appraisal of investment risks and probability”.

Pokhariyal is married to Mohini and she has played a big role in his life. To be honest, I don't worry how my house is arranged. She arranges my clothes daily. Her management leaves me with enough time to interact between my students and colleagues. Mohini actually pushes me, she remembers my diary and allows me to work. We have two children; the elder son Shuvrashi did electrical engineering at the University of Nairobi and works for Intel. Our second son Devesh, studied aerospace engineering in Arizona, he has a master's degree in aerospace engineering, and an MBA from Thunder world. He is a fairly top manager at Rockwell Collins, the company that develops stimulators for defense and civilian use in Virginia, USA. My children are Kenyan and are fluent Kiswahili speakers and were raised as Kenyan.

Pokhariyal is very athletic, tall, at 5.11, he is not stooped. He does 45 minutes of yoga and exercises every morning. He has played soccer in high school and at university, tennis and chess.

Pokhariyal observes that if by Gods grace, he has breath to give and the University wants him to continue he will do so, mentoring, and supervising. He has cleared 5 students to graduate with PhD, next year he may have 6/7 PhD students. “ I believe that if you devote all your effort to train and improve the quality of the children of the nation, then the almighty takes care of yours”.

well is group study. Methodology should boost morale, upraise uptake, design strategy that the weakest of student's can understand and pass.

Kenya is not doing badly on the world map of maths. Prof Pokhariyal observes that our students are comparable to any other in the world. The degree of the UON is globally recognised, for instance when my son wanted to apply for a green card, they asked for his course outline in electrical engineering, and they scrutinized the outline and pronounced it globally competitive. International exposure, initiatives in teaching, seminars, conferences for enhancing PhD's and publication can also assist the University to regain its old glory. The interaction with international experts and the global community is imperative.

The tradition at the University of Nairobi is one of: identify good students; nurturing them is a tried tradition that cements relationships. This is the tradition set by the late Morris Alala, George Saitoti, etc. The

question on the tip of my tongue, what openings exist for someone who has done mathematics, is biting. “You see, says Pokhariyal, in the late 1970, Price Water house etc.” became convinced that BSc mathematics graduates are trainable for economics, business, accounting, economics etc. The mathematics branch of actuarial sciences has drawn students and gets them jobs in the insurance sector. Industrial maths is designed to suit the needs of the sector with mathematics tools, while biometry is designed to train researchers in the area of biomedical and medicine research. Indeed, social statistics at master's level is for any discipline, it is essential in research and health disciplines where data is being analysed. Some of the top employees of mathematics students are Kenya Bureau of Statistics, Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, Kenya Airways and those requiring operations research specializations.

“I tell students that one of the most important aspects of maths is that anyone who wants to be an

Chinese to help build Centre for Seismological Training and Research

Plans are underway for the establishment of a Centre for Seismological Training and Research in East Africa, to be based at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS), and supported by the Chinese Earthquake Administration.

This was first revealed during a courtesy call by a delegation from the Chinese Earthquake Administration on the Vice Chancellor, represented by Prof Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, in September, 2012. During the courtesy call, a memorandum of understanding was signed and equipment, books and USD 10,000 donated to the Department of Geology.

According to Prof Barongo, of the Eastern African Working Group, the Centre will have a powerful laboratory, equipped with hard ware and other tools including a broad band seismic unit. The Centre will be the base for expanding the four seismic stations running in Kenya and will also serve to train



The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Chen Jianmin, Dr. Gladys Kianji and Prof. Isaac Mbeche.

international and local postgraduate students in order to increase the human resource base in earthquake mitigation technology and research.

During the courtesy call, it was revealed that exchange of staff and joint research to enhance knowledge and research uptake will be critical. The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Chen Jianmin, noted that

the development of a comprehensive proposal will be critical for broadening the area of research, training and student sponsorship under the present MOU. Further, he noted that the Chinese Earth quake Administration attaches great interest to links with the department of geology in order to share expertise, professionalism and common experiences and solutions to problems.

This link will also create greater understanding between the peoples of both countries and broaden and deepen cooperation in other fields. The University, on its part, will adhere to the commitments outlined in the MOU and their implementation.

Those present during the courtesy call included Prof Bernard Aduda, Principal CBPS, Dr Gladys Kianji of the East and South African Seismological Working Group, Deputy Director CIPL, Prof Seth Mcligeyo and other academic staff from CBPS.

During the courtesy call, a memorandum of understanding was signed and equipment, books and USD 10,000 donated to the Department of Geology.



Dr. Pankaj Patel, Chairman, PFA Kenya, Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi and Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor UoN.

Prof. Kaimenyi awarded Honorary Fellowship

Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Academic Affairs, was recently awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Pierre Fauchard Award (PFA) in a colourful ceremony held in the Vice Chancellor’s Committee Room.

The award, which was formally presented by Dr. Pankaj Patel, Chairman, PFA Kenya, is given to individuals who have made a valuable contribution to the advancement of the art and science of dentistry. Prof. Everlyne Wagaiyu, Dean, School of Dental Sciences and a PFA Fellow, read the pledge and administered the oath to Prof. Kaimenyi.

Speaking during the function, Prof. George Magoha, the Vice-Chancellor, congratulated Prof. Kaimenyi for the achievement and described his deputy as an outstanding and committed

dentist. Prof. Kaimenyi has served in different leadership roles in various professional bodies including the Kenya Dental Association, the East and Southern Africa Section of the International Association for Dental Research and the Commonwealth Dental Association.

Prof. Kaimenyi thanked PFA for the honour and his family and friends for supporting him. He said that he was committed to be in the category of people who have prepared to live to the letter and spirit of the Award and the Academy. He called on professional colleagues to work towards the greater good of the community.

Among those who witnessed the auspicious moment was Prof. Kaimenyi’s wife, Stella and their daughter, Ann, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, DVC, Student Affairs, Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Principal, College of Health Sciences and Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Representatives from the Kenya Dental Association, Ministry of Medical Services and the Association of Professional Societies in East Africa were also present.

PFA has also awarded scholarships to three UoN dental students to assist the young Kenyans to access university education in dental sciences.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Kaimenyi and wishes him success as he strives to maintain and sustain his contributions to dentistry.

UoN and Wits increase collaboration



Wits University, Director of Special Projects, Oliver Seale, Prof. Loyiso G. Nongxa and Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor UoN.

During the unique meeting, Information and Communication Technology, mining, financial education and staff exchange were identified as some of the thematic areas for potential collaboration.

Present during the meeting were : Prof. Lucy Irungu, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, Prof. Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL), Dr. Jamen Were, Director, School of Mathematics, among others. Prof. Nongxa was accompanied by the Director of Special Projects, Oliver Seale.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) will soon expand the scope of the existing collaboration between the two institutions, which includes research, teaching and community engagement, public health, engineering, social sciences and paleontology. This was

revealed during a meeting between Prof. George Magoha, Vice Chancellor, UoN and Prof. Loyiso G. Nongxa, in November 2012.

Prof. Nongxa said that African universities need to engage and participate in developmental discussions on Africa, rather than, sitting back as Ivory Towers.

In his remarks, Prof.

Magoha acknowledged the importance of developing training programmes that will contribute to the nation's sustainable growth. He said that the University has a long way to go especially in research and development.

African universities need to engage and participate in developmental discussions on Africa

Lanzhou University delegation visits UoN

As part of the familiarization steps towards the realization of the objectives of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) recently signed between the University of Nairobi (UoN) and Lanzhou University (LZU), China, a delegation from LZU visited UoN in October, 2012, to firm up on the collaboration in agriculture related projects especially in research, students and staff exchange and training.

Presiding over a meeting on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, welcomed the move saying that UoN's strategic plan is clear on partnerships and linkages. He said that through such arrangements, both institutions will benefit especially from each other's areas of expertise.

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) is working

with the LZU team in various areas including dry land agriculture and new agricultural technologies.

In attendance was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links, among others.

Psychology Students Volunteer to teach in slums

Following the clarion call by His Excellency the President Hon Mwai Kibaki for free primary education, many children joined the schools nearest their residence. These children were mostly drawn from lowly homes; employed as house helps, from single parent headed household, HIV/AIDS infected and affected and from dysfunctional families.

The Psychology Club of the University of Nairobi contacted the Kusoma Tu Foundation based at Kawangware Primary School to volunteer as teachers in a reading intervention. This was taken positively by the Club members who commute to the school during their free time. The chairman organized them into groups of five to ten students to attend on different days of the week. They meet their travelling expenses because the Foundation is nonprofit making. Run by a retired teacher from the United Kingdom.

What the club members anticipated was that they will only teach the pupils how to read and write. That was not to be so, these young children had psychosocial issues that required resolution. Pupils from classes 5,6,7 and 8 had different reasons as to why they were in school. Their reasons reflected their family challenges. Some came to school for the free meal offered by the World Food Programme at lunch break, others enjoy escape from sexual harassment or to at least sleep in class, free from brutality at home and other child abuse related issues.

The members found that they have to offer counseling and guidance to groups and to individuals as they have different psychological and social issues. With the help of the Department of Psychology and the University of Nairobi fraternity, the Club will raise funds in order to carry out a more detailed research that will reveal the cause and effects of poor education



Some of the pupils tutored by members of the Psychology Club.



Undaunted by the challenges of tutoring in slum conditions, members of the Club arrive for the afternoon session.

performance. The most important service that they offer now is counseling services to the pupils and their parent(s) to lift their self esteem and help them cope with daily life challenges. The school has 1400 pupils

but has a limited staff due to the location of the school in a high risk area.

The Club is seeking how best the child can be protected and saved from drug addiction and abuse by others.

UoN and Reading discuss on collaboration



Prof. Steven Mithen, the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading and Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has entered into talks on collaboration with the University of Reading. This was revealed during a

meeting presided over by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, in October 2012, where different areas of collaboration were identified and discussed.

According to Prof. Steven Mithen, the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading, the partnership between UoN and Reading will benefit from demand driven programmes that meet the international market requirements.

While welcoming the initiative, Prof. Mbeche said that programmes and linkages provide avenues through which academic members of staff and students can further their research activities and

at the same time jointly source for funds with their collaborators in order to promote research activities, institutional capacity building and exchange of publications and journals.

Among some of the areas identified include agriculture, food security, engineering, architecture, economics, and the arts, with possibilities for teaching and research collaboration and exchange programmes. Detailed discussions on partnerships and collaborations will follow.

The Reading delegation was on a one week visit of various institutions of higher learning in Africa, in a bid to identify new opportunities.

“The partnership between UoN and reading will benefit from demand driven programmes that meet the international market” requirements.

School of Business to launch on-line courses

The School of Business (SOB) will launch two online postgraduate programmes through the support from Switzerland Management Centre (SMC).

The programmes to be offered are the doctorate and masters in Entrepreneurship and Human Resource Capital. This initiative will be possible

after the two schools signed a memorandum of understanding to share academic resources and develop online programmes at SOB.

The SOB will tap into SMC expertise in developing and running relevant online programmes. According to the Dean, School of Business, Mr. Stephen

Nzuve, the new method of delivery will increase admission of students to the School and accord many prospective students a chance to continue with their education devoid of barriers of distance and physical attendance requirements. By offering on-line courses, the School will make the much needed higher education accessible

and convenient to all.

Chairing the meeting, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, welcomed the initiative by the two schools and emphasized the importance of collaborations, linkages and partnerships in developing capacities in modern institutions. He

School of Journalism enters into talks with China Communication University

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication recently entered into deliberations with a delegation from the Communication University of China, to explore possibilities of collaboration in the field of communication, research and staff and student exchange. The collaboration will also focus on projects aimed at promoting women in communication.

Speaking during the visit, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, noted that the University of Nairobi recognizes that education with an international character is necessary to equip students with knowledge and skills to survive and grow, in a competitive labour market. The team leader of the Chinese



Prof. Liu Jinan and Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs.

delegation, Prof. Liu Jinan, invited UoN to participate in the setting up of the African Media Centre at the Communication University of China, noting that it would present stakeholders with a chance to create mutual understanding in development projects.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Wambui Kiai, Director, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Linkages.

challenged the stakeholders to share experiences and resources to benefit both parties and also grow beyond the School of Business.

Speaking on behalf of SMC University, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Ted Sun said the students will be elevated to a world class level through the quality of on-line education offered, developing appropriate programmes and focusing on research. He was accompanied by Dr.

Gerald Schwaiger, the Business Development Manager, SMC.

This development will support the ongoing e-learning efforts by the University through the Centre for Open and Distance Learning and the e-Learning Centre. In attendance was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Prof. Simeon Mitema, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL).



Students research through WIFI facilities available at the campus.

Ford Foundation to fund renovation of Taifa Hall

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has been awarded a grant of \$ 500,000 to renovate and modernize the Taifa Hall.

This was revealed during a public lecture by Ford Foundation President Luis A. Ubiñas held at UoN last month. The well attended public lecture was part of the Foundation’s 50th anniversary in Eastern Africa celebrations and it is befitting that it was held in Taifa Hall, famous as a place of rich history with intellectual debates dating back to close to 40 years ago. In introductory remarks, Prof. George Magoha officially welcomed the guests and audience to the University and challenged the guest speaker to speak freely to the attentive audience.

While reflecting on the five decades of progress, opportunities and challenges in Eastern Africa, President Ubiñas commended Kenya for the great strides the country has made since independence. He said that every Kenyan, young or old has a special responsibility to make this country better and called upon the youth to take



Ford Foundation President Luis Ubiñas with Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

their rightful role as leaders rather than being used as pawns by politicians. He urged Kenyans to embrace the “I can make it” spirit which calls for people to be active in choosing all their leaders. This echoes a call being made in all gatherings asking the educated to take charge of how they will be governed.

The partnership between the Foundation and the UoN dates back to 1962 when the first grant

was given. In total, Ford Foundation has supported the University in various activities to the tune of USD 5 million. Among such activities include supporting the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to hold conferences, and build capacity as a centre of excellence in communication, media training and practices. It has also supported the Institute for Development Studies to conduct research

on rethinking social movements, and student voices in governance of higher education institutions.

The interaction which was aired live on Citizen TV was moderated by Julie Gichuru of Royal Media Services. Also present was Chief Justice Dr. Willy Mutunga, Ford Foundation Representative for Eastern Africa, Maurice Makoloo and top University of Nairobi Management.

The partnership between the foundation and the UoN dates back to 1962 when the first grant was given.

World Students Summit for Sustainability 2012 kicks off at UoN

The Taifa Hall was once again the preferred choice of venue for the official opening ceremony of the World Students Summit for Sustainability 2012. The five-day Summit which had been organized by the World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD) in partnership with the University of Nairobi (UoN) and UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) was the first annual WSCSD summit to be held in Africa. The theme of the summit was "Student's leadership and innovation towards a green economy."

Opening the forum on behalf of the Prime Minister, Hon. James Orendo, Minister for Lands congratulated students for hosting the forum and noted that "the transition to a Green Economy

requires governments to promote the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies and programs for the advancement of inclusive and sustained economic development through human resource development and technological innovation. In this sense, education, training and research are key drivers of a Green Economy."

The summit focussed on developing a common understanding of a green economy and how youth energy, action and innovation could be harnessed for an enhanced impact in sustainable development. The summit topics were energy, waste, water, food and transport. Apart from keynote speeches, poster presentations and group discussions, practical activities were incorporated into the summit to ultimately, foster the formation of partnerships for collaborative efforts towards a green



Hon. James Orendo, Minister for Lands and Hon. Chirau Mwakwere, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources arrive for the opening session of the World Youth Forum for Sustainability.

economy and sustainable development.

According to Nickson Otieno, President, WSCSD, the aim of the summit was to build the students' understanding and enhance their actions towards achieving a green economy and to enhance understanding of the green economy concept and increase action towards green entrepreneurship by providing a platform for student-student and student-professional interactions.

The students also got an opportunity to share and document their sustainability initiatives in their various countries while laying a foundation for a green economy. A special workshop on green

entrepreneurship was held on the last day of the summit.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice Chancellor- Academic Affairs congratulated the students for dedicating their time and energy on looking for solutions directed towards environmental sustainability.

In attendance was Hon. Amb. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs and Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP are among those who were present.

Nickson Otieno, President, WSCSD, delivers his speech



Needy students to benefit from Rattansi bursaries

The Rattansi Educational Trust recently donated Kshs 12,466,890.00 to support needy students in local institutions of higher learning.

The University of Nairobi was the main beneficiary getting over Kshs 2.3 million to support needy students. The donations were made by the Trust's Chairperson, Mrs Vijoo Rattansi in a function at the University of Nairobi, attended by representatives of public and private institutions of higher learning.

Speaking during the disbursement ceremony, Mrs Rattansi pledged that the Trust will continue supporting higher education in the country by financing the needy students. In what is an annual event, many institutions of higher learning in Kenya, have over the last 56 years received bursaries to support needy students from the



Philanthropist Vijoo Rattansi signs the visitors book in the Vice-Chancellors office.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha receives a cheque of 2.3M from Mrs Vijoo Rattansi to support needy students.

The trust has been contributing to the development of the country through investing in young people and eradicating poverty by funding the education of needy students.

Rattansi Educational Trust. The Trust has been contributing to the development of the country through investing in young people and eradicating poverty by funding the education of needy students.

Speaking on behalf of the University of Nairobi, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, thanked Mrs Rattansi for the support she has been extending to higher learning institutions over the years and challenged other Kenyans to emulate her example.

There was pomp and celebration in August 2012, when 5,550 graduands, consisting of 2,173 women and 3,376 men were conferred with degrees and awarded diplomas during the 47th graduation ceremony presided over by Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui, the Chancellor of the University. The ceremony drew graduands from the Colleges of: Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences; Architecture and Engineering; Biological and Physical Sciences; and, Education and External Studies.

Addressing the congregation, the Chancellor reminded the graduands that while the University was releasing them to a world full of challenges, they had been well equipped with skills to enable them surmount any of the challenges. He said, "The knowledge gained over the years is the power you now have to conquer the world. It is from you that we expect to see more enterprise, innovation and solutions to some of our most pressing needs, no doubt you will soon have more skills, responsibility and authority than you have hitherto imagined. The power may even turn

your heads, but always remember that power without responsibility is dangerous."

Dr Wanjui congratulated the management and staff of UoN for their hard work that saw the University clinch position one in the 2010/2011 Performance Contract. He called for more team work and commitment, and the desire to work harder and excel, because excellence in performance is about re-energizing oneself to new experiences and better practices of management.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoa commended the graduands saying that they had worked hard, diligently and smartly. He announced that in 2012 alone, the University had signed 11 MoUs with various industries which will provide internship for students and research opportunities for staff. He assured the congregation that the University would strive harder to remain a model institution of higher learning in the country, the region and the world at large, which is one of the tenets of Kenya Vision 2030.

Others who addressed the Congregation were the



Thousands graduate during the 47th Congregation

Chairman of the University Council Mr. John Simba and the Chairperson of University of Nairobi Alumni Association Medicine Chapter, Dr. Cleopa Mailu. The best overall student, Maimuna Hussein, who studied Industrial Chemistry in the School of Physical Sciences, also addressed the Congregation.

The graduation ceremony took place against a

background of great expectations from society for universities to provide the much needed guidance in the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030. The pillars of the Vision hinge on the improvement of the socio-economic and political well being of the citizens. The University of Nairobi has the capacity to be part of driving this country into realizing this vision.



Wallace Chwalla realizes his dream in a meeting with UN Secretary General, Banki Moon.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha receives the Vice President of Tanzania during the IUCEA Exhibition in Arusha.



ICT director Ibrahim Otieno shows how it is done during the ICT tree planting day.



Launch of the Nairobi Surgical Skills Centre at Chiromo Campus.



A section of the crowd that attended the Ford Foundation's lecture at Taifa Hall.



The 47th graduation Valedictorian Maimuna Hussein.



Hon James Orengo, Minister for Lands, & Hon. Chirau Mwakwere, Minister for Environment & Mineral Resources with participants to the World Youth Forum for Sustainability.



H.E Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Assistant Secretary- General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), signs the visitors book in the Vice-Chancellors office.

2012 EFMD Africa Conference held at School of Business

The University of Nairobi School of Business and Strathmore Business School co-hosted the third European Foundation of Management Development (EFMD) Africa Conference which drew participants from local and international top business schools. The theme for the conference was "Sustainable Business Education Appropriate for

Africa."

The annual event, which was sponsored by EFMD and Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC), brought together Harvard Business School, IESE Business School, Lagos Business School, Angola Business School, South Africa's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), among others.

Making a presentation at the Conference, Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chairman, Comcraft Group, challenged participants to instill business and entrepreneurial skills in their business students and to equip them to fill glaring gaps in Africa's business environment. Through his presentation on 'The role of business schools in Africa', Dr. Chandaria shared his family's business success story and the role education plays in business. His passion for entrepreneurship is felt through the Chandaria Foundation which is sponsoring innovation and incubation centres and setting up business schools in Kenya.

During the opening session, Mr. Stephen Nzuve, the Dean, School

of Business, welcomed the participants to the University of Nairobi and introduced the School which is among the top business schools in Kenya offering business programmes that are addressing the rising needs of the nation. He commended the initiative by EFMD to engage business schools in discussions on how to contribute to Africa's growth.

The conference discussed the role of business schools in Africa, partnerships, management development powering development, income streams, governance among others. EFMD is the leading global network for business schools and companies, and GMAC, a council of the world's leading business schools and the owner of the GMAT examination, have been at the forefront of raising the standards of management education and development around the world. The participants were drawn from local and international business schools.



The conference discussed the role of business schools in Africa, partnerships, management development powering development, income streams, governance among others.

Dr. Manu Chandaria makes his presentation.

Student Engineer meets the UN Secretary General



Wallace Chwala 2nd right with Ban ki Moon UN Secretary General, and other delegates during the Model UN Meeting.

To be part of a great event stays with a man, this is what inspires Wallace Chwala, student of engineering, who travelled to New York, last August, where he met the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. Chwala narrates his experiences to Varsity Focus.

I have always been fascinated by the ideals, policies, functions and mandate of the United Nations and so the opportunity of meeting the United Nations Secretary General was a dream come true to me and moreover to any student who is involved with a Model United Nations Programme has

been like a miracle.

When I got the invitation to meet the UN Chief, I was excited, "in life there are no limits to our potentials, indeed the only limits to our potentials is oneself". For someone brought up in an ordinary home, the thought that one day I would lunch with the UN Chief, on the same table, enjoying the same food, laughing at the same jokes whilst talking as if we are old friends, was never envisaged. Then one day, viola, before me, as true and real as life itself, it happened.

From one United Nations

"I have always been fascinated by the ideals, policies, functions and mandate of the United Nations and so the opportunity of meeting the United Nations Secretary General, was a dream."

headquarters to another, from Nairobi to New York, from my interactions and meetings with all the amicable and very social United Nations senior Officials to the friendships that I forged with other

international students, has been an experience. Many of us have dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow, and everyone is striving to play a part in making positive sustainable changes and being that pivotal change that all want to see in the world around.

Back to my meeting with the UN Chief, I believe that the UN Chief believes in the youth and the potential that they possess. It was amazing and inspirational to listen to his story of his childhood days during the war in South Korea and the assistance that the United Nations played in restoring peace to his homeland. This was the time that the "United Nations bug" bit him and he started developing an interest in the United Nations. Little did the world know that little boy was going to be the United Nations Chief one day, one time.

My experiences at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and my meeting with the United Nations Secretary General, have made it clear to me that we all have a role to play in making our world a better place for all humanity and that what we believe and work hard and tirelessly not for personal gain but for the benefit of humanity.

Regional Economic Outlook launched at UoN



Antoinette Sayah, Director-African Department, IMF, arrives at the University.



Sayah hands over a report to a UoN member of staff.

For the third consecutive time, the University of Nairobi's School of Economics, hosted the launch ceremony for the annual Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Education Theatre II, on 22 October, 2012. The School is one of the leading centres of excellence in undergraduate and graduate training in economics in Eastern Africa

During the launch

“The importance that the launch had as a forum for students of economics to get a better understanding of the economic performance of the region, africa and the world at large.”

ceremony, which drew large numbers of students, lecturers and the public; various presentations and discussions on topics touching on the economy were made. Speaking to the gathering, Prof. Jane Mariara, the Director of the School, noted the importance that the launch had as a forum for students of economics to get a better understanding of the economic performance of the region, Africa and the world at large. The School is one of the leading centres of excellence in undergraduate and graduate training in economics in Eastern Africa.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation by Antoinette Sayah, Director-African Department, IMF, on 'maintaining growth in an uncertain world, and Sean Nolan's presentation on 'Structural Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa.' Others who spoke included Peter Gakunu, Chairman, SACCO Regulatory Authority and Ben Onger, from the School of Economics, UoN.

Library department open week kicks off



“Taking the University of Nairobi Library to the users for innovative teaching, learning, research and community services/ consultancy,”

The University of Nairobi, Library open week, was launched in a colorful ceremony, in November, 2012. Dubbed “Taking the University of Nairobi Library to the users for innovative teaching, learning, research and community services/ consultancy.” The open week aimed at marketing the library services in support of education,

training, research and to enhance the visibility of the University.

During the launch, Hudson Liyai, Deputy University librarian, noted that the three-day programme was part of the Library’s initiative to realize the improvement of the library users awareness on the latest development in information services.

The programme ran simultaneously in the Colleges of: Education and External Studies, Health Sciences, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

The open week promoted the Open Access initiative, which is a worldwide movement aimed at harnessing the sharing and dissemination of information globally. Indeed, a survey

conducted last year, revealed that the usage of library materials is low and that electronic resources have been under- utilized. The UoN library subscribes to over 50,000 journals, 60,000 e-Books including reference materials and 750,000 print resources.



H.E. President Mwai Kibaki hands over the trophy of the best institution of higher learning in developing advanced technology to Committee Chairman, Dr. Fred Otieno.

UoN records excellent performance in trade fair

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has done it again, during the 2012 Nairobi International Trade Fair, the University scooped the first position in three categories and second position in two categories, scoring a composite score of 88.7 per cent.

UoN received top prizes from the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. President Mwai Kibaki for emerging the best research and education stand, the best institution of higher learning in developing advanced technology and the best

stand in development research.

The University also received 29 first prizes, 29 second prizes and 9 third prizes in the farm and produce category and was the overall supreme champion for the pigs' category. The University also scored second position in the best university stand category and the best engineering based institution of higher learning category.

During the trade fair, different departments participated in providing and sharing information with stakeholders among them potential students,

parents and the general public on our programmes, services and role in national development.

On display at the University stands were research innovations, food crops and farm animals in line with this year's trade fair theme- 'Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth.'

Among the many visitors who visited the UoN stand were Mr. John Simba, the Chairman, University Council and Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs among others.

UON staff display some of the trophies garnered during the trade fair.



CJ interacts with University community

In August 2012, the Chief Justice of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga challenged universities in Kenya to retain their true heritage and go back to their roots and be more vocal in national development.

Speaking during a public lecture held at the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall which he described as 'a place of rich history of intellectual debate dating back to close to 40 years ago', he called on universities to reclaim their territory in national development.

Reflecting on university life in yester years, Dr. Mutunga said universities were at the forefront in national debate and immensely contributed to implementing changes in the country. However,



Chief Justice, Willy Mutunga signs the visitors book at the University.

the tide has changed and Kenya's development has paid a hefty price for the poor systems and structures in place. He noted that with the commercialization of university education, Kenyans with the potential to bring change to the country have been locked out of accessing higher education. For a developing country, this is a risky state of affairs as the country needs to see the sense that the production of knowledge is for the benefit of the individual self and the public. Universities need to look for other ways of funding".

He called on individuals

"Universities were at the forefront in national debate and immensely contributed to implementing changes in the country."

and organizations to make endowments for scholarships. The university needs to reassert itself in the world of theory building and contribution. He pointed out that universities are not islands and that they

need to work with other stakeholders to realize their mandates.

The CJ challenged the younger generation in Kenya to take up its role in nation building. His generation pushed for the new constitution and now it is up to the young generation to make this constitution work for the nation. On the upcoming general elections, Justice Mutunga called on Kenyans to reflect on the 2008 post-election chaos, and shun violence and embrace the constitution.

Student politics did not



Justice Mutunga (centre) with Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha and former Vice-Chancellor Prof. Francis Gichaga.

go unmentioned. Back in his days, the Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) played a significant role in opening up the democratic space in Kenya. Unfortunately, university student organizations in the present day have been compromised thereby stopped contributing to national development. He pointed out the need to ensure that student politics is driven by ethics and that university leadership should uphold the values of the constitution. Universities should seek to

He pointed out the need to ensure that student politics is driven by ethics and that university leadership should uphold the values of the constitution.

nurture student leadership that reflect these values as standards for public leadership are very high.

The Chief Justice said that he was still passionate about teaching in the university after his term. He looked forward to being associated with liberal institutions that have a democratic foundation- a university that is free from the vile and

vicious political persecution of thought. He said that he would like to come back to a university that is intellectually active where the notice boards are filled with numerous notices of knowledge driven seminars and lectures and no other businesses. Universities must be cautious of the aspirations of people and these aspirations must be protected.

The well attended interactive public lecture not only attracted University students and staff but the general public as well. Some of Kenya’s senior judges, most of whom are UoN’s alumni, graced the event.

The Chief Justice was introduced by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. George Magoha, who observed that the University has been interacting with the public and private sector, as part of its role to engage in intellectual discourse.

The public lecture marked the start of the Judicial Marches Week, whose theme was “Taking Justice to the people.” The marches week which will be held annually, is an opportunity for those privileged to serve in the Judiciary to open up to the public; explain to them how they work and get feedback from the people on how to improve their services.

The Judiciary is working towards becoming a knowledge based institution. The intersection between justice and knowledge can be developed through partnerships between the judiciary and the scholars thereby realizing collective wisdom on research on the constitution and the laws.

USHEPiA reflects on its role in advocating scholarships



USHEPiA executive meeting at UoN.

Since its inception, 77 full degree fellowships have been in operation and 52 degrees awarded

In October, 2012, the University of Nairobi (UoN) hosted the USHEPiA Advisory Committee's meeting at the Vice-Chancellor's Boardroom. USHEPiA was initiated as a body to build institutional and human capacity in African universities and promote collaboration amongst African researchers. The programme partnership comprises the Universities

of Botswana, Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Makerere University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

During the meeting it was noted that since its inception, 77 full degree fellowships have been in operation and 52 degrees awarded, while eight fellows are yet to complete their studies. USHEPiA is

particularly proud that the programme is making a significant contribution to capacity development for higher education in Africa.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation supported the initiative with initial funding for fellowships in science and engineering. In addition, the Andrew W Mellon Foundation was approached to extend the programme to offer fellowships in the humanities and social sciences.

Those present during the meeting included Prof. George A.O. Magoha, UoN, Prof. Ddumba Ssentamu, Makerere University and Prof. Rwekaza Mukandala, University of Dar es Salaam. Prof. Thandabantu Nhlapo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UCT, Norma Derby, USHEPiA Administrator UCT and Humphrey Webuye, USHEPiA Contact Officer, UoN.

The University of Nairobi prides itself in being an institution of higher learning committed to scholarly excellence. Over the years, UoN has put in place systems and structures that have contributed to the effective management of the institution and improved the quality of service provision. To this end, the University has recorded excellent performance not only locally but also internationally ..

It is because of this tradition of being a point of reference for other institutions in the region, that a team of senior officials from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, visited UoN for a four-day study tour.

The team which was led by Prof. Foster Byarugaba, shared experiences and gathered information on some of the important UoN management processes and structures such as the institutional arrangements in place. The taskforce was interested in engaging top management on issues of governance, the leadership role played by the University in Kenya and the East African region. The team was also keen on how UoN manages its staff and students' affairs.

Makerere University taskforce visit UoN



Visiting delegation from Makerere University.

During the study tour, the Makerere University team visited the six colleges where they interacted with key UoN officials including the college principals. They also met officials from the Student Welfare Authority, University of Nairobi Pension Scheme and the Higher Education Loans Board.

Through the tour, the taskforce was able to identify areas that have worked well for UoN and with the information gathered, the team will

The UoN has maintained this tradition of being a point of reference for other institutions in the region.

make recommendations that can possibly be implemented in Makerere. UoN's team also got an opportunity to learn from Makerere.

Before setting out, the taskforce paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, represented by Prof.

Peter Mbithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance. In attendance was Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice chancellor, Academic Affairs and Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension.

Raising women in decision making: A WOSWA challenge



WOSWA members during the launch of the university social media challenge.

WOSWA had the privilege of being invited to the launch of the EAC Inter-University social media challenge. This is an initiative by The Trademark East Africa and The Ministry of East Africa Community, in partnership with The East African Community Students Union. The campaign dubbed 'Connect, Vuka Border' is the first of its kind in Kenya and the East Africa region as it is based purely on social and digital media, specifically Facebook and Twitter and, involves 13 major universities in Kenya.

"The university challenge comes at a time when the Ministry of East Africa Community has embarked on a campaign to educate Kenyans on the benefits of integration and the progress made so far in making integration a reality," said the Minister for East Africa Community, Honourable Musa Sirma during the launch held at The Multimedia University College East Africa.

"This is an exciting campaign whereby we are engaging the students on social media to constructively discuss what

can build them. We are fortunate that this is coming when Kenya has just been appointed to head the East Africa Community Students' Union in the recent election held in Arusha," said the EACSU President, George Yogo.

Women in East Africa continue to be marginalized in the decision-making processes and have limited access to education, information and communication technologies in comparison to their male counterparts. Failure to involve the

women in the development process constitutes a major hindrance to regional integration.

The East African landscape has vastly changed over the past decade in regard to the situation of women. Despite the apparent slow take-off and modest gains, the countries of the region are steadfastly pursuing policies for the promotion of women's access to development roles, opportunities and resources.

Rwanda, for instance, has become the first country in the world where women



WOSWA members during an open forum with stakeholders at the Great Court.

already outnumber men in parliament; and Kenya has promulgated one of the world's most progressive Bill Of Rights, with liberal provisions for women's rights. These are no mean achievements. A highly progressive trend is discernible in the empowerment of women, and the contribution and full participation in the socio-economic transformation of their countries and of the East African region as a whole.

It is pleasant to note that this is the essence of the recommendations of the historic first EAC

Conference on the Role of Women in Socio-economic Development and in Business, which was held in Kigali in August last year. Dovetailing into the overarching EAC Strategic and Action Plan on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development, the Kigali recommendations have reinforced the recognition of the place and role of women at the cutting edge of the EAC's development challenge. A solid foundation has been prepared and the stage is set for the full participation of women in the EAC regional integration and

development process in the period ahead.

Our greatest challenge is to steady the course and maintain the momentum. We need to embrace a great shared responsibility to heighten the visibility and virility of the women in the development enterprise.

This is why WOSWA is involved in the social media drive which aims to educate the youth on the integration process, raise awareness on the benefits they stand to gain from it and report on the progress made so far in making it a reality.

By putting emphasis on

the women's participation, it could instantly reduce poverty levels by half and thereafter rapidly advance towards the realization of our region's higher development goals.

It is in this context that the 'East Africa Women in Business Platform and Strategic Plan', which is well structured will yield focused, practical and action oriented applications in empowering women and put gender mainstreaming firmly at the centre of the development agenda with regard to the goals of women's liberation and emancipation for the rapid development of our region.

UON's Google Ambassadors record impressive performance

University of Nairobi's newly constituted Google Student Ambassadors Team, Awesome, is already causing ripples in the world of technology in Africa after scooping top positions in two competitions. The team comprises of lead ambassador Isaac Muuo, a 2nd year Bachelor of Law student and 3rd year Computer Science students Paul Nyaga and Sylvia Karanja.

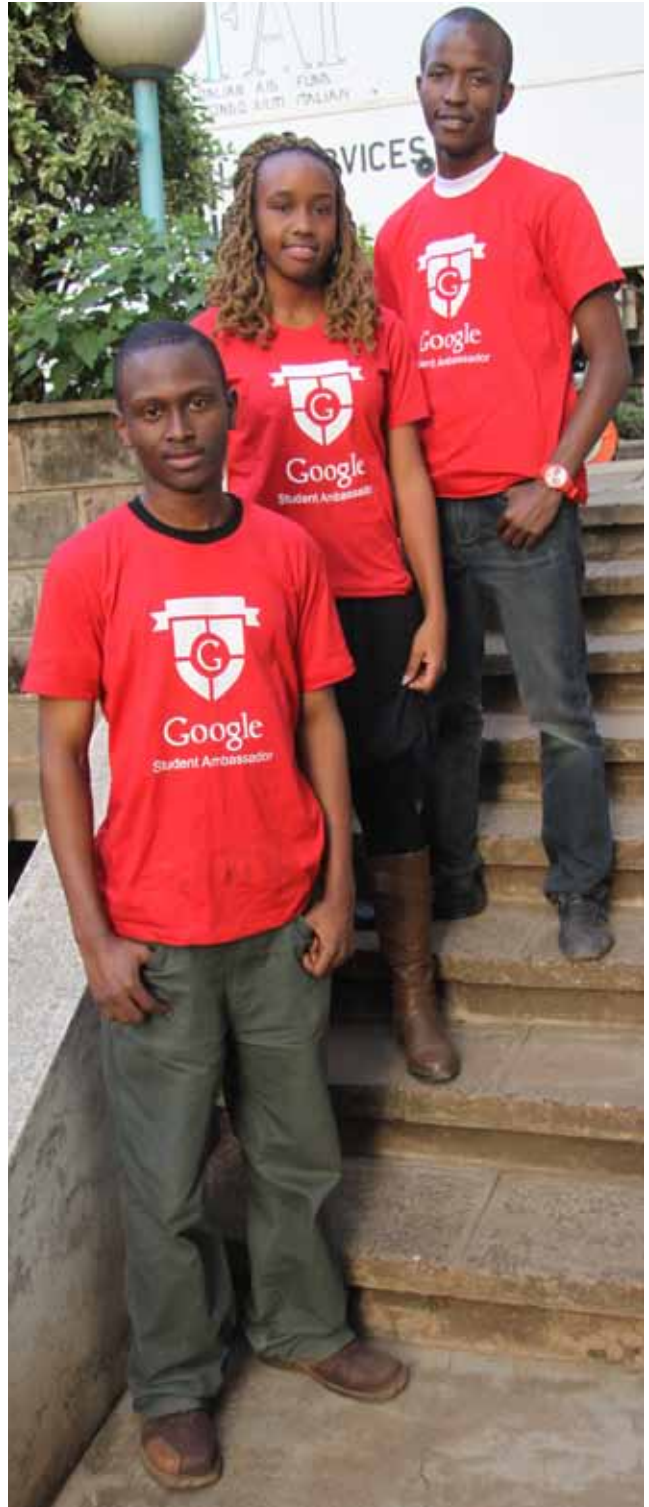
Team Awesome came first in a debate dubbed "How can we use technology to promote sustainable development?" The discussion aimed at encouraging African students and the youth in general to seize the internet as a global stage for creating positive change in every aspect of human life with emphasis on ubiquitously available Google products such as Google search, YouTube and Google Plus.

In addition, the team emerged second in Africa during the recent gsamapafrika competition

after having contributed 1600+ mapping edits of the University. The competition attracted over 2,000 students from 65 universities in 11 African countries.

The students were first trained on mapmaking, after which they were given tasks that included weeklong mapping exercises focusing on campus departments and faculties, lecture theatres, laboratories, banks, libraries, hostels, cafeterias, administrative buildings and more. University students, staff and the surrounding community can now access different locations within the campuses through Google maps.

According to Muuo, the young ambassadors are working towards hosting different fun filled events to introduce the University to new Google tools, technologies and create awareness about Google opportunities for university staff and students. The team has already held a fun-filled and informative training session for UoN class representatives and club



officials in a bid to ensure that all clubs are online and classes embrace the latest Google technologies to enhance communication and collaboration. Already over 50 university clubs are online and awaiting linkages with College level websites.

Besides the competitions, the Google Ambassadors also attended the 2012 Google Student Ambassador Sub-Saharan Africa Summit that saw

170 students from 12 Sub-Saharan Africa countries representing over 100 universities converge in Nairobi. The three - day summit covered interactive sessions on different Google products including Google Apps for Education and Map Maker.

The Google Student Ambassador (GSA) Program is an opportunity for students to serve as liaisons between Google and their universities. Google

launched the programme in July 2011 as part of its commitment to empower the African academic community with knowledge, infrastructure and tools to access information easily and effectively. This year the program has grown by 150 percent from last year and is without doubt going to help bring Africa online.

Social Media Clubs launched at UoN



Four students from the School of Business have conceptualized and spearheaded the formation of social media clubs dubbed 'SocialPro Clubs' in universities across the country. This has been made possible through Social Edge Africa, a social media consultancy company based in Nairobi.

Speaking to Varsity Focus, Muthuri Kinyama, 24, and the founder and business director at Social Edge Africa says that the core objective of these clubs is to teach, educate, create awareness and impart knowledge and skills of various disciplines

of social media platforms to the university students. The initiative seeks to develop a talent pool of graduates with a solid understanding of new media to bridge the knowledge gap and demand that is there today for people with skills and expertise in various disciplines of social media.

The initiative was endorsed by the Ministry of Information and Technology and officially launched by Dr. Bitange Ndemo, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, on 25th, October, 2012, at the University of Nairobi, School of Business.

The Social Media Clubs



Celebrating the launch of Social Media Clubs.

will work with marketing and business information students association of the University of Nairobi, and four universities in Nairobi over in November 2012, before being rolled out to other universities and campuses across the country in January 2013. The Social Media Clubs will combine efforts with the marketing, PR and IT clubs in the proposed universities.

The aims of the clubs is

to unlock the potential of social media to the students and expose them to the limitless possibilities that online technology offers, including integrating social media networking sites in teaching, to ease content sharing and make learning more fun.

As part of the programme, social media ambassadors will be recruited in a campaign dubbed "**BE A SOCIALPRO.**"

Role of alumni in university advancement

Alumni are the past graduates of the University, College or Schools University Advancement is the bonding relationships between the university and affinity groups including the alumni that contribute to the University's vision and mission – positive relationship building aligned with the university's strategy. It is a relatively new concept in Africa and yet we have no choice but to embrace it considering the changing landscape of higher education in Africa.

According to Dr. Max Price, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town and Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pretoria, many things are changing in the higher education sector in Africa and hence the need for new strategies. There is decline in government funding in many African countries and hence reliance on students fees as source of income which is not sustainable and hence the need for multiple sources of funds. Another feature is the rate of economic growth which is creating new wealth and the result is massification of higher education in Africa as a key driver to social and economic development thus putting pressure on the available resources and leaving little time for innovation. There is also the new scramble for Africa by China among others, because of the new discoveries of oil, reduced conflict and military action and hence there is high hope and optimism for Africa. This has created new opportunities for higher education in Africa and hence the need to craft strategies that enable



Waiting for new responsibilities after graduation

universities take advantage of the opportunities.

World Class Universities Endowment Fund

The University Endowment Fund is the best investment that Alumni can ever make for the University. Endowment Funds provide steady financial support for the university's academic programmes and other needs. Endowment funds are invested for the long-term, and earnings from those investments help support outstanding faculty, innovative programs and student scholarships. A university's endowment is essential to sustaining academic quality because it provides

a guaranteed, never-ending source of income to support professorships, student scholarships, innovative programs and learning opportunities. Donors don't support institutions that have needs but those that meet needs! Donors who contribute to the endowment do so because they want to support the university and positively impact students and academic programmes 25, 50 or 100 years from now.

An ancient Chinese proverb says "If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people."

Compare and contrast the following Top Ten List of colleges and universities in the United States by endowment (2005-2011) and see what we can learn from them, majority being Ivy League Universities.

	Institution	Universities/Colleges Endowment Fund in USA						
		(2005)	(2006)	(2007)	(2008)	(2009)	(2010)	(2011)
		billion USD	billion USD	billion USD	billion USD	billion USD	billion USD	billion USD
1	Harvard University	\$25.47	\$28.92	\$34.64	\$36.56	\$25.662	\$27.557	\$31.728
2	Stanford University	\$12.20	\$14.09	\$17.17	\$17.200	\$12.619	\$13.851	\$19.700
3	Yale University	\$15.22	\$18.03	\$22.53	\$22.870	\$16.327	\$16.652	\$19.374
4	University of Texas System (system-wide)	\$11.61	\$13.24	\$15.61	\$16.111	\$12.163	\$14.052	\$17.149
5	Princeton University	\$11.21	\$13.05	\$15.79	\$16.349	\$12.614	\$14.391	\$17.110
6	MIT	\$6.71	\$8.37	\$9.98	\$10.069	\$7.982	\$8.317	\$9.713
7	University of Michigan	\$4.93	\$5.65	\$7.09	\$7.572	\$6.001	\$6.564	\$7.835
8	Columbia University	\$5.19	\$5.94	\$7.15	\$7.15	\$5.893	\$6.517	\$7.790
9	Northwestern University	\$4.22	\$5.14	\$6.50	\$7.244	\$5.445	\$5.945	\$7.183
10	Texas A&M University System (system-wide)	\$4.96	\$5.64	\$6.59	\$6.659	\$5.084	\$5.738	\$7.000

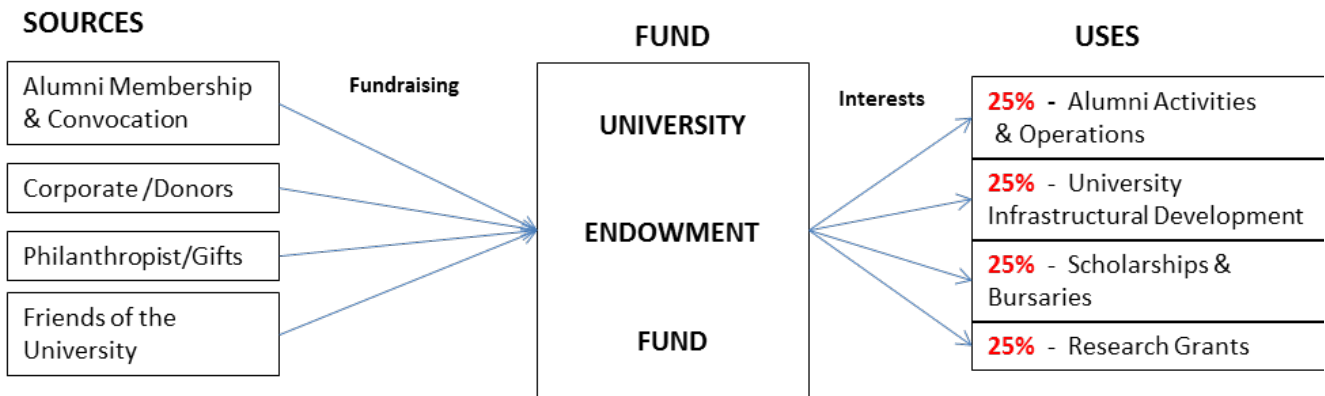
Source: Wikipedia

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “If America is to remain a first class nation; it cannot afford to have second class citizens” conversely, if the University of Nairobi is to become a world class university, it cannot afford not to have an endowment”. The inference is that, there is a direct correlation between the university endowment and world class distinction status because a university is able to meet its needs in terms of research, infrastructure and investment in its students’ welfare.

Role of Alumni in Advancement

Because the government funding and students schools fees are not sustainable methods for advancing higher education in Africa, there is need to cultivate a third stream of income given that higher education will be a key driver towards social-economic development in the Emerging Africa. This is where University Advancement comes in. Advancement includes alumni relations, fundraisings, public relations,

communications and marketing. The University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) hopes to be a key strategic player in the University Advancement by mobilizing resources from the alumni membership and convocation fees, corporate and donors’ funds, philanthropists and gifts from friends of the University. However, we must invest in our current students (future alumni) apart from the academic credentials with skills, values and virtues that will enable them to clinch top notch jobs,



align their careers with realities in the job markets, invest in psychometric and assessment centres to help them discover their passion and potential while still in the University, carry out leadership assessments, develop them and provide them with opportunities to deploy their passion, skills and competence in terms of internship and industrial attachments. We want our graduates to be the best and most sought after in the global market.

Conclusion

The following is a simple model of how we intend to raise the funds, invest it in a University Endowment Fund and use its interests to finance the alumni activities and operations, help in the infrastructural development (including the Alumni Centre), scholarships and bursaries and research grants, all aligned to the University’s strategy.

Our mission in the next 1-2 years will be to mobilize Kshs 1 billion as seed capital towards this Fund. If 1000 CEOs, who are alumni/friends of the University of Nairobi investing only Kshs 1 million towards this University

Endowment Fund from their CSR kitty, that will give us a billion shillings as seed capital , is a good investment for any company to make. If we endow this money at 15% annually, that will yield shs 150 million annually in perpetuity, thus allocating Kshs 37.5 million (25%) to spend in alumni and fundraising activities and operations, and similar portions for infrastructural

development, scholarship and bursaries and research grants respectively. The UONAA focus in the next 1-2 years will be to ask from all our stakeholders (alumni, corporates, foundations, donors, philanthropists and friends of the University) and ask them rightly in order to grow this fund that will help us grow our people and ultimately help us achieve our Vision 2030.

- “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing and the worst thing you can do is nothing” president theodore roosevelt.
- “Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve. Thoughts are things! And powerful things at that, when mixed with definiteness of purpose, and burning desire, they can be translated into riches” napoleon hill



QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Nairobi is committed to quality as the guiding principle in its decision making and leadership in the provision of university education and related services to its customers.

To realise this, the University management shall regularly monitor and review its performance for continual improvement and suitability by implementing an effective quality management system based on ISO 9001 standard.



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