

Giving Back to our Alma Mater

Message by Dr. Betty Gikonyo

On the occasion of the 39th Graduation Ceremony, we as University of Nairobi Alumni, are indeed glad to join others in congratulating class of 2008 for this excellent achievement.

We join the University of Nairobi community in congratulating the three honourable recipients of honorary degrees today. The recognition of the immense contribution towards peace in the country by these three distinguished persons early this year, cannot be over emphasized. As this graduation ceremony theme states, a peaceful environment is indeed a must for academic excellence.

We are therefore proud to welcome H.E.^{24ppon} President Mwai Kibaki, the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister Raila Odinga and H.E. Dr. Kofi Annan

to the fellowship and service of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association. Three years down the line, the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) has become a household name.



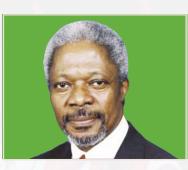
eed a must for academic excellence.Medical Chapter Launch July 2007 L-R Ben Waweru, Prof.We are therefore proud to welcomeH.E.

Today, many educational institutions in the country have embraced the spirit of alumni and established alumni associations. These associations provide a legal framework for giving back and *cont. on page 4*

Honoured



H.E. President Mwai Kibaki.





Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga.

H.E. Dr. Kofi Annan

A t the 39th Graduation Ceremony on Friday October 17 2008, the University of Nairobi is bestowing honory degrees to President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and former United Nations Secretary- General Dr. Kofi Annan, for among other things, their contribution to the prevailing peace in Kenya.

An honorary degree (*Honoris Causa* The UONAA welco *Latin: "for the sake of the honour"*) is of our *Alma Mater.*

conferred as a way of honouring a person's distinguished contributions to a specific field, or to society in general. The University of Nairobi has over the years conferred honorary degrees on persons it considers merit the award for distinguished service in the pursuit of knowledge and development.

The UONAA welcomes them as worthy alumni of our *Alma Mater*.

DITORIA

Aiming for the next level

lumni of any institution form a critical cog in its development and through their association, opportunities that engage them to meet their challenges are created. With a strong commitment to quality and collaboration, the Alumni Association is recognized in the University community and beyond, as a dynamic and responsive organization in which to volunteer and work.

The University's 2008-2013 Strategic Plan recognizes alumni as key stakeholders in its implementation and in mobilizing resources as it navigates the road to World-Class Excellence. The alumni act as a tool to achieving a key objective of strengthening the existing partnerships and linkages by reinvigorating the Alumni Association and establishing a sustainable plan of action.

Since the launch of the Association in 2005, membership has grown from 75 to over 16000 with a cumulative fund of over 30 Million Shillings. Some of these funds have been used to finance student activities, purchase of teaching and social facilities, the launch of alumni chapters and an annual alumni academic award. The long-term objective is to create an endowment fund and spend the interest to sponsor needy students and establish chairs of research. To this end, the Association has donated 5 million shillings to the University. It is hoped that this gesture will be emulated by alumni in the corporate world, whose support will be reciprocated through branding.

The Association will continue to play an integral role in the institution and in the lives of its alumni and communities in which they live. In collaboration with other units in the institution, the Association seeks to create a vibrant, competitive university research center in which students excel, and then as successful alumni, continue to actively participate in and support their alma mater- demonstrating pride and a strong commitment with ongoing gifts of their time, expertise and other resources.

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FROM THE ALUMNI.

I graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, (Second Class Honours, Lower division). I want to be included in the alumni. Thank you.

Lawrence Agoi Ongiya



њ

Dear Alumni Office,

My name is Jane Muturi an undergraduate in Social Work, 1985 and MA 1992. I currently live in USA and I am interested to find out whether you have a chapter here and what the contacts are. Please let me know if you have a chapter in United States and if not, if we can start one. We are a number of us and are interested in starting one. Let me know the mechanisms. Jane

Jane.

By now you should have received my response on your earlier email. We do not have a chapter in USA but would gladly appreciate if a chapter was started there. We are overwhelmed by the goodwill out there towards your alma mater, University of Nairobi as we pursue the quest to become a World- class university. Many graduates have taken the step to retrace their footprints at the university. You and others too can be part of this wonderful cause of giving back!

Go for it and start modalities to launch a chapter over there and my office is available to ensure the chapter is recognized as part and parcel of the International Association. Registration can commence through EFT to our UONAA Acccount No.271520761, Kenya Commercial Bank, University Way Branch. Once your registration fee is received, we shall mail you the certificate and membership card to you through the given

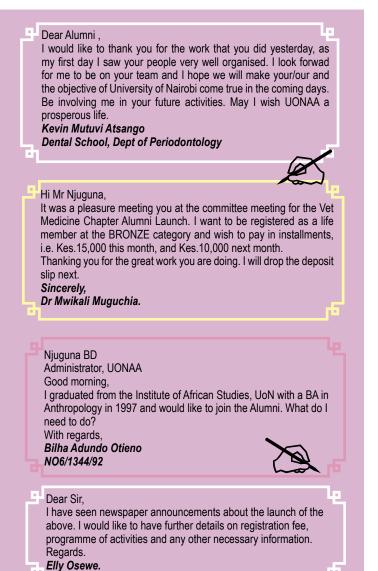
address. Attached please find a registration form for your use, and which you can download for others. Welcome to service.

B D Njuguna Administrator University of Nairobi Alumni Association The University of Nairobi embraced performance contracting in Performance contracting takes root



Improved environment

2005/2006, when the first Performance Contract was signed between the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education and the University of Nairobi Council. The University has been on Performance Contract in subsequent years



to-date.

Like in some other institutions, performance contracting in the initial period was regarded with a bit of suspicion mostly because the process was not properly understood. Indeed many departments and staff thought this was another route to retrench staff. Later on, agencies on Performance Contract realized that the Performance Contract process had definite advantages once they understood that it was about defined and measurable performance.

A key component of performance contracting – actually the underlying theme, is improved service delivery, both to external and internal customers.

At the University of Nairobi like in other agencies, the preparations of the performance contract is guided by the existing Strategic Plan, 2008–2013. It is the strategic objectives contained in the strategic plan, and the strategies adopted for their realization, that guide us in preparing the performance indicators and matching targets. Ultimately, the performance contract enables us to stay on track in the sense of realizing and achieving the targets contained in the Strategic Plan.

Since the initial performance contract of 2005/2006, the University has noted definite improvements in services and performance in our various units.

For example, enhanced revenue generation has enabled the University to allocate more resources to development expenditure, therefore improving the development index ratio. With the increased allocation, the University has been able to revive some of the previously stalled projects e.g. Millennium Halls and computer laboratory in Chiromo Campus, Library and offices in College of Education and External Studies (Kikuyu Campus), and Lower Kabete campus among others.

In addition to the above, the University undertook and completed new projects e.g. Construction of a 2 hectares car park behind 8:4:4 Building at Main Campus, putting cabroworks to Chancellors drive at Graduation Court and erecting a perimeter fence at the boundary with Central Police Station. The University further acquired two (2) new buildings in Mombasa and Kisumu at a total cost of Kshs.230 million.

In the area of service delivery innovations, there is a marked improvement, in relation to data and information processing, through the operationalization of a new accounting system, a new look University website, installation of VOIP system in all campuses and integration of students information system into the website and mobile telephones.

Overall, the performance contracting process has led to a remarkable change in attitude to work ethics by staff. It has also created a radical paradigm shift in the management of the University by aligning service delivery with core values and addressing customer needs.

Association boosts students' Welfare

A s the University's hospitality wing, Students Welfare Authority (SWA) supports the academic objectives by providing accommodation and catering services to students and other customers. In this connection, SWA mandate is to ensure that students have a conducive and relaxed environment



UONAA Team (Right) presenting benches to SWA

for their academic objectives.

Several projects have been undertaken within SWA in the last few years that include comprehensive renovations and beautification programmes in the halls of residence, creating gardena and parks.

The Alumni Association has boosted SWA endeavourer to enhance students' welfare. In July and September this year the Association presented 31 concrete lawn seats to the Authority. The Administrator Mr. B. D. Njuguna presented the seats to be placed in the students rest gardens and other strategic areas where students can relax while they enjoy evening breeze and drinks from their Students Centers.

The director SWA, Mr. Robert Lugwe and his chief officers were at hand to receive the precious gift from the association. In his remarks the Administrator Mr. Njuguna promised that the Association will work with SWA to make the lives of students a comfortable and enjoyable experience at the University.

With this gesture, the Alumni Association proved that they are ready to partner with the University to improve the welfare of students. This is a common practice within the Alumni fraternity and policy where they say, *"what can I do to my university"*.

Continued from page 1

complementing government effo. supporting education in the country. This has gone a long way to prove that the University of Nairobi continues to provide leadership in academic excellence.

Further, the recent ISO 9001:2000 certification of the University of Nairobi based on the Quality Management System standards is a clear testimony of its commitment to timely provision of quality service as guided by International Standards. As alumni, we are indeed proud and congratulate our alma mater for this outstanding achievement.

Links

The Association aims at providing the link between the University and industry, marshal the skills, experience and human resources of the alumni to assist the institution strengthen its position as the centre of academic excellence in the region.

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association provides a forum through which the alumni participate in promotion of active and visible leadership role in the community. It further fosters interaction among the alumni, University, students, families, friends and industry. Through the Association, alumni can utilize their talents and resources towards development activities of their alma mater.

Awards

A year a go, the Association established an Annual Alumni Academic Prize for the best overall student in each of the six colleges, which is already proving to be a great motivation to the students. We look forward to the alumni out there to partnering with the University by donating more awards to the students as an impetus for working hard. The Association has continued to support student activities as a means of giving them an opportunity to interact with the alumni. Through such interactions, students come to associate with highly successful men and women, thus helping to build the image and name of our University. The Association continues to

discharge its mandate of providing a legal forum through which the alumni participates in the governance and development of their alma mater. The revision of the University Statutes to incorporate the alumni in its management and representation in its policy decisionmaking organs is a reflection of the University's commitment to embrace the alumni input.

On their part, the alumni shall remain committed to the improvement of the University's infrastructure and role model the students to live a responsible life and make their stay at the University a memorable experience. The Alumni are encouraged to use their talents and resources in support of the University's quest to being a world-class University. To foster a more meaningful forum for interaction by the alumni, the Association has established discipline-based chapters that are already providing a source of inspiration. Finally, the Association is grateful for the support it has continued to receive from the University towards its activities that has enabled it to build a firm financial base.

A fter two years of preparations, the University of Nairobi received the ISO certification in July 2008. The colourful ceremony was held at the Taifa Hall and was attended by among others, the Chancellor Dr. J.B. Wanjui, the Minister for Higher Education, Science & Technology Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgei and other dignitaries from the government, academia and corporate world.

But some stakeholders have asked what ISO is about. The name ISO is derived from the Greek 'ISOS," meaning equal, and the short name of the Organization is ISO (International Organization for Standardization).

ISO's mission is to develop, promote and publish International Stand-The ISO family of Standards ards. represents an international consensus on good management practices with the aim of ensuring that the organization delivers the product or services that meet the clients/customer requirements. These good practices have been distilled into a set of standardized requirements for a quality managements system regardless of what an organization does, its size, or whether in the private or public sector.

The ISO 9001: 2000 which the University of Nairobi obtained is essentially about Quality Management Systems and the requirements. The standard specifies the requirement of a QMS whereby an organization needs to assess and demonstrate its ability to provide products

that meet customers and applicable regulatory requirements, and therefore, enhance customer satisfaction.

The ISO standards are based on eight Management Principles, as follow:

- Customer focus
- The role of leadership
- Involvement of the people
- Process approach
- System approach to management
- Continual improvement
- Factual approach to decision making
- Mutual beneficial suppler relationship

The baseline is customers focus whereby organizations appreciate that they depend on their customers and therefore should understand current and future customers needs, should meet customer requirements





The Vice-Chancellor (centre) receives ISO Certificate

and strive to exceed customer expectations.

By obtaining ISO Certification, the University has undertaken to give quality customer based service. The ever-rising customer expectations and an increasing desire for quality in all aspects of life provides the background for implementing a quality Management System.

The term "Quality" which may be used with adjectives like poor, good or excellent refers to "a product or service that does what it should do." Practical experience the world over has shown that quality has become a major indicator in the development of economy and businesses.

Hence for organizations to survive in the competitive business world we are in, they must integrate quality planning in their strategies. Since quality is the result of a comparison between what was required and what was provided, the only true measure of quality is customer satisfaction.

The University has implemented its quality Management System, which has to be audited continually. Customer feedback is therefore essential for Management to ensure conformity with standards. Ultimately, certification is only a step, the major challenge being to adhere to set standards.

We believe the University is up to the task.

Honoured Worlwide

The University alumni continue to be feted and honoured worldwide for contribution to peace and other initiatives by international bodies. Over the last three years, three professors have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Services.

In March 2008, Prof Miriam K. Were was awarded the 1st Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for medical services, for efforts to bring basic medical services and health rights to women and children in the villages of East Africa. Prof Were shared the prize with Prof Brian Greenwood of the United Kingdom.



Prof. Miriam K. Were is the current chairperson of the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) Kenya, under the Office of the President, that coordinates the national HIV/AIDS response in Kenya. She is also the serving Chairperson of the African Medical and Research Foundation

(AMREF) Board. Prof. Were also serves on the Advisory Board of the Kenya Anti Corruption Commission (KACC) as well as on the MAP International Board of Directors based in Georgia, USA, amongst others.



In October 2007, Prof. Richard Odingo shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, the former Vice-President of the United States. The Nobel Peace Prize Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and to Dr. Alexander (AI) Gore of the US, to honour scientific excellence and tireless efforts of 2,500 scientists, working under the leadership of the IPCC in convincing the world that global warming and climate change is a reality, and unequivocal, and that it is resulting from human activities. Professor Odingo, who is one of the three Vice-Chairs of IPPCC, and who has been Vice-Chair for over ten years, was honoured for his role in raising concerns It was in recognition of the roles played in laying the foundations for the measures that

are needed to counteract that change.

Professor Odingo is Professor of Geography at the University of Nairobi. Following the Nobel Peace Prize, he shared his thoughts and experience with the University Community in a Public Lecture on *"Impact of climate change in Africa and its implications for peace and security"* on 14th August at the University, in Taifa Hall.

The Norwegian Nobel committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 to **Prof.Wangari Maathai**, for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.



Part of the citation for the Nobel Peace Prize read: *"Peace on*

earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment. Maathai stands at the front of the fight to promote ecologically viable social, economic and cultural development in Kenya and in Africa. She has taken a holistic approach to sustainable development that embraces democracy, human rights and women's rights in particular. She thinks globally and acts locally. Maathai stood up courageously against the former oppressive regime in Kenya. Her unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression - nationally and internationally. She has served as inspiration for many in the fight for democratic rights and has especially encouraged women to better their situation."

On March 11 2005, the University of Nairobi conferred on Prof. Maathai the Honorary Doctor of Scince (D.Sc). degree.





Getting them young... University Open Day.

Celebrating our achievements.... ISO Certification.





Finally done38th Graduation Ceremony.

Public Service Week exhibition

or the first time Universities were included in the national activities of the Public Service Week and only the University of Nairobi participated. And the Alumni Association was not tobe left behind.

The week was celebrated in Nairobi at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, August $20-22\ 2008.$

The observance of the UN Public Service Day in Kenya in 2006 and its domestication into the Kenya Public Service week in 2007 is a significant development. It represents a shift towards "openness" in service delivery to the public, besides encouraging citizens to demand better services from the government, ministries and public institutions. Indeed the slogan for this year was "Huduma Bora ni Haki Yako".

The overall purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for Kenyans to interact and update themselves with the services offered by the public service, and to strengthen bonds.



Prime Minister Hon. Raila Odinga visited the Alumni standupgraded his membership to GOLDEN



From the class of 1967, Mrs. Catherine Gachungwa (above right) was visibly elated to touch base with her alma matter.



The recently retired director of education promptly signed up for membership.

And from the archives..... "The Dean of the Faculty of Commerce Mr. W.C. Rogers, will present

the following persons who have been awarded, the Diploma in Domestic Science of Manchester University":

Kehato, Catherine Nyambura (Miss), etc

From: University of East Africa Graduation Booklet, Thursday 28th September 1967.

DON GETS NBCD AWARD

Dr. Patrick Iribe Mwangi was recently honoured for his contribution to media excellence in Kenya. The top literacy award was bestowed by the National Book Development Council (NBDC) Kenya, during the National Book Week in September 2008.

Dr. Mwangi the presenter of popular Kameme Book Club on the broadcast media has effectively utilised the media for raising literacy awareness, promoting a reading culture, providing entertainment and reading materials, and exploring socio-econo-political environment in Kenya. The Don lectures in the Department of Linguistics and Languages at the University of Nairobi.

To Kampala

Bernard Njuguna the UONAA Administrator will attend a one week conference in Kampala beginning 20th October 2008. The regional conference is on University fundraising and Alumni mobilization. It is organised by the American-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Several universities locally and regionally have been visiting our UONAA offices to learn from our experience. The conference should enhance our organisation and role.

New: Graduate Research Library

were first announced by the Vice-Chancellor during the 35th Graduate Ceremony in September 2006.

The Library is dedicated to the use of Postgraduate students, Teaching

Staff and Researchers.

It focuses on collection development of highly scholarly publications support research to within the University. In addition, the Library provides a quiet and conducive environment for researchers, coupled personalized with

assistance in the search for information.

•Elsewhere, the Alumni Office is in communication with University Librarian for updates on fully paid members of the Association. The information is necessary for assessing the needs for library services.

on

the

Kenyatta



Condusive environment for Researchers

Jomo

Graduate Research Library

opened doors to users at

the beginning of this year.

Plans to establish the Library

located

the Ground Floor of

Library,

urrently

the

Memorial

Barack Maluka - Silver

SNNI RNNI RNNI RUUMNI ASSOCIATIO Fountain of Know

Hudson Liyai - Bronze



Jane Ndunda - Memorabilia for a start

The UONAA Administrator Bernard Njuguna has been busy enrolling new members. Be it in his office, at University open Day, at Graduation ceremonies and at Public exhibitions, they come all smiles.



Fresh graduates joining UONAA

Why you should join UONAA

Joining the University of NairobiAlumniAssociation is to sign up to be part of a new spirit of giving back to your alma mater. The alumni are invited to leave a lasting impression of their presencefootprints that will be seen by future generations.

You can benefit enormously by staying connected to the University of Nairobi through the Alumni Association. The Association provides an opportunity for members to participate in:

- A broad range of educational, social, athletic and cultural activities designed to promote the University, its programmes and students;
- *To be part of a programme for mentoring and advising students;*
- To get in contact with top students for future employment;
- Providing networking opportunities designed to promote professional advancement;
- Provides avenues for financial support for the University of Nairobi programmes and scholarships;
- Gives members an opportunity to improve the University curriculum through direct consultations with academic staff;
- Access to the University Library services network;
- *Recognition in the form of corporate and individual branding on donated facilities; and*
- Access to discounted rates on a number of services, for example membership to the Vet Lab Sports Club, plus... much more!

All members get a Certificate of Registration, Membership Card and Assorted Memorabillia.

Information

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY USING BLOCK CAPITALS

If any part of your details have changed or if there is an error in it, please complete the following and return it to the address below. The Alumni Association would like to thank you for your time and attention.

PERSONAL INFORMATION.

Surname	Others Name	Title
Address		
	_Code	
	Residence	
Cell Phone:	Fax No	
Email address		

DEGREE DETAILS & YEARS (S) OF GRADUATION (e.g BA, 1990, MSc. 2002)

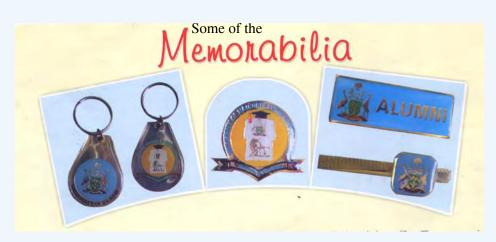
YOUR CAREER DETAILS	
Organisation Name	
Job Title	Industry Type
Business Address	
Town/ City	_Code
5	

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:- Home/Business (Please tick as appropriate)

NOTE:

Your data is securely held in the University's Alumni Association Office and will be treated confidentially and with sensitivity for the benefit of the University and its members. The data is available to our institutes, schools and faculties, recognized Alumni Associations, sports and other clubs associated with the university and used for a full range of Alumni activities including the sending of the Association newsletter and the notification of Alumni events, benefits and services.

Please return to: Administrator, University of Nairobi Alumni Association,
Main Campus, Main Administration Block, Room 107,
P.O. Box 30197 00100 Nairobi, Kenya or email alumni@uonbi.ac.ke or Fax +254 020 218148



You can now buy UONAA memorabilia at the University of Nairobi Bookshop or the Association's office. There are a variety of items to choose from including key holders, tie clips, lapel pins and brooches. Treat yourself and your frriends to some this season and in the new year.

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

A s provided for in its Constitution, the Association promotes formation of discipline-based and regional chapters. Chapters provide a forum for closer interaction and networking. To date the association has launched five chapters that are proving to be a good framework of members' interaction. These chapters are:

- Medicine Chapter
- Veterinary Chapter
- Master of Business Administration Chapter
- Range Management Chapter, and
- School of Journalism Chapter.

A number of Schools and Institutes have

approached the Association to assist in launching their own chapters. Through these chapters, the alumni of these Schools and Institutes will find a legal framework through which they can participate in their curriculum review and development.

Moreover, Chapters shall provide that much needed link to initiate tangible linkages between the University and industry. Industry will have an opportunity to give feedback on application of knowledge gained from the campus and how the content prepares the graduates to the increasingly competitive market.

MBA Chapter Launch April 13th 2007

An



Hon. Amos Kimunya receives his membership Certificate from the Chairperson Dr. Betty Gikonyo.



Jack Mushila (left) and Alex Malla...... compare notes.

...and I know that someday I'll walk out of here again, oh it seems I've been waiting in your shadow too long, and it seems that I have made you strong....

The clock chimes four o'clock, just as Ken Ouma begins to share on his love for, and his sojourn at the University of Nairobi. "the University is like a fountain of knowledge, and the students are there to drink. A fountain has the elements of water, this element when placed in a certain

in the front of your house represents the prosperity and an increased well being flowing in your life, a fountain brings positive energy to vou" And so it is with the fountain of knowledge at the University, This fountain has come to symbolize a spring of well

position, typically

... SOLILOQUY



Here to Drink

being, a positive blending of the disciplines, a way of life that your sojourn at the University will impact on you.

Greying Benches

What constantly caught my eyes are the benches somewhat on the opposite end of the fountain, if the fountain is supposed to have any meaning, then what about these benches. The benches are graving and old, and yet they are positioned in a way that is pure genius, forming a near perfect square, no they are not accidentally placed. Further, the immediate lone bench near the fountain is still not an accident. It was a place that deliberately allowed you to silently appreciate the fountain, to drink it all in, the sight, the sound, the sun and all its warmth.

Maternity Square

So, is the square a place for personal reflection? Or is it a resting bay as you labor through the ladder of success?. I have learnt that success is akin to the soaring of eagles, these mighty birds also rest, recollecting their energy. The square could be a meeting place, its position is rather strategic, placed as it is near the

main gate. Hold that thought, maybe it would be appropriate that a name like reflection square would pass well , wrong, the square goes by the name Maternity Square

After a long day in class flipping through those pages, punching the digits of the calculator, most of the ladies, ouch, the female students would sit at the square as they waited to go back to their halls, or to the next lecture. They would use the time at the square so that they would not deviate too much from the world's expectations =at the time vis-à-vis their gender obligations. Most women of the age then were either married or walking into a marriage, most did not pay ardent attention to furthering their studies after the ordinary level, to most the ordinary level was their mountain top, and they got it.

Pregnacy

Well, no matter how long a woman's pregnancy lasts, there is sure to be some funny pregnant stories told, the stories could involve cramps and nighttime cravings. Some stories involve labor and delivery. As far as pregnant stories are concerned, I preferred to hear the stories that dealt with cravings, because even though as a man, I cannot relate to being pregnant, I can relate to cravings for food from time too time. So maternity square as we begin to see was not only a place for pregnant women, but it was also a ward for the labors and expectation's of men.

Admitted As the fast-growing

understanding of the human genome is making it clear that nature endows inborn abilities and traits, nature tends to take these tendencies and moulds them as we learn and mature. The University took our abilities and potentials, moulded us, and spat us out into the world so that we can learn, mature and grow gracefully old and grey in the tradition of the square.

... I admit you into the degrees that you have been named for, giving you power to read and to do all that apertains to that degree..



For Personal Reflection

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