



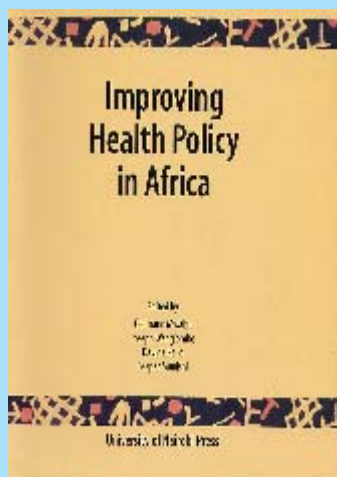
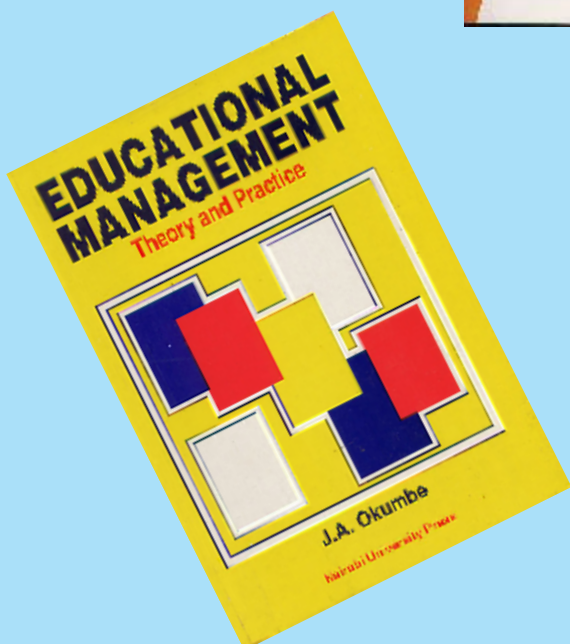
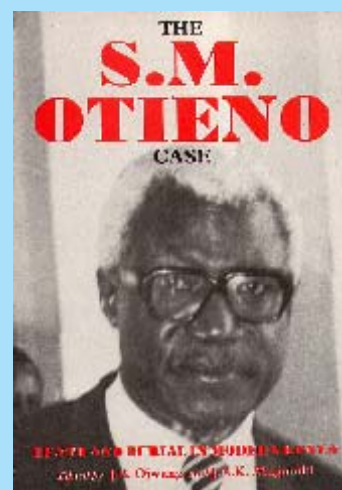
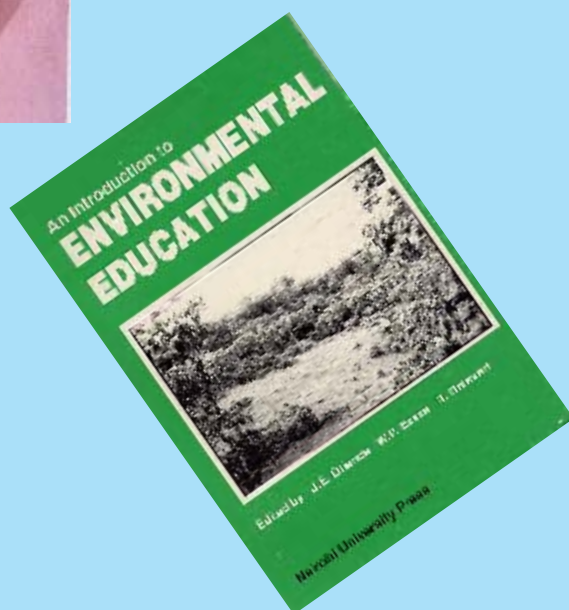
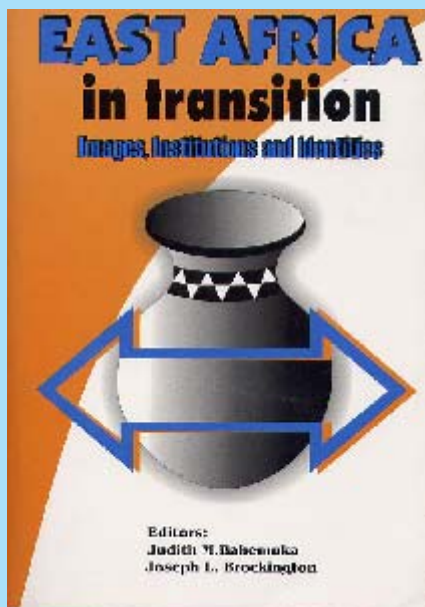
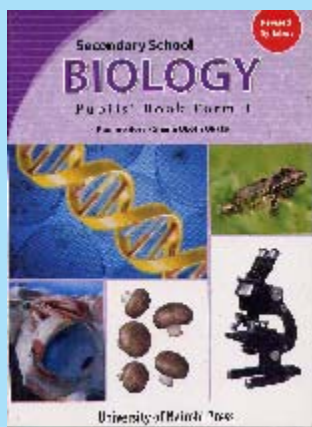
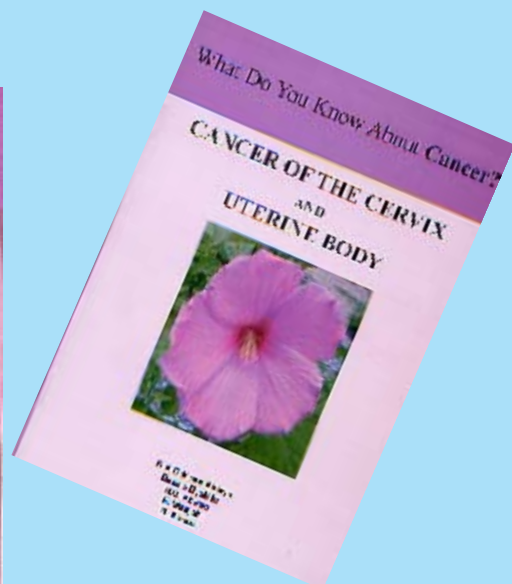
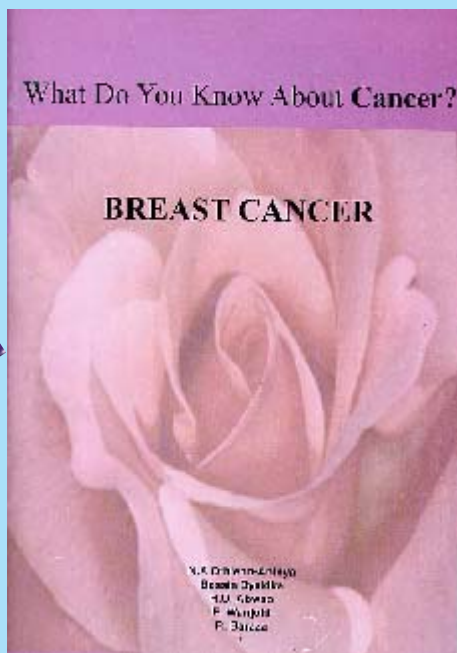
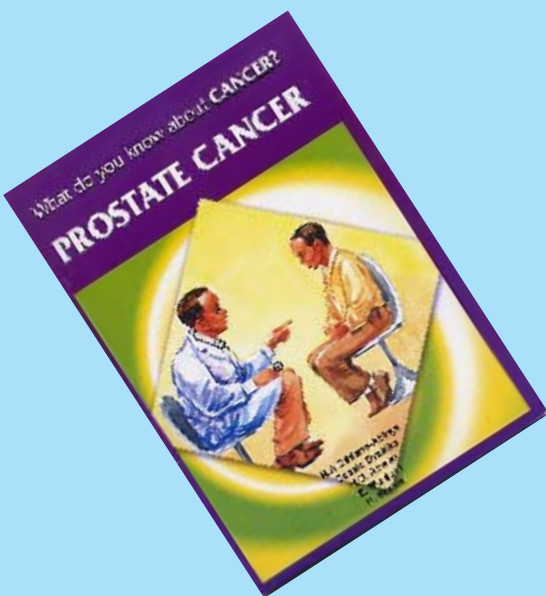
# Varsity Focus



**World Class Excellence:  
Our Inspiration**

**December 2006**





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# Varsity Focus

## From the Editor

**F**or the second time this year, we welcome you once again to another graduation ceremony of the University of Nairobi. This is the 36<sup>th</sup> ceremony that will confer degrees and award diplomas to more than 2,700 graduands of the University of Nairobi..



Our march towards world class status is on course as we continue to offer unchallenged leadership in various academic disciplines in the region. We pioneered the introduction of module II courses in the country which have now taken root in almost all public Universities thus increasing access to higher education in the country.

University of Nairobi's academic programmes continue to remain relevant and competitive throughout the world and new programmes have also been introduced to cater for new emerging needs.

Our presence in all parts of the country is enhanced by our network of Extra Mural Centres which offer various courses. We recently acquired a state of the art building in Kisumu from the British council to spread our services further to the Western Kenya region.

As a way of gauging performance we have now institutionalized staff performance appraisal in the University and will now be held annually. This is on top of the service charter which was launched early this year as a covenant of excellent service between staff and our clients.

Our team work remains our strength when faced with challenges. We are still fully operational when other public universities had been shut due the industrial action. *Varsity Focus* congratulates our lecturers for taking the interests of the institution at heart.

As we celebrate the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony we must be able to face the challenges of an increasingly competitive environment.

Charles Sikulu

# **Vision**

**A world-class African University and a community of scholars  
committed to the promotion of academic achievement  
and excellence in research  
as an embodiment of the aspirations of the Kenyan people  
and the global community**



# **Mission**

**A centre for learning and scholarship;  
preparing students for academic pursuits, professional development,  
enhanced personal lives, and responsible global citizenship;  
extending the frontiers of knowledge through research,  
creative works, and scholarship; fostering an intellectual culture  
that bridges theory with practice; contributing to social,  
economic, and cultural development; and,  
through intellectual products, enhances the quality of life  
of the people of Kenya and all humanity**



# **Core Values**

**Responsible citizenship  
Good corporate governance  
Excellence and professionalism  
Freedom of thought in academic enquiry  
Teamwork, creativity, innovativeness and adaptation to change**





## From the Chancellor

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Once again I am delighted to join the university of Nairobi community in celebrating the 36<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for their discipline and hard work which has enabled them to complete their studies on time. We are proud of you and confident that you will be able to use the skills acquired for the development of your country.

I also would like to thank all the staff and students of the University of Nairobi for doing what is right but not necessarily popular. By choosing to uphold the rule of law and continuing to perform their duties as the other public universities were forced to close because of the industrial action called by the Academic Staff Union, the dons have demonstrated that they are true leaders, worthy of a premier university like ours. It is this bold action and the exemplary behaviour of our students that has enabled us to celebrate the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony, well done!

As we endeavour to transform the university into a world-class institution, we must be ready to confront



**Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui, CBS**  
B.A. (Wesleyan), M.Sc. (Columbia), FKIM

the challenges associated with any change process. I have no doubt in my mind whatever that we are equal to the task.

Let me once again congratulate the graduands on their achievement and wish them success in their future endeavours.

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## Chairman of Council

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Council, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. You have done us proud by remaining focused and committed to the pursuit of academic excellence.

I also would like to thank your parents, guardians and teachers for sacrificing their limited resources and time to see you through the University.

As a council, we are committed to strengthening the University by creating an enabling environment that will attract and retain the best faculty and students within the region.

As alumni of the University of Nairobi, your association with this premier institution is lifelong. We welcome you to come back to further your knowledge and contribute to the development of your *Alma Mater*.



**Mr. John P.N. Simba**  
LL.B. (Dar es Salaam)

# The Vice-Chancellor

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I once again welcome you all to the University of Nairobi and the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony.

On behalf of the University of Nairobi I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for successfully completing their studies.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony brings together over 2700 graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and College of Health Sciences who are to be awarded diplomas and degrees. This is the second graduation ceremony to be held this year. The ceremony for the other colleges was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006. The University of Nairobi is making good progress towards normalisation of its academic programmes. In October we admitted more than 4,000 first year students to various colleges. They have since settled down well and are busy with their studies.

We have continued to build linkages with other universities worldwide: so far we have more than 100 linkages with reputable universities. These links have been mutually beneficial, yielding opportunities to our students that include scholarships and exchange programmes; while our staff have been able to secure fellowships.

Our quest for world class excellence is undeterred and our teamwork is paying off. We have followed our strategic plan which we commissioned last year and our agenda is being implemented as expected. We have restructured the University in line with the international standards and the system has readjusted well to changes.

Indiscipline, which used to be a perennial problem at the University of Nairobi, is now a thing of the past. Our students have learnt to appreciate dialogue and consultation with the administration as new problem solving techniques rather than, the old way of confrontations. The results of this



**Prof. G.A.O. Magoha, IOM, MBS**

M.B.B.S. (Lagos), FRCS, FWACS, FICS, FABI, FIBA, MSIC, FMCS (Urol.), FCS (ECSA)

tranquillity are completion of academic programmes on time and enhancement of a good corporate image for our institution.

Our academic staff has continued to be key not only in offering quality teaching and research but also in offering leadership. Their leadership was quite evident recently when they chose not to go on strike and continued with their official duties. Indeed, it is the decision to continue working that has enabled us to hold the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the University management, I thank all the academic staff for their selfless support.

Last but not least, I would like take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders; the government, the donors, the parents, staff, students and well wishers for their continued support.

I take this opportunity to also welcome all the graduands to join the University of Nairobi Alumni Association to assist and support their *Alma Mater*.

## The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

**A**s we mark the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony, we must not fail to remind ourselves of our recurrent theme in the pursuit of improving and strengthening the quality of teaching in the University of Nairobi. The re-recurrent theme is namely: "Towards World Class Excellence." as we indicated during our last graduation ceremony, this continues to be our inspiration.

To-date, the University has graduated over a hundred thousand (100,000) students, many of whom are in very senior positions in the Government or contributing in one way or another in nation building. If each of the Alumnus can contribute at least Kshs.2000 per year, it is possible for us to raise over Kshs.200,000,000 per year. This amount of money would undoubtedly make a world of difference in the infrastructure and the quality of academic services that we offer in this Mother University. Towards this end, I appeal to former students to become members of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and to participate actively in its activities.

Another obvious way of keeping the visibility of the University of Nairobi, is to strengthen the existing local journals by contributing articles regularly and also subscribing to their membership. I wish to appeal



**Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi**

B.D.S. (Nairobi), M.D.S. (Mysore),  
Ph.D. (Nairobi)

to those Schools/Institutions and Faculties which used to have journals which are no longer active, to go out of their way to ensure that these journals are published in a regular and predictable manner. The University will in due course look into this matter to determine how these journals can be strengthened to ensure regular publication.

The University of Nairobi continues to value research by its members of staff. It is for this reason that during this financial year, the University has set aside Kshs.100, 000,000 from its internally generated funds to fund research. I wish to appeal to our young and upcoming researchers to use this golden opportunity and apply for these funds. Again, as we work towards world-class excellence, the University

continues to be gender sensitive so as to ensure that our female students are encouraged to finish their studies without much financial difficulties. It is for this reason that the University has set aside during this financial year Kshs. 4, 000,000, to help those poor students. Female students are given priority in accessing these funds and we believe this is a step in the right direction.

One of the hallmarks of a university is the regularity with which it holds public lectures for the purpose of informing and educating members of the public. I am glad to note that there has been an increase in the number of people willing to give public lectures, as well as scholars willing to give their inaugural lectures.

Finally, it is my pleasant honour and duty to congratulate all the graduands for their excellent performance and encourage them to make a difference in the lives of Kenyans wherever they get an opportunity. For continuing students, I call upon them to maintain the spirit of dialogue with the administration which has enabled us to remain peaceful throughout the year, and endeared our University to the larger society.

Our lecturers too, deserve a pat on their backs, for remaining steadfast in the recent difficult times when all other universities chose to go on strike.



## The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance)

Graduation holds the pride of place as one of the most important events in the University calendar. For the graduands, it is the culmination of hard work and for many, a new life as they join the labour force. To the academic staff, it represents the realization of their contribution towards the development of high level manpower for the country and the world.

As the University celebrates its 36th graduation ceremony, we are proud of our position as the premier institution of higher learning in the republic.

The Administration and Finance Division of the University is responsible for Human resource management, finance and assets of the University.

Although the main source of funding for the University has traditionally been through government grants, inadequate disbursements from the exchequer has necessitated the University to expand and diversify on internal sources of revenue, at the same time instituting austerity measures to optimize on the use of funds.

In the 2005/2006 financial year, the University managed to revive some of its stalled projects, notably the library at Kikuyu Campus, library and offices at Lower Kabete Campus and a computer



**Prof. P.M.F. Mbithi**  
B.V.M., M.Sc. (Nairobi),  
M.V.Sc. (Saskatchewan), Ph.D.  
(Nairobi)

laboratory at Chiromo Campus through its internally generated funds. In this financial year, the University is addressing the work environment through rehabilitation and refurbishment of facilities in all campuses including Students' Welfare Authority and Central Administration.

To meet the challenge of extra teaching and office space occasioned by the expansion of academic programmes, the University recently purchased the British Council building in Kisumu City.

The University has also stepped up training of personnel in leadership and management at all levels with a view to adopting modern management practices. A major achievement of this training programme was that

of Deans, Directors and Chairmen of Departments as Chief Examination Officers to complement the pedagogical training for teaching staff that was started in the last financial year.

Together with the training, the University has developed and up-dated relevant material for the Human Resource function, including the Terms of Service for all cadres of staff and development of a Staff Handbook. This is meant to raise the level of awareness among staff regarding policies, rules and regulations, resulting in higher commitment among the University workforce, and leading to better performance. The annual Staff Performance Appraisal exercise for 2005/2006 has also be concluded.

In May this year, the University launched its *Service Charter*, this enumerates our services and is a covenant with our clients to offer quality and timely service.

The Administration and Finance Division is committed to its core function of providing an enabling environment.

The University greatly appreciates the support from all staff, students, the government and other stakeholders and requests for their continued support.

We congratulate all the graduands and wish them a happy, productive life and success in their future endeavours.



# UoN Colleges on Performance Contract

The University of Nairobi has, with effect from the current 2006 / 2007 financial year, put its six colleges on performance contracts. The contracts, signed between the colleges and the University Management Board, contain various performance targets which the colleges have undertaken to achieve within the 2006/2007-contract year.

The college Performance Contracts are informed by, and derive from the University's 2006/2007 Performance Contract, signed with the Ministry of Education at the close of the 2005/2006 financial year. This is as per the requirements of the State Corporations (Performance Contracting) Regulations, 2004, Legal Notice No.93 which requires that Boards of Directors of State Corporations (read University Council) sign performance contracts with the Government and submit quarterly performance reports to their respective Parent Ministries, the Treasury and the Inspectorate of State Corporations.

The institution's Performance Contract is negotiated with the parent Ministry with guidance from the Performance Contract Steering Committee under the Office of the President.

The performance targets in both the University's, and the college Performance Contracts are themselves based on, and driven by the University's Strategic Objectives as contained in the University of Nairobi Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010. The targets are supposed to be growth-oriented and in line with the University's Vision, Mission and Core Values.

The annual performance targets

Education and the Inspectorate of State Corporations. The annual performance report covering the contractual period is submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July following the end of the contractual year.

The University of Nairobi, now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Contract, has replicated this process in its colleges. The college quarterly performance reports are the ones that shall be consolidated and, with those from key central Units, form the quarterly report that the University of Nairobi submits to the government.

Among the highlights of the current University of Nairobi Performance Contract targets are the following:



**Senior Management staff on training.**

The performance contracting process is meant to ensure that public institutions monitor their budget and programme implementation, thus ensuring that they deliver their mandated services effectively and effi-

are, for purposes of monitoring, divided into quarterly targets covering durations of four months. At the end of each quarter, the University sends a performance report covering that duration to the Ministry of

- To achieve a cost reduction of Kshs. 5.4 Million
- To implement the University's Service Charter up to 100%.
- To increase the proportion

*Cont. P. 6*

## Performance Contracting (Cont.)

of students and staff having access to electronic library resources up to 40% and 60% respectively.

- To have up to 100 new publications in refereed journals.
- To enhance ICT facilities and services.
- To achieve students' discipline up to 100% (measured by absence of major disturbances).
- To operate in a clean and neat environment.

The above and other targets are the ones that the colleges have adopted and customized to their individual situations.

The college performance contracts were signed on one part by the College Principal, Registrar and Bursar while the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A & F) signed for the University Management Board.

Meanwhile, key central departments and Units (e.g. Library, Finance, SWA, Estates, University Health Services) have also prepared their own performance targets for 2006/2007 and submitted them to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F), who is responsible for coordinating the performance contracting process at the University of Nairobi.

# Varsity Acquires New Campus



UoN Kisumu Campus, formerly British Council Library, Kisumu.

The new kid on the block at the University of Nairobi is the state of the art building acquired by the College of Education and External Studies in Kisumu. The building, which was acquired in June 2006, at a cost of Kshs 45 million, from the British Council, is located in the heart of Kisumu town.

Prior to acquisition of the British Council Library Building, the University was using a rented facility located on the Kisumu / Kakamega road.

The building was formally handed over to the University of Nairobi, during a formal ceremony attended by the British Council, Representative, Mr. Tom Hinton, the Vice-chancellor, Professor George Magoha, the Principal of the College of Education and External Studies, Prof. Henry Mutoro, and other senior University officials.

Mr. Hinton explained that the British Council is not scaling down its activities in the country but rather, was committed to spending more on activities that would improve education in the country. He said that the Council was happy that University was acquiring the building to expand access to higher education.

While receiving the building, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha said that the acquisition of the former British Council Library marks a new beginning and the presence of the University in the western region; this will lead to increased activities in Kisumu.

The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the long-standing relationship between the University of Nairobi and the British Government, which stretches back to 1956 when the Royal Technical College

*Cont. P. 8*

## U.S. Senator delivers a lecture at UoN

**I**t often does not follow that when a guest of international repute visits Africa and for that matter extends the visit to your country, they will also visit your institution. So it was with great delight and privilege that the University of Nairobi played host to the Illinois Senate member, Barack Obama. Senator Obama, who was on an official tour of Africa that included a four-day official visit to Kenya, delivered a powerful lecture at Taifa Hall to an audience that included students, scholars and officials from the American Embassy, and top university management led by the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui.

Senator Obama, 45, traces his roots to Kenya. His father, the Late Obama, hailed from Siaya District, and at one time was a top civil servant before he was removed under controversial circumstances.

In his lecture titled "An Honest Government, a Hopeful Future" he warned Kenyans about corruption, noting that "it erodes the state from inside out, sickening the justice system until there is no justice to be found."

Obama acknowledged the positive developments in the country's fight against



Senator Obama in a briefing session with the UoN Management led by the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui.

corruption; these include willingness to report corruption and the open and courageous media that reports and uncovers corruption. He noted the expansions of the country's democratic space – "Kenya is more open and less repressive than in my father's day. It is that courage that will bring the reform so many of you so desperately want and deserve."

The lecture was relayed live on local television channels, and those who could not find space in the tightly packed Taifa Hall, filled the adjacent Great Court, where the proceedings were relayed from the public address system. The lecture and its impact were felt nationally and internationally judging from the responses it elicited.

Before delivering his lecture, Obama planted a comme-

morative tree and held brief consultations with the University of Nairobi management that included the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui, Chairman of Council, John Simba, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi and College Principals.

Later, after the address, Senator Obama addressed an enthusiastic crowd that milled around Taifa Hall, all the way to Harry Thuku Road.

Senator Obama is among the leading world personalities who have been hosted by the University of Nairobi, a confirmation of the University's recognition within the international community circles as a centre of excellence.



# Int'l Center Grows to Greater Heights

**N**o university in the world can claim to be an international institution without linkages and collaboration with other institutions and organizations.

In recognition of the strategic need to align itself with its peers in the rest of the world, the University of Nairobi established an interim office – Office of International Programmes (OIP) in 1995 with a mandate to handle, harmonize and coordinate University of Nairobi's external links with other international organizations/ institutions. It is this

interim office that has grown into a substantive Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL).

Being the external affairs wing of the University, the Centre provides a focal point for international activities in the University. In this respect, the Centre is charged with the responsibility of initiating, promoting, facilitating and coordinating international programmes and links, staff/ students exchanges and mobility, collaborative research projects as well as worldwide networking.

The Centre recognizes the vital role it is expected to play in assisting the University achieve its goals. This role has become more critical considering the fact that one of the key pillars of University ranking worldwide is the number of links and collaborations that the university has with other institutions in the world. In addition, the role of the Centre has increased with the rolling out of the current University of Nairobi Strategic Plan whose aspiration is to be a world class University.

The Centre has witnessed tremendous growth in the area of programmes and links.

## Kisumu Campus (Cont.)

was established to offer technical training.

The Department of Extra-Mural Studies under whose management the Kisumu Campus will operate has also enjoyed beneficial links with the British government dating back to 1953 when it was first founded at Makerere University. Since its founding, the Extra-Mural Studies department has expanded and through its wide network of country-wide centers and sub centers is offering courses in distance education, business studies, project management and education from undergraduate to post-graduate levels.

In his brief remarks, the Principal, College of Education and External

Studies, Prof. Henry W. Mutoro, noted that the acquisition of the Kisumu Building, has solved the perennial problem of space and would save the College expenses incurred on paying rent. The building has facilities for offices, classes, library, computer laboratory and an amphitheatre specially designed to cater for theatre arts.

Also present during the handing over ceremony were students and staff of the Extramural Centre and Kisumu residents.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.A.O. Magoha officially receives the key to the building from the British Council Representative, Mr. Tom Hinton.

## Center for International Programmes and Links



**Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs in a session with visiting scholars.**

which now exceed 100. The Centre has a data bank on existing programmes and links. It is also keen on strengthening existing partnerships and links and developing new ones in line with the strategic objectives of the University of Nairobi. The links and collaborations are normally established through the initiative, ingenuity and creativity of members of staff. The links are also established through the initiative of the Centre or through inquiries from institutions/organizations and universities abroad which are interested in exploring possibilities of starting collaborative relationships with the University of Nairobi.

The Centre has also embarked on an awareness campaign to sensitize units in the University on the services it offers as well as the existing opportunities for research and fellowships.

Recently, the Centre started gathering information for the

creation of a data bank for foreign students and scholars in the University. It is also collecting information on Study Abroad Programmes with a view to assisting the University develop a policy in that area.

The Centre is determined to market the University both locally and internationally. In this connection, the Centre intends to utilize every opportunity available to raise the profile of the University internationally.

In its efforts to be customer-driven, the Centre aims at working with all units in the University in their quest to establish partnerships with other institutions/organizations.

Because the Centre is detailed to add value to the University system, the Director of the Centre, Prof. Kenneth Mavuti invites comments and suggestions on how to improve its service delivery.

## Donations to Physics Department

The Department of Physics has benefited from over Kshs 90 million support from Uppsala University, Sweden over the past six years when the Universities formalized their links.

The retiring Director of International Science, Uppsala University, Prof. Lennert Hasselgreen, revealed this when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006. The Chairman of the Department of Physics Prof. B.O. Aduda explained that the Kshs 90 million came in batches to support physical and human capacity building.

The Department also benefited from a 40-tonne donation of journals and exchange programme mainly for postgraduate students with Uppsalla University.

Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the function thanked the outgoing Director for his contribution towards strengthening relations between the University of Nairobi and Uppsala University. He challenged the department to make good use of the equipment and journals donated. Part of the equipment acquired include a spetrophometre, the only one in the country.

Accompanying Prof. Hasselgreen on the visit was Prof. Ewa Wadielgard, the incoming Director for the Institute.



# Trophies Won at Trade Fair

The University of Nairobi yet again lived up to her billing as a centre of academic excellence when she scooped several top prizes at this year's Nairobi International Trade Fair. The University emerged tops beating all other public and private universities to clinch position one trophies in the Best Institution of Higher Learning/Education Stand and the Best Stand in Research and Development projects categories.

The Vet farm bagged yet another trophy with one of its dairy cow entries emerging number one in the Best Udder category to win the coveted Sir John Ramsden Perpetual Challenge Cup. In the farm produce category, Campus Blooms won position one for the best cut flower while other entries received numerous certificates in various categories.

This year recorded the highest number of participating departments with over 21 departments taking part at the Trade Fair. A new entrant, Haematology and Blood Transfusion proved very popular with hundreds of show goers queuing to have their



Some of the academic members of staff manning UoN stands at the Trade Fair

blood and sugar level tested. Among those who benefited from this service included Hon. Martha Karua, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Minister Karua commended the University for taking its services to the people.

The highlight at the University stand was the *Dream-drip-kit* produced by the College of Architecture and Engineering. The *Dream-drip-kit* is made from locally available material and retails at Kshs.1,600 making it affordable to small

scale farmers.

The Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui who led the University management team in visiting the University Stand commended the staff for the high standard of exhibits that well interpreted the Show theme, "**Empowering people through growth in Agric-business.**" Others who visited the stand included the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, the deputy Vice-Chancellors, College Principals. The Vice-Chancellor lauded the Show committee under the chairmanship of Dr. J. M. Ayuya for a job well done and promised total support for the committee at the next year's Trade Fair.

The challenge to the Show committee at future Trade Fairs is the integration of IT in its exhibits. Other departments that exhibited at the University Stand included the University of Nairobi Alumni Association, University of Nairobi Bookshop, the Students Organisation of the University of Nairobi (SONU), amongst others.



Visitors at the University stands.



# Varsity Admits 1st Years

In keeping with the University of Nairobi tradition, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha addressed 1<sup>st</sup> year students who reported for the 2006/2007 Academic year in mid October at Taifa Hall.

In welcoming the freshers, the Vice-Chancellor took the opportunity to congratulate them for their excellent performance in the K.C.S.E. which enabled them to join the most prestigious University in Kenya and the region.

Prof Magoha informed the students that the core activities of a University as an institution of higher learning were teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge. He urged them to take their academic work seriously and avoid engaging in pursuits likely to distract them from their studies.

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the University guarantees students full academic freedom and rights enjoyed by all citizens under the Kenyan Laws. He however cautioned that this freedom was not absolute noting that, all students were subject to rules and regulations governing the conduct and discipline of students.

Touching on the social part of student life at the University, Prof. Magoha urged the freshers to lead responsible lives and avoid risky sexual behaviour in these days of HIV/AIDS pandemic. Said he: "Let abstinence be the norm and if you cannot, please use condoms which are readily available in our University Health Services free of charge." He encouraged them to make use of the Voluntary Counseling Testing (VCT) services available and asked them to also read the University HIV/AIDS Policy document for information.



A section of First Year students keenly follow the Vice-Chancellor's address

Prof. Magoha further advised the students to observe a modicum of modesty and decency in dress and manner, noting that all cases of sexual harassment should be reported to the relevant authorities immediately for appropriate action without fear of intimidation.

The Vice-Chancellor encouraged the freshmen to consider co-curricular activities an important part of their education and make use of the good sporting facilities available at the University to advance their talents in sports and games and healthy living.

In concluding, Prof. Magoha observed that the students would find their undergraduate life at the University most interesting and enriching. He promised that the University would endeavour to provide a suitable environment for them to nurture and fulfill their dreams.

The students were also addressed by the SONU Chairman, Mr. Gitobu Mutiga who urged them to jealously guard academic freedom and play a leading role in maintaining the prevailing calm at the University.

Those present included the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, college Principals, Deans/Directors of Faculties and Schools and other senior academic and administrative staff.

# A Look at the Last Graduation

The University of Nairobi held its 35<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006. The highlight of this ceremony was the conferment of degrees and diplomas to over 2200 graduands. In line with the practice of allowing students to graduate immediately after completion of their studies the University held a ceremony for four colleges which completed their programmes in June 2006. The graduands were from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Biological and Physical Sciences and the College of Education and External Studies.

Presiding over the function, the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui congratulated graduands for their achievement and urged them to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired from the Institution for the development agenda of the country. He also commended the University management team for its commitment to transforming the University into a world-class institution.

The Assistant Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria urged graduands to play their part to enable the country to achieve its millennium development goals. He challenged the University of Nairobi and other universities in the country to find ways of expanding access to higher education to the many deserving Kenyans forced to seek higher education abroad and urged them to stem this wave and save the country foreign exchange.

In his address, the Chairman of the University Council Mr. John Simba recounted the achieve-



**Graduands during the 35th Graduation Ceremony.**

ments of the University in the last one year and urged the management to continue with the same spirit. Said he: "we have managed to build on the successes of the previous year." He further noted that the University would explore other opportunities to enhance its revenue sources to meet its challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha in his remarks, lauded his management team for its support and cooperation which have enabled the

University to achieve a lot within a short time. He congratulated the students for their exemplary behaviour that has contributed to change in public perception of the University of Nairobi students and encouraged them to continue with the same spirit, riots and other acts of indiscipline were no longer fashionable in modern life.

He enumerated the University's achievements despite the numerous challenges the institution is facing. Topping the list of challenges is the perennial problem of finances which could

Cont. p. 15



**The Academic Procession of the 35th Graduation**



# Best student addresses the 35th Congregation

First, I'd like to congratulate the graduands, parents, guardians, academic and administrative staff... and all concerned for making this fete successful.

It goes beyond presumption that the graduation ceremony is the most momentous fixture within the institutional calendar.

On this occasion, the institution commemorates the passing out of this fine cohort of graduands, while graduands themselves observe the culmination of this singular phase within their academic lives.

A good number of us, I'd like to believe, are well pleased, even ecstatic, about their achievements thus far;

Some of us are probably surprised, puzzled even, about their own achievements, and those of others as well;

And an uncommon few are disappointed, disillusioned...

Whatever the case, whether we think highly of what we've attained, or believe we've fallen short of our expectations, we all must recognise this simple fact: That we, each and every one of us, had a hand in it; we OWN our accomplishments, pleasantries and disappointments;

Some of us may have grasped achievements beyond our wildest dreams (this is not to suggest that the unexpected achievements are undeser-

ved... it is to say that many a time we are the beneficiaries of a providential thrust that surges us forward to successes we may never have even contemplated.

Much as my standing here is an indication that I've learnt to tackle many a challenge, there is still one question that I consider myself unable to answer exhaustively; that is:



**Mr. Stephen Nyamato - scored First Class Honours in Architecture**

"How did you do it?" HOW? Sounds rather simple, doesn't it? Well, looking back, I could give you all sorts of tales:

- About how my colleagues and I used to spend sleepless nights (literally) trying to give acceptable expression to our concepts;
- About how we'd perpetually pester the academic staff assigned to us in the quest for deeper and more profound knowledge;
- About how we'd sacrifice our individual schedules to make time for collective research exercises;

- About how we used to shelve our social lives periodically until we'd made our presentations impenetrable;
- About how we'd endeavour to interact with students from other institutions-home and away- on matters academic;
- About how we'd collude to simultaneously avail ourselves at an international sports meet involving our national sports figures, yet prepare diligently for imminent examinations;
- About how we'd pull our meagre resources together- at the end of an exerting academic period- and recoup our energies in appropriate recreation;
- About how we were ALWAYS WILLING TO LEARN (from every for-academic and recreational- from every opportunity or scenario that presented itself) - And here is where the solution to the question 'How' lies.

What is evident in the multiple tales I've mentioned is simply that THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST RULES: We all must know ourselves, know what we seek, how to pursue it and ultimately work towards it.

One thing I've come to discover about life (from the two and a half decades I've been around) is that life presents each of us with endless opportunities to develop ourselves- whether

*Cont. P. 14*



## Best Student (Cont.)

it's through the people around us, through flashes of brilliance (though these are few and far between) or through personal experiences ...

Over and above all this, there is one thing that we all need to learn to manage: Time; Time is one of the few resources left entirely at our disposal, and our success or failure is heavily dependent on what we do with this phenomenon. At this juncture, I'd like to relay a verbal phrase an old friend of mine used to reiterate:

"Yesterday is already gone, today is passing by, and tomorrow will soon be another yesterday"

In as much as it may be too late to alter the past, we all have the opportunity to steer our future, much as is humanly possible.

And finally, if I were asked whether I would do this all over again, if I had such opportunity, I must admit, I wouldn't change a single thing: Not the institution, not the professional degree, not the colleagues I've had, and certainly not the experience. (This is not to say that the institution is perfect: neither am I as a person, but I believe in the potential benefit of all our traits, even our imperfections)

Once again, I'd like to congratulate the graduands : You deserve it. I'm proud to be before you all, I'm proud of you all, and it certainly has been a pleasure.

Thank you.

## Down the Memory Lane

**A**s I grow older, my mind turns back to my years as a student.

These were truly divine days. I remember how late one night, a commendably young-middle level couple was kissing each other outside the ADD building, and a rowdy mob of students surrounded them, egging them on.

The gallant couple was lucky to get away without a repeat performance, which no doubt gave them time to reflect on what students have always known, that you should not kiss along the lovers lane when the lights are on as it can get complicated.

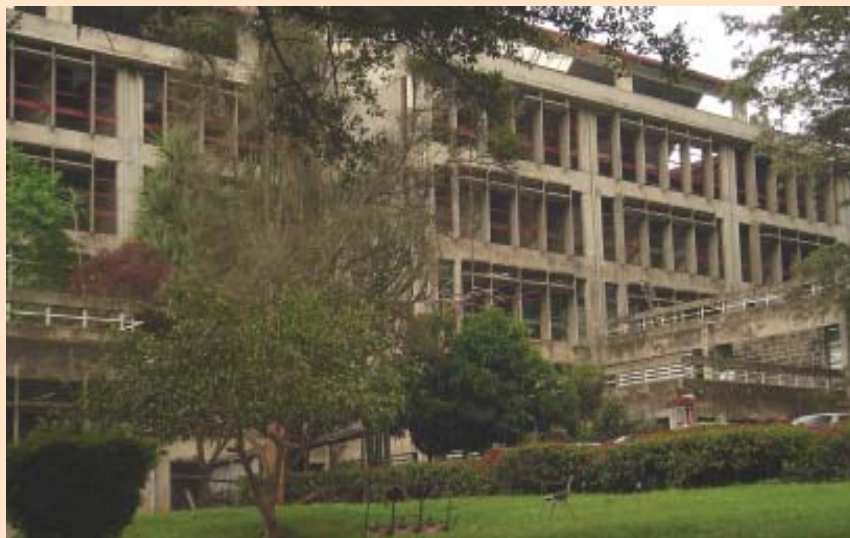
During my life as a student, the little lane outside ADD represented an opportunity for courting couples and for those trying out the waters for a new relationship to practice some hand holding and even an intimate conversation.

I pity the maintenance officer who so often had to replace the smashed bulbs lighting the lane. The replacement bulbs ranged

from the clear, the dim and the coloured bulbs, no doubt to give the place a festive air, but still we smashed them all.

Lovers Lane, was not the preserve of the very young, the crowd on a Saturday was diverse. If you wanted to know the right way to "tune" then you needed to practice at lovers lane and if your girl slapped your face, at least no one saw you wince. Correct tuning, we were assured by the experts had a definite technique which we were expected to observe. The tuning must be light and deft and the right words of ...my love.. .my light interspersed with polite verbal endearments should be used. Above all, said the experts, the tuning should not deteriorate into rape, nor advance into a military embrace. It must be tasty without being provocative.

I guess Lovers Lane served its purpose, for in the midst of our academic pursuits, our social education was made complete without degenerating into embarrassment. Above all else, we enjoyed ourselves.



# College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is one of the six colleges of the University, with a total student population of 15,000, it constitutes forty-six per cent of the total student population in the University, and is easily the largest of the 6 colleges comprising the University.

In its operations the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is guided by the vision of the University of Nairobi and its own vision to be "A leading unit within the University that promotes academic achievement and excellence in teaching, training, research and consultancy". Guided by this vision, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is constantly monitoring developments in its environment and in the world at large. This provides it with an awareness of societal trends and changes both at home and abroad. This awareness enables the College to respond to trends and changes by introducing new academic programmes or modifying existing ones.

The creation of the nascent School of Economics constitutes one such response to trends and changes in society especially in the job market. The School plans to offer the following hitherto unavailable degree programmes:

(a) Bachelor of Economics and Statistics



**The main administrative building for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.**

(b) Master of Arts in Multilateral Trading Systems.

In addition the School has plans to introduce a Ph.D. degree programme by Course Work and Thesis to supplement the existing programme by Thesis only.

## **The 35th Graduation (Cont.)**

have been worse were it not for income generating projects that account for more than 50 percent of the operational budget of the University. He however promised that the University would forge ahead and confront the challenges and meets its share of responsibility in the society –that of training quality manpower and research. He also thanked Prof. Francis Gichaga for the introduction of Module II Programmes during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor between 1991 and 2002.

A total of 2200 graduands were awarded diplomas, and degree, among them 15 Ph. Ds, 158 Masters, 1632

Bachelors, 61 Post-graduate diplomas and 3348 ordinary diplomas. Varsity Focus takes this opportunity to congratulate the graduands on their Achievement. We also take this opportunity to congratulate the Graduation Committee led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi for the exemplary organization of the ceremony.

Our eyes are now focused on the 36<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 that will comprise graduands from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Health Sciences.



# World Class Excellence



**Our distinguished guest,  
Senator Barack Obama**



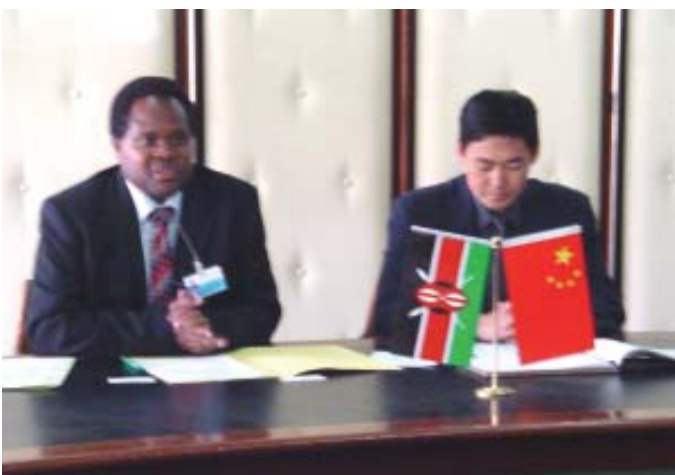
**Dr. Sam Pitroda delivering his lecture titled  
“The Role of Technology in the Developed  
Countries”.**



**Senator Barack Obama planting a  
commemorative tree.**



**Enthusiastic pupils who visited UoN stands  
during the 2006 Nairobi Int'l Trade Fair.**



**Prof. P.M.F. Mbithi, DVC (A&F) signs the joint  
M.O.U with the Ag. Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Xue  
Bing after receiving scholarships worth Sh 3.5 M.**



**An award winning exhibit by the College of  
Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, during  
the 2006 Nairobi Int'l Trade Fair.**

# : *Inspiration*



Towards World Class Excellence.



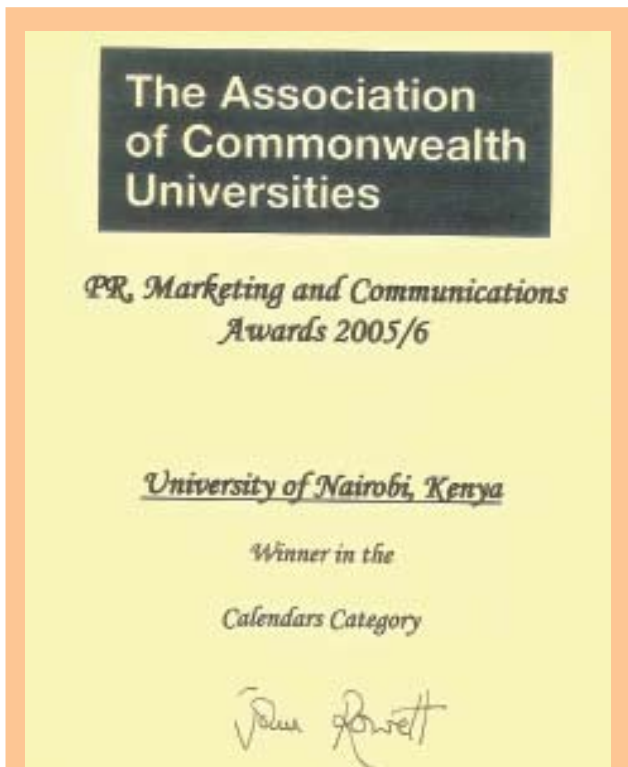
The Chancellor conferring a Ph.D. degree to a graduand.



Top Management with PS Racheal for Special Programmes when she received UoN's famine contributon.



The UoN choir at the 35th Graduation.



Certificate for Award Winning UoN Calendar in the Commonwealth Universities Public Relations and Marketing Awards Competition.



# Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Established

The Senate has approved the establishment of the Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (CEBIB). The Centre which is located at Chiromo Campus was formed to serve as a shared facility to facilitate and strengthen research and product development in biotechnology and bioinformatics within the University and the region. Its formation also underscores the realization that biotechnology is an interdisciplinary subject with wide ranging applications of scientific and engineering principles in different fields such as agriculture, food & feed, medicine, industry and the environment, which are of profound importance to mankind.

The Centre's strategy is to facilitate integration of fundamental research into production and product processing while enabling rapid transfer of research innovations into the commercial domain. CEBIB's vision is to be a leading center in education, research and entrepreneurship in biotechnology and bioinformatics, guided by sound scientific and ethical principles, and committed to the virtues of quality and relevance and thus contribute to the dynamic socio-economic and cultural development. Its mission is to maintain a leadership role in the pursuit of knowledge through quality and relevant teaching, research development, consultancy and community service as well as promoting entrepreneurship in



During the official handing over of the CEBIB Building from ICIPE.

bioinformatics and biotechnology.

The training programs at CEBIB are conducted in collaboration with relevant University departments and partner institutions leading to award of degrees of the University of Nairobi. Currently CEBIB offers Postgraduate Diplomas (PGDs), Master of Science (MSc) degrees in Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, as well as research opportunities for students pursuing PhD studies in both fields. In addition, relevant short courses are conducted to strengthen the regular programs.

Operations of CEBIB activities are located within the ICIPE Building. The facility contains basic necessities such as Molecular Biology laboratory; Bioinformatics Unit; Transformation laboratory; Tissue culture laboratory; Genomics

platform; Microbiology and virology lab; production unit laboratory space, office space, biosafety cabinets and a chemical store. The laboratories are equipped by modern research facilities.

Among the major goals of CEBIB is to ensure excellence in science and technology. The CEBIB strategy is to create linkages to maximize on programs, financing, marketing, advocacy and networking, training and exchange of experience. In addition CEBIB has established mechanisms and links for sourcing of foreign technologies, funds and collaboration to maximize on foreign aid and expertise.

In terms of administrative setup CEBIB operates under the guidance of Biotechnology Research Advisory Board and a full-time Coordinator who is the Chief Executive Officer.

## School of Mathematics Flourishes

The School of Mathematics is one of the largest departments in the University of Nairobi with an establishment of 44 teaching staff and 6 non-teaching staff. The department enrolls about 1700 students each year including more than 20 postgraduate students. The students enrolling in service courses exceed 1500 in number. The physical location of the department is at Chiromo Campus, which is the Science Campus of the University of Nairobi.

The School of Mathematics offers specialized undergraduate training through degree programs in Mathematics, Statistics, and Actuarial Science. In addition to these programs, the School also offers post-graduate training through a post-graduate diploma in Actuarial science and M.Sc. programs in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Statistics, Biometry and Actuarial Science.

The educational and research activities of academic staff and students span a broad range of topics in mathematics, statistics, probability and modeling.

Many members of the department are actively involved in advanced and applied research of problems that arise in such diverse fields as mathematical biology, AIDS testing and control, vector control, agricultural pest control, educational and manpower planning, mathematical economics, wind energy analysis, analysis of entropy of African languages and survival analysis.

Examples of research on a more theoretical level include: the development of non parametric and semi parametric methodology, construction of optimal group screening designs and deletion designs, operator theory, sasakian manifolds, philosophical foundations of probability and statistics.

## CEES Goes Virtual

Learning at the University of Nairobi will soon be revolutionalized following the recent signing of an agreement between the African Virtual University (AVU) and UoN. The agreement was as a result of the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) being identified as a Centre for Open and Distance Learning Programmes (CODL).

Traditionally, CEES has been offering programmes through both face to face and distance learning delivery modes. With the signing of the agreement, CODL, which is located at CEES, will be offering courses through e-learning. The introduction of e-learning at UoN is not only a milestone at the University but is also a reflection of the University's commitment to continuous improvement and determination to be aligned with changing trends in the market.

In preparation for the launch of e-learning programmes, there are plans to install VSAT equipment and 30 computers for the CODL center. Additionally, training for the staff to run the centre is on-going.

The Centre of Open and Distance Learning was created in 2005 following the restructuring of the College. It is designed to cater for all programmes offered at the University which can be conducted through distance learning. Currently, two programmes, Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), have been advertised and are expected to begin in January 2007. The two programmes will be offered in collaboration with the School of Business Studies and the Faculty of Arts respectively.



Chairman of Council, Mr. J. Simba, listens to CODL Co-ordinator, Mr. J. Odumbe.



# Architects on Foreign Academic Trip

Staff of the Department of Architecture & Building Science recently undertook a ten-day study visit to Egypt and Italy. This being the fiftieth year of the existence of the department, the trip was meant to mark a milestone in the development of the department and to assist it find direction for the future.

Twelve members of the teaching staff, led by their Chairman, Mr. Kigara Kamweru made the trip which involved visits to sites of architectural interest in both countries between 29<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

In Egypt, the team visited Giza and the significant museums of Cairo. The group also had time to visit markets in the older parts of Cairo which present an intense and varied experience in human interactions.

The group also visited Alexandria, the site of many historical allusions and achievements.

The highlight of the trip was the afternoon spent with Professors and students of the University of Cairo's Department of Architecture. The interaction involved a presentation by Prof. Dalila ElKerdany on the new developments in the City of Cairo and a discussion. This session took place in the garden of a house designed by Hassan Fathy, one of the most celebrated architects in Africa and the world.

Egypt afforded the group occasion to reflect on the challenges of the megacity in a developing country. Cairo with a population of 17 million represents the culmination of urban conglomeration that a lot of African cities may be headed towards.

Rome is however a different experience altogether. The eternal city as it has been called represents the high point of two historical phases; The achievements of the Roman empire and the explorations of early architectural forms, sit side by side with the glorious monuments of the Renaissance. The group's visit to this city was less

structured, allowing for a fuller exploration of the many architectural wonders the city has to offer.

There were however group visits to the National Art Gallery, new architectural projects designed by internationally influential architects: Renzo Piano of Italy and Zaha Hadid based in London, the Vatican museums, square and cathedral including an obligatory sojourn to the Sistine Chapel to marvel at the drawings by Michelangelo.

Once again in Rome the group took time to meet with the scholars at the University of Rome and got audience with the Dean of the First Faculty of Architecture, Prof. Lucio Barbera.

The group split into two for the visits to Florence and Venice. The work of the great artists; Michelangelo, da Vinci, Giotto, Brunelleschi dominate the experiences in Florence while



**While in Cairo, with the famous Pyramids in the background.**

Venice was hosting the Biennale, an international exhibition of architecture featuring works from all over the world.

The journey that led the Department to undertake this pilgrimage started sometime back. There has been a growing awareness that in order to realize its vision to be a world class school of architecture, the Department needed to raise its sights considerably beyond the visible horizons. The desire to reflect on these further led the Department to consider doing so in a different cultural setting.

*cont. page 21*

## Architects Tour (Cont.)

The choice of these two ancient cultures allowed the group to transcend time in the experiences accessed in the short period. Egypt represents the cradle of modern architecture. It is generally accepted that this culture preceded by a lengthy period, those of the Greeks and Romans. Yet today Cairo is the largest metropolis in Africa and Egypt among the technologically advanced African economies.

Roman architecture formed a very strong springing point for later day architecture and pointed ahead to what would later become one of the most glorious flowerings of culture in the European middle ages. Today, Rome with its numerous *piazza*, fountains and city churches, is an inspiration to city planning worldwide. Italy as a whole is making a great contribution to the creative arts, not just in architecture but also in music, fashion, industrial design and food.

It is this depth of inspiration that the department was looking to access. But a visit like this brings other benefits as well. One of the issues that became clear to the group is that our University has a long struggle ahead to keep up with our contemporaries. This is also coupled with the realisation that we have what it takes to get there. Great strides are being made by our colleagues in shaping the approaches that will take us forward, and this is being done through persistence and institutional focus.

The experience was useful in equipping the staff with the tools to inspire the highly motivated students who choose to study architecture. The group was able to collect a lot of teaching material to add on to the first hand experience of so many sources of inspiration. Not to be undervalued is the bonding that took place, serving to strength the idea of teamwork in the Department.

The department appreciates the immense support it received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nairobi and the two Kenyan embassies in Cairo and Rome.

Within the University of Nairobi, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor provided critical support as did the Principal of the College of Architecture & Engineering of which the department is greatly indebted.

## UoN Receives scholarships

The growing relations between Chinese institutions and the University of Nairobi moved a notch higher following the award of KShs. 3.5 million worth of scholarships by the Beijing Holley Cotec Company and another KSh. 105,000.00 from Piere Fouchard Academy, U.S.A.

Speaking, during the awards ceremony, Prof. J. Kitonyi, Principal, College of Health Sciences (CHS) thanked Beijing Holley Cotec Company for the scholarships which would assist needy but bright students in the College.

Prof. P.M. Mbithi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F) led the University team in his capacity as Acting Vice-Chancellor while Mr Xue Bing, Acting Chinese Ambassador, led the Chinese delegation.

Mr Richard Li Wang, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Holley Cotec Group, and Mr. Lu Chun Ming, President of



Donation of scholarships.

the Company, presented a cheque of KShs. 3,580,000 to Prof. Mbithi being the scholarship award to students in the College of Health Sciences.

In his address to the gathering, Mr. Wang said that although Holley Cotec had given scholarships in China,



## Scholarships to UoN (Cont.)

the scholarships at University of Nairobi were the first outside China. He said he was delighted to be in Kenya and that the Company was considering establishing a fund at the University of Nairobi as well as initiating other charitable activities. He added that relations between Kenya and China were growing and that the President of Kenya was scheduled to visit China some time this year.

Mr. Xue Bing, the Acting Chinese Ambassador to Kenya said that it was the first time for a Chinese company to support charity activity in Kenya and expressed hope that more Chinese Companies would emulate the Holley Cotec Group. Prof. Mbithi lauded the growing links between the Chinese institutions and the University of Nairobi. He commended the Holley Cotec Company for its generosity to the University of Nairobi and wished them success in their endeavours.

During the same function, an agreement between the University of Nairobi and Beijing Holley Cotec Company was signed. According to the agreement Holley Cotec Company will award scholarships to students in the College of Health Sciences for a period of five years starting the 2005/2006 academic year.

Others who attended the ceremony were Dr. Sam

Dong, General Manager – Beijing Holley Cotec Company; Dr. Mary Omosa, Ag. Director, CIPL; Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Dean, School of Pharmacy; Prof. S.W. Guthua, Dean, School of Dental Sciences; Prof. D.W. Makawiti, Dean, School of Medicine; Dr. Joyce Musandu, Director, School of Nursing Sciences; and Ms Rebeca Ngondo, University Legal Officer. The Human Resources Manager for the Holley Cotec Company, Ms Marion Wangu; Director, Xinhua News Agency, Mr Tan Shuifu; Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy, Li Yuan; and representatives from Omaera Pharmacy were also present.

In a separate development, the foundation of the Piere Fauchard Academy, USA has also established an annual award of US\$1500 for students at the School of Dental Sciences. The scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated the greatest potential for developing into outstanding leaders in the dental profession. The criteria for the award include merit, integrity, imagination, initiative, communication skills and need.

The 2005/2006 scholarship was awarded to Mr. Ndungu George Muiruri, a third year student.

## Mets Keep Leading

**W**eather and climate are widely recognized as crucial in the development of any nation because of their impact on all sectors of economy. Moreover, many of the natural disasters in the world are related to weather and climate.

Knowledge of weather and climate is necessary if it has to be appropriately factored into national development strategic plan. It is because of the importance of the science of meteorology that the Department of Meteorology of the University of Nairobi was established in 1963 at the request of the East African Community (EAC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to train professional meteorologists for the English speaking countries of Africa.

Ever since its inception, the department of Meteorology has continued to play a major role in training highly skilled meteorological personnel, most of whom are currently manning National Meteorological Services (NWS) of most countries in Africa.

The Department of Meteorology, besides providing a leadership role as a WMO regional training center for meteorological personnel for the Eastern and Central Africa Region, also spearheads broad based research aimed at promoting the science of meteorology and its applications.

# Inaugural Lectures Delivered

In the last edition of *Varsity Focus*, the name of Prof. R.B. Ogendo was erroneously left out on the list of Inaugural Lecturers. The error is regretted and the full list is now republished.

## 2006

**Prof. F.A. Aduol** - Engineering

*From Rope-stretchers to E-mapping: The Story of the Discipline of Surveying.*

26th May, 2006

**Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi** - Dental Science

*Achieving Oral Health For All In Kenya: A Reality or a Myth?*

18th May, 2006

## 2004

**Prof. R.W. Michieka** - Agriculture

*Environmental Degradation and Pollution: Let Us reverse the Trends*

9th September, 2004

## 2003

**Prof. G.A. O. Magoha** - Medicine

*Urological Footprints in Kenya 'That Water May Flow': A Story About male Genital Cancer and Dysfunction*

9th October, 2003

**Prof. C. L. Wanjala** - Social Science

*The Growth of a Literary Tradition in East Africa*

19th June, 2003

## 2001

**Prof. D. O. Okombo** - Social Science

*Language Policy - The Forgotten Parameter in African Development and Governance Strategies*

4th October, 2001

**Prof. D.M. Ndeti** - Medicine

*The Walk Towards the Promise:*

*A View of Mental Health in Global, Kenyan and Individual Perspective.*

13th August, 2001

## 1999

**Prof. L. N. Omondi** - Arts

*Language and Life:*

*A Linguistic Glance at Kenya*

30th September, 1999

**Prof. P. M. Syagga** - A.D.D.

*Real Property Valuation:*

*A Profession in Search of a Discipline*

23rd September, 1999

**Prof. S. Wandibba** - I.A.S.

*The Past and the Present in the Present: Ceramic Ethoarchaeology in Kenya*

9th September, 1999

## 1996

**Prof. J. N.K. Mugambi** - Arts

*Religion ad Social Construction of Reality*

26th September, 1996

**Prof. C.K. Maitai** - Pharmacy

*The Dynamic Interplay Between Man, Health and Medicine: A Historical Perspective*

18th July, 1996

## 1995

**Prof. J.M. Nyasani** - Arts

*The Metaphysics of Cosmogony and the Entropic Death of the Physical Universe*

17th August, 1995

## 1993

**Prof. E.M. Luti** - Engineering

*Combustion: The Perpetual Burning Problem*

28th January, 1993

## 1992

**Prof. A.V. Otieno** - Engineering

*Lasers: The Splendor of Light*

30th July, 1992

**Prof. J. B. Ojwang** - Law

*Laying a Basis for Rights*

9th July, 1992

**Prof. J.K. Kimani** - Medicine

*A Tall Story: Prevention of Fainting and Oedema in the Giraffe*

2nd July, 1992

## 1989

**Prof. E. J. Gichaga** - Engineering

*The Engineer in Road Building: The Kenyan Perspective*

23rd July 1986

## 1986

**Prof. R.S. Rostom** - Engineering

*Survey in Developing Kenya: The Role ad the Propsects*

23rd July, 1986

## 1982

**Prof. R.B. Ogendo** - Geography

*Geography: The Discipline and Its Role in Public Policy*

27th May, 1982



**Prof. O. Malo** -Science  
*Pervasiveness of Physics in Life*  
28th April, 1981

**Prof. G. S. Were** - I.A.S.  
*History, Public-morality and Nation Building: A Survey of Africa Since Independence*  
26th March, 1981

**Prof. R.B.L. Smith** - Engineering  
*The Engineer and the Environment*  
26th February, 1981

## 1980

**Prof. J. Muhangi** - Medicine  
*Psychiatry in Kenya: New Horizons in Medical Care*  
31st January 1980

## 1978

**Prof. C. G. Asnani** - Science  
*Will it Rain Tomorrow?*  
30th November, 1978

**Prof. N. J. Skinner** - Science  
*Geophysics in Tropical Africa*  
11th May, 1978

**Prof. H. P. Ojiambo** - Medicine  
*Twenty Years in Medicine*  
9th March, 1978

## 1977

**Prof. G. M. Mugeru** - Pharmacy  
*Useful Drugs and Cancer Causing Chemicals in Kenya Medical and Toxic Plants*  
22nd November, 1977

**Prof. J. G. Donders** - Arts  
*Dont Fence Us In: The Liberating Force of Philosophy*  
10th March 1977

## 1976

**Prof. G. O.P. Obasi** - Science  
*The Art of Rainmakers*  
19th May, 1976

**Prof. H. S. Wood** - A.D.D.  
*Synthesis in Design and Education*  
12th May, 1976

## 1975

**Prof. T. R. Odhiambo** - Vet. Medicine  
*Insect Production and Reproduction*  
2nd December 1975

## 1971

**Prof. H. M. Cameron** - Medicine  
*Kenya's Cancers*  
1st October 1971

**Prof. F. C.A. Cammaerts** - Education  
*A Definition of Teacher Education: Traditional Growth and Future Development*  
8th October, 1971

**Prof. D. Robertshaw** - Vet. Medicine  
*The Relevance of Animal Physiology to Animal Production in Kenya*  
22nd October, 1971

**Prof. A. J. Gurr** - Arts  
*Home is Neither Here nor There*  
29th October, 1971

**Prof. S. C. Neil** - Arts  
*.... and This Should Not be Forgotten*  
12th November, 1971

**Prof. M. Hyder** - Science  
*.... and Foresight is Power*  
26th November, 1971

## 1968

**Prof. J. M. Mungai** - Medicine  
*The Athropological Basis of Medicine in East Africa*  
16th November, 1968

**Prof. S. H. Ominde** - Arts  
*Geography and African Development*  
22nd February, 1968

## 1966

**Prof. P. Robins** - Science  
*Chemistry and Archeology - A Meeting Place for the Two Cultures*  
25th November, 1966

**Prof. H.W. Alexander** -Science  
*Mathematics and the Arts*  
23rd September, 1966



**An attentive crowd follows an Inaugural Lecture.**

# Gandhi Memorial Lectures

1. **DR. P.B. GAJENDRAGADKA**  
1<sup>st</sup> Series - 1967 : Then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay and formally a Chief Justice of India.
2. **LORD PROFESSOR P.M.S. BLACKETT**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Series - 1969 : President of the Royal Society  
*Reflections on Science/Technology for Developing Countries.*
3. **DR. CLARK KERR**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Series - 1972 : Chairman of the Carnegie Council of Higher Education Policy and formally President of the University of California  
*Education and National Development: Reflections from an American Perspective During a Period of Global Reassessment.*
4. **MR. J.M. NAZARETH**  
4<sup>th</sup> Series - 1978 : A distinguished advocate and founder member of the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society  
*Today's Challenge to the Students.*
5. **JUDGE T.O. ELIAS**  
5<sup>th</sup> Series - 1981 : Then the Vice-President and the President of the International Court of Justice at the Hague.  
*African Before the World Court.*
6. **MR. J.M. NAZARETH**  
6<sup>th</sup> Series - 1988 : He was founder of the Gandhi Smark Nidhi Fund, once a member of the University of Nairobi Council and distinguished scholar.  
Date 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1988.  
*The Problem of Disarmament: The Way to its Solution.*
7. **DR. M.B. ATHREYA**  
7<sup>th</sup> Series - 1996: Guru of Management and scholar.  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1996.  
*Stakeholder Management Paradigm for Global Renaissance.*
8. **PROF. D.C. JAIN**  
8<sup>th</sup> Series - 2005 : Professor of Marketing.  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2005.  
*Marketing Strategy for Kenya's Economic Development.*
9. **DR. SAM PITRODA**  
9<sup>th</sup> Series – 2006 : Guru of Telcom Revolution in India.  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2005.  
*The Role of Information Technology in Developing Countries: With Special Emphasis on Kenya.*

# Coming of Age

As we move towards the festive season, the University of Nairobi has more than Christmas to look forward to. Born in 1956, the University has hit that magical age of 50 years, the age of promise. Fifty is associated with Gold, which is amongst the most valuable of metals. University of Nairobi may not have the gold in metal form, but rather in terms of the golden jubilee anniversary celebrations.

It is said that aging scares humanity, especially ladies, most of whom are alleged to celebrate their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday for several years. Others feel getting old may mean a downhill journey characterized by dependency, continuous repair and maintenance jobs of the whole body and a phobia for the inevitable. But the situation at University of Nairobi is just the opposite.

Like old wine, University is getting better with age. The University feels so invigorated that of late it has embarked on an ambitious programme to position itself as a World Class institution. Already, a five-year Strategic Plan has been rolled out. And the Strategic Plan has started being translated into a programme of actions. From the activities being undertaken, it can be safely said that the University looks forward to the future with confidence.

Key deliverables are defined at every stage of the developmental process. A service charter reassuring clients of quality service was launched this year. There has been visible activity in revamping our physical infrastructure and completion of stalled projects from internally generated revenues. Indeed even our harshest critics will concede that the mother University is on its recovery path.

Other yardsticks that have taken root include competitive hiring of all its officers right to the top, management and performance contracting where all sections now have targets to accomplish within a specific time frame with strict monitoring by the government.

Our growth too is epitomized by our efforts to access higher education to Kenyans who could not attain higher education due to limited spaces. Our University opened up its doors to many qualified Kenyans through introduction of module II courses and this raised student numbers from less than 15,000 to the current estimate of 32,000. Introduction of module II courses was a boon to the University financially. Revenue realized has enabled the University to meet its obligations.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations started at the College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) early this year.



# Fountain of Knowledge: an Icon to Behold

**Y**ou walk in through the gate, past the cobbled walkway, past the Stone slab, and then bang, you locate it quite accidentally. This is the Fountain, tucked away to the side, it nestles reeds, water grass and at times tadpoles. The dribble of water, iridescent in the sun's rays catch your attention, and the old stone bench beckons you to take a seat, to rest, to savor the pleasure of the fountain.

The Fountain has been standing here for a long time, since 1962. Designed and constructed by F.V Foit, it was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Yajnik, executive officer of the Gandhi society, a man who had been instrumental in raising funds to the build the University. The Fountain was unveiled at a colorful ceremony and was intended to be a reminder of the values that the University espoused, representing academic achievement.

The Fountain is a treat for many of us. It is a pleasant spot from which we can listen to the dribble of water on stone, and watch our colleagues as they scurry away like ants; generations have sat here at rest.

Heartening, refreshing and glamorizing, our fountain is a sight to behold. The fountainhead with its primordial figures, Stone Age, reflects the transition from old lore to new knowledge, the past and the future. The two pools, pouring water from one to the other maybe reflection that knowledge must be shared out; it must flow and should never be stamped out. The three stone figures, are they giraffe may very well represent the three rs, but wait a minute, the figures do not drink from the pool at once, this is a message for the don...be watchful... read, listen and talk but not at the same time.

The Fountain is part of the tradition of rag week. In the 1960s, students concern for the less fortunate in society was such that they used to organize what was known as the rag week. During this week, the students would dress up in their most homey clothes and armed with bowls, would beg from the community. At the end of the week, the money was counted up and a charity decided upon to receive the proceeds.

One other event of the rag week was the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Rag week. These were the students who had raised the most, and guess what their reward was, they would be immersed, fully dressed into the fountain, almost like a baptismal. This baptismal marked the end of the revelry.

Rag week was discontinued in the late 60,s, some lecturers observe that it was a demeaning affair, but one should not forget that during that week, no member of staff was immune from being chucked into the "cleaning " waters of the fountain.

It is not clear at what point the University community decided that the Fountain was a symbol of knowledge, but it is critical that the Fountain is a drawing in, a place where all our photographs, representing academic achievement must be taken. For many, this is the real graduation, no ceremony is complete without a picture taken here.

The Fountain, after a graduation ceremony, resembles a train station, all the flowers trampled underfoot, the reeds plucked out, the water drained and soaking into the graduands gowns. Yes, we students of the University have loved our icon, the Fountain, we have regarded it as our friend, left to us to enjoy. Perhaps we would do well to remember that the Fountain symbolizes Yajnik, maybe we can put a little plaque that will, as we sit around, remind us of this.



About five years ago, there was some dismay when a contractor arrived at the Fountain, for a time it looked as if he was trying to pull down the fountain, but once the back cloth had been removed, dismay turned to joy, the Gandhi society had organized a face lift for the fountain, restoring it to its former glory.

This Fountain is our heritage, our testament of courage and the expertise and knowledge within, but it also allows us to share memories. You never know whose memories you are sharing.

# What is it about squares?

**M**adison...Trafalgar.. Beijing..hapana! I am talking about our own square. In case you do not know where ours is, I will tell you.

Next to the main car park, as you walk towards the Fountain, you will come across our Square. It is simply four stone benches arranged in a square. As you sit down or if you are rude enough, as you step upon the benches, you feel some wetness on your face. Yes, the water is from the old tree to the side, a willow, that was planted by man Julius, former Chancellor, University of East Africa.



The Square is a resting place not only of minds, but also of bodies. It has been a spot for my sisters, especially those in the family way. The square has many names, it has been called maternity, Pg square, all fond names for this small "sitting room" where lulled by the stone, the willow and the new flowers planted here, we remain lost in thought.

The Square is a place for our brothers to discuss their illusions, thoughts and dreams and to forget disappointments.

For many a student the Square is an old friend. What with the willow weeping for me, a silent listener to my conversations, silent observer of my daily confusion. It is not only my sister who has sat here expectant. In 40 years, the half naked, the fat, the thin, the shivering mass have all been part of this great union, expectant of things to come, pregnant with thoughts, illusions and dreams, all the time forgetting disappointment, and the Square, faithful friend is still here with me.

Thank you, old friend.

## UoN Participates in SIFE World Cup

**S**tudents in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is an organization comprised of thousand of college and University students and faculty members from around the world. Founded in the US in 1975, SIFE is active in 48 counties in the world.

SIFE seeks to use the industry, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial ability of students to assist the communities around which they live. Through teaching others, students gain practical understanding of how the market economies work, the role and importance of business ethics, develop leadership skills, team work and communication skills and get the opportunity to make a lasting difference to the community.

SIFE University of Nairobi was founded in 2003 and has

*Cont. P. 29*



Maria Leshamta



# SONU Activities in 2006



SONU officials.

The Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) has revised its constitution to incorporate Module II students in the union. This is among the major highlights of the activities undertaken by the new team that came to office in May 2006. The old constitution only provided for membership for the Module I students. This new development will see the membership of the Union almost double to over 25,000 students.

Apart from opening membership to more students, SONU has also increased its network through formation of partnerships with the corporate world. The partners include: Equity Bank, Safaricom, Mater Hospital, Celtel, Tetra Park, and East African Growers Ltd. These companies have in the past sponsored student activities.

This year also saw SONU participate in the ASK Show. For the first time, SONU's

participation in the ASK Show was felt. Other activities include hosting East African Student Leaders from all universities in East Africa. The 3-day seminar was held in the SONU office. This was organized and facilitated by the Secretary General, Mr. Adhiambo and the Chairman, Mr. Gitobu Mutiga.

In another development, the Chairman and Organizing Secretary, Mr. Harambee Elias attended a three-day seminar in Zanzibar. The theme of the seminar was "Challenges Facing Youth Governance".

The leadership of the student organization maintains that SONU shall continue to play its rightful role in representing the interests of its members and calls upon the University Administration, staff and students to support the union. The motivation comes from the frequently used words by the Chairman – "Let us move with the speed of lightning".

Meanwhile, the SONU leadership has issued a statement thanking University of Nairobi lecturers for not participating in the UASU strike called on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006. The statement partly read: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our lecturers for ensuring that our studies are not disrupted. We are the only public University that is functional due to your commitment to us that our institution remains open. We commend your resilience, understanding and perseverance as you withstood attacks from some quarters for not halting classes. We are proud of you and may you continue with the same spirit."



A past SONU function.

## SIFE World Cup (Cont.)

since undertaken several community projects including: working with rehabilitated prostitutes in Githurai; a youth programme in Kangemi; a women's project in Kibera; Nairobi River street children and Campus Bake Sale project.

The SIFE annual competitions took place on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at the Pan Afric Hotel, Nairobi. This year's competition involved 15 universities all showcasing the projects they had undertaken within their respective communities. The University of Nairobi team emerged top overall, earning itself the opportunity to represent Kenya at the SIFE World Cup in Paris, France from September 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2006



**Showcasing our cultural heritage in Paris.**

Five members of the University of Nairobi SIFE team represented the University and the country at large at the SIFE World Cup that was held at the Hilton, Paris, France. They were accompanied by their Faculty Advisor, Ms Mary Kimonye.

The Paris bonanza was international, the highlight of the SIFE calendar and the most exciting event of all.

At the start, the events were mainly based on identification of the various teams and their nationalities. There was a cultural fete to begin with, where different countries showcased their cultures and members were more than happy to take part in the activity. The opening round competitions were held at the start of the competition with eight groups each comprising six teams. The University of Nairobi SIFE team came first in League six and advanced to the semi final stage in the same league as Morocco, Nigeria and Malaysia.

There were 16 teams in the semi – final, six of which were from Africa. Four teams qualified for the final round of competitions which China won followed by the United States of America and Malaysia. This year's

competition had over 2000 students from 48 participating countries. This experience was a good eye-opener for the University of Nairobi students. They are looking forward to the next World Cup which will be held in New York, U.S.A. in 2007.



**SIFE UoN Faculty Advisor, Mary Kimonye (Extreme Right), with participants.**



# Cancer Booklets Launched by UONP

The University of Nairobi Press launched the first three of their fourteen cancer booklets in a series entitled “What do you know about cancer?” on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi. The booklets launched were:

*Cancer of the Cervix and Uterine Body; Breast Cancer; and Prostate cancer*

The booklets are authored by: Prof. Nicholas A. Othieno-Abinya; Richard Baraza; Bessie Byakika; Henry O. Abwao and Esther Wanjohi – all lecturers at the College of Health Sciences.

The launch was graced by Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs, and Chairman, Editorial Committee,

University of Nairobi Press who represented Prof. George A.O. Magoha, the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi. The launch also coincided with the annual breast cancer month in October. The booklets target the general public.

In his speech, Prof. Magoha observed that there has been strides in improving environmental sanitation and public hygiene in developing countries. Infections, including HIV/AIDS, are now getting better handled, leaving heart diseases and cancers as emerging killers.

The VC noted that cancers of the cervix, prostate, esophagus and lymphoma/leukemia have been quite prevalent in our environment. Breast cancer, which

was initially considered rare, and cancers of the large bowel, are increasing in occurrence, achieving epidemic proportions. Hence, public awareness needs to be created so that where possible, these cancers can be prevented or detected early when they can be cured, or at least treated optimally locally. He urged physicians and the population at large to partner in cancer control and care. He particularly urged the media to play a bigger role in educating the public about cancer.

He praised UoN Press for publishing the booklets and thanked the College of Health Sciences for hosting the launch, Roche and Sanofi Aventis Pharmaceutical Companies for collaborating in the launch.

## A Profile of the University of Nairobi Press

The University of Nairobi Press, a publishing company fully owned by the University of Nairobi, supports and furthers the university’s objectives of discovery, dissemination and preservation of knowledge, and of stimulating intellectual and cultural life by publishing works of the highest quality in association with partners in different parts of the world. In doing so, it adheres to the university’s tradition of excellence, innovation and scholarship.

Hence, all manuscripts for publication must be vetted and peer reviewed through the Editorial Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs.

Over the years, the UON Press has supported and encouraged scholarly publication by the teaching and research staff of the University of Nairobi and others. This is because publications constitute one of the most important criteria in judging progress and academic output of staff.

This is all the more important since one of the principle requirements for promotion of an academic member of staff is that he or she must have published extensively in the form of articles in reputable journals or text books. The University maxim is “publish or perish”.

The biggest challenge facing the Press today is sustainability.

Academic and scholarly books are not big sellers in terms of volumes. To overcome this challenge the Press is encouraging collaboration in publishing of the academic and scholarly publications with other stakeholders.

Currently, the Press is publishing in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), The UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) University of Nairobi, The Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development and several individual authors who have been able to raise funds to support various publications.

UONP invites other stakeholders to partner with the Press in their publishing programs.

# Workshop on Data Biodiversity Held

The School of Biological Sciences (SBS) organized a workshop on data basing biodiversity sponsored by Aqua Project, VLIR-IUC-UoN program. The three-day workshop took place at Naivasha Training Institute was followed by a one-day demonstration at the National Museums of Kenya. It was a follow-up to the capacity building workshop on marine information and taxonomic resources management held on 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 at Merica Hotel, Nakuru, and organized by Department of Zoology under the auspices of the Aqua Project with the sponsorship of VLIR-IUC-UoN.

The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity in management of biodiversity databases for taxonomic training and resources management in Kenya. This was the first step in creating awareness of the need to develop and manage biodiversity information and data and specimen collection for teaching and research for the School of Biological Sciences. The workshop training targeted academic staff (technical and teaching) in the School of Biological Sciences of the University of Nairobi. It was meant to be forerunner for developing a School of Biological Sciences Information and Data Bank.

The workshop was conducted by biodiversity information and data base development and management experts that included Dr. Karl Lampe, from Germany and Dr. Edward Vanden Berg from the Flemish Institute of Marine Research, Belgium. They were assisted by Dr. Masinde from the East African Herbarium and Dr. C. Lange from Invertebrate Zoology, National Museums of Kenya.

participants feed-back that further training is required to make the staff competent in handling data and information for teaching and research purposes. The capacity evaluation of the School of Biological Sciences on data base development was also carried out.

The seminar projected a further training of staff of SBS on computing, information



**School of Biological Sciences - offices and lecture halls.**

During the workshop, 22 persons drawn from the academic staff and technical staff of the School of Biological Sciences were trained on a variety of theoretical aspects concerning data base development and management. They had the opportunity for hands-on experience on data base development.

It emerged from the

and data management, expected to take place soon. This will be in collaboration with the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) and ICT. It also projected a database for information and data generated within the SBS and development of a system to manage our biological collection including databasing for the purpose of teaching and research.



# SWA Uplifts its Infrastructure

With a shift in the management of the University and the embracement of the motto of attaining a world-class status, SWA has embarked on continuous and vigorous renovations of its facilities especially the halls of residence. In 2004, Tom Mboya Hall (Hall 9) in Upper State House Road Unit was given a facelift. The Unit also embarked on a landscaping and beautification programme for its grounds.

Mamlaka Unit embarked on a rigorous painting programme of Mamlaka A and B hostels and is looking for funds to solve the perennial leakage of the two halls. The grounds at Mamlaka are well kept with perimeter fencing to protect the lawns and to beef up security for the students.

Lower State House Road unit has also embarked on painting, planting of flowers and landscaping. Painting works are going on in halls 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11. Flower planting and landscaping are also being carried out, soon the unit will be sparkling clean with pathways and fenced off drying lines for the security of students' clothes.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Francis ole Kaparo at the Alumni Night at Carnivore initiated the programme of the 'Friends of Hall 11' with the aim of renovating the hall. If the idea succeeds, Hall 11 will be fully face lifted. SWA has already prepared a budget which it has submitted to the Alumni office which is coordinating the initiative.

Beautification is on going at Women's Halls SMU. Currently hall 12 has been given a new coat of paint and a perimeter fence will be erected soon.

Our close cooperation with City Hall will ensure recarpeting of Mamlaka Road. Already road works are in progress after fruitful consultation with the Director, SWA, Mr. Robert Lugwe.

To beef up security, SWA has embarked on erection of a perimeter fence all over the Units in Main Campus. Already SWA headquarters, the Main Gate has been completed. SWA management recognizes the fact that the student community have appreciated the beautification programme and are supportive of the exercise. The students' community was recently involved in several clean up exercises in the halls of residence where they volunteered to clean their halls of residence and the surrounding compounds. Tree planting exercise in Mamlaka and the clean up exercise at Upper State House Road Hostel early this



**One of the refurbished Halls of Residence in a groomed compound.**

year attest to this commitment by the student community.

To perfect the operations of SWA the Halls Management Information System has been perfected through staff training and upgrading of the system. The system has improved financial controls and information storage and retrieval has become convenient.

As a way of uplifting the infrastructure, all Main Campus Units have been connected to the internet. This is in addition to Parklands, Lower Kabete and Kikuyu. Chiromo, Kenyatta Medical School and Upper Kabete SMU's would be connected in due course.

# Promotions and Appointments

## Since January 2006

During the year 2006, the University of Nairobi made various key appointments and promotions. Three members of teaching staff were promoted to the position of Professor in their departments.

**Prof. P. K. Kimuyu** as Professor in the School of Economics.

**Prof. S.K. Mbugua** as Professor in the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition,

**Prof. P. W. Kanyari** as Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology (he is also the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine).

13 other academic staff members promoted to the position of Associate Professor are:

**T. M. Waema**, School of Computing and Informatics;

**E. Ndichu Maingi** Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology & Parasitology;

**P.K. Gathumbi** Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology & Parasitology;

**S.I. Shibairo**, Plant Science and Crop Protection;

**O.O. Mbeche**, Civil and Construction Engineering;

**M. Mwangiru** Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies,

**E.M. Irandu** Geography & Environmental Studies;

**A. Yenesew**, Chemistry;

**L.W. Njenga**, Chemistry;

**M.M. Munene**, School of Mathematics,

**F.J. Mulaa** Biochemistry;  
**C.O. A. Omwandho**;  
Biochemistry;

**W.O. Mwanda**, Human Pathology;

**M.S. Badamana**; and  
**R. O. Mosi**, Animal Production.

The following academic members of staff were promoted to the position of Senior Lecturers in their respective departments:

**Dr. J. M. Akech**, Private Law;

**Dr. B. M. Sihanya**, Private Law;

**Dr. E.I. Omwenga**, School of Computing and Informatics;

**Dr. W.R. Mukabana**;  
Zoology;

**Dr. A.W. Muthumbi**,  
Zoology;

**Dr. R.W. Ngugi** School of Economics;

**Dr. A.A. Amayo**, Clinical Chemistry;

**Dr. M.A. Masiga**, Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics;

**Dr. W. Onyango Ouma**,  
Institute of African Studies;

**Dr. E. Kituyi**, Chemistry, and

**Dr. D.K. Kariuki**, Chemistry.

Among the Senior Administrative Staff who were promoted were:

**Mr. M. J. Ong'any**, promoted to position of University Librarian, while those promoted to the positions of Senior Assistant Registrar were:

**L.S. Chesoni**,

**T. N. Estambale**,

**P.M. Muturi**, and

**M. J. Orwa**.

New senior appointments in the Department of Finance included:

**Mr. P.K. Busienei**, Deputy Finance Officer.

**D.O. Gichana**, **L. M. Ong'onge**, **Mrs. P.M. Mburu** and, **S.C.O. Okello** were appointed as Senior Accountant 1.

*Varsity Focus* wishes them success in their new appointments.



# Transition

This year, the University of Nairobi lost a number of dons.

**Professor James Kirumbi Kimani** was a Professor in the Department of Human Anatomy and the immediate former Managing Director, University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited (UNES).

Prof. Kimani's career at the University of Nairobi began in 1972 when he joined to study medicine before switching to study human anatomy. He completed his studies in 1979 at Ph D level. He remained at the University and at his demise, held the position of Professor and also served in various senior administrative positions including being Managing Director, UNES and Director, Students Welfare Authority.

Prof. Kimani rose through the academic ranks quickly, thanks to his hard work. Within a span of 16 years, he had reached the apex of the academic ladder by rising from the position of Tutorial Fellow to Professor of Human Anatomy in 1991.

**Dr. Adronico O. Adede** was a Lecturer in the Department of Public Law, College Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Adede joined

the University of Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2002 as a lecturer after a sterling career in diplomatic service which started with his appointment in the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1971 and later the United Nations where he last served as the First Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda from 1995 to 1997. He was a dedicated, responsible and hard working member of staff whose contribution will be sorely missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

**Dr. Alphonse Shivachi Lwangasi** was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geospatial Engineering, College of Architecture and Engineering. Dr. Lwangasi joined the University of Nairobi in 1976 as a Lecturer. He was promoted to the level of Senior Lecturer in 1984 a position he held until his death. He was a dedicated, responsible and hard working member of staff.

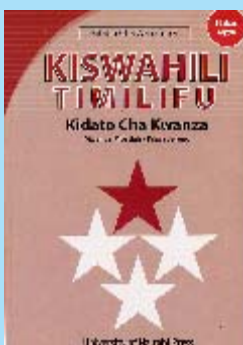
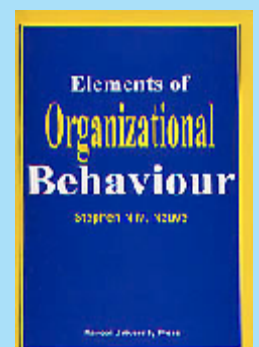
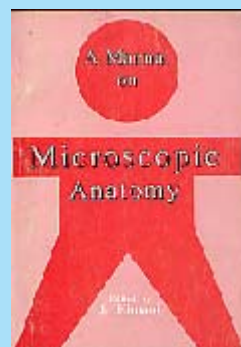
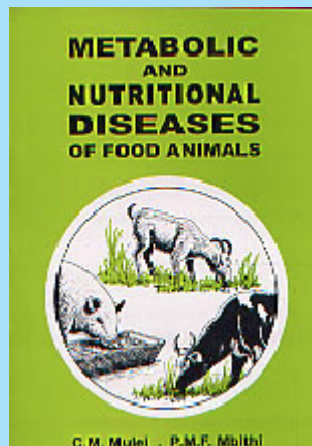
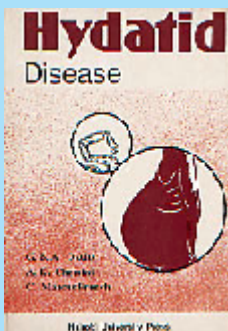
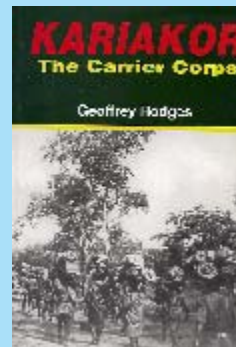
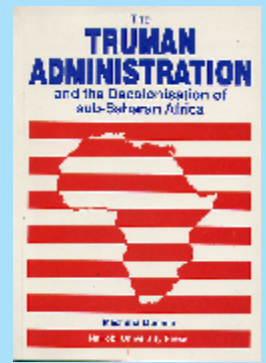
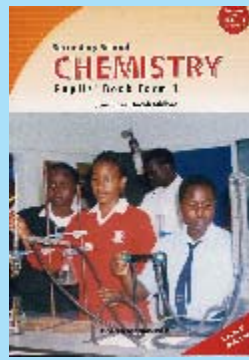
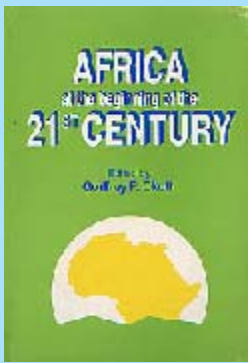
**Prof. A.B.C. Ocholla Ayayo** who had just moved to 'Great Lakes University' from Population Research Institute died on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006 while undergoing treatment at Nairobi Hospital. Prof.

Ocholla-Ayayo served the University of Nairobi with dedication for the last 26 years, six of which as the Director, Population Studies Research Institute (P.S.R.I) before moving to the Great Lakes University in Kisumu in July this year.

Due to his activities, Prof. Ocholla-Ayayo's name had become a permanent feature within the University of Nairobi academic community. For the 26 years he was at the University, he sacrificed a lot to make sure that academic tasks were done on schedule. He nurtured many upcoming scholars.

**Mr. Arthur Okoth-Owiro** from the School of Law passed on early this year. Arthur Okoth-Owiro passed on in March 2006 while undergoing treatment. He was a Senior Lecturer of Private Law, School of Law where he had taught for the past 23 years. His previous posting included a one year stint as the Secretary to the defunct Constitution of Kenya Review Commission.

*May the Almighty  
rest their souls in  
eternal peace.*



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