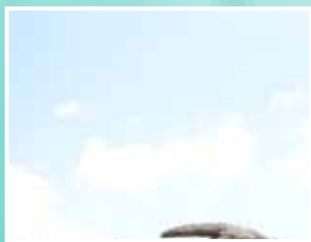




Issue No. 6 October 2011

UoNairobi

A Publication of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association



Dare to Dream

Stage set for Alumni Centre

Vision

To take a leading role in the promotion of active and visible leadership in the community by fostering interaction among the Alumni, the student community, family, friends and industry.

Mission

To safeguard the best interest of its members and to use their talents and resources in support of the University's quest of achieving international distinction in quality teaching, research and community service.

Objectives

- To assist the University of Nairobi in the growth and advancement of its socio-cultural and co-curricular activities;
 - To initiate, organize and co-ordinate development activities of the University; and
 - Advancing the interests and promoting the welfare of its members.
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The Alumni Centre

During the 41st Graduation Ceremony held in September 2009, the Chairperson, University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA), Dr. Betty Gikonyo announced that the Association had set aside Ksh. 20 million towards the realisation of an Alumni Centre.



WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE LAUNCHED

The University of Nairobi has established the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies.



New divisions: new DVC's



The University of Nairobi has established two new Divisions one to cater for Research, Production and Extension and the other, to cater for Students Affairs.

SHE DARED TO DREAM



'Dare to dream, then dream big dreams. After the dream, do not forget to wake up to implement your dream'

INVITING ADVERTISERS

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association Magazine is published twice a year. The magazine has a circulation of over 10,000 copies per edition. We would like to invite you to partner with us by advertising your products or services with us. Our rates are affordable.

**For further details contact:
Administrator UONAAA**

**Tel: +254 2 318262 Ext. 28290 or 020 2319182 Tel/Fax: +254 22218148
Email: alumni@uonbi.ac.ke
Website: www.uonbi.ac.ke/alumni**

UoNairobi

Editor

Josphat K. Kirimania

Assistant Editor

Hudson Liyoi

Consulting Editor

Joseph Ngure

Contributors

Hudson Liyoi

Jane Mugaka

Njeri Muhoro

Charles Sikulu

Photography

David Syuki

Charles Muriuki

Design and Layout

Outbox Communications

Tel: 020-2317477

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Contacts:

Administrator

University of Nairobi Alumni Association.

P.O. Box 30197-00100 Nairobi

Tel: +254 2 318262 Ext. 28290

Tel/Fax: +254 2 231912

Email: alumni@uonbi.ac.ke

Website: www.uonbi.ac.ke/alumni

The Alumni Association reserves the right to edit material as appropriate and may not necessarily share the views of the writers. The Association makes all attempts to ensure the accuracy of information in this magazine but cannot be held responsible for any inadvertent misrepresentations.

LET'S EMULATE PROF. WANGARI MAATHAI

Welcome to the sixth edition of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) Newsletter.

First, the editorial team takes this opportunity to send message of condolence to the family, friends and colleagues of the departed Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Prof Wangari Maathai.

Prof. Maathai, an alumnus of the University of Nairobi and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, sadly lost her brave battle against cancer at the age of 71 in late September this year. She was the founder of the Green Belt Movement, an NGO with the mission "to mobilise community consciousness – using tree planting as an entry point – for self-determination, equity, improved livelihoods and security, and environmental conservation".

The Alumni Association is proud of our alma mater who recognised Prof Maathai when she was still alive. In recognition of her exemplary service, the University of Nairobi conferred Prof Maathai the Honorary Doctor of Science (D.SC) at a colourful ceremony held on 11th March 2005. The University later launched the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environment with Prof Maathai as the Distinguished Chair. She has been spearheading the growth of the Institute through fund-raising and other initiatives.

The theme of this issue is "Dare to Dream" as the UONAA embarks on an ambitious project to construct an Alumni Centre which will forever change the way the Alumni interact with their alma mater. Today, it is a dream, but with the support of Alumni, the University and well wishers, the dream shall be realised... just as Prof Maathai did. She dared to dream and changed the

way we view the environment forever. Let's endeavour to change the world the way she envisaged. Only then will her spirit live forever in the UONAA.

In this issue we also cover the inspirational career journeys of two alumni; our Chairperson, Dr. Betty Gikonyo who is indeed an inspiration to the young and old alumni wishing to venture into the tricky and challenging business world; and Prof Rhoda Wanja Thairu, an accomplished academic and researcher. Their journey demonstrates that with determination, success is guaranteed.

We would also like to congratulate the two new Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Prof Lucy W. Irungu who will be heading Research, Production and Extension (RPE) and Prof Isaac Mbeche, Students Affairs (SA). The duo have offered exemplary service to the university community and their skills will no doubt boost service delivery at the institution.

Finally, we wish to thank the University of Nairobi Management for donating a 1.5-acre piece of land at Arboretum Drive to put up the Alumni Centre. This is a clear demonstration of the University's commitment to see the UONAA stand on its feet.

It is the intention of the UONAA to make this magazine widely interactive. We look forward to members contributing articles on their experiences in various fields. This will indeed help in mentoring our young members. As you read this edition keep in mind that you own the publication and your contribution will help make a difference. We hope you will find the articles exciting and captivating.

UONAA Interim Officials |



Front, left to right: Njeri Muhoro, John Kenduwo, Dr. Betty Gikonyo (Chairperson) Prof. Robert A. Obudho, Back, left to right: Charles Kimathi, Charles Okello, Josphat K. Kirimania, Mildred A. Owuor, Charles Sikulu, Benard Njuguna, Anne Nderitu, Jane Mogaka (Administrator, UONAA), Mercy Nyakio (Karen Hospital) and Erastus Abonyo (Alumni Centre Architect).

Chairperson's Remarks



Dr. Betty M. Gikonyo
Chairperson, UONAA

We launched the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) in February, 2005 in order to create a forum where Alumni could interact, reconnect and reminisce on their days in campus as well as support their alma mater. In the last six years of our existence the Executive Committee and the alumni office have worked tirelessly to ensure sustained growth. The milestones we have achieved include:-

Recruiting 20,000 Alumni as life and annual members.

Establishing six faculty and discipline based chapters.

Hosting social functions for the alumni including a very successful gala dinner at the Carnivore Restaurant which was a great success and got raving reviews from our alumni.

Contributing Ksh.7 million towards the University's bursary fund that assists needy students.

Giving Ksh.10,000 prize awards to the best overall students in each of the colleges in recognition of their academic excellence and to motivate them to excel.

To date we have awarded Ksh.430,000 towards the student Achievement Recognition Programme and we will continue to do so.

For outdoor comfort we have placed 150 concrete benches at a cost of Ksh.1.3 million in all of University of Nairobi's colleges and campuses. The benches serve as relaxation places for students and discussion area for study groups.

Our greater vision for the association is to provide a home

“Our greater vision for the association is to provide a home for the alumni close to their alma mater.”

for the Alumni close to their alma mater. To this end, we have initiated the process of putting up an Alumni Centre in line with the international practise of major alumni associations' world over. The Alumni Centre will be the focal point for activities of UONAA. The motivation to build the Centre has been driven by the need to provide Alumni with an environment conducive for business and social networking, mentoring of younger alumni, creating linkages between

industry and the University, and for keeping members connected with their alma mater.

It is conceptualized as an ultra-modern, income-generating centre with tastefully designed facilities for conferences and seminars, a hotel with restaurants and accommodation, gyms and areas for sports and other recreational activities in a serene, green environment.

This new phase of our growth requires real commitment from our own people and our partners. I, therefore, urge you to join us as we embark on this worthwhile project that we believe will be the hallmark of the Association for years to come.

The estimated cost of the project is Ksh.600 million exclusive of land which has been provided by the University of Nairobi. So far, the Association has managed to raise seed money to the tune of Ksh.20 million. We believe that this vision will become a reality through the active participation of alumni in fund-raising and contributing their ideas, skills and experience in the establishment and running of the Centre.

We hope that the tens of thousands of Alumni, old and young alike, who are proud of what they have gained from the University of Nairobi, will be inspired by the rallying call: "Ask not what your University can do for you, but what you can do for your University," to become part of this dream.

It is my sincere hope that you will join us in this journey to bring positive change to our institution and to leave an indelible personal mark in the nation's history.

The Alumni Centre

During the 41st Graduation Ceremony held in September 2009, the Chairperson, University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA), Dr. Betty Gikonyo announced that the Association had set aside Ksh. 20 million towards the realisation of an Alumni Centre.



An artistic impression of the proposed Alumni Centre

Since then, enthusiasm on the project has been created through various forums, and hence, the need to share the concept with the stakeholders for the purpose of ownership and building the necessary consensus. The UONAA Executive Committee, thereafter, constituted a Committee of the Alumni Centre, whose main task was to undertake the "Development of a Concept Paper for the Project."

WHY THE CENTRE?

The Alumni Centre will host

the Secretariat of UONAA. It is envisaged that the Centre will house facilities which will benefit the Alumni, the University and the corporate world. It will be a focal point for the Alumni to network and plan their activities. The Centre model is visualised as a self sustainable business venture which will have revenue generating facilities - including a hotel with conference and accommodation facilities.

The Centre is a place where the Alumni will meet, relax and conduct their business. It will be a home away from home

for the alumni, a focal point for meetings as they interact and chart way forward for various projects. The Centre will house modern sports facilities for outdoor and indoor games. It will provide ample parking space with beautifully landscaped lawns taking into consideration green environmental issues.

The Centre will, therefore, be central to mentorship and role modeling to University staff and students – as senior alumni interact with the younger ones in areas of training, research and consultancy.

The Centre will also house library facilities for special collections, and archival resource materials as well as those that support e-learning and multi media programmes.

The University of Nairobi Architecture Team developed the initial architectural impression of the Centre which was reviewed by the Executive Committee of UONAA. Further refining of the draft design is still on-going and we welcome suggestions from all stakeholders. It is estimated that the Centre will cost Ksh. 600 million (excluding land which has been donated by the University).

The concept of an Alumni Centre is modelled on well established alumni associations the world over. Most reputable alumni centres were established specifically for the benefit of the alumni and their alma mater.

As the Executive Committee was working on the concept of the Alumni Centre, the UONAA Chairperson, Dr Betty Gikonyo was privileged to get an invitation to visit the Harvard University Alumni Association in 2010. The Harvard Association has a membership of 360,000 and 181 clubs in more than 80 countries. This was a major boost and helped in building the concept of the Alumni Centre while bench-marking it against one of the best in the world.

Since the inception of the University of Nairobi as the Royal Technical College, the alumni never had a facility where they could meet, relax

or even conduct their affairs and in the process give back to the society through UONAA projects and activities.

The over 120,000 alumni of the University of Nairobi is a major resource to make this project

a reality and a ready market for its activities. The Centre is, therefore, a viable project that the alumni can identify with and act as a means of pooling their resources towards the developmental activities of their alma mater and the Centre.



THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
THE MANAGEMENT AND THE ENTIRE STAFF OF

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Focus on **alumni growth**



Alma Mater celebrates 45th graduation

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) is in the process of setting up a mentorship charter to ensure members impact relevant skills to prepare tomorrow's workforce, the Chairperson, Dr Betty Gikonyo has revealed.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony held on September 9, this year, Dr Gikonyo urged the Alumni holding leadership positions in the government and private sector to mentor the graduands as a way of paying back to the community.

"Graduands, you must know that mentorship cannot be a one-way street. You must move out of your comfort zones to seek mentors, and I assure you, there are such mentors amongst us today. If approached, please, let

us stand together in spirit to build our comrades," Dr Gikonyo told the 4,447 graduands who were conferred Degrees and Diplomas.

She said that the UONAA since its inception had achieved milestones which include: Recruiting 20,000 alumni as life and annual members; launch of six discipline based chapters; bursary fund of Sh7 million that assists needy students; prize awards of Sh10,000 to the best overall students in each of the colleges in recognition of their academic excellence and to motivate them to excel;

participation in outreach activities and branding of concrete benches dotting the open grounds around the University campuses.

Dr Gikonyo told the graduands to be role models in society and to assist the University realise her vision of being a **World Class University Committed to Scholarly Excellence.**

DEVELOP COUNTIES - chancellor urges

Speaking during the graduation, the Chancellor, Dr Joseph Wanjui

urged university graduates to take advantage of the new Constitution which has devolved resources to the counties to create employment in rural areas instead of hanging around cities looking for elusive jobs.

The Chancellor said it is the duty of the graduates to use the skills and training they have attained at the institution to create employment for them and other members of society.

Dr. Wanjui said education opens opportunities for the learners to achieve their potential. He urged those who have graduated from the institution to help the country unlock the perennial problem of food deficiency, disease and malnutrition.

The Chancellor called on the graduands to embrace work ethics and also urged Kenyans to avoid being critical of the government all the times and instead take up their own responsibilities of making various systems work.

"The 21st century is unique to some extent in the sense that the world is so small, and we are all hustling for the same things. The only equaliser is what the University of Nairobi does. If you delude yourselves that you can aim at mediocrity and survive, then you lose the point," he added.

RESEARCH PORTFOLIO - Vice-Chancellor Reveals

Meanwhile, the University of

Nairobi research portfolio has increased almost eight fold from about Sh300 million in 2004/2005 to Sh2.5 billion in 2011/2012, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof George Magoha has disclosed.

He said a research grant of Sh250 million had been confirmed and the Principal Investigator is Dr Jared Mecha of the Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics.

Addressing the Congregation during the graduation ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor assured education stakeholders that the institution has been releasing into the market highly trained personnel ready to serve in various disciplines.

"We are releasing into the market top class engineers, architects, scientists in various fields," said Prof Magoha during the graduation of students drawn from Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and Physical Sciences and Education and External Studies.

The Vice-Chancellor said in a bid to continuously offer high quality education, they were expanding learning and other facilities citing the construction of three science laboratories and a large lecture theatre at Kenya Science Campus at a cost of Sh300 million. Other facilities include a new mortuary that is now used for learning, and other related services to the general public.

The Vice-Chancellor said the

University embraced public sector reforms and the move has yielded positive developments as reflected in their top ranking in Performance Contracting in which UoN was ranked the top performing university and third overall in the State Corporations category out of 169 bodies in the country.

Prof. Magoha said in the international ranking the UoN was top locally and number 14 in the continent.

He revealed that the institution had increased its networks saying leading universities from America, Europe and Asia have signed MoUs to collaborate with it in virtually all fields.

LINKS

"These international links will not only expose our students and staff to global trends, but are also a pointer that the UoN is a recognised centre of excellence by its peers in other parts of the world. This is further testified by the large number of world leaders who find the UoN a choice destination for interacting with students and staff, the last being the German Chancellor Angela Merkel," said Prof Magoha.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN COMMENDS HEARD

Addressing the graduands the Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, John Simba, said the institution had received recertification certificate for ISO 9001:2008; launched its 2008-2013 Reviewed Strategic Plan, and achieved third place in the Performance Contracting for the category of State Corporations.

The Chairman commended the institution for retaining number one position among public universities, adding that the staff

"The 21st century is unique to some extent in the sense that the world is so small, and we are all hustling for the same things. The only equaliser is what the University of Nairobi does.



The valedictorian - *Mapili Millicent Mapili*

worked hard in ensuring it was on the right path to becoming a world class university.

While welcoming the appointment of Dr Betty Gikonyo and other new members to the Council, Simba assured that the Council would take up the challenges ahead, including attracting and retaining the best staff, refining structures and systems vital in enabling the institution achieve its objectives as spelt out in the strategic plan and maintaining the standards of quality while ensuring equity in the access of university education.

He, however, decried the thin financial base saying the situation had made it fail to develop infrastructure to match the rising population.

He appealed to the government

to increase funding to the institution to enable it expand the necessary facilities.

CONTINUED SUPPORT - Minister Assures

In her address Higher Education Minister Margaret Kamar assured the institution of the ministry's continued support.

She reiterated her Ministry's commitment to support the University in providing quality education. "We should all appreciate that support is steadily rising and while it may not reach what is anticipated, the University has a responsibility of raising the rest through innovative ways and without sacrificing the quality of education, access and retention of its programmes," the Minister said.

Prof Kamar hailed the institution

for establishing a division at policy level for Research, Production and Extension to mainstream research and dissemination through grant writing.

She urged the staff to take advantage of the annual grant writing competition sponsored by the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) to boost their skills in research.

The Minister challenged the University to reignite its soul searching mandate and generate research findings that will accelerate the country's socio-economic development.

Prof Kamar called on the University Council to inject fresh ideas in the governance of the institution so as to boost service delivery.



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2. Attach a recently taken coloured passport size photograph and a copy of your National Identity Card (ID) or Passport.
3. Take the filled CDS mandate card to your commercial bank for certification.
4. Your bank will certify your particulars in the completed CDS mandate card by way of appending the bank's stamp and signatures of two of their authorized signatories on the space provided.
5. Corporates are required to affix a company seal on the mandate card
6. Send the filled up mandate card and attachments to the issuing office.
7. Once the CDS account is opened in your name, you will be notified of the CDS account number via address you have provided on the CDS mandate card. A formal notification letter will also follow.
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1. Obtain application form for bonds/bills from any of the Central Bank of Kenya's offices in Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri or Meru or Download the form from the CBK website <http://www.centralbank.go.ke/securities/ApplicationForms.aspx>
2. Fill out the following
 - *Bond/Bill Issue Number*
 - *Duration/Tenure as provided for in the respective prospectus/advert*
 - *Value date*
 - *Total Face Value - Amount you wish to invest (Kenya Shillings)*
 - *Interest Rate- This is the investor's desired yield.*
 - *Your particulars details- as per the CDS mandate card*
3. The minimum investible amount in Treasury bills is Ksh 100,000.00 and bonds Ksh 50,000.00 for Treasury bonds
4. Sign the application form and submit to any CBK offices, or financial institutions specified in 1 above
5. NB. Do not make payments for the Treasury bills and bonds until you confirm with the Central Bank of Kenya of the exact amount you will need to pay.

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Email: ndo@centralbank.go.ke

From Convocation to Alumni Association

"A launch committee therefore formed and arranged for the formal launch of the Association. Prior to the launch, a breakfast meeting was organised in January, 2005."

The Convocation, up to 2005 was basically a listing of all those who had graduated from the University of Nairobi. It included the management of the University, faculty including honorary and titular professors and lecturers.

Statute xxvi sets out the duties of the Convocation as basically to discuss and state its opinion upon any matter or matters within the sphere of operations or competence of the University. The Convocation was expected to elect an Executive committee with regulations, functions and duties prescribed and framed by the University Council. The Convocation was entitled to elect two members from amongst its midst to sit on the Council, again in a manner to be determined by the Council. Graduates of the University of London, the University of East Africa who had obtained their degrees as registered students of the former University College, Nairobi and its predecessor were entitled to have their names placed on the Convocation roll.

Draw up the articles

The first step was for the Council to approve the formation of the Alumni Association with the objectives of: assist the University of Nairobi in the growth and advancement of its socio-cultural



The Chairperson, UONAA presents the Association's logo to a Congregation.

and co-curricular activities; to initiate, organise and coordinate fund-raising activities for the University; and to act as a stimulating body in promoting the development of the Association, advancing the interests and promoting the welfare of its members.

The next step was to draw up the objectives and a draft constitution. The University Legal officer, Ms Rebecca Ngondo, assisted the Association to draw up the articles, bylaws and the constitution of the

Association. The Constitution was accepted in 2004. In accepting the Constitution, the name of the Association as suggested required special permission.

The words University, and Nairobi are protected such that to use the two words together in the name of a company or grouping requires special permission from the University Council.

The Council was gracious enough to allow the Association to use the two words. The Council also allowed the

Association to use brand marks of the Fountain, and the corporate colours, gold and blue associated with the University for the Association logo.

Dr Betty Gikonyo was requested to serve as the Association Interim chairperson. In order to capture the diversity of professions and experiences, to be found outside the University, several individuals were approached to serve on the Interim Executive Committee.

The formation of the Alumni Association implies that all graduating students are now automatic members of the association for one year, upon payment of the convocation fee, which is now the Alumni membership fee. Thereafter, there is need to renew membership.

The birth of the Alumni Association was as a result of the desire of past students to continue promoting the ideals of their University.

Previously, with the Convocation rules, their role had been that of passive observers and sometimes critics of the activities and image of the institution that mothered them. Alumni can now participate in the affairs of the university through the Association, by taking up membership through their chapters.

Some of the activities that the chapters could participate in include mentoring and industrial attachments. Again the Association reunites you with that man/woman you last met decades ago. It will remind you of your student days at the University of Nairobi, the fun, intellectual arguments, hard work and even activism.

Information on UONAA

The benefits outlined below are applicable to all the Association members, regardless of the category.

- 1. Linkages**
- 2. Scholarships and bursaries**
- 3. Endowment fund**
- 4. Community service**
- 5. Resource mobilisation**
- 6. Funding research chairs**
- 7. Friends and fund-raising**
- 8. Networking and socialising**
- 9. Mentoring and role modeling**
- 10. Membership to selected clubs**
- 11. Access to University Library services**
- 12. Discounted rates at selected utility outlets**

Registration Procedure

One needs to complete the registration form which has three categories of registration as follows:-

(i) Life Membership

- Gold Kshs.100,000.00**
- Silver Kshs.50,000.00**
- Bronze Kshs.25,000.00**

(ii) Full Membership Kshs.2,000.00 (Annual subscription)

(iii) Honorary Member Kshs.3,000.00 (Annual subscription)

Payment may be made through direct cash/or cheque deposit at any KCB Branch (UoN Alumni Association Account NO. 271520761, University Way Branch.) Then send us the depositing slip. Try us today and see the benefits of remaining connected with your alma mater!

We shall respond to you and keep you posted of our activities.

Life Membership Roll

By 2011, the UONAA has recruited over 20,000 members. Below we list the life members of the Association.

Gold

1. Dr. Betty Muthoni Gikonyo
2. Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi
3. Prof. Lucy Wairimu Kibera
4. Mr. Stanely K. Murage
5. Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui
6. Prof. James K. Kimani
7. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria
8. Mr. Bernard Maina Waweru
9. Hon. Ringera Aaron Gitonga
10. Mrs. Zipporah Njoki Kiruthi
11. Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka
12. Mr. Samuel K. Macharia
13. Prof. Peter Amollo Odhiambo
14. Dr. Anne Beatrice Kihara
15. Mr. Wanjuki Muchemi
16. Prof. Titus I. Kanui
17. Dr. Blasio Osogo Omuga
18. Eng. Joseph Kibeere Njoroge
19. Hon. Amos Muhinga Kimunya
20. Dr. Cleopa K. Mailu
21. Prof. Zipporah W. W. Ngumi
22. Dr. Simon G.G. Gichuru
23. Dr. James N. Mwangi
24. Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga
25. Hon. William Arap Ruto
26. Mr. Erastus Omil Abonyo
27. Dr. David Livingstone Oluoch Olunya
28. Dr. Mark Lubisia Chindia
29. Dr. Daniel K. Gikonyo

Silver

1. Mr. Michael Karue
2. Prof. Paul Maurice Syagga
3. Prof. John O. Kokwaro
4. Mr. David Njuguna Bernard
5. Prof. George Albert Omoro Magoha
6. Prof. Isaac Mbeche Meroka
7. Prof. Henry Wangutusi Mutoro
8. Mr. Charles Ngugi Kariuki
9. Prof. Anthony Rodrigues
10. Ms. Njeri Muhoro
11. Dr. Elijah Isanda Omwenga
12. Dr. Florence Mmogi Olubayo
13. Prof. Agnes Wakesho Mwangombe
14. Dr. Guantai Mboroki
15. Prof. Eunice W. Mutitu
16. Mr. Nicholas Ochogo Kut
17. Mr. Joseph Kanja Kinyua
18. Mr. Erastus K. Njeru
19. Mr. Joseph Lumumba Barasa
20. Ms. Fronica Monari
21. Dr. John Mwangi
22. Prof. Julius M. Kyambi
23. Mr. Josphat Kimaita Kirimania
24. Mr. Terry Davidson
25. Dr. Margaret Muiva
26. Prof. Isaac Ongubo Kibwage
27. Mr. Daniel Kariuki Gakuru
28. Mr. Thomas Koech Kipsigei
29. Mr. K.P. Ruttoh
30. Miss. Juliet Ongoro Kerubo
31. Mr. Peter Ngiri Nyaga
32. Miss. Nelly Jepkosgei Kiptoo
33. Mr. Elijah Otieno Kenyatta
34. Mr. Benson Githige Mwangi
35. Mr. Ronarld Ochieng Okeyo
36. Mr. Lameck Makini Osinde
37. Miss. Mary Pauline Njeri Kiama
38. Miss. Sophia Ogada Owiso
39. Mr. Philip Njihia Kamau
40. Mr. Geoge Njoroge Gachumi
41. Mr. Erastus M. Kitonyi
42. Ms. Lucy Nyawira Muturi
43. MR. Andrew Kithome Mutua
44. Miss. Doris Wambere Njuki
45. Mr. John Kiratu Mburu
46. Mr. Peter Kiama Mate
47. Mr. Bonventure Naphtali Okangai
48. Mr. David Franklyn Muhati
49. Miss. Alice Mutheu Mutie
50. Miss. Caroline Wanjiku Kangethe
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69. Miss. Omar Juma Hamida
70. Mr. Joshua Omondi Olewe
71. Mr. Billy Odero Oguda
72. Mr. Mustaf Lengesen Ukuro
73. Miss. Rhoda Wanjiru Gitonga
74. Miss. Sally Kalunde Mutinda
75. Mr. Cosmos Muinde Mulumba
76. Mrs. Lucy Wanjiru Mwangi
77. Mr. Andrew Irungu Gathuku
78. Mr. James Waweru Gichuhi
79. Mr. Christopher Muchiri Muriithi
80. Miss. Ruth Mumo Mulwa
81. Mr. Andrew Wachira Nyamu
82. Mr. Bernard Nyakundi Moindi
83. Mr. David Gitari
84. Mr. Geoffrey Nyaga Ireri
85. Mr. Aloyce Luduba Achoka
86. Mr. John Chege Githinji
87. Mr. Harrison Wanjohi Munyua
88. Miss. Musrat Mutta Begum
89. Miss. Lucy Mukami Ikiugu
90. Mr. Daniel Muriuki Gitari
91. Mr. Robert Mwangi Maina
92. Mr. Allan Wanja Kamau
93. Mr. Humphrey Omondi Ogutu
94. Mr. Francis Omusi Shitawa
95. Ms. Lucy Wanja Ngatia

96. Mr. Jackson Mutua Kilaka
97. Mr. Justin J. Njagi Wachira
98. Mr. Daniel Gitaka Kiarie
99. Mrs. Lilian Awuor Owiti
100. Mr. Festus M. Litiku
101. Mrs. Angela M. Kithinji
102. Prof. Karega Mutahi
103. Eng. Jackson M. Mbui Muchira
104. Dr. Blasio Osogo Omuga
105. Prof. Anastasia Guantai
106. Prof. Dominic Oduor Okelo
107. Prof. Stephen Gichovi Mbogoh
108. Prof. Grace Njeri Thoiti
109. Mr. Watitwa B. Wasieyi

Bronze

1. Prof. Robert A. Obudho
2. Dr. Patrick L. O. Lumumba
3. Dr. Dismus Milimu Bulinda
4. Mr. Jamleck M. Njoka
5. Miss. Alice Atieno Arumm
6. Prof. Joseph M. Kitonyi
7. Mr. Peterson Kamau Mubuu
8. Prof. Washington H.
9. Prof. Lucy Wachuhi Irungu
10. Mr. Gideon Maina Muriuki
11. Dr. Jamen Hudson Were
12. Prof. Lucy Wairimu Kibera
13. Prof. Francis W. O. Aduol
14. Dr. Francis Mwaura
15. Dr. Rose Adhiambo Nyikal
16. Dr. Joseph Maina Ayuya
17. Dr. Daniel Weru Ichangi
18. Prof. Levi S. M. Akundabweni
19. Prof. Stephen Gichovi Mbogoh
20. Prof. Winnie V. Mitullah
21. Mr. Cosmas J.O. Kanyadudi
22. Mrs. Hellen Karu
23. Dr. John Demesi Mande
24. Dr. Karani Anne Kagure
25. Hon. Elias Mbau
26. Dr. Grace W. Kitonyi
27. Mr. Mumo Mueke
28. Mr. B. Murayah Kiigeh
29. Prof. Peter Wasamba
30. Mr. John K. Kenduiwo
31. Mr. Essajee Kaderbhai Abdulatif
32. Mrs. Margaret A. Ombok (Late)
33. Mr. Stephen Nzuve
34. Mr. Stephen Onserio Nyamwange
35. Ms Harriet Kidombo
36. Mr. Peter M. Muturi
37. Prof. D. Okoth Okombo
38. Prof. Raphael M. Munavu
39. Mr. Jackonia O. Odumbe
40. Mrs. Adelaide M. Mbithi
41. Prof. Peter Kobonyo
42. Prof. Henry Indangasi
43. Miss. Benlucy Kamene Maundu
44. Mrs. Mildred Apiyo Owuor

45. Mr. Julius Mulwa Munyoki
46. Mr. Peter Kithunga Nzuki
47. Dr. Masumi Hashimoto Odari
48. Mrs. Esther Agutu Owigar
49. Mr. George Omae Ogari
50. Mr. Cyrus Mwingi Karanja
51. Mr. George G. Karuu
52. Mr. Samuel C. O. Okello Alala
53. Mr. Charles Mallaus Rambo
54. Mr. John Bosco Mutuku Kisimbii
55. Dr. Joyce Kanini Mbwesa
56. Miss. Florence Nzisa Kioko
57. Mrs. Angeline Sabina Mulwa
58. Mr. John Mwangi Muraguri
59. Dr. Bernina Kyale Kisumbi
60. Mrs. Susan Karimi Kiuna
61. Mrs. Beatrice Wanjala
62. Mr. George Henry Juma
63. Mr. Lawrence Mulota
64. Dr. Evans Mungai Mwangi
65. Mr. David Chege Gichuru
66. Mr. Patrick O. Agutu
67. Mr. Harrison Njue Njeru
68. Mr. Clement Isuwiro Mwikamba
69. Mr. Andrew Gichuho Mungai
70. Prof. Timothy Mwololo Waema
71. Mr. Henry Ochieno Barasa
72. Mr. Karanja Kabage
73. Mr. Henry Kamau Gichahi
74. Mr. Ibrahim Otieno Onyango
75. Mr. Bishar Mohamed Duble
76. Mr. Romanus Otieno Opiyo
77. Mr. James Maina Murimi
78. Mr. Joseph K. Muchina
79. Mrs. Truphena Nabakwe Estambale
80. Dr. Peter Waiganjo Wagacha
81. Prof. William Okello Odongo
82. Ms. Edna Atisa-Mayieka
83. Mrs. Naomi Wairimu Mwangi
84. Mr. Daniel Orwa Ochieng
85. Mr. Samuel N. Ruhui
86. Mr. Yohannis Almaz
87. Mrs. Josephine Wambui Mwangi
88. Mr. Hudson Ahmed Liyai
89. Mr. J. Njani Ndiritu
90. Mr. John G. Ng'ang'a
91. Mrs. Ann Wanjiku Ngari
92. Mrs. Josephine Rebecca Ounza
93. Mrs. Margaret Orwa
94. Mrs. Rose Margaret Achieng
95. Mrs. Tecla Mwikali Makau
96. Mr. Soita Chesoni
97. Dr. Samuel Owino Mwanda
98. Mr. Benjamin Musingila Katuva
99. Prof. Nobert Opiyo Akech
100. Mr. Paul Kuria Kamau
101. Mr. Stanley Therenca Ntuara
102. Ms. Lucy Wangara Ngare
103. Dr. J. W. Kimenju
104. Mr. George Eric Gombe Nyalwal
105. Prof. James Kihanga Wabacha
106. Dr. Assey Anne Achieng
107. Mrs. Margaret Mmachi Mumela
108. Ms. Cecilia Moraa Onyango

109. Mr. Edwin Nyabuga Makori
110. Prof Edward G. Karuri
111. Mr. David Nyika
112. Mr. Caleb Orwa
113. Mr. Magayu K. Magayu
114. Mr. Charles Njuguna
115. Mr. Ndungu Wa Munywe
116. Mr. David Macoco
117. Prof. Symon W. Guthua
118. Prof. Peter M. Ngau
119. Mr. Joseph W. Macharia
120. Mr. Chris Kisire
121. Mr. Thomas N. Mshindi
122. Mr. Herick Ondigo
123. Mrs. Antonia M. Aura
124. Mr. Eliath M. Lime
125. Dr. Gathura P. Baaro
126. Mr. Zachayo L. Thaimuta
127. Ms. Mercy Nyawira Maina
128. Mr. Ibrahim M. Ongijo
129. Ms. Patricia Wathata Muchiri
130. Ms. Marilyn K. Nabakwe
131. Prof. Elias H. O. Ayiemba
132. Mrs. Juliet Njeri Muasya
133. Mrs. Margaret Mwonjoria Ngayu
134. Mrs. Jedida Ngina Kibuna
135. Mr. Martin Wambua Mativo
136. Mr. Bernard Mwangi Kiige
137. Mrs. Felistus Nyambura Muchai
138. Ms. Jane Wangare Gatune
139. Prof. David Macharia
140. Mr. Zadock Odhiambo Opole
141. Mr. Fredrick Meshack Oluoch
142. Mrs. Agnes Anyango Andollo
143. Mr. Samuel Thuu Kimani
144. Peter Muchina Waitthaka
145. Mrs. Catherine Wangari Njuguna
146. Miss. Joan Gichuru
147. Ms. Lucy W. Kivuti-Bitok
148. Mr. Antony Ayieko Ong'any
149. Mr. Mathew Matindi Nyamu
150. Dr. Joyce Ndaki Mangoka
151. Mr. L. Maurice Awiti
152. Dr. B. K. Amugune
153. Ms. Gladys Chazima
154. Mr. Joseph Mbatha Maingi
155. Mr. Francis K. Kivindu
156. Dr. Grace W. Kitonyi
157. Dr. Jeckoniah O. Ndinya-Achola
158. Dr. Ogara William Okelo
159. Prof. John Njenga Munene
160. Dr. Francis Guthua Macigo
161. Dr. Billy Muigai Gitau
162. Prof. Moses O. Odumbe
163. Mr. Christopher M. M. Mutunga
164. Mr. Julius Okoth Otieno
165. Dr. Pamela Mandela Idenya
166. Mrs. Muthamu Josephine N.
167. Ms. Eliza Chege
168. Mr. Willis Odhiambo Ouma
169. Dr. Simon Kinyanjui Kariuki
170. Miss. Jane M. Horo
171. Mr. Peter Kiprono Busieni
172. Mrs. Mary W. Wanyoike

PHOTO GALLERY



1. The UONAA Chairperson, Dr Betty Gikonyo presents a prize to one of the best students during the 2010 Prize Giving Day.

2. UON Alumni at UONAA sensitisation breakfast meeting on the Alumni Centre Project, at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi.

3. Students from a local school tour UONAA stand at 2011 (CHE) Commission for Higher Education Exhibition at Golf Hotel, Kakamega.

4. Reaching our members. The Alumni members in a Kisumu hotel during the Alumni Regional Dinner.



5.



6.



5. It was all joy during the 45th Graduation Ceremony held on September 9, 2011 as captured in the mood of the Alumni.

6. The UONAA Administrator, Mrs. J.O. Mogaka accompanied by Prof. J. Mwabora, presents the Association souvenir to Mr. Samuel Kilele, Provincial Commissioner, Western Province.

7. Students relaxing on some of the concrete benches put up by the Alumni Association at a cost of Ksh. 1.3 million. Inset, before installation of the concrete benches.

Life Membership Roll

173. Otieno Omutoko
174. Mr. Johnson Ochieng Ager
175. Mrs. Hellen K. Nzainga
176. Mrs. Evelyn Nduku Ngunga
177. Hon. Francis Ole Kaparo
178. Dr. Beneah Manyuru Mutsotso
179. Mr. Milton Lore
180. Kiarie David Gitaka
181. Mr. Patrick Ouma Nyabul
182. Mr. Ephraim Ngundo Mwangi
183. Dr. Rosemary Atieno
184. Dr. Cecilia Nyawira Ritho
185. Dr. Samuel P. M. Nyariki
186. Mr. Philemon Obuga Wachara
187. Ms. Catherine W. Ndungu
188. Dr. Andrew Gitau Thaiya
189. Dr. Titus I Kanui
190. Dr. James Nguhiu Mwangi
191. Mr. Andrew Karanja Mwaniki
192. Mr. Maingi Kinoti
193. Mr. Gilbert Orina Miguna
194. Mrs. Anne W. Karanja
195. Prof. Elijah Maingi Ndichu
196. Dr. Peterkin Wanyonyi Kisiangani
197. Dr. Samuel Maina Githigia
198. Dr. Jacob W. Wakhungu
199. Mr. Kimingichi Wabende
200. Mrs. Rysper Eve Rajula
201. Prof. Susan W. Mbugua
202. Mr. Bethuel Kinyanjui Kinuthia
203. Mr. Ben Ouma
204. Dr. Njiru Wambeti
205. Mr. Musembi Kiilu
206. Mr. Thomas Mwangi Mutugu
207. Mr. Jackson M. M. Muchira
208. Mr. Gerishon Angado
209. Mr. Onesmus Mwangi Gichuiru
210. Mr. Charles E. Sikulu
211. Mr. William Musya Musyoka
212. Mr. Nixon Muganda Ocharo
213. Mr. Kennedy Jopham Omoke
214. Dr. Daniel O. Olago
215. Dr. Githitu Mahinda
216. Mr. Thagichu Kiiru
217. Ms. Akoth Rosemary Ngesa
218. Mr. Kahare Miano
219. Dr. Tom J. C. Anyamba
220. Mr. Norbert Musyoki
221. Mr. Moses Buli Ladu
222. Mr. Eliud Liku
223. Dr. Sylvester Munguti Masu
224. Dr. Jennifer M. Murugu
225. Meshack Juma Omollo
226. Dr. Denis Wanyama
227. Mr. Zacheus Mutua Nkonge
228. Prof. Lucia N. Omondi
229. Mr. Charles Mwaura
230. Dr. Walter Jaoko
231. Dr. Stephen Ochiel
232. Dr. Julius Mmama Ogola
233. Ms. Josephine Wayua Mongare
234. Dr. Mwikali Mugachia
235. Dr. Richard Ayah
236. Prof. Christopher Ngarua Karue
237. Mr. Victor Korir Cheruiyot
238. Mr. Solas Odongo Oriaso
239. Dr. Joseph Chege Mugachia
240. Tangus Kinutai Samuel
241. Dr. Joan A. Magero
242. Dr. Elizabeth Dimba
243. Dr. Julius Mwakondo Mwabora
244. Mr. Cyrus Iraya Mwangi
245. Mrs. Jane Nyawira Ciano
246. Dr. Samuel N. Waweru
247. Dr. Karem T Ochako Odhiambo
248. Ms. Caroline Atieno Buluma
249. Mr. Peter Mate Runyenje
250. Miss. Mary Wanjiru Waweru
251. Prof. Ronge Jack Mwangi
252. Dr. Mark David Joshi
253. Mr. Martin Luke Oduor Otieno
254. Mr. Benson Irungu Wairegi
255. Miss. Sylvia Mbithe Muthama
256. Ms. Doris W. Gitonga
257. Miss. Everline Nyamusi Abuya
258. Mr. Peter Mwaura Gathirimu
259. Ms S.A. Wanyonyi
260. Mr. Eddy Ouma Onyango
261. Ms. Letisia Mbayaki
262. Mr. Collins Komora Owiti
263. Mr. Like A. Ombati
264. Mr. James Ngugi Wainaina
265. Dr. Augustine Bitek Orinde
266. Dr. Njunia Robert Mathenge
267. Mr. Jeremiah Kiio Nthusi
268. Mr. Peter Gathuka Ngugi
269. Ms. Susan Araka Kwamboka
270. Ms. Lydia Deborah Okal
271. Mr. Julius Mwangi Kanja
272. Mrs. Grace Wacera Ndegwa
273. Ms. Patricia Akoth Odongo
274. Dr. Kwasa Thomas
275. Mr. Paul Mboya Asuke
276. Ms. Catherine Mawia Musyoka
277. Mrs. Mary Kiarie
278. Mrs. Mary Anyango Oyugi
279. Mr. Josephat Munuve Kavale
280. Mrs. Joyce Namunyak
281. Ms. Theresa M.A. Odoro
282. Ms. Martina Nduku Muoki
283. Mr. Wafula Arthur
284. Dr. Oriare Nyarwathi
285. Mr. M. Joseph Ndungu
286. Prof. Muta Wangari Maathai
287. Mr. Bernard Njeri Kimani Njoroge
288. Ms. Monica Alice Shimba
289. Mr. Joseph M.K. Mokaya
290. Mr. Fatih Nyanchoka Guku
291. Mr. Mwandoto Morris
292. Mr. Esther Wanjiru Kuria
293. Mr. Evans Mwaura Ngugi
294. Mr. Charles P. Mwangi
295. Mr. Simon Odera Ouma
296. Mr. Geoffrey Evans Owino Ogutu
297. Ms. Elizabeth Nduta Muritu
298. Mr. Daniel Ngila Mutua
299. Ms. Elizabeth Wanjiru Kibue
300. Mrs. Silvia Wambui Murathe
301. Mr. James M. Buyekane
302. Miss. Zae Irine Ketura Mrunde
303. Ms. Julian Awuor Ogondo
304. Mr. Charles Karuga
305. Mr. Michael Okwaro
306. Mr. Wilson N.M. Kundu
307. Miss. Josephine Wanjiru
308. Mr. George Mwangi Kanja
309. Ms. Jane Oge Okoth
310. Mr. Peter Githiri Gichuri
311. Ms. Brian S. Wesaala
312. Mr. Abraham O. Opuche
313. Mr. Elias Guantai Kaburia
314. Mr. Sahib Singh Khosla
315. Mr. Simon Kimani Njoroge
316. Mr. Richard Maina Njogu
317. Mr. Fredrick Kitum
318. Mr. Danson Kibara Gichira
319. Mr. Agripa Gona Kazungu
320. Miss. Linda Akoth Chaba
321. Mr. Peter Opiyo Odeg
322. Miss. Beryl Amanda Mwandale
323. Mr. Elijah Kipngetch Cheruiyot
324. Mr. John Kahindi Kalume
325. Mr. Samuel Ithiga Waweru
326. Ms. Twidley Wayua Mutiso
327. Mr. Oscar Kiplagat Limo
328. Mr. Abednego Musee Matoi
329. Prof. Ratemo W Michieka
330. Ms. Joyce Ndumba Daniel
331. Mr. Boyi Stephen Omondi
332. Mr. Adnan Mwakulomba Abdi
333. Mr. Peter Obimbo Lamuka
334. Ms. Dorine Lugendo
335. Mr. Daniel Amedi Mutuli
336. Dr. Timothy Henry Gatara
337. Prof. Ruth W. Nduati
338. Mr. Godfrey Mwaloma Kimega
339. Mr. John E. Irungu Wambugu
340. Mr. Spencer Musyoka Muthoka
341. Mr. Daniel Gitonga
342. Dr. J.F. Onyango
343. Eng. Cyrus Wambari
344. Mr. Kiarie Kamau
345. Ms. Lucy Wanjiku Gachara
346. Ms. Aileen N. Aganyoh
347. Mr. Newton Wekil Ingwe
348. Dr. Raymond Odhiambo Databa
349. Mr. Shem Gichuki Wachira
350. Mr. Fredrick Gitonga Chambari
351. Ms. Gemencia Mwamburi
352. Ms. Priscilla Wamuyu Mathenge
353. Ms. Sarah Njoki Mwangi
354. Ms. Charity Naserian Tauta
355. Ms. Rebecca J. Tallam
356. Ms. Leah Wambui Mburu
357. Mr. Joseph Awino Oluoch
358. Mr. Noel A. Manyenze
359. Ms. Evelyn Gaceri Wagaiyu
360. Mr. Simon Ikonze Ndulu
361. Prof. Rhoda Wanja Thairu
362. Prof. Kihumbu Thairu
363. Dr. Joshua Kimani
364. Prof. Gerald Yonga
365. Prof. Isaac K. Nyamongo
366. Dr. Evanson Githinji Gitahi
367. Mr. Laban Makiya Omangi
368. Mr. Josiah Omollo Aduda
369. Prof. Stephen M. Mutuli
370. Dr. Stephen Kiama Gitahi
371. Prof. Francis John Gichaga
372. Dr. Charles Githua Githinji
373. Mr. John Peter K. Kiara
374. Mr. Antonio Kubando Murunga
375. Mr. John Simba
376. Dr. Daniel Gakuya
377. Mr. Nicky Nzioki
378. Mr. Morris Anene
379. Mr. Moses Ndirangu Kiarie
380. Mr. Jared Mongare Masinga
381. Ms. Waeni Ngoloma
382. George Ooko Abong'
383. Mr. Chris Kisire
384. Ms. Antonina Masbayi Aura
385. Dr. Christopher Mwangi Gakuu
386. Prof. Lucy Wairimu Kibera
387. Mr. Charles Kimathi
388. Mr. Henry Kabiru Waruhiu
389. Mr. Joseph Njani Ndiritu
390. Prof. Paulo W.N. Kanyari
391. Dr. Abdalla A. Kibwana
392. Jane Wairimu Gatumbu
393. Benson I. Wairegi
394. Dr. R.N. Mathenge
395. Prof. Makumi Mwangiru
396. Mr. Desmond T. Orjiako
397. Prof. Jackson Nyarongi Ombui
398. Dr. James Mucunu Mbaria
399. Mr. John M Njoka
400. Dr. Peter W Wagacha
401. Mr. Joseph Macharia Waigwi
402. Prof. Mark J Chindia
403. Dr. Samuel Owino Mwanda
404. Mr. Jamleck M Njoka
405. Dr. Billy Muigai Gitau
406. Dr. James Machoki M' Imunya
407. Prof. Christine Kigonda
408. Prof. Patrick M. Ndavi
409. Mr. Alex Jaleha
410. Mr. Gerald O. Ondiek
411. Dr. Faith Apolot Okalebo
412. Prof. Chris L. Wanjala



SHE DARED TO DREAM

'Dare to dream, then dream big dreams. After the dream, do not forget to wake up to implement your dream'

Dare, dream and implement or DDI are the words that drive Betty Muthoni Gikonyo, the Chairperson of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) and Chief Executive Officer at the 102-bed capacity Karen Hospital, to undertake ventures many consider risky.

Her life and experiences are a journey in dreams, dares and implementation. Born in 1950 in Kiamabara village in Nyeri County during the Mau Mau revolution, Betty experienced a life of deprivation, hunger, disease and restrictions. She recalls that her village was the typical *gichagi* as they lived in communal huts which were occupied by five or six families.

Betty recalls being treated for chicken pox with ash and mud from an anthill which was the common practice then.

At the age of six, she was sent to school. "I qualified for school," she says, "by being able to reach my arm over my head to touch my ears."

She says the strange qualification for joining school was due to the fact that there were no birth certificates those days, and touching your 'ear qualification' suggested physical growth.

Barefoot walks

As a pupil, Betty braved the barefoot walks to and fro school. She recalls that the classrooms were mud-thatched, window frames had



Dr. Betty Gikonyo, (centre) the paediatrician...

no glass panes, and the wall partitions were broken at ceiling level. Her school, Kiamabara Primary initially hosted pupils from Standard One to Four, but it was progressive in the sense that new classes would be constructed each year.

Her parents being pro-education, Betty had no option but to work hard in school.

She was among the first candidates to sit the primary school national exams where she qualified to join Alliance Girls' High School. Her mother passed on when she was 15 forcing her to live with her elder brother, now Dr Wallace Kahugu.

At Alliance Betty faced the daunting challenge like that of a rural girl who visits the city. She, however, has kind words for the village: "Growing up in the village prepared me for all that life could offer; the good, the bad and the average. Village prepares you for eventualities while high school prepares you for opportunities."

To this day Betty believes

"I like taking care of the sick, seeing them get better has always been my vision," she says.

the environment at Alliance encouraged the girls to aspire for higher positions in life.

"The teachers encouraged us to excel, and did not laugh when you told them what you wanted to be; instead they told you how to go about achieving your dream, which subjects to take, and would guide you in your career choices," she says.

She adds that she scored good results at 'O-level' but is quick to attribute her success to God.

While at Alliance Girls she doubled up as a Sunday school teacher at Macai Maihii PCEA church at Thogoto Kikuyu, a member of young farmers club, Girl Guide and member of the Book Club. Her admission to pursue medicine at the University of Nairobi was a dream come

true.

"I like taking care of the sick and seeing them get better has always been my vision," she says.

She adds that when growing up she used to admire nurses at Tumu Tumu Hospital which is about eight kilometres from their home.

"The nurses wore starched head-caps, white uniform and walked with focus. The nurses were all referred to as *ndagitari* (doctor). I admired Hannah Maria, a nurse from our village who was always smart."

After graduating from the University of Nairobi, Betty did internship at Nakuru Provincial Hospital and later applied for post-graduate training at the medical school. Her passion for treating and working with children was nurtured at Nakuru Provincial Hospital. "During my undergraduate course, I had thought of working in gynecology since there were few doctors then. But while on internship, I was drawn like a magnet to the children's wards where I always felt relaxed, performing my best, working long hours and watching with satisfaction as children regained their health," she says. That's how she chose pediatrics.

After her masters degree, Betty and her family young flew to Minnesota, US on a fellowship. Betty says she married Dan Gikonyo, also a medical doctor, while they were students at the University. "We were married when we were in fifth year, our three children - two sons and a daughter - travelled with us when we took up fellowships at the University of Minnesota, USA," she reveals.

The genesis for the Karen Hospital, grew out of a dream the couple had back in Minnesota

as they planned to come back home. She says they developed the dream with a close friend, Mr James Mageria, in 1985 as they were pursuing their post-graduate studies in cardiology in the US.

The dream remained with them for over 20 years while they worked at Nairobi Hospital.

To actualise the dream, Betty and Dan saved money for buying land and engaging a consultant for the business plan.

Triplets

Betty recalls back at Minnesota her senior professor telling her "no guts, no glory". This meant that if you expect accolades, you must go through the pain in order to get what you want.

She remembers the period between 2002 and 2006 as the time when she incubated triplets. The triplets are the Alumni Association, Karen Hospital and Nairobi Health Management Board.

In 2002, she adds, they approached a local bank to finance the construction of the hospital. But despite their reputation both as top cardiologists and personal doctors to the country's who-is-who, they had to literally walk from bank to bank for five years in search of a financier.

Some bankers, she adds, pointed

out that a hospital was not a business but rather a social service provided by governments, churches and other charity organisations. "Hospitals are like churches. We have never heard of people taking a loan to build a church. Suppose we give you a loan and you fail to repay, what will we attach? The patients?" Betty quotes one banker as saying.

The couple also approached other donors and even hosted a cocktail party to woo more investors, including fellow doctors, in a bid to raise the deposit. But no one committed to the project with some saying they would join once the project was up and running.

Determined to actualise their dream, they took mortgage on their property in a bid to begin the ground work for the Karen Hospital.

Later, Kenya Commercial Bank, agreed to give them a Ksh.350 million loan for the project.

But in the midst of raising up this baby, Betty begun nursing another baby, the UONAA at the behest of the then Chairman of the Council, Prof Simon Wasawo.

She says after flying home from Minnesota, the US institution continued sending her information and newsletters though she had been there for only two years.

This made her wonder why the University of Nairobi had never opened communication with her despite the fact that she spent eight years there.

This prompted her to propose the formation of the Alumni at the Council but the verbal proposal was rejected.

However, Prof Wasawo encouraged her to share her vision and also write a proposal for the Council to consider. Her written proposal was accepted and she was given the task of chairing the Council Committee to work out modalities of setting up the University of Nairobi Alumni Association, which was launched in February, 2005.

But Betty's eyes were also focused on another project which equally required attention: Nairobi Health Management Board.

"When I took over as the Chairperson of the board, the health facilities in Nairobi which were run by the Ministry of Health and the Nairobi City Council were not functional. Hospitals did not have medicines, staff were not performing their duties, congestion was rife and wards were dirty," she says. Today, Betty looks back with pride on the achievements she has made on the 11 health centres in the city. They have maternity facilities, ambulances, medicine and staff.

At the Karen Hospital, Betty leads well over 450 staff. As the CEO she ensures all loans, suppliers and staff are paid promptly. But despite the workload, Betty also enrolled for an Executive Masters in Business Administration.

She is also a philanthropist where through the Heart to Heart Foundation which she started in 1994, over 300 children have undergone open heart surgery.



The Karen Hospital: A dream realised.

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

MBA CHAPTER

The MBA Chapter is proud to be associated with the sixth anniversary of its parent University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA). Indeed UONAA has come a long way since its inception six years ago.

The formation of the MBA Chapter in 2007 was driven by UONAA with the primary role of discipline based chapters supplementing the activities of the umbrella Association.

We are pleased to inform our members that the MBA Chapter is collaborating with UONAA to organise the forthcoming Gala Night as well as development and fund-raising for the proposed Alumni Centre Project. We urge you all to attend and support the Gala Night as well as the Alumni Centre Project which will be a focal point for activities of University of Nairobi alumni.

We wish to remind our members that the main objective of the MBA Chapter remains to provide a forum through which the alumni of University of Nairobi can participate in its governance and develop activities to raise the profile and image of their alma mater. In addition, the Chapter continues to be a useful catchment for business opportunities and a forum to establish useful linkages with MBA graduates who are managing business in various sectors of the economy, among other benefits.

The MBA Chapter has also been facilitating internship for business students. We continue to encourage enhanced interaction between the business community and universities especially through internship programmes in order to provide the required fusion between theory and practice for students pursuing business studies.

Finally, we invite all University of Nairobi MBA graduates who have not yet joined the MBA Chapter to enroll as members so as to tap into the benefits of collaboration, networking and shared values amongst the members.

Interim Officials:

Eng. Joseph Njoroge, Chairman, Alex Malla, Vice Chairman, Henry Kabiru Waruhiu, Secretary, Salome Richu, Assistant Secretary, Eng. Joel Kiilu, Treasurer, Muthoni Thiongo, Assistant treasurer, Gerishon Dulo, Organising Secretary, James Njuguna, Assistant Organising Secretary

VETERINARY MEDICINE CHAPTER

The Veterinary Medicine Chapter of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association was launched on Thursday 1st November 2007 at the former Grand Regency Hotel. The Chief Guest was Dr. Jacob Ole Miaron, the then Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. The event was attended by over 250 guests, among them 180 veterinary practitioners and professionals. Financial and material support was provided by corporate partners namely: Cooper Kenya Brand Ltd, Kenya Veterinary Association, Kenya Veterinary Board, Kenya Dairy Board, Sygad Pure Chemicals Ltd, HighChem Ltd, Ultimate Veterinary Services Ltd, Metrovet Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Norbrook Ltd, Equity Bank Ltd and Osho Chemicals Ltd.

Our Alumni

"There is no meaningful endeavor at the national level that does not involve graduates of the University of Nairobi. We are proud of our Alumni because they have been excellent ambassadors of the University wherever they have gone"

Prof. George A.O.Magoha,

Vice-Chancellor, December 2010.

An important highlight of the event was the issuance of life membership registration certificates to some participants. The publicity generated by this aspect of the event was significant due to the opportunity offered for recognition and self-actualisation of these members before their peers. Membership recruitment remains a fundamental agenda for the Chapter to date.

The objectives of the Veterinary Medicine Chapter are to; facilitate recruitment of Alumni through professional affiliations and associations; Collaborate with stakeholders in the control of animal and zoonotic diseases; partner with Alumni in setting standards and quality assurance for curricula, education and research programmes and promote social welfare of Alumni through membership at the Veterinary Laboratories Golf Club.

One of the landmark achievements for the Chapter was realised through discussions with the late Prof. Wangari Maathai. Possibilities for a long-lasting partnership with the University of Nairobi emerged. This culminated in the establishment of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi; with Dr. S.G. Kiama as the Acting Director and Prof. Maathai as the Distinguished Chair. This demonstrates the potential for Alumni Association to engage industry partners to support the University's strategic vision and mandate.

Interim Officials:

Dr. Mande -Chairman, Dr. G. Gichuru - Vice Chair, Dr. H. Kinyua -Secretary, Dr. S.G. Kiama -Asst. Secretary, Dr. Varma -Treasurer, Dr. Joan Magero -Asst. Treasurer, Dr. Mwikali Mugachia -Organising Secretary, Prof. George Gitau -Ass. Organising Secretary, Prof. Njenga Munene -Member (Dean, Faculty CAVS)

MEDICINE CHAPTER

The Medicine Chapter was the fourth faculty and discipline based chapter to be launched after those of MBA, Range Management and Journalism. The Chapter was officially launched at a colourful ceremony held at the former Grand Regency Hotel on 26th July 2007. The occasion was graced by Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, former Minister for Information and Communication.

This Chapter has established an avenue for interaction, bonding and networking amongst its members.

During the launch of this Chapter the School of Medicine was celebrating 40 years since its inception. Each year, the University of Nairobi gives an average of 300 degrees to graduates in the School of Medicine. We appeal to all these graduates to register as members of the Alumni Association and help build their alma mater.

Interim officials:

Chairman: Dr. Cleopa Mailu, EBS, Secretary: Dr. Amit Thakker

JOURNALISM CHAPTER

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication Alumni Association Chapter was launched in June 2006. The Chapter is now working towards establishing a scholarship fund for outstanding students in Journalism and Mass communication at the University. This is going to be a graduate programme, with emphasis on doctoral studies.

Interim Officials:

Chairman: Barrack Muluka, Secretary: James Oranga, Pamela Sittoni, Peter Mutie, Farida Karoney, Sylvia Mwachuli, Desmond Orjiako.



Alumni in the making; Students at the School of Journalism.



The Vice-Chancellor UON Prof. George A. Magoha presents the winning architectural design for the Institute to Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Wangari Maathai Institute Launched

The University of Nairobi has established the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. An Alumnus of the University of Nairobi and the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize since it was created in 1901, the late Prof Wangari Maathai distinguished herself as an uncompromising environmental conservationist in spearheading better natural



Dr. Stephen Kiama, Director of Wangari Maathai Institute

resource utilisation practices. She was also a tireless champion for democracy, good governance and global peace.

The Institute will spearhead multi-disciplinary training, research outreach and extension services in environmental and natural resource management, good governance and peace. It is currently located at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Kabete Campus, with plans to construct a special "green" building to house it.

In January 2010 the University appointed Dr Stephen Kiama Gitahi as the acting Director of the Institute.

The late Prof. Maathai received many international awards and prizes, the pinnacle of which was the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. In 2005 the University of Nairobi conferred her the Honorary Doctor of Science (D.SC) at a colourful graduation ceremony held in March. The honour was in recognition, acknowledgement and appreciation of her distinguished and selfless service to the nation and mankind, especially through her outstanding work in environmental conservation.

In addition to training, research and outreach, the Institute envisages developing a resource centre for environmental, governance and peace information. It will also provide archival exhibitions of distinguished walks and works of Prof Maathai, and develop mechanisms for recognising and celebrating outstanding achievements across the relevant disciplines.

FISA launched to provide scholarships



DVC academic affairs Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi (Right) launches FISA.

The Foundation for Indigent Students of Africa (FISA) was launched at the University of Nairobi on May 27, 2011.

The non-profit Pan-African organisation aims at supporting higher education through offering scholarships for specialisation in advanced communication.

FISA is a programme which among other goals seeks to empower bright African students from humble backgrounds with higher degrees in order to enable them become better communicators in their various disciplines of choice.

The first beneficiaries will come from East Africa and will be trained at the University of Nairobi's School of Journalism

and Mass Communication. The school was selected because it was commended in 2007 by UNESCO as one of the best 12 in the world offering communication studies and as a potential centre of excellence.

Speaking during the FISA launch, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof Jacob Kaimenyi hailed the philanthropic gesture saying it will enhance the level of communication in Africa and improve the image of the region by elevating the East African Community states socio-economic agenda.

Referring to FISA's motto: "Looking beyond self to mould the next generation", Prof Kaimenyi appealed for support to FISA to enable it achieve its

objective.

The guests in the FISA launch included Nigerian High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr Chijioko Wigwe.

The formation of FISA was conceived and spearheaded by Desmond Tobeche Orjiako, a Nigerian alumnus of The University of Nairobi's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Described as a teacher, journalist and diplomat, Mr Orjiako was widely commended for spearheading a legacy that will empower the less endowed in society, through the power of information. In 2009 his book, "Communication and African integration" was launched in Nairobi.

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New divisions: new DVC's



Prof. Isaac M. Mbeche
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Student Affairs.



Prof. Lucy W. Irungu
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research,
Production and Extension.

The University of Nairobi has established two new Divisions one to cater for Research, Production and Extension and the other to cater for Students Affairs.

The Divisions will be headed by Deputy Vice-Chancellors.

Consequently, the University has appointed two Deputy Vice-Chancellors (DVCs); Prof Lucy W. Irungu to head the Research, Production and Extension (RPE) and Prof Isaac M. Mbeche to head the Students Affairs (SA).

Prof Mbeche was formerly the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences-a position he held for the last nine years.

He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management Science. He studied at UoN for his Bachelor and Masters degrees before proceeding to

the University of Lancaster for his doctoral studies. He has 25 publications and has supervised many students among them three PhDs, 15 MBAs and 15Msc in management. He is also a member of various professional organisations especially in operational research.

Prof. Mbeche is in charge of all students affairs which include planning, organising and managing work study programmes; sports and games, catering and accommodation, community service, recreation, health, and the security of students. He is also expected to develop and implement programmes such as leadership and training that support students' educational experience and wholesome life.

Prof. Irungu was formerly the Principal, College of Biological

and Physical Sciences-a position she held for seven years. Her high points include successful implementation of reforms in the College and twice she led in performance contracting in the University's internal ranking. She is a Professor of Entomology and has published 37 scientific publications, supervised nine PhD students and 32 Master of Science among others. She is an Alumnus of the UoN and Liverpool, School of Medicine, where she undertook her Masters and PhD. She has won many local and International prizes for outstanding academic achievements. She becomes the second woman in the history of the University to hold the Position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor after Prof Florida Karani who was in charge of Academic Affairs for 10 years.

The duties of DVC (RPE) include: Planning, organising and managing research infrastructure development and appropriate policy planning; coordinating administrative and logistical support for research at all levels; coordinating research information service including libraries and archives. Other duties include research branding, quality control and capacity building.

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association congratulates the new DVCs and wishes them success in their new appointments.



Prof. Wanja Thairu

Daring to walk down the untrodden path is the one thing that has defined many great achievers. When presented with the familiar and comfortable verses the unknown, Prof. Wanja Thairu chose the unknown which marked the beginning of her enlightening career journey that is far from over.

It all started after her O-level when she was denied an opportunity to study sciences since the subjects were not offered at A-level in girls' schools at the time, although she had passed well in mathematics and sciences.

Wanja nonetheless decided to study Economics and Sociology alongside Geography, a subject she liked. Even after emerging the best student in Sociology in first year, Wanja opted to continue studying Economics and Geography at Makerere University College in 1968.

Wanja Thairu

Walking the untrodden path

Those were the early post-colonial days and the government was keen to recruit manpower to replace expatriates. Economists were in high demand and even before completing college, Wanja, along with three other Kenyans studying economics, got recruitment letters to work with the Kenya Treasury as economists. She was, however, to discover that the country was not ready to accept that a woman could work in as many fields as men. On reporting to the Treasury as a finance officer, she was informed that her recruitment was a mistake since 'women cannot handle money'. Her female colleague was told exactly the same. Wanja was informed that she could only work as an assistant secretary in the administration line. She walked out. Surprisingly, she got the same response in the Ministry of Local Government which was her second choice.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Wanja then decided to go and work as an immigration officer. However, she soon landed into trouble with corrupt figures after refusing to give citizenship to undeserving cases. After a month, she quit to work as a librarian at the then University College Nairobi, which was a constituent college of the University of East Africa, along with Makerere and Dar es Salaam colleges.

She was among the first three University graduates to be

recruited in the University College library and in 1969 got a scholarship to pursue post-graduate diploma in Library Science in UK.

In information management, Wanja knew one needed to be an expert in a subject to be effective in managing information in specialised areas. In 1974 she enrolled for a master's degree in Geography at the University of Nairobi.

In 1983 while on sabbatical leave she travelled abroad with her family, and registered for a PhD in Information Sciences in University College London (UCL).

Wanja learnt how to use the BBC Personal Computer. Realising the treasure there, and besides her PhD studies and research, she attended BSc Computer Science classes in UCL. She was then able to incorporate her new computer knowledge into her PhD research to arrive at one of the conclusions that if pre-independence Kenya records had been computerised, and adequately backed up, we would have perhaps inherited a lot more of the colonial records than we did, as most were lost in a fire just before independence.

Her new knowledge in automation and the previous experience in information management enabled her to secure a job at one of North London Colleges as the systems Librarian in charge of networking the six campuses, and training staff and students

on using the automated system. She would also liaise with the manufacturers of the software who were keen to know how it was faring in the market.

In 1990 she went back to UCL to study for a Master of Science in Information Technology (IT) and at the time, her British colleagues could not understand what IT had to do with information and library management. The trailblazer that Wanja is, however, could see beyond the traditional libraries into an era of information management where IT would become an essential tool. They were soon to follow her after she graduated with an MSc.

TEACHING

She took up a job with the East and Southern African Institute (ESAMI) in Arusha, Tanzania, where she taught short IT courses to senior executives from the region. Her hardest chore was to convince them to adopt computer usage for themselves. After her job at ESAMI she joined Kiriri Women University of Science and Technology before moving to Moi

University Eldoret as the Head of the Information Technology in the School of Information Sciences. She later left Moi University to join Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) as the ICT Director in April 2008, She currently teaches Information Sciences and IT courses in the University's Nairobi Campus.

COMMUNITY WORK

Wanja is heavily involved in community work especially giving mentorship talks to schools and encouraging them to develop libraries and computer centres through computer for schools programme.

She is in charge of the Reader to patient programme at local hospitals. She has introduced the programme to Moi Referral, Getrude's Garden, Tumutumu, Kikuyu and Kenyatta hospitals through hospital staff, schools and colleges.

Wanja has also been writing and she jokes that she has 1001 manuscript yet to be published. She has published anthology of

poems titled 'Millennium poems, Come let us together: African poetic Reflections, Reason Poems' in response to world events and concerns.

She uses her personal experiences to present a provocative non-conformist approach to various issues like population, ethnic conflicts, and problems of personal identity; etiquette, behaviour, aspirations, religion and racism. The book will come as a surprise to many who know her as a scholar, the data structures and algorithms and programming lecturer, but as Dr. Felix Konotey-Ahulu notes, she isn't all brains, "Dr Thairu by contrast, reveals in her poems much scholarship and a great deal of the heart".

FAMILY

She is wife to Prof. Kihumba Thairu, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor PCEA University. They have one son, Dr (Mr) Ng'ayu Munga, a surgeon on a doctoral research programme at Imperial College and Charring Cross Hospital; a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge and like his parents, also a graduate of University College London. Prof Wanja Thairu grew up as the last child of Mwalimu Ng'ayu family in Tetu, Nyeri in the emergency period and shared a village with the renowned Mau Mau hero, Dedan Kimathi.

Wanja Thairu is a member of the National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee. In her youth, she was one of the first two African girls to climb Mt Kenya in 1964. She was also an athlete who won various medals in 100m, javelin, short put, high jump and long jump in Kenya and East Africa.

She is a Bronze Life member of UONAA.



Prof. Thairu is currently based at the Kenya Methodist University Nairobi Campus.

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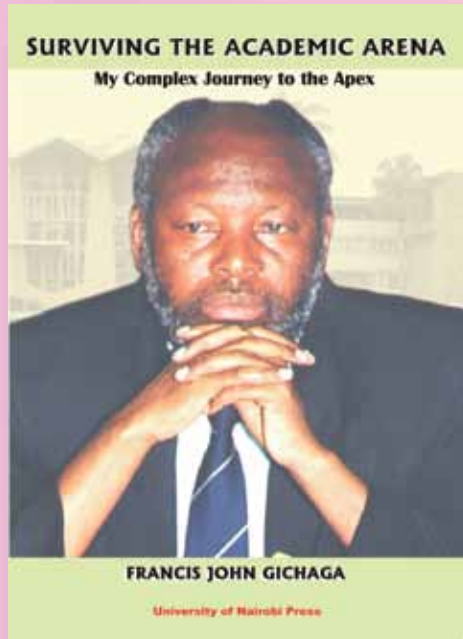
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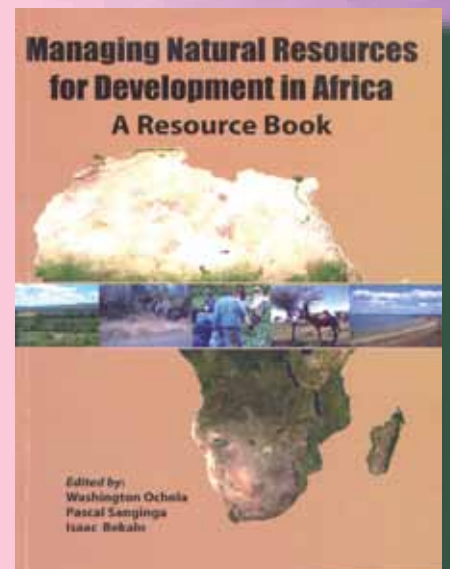
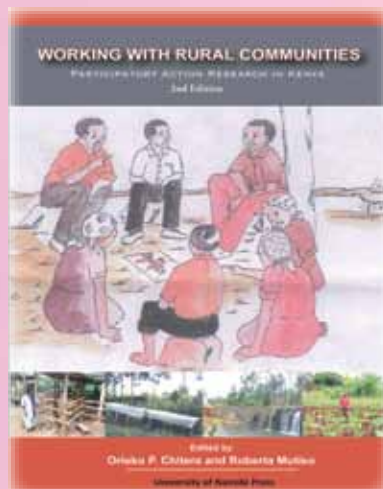
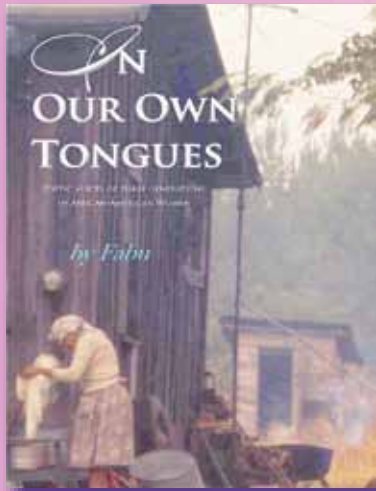
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~ Prof. Francis John Gichaga ~



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