



December 2011

Varsity**Focus**

A MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



 Research Activities
 Prizes
 Donations

 Launches
 Linkages

OUR VISION

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR CORE VALUES

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





VarsityFocus

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The University of Nairobi is set to put up a 15-storey building at the Main Campus to accommodate increasing academic activities and administrative services.

...and much more

Editorial

You are Welcome to the last edition of the 2011 Varsity Focus which also coincides with many end year activities.

With our scale of operations, we had a fairly busy last part of the year which began with the 1st graduation held last September comprising four colleges in which 4600 students graduated with different awards. The University also admitted over 6,000 first years during the same period to join various courses in different modules pushing the admission throughout the year to more than 12,000 students in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The current student population now stands at over 58,000.

The University was also engaged in other academic activities among them, hosting various dignitaries and workshops involving key stakeholders from the private sector and the international community. The Indian High Commission for instance donated books worth Kshs 300,000 to the University Library as part of activities to observe India's Independence Day which was held in October. On the other hand, over 72 donors congregated at the Main Campus last month to honour top performing students in the last two academic years – five more donors came on board while three others increased the value of their prizes – an indicator of the faith they have in our products.

Of important mention in this edition is the book by Prof. Francis Gichaga's, a former Vice-Chancellor of UoN and currently Chancellor Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and a Professor of Civil Engineering in the School of Engineering. The book titled "Surviving the Academic Arena: My Complex Journey to the Apex", is about the life and times of the author during his life and most critically while at the helm of leadership at the University of Nairobi at the time when the country was transitioning into a multiparty democracy.

Student activities have also been vibrant during this period. A few months ago, AIESEC, organized an international gathering of different chapters at KICC. The fete brought together representatives from leading universities worldwide to share their experiences, mentorship and map the way forward in their intellectual lives. Not to be left behind is the vintage Women Organization of Student Welfare (WOSWA) which has been involved in mentorship activities that climaxed in a high profile event at the Main campus that involved leading professionals from both the private and public sectors. The umbrella student union SONU was also busy with its schedule of networking activities with key players in the country, to help it improve its corporate image and find opportunities for students.

During this period, the performance of the University in outreach activities has been exemplary. This year, the University of Nairobi emerged the best institution in higher learning and research related activities at the Nairobi International Trade Fair beating many renowned research and higher learning institutions. In sports, Mean Machine, the University rugby team, won a Gold medal in the National cup and silver in the universities category, which affirmed the team's resurgence with a series of high profile performances that it was once known for. Varsity Focus, congratulates the team for this good achievement.

The University has increased linkages with leading universities and organizations. Private companies have offered scholarships while others have donated books and given indications for engaging in collaborative research.

Our human interest angle is focused on first years as we bring you up to date with the life of the yesteryear first year.

Enjoy reading.

Charles E. Sikulu

Nurturing team work



Prof. George A.O. Magoha, Vice-Chancellor

As 2011 comes to a close, it is important that we look back at what has been a busy year, with important activities and events that display a commitment to our critical core values of team spirit and team work.

2011 has been a great year for testing the synergy and energy within the University, indeed this energy was demonstrated throughout the year, as we inaugurated a new council, and in the appointment of two new Deputy Vice Chancellor's for research and extension and student affairs. There was a sense of a new awakening and a resolve to strengthen governance and research structures within the University.

The University received its recertification on ISO 9000:2008 in

August 2011. The University first embarked on the journey to ISO in 2007, and has continued, with a team of dedicated ISO auditors, to conduct internal surveillance and report on performance. So far there have been seven internal surveillance audits and evaluation and the work achieved has been commendable.

The University also launched its Reviewed Strategic Plan in 2011. This Reviewed Strategic Plan is a testimony that the University is committed to effective service delivery. Indeed, the Council and

the Chancellor of the University have guided the management and been available to work as part of a team that is committed to excellence in internalising our brand.

The performance of the University, judging from some of the trophies and accolades that we continued to receive, point out the hard work by members of staff. Our performance is replicated in the international rankings where we remain the top local university and among some of the leading learning institutes in the region. Our stakeholders continue to support our research activities and linkages grew such that mentoring from some of the best scholars in the world has become the norm.

Still on research, at the close of the year, I am pleased to note our plan to train academic and technical staff in writing winning grant proposals, is on course. Training and sensitisation of grant accountants and administrators has also commenced and we believe that in the next year, we will raise the visibility of our research capacity, potential and portfolio.

I wish to commend a larger part of the student body for continuing to uphold discipline, conducting themselves with dignity and our staff for the diligent and professional discharge of their responsibilities, despite the challenges. This is the spirit that is critical in making our institution an attractive destination for intellectual discourse.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation opportunities

A delegation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE), recently held a meeting with local scientists at the University of Nairobi, as part of a sensitization programme on available opportunities within the Foundation.

The mission was to also bridge the information gap that exists, where many scientists are unaware of what the Foundation offers.

The team, which included Kenest Honcock, Joseph Jones, Rachel Malinen, and Fedros Okumu, has been running projects with the University of Nairobi which include the KAVI project. They have also supported the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) through AGRA and IOWA State University. Part of their mandate is to assist Kenya to address its national threats including food security, energy and water utilization, specifically in the drier parts of the country.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge



Rachel Malinen makes her presentation

of Research, Production and Extension (RPE), Prof Lucy Irungu recognized and appreciated that the Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, previously, funded a number of projects in the University which have served as the catalyst to development of the concept and finally the launch of the meeting. Prof Irungu, commended the GCE for expressing an interest in setting up a network to attract young African scientists to participate in a funded research project on reducing poverty and disease in the future. She noted that GCE has set aside over 10 million dollars towards these activities in Africa.

Prof. Irungu expressed the

University's desire to host GCE regional coordinating office, in order to encourage and facilitate young African Scientists in the East and Central Africa region to participate in funded research programs. According to Irungu, the significance of having a Regional Network coordinating office at the University of Nairobi right at its inception, is that it would help GCE build on the existing network infrastructure that the University of Nairobi has built over the years in collaboration with partner institutions in the region.

According to Prof. Irungu, tangible progress has been made across various aspects of research at the University. This progress

demonstrates the strength of the technology and innovation that we practice; a, technology that enabled us to attract approximately Kshs.3 billion of investment in research grants over the past financial year 2010/2011 including development and patenting of unique discoveries and knowledge based products.

GCE supports hundreds of early-stage research projects – including many ideas that have never before been tested – and scientists

from a wide range of disciplines and regions. The initiative, funds innovative ideas that could lead to new vaccines, diagnostics, drugs, and other technologies targeting diseases that claim millions of lives every year.

GCE is an extension of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's commitment to the Grand Challenges in Global Health, which was launched in 2003 to accelerate the discovery of new

technologies to improve global health. To date, the Foundation has committed over \$500 million to support hundreds of projects on topics such as making childhood vaccines easier to use in poor countries, and creating new ways to control insects that spread disease.

Challenges of urbanization in subsaharan Africa - *Lecture by UN Habitat Director*

On Tuesday 8 November 2011 Dr. Joan Clos, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT delivered a public lecture at the University of Nairobi. The lecture on "Challenges of urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa and the role of universities" was an initiative of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi and UN-HABITAT.

The function was attended by among others, University of Nairobi staff and students, including invited guests from UN-HABITAT, Kenyatta University, City Council of Nairobi, Mazingira Institute and Institute of French Research in Africa (IFRA).

The lecture highlighted and discussed three major issues. These are: global trends of population growth and urbanisation; the challenges of urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa; and the role of universities in sustainable urban planning and management.

As much as cities in sub-Saharan Africa experience a number of challenges as a result of high rates of urbanisation, Dr. Clos was particularly concerned with the high proportion of the urban population living in slums, increasing inequalities and urban poverty, as well as the rising youthful population vis-a-viz low

economic growth and employment opportunities. Dr. Clos suggested that sustainable urbanisation should be embedded on better planning and design that embraces optimal density, diversity, mobility, equity, efficiency, scale of expected growth and the concept of a vibrant urban economy. Besides their mandates, missions and visions, African universities should be encouraged and facilitated to play a major role in achieving sustainable urbanisation in sub-Saharan Africa. This calls for structured collaboration between universities and other stakeholders, including UN-HABITAT.

The lecture drew stimulating debate from the discussants and audience. The discussants were Prof. Peter Ngau, Prof. David Mungai (University of Nairobi) and Mr. John Barre (Director, Policy Implementation, Nairobi City Council).

Dr. Clos punctuated his lecture and discussions with a wide range of experiences from his distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. He has been a city councilor, Mayor of Barcelona, a government Minister and an ambassador, among other appointments and positions. Furthermore, he has won several local, national and international recognitions and awards.

Over 6,000 first years admitted

The University of Nairobi admitted over 6,000 first years during the 2011/2012 academic year to join the institution's undergraduate programmes.



First year students undergoing the admission process last September.

The University of Nairobi admitted over 6,000 first years during the 2011/2012 academic year ; these join the institutions' 69 undergraduate programmes under the Module 1 and Module II programmes. The fresher's were oriented into University life during the weeklong orientation, which culminated in the address by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.

The Vice-Chancellor promised the freshers that the University will ensure that campus life becomes a fulfilling experience by inculcating positive virtues

and preparing them intellectually to face the expectations of the world. While welcoming the fresher's to university life, he cautioned them that the freedom they would enjoy on campus is subject to rules and regulations. Prof. Magoha advised students not to engage in risky behavior with its exposure to social problems such as HIV/AIDS, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The registration of first years was

smooth following the finalization of negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement, between the University Council and non teaching staff unions which had threatened to disrupt the exercise on Monday. The University of Nairobi has 58,000 students registered in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. About 45,000 are undergraduates while 13,000 are postgraduates.

Induction into student life

memoirs of an alumnus



First year students reporting for registration at the Main Campus.

The freshman of the 1970's, and the 80's was inducted into student life in very interesting ways.

The freshman, usually under the age of 20 years, had spent time in high school, in the rural areas; it was thus exciting for him to be in Nairobi and to experience lights, a varied diet, and comfortable accommodation.

Academics or rather, intellectualism aside, the campus life was an introduction into a

future life. Ahmed, now in his late fifties remembers his student days almost as if it was yesterday, "hey mami he says to me, as we sit in the senior common room, drinks on hand, nyama, and plenty of male company, I remember my introduction to campus life, it was one roll of pleasure and some pain. I remember being taken round to pleasure spots such as Afro Unity, Karumaindo, Hallians, Starlight and Sombrero. The beer those days was cheap, reasonably so and we could get drunk on less than 400 shillings ;we had a green card-an id that allowed us to access many venues at half the price. It was wonderful being a student" I am aware that these

pleasure spots, as we speak, no longer exist, they have been closed down but they certainly served the student well. 'we cut our teeth in learning how to drink and to keep it down, we were not allowed to throw up on people especially ladies, a man had to keep it down and walk straight"

David , intervenes, remember what we used to wear, huh, hehe, snigger, a few other men seated at the table, "our standard uniform on campus was a pair of 22 inch bell bottomed trousers in polyester blend, six inch platform shoes, a slim fit shirt of polyester and a J5 hat. Around our narrow waists we wore a big buckled belt. Dressed in that ensemble, we had not a care in the world, disturbed by neither heat, nor cold, we partied all over town. The table was in agreement that the new generation, does not know what style is, they are only sure about showing what should be left unseen-underwear.- they comment about sagging pants.

Remember the bands and the music says Patrick. Those were the days of Garden Square, the live band, listening to Super Mazembe, Mangelepa, Bomaliwanza, and occasionally we listened to Milly Jackson, Tabu Ley live, when they visited town. Those shows were held at the KICC. It was

Admission

glorious. Today, getting live band entertainment in a decent spot with clean toilets is impossible. These days, they complained, those are venues for spiked drinks and youngsters who cannot afford a drink sipping from your glass when you seem distracted.

Mwalimu Kithaka, joins us at this juncture. Tell me about your days and life on campus, I ask. Aah he says, those were the heydays of watching movies. The flicks, as we called them, were projected in cinemas that sadly have shut down or are used for other purposes. There was Cameo, Shan, Liberty, Metropole, Embassy, Nairobi, and Casino. The film shows were continuous featuring movies such as : Enter the dragon, Bruce Lee we miss you, One armed boxer, Five from Shoalin, and the wonder film, The language of love. What is a continuous show I ask, well, the shows run from 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, and 8-10. Once you entered one show, you were free to leave or continue as you wished. The kung fu and karate movies, on reflection were hilarious: the grunts, kicks, shouts, arms flailing all over, its laughable now but we enjoyed them immensely.

It can't have been all pleasure, I am sure, tell me about the pain. There is a pause, in the conversation, a poignant moment and a collective sigh. Well, says Eddie, we "collected" alot. And that is not a lie. There were some places such as Imani, Kakamega hotel and another which I shall not tell you, where we went. These were brothels, and you



Accompanied by her family members, this first year student (left) will forever cherish this moment.

know condoms were not that available , so of course we were liable to get VD. It was painful nursing those sores, but we were fortunate that our great friend at the time was Dr Githahu Mwangi (RIP), he was the CMO at the University and he understood treatment for STD's like the back of his hand. He was ever ready with capsules to cure us. One thing was that once he treated you, you did not dare go back because the next time, he would not hesitate to inject your privates with a big needle, this was a cold, long steel needle, he would call us son as he handed over the condoms for you to use-this was in secrecy, they were always in a brown bag.

Imani is no more, it was shut down by a Nairobi PC in the early 1980's when it received full notoriety "this is Sodom and Gomorrah, he is reported to have said as he ordered it shut down. And it remained shut. Kakamega hotel used to promote itself interestingly, as you climbed up the stairs to the bar, there would be a lady seated on the staircase,

a short skirt almost to the top of her thigh, legs open slightly apart, promoting the product no doubt. Therefore as you sipped your beer, that image would beckon you, a niggling at the back of your mind.

Of course we had drama, art of the theatre , the Education Theater 2, or ED2, was the home of the Free Travelling Theatre. Luminaries of the years included Jagi Gakunju, Tirus Gathwe, John Sibi Okumu, Waigwa Wachira, Olouch Obura, Chiarunji Chesaina, Janet Young, Francis Imbuga, Ann Wanjugu. These people , allowed us to express ourselves.

The induction to campus life was certainly hot, a baptism of heat from a swollen head from fights, a bruised pocket if you were cleaned out by pickpockets, sore loins if you collected , and heat in the stomach from mixing alcoholic beverages." Is it a wonder that men actually graduated? No they chorus, we did read, we passed exams and we, all those here graduated.

IBM's skills development project

An IBM team led by Dr Mark Dean, IBM Fellow and Chief Technology Officer for IBM Middle East and Africa, recently paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor.

During the meeting, Dr. Dean revealed that IBM is exploring the establishment of an IBM Skills Development and Research Institute (SDRI) in Johannesburg. The objectives of the SDRI is to grow and elevate the level of ICT skills in Africa by establishing relationships and Centers of Excellence in select African regions.

According to Dean, IBM will collaborate with universities, industry and local governments, with a focus on region relevant research and data centre technologies to support growth initiatives and innovation in each region. Under the programme, it is envisaged that a series of purposeful analysis exercises, seminars, courses, workshops and research projects will be created with the aim of supporting sustained skills development in

several areas of ICT including: computer science, service science and computer engineering.

The SDRI will leverage IBM's existing education, training and research programmes, along with resources and programmes from partner institutions, to support the rapid deployment of its target agenda.

IBM will also establish a cloud computing based data-centre to support classes, training programmes, research projects

and collaborative initiatives with local businesses. This data-centre will also be a living lab for students to have hands-on experience in the management and operations of a real data centre computing environment.

Ultimately, the SDRI will support 20-25 researchers working in areas of interest to the regional businesses, government and industry partners. Example of such research areas of interest include: mobile banking services (security, fraud detection, delivery, mobile services platform), natural resource management, cloud computing services, and computational sciences. (computational biology, genomics, bio-informatics).

The IBM official was accompanied by IBM Director, University Relations, Sean Mclean, and was received by Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principle, College of Biological and Physical Sciences and other University officials.



Dr Mark Dean, IBM Fellow and Chief Technology Officer

M.A courses in translation and Interpretation

International organizations will lose close to 40 per cent of their language staff through retirement

The University of Nairobi has signed an MOU with the University of Geneva, Switzerland in a collaborative effort to train translators and interpreters. The collaboration also involves staff and students exchange programme as well as e-learning through the world-class University of Geneva's Virtual Institute.

The official handing-over of the MOU was held on October 6, 2011 during a ceremony presided over by the Vice chancellor, represented by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice chancellor, student affairs and Prof. Barbara Moser, Director, Institute for Translation and Interpreting, University of Geneva. The programme was conceived out of recognition that within the next four years, international organizations will lose close to 40 per cent of their language staff through retirement and that Africa will be the hardest hit, due to the lack of trained language professionals on the continent.

In brief remarks, Prof. Mbeche noted that the collaboration with the University of Geneva and other stakeholders will ensure that the University of Nairobi continues

to offer world-class training in translation and interpretation and develop into a centre of excellence. The University of Nairobi, in partnership with the United Nations officially launched the first MA programme in translation and interpretation in this region in 2010. The MA programme at the University of Nairobi, which includes English, Kiswahili, Arabic, French, German, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese languages, is being perceived as a model which other universities on the continent are seeking to

emulate.

Those present during the handing over included Prof Lucy Irungu, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(RPE), Prof J Kaimenyi, the Deputy Vice- Chancellor (AA), Mr. Rudy Van Dijck, Chief of Conference Services Division, United Nations Office Nairobi (UNON), Dr. Jayne Mutiga, Coordinator, Centre for Translation and Interpretation and other top officials of University of Nairobi and UNON.



Prof. Barbar Moser with a delegation from the University of Geneva's Virtual Institute and UoN.



Program to improve health training

In August 2010, the University of Nairobi (UON) College of Health Sciences won a 5-year, \$12.5 million-dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) targeting medical education institutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

The program, at the College of Health Sciences is called the Partnership for Innovative Medical Education for Kenya (PRIME-K) and its mission is to improve health outcomes in Kenya through training and research. The program is implemented in partnership with the University of Washington (UW) and the University

of Maryland-Baltimore (UMB) in the United States.

Over the past year, the PRIME-K program has focused on four main objectives that aim to: Improve the quality of medical education; Extend the reach of medical training; Increase retention of UON faculty by providing opportunities for clinical

or applied research; and, Support the UON research administration and oversight.

The College of Health Sciences also received a linked grant on Neonatal, Child and Maternal Health. The UoN collaborates with colleagues at the UW and will establish a Collaborative Center of Excellence in Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) at the UoN which will build research capacity and provide outstanding training in implementation science and applied research, health metrics and evaluation, and program leadership relevant to achieving Kenya's health development goals.

In terms of improving the quality of medical education, activities in this area have focused on developing a "skills lab" to be based at the School of Nursing Sciences that will allow students to have hands-on clinical experiences using expert patients

and simulation models. In addition, the program has implemented trainings on innovative teaching and training methods to promote the use of effective medical education practices at the College. To date, over 140 faculty members from the five Schools in the College have been trained.

PRIME-K has developed and implemented a decentralized community based program that optimizes training in primary care and preventative medicine around HIV/AIDS. In the first year of the program, the PRIME-K and the Ministry of Health identified 4 district hospitals, Mbagathi District Hospital, Naviasha District Hospital, Coast Provincial General Hospital and Garissa Provincial General Hospital, to serve as sites for medical students, interns and postgraduates over the life of PRIME-K. Currently, the program

has placed 30 fourth-year students at the decentralized sites for an 8-week pilot in pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, surgery and public health.

The PRIME-K program offers several opportunities for University of Nairobi postgraduates and faculty to pursue clinical or applied research. A one-year mentored Implementation Science Fellowship, mentored career development projects and mentored seed research projects will provide opportunities for faculty and staff members to enhance research outputs and improve academic staff qualification. In addition, the PRIME-K program offers training in research methods, proposal and grant writing, implementation science, and responsible conduct of research. Mentorship of students and Fellows from the College of Health Sciences will be done by senior faculty from UON, UW

and UMB to promote continued professional development.

The PRIME-K program also provides a platform to strengthen the research administration and oversight capacity for the University of Nairobi. The program has supported the UoN-KNH Ethics Review Committee and the UoN Grants Finance Office. In August 2011, the program facilitated strategic planning workshops to develop a five-year strategic plan for the UoN-KNH Ethics Review Committee and for the Grants Finance Office.

The team behind the project includes : Dr. James Kiarie, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Dr. Kepha Bosire, Prof. Ruth Nduati, Prof. Walter Mwanda. Dr. James Machoki and Ms. Anastasia Nderitu.

Main Campus Christian Union

The Main Campus Christian Union (MCCU), a non-denominational group of undergraduate students of the Main Campus, University of Nairobi held a fundraiser on 2nd October, 2011 in Taifa Hall to raise funds to purchase instruments and fund other activities of the Union. The event which raised 650,000 Kshs, was graced by the Vice-president of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Kalonzo Musyoka who was also the chief guest. Other guests were the Alumni of the Christian Union and members of the Union.

The MCCU is a non-profit making and non-political organization and was registered on 10th June 1975 under Section 10 of The Societies Act of the Constitution of Kenya; it is affiliated to the Fellowship of Christian Unions – FOCUS Kenya. It is run by students under the leadership of a 14 member Executive Committee and 19 Committees. It has 106 leaders nominated yearly by union members through an Electoral College ratified at the AGM. It has a membership of over 700 registered students pursuing various degree and diploma courses.

UoN shines at International Trade Fair

The University of Nairobi was declared the best institute of higher learning during the recently concluded Nairobi International Trade Fair.

The University beat other universities and other research institutions to emerge the top, and also the University won the second position in the research and development category.

The University had entered four categories including interpretation of show theme, and information and documentation services. The theme of the Trade Fair – Driving agribusiness in attaining food sufficiency and Vision 2030 – was ideal for UoN’s departments to showcase products, processes and approaches in knowledge creation, transfer and dissemination.

The winner’s trophy was presented to the University by the President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki, during the opening ceremony held on Friday, 30th September. The University also bagged an assortment of prizes for its entries in the farm and dairy section, as well as the livestock section. The Field Station and the Vet. Farm bagged 89 prizes for their entries of chops, cheese, rabbits, pigs, poultry, eggs and cattle as follows: 1st prize 43 entries, 2nd prize 30 entries, and 3rd prize 16 entries. The University also walked away with 12 trophies including the



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

Kenya Poultry Development Cup, the Ken-chick Cup, the S.K Njuguna Perpetual Challenge Cup and the Hay Perpetual Challenge Cup.

The University was able to enhance its visibility on the education market, transact business and establish and strengthen links with parents

and other stakeholders. Given the number of visitors, our efforts to market the University and to drive vision 2030 paid off handsomely.

Varsity Focus congratulates the Show Committee for its preparation and dedication leading to this excellent performance.

Book Fair

The University of Nairobi Press recently participated in the 14th Edition of the Nairobi International Book Fair (NIBF) between September 18 to October 2nd 2011 at the Sarit Centre.

The Book Fair, which was organized by the Kenya Association of Publishers had the theme "Read for Empowerment". According to UoN Press Managing Editor, Mr. Kimaita Kirimania, books published by the UoN Press serve as a reflection of the society from which the writers are drawn. It is the duty of the Press to ensure that society is able to communicate effectively on the issues that confront it, and to do so through books.

The Managing Editor noted that through exhibiting, the Press was able to showcase its products, attend workshops and seminars on topical issues, have activities for budding writers and even present one of its new titles "Surviving the

Academic Arena by Prof. Francis John Gichaga".

This year's Book Fair emphasized locally published books and magazines, drawing attention of publishers elsewhere in Africa and overseas – to develop public interest in books. Speaking to Varsity Focus, Senior Press Editor, Ms. Pauline Mahugu, noted that the NIBF had once again provided a platform for dynamic marketing and promotion of books by the Press, as a way of communicating effectively.

Through participating, the Press enhanced its image as well as that of the UoN. During the 2011 NIBF, for instance, Prof. Gichaga, doubled up as the Chief Guest during the opening ceremony. This enhanced our reputation for distinction, relevance and quality.

The editorial staff of the Press also dealt with numerous budding writers who wanted advice on how to publish their work.

Know the Asian who walks round the Great Court

The sun is setting one fine Wednesday evening in the month of October. As the night sets in, the hustle and bustle at the main campus has also settled down.

As I am walking along the path outside the book store, I meet the same old Asian gentleman that I have seen every evening for over 10 years.

I have always wanted to talk to him, to ask him a few questions, especially about why, at a specific time Monday-Friday, he briskly walks around the Great Court. If he was of African extraction, I would have concluded long ago that he is bewitching all of us, that this is the reason why my car stalls, or why my black cat with green eyes has been behaving strangely.



Prof. Francis Gichaga receives a present from the UoN Press

The Indian High Commission donates books

The Indian High Commission recently donated 302 book titles to the University of Nairobi. The books worth Kshs 340,827 are part of activities aimed at strengthening ties that exist between the University and its counterparts in India. The donation was made by the Indian Ambassador H.E. Sibabrata Tribathi during an event to mark India's Independence Day.

The Ambassador lauded the relations existing between the two states, noting that bilateral relationships seem to have been strengthened by national institutions that have been collaborating on certain fronts. According to the Ambassador, India is keen in reviving relations between the University and Indian community that began 55 years ago culminating in the construction of the landmark Gandhi Memorial Library Building, the unique signature building that marks the identity of the University. The Indian government institutions through the Gandhi Smarack Nidhi Trust, have also endowed scholarships that are given to gifted and deserving undergraduate



The Indian High Commissioner H.E. Sibabrata Tribathi

and postgraduate students.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the Ambassador to the University and thanked the government of India for its generosity to the University of Nairobi. Prof. Magoha pledged the continued strengthening of ties between UoN and Indian institutions with mutual interests in order to boost scholarship in the two nations.

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension, said that there is need to build capacity in scientific facilities among local institution through collaboration. This was corroborated by the Ambassador who said that that through Indian Technical Cooperation, UoN could benefit in strengthening capacity in engineering, humanities and social sciences and related disciplines.

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Anyway, I gather the courage today to say hello, hello he responds, encouraged, I walk next to him, introduce myself as an alumnus and make the usual comments about the weather. As we briskly walk around the Great Court, I ask him why he has been walking around, I tell him that I have seen him there before, and I let him know that I am not a peeping tom.

Well, he says, I have been away for the last six months; I was in India undergoing a bypass heart surgery. This is

my brother he says introducing me to another younger version of himself. He also underwent a bypass surgery a few years ago.

My name he tells me is Shah and for the last 10 years I have been walking round this lawn he says, in reference to the Great Court. I like it here, it is secure and nobody disturbs me. Over the week end and in the holidays, my family including grand children play on this lawn, we have good times he tells me. We are part of this place, and in turn it is now a part of us he tells me.

His brother interrupts to tell me that after their operations, they were both told to exercise. We started slowly at first, now we are faster and we do about five laps quite briskly, we come at this time in the evening, we so enjoy eaves dropping on the couples seated near the waterfall(the fountain). And even those on those stone seats (Maternity Square).

This walk is tiresome, I am beginning to think, but no, the Indian and his brother, in their black ngomas, shirts rolled up are not relenting. So I have to devise another stratagem, to walk in a dream. In my dream, I wonder about this Court, serene and green as it is, how many students or staff appreciate it, how many enjoy it, do we own it or do we take it for granted? Mr Shah and his family do not take it for granted, they are citizens of the land, and they value the lawn as the property of the people of Nairobi, only handed to the University as trustee.

God forbid were the management to decide to install walls and gates to keep out Mr. Indian and others like him, but that cannot work, for Mr Indian and others remind us that the University, by golly, belongs, like the name suggests, to the people of Nairobi, and by god they have the right to enjoy it.

Rattansi Trust donates Ksh 12 million to universities

The Rattansi Education Trust has donated Ksh.12.6 million to support needy students in institutions of higher learning.



The Rattansi Education Trust has donated Ksh.12.6 million to support needy students in institutions of higher learning. The donation was made by Dr. Vijoo Rattansi in a function held at the University of Nairobi in early October, 2011,

and attended by representatives of various institutions of higher learning.

While handing over the cheque to the institutions, Mrs. Rattansi said that the donation was meant to assist needy students to meet their college fees. The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha paid tribute to the Rattansi Educational Trust for supporting poor students to access higher education. He challenged other affluent members of society to emulate Rattansi's example and assist in supporting education in the country.

The University of Nairobi received Kshs 2.5 million, while Kshs. 10.1 million was shared amongst the other institutions which included public, private universities and other institutions of higher learning.

The Trust has supported higher education in the country since 1998. The Trust has previously donated a generator, computer and books to the University of Nairobi.

Valedictorian – Ms. Mapili Millicent Mapili

“I have learnt from my experience not to judge people, I regret that I have not raised people the way God would have wanted me to”. The words of Mapili Millicent Mapili, class valedictorian at 3.30 on a Wednesday afternoon remind me of the Westlife lyric ‘You raise me up’.

The young person, sitting across from me I decide, must be really strong drawing my attention to learn more about her.

And true to form, Mapili begins to recount her story for me. “I was born in Migori about 24 years ago, the second born child in a family of five children. Mapili commenced her primary school in Homa Bay district before proceeding to Alliance Girls High School. “I had always wanted



Millicent Mapili during a practical session in the Chemistry Laboratory.

to go to Alliance School, which I knew was the top school”.

At Alliance, Mapili took advantage of the strong values of discipline, hard work, team spirit and emerged tops with straight As. Alliance, she answers, made us believe that we can do anything through Christ who strengthens us” Yes, Mapili is a committed Christian. Millicent Mapili joined the University of Nairobi in 2007, at what she believes was the ripe age, at 20 years she was ready to plunge into academic life. UoN was my first choice, it is true I wanted to do medicine albeit with some pressure, but the University took me in to pursue what was actually my last choice, Industrial Chemistry”. It is ironic today that on reflection, if Millicent was to be given a choice, she would still opt to do industrial chemistry or even the

Bachelor of Arts.

This is intriguing until she explains, straight faced that she has always wanted to major in the business aspect of chemistry and to get a new orientation in her thinking. Industrial chemistry is the chemistry of industry, students learn about process and machines in the industry or the manufacturing industry. Through lab work, “one analyses quality and thus quality assurance in products is what we do”, she says.

Yes, Millicent Mapili is thinking of starting her own industry – making nail polish, perfumes, skin care including moisturizing products. “We import a lot of all these products, beauty is a million dollar industry and I believe that we can make our own products. If I get the

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2



3

1. Winners of the architectural design competition for the University of Nairobi Towers, presented to Waweru Associates by WOSWA officials during the award ceremony held last month
2. Students during the orientation program held last month
3. Delegates with Principals of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, participated in a workshop on drought preparedness
4. Minister for Higher Education, Prof. Mwangi Kiunjira, addressed the graduates and top officials during the graduation ceremony
5. Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Vice-Chancellor, addressed the graduates and top officials during the official opening of the new library building organized by the Student Union
6. WOSWA officials visited the new library building in Kirubi and other projects.



Architectural design competition,
pose with guests and UoN
announcement of the winning
proposed University towers

University Library Open Day

Principal, College of Humanities
Prof. Enos Njeru, after the
light.

Education, Science and
Margaret Kamar with Ph.D
managers during the 45th
ony.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
with the Minister for Planning
Wycliffe Oparanya during
of the ORSEA conference
School of Business.

with Nairobi Businessman, Chris
professionals cut the mentorship



Profile

capital and with the knowledge I have, albeit I need short-courses for perfumes and polishes and business management, then I can build my own empire". What would you call it, I ask? Well, Two mills is not bad, it's an abbreviation and translation of my names, Mapili Millicent and Mapili.

Millicent, who is in a relationship, loves the UoN. "It has such a nurturing environment so that as you come out, you are not shocked by the world, here at University, you must make choices that affect your life and you must be careful to organize your life. In the process of making choices, you mature, you strengthen, you appreciate your strength".

Millicent Mapili draws her inspiration from God. She has spiritual and intellectual mentors who include Prof. Jacob Midiwo. As part of her motivation, she reads books, and at some time enjoyed dancing salsa, swimming, singing and above all things cheerleading at inter class football games. Millicent, who serves at her Church, is also attending leadership classes. She believes that after being blessed with intelligence, she has had no time to develop book worm habits of barely sleeping, reading 24/7 in the library, hoarding books and missing meals. Part of intelligence is to plan so that you read, sleep, eat well in normal doses, she says..

Millicent Mapili shares on some of her greatest achievements. Best student in Migori district at Primay Schooltopped in subjects at Alliance, topped in University and was a major walker at University.



Millicent giving a valedictory speech during the 45th Ceremony

But she has had weak and low moments, Millicent remembers, almost as if it was yesterday, the death of her father when she was in high school. He suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure and we believed that after treatment, he would recover. This was not to be and instead, he collapsed one day and died. Millicent was close to him as he had been her closest mentor. "I believe that my father shaped my character

a great deal, he used to encourage me not to settle for less". "You can be good at it if you put your all to it", he used to tell her. So she took his death really hard, " I felt let down, it is only this year that I let it go", says Millicent.

Looking back at her life, Millicent believes that there are so many things that she would have done differently including remaining in the Christian path. "I have backslid during my walk. If I have learnt anything, it is that I should not judge others. I have regretted not raising enough people the way God would have wanted me to". The call in her is now that of being a mentor to girls in high school and at the University to know that even after messing, one can get up and move. The first class honors that I have achieved, has made me sit back, to ask, did I do it for the papers or for the knowledge. If it's the papers, then it is a waste of yourself, you have it wrong, if it is for knowledge, then this is the mark of maturity.

During my campus years, I did not appreciate that what I had come to do at UoN was for knowledge and not money, now I know better. I know that you must stand for believing in yourself. Put God first, put your best foot forward and you will succeed. I know that you must have passion and talent. It is good to envision what you want to be in life and work toward that; appreciate that whatever you are doing is a step forward to your vision.

WOSWA's Alpha mentorship program

By Michelle Osok, Chairperson, WOSWA



Njoki Karuoya, Associate Editor Standard Group and patron WOSWA and WOSWA Chairperson, Michelle Osok during the launch of the mentorship programme.

On the 22nd of October 2011, the University of Nairobi came alive as the Women Students Welfare Association (WOSWA), officially launched their mentorship programme, “The Alpha Diva Fever” themed “The Purple Transformation” at the Great Court, at the Main Campus.

Alpha Diva Fever, is a project spearheaded by the WOSWA in association with our sponsors, The Standard Group, Unilever Kenya, Evans Kidero Centre and, the University of Nairobi.

The name Alpha Diva Fever represents the emerging woman who is strong, confident and hardworking but still maintains her femininity and knows how to play

her role as a woman in accordance with culture. This is our ideology of a total woman in her full element, a woman who brings out the ‘purple’ in her as she is royal, powerful, ambitious, wise, wealthy, dignified, passionate and independent among many other traits.

The chief guests at the function included: Chris Kirubi, Chairman, Haco Tiger Brands and Prominent

Businessman; Njoki Karuoya, Associate Editor Standard Group; Dr. Susan Mboya- Kidero, Founder and President, Zawadi Africa Trust; Peter Nduati, CEO, Resolution Health E.A Ltd. Among the mentors were Ruth Konchellah from Care Organization, Tichi Nyasani, CEO of Brand Magnates, Patricia Mbatia, EXP, Terry Mungai, Franchise Director Ashleys Kenya Ltd, Kathleen Kihanya, Director 24hrs Africa Ltd, Felicity



Edith Kimani, shares her thoughts during the mentorship launch. Below, WOSWA members in a celebratory mood.



Biriri , CEO Toppointt (K) Ltd and the entire Standard Group Team. Former American Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Michael Rannerberger was among the special guests of top women and men in the country who attended.

Susan Mboya-Kidero in her speech to students was truly inspirational and advised the young ladies never to give up. Mboya who spoke fondly of her father the late Tom Mboya, reminded us to create a legacy and make a difference; to live up to our dreams and help others realize their dream. Peter Nduati reminded us about the power of failure. Failure is but an opportunity to start over more intelligently. We all can make it in this life but we must work hard for that is the only recipe to success. He shared his personal experience with us on the failures that shaped him. It is his resilience and ability to learn and pick himself up that transformed him. Nduati clearly spelt out the proverb that there is always light at the end of the tunnel in that challenges always precede success.

Chris Kirubi closed the event on a high note by challenging us to remain true to our cause and remembering the dream that brought us to campus. CK, as he is often referred to, advised us to always

present ourselves in a positive light. Our physical image in terms of our dressing and etiquette creates a strong perception of us to others therefore we should always present ourselves well. He touched on the fact that a lot of ladies feel the need to part with their dignity and give in to sexual favours in order to secure jobs and other services. CK called on us to rely on our intellect rather than our bodies.

The highlight of the afternoon was the singing and dancing that followed the announcement of Chris Kirubi as the official WOSWA patron, and Njoki Karuoya as matron due to their strong relationship with WOSWA, and the support that they have given including getting their companies to rally behind the vision and mission of WOSWA.

The event demystified many myths among them that women are their worst enemies. it was encouraging to see so many women willing to mentor students, indeed, WOSWA once again emerged as a pace setter and provided the perfect link between the professional women and female students.

WOSWA hopes to continue to provide a forum for professional ladies and gentlemen to support the mentorship programme, and to listen to the needs of the female student fraternity and take a step further to meet their needs. WOSWA has the passion, and it is only through passion that we can bring about change. Let us all learn to step up in order to stand out.

AIESEC chapters congregate in Kenya

By Edgar Ondati, Chairman, AIESEC



AIESEC delegates take time off to participate in environmental conservation activities.

Present in over 110 countries and territories and with over 60,000 members, AIESEC is the world's largest student-run organisation. Focused on providing a platform for youth leadership development, AIESEC offers young people the opportunity to be global citizens, to change the world, and to get experience and skills that matter today .

AIESEC, in the University of Nairobi, has been in existence since 1970, and we have been engaging young people through our leadership and exchange programs, among other activities. We aim to be the first choice partner for all our

Having such events only aims to show the power of a global youth voice in the world. Being a student-run organization and having such an impact is a testament of the potential that young people have, and how far they can go, given the right platform...

stakeholders, who seek a global youth voice, and a platform for people to make a positive impact..

AIESEC in Kenya recently made history by hosting the Annual International Congress, which is the biggest and most important conference in the network, bringing together people from over 111 territories, in a landmark event, that was opened by His Excellency, the Vice President Hon. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka. The opening ceremony included a Global Village, which opened its doors to Kenyans to experience the cultures of all these countries. The Congress, which took place from the 20th to the 29th of



Delegates join in song and dance during one of the activities of the conference.

August, with over 500 delegates, culminated in a study tour to Mombasa, and the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Having such events only aims to show the power of a global youth voice in the world. Being a student-run organization and having such an impact is a testament of the potential that young people have, and how far they can go, given the right platform..

To increase youth impact in the world, society needs leaders who are entrepreneurial, culturally sensitive, socially responsible and take an active part in their own learning. To gain a holistic experience, AIESEC offers you the opportunity to take on a leadership role before or after your internship. Learn how to lead a team, manage large projects and run a local or national organization along with people all over the world! These have proven to be the most valuable skills that the most competitive

companies, and organizations in the world, seek in their employees. Our portfolio of partners, which includes Pricewaterhousecoopers, Unilever, Ericsson, Nike and UBS, who facilitate some of our exchange programmes, appreciate the value that AIESEC provides to them, and to the students who experience it.

Locally, we also run events in campus including forums and seminars, such as the Youth Leadership Forum, and the Financial Literacy Forum, alongside our exchange program. We also have conferences for our members focused on leadership. AIESEC in the University of Nairobi runs community development projects in various slums in the country such as Mukuru, Mathare and Kibera, with different aims, such as sensitization on health, HIV/AIDS, training on entrepreneurship, and environmental management.

AIESEC in the University of Nairobi has in the last four months sent over

15 students on exchange programs to different countries of the world, including India, Mauritius, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Egypt, Belgium and Germany. We have also facilitated exchange programs for 55 students from other countries of the world, to come and have an exchange experience in Kenya, in the same period. We are looking forward to provide such opportunities to even more students from our University in the coming future, to explore and develop their leadership potential, and to be positive change agents in the world.

AIESEC in the University of Nairobi is based at the main campus, and our office is located at the ground floor of Gandhi wing, room A15. It can also be found online through the facebook page AIESEC university of Nairobi, our website, www.aiesecuon.org, and the AIESEC global website www.aiesec.org

Mr. Ondati is the Chairman, AIESEC, UoN

Best students feted

The University of Nairobi successfully held its prize giving ceremony in which 246 outstanding students were awarded.

The students, who completed their studies in the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 academic years, were feted by 72 different donors among them individuals, foundations, companies and other organizations who gathered at Taifa Hall to present their prizes.

The function was presided over by the Chairman of Council Mr. John Simba, who congratulated recipients for their outstanding performance and thanked donors for recognizing academic excellence.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha assured stakeholders that successful holding of the prize giving day was proof that the University was fully functional and thanked staff for heeding management's call to resume duty after three days of industrial action. He promised stakeholders that management is trying to resolve the current impasse by sections of staff and was optimistic that a solution would be found soon in order to resume normal service.

Prof. Magoha also challenged more organizations and individuals to come up and donate prizes for excellence, saying that this would be a motivational factor to other

students and as away of giving back to an institution that has played a leading role in training manpower for virtually all sectors of the economy.

The University management welcomed new donors who have come on board among them, Basco Paints, Twiga Chemicals, National Oil Corporation, Mohammed/Muigai Advocates, and Engineer Carey Orege. He also thanked the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Trust and

the Asian Commercial Community for increasing their prizes and challenged more organizations to sponsor more prizes and at the same time urged students to remain competitive in order to be recognized.

The Vice-Chancellor also assured future prize winners that the University has managed to clear the backlog of the last two academic years and from next year, prize giving ceremonies would be held immediately after graduation.

The two best students for the two academic years were, Linda Nkatha from School of the Built Environment, Department of Architecture and Building Science and Otieno Brunah Akinyi from School of Physical Sciences, Department of Chemistry. Prize giving day is held annually.



A former student shows off her certificate as Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AA) and Prof. Peter Mbithi Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A & F) look on.

Youth under siege

By Isaac Okelo

Along with the men of ancient, the geographers of old, I must admit that the higher we go, the cooler it becomes.

Such is the case that is experienced by the modern day, campus, young and zealous Christ follower. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" Mathew 24:12. This statement is made manifest in this campus society, where to some it is a man eat man society whereas to others it is a man eat greens society. Campus and its whatabouts threaten to put under siege even the most devoted of our Christian brethren. As we acquire numerical heights, the environment within waxes colder and colder. Dating and sexuality mysteries threaten to dislocate the epicenter of our morality; misplaced financing in this unpredictable economic time ensures bankruptcy of our much needed joy. Needless to say, the effects of drug and substance abuse continue to distract the otherwise smoke-free path of the campus believer.

None would deny that we need more counsel than ever concerning our social, economic and most valuably spiritual needs. Culture shock, ideological differences make us stagger and stutter from one opinion to another, never focusing on the fact that we truly are expensively bought jewels, more expensive than the wealth of

Solomon of old, or even our modern day Forbes heavy weights. Peer influence is as ugly as the name suggests, ready to devour any campus amateur with identity crisis. This peer machinery shakes every corner of our beautiful campus, cutting across the fresh women within and without Stella Awinja, the 10th semester engineer, even a learned friend in Parklands is not safe from it either.

Wait, that's just the bad part besides the downs of the consuming campus trend, lie hopes and wisdom that always help us keep our heads up. In fact, as we grapple with our stability

and find cease fire to this varsity world war three equivalent; our much developed moral fabric shall be maintained; our identity we must keep; our duty to restore our Masters image is core in our priorities.

As we start this journey to exploring the depths and width of the challenges faced by youthful campus jewels, much will be acquired from the insightful, refreshing and ageless counsel and advice.

The Kamkunji is punctuating a comma for now, be vigilant and as crucial as life itself be sober.

Mr. Okelo is a 2nd year student.



Main Campus Christian Union members after a Sunday service.

In the recent past, there have been stories carried in the media on aflatoxin in maize and the possible connections to cancer.

Maize value chain aflatoxin mitigation

By Prof. Erastus Kang'ethe

Indeed, it is clear that Aflatoxin contamination of maize consumed and or marketed in Kenya is a recurrent problem. In 1961, about 16,000 turkeys died



Aflatoxin infested maize

due to consumption of aflatoxin contaminated groundnut feeds. Other outbreaks affecting animals and humans have occurred ever since, with the 2004 and 2005 outbreak having the highest morbidity (406 affected) and mortality (157 dead) among human population.

In 2010, 2.3 million bags of maize, grown in the Eastern and Coast regions of Kenya, were declared by the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation as being unfit for human consumption due to high levels of aflatoxin contamination. Maize is the staple food of many Kenyans (98kg/capita/year), such that in this context, when maize is contaminated with aflatoxins and declared unfit for human consumption, this is not only a food safety issue, but it raises food security concerns for the country. Previous outbreaks have also revealed that high levels of contamination were commonly found in highly food insecure areas. Therefore, the two issues

of food safety and food security are correlated in more than one dimension.

Aflatoxins are secondary metabolites elaborated by *Aspergillus flavus* and *parasiticus* during growth under favorable conditions (including moisture and temperature). Aflatoxins are known carcinogens, causing adenocarcinomas of the liver, which is exacerbated by concurrent Hepatitis B infection. They are also known to be antinutritional, mutagenic, teratogenic and immunosuppressants. The major toxins are grouped as Aflatoxin B1, B2, G1 and G2. Aflatoxin M1 is a breakdown product of Aflatoxin B1 and is excreted in the urine and milk of exposed humans and animals, Aflatoxin B1 is the most toxic.

In Kenya, until now, control of aflatoxin contamination of maize has relied mainly on testing maize at marketing outlets and withdrawing the contaminated lots. In 2010, for instance, the Government tried to mop out the contaminated maize



by purchasing the maize from farmers at reduced prizes, a move that was not very successful and came at a high cost. As mycotoxins are ubiquitous contaminants, the internationally recommended approach is based on preventing the contamination, rather than letting it happen and then try to remove the contaminated maize from the market.

It is now commonly agreed that this requires a all-encompassing chain approach, combining contamination reduction strategies at each step of the chain, and implemented coherently by the different stakeholders. In fact, in Kenya, the specific maize value chain is complex and involves many actors. The key actors include the seed developing and marketing companies, research institutions, farmers, traders (assemblers, wholesalers, retailers, and dis-assemblers, posho millers and large-scale millers) and consumers.

At certain times of maize shortages, maize importing companies also become key players in the value chain. From the public sector side, the ministries of agriculture, health, trade and others are also

Participants during a recent aflatoxin workshop, among them are representatives of FAO, researchers and local millers.

In Kenya, until now, control of aflatoxin contamination of maize has relied mainly on testing maize at marketing outlets and withdrawing the contaminated lots

involved, due to their support to the production, marketing, control and monitoring functions.

In a sector with many players like the maize value chain, a fragmented approach to the control of aflatoxin is not effective, as gains made in certain sectors could be lost if other segments do not participate in applying the mitigation measures appropriate to their segments. A coordinated approach of the the value chain based on shared awareness of the issues and equipped with mitigation measures appropriate to each segment of the chain, would reap greater benefits

for all in the maize value chain.

Solutions to mitigate the impact or prevent the contamination exist; but they need to be evaluated with a wholistic approach, for instance, some may have a “perverse” effect on the long run, like a policy to buy contaminated maize could have a dissuasive effect to producers to apply GAPs specifically aiming at reducing contamination; or some very technical solutions at one stage, could have consequences on other segments of the chain. Therefore, they need to be tested for their acceptance by stakeholders. In addition, as the aflatoxin contamination of maize has been largely echoed in the public arena and has a clear political dimension, there are a number of important projects and initiatives supported by donors and technical and financial partners currently undergoing in Kenya, complemented by Kenyan research.

The issue here is an adequate sharing of information and new data generated and passed on to a wider community of stakeholders that would derive concrete benefits from this information, either at individual or common level.

Therefore, technical solutions at each segment of the value chain needs to be debated and agreed upon by stakeholders to get buy-in, and in some cases, tested to provide science based evidence of their effectiveness in controlling aflatoxin.

Correction

In the last issue of the Varsity Focus, we erroneously carried the wrong photograph of the IMF Regional Representative to Kenya, Dr. Ragnar Gudmundsson. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to Dr. Gudmundsson and we publish the correct photograph of him below.



IMF Regional Representative to Kenya, Dr. Ragnar Gudmundsson.

UoN aids Sinai fire victims



Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha and KNH Director, Mr. Richard Lesiyampe lead staff of UoN in presenting donations to Sinai Fire victims.

In September, 2011, the University of Nairobi made a cash donation of Kshs. 1 Million towards the medical expenses of the Sinai fire victims at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). The donation was presented by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha, who was accompanied by members of the University Management

Board and was received by the KNH Director, Mr. Richard Leresian Lesiyampe.

On September 22nd, 2011, Prof. Magoha again led the management in handing over food and clothing donated by students and staff, to the fire victims and the displaced, who were camping at the Tom Mboya Social Hall in BuruBuru.

Education in emergencies

Around 40 million children in the world are currently out of school. The out-of-school children live in countries affected by conflict while millions more are affected by natural hazards. In order to ensure that children who are experiencing crises do not continue to miss out on vital schooling, the University of Nairobi (UoN), with technical support from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), is now offering students interested in pursuing graduate study, the opportunity to specialize in Education in Emergencies.

According to the programme coordinator, Dr. Loise Gichuhi, the programme which was rolled out in October, 2010, has already enrolled 3 groups-regular, evening and school based; the programme is a unique collaboration to develop human resource capacity among enrolled students and education practitioners working in East Africa, in order to prepare them to provide quality education programming in emergency and post-crisis settings in developing countries.

Through coursework, internships and research projects, students examine the range of educational activities and the related challenges that take place in the field of education in emergencies. A sample of these activities include: establishing safe learning spaces for children in the midst of conflict; collaborating with international organizations and education authorities to ensure recognition



An outdoor school at the Dadaab Somali refugee camp in Kenya. Photo courtesy of Brian Thomas

The University of Nairobi also plans to offer additional study options in the future, including diploma, certificate and short study courses.

of student and teacher certifications acquired during displacement; tailoring educational and vocational programs to the needs of out-of-school children and youth; assisting ministries of education to rebuild and strengthen their in-service teacher training system after a conflict; and drafting emergency preparedness plans for the education sector in anticipation of natural hazards such as floods and droughts, as well as political and economic instability.

Upon completion of the M.Ed, and depending on previous work experience, students may: work with aid agencies or other international organizations on their education teams; join the ministry of education and build capacity to deliver inclusive and quality education in emergency situations; or, infuse their work in schools as teachers or administrators with an enhanced understanding of education in emergencies.

The University of Nairobi also plans to offer additional study options in the future, including diploma, certificate and short study courses. As the University and IRC continue to refine the curriculum and carry out capacity building activities for the faculty, several areas of collaboration for local and international partners are emerging. These areas include: contributing materials to the EiE Resource Centre including posters, articles, reports, maps and multimedia resources; and scholarships for students.

Meanwhile, the Centre is seeking to expand the scholarship base to needy students who are interested in this innovative program but lack the financial capability.

Stakeholders host a governance workshop

A workshop on Gender, Human Rights, Governance and Sustainable Livelihoods was held on Wednesday 19th October 2011 at the University of Nairobi's Council Chamber.



Prof. Judy Bahemuka welcomes Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi to the workshop.

The workshop, which was jointly organized by the University of Nairobi's UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair, United States International University (USIU) and K-REP Development Agency (KDA) and attended by over 40 participants, was officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, (Academic Affairs) Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi.

In brief welcoming remarks, Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka, the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair noted that the objectives of the chair include bridging the gap between basic education and higher education through innovative cultural exchanges among students and communities, to transform universities from 'ivory tower' mentality to towers of hope and strength to communities by providing opportunities for staff and students to give back to society, the knowledge they acquire at university, and for knowledge and technology transfer between

and among institutions that collaborate with the Chair and the University of Nairobi.

The Chair's main activities are guided by the University's Strategic Plan and weave into the mission of the University in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and ultimately help Kenya achieve vision 2030.

Prof Bahemuka mentioned that in its endeavour to contribute to sustainable development, the Chair works closely with a number of key allies, singling out the collaboration between the Chair and K-Rep Development Agencies. Bahemuka also paid tribute to the Ford Foundation for its funding especially in the areas of education, human rights and governance.

In his opening speech, Prof. Kaimenyi noted that in 1997, the Kenya Government was granted three UNESCO Chairs namely: The Chair on Bioethics given to Egerton University, the Chair on Mathematics given to Moi University and the Chair on Women, Education, Community Health and Sustainable Development

given to the University of Nairobi. Each university was charged with the duty of domesticating and defining the Chair and to translate knowledge in these three areas in order to achieve sustainable development.

Kaimenyi acknowledged that achieving the goal of sustainable development requires concerted efforts by everyone at every level; he lauded the public-private sector collaboration that is vigorously pursued by the Chair. Noting that although the new constitution has afforded Kenyans immense opportunities, the bulk of Kenyans especially those in the rural areas, lack the necessary understanding of the provisions enshrined in the new constitution, he urged the universities to be at the forefront in translating and simplifying the constitution so that the citizens can understand and claim their right to sustainable development as enshrined in the "Bill of Rights".

The workshop participants were drawn from universities, banks, NGOs, and other organizations.

Enchanted with Germany



German
Ambassador
Helwitt Margit-
Boate

I have just come from the home of Mercedes Benz, BMW and VW. Well, not really! A few weeks ago but still feel that I can say *ich bin ein Berliner* (I share that with US presidents JF Kennedy and Barrack Obama who proclaimed so! Literally, I am a Berliner!). Of course I can say other words as part of my demonstration of my knack of learning new languages (to really fit into a society one has to learn the language, and perhaps appreciate and be sensitive to customs and norms).

I arrived in Germany on 25 August as part of a group of trainers and journalists from different countries – more specific from Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Indonesia, Uganda, South Africa, Uzbekistan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Training of Trainers course was sponsored by the German technical assistance agency, GIZ (formerly GTZ) and conducted by the International Institute for Journalists (IJJ). The IJJ conducts numerous training in Germany and other parts of the world where they have developed

partnerships. So besides learning new skills, this training was meant to explore opportunities for collaboration with the IJJ as part of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's strategy to develop synergetic and symbiotic relationships with organisations with similar objectives irrespective of their physical or geographical locations in the world.

Back to the trip, I landed at the small Tegel Airport in Berlin (despite this being the Germany Federal Republic's capital, the airport is

quite small although this will change once the expansion of the other airport, Schoenefeld is complete, and renamed Berlin Brandenburg International Airport). Having cleared the immigration in Amsterdam as the first port of entry into the European Union (we should do the same in the East Africa Community!), I was not subjected to immigration checks again. So the entry into Berlin was smooth. Besides, once at the airport, we (I and two participants from Zimbabwe) were met (the arrival had been timed to coincide with the other participants) by IJ officials who immediately hailed the many Mercedes Benz (yes, many and the latest models!) taxis which took us to our home for the 39 days in Germany.

We stayed at the Buckower Damm apartments where GIZ accommodates many of its visitors. The place is forty minutes away from the GIZ offices next to Potsdamer Platz, a beautiful mall a few minutes away from Checkpoint Charlie, the crossing point between East and West Berlin and the symbol of separation during the Cold War era where the Russian and American tanks faced each other during the Berlin crisis of 1961. It's also a few minutes from the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin landmark where Kenyan marathoner Patrick Mutua crossed on his way to breaking the world record and winning the BMW Berlin Marathon this year. A monumental feat in front of the German monument. And I was part of that history as I cheered loudly as the Kenyan crossed the line on that warm September 25

Sunday morning. What a cracking atmosphere!

Berlin is such a historic city from whence Communism started its demise. Historic as the embodiment of Cold War, the Berlin Wall dividing the city in the former East Germany, or its official name, the Democratic Republic of Germany (what an irony!). Today, the Berlin Wall (except small sections of the actual wall most of which is covered in colourful and rather beautiful graffiti) is embedded in the pavements and streets of the city with double cobblestone lines) as part of the reminder of the dark history. These landmarks, including the Germany Federal Parliament, the Reichstag are attractions in Berlin which lure millions of tourists to the city each year. Not far off is the Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg State, southwest of Berlin. The well manicured gardens of the Sanssouci (literal translation: without care; free and easy. What a name for a palace? But then even the great French Enlightenment writer and philosopher Voltaire (real name François-Marie Arouet) spent time here as a guest of Friedrich II) the Palace was the residence of King Frederick William IV of Prussia. The Sanssouci and its beautiful gardens became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990. The town and the palace attract millions of visitors. A little city with a big place in the world tourism map! Of course I had the opportunity to see the horrors of Nazi and indeed racial bigotry with visits to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp where the eerie feeling still envelops many.

Back to Berlin and the training.

Even though the training centre, the building that offices the German foreign ministry, was forty minutes away, the journey was effortless. Buses run every six minutes. Trains every five. And keeping time they do. So it was jumping from the bus, into the U or underground and then S (subway) trains. Wish Kenya can develop such a transport system. There would be little gridlocks, and attendant nightmares experienced on our roads daily. Some would say we are heading there. Perhaps in another hundred years at the pace we are going. Maybe not in our lifetime but, hey, who said Berlin was built in a day! There is even a special lane for riders some of whom get miffed if you don't get out of the way. Something we can think about. Benefits: exercise (and attendant gains!), environmental conservation, and cost-cutting etc.

The "Training of Trainers" course ran every day of the week from 9am to 5pm. The course was part of ensuring that journalism teachers are equipped with new pedagogical skills critical to modern journalism teaching and enhancing the learning process. Such skills are undoubtedly vitally important as student, industry and lecturer needs change. I am ready to transfer the skills learnt as sharing is critical to knowledge transfer and development. In these hard economic times, and as part of my capitalistic thinking and development of entrepreneurial skills, I may charge a small fee for vital skills. Anybody interested?

DR. GEORGE NYABUGA IS A LECTURER AT THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Launch of Prof. Gichaga's autobiography



Hon. Franklin Bett launching Prof. Francis Gichaga's book.

The UoN Press launched Prof. Francis John Gichaga's autobiography on Monday 21 November, 2011 in a colourful occasion formalized by the Minister for Roads, Mr. Franklin Bett, at the Vice Chancellor's Parlour. The book titled "Surviving the Academic Arena: My Complex Journey to the Apex" is about the life and times of the author during his life and most critically, while at the helm of leadership at the University of Nairobi, at the time when the country was transitioning into a multiparty democracy.

The book describes the agony, the author went through when he was faced with limited funding to run the University and ultimately how he

steered the institution to introduce module II programmes, a strategy that has become very popular with other universities, as a way of raising extra income and extending higher education to more Kenyans.

The income generated through Module II Programmes assisted the University of Nairobi greatly in improving the teaching environment through completion of stalled projects, acquisition of new assets among them vehicles, and improved remuneration to staff.

The book describes in detail the student and staff protests that the author had to endure while introducing module II programmes and discusses some of the intrigues he went through as he steered the

University, at a very delicate time on the country's political front.

During the launch, Prof. Gichaga said that he wrote the book to give his life history and more so to show how he climbed the academic ladder and the very trying experiences he went through.

While officially launching the book, Hon. Bett congratulated Prof. Gichaga for putting his experiences as a Vice-chancellor in writing saying that, this would serve as a useful reference for universities.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, praised his predecessor, for creating module II programmes at UoN, which have become the most reliable revenue stream for the University, as government capitation dwindles, while at the same time extending higher education to more Kenyans.

Prof. Judith Bahemuka, who was the mistress of ceremonies, was nostalgic about Prof Gichaga's patience and resilience during a very difficult time in the history of the management of the University of Nairobi. Others who made contributions to the book as acknowledged by the author is Prof. Godfrey Muriuki, a respected history scholar.

Present at the ceremony were past alumni, teaching staff, vice chancellors from private and public universities, top UoN managers, family and friends of the author.

Tribute to Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai

BY PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA, VICE-CHANCELLOR, UON

Prof. Wangari was the first indigenous female associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy.



The late Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai.

The late Wangari Muta Maathai or simply Prof as she was known in academia had a long and beneficial association with the University of Nairobi. Indeed, this association stretches back to 1966, when Wangari Muta first joined the University of Nairobi, after receiving training at Loyola University, and was deployed as an assistant lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

In 1971, Wangari Maathai was awarded a PhD degree, by the first Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. In 1976, Wangari Maathai was appointed the Chairman of the Department, and a year later, promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. The appointment to Chairman and the promotion to Associate Professor were landmark achievements because not only was Wangari, the first female professor in the University, but also because no indigenous Kenyan had been appointed chairman and also associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy.

Prof. Wangari Maathai continued to associate with the University even after she left, and it is with former members of staff, that Wangari founded the Green Belt Movement and in a way continued to associate with the University of Nairobi. We always knew and considered Wangari Muta Maathai as a go getter and as an indomitable force in the world environment movement.

This is the main reason why in 2005, the University of Nairobi perceived it as important and pleasing to confer the degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) to Wangari Muta Maathai, in recognition of her distinguished and selfless service to the nation, and for her outstanding work in conservation

of the environment. Wangari Muta Maathai was the first indigenous woman so honored by the University. Breaking with tradition, the University celebrated Wangari Maathai, through planting a commemorative tree on the Great Court.

In August 2009, Prof Wangari Maathai was the key note speaker at a forum hosted by the University to discuss agriculture and the environment. At the forum, which brought in scholars and top universities administrators from 25 universities in the region, her opening remarks on the role of scholars to cultivate environmental education to youth with values and ethos of safeguarding our environment, only made the University determined and fittingly so, to establish an institution that could champion the environment.

So it is no wonder that at the end of 2009, the University appointed Prof Wangari Maathai to be the distinguished Chair of the newly established Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), at the University of Nairobi. The WMI was the initiative of Prof. Wangari, and its main objective was to build a Green Campus. Prof Maathai was in the middle of raising funds for collaborative research, training, experiential learning and community empowerment, a task that she cheerfully undertook, even when, we believe she was not feeling so well.

The University Community is going to miss this true lobbyist and crusader for the environment. But her legend will live long in the WMI, which is the true bequest that Prof. Wangari Maathai has left to the University of Nairobi.



US President, Barack Obama, then a Senator, with Wangari Maathai at Uhuru Park in 2006.

UNITID hosts two short courses

The University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID) was recently hosted two international short course training programmes.

These are the Multivariate Statistics Course using Stata 11 software; and the interdisciplinary research training also known as MicroResearch training.

The Multivariate Statistics Course held between 22nd August to 2nd September, 2011, was the 6th International course to be held at UNITID. This two-week course is open to researchers and staff from academic and research institutions in and outside Kenya. This year, the course attracted 17 participants from the following sub-Saharan African countries: Kenya (7), Ethiopia (3), Zambia (2) Uganda (2), the Gambia (1), Ghana (1) and Tanzania (1).

The Course was jointly organized by DBL-Centre for Health Research and Development (DBL-CHRD), University of Copenhagen, Denmark



Participants, trainers and judges

and UNITID. Partial sponsorship was provided by DBL-CHRD. Participants were charged a minimal fee of US\$ 500 each to cover tea, lunch, stationery, six months stata license and two books on statistics. Course trainers included Dr. Henry Madsen, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen and Mr. Thaddeus Egondi a biostatistician from the Africa Population for Health Research (APHR) Nairobi.

The Micro Research training workshop is an interdisciplinary research concept modelled after the microfinance concept where small grants, training and mentorship in clinical research is given to young enthusiastic researchers from the various disciplines of health, biological, social and veterinary sciences. The training is meant to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and exchange of ideas, strategies and knowledge, on local community needs.

This first training workshop was held between the 14th and 25th November 2011 at UNITID. A total of 19 participants mostly from the College of Health Sciences, (UON), KEMRI, Institute of Primate Research, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Association of the Physically Disabled persons Kenya (APDK) and the nongovernmental organization Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM) attended. Group project proposals were presented and the best judged and ranked, will be supported for further development through funding of Canadian \$ 2,000. Organizers and facilitators for this training were Profs. Noni MacDonald and Robert Bortolussi both from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, Prof. Ruth Nduati, Prof. Anastasia Guantai, Dr. Grace Omoni, Dr. Martin Kollmann and Prof. Benson Estambale from the University of Nairobi.

Proposed 1 billion University Towers



In a bid to increase its physical facilities to cope with the rising demand for higher education, The University of Nairobi is set to put up a 15-storey building at the Main Campus to accommodate increasing academic activities and administrative services.

The University aims to develop a visionary state-of-the-art tower block leading the way in ecologically sustainable design in its Main Campus. It is envisaged that the Tower will not only provide the much-needed teaching space but also assert and affirm the position of the University of Nairobi as the leader in architectural thought, innovation and champion towards the provision

of environmentally friendly-solutions. The proposed building will be situated in the open space between the Gandhi Building and the Education Building, just adjacent to the Norfolk Fairmont Hotel and Kenya National Theatre.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the University of Nairobi, is seeking to construct an ecologically sustainable building design to house the top university administrators and several teaching facilities. The building will be world class particularly in its aesthetics and its environmental design considerations. It is expected to meet stringent carbon foot print criteria achieving close to 100% carbon neutrality. The new building will meet the indicated spatial requirements and demonstrate leadership in the development of a holistic green environment and must attain the highest green rating standards globally. The building will also demonstrate a new approach to workplace design and create a model for others to learn from and follow. Its indoor spaces will demonstrate world-class acoustic treatment.

The building will enhance the quality of outdoor space and the balance between indoor and outdoor spaces. The University of Nairobi Tower is expected to be an inspiring and attractive showcase of “green” buildings and once realized, the final facility should attain signature status in all aspects of cutting-edge architecture. The facility will be a place where users shall be proud to undertake world-class scholarly work, receive global leaders, scholars, the private sector, as well as other prominent guests.

The building will be 15 floors and is expected to cost about one billion. The project will house the following facilities: the Vice Chancellor’s Suite, All the Deputy Vice-Chancellor’s Suites, Senate Boardroom, Council Meeting Room, two lecture theatres of 500 persons, four lecture theatres of 300 persons, several lecture rooms to cater for a minimum of 60 persons, a floor for the Graduate School and a floor for the Graduate School of Business.

The winning design by Waweru and Associates was unveiled after a competition, the firm also won KShs 750,000.00 in the process, presided over by an international jury, comprising of various experts. The Permanent Secretary, Fisheries Development, Prof. Micheni Ntiba was the Chief guest.

Mean Machine flying high

The University of Nairobi Rugby team, Mean Machine is once again in the limelight, courtesy of its good performances in recent tournaments.

As the team pledged at the beginning of the season, its pitch performance has been a great improvement from previous seasons.

The team put up a spirited fight in the just concluded Impala Floodlight Tournament, winning a Gold in the National main cup and silver in the universities category.

In the earlier concluded seven (7s) tournaments, the team reached the finals, four times and won once in the Bowl and twice in the Plate

categories. They also played the semi finals in the main cup once in the just concluded Prinsloo 7s in Nakuru.

According to the team captain Mr. Cedric Odera, the team's success is a culmination of discipline, dedication and a desire to bring back the lost glory of the team. Odera thanked the administration for purchasing three sets of uniform for the team which confirmed the University's support to the team.

He however appealed for more support from the administration to

motivate players and safeguard them from defecting to rival teams.

Speaking after receiving the trophy from the captain in his office, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, congratulated the team for a series of good results and for ensuring good visibility for the University. As a former rugby player, he contended that it is not easy for a side to post consistent performance without good training facilities and promised that the University will revamp facilities and also improve the team's allowances. He spoke in the company of Deputy Vice-chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and the Acting Director, Sports and Games, Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi.

Due to its impressive performance, the team was invited to the 19th Edition of the Annual Makerere 10S Rugby tournament which was on going at the time of going to the press. Varsity Focus congratulates Mean Machine for the exemplary performance.



Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha receives the trophy from the Director, Sports, Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi (c) and Mean Machine, Captain, Mr. Cedric Odera (third left).

Keep Fit - Our New Credo

Whether we are gross or spiritual; whether we are optimists or pessimists; whether we have ideals or are crazy, one-sided philosophers or ardent debaters; whether we are level headed and have a sound judgment or are irresponsible, will depend largely upon the way we feed, look after ourselves and love ourselves.

In a way, there is a challenge to keep fit and in today's world, it has become a way of life. Millions are being invested in gym, muscle build-up programmes, yoga, pilates etc.

And members of staff at UoN have refused to be outdone. A number, not enough but still a number have begun to take a keen interest in their own brand of keep fit. Varsity Focus takes you on a fitness journey around the UoN.

ICE STOCK SPORTS

Every Sunday afternoon, for the past six years, a group of staff meet on the basket ball court, use the asphalt floor to play Ice Stock. Ice Stock as the name suggests, is a game played on an ice rink, but given the paucity and expense of such grounds, our staff are trained on the asphalt or tarmac. In Ice Stock, you throw the stock, which is a heavy three kg weight stone ball into your opponent's goal.

The team is exploring moving the game sometimes to the Panari centre ice rink, when funds so permit, but for now, are using the basket ball pitch fully to hone their whole body, ice stock is also good for the thighs and the bottom.

Ice Stock is actually a mental game; you focus on your opponent's side

using brain rather than brawn almost like chess. Ice stock players learn to exercise in moderation, eat small but balanced portion of meals.

SOCCER

If you were to take a walk through the Chancellor's Court one Sunday between 3.00-6.00p.m., you will come across a group of lecturers in their mid forties engaged in a game of soccer.

It would be easy to assume that the academic is bookish and a bit of a wimp, especially during class time when he wears a suit and tie. But woe unto you, that lithe, muscled man in a pair of shorts, soccer boots and shirt on the pitch, you are mistaken, is not a student but rather your philosophy, history or political science lecturer. The soccer group has been gathering here for the past eight years, engaged in tournaments with students, male and female and they have recorded several wins. The soccer group also goes around as Senior Common Room FC, but unlike some groups that surreptitiously file students among their number; the SCR FC remains that, members of staff.

THE BASEMENT CREW

You have heard the whispers about a group, that for the last six years has engaged in physical fitness through

dance. This group has invested in a sound system and discs and organized to learn ball room and competition dance.

In ballroom, a section of the crew has been learning salsa, meringue, chacha, zoumba, bachata, while in competition, a small section of the group has engaged in rumba, chakacha, ndombolo or zairwa as we call it. The group features amongst its adherents, professors, senior lecturers of -its coming- engineering.

THE SLOW WALK

Barbells in hand, the track suited figure, can be passed over as just another student. As you come closer, you realize that the walker is a woman, and that you have seen her before, as your mind starts thinking, you realize that she is one of the top administrators, walking here every day as usual.

The slow walk is another way that some staff have elected to stay fit, a group of five normally walk around the football field at least 2-3 times a week. Although this group is middle aged, they dedicatedly walk in a pattern – slow, slow fast, slow and then a quick exercise.

It may look easy, but it is not. They do break into a sweat which they allow is part of ridding the body of toxins.



QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

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

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



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