UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE THE ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

February 19, 2013

Introduction

Preparation of the strategic plan (2012)

The Literature Department is in the process of working on adapting to changes in the field of literature and in the target job-market of our graduates. In our thinking in preparation for our strategic plan, it was necessary for us to continue keeping our eyes focused on the targets that we have set for ourselves as a department. In preparing this plan, the department reviewed its activities over the years and also carried a SWOT analysis that helped us come up with strategic interventions for the improved status of the department. Our revised strategic plan was completed and adopted on the 5th of September 2012.

Review of the curriculum

We have also seen a need to review the Literature curriculum at the University of Nairobi. This arises out of the important place that this Department occupies in the study of African literature in the country, the region, on the continent and globally. The Department of Literature is credited with revolutionizing the teaching of literature on the continent when Ngugi wa Thiong'o led his African colleagues in demanding the democratization of the study of literature, which was then called the English Department.

The new syllabus therefore creates a strong theoretical, philosophical and practical foundation in the study and appreciation of Literature, theatre and performing arts. The syllabus focuses on the theoretical, historical, regional, global and generic components of the discipline so as to produce graduates who can confidently and competently handle literary texts from varied socio-cultural environments, but without neglecting the centrality of African and Diaspora.

1.3 Introduction of Japanese and Russian languages

The department curriculum for Japanese and Russian languages and cultural studies as well as theatre and Film Studies in order to address market needs. This is with the understanding that understanding other people's cultures is key to intercultural interaction and communication which is vital in today's world.

Introduction of theatre and film studies

The growth in media, mainly driven by ICT, means that there is significant demand for skilled labour that can produce content for the media. It is because of this demand that the Department of Literature has decided to introduce courses in these new areas of focus and expand its target to include students for certificate and diploma courses.

2.1 Students enrolment – BA in Literature

Undergraduate programme: The department has continued to offer courses to Module I, Module II and Module III students. In the Module I programme, the number of students enrolled for literature as it has been taught traditionally has been going down. Review of the curriculum to take into consideration the many changes in our societies will also address this.

2.2 MA Programme in Literature

The Department has maintained its position as the lead centre for postgraduate scholarship in Literature in the country. The number of Module MA in Literature students in 2011/2012 academic year has been over 52. With the proposed expansion of the programme to introduce film studies, the numbers should go much higher. Currently we have 52 masters' students in both Regular and school based programmes.

Future Projections

MA of Arts in Theatre and Film Studies

This is a proposed new course which is designed for teachers and interested persons who may want to further their skills in Theatre and Film Studies for purposes of production in schools and teaching at the college and university level.

The course aims to equip the student with advanced analytical skills in theatre and film studies, impart knowledge in properties for Film and Theatre, encourage students to appreciate the role of film and theatre in society and also help them acquire techniques in the business of theatre and film.

2.3 PhD Programme and Research:

The Department of Literature has a strong Doctoral research programme with the active researchers under supervision currently.

Mbui Joram Kamau	Registration accepted by BPS	
Judith Jefwa	Approved Registration Awaiting fee waiver	
Kimingichi Wabende	Approved Registration Awaiting fee waiver	
Benjamin Kitata	Approved Registration Awaiting fee waiver	
Geoffrey Osaaji Mumia	Full Registration C/80/80021/2008	
Macharia Mwangi	Full Registration	
Elizabeth Jumba	Registration accepted by BPS	
Larry Ndivo	Full Registration	
Orina Felix Ayioka	Provisional Registration	
Anna Kula	Provisional Registration	
Assumpta K. Mulila-Matei	Provisional Registration	
Silvano M. Ndwiga	Provisional Registration	
Nyongesa B. Wekesa	Provisional Registration	
Ronald Amaganga	Provisional Registration	
Joseph Juma Musungu	Full Registration	

Strengthening PhD Programme:

The Department is currently implementing a strategy that will make it attract postgraduate students for MA and PhD from the universities in the region and beyond. This entails having high calibre of committed researchers and relevant courses, in the department and strong networks with centres of excellence in other parts of the world.

The Department introduced a new regulation that all the PhD candidates must present their Chapters at least twice a year.

3.0 Professional and staff development

During the 2011-2012 academic years, four of our members of staff were promoted to senior lecturer positions. They are:

- Dr. Godwin Siundu
- Dr. Tom Odhiambo
- Dr. Miriam Musonye
- Dr. Masumi Odari

4.0 International Links and Collaborations

In the 2011/2012 academic year, the Department enhanced its international profile by engaging with other universities in Africa, US, Asia and Europe, either to strengthen existing collaborations or start new ones. Among the links on course include:

- An MoU with Soka University, Japan.
- An MoU with the University of Hamburg, Germany, which is under implementation
- An MoU with the Academy of Korean Studies (South Korea) which has been implemented.

Exchange students with SOKA University

Two students from the department of literature travelled to Japan SOKA University on an exchange programme. We had four students from Soka University, Japan on an exchange programme for one year. They were taking units from Faculty of Arts and School of Economics and also participated in student activities as well. We were able to send one student form the department of literature to Soka University in 2011 after the MOU was amended to allow undergraduate students to benefit from the exchange programme. The first exchange student to Soka University from University of Nairobi was Ms. Charlene Kimara. She came back in July 2011 after successfully completing the course at Soka University that university of Nairobi will be sending two students for one term (September to February) instead of sending one student for an academic year. Mr. Wellington Waithaka and Ms. Rosebella Emi Hashimoto were sent in September 2012 as the second batch of our exchange students to Soka University. They will be returning to Kenya on 11th February 2013. We also received two students from Soka University in August 2012 and they will be studying in the faculty of Arts and School of Economics until July 2013.

We have also looked at the draft MOU sent by |Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 University and Dr. Alex Wanjala is communicating with the said university in regard to finalizing the MOU with them.





Nyokabi Wellington Waithaka Rosebella Hashimoto

The Department has also collaborated with other organisations and institutions including the government which has seen the Ministry of Education and the Department of Literature launch a program aimed at training high school teachers on film production. The first training was launched on 15th -19th November 2011. The Department has also discussed the possibility of launching Certificate and Diploma courses in Theatre and Film Studies in order to strengthen teachers' skills in this field.

In November 2011 through the Germany Exchange programme (DAAD) 11 students from the department of Literature were able to embark on 10 days trip to Germany. They managed to visit Hamburg University the city of Berlin as well as the Dresden University of Technology. The students were able to meet and interact with the staff and students through arranged classes, seminar and cultural exchange programs. The University of Nairobi students were able to learn more about the culture. The department has also organized another 12 day trip to Germany in April/May 2013.

5.0 Departmental Seminars and Conferences

The Department has been able to sustain departmental seminars for sharing progress in research as well as mentoring young scholars. In the 2011/2012 academic year, the Department maintained its monthly participation in international seminars. The topics covered include

Members of staff have been able to travel to Universities in the USA, Africa, Europe and Asia presenting papers and networking with other scholars. This has put the Department of Literature and the University of Nairobi on the international academic map.

Seminar papers represented in the department of literature

S/No.	TITLE OF PAPER PRESENTED	PRESENTER	DATE
1.	Contesting Kenyan Criminal Autobiographical confessions	Mr. Larry Ndivo	6/2/2013
2.	Introduction of Film in Schools: A Comparative Assessment of Film and Theatre Practice	Dr. Simon Peter Otieno	13/02/2013
3.	Re-Routing Colonialissm: On Whose Terms?	Dr. Alex Nelungo Wanjala	14/11/2012
4.	Like Stepping from Rock to Rock up Blinkwater or Babi Yar	Mr. Cullen Goldblatt	16/01/2013
5.	Deconstructionist Writing in the Third Millennium African Literature	Prof. Helen O. A. Mwanzi	30/01/2013

6.0 Public fora

The public lecture by Prof. Micere Githae Mugo and launch of her book on April 17, 2012.

The event was addressed by the Attorney General.

Micere Githae Mugo



Micere Mugo: Professor of Literature

Micere Githae Mugo (Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence Professor of African American Studies (Poet and Playwright) is a writer, activist, and academic. Born in Kenya, she received her BA from Makerere University, a teaching diploma from Nairobi University (PGDE), and an MA and PhD from the University of New Brunswick, Canada. In 1980 she was elected the first woman faculty

dean in Kenya, possibly in all of Africa.

Her political activism against government human rights abuses, however, led to arrests, police harassment, and several remands for interrogation. In 1982, she was forced into exile with her two young daughters.

She is now a professor in the Department of African American Studies at Syracuse University. Mugo, a distinguished poet, is the author or editor of fifteen books and is frequently anthologized. Founder and President of the Pan African Community of Central New York, she initiated volunteer programs in two prisons, has been an official speaker for Amnesty International and a consultant for the "Africa on the Horizon" series by Blackside.

'Do not let other people shape you. Protect your own space' is the message she had for the many people who attended her Public Lecture and book launch at University of Nairobi.

Prof. Micere Githae Mugo launched her book in a well attended event formalized by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Hon. Martha Karua, Attorney General Prof. Githu Muigai, among others.

Prof. Micere is a distinguished writer, scholar and professor of literature at Syracuse University in the USA. Back in the 80s she was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at UoN making her the first female dean in Kenya.

Her book, *Writing & Speaking from the Heart of My Mind* is about the life and times of the author. It highlights some of the key experiences she went through and the lessons she learnt.

Her story is one of a resilient woman who has fought oppression for the greater democratic space. In her presentation, Prof. Micere called on Kenyans to empower themselves and embrace change.

7.0 TRAININGS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT

(i) Film Production Workshop for Teachers at the Kenya Science On 26th August 2012 31st August 2012

Having successfully proposed, instituted and launched the Kenya schools, Colleges and Universities Film Festival, the department of Literature in-collaboration with the Ministry of Education conducted a capacity building workshop at the Kenya Science Teachers College.

The workshop objectives were to enhance capacity of teachers in different aspects of filmmaking Evaluate the films presented in 2011, assess the set out rules and regulations for the film festival, Assess the needs of the teachers in the film festival and Analyse adjudication process for film.

The workshop was attended by 38 directors and drama teachers from all over the country.

8.0 THE FREE TRAVELLING THREATRE

In July 2012 the department of Literature launched a College tour of the Free Travelling Theatre Led by Dr. Simon Otieno and Mr. Kimingichi Wabende. The 22 students performed a play titled VISIKI whose theme is National Cohesion and Respect our Ethnic Identities. Changing the view and attitudes of the University students, who are also seen as the cream of the society, was one of the objectives of the 2012 FTT programme and to promote dialogue among students and staff. The students performed in College of Health Science, Chiromo Campus (Millennium Hall), Lower Kabete, Main Campus, among others.

9.0 WORKSHOPS ON PERSONAL STORIES WRITING

This activity was carried out in collaboration with AWSC the main facilitators were Prof. Henry Indangasi and Mrs. Ann Mwangi. 29 literature students and two lecturers participated in the activity. It was a one week workshop. The short stories are now ready for publication



Group Photo of the participants during the workshop

10.0 Publications from members of the department:-

(a) Prof. Wanjiku M. Kabira

- ♣ A Time for Harvest: Women & Constitution Making in Kenya, 1992-2010, University of Nairobi Press 2012
- Rebuilding the broken African Pot, Celebrating Article 43 (1)(c) of the Kenya constitution: Attaining food and Nutrition security: Best practices and lessons learnt. African Women Studies Centre publication, October 2012.

Women's Experiences as Sources of Public and Legitimate Knowledge: Constitution Making in Kenya for the AWSC journal 2012.

(b) Prof. Henry Indangasi

- The Joy of Poetry-Kenya Literature Bureau, 2012-10-12 <u>Flying Colours in English</u> <u>Composition</u> for Secondary Schools-Kenya Literature Bureau, 2012 (Revised Edition)
- Challenging the Rules: A leadership Model for Good Governance. Edited and wrote Introduction. East Africa Educational Publishers, 2011.
- <u>Distinction English for Primary Teacher Education</u>. (co-author). Kenya Literature Bureau, 2011.

(c) Prof. Peter Wasamba

- Wasamba P. "Quest for Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya: The Role of Oral History". HEKIMA (Submitted for review, 2012).
- Wasamba P."Echoes of Dialogue in African and Korean Literatures". The Nairobi Journal of Literature. (Submitted for review, 2012).
- Wasamba, P. "What Do they get for their Sweat: Rethinking Compensation for Artists in Poor Cash-based Economies." Journal of African Cultures, Soas. (Will appear in December 2012 issue).
- Wasamba, P. "Going Beyond Data Collection in Ethnography: Options for Bridging the Gap between Researchers and Archivists." Journal of African Renaissance Studies. (Submitted for review June 2012).
- Wasamba, P. "Voicing Seoul Metropolis: The Other Side of Urbanization in Korea." Journal of Oral History (submitted for review June 2012).
- Wasamba, P, "Tradition, Borrowing and Plagiarism: an Examination of Joseph Conrad's Under Western Eyes and Ngugi wa Thiong'o's A Grain of Wheat." Journal of Research in African Literatures. (Submitted for review June 2012).

Book Publications in Literature: By Prof. Peter Wasamba

Wasamba, P, Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork: A Researcher's Guide. NUP (review stage) 2012. Wasamba P, J. Muchiri & DH Kiiru, Essay as a Handshake, Nairobi: CHSS, ISBN, 2012.pp.104.

a) Dr. Tom Odhiambo

- In James Ogude, Grace Musila and Dina Ligaga (Eds.) "Rethinking Eastern African Literary and Intellectual Landscapes. (New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2012).Pp.
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b) Dr. Godwin Siundu

- Siundu, Godwin. (2012) "Gender Affirmation or Racial Loyalties? Women and the Domestication of History in Neera Kapur-Dromson's From Jhelum to Tana." In James Ogude,
- ♣ Grace Musila & Dina Ligaga, eds., *Rethinking Eastern African Literary and Intellectual* Landscapes. Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press. Pp. 245 262.
- Siundu, Godwin. (2012) "Review of Tina Steiner Translated People, Translated Texts: Language and Migration in Contemporary African Literature", Imbizo: International Journal of African Literary and Comparative Studies, Volume 3 (1) 2012, pp 124 – 130.

Other Responsibilities

- Acted as Coordinator, Postgraduate Studies Committee from August to October
 2012
- Appointed by the English Department, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, to externally examine a PhD thesis. This was done and positively received.
- Was a member of the English Panel at the Kenya Institute of Education, tasked with the vetting and selection of Literature set books for the Kenya Secondary Schools.

Papers presented:

(a) Prof. H. Indangasi

- Biography as Literature: The Example of <u>The other Barack: The Bold and Reckless Life</u> <u>of President Obama's father</u>-Departmental Seminar, 2012.
- 4 A Road Map to Knowledge Creation in the Humanities and Social Sciences-Paper

(b) Dr. Alex N. Wanjala

Publications

- i. Journal Articles
- "Representing the Gendered Subaltern in Postcolonial Kenyan Fiction: Marjorie
 Oludhe Macgoye's Coming to Birth." *Reyono Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*,
 Vol.1 No.2, 2012. Kozhencherry: St. Thomas College, 2012.
- "Orality in Rebeka Njau's The Sacred Seed." The Global South Special Issue: Indigenous Rights and Intellectual Property Rights and Property Rights in the Age of Globalisation." Vol. 5. No.2, Fall 2011. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012.

ii. Book

An Unsettled Hearth: Women's Voices in Kenyan Fiction. Berlin: Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012

1. Conferences attended in 2011/12

(a) Prof. Wanjiku M. Kabira

i. Papers presented

- Expert Group Meeting on Priorities for Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in today's development context in Croatia from 31 July-2 August 2012.
- Regional Dialogue on Women Political Leadership: Lessons from experiences of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana and South Africa at Safari Park Hotel on August 14-16, 2012
- Mainstreaming Gender In Policies & Programmes: A Training Session For Parliamentary Research Department, Internship Programme at The Kenya National Assembly on August 30, 2012.

- Our Second Homecoming: Voices from African Women for the Department of Literature Journal 2012.
- The Historical Journey of Women's Leadership in Kenya Paper presented at Regional Dialogue on Women Political Leadership: Lessons from experiences of Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana and South Africa at Safari Park Hotel on August 14-16, 2012.
- Giving Birth to the Women's Vision of the World, paper presented at The Association of the Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) 50th Anniversary of Existence Celebrations & The launch of AOSK Strategic Plan 2012/17 on October 13, 2012.
- African Women Studies Centre Vision, Mission and programmes paper presented at Makerere Consultative meeting of Africa America Higher Education Partnerships meeting on October 15, 2012.
- (b) Dr. Alex Nelungo Wanjala
- i. Conferences Attended and Papers Presented
 - 21st November 2012. "Rerouting the Postcolonial: On Whose Terms?" Paper presented at a Departmental Seminar, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi
 - 7th November 2012. "Sheng: Verbalising the Paroles of Kenya's Transnation." A paper presented at the 1st Kenya Oral Literature Association Eastern African Cultural Forum. University of Nairobi, Kenya. 7th-10th November 2012.
 - **20th April 2012**. "The Poetics of Genge: Jua Cali's Niimbie." A paper presented at the 26th annual MELUS conference and 6th conference of the United States Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (USACLALS), University of Santa Clara, California, United States of America.
 - **12th April 2012**. "Narrating the Trauma of the Abuse of Human Rights: Rebeka Njau's *The Sacred Seed*." Paper presented at the annual African Literature Association conference, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, United States of America.

- **14th February 2012**, "Poverty in Kenya: Insights from a Critique of Selected Novels." A paper presented at a round table discussion on global poverty, Centre for Human Rights and Peace, University of Nairobi, 13th-14th February 2012.
- 6th January 2012, "Historiography or Imagination? The Documentation of Luo Traditional Cultural Memory in Kenyan Fiction." A paper presented at the CHOTRO 4 conference in Vadodara-Tejgadh, India, 6th-8th January 2012.

ii. Fund Raising

a) Prof. Wanjiku M. Kabira

- Through the AWSC under the SUNY-Kenya 1 year project 2011/12, prepared budget proposals for ensuring food security which were presented at public budget hearings and to the Parliamentary Budget Committee where the AWSC was allocated 81million for the improvement of the National Food Security policy.
- Prepared a funding proposal for civic education for the department of Literature submitted to URAIA- with Dr. Simon Peter Otieno & Mr. Kimingichi Wabende (Awaiting respond).

2. Workshops/Trainings Organized

a) Prof. Henry Indangasi:

- Attended writing workshops organized by the Kenya Literature Bureau in April and October 2012.
- Facilitated writing and editing workshops for the Kenya National Examinations Council-June 2012.
- Facilitated creative writing workshop sponsored by the National Book Development Council of Kenya.

i. Other National Activities

- 4 Chaired Panel of Judges for the Wahome Mutahi Literary, Award
- Chaired Jury for the Burt Award at the National Book Development Council of Kenya.

ii. Editing

- The Beaten Track and Other Personal Stories (A publication of the Department of Literature)
- **4** The Nairobi Journal of Literature (A publication of the Department of Literature).

b) Prof. Wanjiku M. Kabira

- A two day national workshop with the marginalised communities, PWDs to share the research findings on Economic Social Rights and recommendations for the implementation of Article 43 (1), held on July 20, 2012.
- One day training of radio panelists and auditors for the presentation of research findings on Economic Social Rights and recommendations for the implementation of Article 43 (1) held on August 6, 2012.
- Held consultations with Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Departmental Committee on Agricultural, Livestock & Cooperatives on issues of food security (2012).

Funded Research Projects: By Prof. Peter Wasamba

- 2012 July-June 2015: Researcher, "Establishment of Korean Studies at the University of Nairobi Project." Supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD129, 000).
- 4 2011-2013: Research Director; "Voices from the Cities: A comparative Study on Urbanization in Kenya and Korea", supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD 82000)
- 4 2011-2014: Research: "Bridging the Divide: Networking African and Korean Researchers," supported by the Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul. (USD 63,000).

Dr. Simon Peter Otieno

Workshop for the Training of teacher in Film production in Kenya Science in 26th
 August to Organize free travelling theatre in July.

The following books/articles have been published

- March 2012 Departmental seminar presentation. Title: "Eroticism in African Oral Literature: A Psychoanalytic View."
- April 2012, I submitted a paper to Gaba, a constituent college of CUEA, entitled: "Teaching (of Language) in the New Millennium."
- In June I attended a conference at CUEA and presented a paper titled: "The Politics of Citizenship for Women in Kenya and the Significance for Girl Children."
- In July 2012, I submitted a short story to a publisher in the UK, titled: "The Droughts."
- In September 2012 I contributed a paper to a proposed journal being edited by Dr Florence Ojukwu on "The position of Women's Citizenship in Kenya: The Legal Versus the Cultural."

Members of staff have continued to publish in the Departmental journal as well as other refereed international journals worldwide. In the 2011/2012 academic year, members of staff in the Department of Literature published a total of 53 issues, the highest in any Department under the CHSS, in publications. The Department publishes *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. It is the only regular literary journal in the country and East Africa region. The current Issue is at an advanced stage of production.

Some of the publications include:

- Henry Indangasi. Flying Colours in English Composition for Secondary Schools, Kenya
- 🖊 Literature Bureau, 2011.
- Henry Indangasi. *Enjoying Poetry*, Kenya Literature Bureau, 2011.
- Henry Indangasi. *Distinction English (Tutor's Guide)*, Kenya Literature Bureau, 2011.
- Henry Indangasi. (Eds) 'Introduction' in Challenging the Rulers: A Leadership Manual for Good
- Governance. East African Educational Publishers, 2011.
- Tom Odhiambo. Published a chapter 'Kwani? And the Imaginations around Reinvention of Art

- and Culture in Kenya' in *Eastern African Intellectual Traditions* edited by James
 Ogude, Grace Musila and Dina Ligaga, Africa World Press, 2012.
- Miriam Maranga-Musonye. A book chapter 'Fragile States and their Impact on Neighbouring
- Countries: the Case of Somalia and Kenya.' OSSREA 2011 book project.
- Wasamba p, J, Bwonya & H. Mugambi. Eds. Tales From My Motherland. Jomo Kenyatta
- Foundation, 2011.Wasamba P. Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork: A Researcher's Handbook. Nairobi: University of Nairobi Press, 2011.
- Wasamba P. 'And what do they get for their sweat? Rethinking Compensation for Artists within The Legal Provisions.' In *The International Journal of African Languages* and Culture. SOAS. Due in August 2012.
- Wasamba P. 'African Oral Literature and the Korean Wave: A Case of Inter-Cultural Dialogue' in African Affairs Journal, Hankuk University, due in February 2012.
- Wasamba P. 'Quest for Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya: The Role of Oral History' in Hekima: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (forthcoming).
- Wanjiku Mukabi Kabira. Gender and Policy Analysis Tools for the Agriculture & Health Sectors, 2011.

Staff Development

The Department aims to have a dynamic team of literary scholars with local and international recognition. The Department hopes to achieve this by supporting members of staff currently pursuing their PhD programmes to complete within two years. Scholars with PhDs are also encouraged to conduct research, and disseminate their findings through seminars, conferences and publications. In 2011/2012, four members of staff were promoted to senior lecturers' positions.

1. Promotions:

The following lecturers in the department of literature were promoted to senior lecturer grade on 9th of September, 2011. This was an achievement in the department of literature.

1. Dr. Godwin Siundu

- 2. Dr. Tom Odhiambo
- 3. Dr. Miriam Musonye
- 4. Dr. Masumi Odari

There are three opportunities for staff members to complete their PhDs.

- 1. Mr. Kimingichi Wabende
- 2. Mrs Judith Jefwa
- 3. Mr. Kitata Makau
- 4. Mr. Osaaji Mumia who was on leave working on his Ph.D.

The Department of Literature also organises seminars for Ph.D. student to present progress reports and chapters on their thesis: