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## Goodwill Messages

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## 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



## Editor's Note

In this issue of the 38th graduation ceremony, the Colleges of Health Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences are presenting over 4000 graduands for the award of various diplomas and conferment of degrees. Congratulations to all graduands for this achievement.

The graduands join over 90,000 alumni who have successfully passed through University of Nairobi. Graduands from these two colleges are mainly health, humanities and social science professionals. The other colleges constituted the 37th graduation ceremony.

Alongside this celebration, the university has continued to revitalize its operations to improve services rendered. Elsewhere in this magazine we

have mentioned the launch of Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) on 28 November 2007. The RRI concentrated in the first phase seven thematic areas that had serious gaps in this service provision: Happily, we note that the exercise was concluded successfully and results have benefited both staff and students. The management is now considering embarking on the second phase of the reforms our students have continued to do us proud.

One positive feature about our students is their active nature in building the image of the university. The Students Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) in October hosted a Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of leading organizations to a cocktail. In attendance were 31 CEOs. The reason for the cocktail was

to cultivate a positive relationship with future employers and use the opportunity to discard the negative image that affected the institution three years ago. Other groups are building the image of the university at local and international forums through various activities.

The last quarter of the year normally witnesses admission in large numbers for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. About 5000 students have joined UoN to pursue various degrees and diplomas. Varsity Focus wishes them a successful academic pursuit at UoN.

To strengthen our links with our partners, more funding continues to come from our collaborators for various programmes and projects. Other sources of income which are being exploited aggressively is the alumni. So far, five alumni chapters have been launched with the latest being the School of Veterinary Sciences Alumni Chapter. The chapters have continued to play an active role in funding some activities of their alma mater.

This being an electioneering period, most of you are going to participate in the process. You are requested to maintain peace so that we can undergo the process smoothly. Varsity Focus wishes all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2008.

**Charles E. Sikulu**



**Dr. Joseph B. Wanjui**  
*Chancellor, UoN*

## We are proud of our students

As we celebrate the 38th graduation ceremony, I am particularly happy with the youthful leadership emerging at the University of Nairobi. For the past three years, our students have emerged as a group that beholds discipline in high esteem. This development has not only improved the corporate image of the institution but has enabled the University to run a predictable academic calendar that enables students to clear their studies on time. I commend the students and management for upholding dialogue and urge them to continue with this spirit

We have continued to build on the past gains in terms of student discipline. This year, our student leaders went further and organized a well attended cocktail get together with chief executives of leading companies to explain to future employers their shift in their conduct with the public. It is this type of embracement of our stakeholders that I advocate for and urge our student fraternity to continue in this direction. You will never go when you invest your energies in engaging stakeholders positively.

This being an electioneering season I urge the University community not to politicize the institution as this can polarize us. You are however free to hold your individual political stand without imposing it on others.

For the last four and a half years I have been Chancellor of this institution I am proud of the changes that are being seen. May we continue with this spirit to make the University of Nairobi a leader in providing higher education in the region and the entire world.

take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 2007 from the College of Health Sciences and College of Humanities & Social Sciences for making it to the finishing line.

The parents and guardians, too, deserve commendation for the sacrifices they have made for their children to go through university education. University education worldwide accords individuals opportunities to transform their lives for the better and make positive contributions to society and you will never regret this investment.

## Increasing Capacity

Our expansion has continued to meet our mandate of offering higher education to many Kenyans in line with government policy of expanding access to more Kenyans. We recently acquired the Kenya Science Campus formerly the Kenya Teachers Science College and the first lot of students was admitted in October 2007. Kenya Polytechnic has also been acquired as a constituent college of the University of Nairobi but will eventually be elevated to full university status

The University has continued to perform well in government initiated reforms. We just successfully ended the first cycle of Rapid Results Initiative which was launched recently and we are on course for ISO 9000:2000 certification in early next year.

The overall rating on performance contracting has been quite impressive in the past contract periods. Expansion and improvement of facilities has continued to be our challenge. Though we have done fairly well in the past few years, shortage of finance continue to handicap our plans. In the past few years, the University has completed stalled projects, upgraded physical infrastructure, boosted its fleet of vehicles, expanded



**John P. N. Simba**  
*Chairman, UoN Council*

computer network and continued to offer training to both teaching and administrative staff to enable them cope with challenges. Research being one of the core objectives of the University, the Council has set aside Kshs 100 million from internally generated sources to boost its kitty. Members of staff who engage in research can access this fund. This fund is in addition to others accruing from collaborations with local and international partners. I challenge industry to collaborate with the University to undertake various researches because they are among ultimate beneficiaries.

I congratulate graduands of the 38th Graduation Ceremony for their achievements, wish them success in future engagements and in the same breadth request them to join the University of Nairobi Alumni Association to contribute in building the alma mater.

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## Second Congregation in a Year

**I**t is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 38th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Nairobi. This is an occasion to celebrate the award of diplomas and conferment of degrees to over 3,000 graduands from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the College of Health Sciences.

This is the second graduation ceremony to be held this year. The first ceremony was held in September 2007 during which more than 5,000 graduands were conferred with degrees and awarded diplomas. As we explained earlier, the holding of two graduation ceremonies is meant to reduce time wastage between completion of studies and graduation, because colleges complete their academic years at different times. Further, it helps to reduce the logistical challenges that emanate from hosting one ceremony of more than 8,000 graduands within a single congregation.

We have been able to hold our graduation ceremonies as planned because of the remarkable improvement in the conduct of students. Through the able leadership of SONU, they have demonstrated that they can be mature and disciplined. Student leaders have continued to build on this achievement, for instance, in October 2007, SONU leaders hosted Chief Executives of leading companies to a cocktail. Their aim was to interact with the leaders of industry in order to explain to them the changes that have taken place within the student community in particular and the University in general. I urge them to continue with this new way of conducting business.

To enhance improved service delivery, we have embarked on a rigorous training programme targeting all staff. We have trained academic staff in the Colleges

of Humanities & Social Sciences, Architecture and Engineering, Biological and physical Sciences, on pedagogy. Other Colleges have also been earmarked for the training.

We have also exposed our staff to results based management strategy, which is being spearheaded by the Public Sector Reform Secretariat with emphasis on service delivery. The training is all-inclusive and encompasses both teaching and non-teaching staff.

In the last edition of Varsity Focus, I reported to you on the progress we are making in terms of infrastructure development. In addition to the many projects undertaken, we have paved the driveway from Chiromo Campus to YMCA at the cost of Kshs 11 million and took six weeks to complete.

I am also happy to report that the on-going Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) is already yielding positive results. Our initial RRI goals have had a 90 per cent success rate and at this pace

I hope to record more gains in the second RRI cycle.

This being an election year, I appeal to all UoN staff and students to desist from using the University corporate name in advancing their political agenda. Much as you are free to hold an opinion as an individual, the university as a public institution is apolitical and will always serve the government of the day.

Last but not least, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Prof. George A. O. Magoha, IOM, MBS**  
*M.B.B.S. (Lagos), FRCS, FWACS, FICS, FABI, FIBA,*  
*MISC, FMCS (Urol.) FCS (ECSA)*



# The Steps We Are Taking

By Prof. P.M.F. Mbithi

The University is committed to, and is indeed changing itself into an epitome of success in service delivery. In order to continue to lead as the premier University in Kenya, we must continue to reinvent ourselves strategically.

In 2006/2007, the University of Nairobi expanded Module II programmes beyond the University compounds, with classes being started in Bandari College (B.Com and MBA) and others in buildings adjacent to the University, notably Ambank House. The University is also revamping open and distance education. Internally, the University undertook major refurbishment of projects among them the re-roofing of Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering – construction and equipping of UNITID building at a cost of Kshs.200 million, and the on-going construction of an examination centre at Chiromo Campus. An ultra modern carpark was completed behind the multipurpose hall at the Main Campus and the link road to Chiromo Campus upgraded.



*Prof. Mbithi is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration & Finance*

In line with the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan and as part of performance targets since the year 2006/2007, the University has enhanced training of staff notably in the field of Results-Based Management and transformative leadership. The offshoot of RBM is the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), whose first cycle successfully ended in November 2007.

In pursuit of quality service delivery, the University is engaged in the rigorous route of ISO Quality Management System, with the intention of getting ISO Certification by 2008.

As a major leap into the future, the University will apply “strategic architecture” to provide a blueprint for building competitiveness in enhanced futuristic corporate branding, financial sustainability and provision of quality facilities. This should enable the University overcome resource constraints through unending pursuit of better resource leverage.

Fully cognizance of the fact that service delivery can only be improved with proper feedback, the University through the Steadman Group conducted a customer and employee satisfaction survey early this year targeting students, staff, Alumni, employers, donors, suppliers and other stakeholders. The results, which showed a considerably good satisfaction index, have led to a review and new focus on specified areas of service delivery. The University will therefore continue to anticipate changing customer needs and invest pre-emptively in new business competitiveness. Our structures, values and skills will continue to be progressive and attuned to the ever changing reality of our times.

Performance contracting continues to be a prime mover of University operations since 2005/2006. The University’s performance in this regard, as evaluated by the government of Kenya has been commendable.

Meanwhile, the University Management Board has in 2007/2008 put all departments and key Units on Performance Contract. The college and departmental performance contracts are cascaded from the current 2007/2008 Performance Contract between the University of Nairobi Council and the government.

The results of the above activities should translate to better facilities and services for our core customers - the students. The Administration and Finance Division will continue to discharge its mandate to provide an enabling environment for teaching, learning and research with great vigour. We are ready and up to the task of facing the challenge to capture the riches the future holds in store for those who get there first in our engagement towards world class excellence.

With all humility, I greatly thank all our faculty, staff, students, alumni and stakeholders. As direct actors and ambassadors you have played a critically fundamental role in building the reputation of this University and ensuring a continued growth as an institution through your ongoing support and goodwill.

To all the graduands of 2007 I salute you. Congratulations to each and every one of you, your families, friends and relatives. Please take this day to celebrate your past in the University of Nairobi as you contemplate the present and anticipate a bright and prosperous future.



**Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi**  
*B.D.S. (Nairobi), M.D.S. (Mysore)*  
*Ph.D. (Nairobi)*

## The Home of Quality Degree Programmes

**A**s the University celebrates its 38th Graduation Ceremony, may I congratulate all the graduands for their hard work as well as exemplary conduct during their stay in the University. Because of their high level of discipline, the University has continued to remain relatively peaceful despite the fact that this year is a year of elections. As the graduands go out in the world to seek job opportunities, I request them to better their best in the discharge of their duties wherever they will get employment.

As is the practice in other parts of the world, I expect the graduands to be active members of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA). Being active means participating in all the activities of the Association and paying annual subscriptions regularly. By so doing, they will strengthen the Association and empower it to make a positive contribution in developing high quality academic programmes which are offered at this premier African institution. To-date, former students of our University have managed to form five Chapters of the Association. They include Veterinary Medicine, Master of Business Administration, Medicine, Range Management and School of Journalism Chapters. I appeal to all other disciplines which have not formed their respective chapters to do so.

As we mark this year's graduation, we must be sensitive to our theme, namely: "Providing leadership in academic excellence". This theme, is quite appropriate as the University strives very hard to lead the way in developing programmes which are market-driven and those that compete with the best in the world. Central to this theme

is the need to have a reservoir of excellent researchers. Towards this end, the University has committed Kshs.100 Million for research from internally generated funds. Although many researchers would have liked this figure to be higher, it is a step in the right direction by the University Administration to ensure that dons are given opportunities to carry out research. Our wish is that this money is utilized fully. As we encourage our members of staff to carry out research, it is important that they are equipped to write research proposals which can attract international funding. Towards this end, the University Management will in due course be organizing refresher courses on research proposal writing for all lecturers in the University. We believe that regular strengthening of skills and competencies for writing high quality research proposals, should be a common feature of our efforts in making University of Nairobi a world-class University. Besides, in order for the University to be the home of quality degrees and diplomas, we shall continue to encourage continuous and regular reviews of our academic programmes. This graduation ceremony is unique and will go into the annals of history for producing the highest number of PhD graduands from the School of Business. Bravo, all the dons who have worked so hard at the School of Business to ensure that this year the School has five PhD graduands.

Finally, I wish to thank all the lecturers for their tireless efforts in educating our students in a holistic manner, so that whatever opportunities come their way, they are well prepared to meet the associated challenges.

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## 38<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony at a Glance

The University of Nairobi, Kenya's premier university celebrates its 38th graduation today, Friday 7 December 2007. This is the second graduation this year. The first, the 37th Graduation Ceremony was held on 7th September 2007 during which 3,456 graduands from four colleges – College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Biological and Physical Sciences and College of Education and External Studies were awarded Diplomas and Degrees by the Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.

The 38th graduation involves graduands from the Colleges of Health Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences and a few graduands from the School of Education.

The University of Nairobi is able to hold two graduation ceremonies in a year because of the tranquility that is now characteristic of the institution. We are determined to ensure that students are released into the market as soon as they complete their studies. Those whose programmes end early therefore, do not have to wait until everyone completes, in order to graduate.

The over 3,000 graduands to receive Diplomas and Degrees will join the over 90,000 proud alumni of the University who are contributing to the development of



*Graduands at the 37th Ceremony*

this country.

Varsity Focus joins the graduands, their parents, guardians, lecturers and the entire University community in celebrating this most auspicious occasion. We congratulate the graduands on their achievement and wish them success in their future endeavours.

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## AAS Honours Prof. Magoha

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George A.O. Magoha was honoured by the African Academy of Sciences for fellowship of the Academy for his scholarly and professional contribution to science.

A distinguished scholar and researcher, Prof. Magoha has excelled in his specialized area of urology as a practice and undertaken lead research projects and published extensively within the discipline.

In 2005, two Senior Fellows of the African Academy of Sciences at the University of Nairobi proposed Prof. Magoha to be considered for the Fellowship of the Academy. The application was successful, and he was elected by the Governing Council in December 2006 making him a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (FAAS) with effect from that date.

The African Academy of Sciences was founded in 1985 under the leadership of the late distinguished African Scientist Prof. Thomas R. Odhiambo, and has its headquarters in Nairobi. Its membership covers the entire

continent of Africa. The University of Nairobi has played a major role in its governance and administration since its establishment. Election of Fellows is strictly on merit. All African Nobel Laureates automatically become Fellows of the Academy.

For many years, Kenya has had the second highest number of Fellows of the Academy after Nigeria. Prof. Magoha becomes the first Kenyan Vice-Chancellor to be elected Fellow of the FAAS. He became the only Fellow of the Academy in the area of Surgery out of all the 150 Fellows from Africa (including 3 Foreign Fellows).

A hands-on administrator, Prof. Magoha has initiated a successful reform programme at the University in the last three years since his appointment as Vice-Chancellor. He has the following qualifications: MBS, IOM, MBBS (Lagos), FRCS, FWACS, FICS, FABI, FIBA, FCS, FCSA, MSIC, FMSC (Urol), MKNAS.

Varsity Focus congratulates Prof. Magoha on this outstanding achievement.



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## SONU Hosts Business Leaders

The Student Organization of Nairobi University (SONU), in conjunction with University of Nairobi (UoN) management, hosted top Chief Executives of leading private and public organizations to a cocktail held on 9th October 2007 at the Vice-Chancellor's Parlour. Over 30 CEOs attended the get-together.

The event was an actualization of what management and students had desired for a long time – bringing students and leaders of industry together to share ideas on how they can work together to establish mutually beneficial relations. The idea, which is the brainchild of Chancellor Wanjui, had the main objective of affording the CEOs the opportunity to see for themselves the changes that are taking place at the University, which have resulted in a remarkable improvement in student discipline.

The Vice-Chancellor praised the mature conduct of students and encouraged them to utilize existing structures and goodwill at the University for the benefit of the student community.

Speaking during the cocktail, the SONU Chairman, Mr. Joseph Adinda said that the cocktail marked a formal start of engaging the business sector in building the image of the University of Nairobi. He regretted the past unruly behaviour by students under the leadership of SONU, which had undermined relations between students and the business community and reiterated that the current leadership will do everything possible to ensure such acts do not recur.

The Secretary General, Mr. Gabriel Kariuki, echoed the sentiments of his Chairman and reminded the business community that the student community has acquitted themselves well in the recent past and look forward to other engagements with industry.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha thanked the CEOs for sacrificing their time to attend to the call by students. He said that the current changes at the University are as a result of consultative management that has involved all stakeholders to find solutions to various issues that affect the prosperity of the institution.

All the representatives of industry were given a chance to speak. Their joint statement was a challenge to students – the market has increasingly become competitive unlike few years ago where University of Nairobi graduates enjoyed a virtual monopoly, for them to be felt by the market, they have to remain at the head

of the pack.

The Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Wanjui congratulated the student leaders and University management for hosting this event and urged them to adopt a positive image that will endear them to future employers. He congratulated management and student leaders for maintaining order and revamping the institution within the last three years.

Among those who attended the cocktail included David Norman, Kansas State University, Prof. Haidari Amari, ESRF, Jonathan Ciano, CEO, Uchumi Supermarkets, Julius Kipng'etich, Director, KWS Eng. J.N. Waweru, Director, General, CCK, Chris Odwesso, Editor, Kenya Times, Ken Osinde, Director, College of Insurance, L.S. Tiampati, MD, KTDA, Joyce Macharia, Mt. Kenya Bottlers, James Mwangi, Equity Bank, Abner Onsomu, MD, Kisii Bottlers, James Gachui, Wananchi



*A Section of Students and CEO's at the SONU Cocktail*

Online, Kuria Muchiri, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Ivy Matiba-Chege, The People Daily, Hirji Shah, Manu Chandaria Foundation, Samuel Kimani, KCB, Mundia Geteria, Dima College Ltd, Linus Gitahi, Nation Media Group, James Olubahi, Alexander Forbes, Dr. Betty Gikonyo, Karen Hospital, Eng. Joseph K. Njoroge, KPLC, Joseph Otuke, Timothy W. Chege, Ketepa, Fellen Wenga, Sammy Ndungu, KENGEN, Fred Odhiambo, Post Master General, Postal Corporation and Ben Wairegi, British American Ins. University top management joined hands with students in hosting the high profile guests.

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# Over 4,000 1<sup>st</sup> Years Admitted



*First Years Following the Vice-Chancellor's Address and below undergoing the registration process*

Over 3500 first years joined University of Nairobi (UoN) this year to start the 2007/2008 academic year. The freshers, mostly the 2005 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates reported on 15 October 2007 and registered for various courses. They underwent a one-week orientation. Among the freshmen were 180 students admitted to pursue bachelor of education (Science) at Kenya Science Teachers Campus which was acquired recently by UoN. Kenya Polytechnic has also become a constituent college of the UoN.

The two institutions became part of the University in the wake of the government's deliberate effort to increase access to university education. Kenya Polytechnic University College, a constituent College of UoN is expected to be elevated to full university status in future. On the other hand, Kenya Science will remain a Campus of University of Nairobi. The process of integrating its operations with those of the University began in August 2007, and is still ongoing.

In his address to the students, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha congratulated them for excelling in their KCSE examination which enabled them to join one of the most reputable universities in the region - UoN is the leading local university ranked

at 23 in Africa followed by Egerton at number 29, Strathmore at 37, Moi at 61, USIU at 91 and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology at 97.

He informed the students that they would be expected to attend all classes and do their assignments as directed. "Students have a rare opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills, these will enable you to pursue successful careers in your chosen fields and make effective contribution to the development of the community and society in general" he said.

Prof. Magoha advised the freshers and the student body to desist from being lured into political camps in the wake of national elections and electioneering. They were however told that they are free to hold individual opinions and preferences. Students were also warned against indulging in irresponsible social behaviour that could lead to negative consequences such as HIV/Aids infection and drug and alcohol addiction.

The students were introduced to various departments of the University and how they function. At the end of the orientation week, most students now know their way around their various campuses and looked forward to the ensuing academic work.

Varsity Focus takes this opportunity to wish all freshmen a successful academic life at the University of Nairobi.







## School of Economics Increases Ties

*P.S. Gerishon Ikiara addressing Economists*

**T**he School of Economics enjoys close training collaboration with the African Economic Research Consortium through collaborative Masters of Arts Programme (CMAP) and a Collaborative Ph.D. programme (CPP). Under the CMAP, the School admits both local and foreign students for masters level studies in the University of Nairobi. Under the CPP, the School admits students who, under the collaborative arrangements, take course work at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania before returning to the University of Nairobi for research, thesis writing, examination and graduation. An innovative aspect of the CMAP and CPP programmes is that students enrolled in these programmes get an opportunity to interact with others from the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa during a 3 month residential semester at the Joint Facility for Electives held annually at KCB Training Centre in Karen.

To accommodate recent trends in the labour market for economists, the School will from the 2008/2009 academic year launch four new additional senate approved programmes namely, Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Economics and Statistics, Master of Arts in the Economics of Multilateral Trading System, and a Taught Ph.D. programme modeled after the CPP. To support the implementation of these new programmes, the University Management recently appointed an Associate Director and employed additional members of academic staff, all of whom have PhDs in Economics.

The School has an outstanding research capacity. Areas of capacity concentration include development economics, poverty and income distribution, labour

markets, health economics, macroeconomics, trade and finance. Over the years, the School has enjoyed close research/training collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, the University of Namur in Belgium, African Economic Research Consortium, Cornell University, Vrije Universiteit, the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA), the World Trade Organization and the Development Institute of the World Bank.

Staff from the School are involved in policy research through close participation in research programmes undertaken by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research (KIPPRA) and Analysis, the Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, and Africa Centre for Economic Growth. The School also maintains close interactions with the School of Mathematics, Institute of Development Studies, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the World Bank, the International Development Research Centre, the Central Bank of Kenya and Ministry of Finance and Planning among other Strategic institutions.

As part of research output in the 2006/2007 academic year, members of academic staff from the School participated in local, regional and international conferences and workshops and also published papers in local, regional and international journals.

The school hosted three workshops namely Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM), held at the Nairobi Safari Club on 7th March 2007, National Workshop on Policy Options in Achieving the Kenya Vision 2030 held at the Hilton Hotel, 30 May 2007 and the Re-launch of the Kenya Economic Association, held at Taifa Hall on 26 September 2007. The re-launch workshop was titled “Revitalizing the Role of the Economists in the Current Economic Development Dispensation of the Kenyan Economy”.

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# Revitalizing the Business School

In keeping with the world wide trend, the Faculty of Commerce was renamed the School of Business during the 2005 reorganization of academic departments in the University. This rebranding goes beyond name change. The population has gone up, with 1400 bachelor of commerce (B.Com) students in Module II, 80 in Module three (distant learning), and another 1000 in regular or module I.

In addition, we have 300 students in MBA module I and 1500 in module II. The growth of the School has extended to the Coast where it has enrolled about 300 students at Bandari campus. Kisumu campus will soon open hence, bringing new life and vibrancy into the lakeside city. The School of Business has 250 students enrolled for PhD and presents the highest number of masters and Ph D graduands during the 38th Graduation Ceremony.

The increase in enrollment has gone hand in hand with expansion of facilities to improve service delivery to our students. There are now more computer laboratories –three for B.Com, one for MBA and one for staff. Also acquired are 32 laptops, and 20 LCD projectors. With the School embracing IT the era of the black board is coming to an end at the School.

Research being the backbone of all disciplines, academic staff at the School have continued to play an active role in research. Dr. John Yabs has published three books; Stephen Nzuve has revised his two books. Dr W.N Iraki presented a paper at pre-CHOGM conference at Makerere Business School in October 2007. Kate Litondo presented a paper at the University of Dar es salaam in September 2007.

The school of business has also been developing international linkages and aims at benchmarking with the best business schools in the world. In this regard, the Dean, School of Business, Dr. John Kenduiwo was among the ten members of Association of African Business Schools (AABS) who visited several

business schools in Europe and USA to find out how business schools operate in those countries. Among the schools they visited are Oxford's Said Business School, HEC and INSEAD in France, Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School and STERN Business School in New York.

The School of Business has also taken a leading role in the ongoing Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) aimed at improving service delivery.

To network with its alumni, the School launched the MBA Alumni Chapter. The high profile event held at the Grand Regency Hotel was officially launched by the minister for finance, Hon Amos Kimunya. Several MBA graduands and leading figures from the private and public sectors witnessed the launch. The formation of the chapter was critical in tapping resources from the alumni of the school to assist in modernizing the school.

There have been administrative changes; Prof. Evans Aosa is now the associate dean in charge of Graduate Business School while Dr. W N Iraki who recently returned from further studies, is the new MBA coordinator. This has injected new blood in the management of the affairs of the



*A Section of guests follow proceedings during the launch of the MBA Alumni Chapter*



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## PSRI in joint initiatives with partners

**P**opulation Studies Research Institute (PSRI) has made significant contribution to the management of population and health programmes in Kenya through its outreach activities. Some of the initiatives have included partnering with Measure Evaluation in the USA to conduct workshops for program officers on monitoring and evaluation.

Through this joint initiative, over 200 officers have been trained. The goal of this programme is to equip implementing officers with necessary skills to improve planning and implementation.

PSRI has also boosted government efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDs through Capacity building workshop for its AIDs agency – National Aids Control Council (NACC) and its units including NASCOP. Already two workshops have been held with more planned for the future. Other assistance to NACC is the development of a user friendly information manual to be used across the country by organizations participating in the fight against AIDs.

In conjunction with Population Reference Bureau in the USA and the National Coordination Agency for Population and Development (NCAPD), Kenya, PSRI has been conducting research annually on policy makers. According to the Director, PSRI, Dr. Ikamari, this initiative is aimed at bridging the gap between the researchers and policy makers so that research is based on priority needs and the



*PSRI team with stakeholders*

results used to inform policies and programs – over 50 Researchers and Senior Program Officers from Kenya, Uganda and South Africa have been trained since 2006.

In the Year 2006, PSRI also began conducting an evaluation program on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) from Thika District. Once complete, the research will document the best practices on OVC institutions and their cost effectiveness.

In an effort to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDs, the Institute has partnered with National Institute of Health (NIH) of the USA on a collaborative research project called Kenya Free of Aids (KEFA). It has partnered with other academic units, the major ones being the Department of Community Health, University of Nairobi and University of Washington.

Other activities which PSRI participates in include

conducting of tailor-made courses on monitoring and evaluation. Its clients include the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Community Habitat Fund (CHF) and International Kenya and Academy of Educational Development (AED).

Through these trainings, PSRI is developing a pool of local program and research officers with good skills on monitoring and evaluation.

PSRI is one of the active outfits of the University. Its contribution is well recognized by industry. Two of its eminent scholars the late Prof. ABC Achola Ayayo and Prof. Simeon Ominde will remain a permanent feature in the achievements of the Institute. PSRI boasts one of the best developed IT infrastructure earned through its network of overseas partners.

The institute offers postgraduate course at diploma, masters and Ph.D. levels in Population Studies.

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# Scaling the Walls for Success

In order to provide dynamic leadership in teaching, research and consultancy, the department of Geography and Environmental Sciences organized a workshop between 27th to 29th March, 2007. This workshop, which was attended by some key stakeholders aimed at harmonizing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The workshop was opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. J. Kaimenyi and closed by the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. I. Mbeche.

One of the outcomes of the workshop was the design of new programmes that are market oriented and which it is believed will equip students with knowledge and skills that are appropriate for the global challenges in environmental conservation and management. Some of the new programmes are: B.Sc. in Environmental Science, in collaboration with the School of Biological Sciences, others in the pipeline awaiting approval are: B.A. in Environmental Planning and Natural Resources, B.A. in Population and Development and a certificate programme in Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Other courses such as hydrology, transport geography, biogeography, climatology, population geography, urban geography are among many others, which continue to attract a wide range of professional interests. These courses are offered using new technologies of remote sensing, computer assisted cartography and geographical information systems (GIS). The department has a well equipped computing and functional GIS laboratory, and a well-stocked departmental library. Recently, we received a consignment of books donated by Miami University, Oxford, Ohio in the



**Prof. E. H. O. Ayimba**  
**Chairman, Department of Geography**

United States.

The pursuit for academic excellence in geographical and environmental matters has earned the department international recognition; his is reflected in the number of institutions seeking affiliation for research and teaching in environmental matters. For instance, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been contracted with the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network, ((HOA/ec), Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia to establish the department as a sub-regional centre for research on environmental degradation in the Horn of Africa. Another MOU was contracted with the Green Care Foundation, a civil charitable organization from the People's Republic of China. The Foundation will support a scholarship programme, which will provide partial scholarships to ten students from our department annually for the next ten years.

There are prospects for an exchange program with the Department of Geography, Miami University, and Oxford, Ohio in the United States.

.../p 15

(from pg. 14)

This exchange programme will involve postgraduate students and teaching staff. between Miami University and University of Nairobi. It will also foster collaboration in research and joint publications involving staff in the two departments.

To effectively meet the challenges of the modern world, the department is in the process of introducing new environmentally-based programmes. This is done with the view that the University Authority will soon approve the request by the department that it be established as the School of Geography and Environmental Studies.



*Geography students utilizing departmental IT facilities*

## Award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC

The World is celebrating the award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) jointly with Dr. Albert Gore former Vice President of the United States. The University of Nairobi Community will be happy to know that Professor Richard Samson Odingo, of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies has served as Vice Chairman of the IPCC for the last nine years. Prof Odingo has been associated with IPCC since its inception in 1988, when it was founded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, and the World Meteorological Organization, whose headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Over the years, Prof. Odingo has served as Vice-Chairman of the IPCC



*Prof. Richard Odingo*

Working Group II, and Vice-Chairman of the IPCC Working Group III.

IPCC is the eminent international scientific body which is responsible for providing unbiased policy relevant scientific assessments of global climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate, through annual conferences of the Parties to the Convention (COPs), and meetings of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOPs), relies heavily on the scientific outputs of the IPCC.

Professor Richard Odingo hopes to travel to Oslo in December to participate in the Nobel Award Ceremony. In Kenya only Prof. Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her efforts in conserving the environment.



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## Enhancing Communication with Stakeholders

The communications committee was created to communicate the Steadman Survey Results on customer satisfaction levels at the University and address weaknesses in the communication chain with various stakeholders. The Steadman Survey Report clustered satisfaction levels into student, employee and stakeholder satisfaction

The communication



***Students and top administrators in a training workshop***

Committee was tasked with the responsibility of broadly communicating Steadman Survey Results in order to improve customer satisfaction at UoN. The committee prioritized student satisfaction with teaching staff because this was one of the core businesses of the University. Also students are the main clients of the University. To tackle this area, the committee identified increasing student satisfaction with academic staff from the present 65.5% to 70.5 % as its RRI goal in the first cycle.

To actualize this goal, the committee reviewed materials that included: University calendar, Steadman Survey Report and the questionnaire used in the survey. Sensitization seminars of the Steadman Survey Report were convened for teaching staff outlining communication gaps between

teaching staff and students. From the presentations and interactions, the committee came up with guidelines targeting all teaching staff on how to improve communication with students and strengthen areas that were mentioned by the report as the weak links with students.

On commencement of the new academic year, the committee commissioned a University wide student survey to find out whether communication between students and members of staff had improved after the above activities. A sample of 898 students participated in the survey. After the activities, the survey revealed that student satisfaction with academic members of staff improved from 65.5% to over 70 %.

Other stakeholders are to be targeted in the next cycle of RRI and will include employees and other stakeholders. The overall objective is to improve communication between UoN and its stakeholders which had been cited as one of the areas creating dissatisfaction.

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## An effective staff appraisal instrument in place

Previously unknown concept in most public entities, staff appraisal was introduced at the University in 2005/06-contract period. It was administered for two years but still faced teething problems with complaints from staff on its failure to evaluate performance as expected.

The overall objective of the Staff Performance Appraisal System is to improve the performance of the University by enabling a higher level of staff participation and involvement in planning, delivery and evaluation of work performance.

This committee's strategic challenge area was to broadly review staff performance tools with the RRI goal of examining the current four

staff performance appraisal tools and modify them to include setting of SMART targets.

The committee's overall objective was to develop and implement staff performance appraisal tools in line with the performance appraisal best practice benchmarked to world-class organizations.

The committee reviewed existing appraisal instruments, interviewed members, harmonized the SPA forms targeting different cadres of staff, piloted the new forms to various categories of staff and moderated them to incorporate comments from employees. The initial forms were found to be complicated to complete, faced likelihood of abuse in the

appraisal process and mostly pegged performance to academic qualification.

The result of the of the above activities was newly designed appraisal forms that exclude academic qualifications because it is not a benchmark for performance but a qualification or employment, it also suspended peer review which was previously abused and recommended education workshops to internalize the objective of staff appraisal system to all system.

The new appraisal instrument was approved by the University management subject to periodic reviews for it to be in tandem with employment dynamics. The new instrument will be effective in this year's staff appraisal



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## Three days to issue transcripts

The University of Nairobi has experienced undue delays in the issuing of transcripts. The RRI group sought to come up with an efficient system which reduces the period of issuing transcripts to three days down from 14 days within 100 days.

The strategic challenge for this team was to streamline the issuance of academic transcripts in three pilot schools for the period 1990 to 2006.

To meet its goals, the team compiled, course cords and courses for all academic programmes, generated class lists, assembled consolidated mark sheets and migrated marks from Dbase to Excel into SMIS. It finally developed a responsive issuance of undergraduate and postgraduate academic transcript system.

The achievements include conversion of manual sheets to Excel spreadsheets for migration into SMIS. Students can now request for a transcript through their cell phones on 4441 both on Safaricom and Celtel. All administrators from the Faculties/Schools/Institutes have been sensitized regarding the SMIS system.

The team was able to reduce the maximum period for issuance of transcripts from the current 14 days to three days in the School of Business, School of Environment and School of Continuing and Distance Studies. Other Schools are to benefit in the next phase of RRI. When fully implemented, the process will greatly improve service issuance of transcripts.

## Clearance Process Shortened

Once the students complete their studies at the University, they undergo a clearance process ensure that students return all borrowed facilities or equipment, replace damaged or lost ones and pay any outstanding fee balances.

The current clearance process requires students to pick the clearance forms from the Library, fill their personal details and then circulate the form to six different main clearance stages for verification and stamping. The stages include; Registrars Department, Faculty/Department, Halls of Residence, Library, Games Department and Finance Officer. Some of the stages have other five to 12 sub-stages and most of these offices are located in different geographical areas of the University.

An RRI goal aimed at reducing the time taken by students to clear from the current average of two weeks to two days was formulated. To achieve this goal, the team undertook a baseline survey and also held meetings with stakeholders involved in the clearance process

At the end of the 100 days, the Team Introduced a clearly documented procedure for the students clearance process and has had the same information disseminated to all students and staff. The Team re-engineered the clearance process to make it student friendly, effective and efficient. Further, major steps of the clearance process have now been computerized. In order to operationalise the computerized system, a user manual has been produced and availed to members of staff who are involved in the clearance process. A hands-on training programme has also been conducted.



*Chancellor with Ph D graduands*



*Prof. Mbithi receives gift*



*Training of Secretaries, KCB*



*Members of staff and students in a free medical camp in Kibera*



*Chairman of Council, Mr. J. P. N. Simba at one of UoN's Nairobi ASK stands. The University won in the Information & Documentation Services and Research & Development categories*



*The upgraded Road stretching from Chiromo Campus to YMCA*





**36th Graduation Ceremony Graduands**



**Assist Min. for Education Hon Kilemi Mwiria and Prof. Isaac Mbeche at the Chinese University's Exhibition that was held at UoN**



**UoN top Managers : Prof. P. M. F. Mbithi (DVC A&F), Prof. J. T. Kaimenyi (DVC AA) and Prof. G. A. O. Magoha (VC)**



**Eng. J. W. Waweru, Director General, CCK (Right) adorned with an alumni badge**



**Dr. James M. Dean, International Relations Executive Director, University of Manitoba**



**A section of guests keenly follow Prof. Suda's Inaugural Lecture**

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## Procurement Process Streamlined

The team was assigned the duty of streamlining procurement systems in the University of Nairobi.

The main aim of the team was to reduce acquisition time for transport maintenance services and consumables by 30%.

The team held 15 meetings during which it did a thorough study of the Public Procurement Act, 2005 and the Public Procurement and Disposal Regulations, 2006. It also visited three comparable organizations (KWS, KPLC and Telkom) to develop benchmarks and recommend improvements.

The team was able to reduce the procurement turnaround time from an average of 83 days to 30 days. This resulted in shortened turnaround time by 64% as opposed to the targeted 30%.

The team managed to streamline and reduce work flow steps from 30 to 14 steps hence eliminating bottlenecks in the procurement process.

There has been marked improvement in the working relations and greater liaison between the transport and procurement units as well as improved documentation of requests for procurement.

## Effective Cost Reduction in Stores

The team was assigned the task of achieving financial sustainability by reducing the cost of procuring stores.

The team set out to reduce the cost of consumables in the University of Nairobi by 10% through routing procurement of all the items in the central stores. The team targeted having the central stores fully operational with 100 days.

The team held 6 meetings to plan, implement and monitor progress.

Three members of staff from Finance were posted to central stores, namely Senior Accountant, Accountant and Accounts Clerk. The team took over the running of central stores on 11 September 2007, did a major clearing

and reorganization exercise including identifying items to be stocked. Operations began on 24 September 2007 and a separate Bank Account opened for the central stores.

The following achievements were made: Revenue enhancement through cost reduction, the cash flow has improved, cost control has been realized through restocking and elimination of dead stock and customer satisfaction has improved.



*Staff with RRI trainers from the Office of the President*



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## Thematic Area 4: Increasing Utilization Of ICT Services

### ICT Initiative Theme:

To enhance access to University of Nairobi ICT facilities by developing applications and services that will attract 200 individuals to regularly use the facilities

The purpose of the ICT Rapid Results Initiative (ICTRRI) was to provide tools to empower staff to update and maintain their CVs and to communicate with one another. This was to be achieved by providing a CV creation and update tool, and a group email and messaging tool through a Web portal.

The University's of Nairobi Web Portal is a common access to six (6) different applications. These are staff e-mail, short messaging services (SMS) system, intranet, CV update tool, e-mail directory, and mailing list manager.

#### 1. E-mail:

Allows members of staff to access e-mail

#### 2. SMS:

Allows authorized users to send short messages via mobile phone

#### 3. Internet:

Used to access University wide internal documents e.g. ISO

#### 4. CV update tool:

A tool that allows staff to update and upload their CV's in the University website

#### 5. E-mail directory:

Allows searching of staff e-mail addresses and official and e-mail addresses

#### 6. Mailing list manager:

A tool to create, manage and view mailing groups

### Implementation

All the on-line tools are now ready for use and can be accessed from the *University's website* ([www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)) by clicking on the 'Web-Portal-Home' link. It is also accessible from the *University Email Server* : ([mail.uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:mail.uonbi.ac.ke)).



*Members of the RRI Committee with top management during the launch of the first phase*

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## Prof. Suda Delivers Her Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Collette Akoth Suda became the 44th Professor and the fourth female scholar at the University of Nairobi to present her inaugural lecture.

The inaugural lecture titled “Formal Monogamy and Informal Polygyny in Parallel – African Family Tradition in Transition” was delivered on 4th October 2007 at the Multi-Purpose Hall (8.4.4.) lecture theatre. The lecture was well attended. Among those who graced the occasion included scholars, students, top administrators, lawyers, judges and other professionals.

Before her appointment as the Secretary for Culture in the Ministry for Culture and Sports, Prof. Suda, a Professor of Sociology lectured at the Institute of African Studies where she is a full Professor. She earned her degrees locally and internationally.

Prof. Suda’s lecture dwelled on defining features of the African traditional system, the continuing transition, examining factors contributing to these trends and their overall impact. She also discussed the new concept of marriages such as the same sex marriage in

South Africa which was legalized in 2006.

She outlined the benefits of Polygyny and its distribution patterns among Kenyan communities. In Africa, some countries have devised different ways of dealing with Polygyny.



In Ivory Coast, the practice is illegal while Uganda and Cameroon have legal systems that support it. Her lecture was very educative because it drew examples from a variety of African communities that uphold different marital systems. She acknowledged the many changes facing the traditional African family. She identified formal education, Christianity, urbanization, industrialization,

rapid population growth and globalization among others as major forces of change that have contributed to the emergence of new marital arrangements and family forms.

The lecture also tackled emerging social issues such as divorce, cohabitation and the effects on women, children, single parent families and their distribution patterns in rural and urban setups.

The mistress phenomenon was highlighted in the lecture and seen as a product of multiple forces. The mistress is a consequence of deteriorating economic conditions and rising cost of living that has made the plurality of wives an expensive economic proposition. Extra-marital relationships are caused by lack of sexual fulfillment in marriages, domestic violence, peer pressure and poverty. Other factors include lack of communication between spouses.

Prof. Suda joined the University of Nairobi in 1986 as a Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and rose through the ranks to become a Full Professor in July 2002. She has also served as Director, IAS, Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses, and Warden of Women’s Hall (famously known as Box).

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# Inaugural Lectures Delivered

**Prof. Collette Akoth Suda** is the latest scholar to deliver her Inaugural Lecture on 4th October 2007.

**Prof. Collette Akoth Suda** - Institute of African, Anthropology & Gender Studies  
"Formal Monogamy and Informal Polygyny in Parallel - African Family Tradition in Transition"  
4th October 2007

## 2007

**Prof. Ciarunji Chesaina** - Arts  
The Role and Significance of Oral Literature in the Social and Psychological Development of a Child: Re-avulation of Children's Oral Literature.  
26th July, 2007

## 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. F.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 Right  
9th July, 1992

**Prof. J.K. Kimani** - Medicine  
A Tall Story: Prevention of Fainting and Oedema in the Giraffe  
2nd July, 1992

## 1989

**Prof. F. J. Gichaga** - Engineering  
The Engineer in Road Building: The Kenyan Perspective  
23rd July 1986



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**1986**

**Prof. R.S. Rostom** - Engineering  
Survey in Developing Kenya: The role ad the Propsects  
23rd July, 1986  
Inaugural Lectures Delivered

**1982**

**Prof. R.B. Ogendo** - Geography  
Geography: The Discipline and Its Role in Public Policy  
27th May, 1982

**1981**

**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  
Pscychiatry 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. M. Hyder** - Science

.... and Foresight is Power  
26th November, 1971

**Prof. S. C. Neil** - Arts

.... and This Should Not be Forgotten  
12th 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



*American Scholar, Prof. Irungu & Prof. Magoha*

## CEBIB Attracts Funding

The research fund from the African Biomedical Centre would benefit students and scientists. The collaborative projects shall involve two clinical trials. Dr. Prof. Dunbar revealed this when she paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha. She said that the initiative would strengthen international partnership with CEBIB and train students to critique scientific papers. The activities shall involve the participation of the larger postgraduate students.

CEBIB will partner with other research institutions and hospitals in its research activities. Institutions to partner with include KEMRI, Aga Khan and MP Shah Hospitals. Prof. Magoha promised management support for the on going activities to uplift the centre that has continued to elicit support

The Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (CEBIB) stands to gain about USD 500,000 for research from African Biomedical Centre. The funding has been organized by Prof. Bonnie Dunbar who in the recent past donated equipment worth USD 30 million to CEBIB.

## French Embassy to support University of Nairobi

Her Excellency Mrs. Elisabeth Barbier, the French Ambassador to Kenya paid a visit to University of Nairobi (UoN) on 5/11/2007.

During the occasion, she met with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha. The aim of her visit was to strengthen relations between French institutions of higher learning and the UoN. She was accompanied by George Diener, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Cyrille Le Deant, Cooperation Attaché, Mr. Denis Depommier, Director, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) in Kenya, Mr. Bernard Cater, Director, French Institute of Research in Africa (IBFRA).

The team visited the Sub-Department of French language laboratory and library, IDIS, Biochemistry and Geology. The embassy advised Kenyans to apply for many Ph.D. scholarships offered on sandwich basis to assist African Universities in building and retaining capacity.

Among those present during the visit were



*French Ambassador with Students*

the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Agnes Mwangombe, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Enos Njeru, Dean, School of Medicine, Dean, School of Business, Mr. John Kenduiwo and the head of Sub-Department of French, Ms E. Gatungo and Prof. K.M Mavuti, Director, Centre for International Links and Programmes.

Prof. Magoha promised to strengthen the Sub-Department of French by increasing student enrolment and acquire more staff.

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## Corporate Social Responsibility

The University of Nairobi continued to make its mark through corporate social responsibility programmes through various activities. For instance, the College of Health Sciences

to have involved almost the entire mandible. The growth was diagnosed to be a type of benign tumor called ameloblastoma. Because of the disease, the patient was found to be anemic with a

reconstruction of the lower jaw performed utilizing a bone graft from her right hip which was supported by two steel plates. The procedure lasted about seven hours and Ms Ndusya stayed in the ward till



*Ms. Ndusya Kilonzo : Before the operation*



*After the operation*

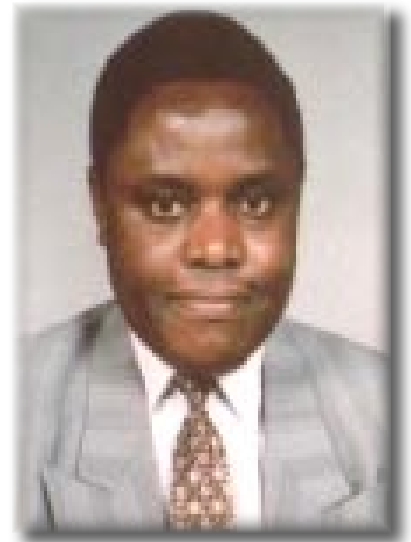
(CHS) put a smile on the face of 50 year-old Ms. Ndusya Kilonzo who was assisted by the School of Dental Sciences to obtain surgical treatment for a massive growth in the mandible measuring 16cm by 14cm. She developed the condition five years ago but could not access proper treatment because of financial constraints.

The medical team, led by Prof. M.L. Chindia, which did the clinical and radiographic examination, found the growth

haemoglobin level of 2.9. Through the University's outreach services, Ms. Ndusya was immediately admitted into the ward and active medical management commenced. The patients' haemoglobin level was restored through blood transfusion and nutritional supplements. After four weeks of medical treatment, surgical intervention was then planned and accomplished on 30 August 2007.

The growth was completely extirpated and

she attained full recovery and was able to feed on her own.



*Prof. Mark L. Chindia*



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# Mace Bearer

..we are following a strange melody, we are captured by a tune, we are following the piper and we dance in the gloom for him for him...

ABBA

Resplendent in red and blue academic gown, complete with silk hood, the professor seemed to strut through the crowd and behind him his colleagues and peers.

In complete majesty, neither looking left nor right, he walked straight, tall and confident to the dais. He turned and then he placed the mace on the table. Closely, his colleagues took up their positions, the national anthem sounded and all stood to attention.

At the end of the anthem, like clockwork, the vice chancellor walked to the microphones and intoned... By authority of the University and that of the council I declare this a constituted congregation of the University of Nairobi..

But what is the Mace, what is all this tradition and solemnity associated with this Mace?

The Mace is a symbol of authority and even power. It is one of the symbols that signify the authority and

the authenticity of the graduation ceremony - the right to read and do all that appertains to the degree awarded., it is a symbol yes, over the 50 years of University of Nairobi, it has been handed over from vice chancellor to vice chancellor, and it is guarded and secured, it remains under lock and key. It is always polished, a clear silver polish, buffed and then shined continuously, this is a clear indication of a light that should not be put off because the authority

of the University should never be dimmed.

Who is the Mace bearer?

“neither a thief nor a mad man..

This statement once caused laughter, great imaginings and even some unease, supposing a mad man run away with the Mace on graduation day, would we have to follow him, would we be able to constitute a congregation? Would we not be like the children of Hamlin who were lured and lulled by a strange melody?

The Mace bearer is a respected member of faculty, often a professor, integrity and dignity are hall marks of the men and women who are appointed

Mace bearers, it is they who are in authority and who carry that authority

The role of the Mace bearer is not taken lightly. The Mace bearer once selected is rehearsed and schooled so that he will not weary of the load.

“I now dissolve this congregation... the national anthem sounds. The professor walks to the table, picks up the Mace, shoulders it and leads the faculty out of the dais. Slowly, sedately

they follow him all the way through the crowd that is still standing, a mark of respect, and then once in the robbing room, he places the Mace on the Mace table, it is now that duty discharged, he can relax, he has done the job.

But the Mace will not rest there, young OG is ready to place the Mace in a duty car, and deliver it back at the Vice Chancellors office, where it will lie until the next ceremony.



*Mace Bearer Leading the Congregation*

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# Taking the Old By Storm

It is the talk in some University circles; in hushed tones they discuss this new rage that has swept a group of their colleagues. And as they talk, the rage continues for in some basement of a building at main campus, the young, the middle-aged and the old of the University community troop for rejuvenation.

One will normally not notice the troop as it enters the basement; individually each member can be seen sedately walking into the basement, with faces bearing pressure, torture and torment of a day coming to a close. Come 7.00 pm and the same individual walks out of the basement in a group, a clearly alive group- that heads for the Senior Common Room for a cuppa.

But wait a minute, what has the troupe been doing, does the hushed voice mean that they have been having a clandestine meeting, taking part in funny activity? Speculation is rife; from the stares one can tell that the rumor mills have been busy, coming up with this explanation, or the other about the group's secret activities.

Alas, how wrong. Or how further from the truth could they be.

The reality is that the group has been in a salsa dance class. This is their answer to burning off the energy and stress that is part of working in the University. On two days a week,

they are training in salsa- they are agile in the mumbo, cha-cha, bachata, merenge and rumbadances of South America with African extraction. "I like salsa, it looks easy but I enjoy every minute of it, I come here stressed out and leave refreshed. It is also a good exercise form that may not be so evident, but it works wonders for me" says Karimi, a keen salsa class member.

The class idea begun as a joke; two founder members were introduced to salsa at a famous clubhouse in town, but they were dissatisfied with the way the instructors seemed to ignore them. "We were women, of African extraction and we are also ample in body, in the way only African queens can be, our instructors seemed young and they had no experience of colonialism, but we felt it". One day, while watching the antics of the instructors, another member realized that one of the instructors was a student at the University. We decided to approach the instructor and ask him if he can train us at the University. Teacher Justin agreed, and the rest followed a smooth path, we invited members of staff to join us, and we thus become a group.

In the two and a half years that the group has been dancing, new members come in , but they do not leave freely, those who have left us have done so because of assignments out side the country, but salsa is a family.

It is easy to find mother and son or daughter attending the class. And sometimes in order to keep current with the beats, the class will go to dance at the Serena Hotel where there is a live band that plays salsa.

The group has noted that they hardly suffer from recurrent sickness, depression, they are busy at work and on Wednesday and Saturday, they dance away their stress, as they follow the piper in tune. Another member observes that salsa dance class has been beneficial to her breathing, and to her disposition to life, "I fight out my battles in life with dance, not forgetting that dancing and sweating are good for your face, my complexion is much better, my skin is cleaner and I feel even more beautiful", she says.

The University is challenging staff to mentor the students, to have cross pollination of ideas; the salsa family gets the chance to do that. The instructors are students, and therefore there is a bit of role reversal, a humbling experience it may be, but on the flip side it enables the member of staff to interact and even influence a student.

Beauty, agility, strength, health and determination to succeed in life, this is what the convergence in the basement means, "we throw the gauntlet to the hushed voices to look for innovative ways in which they can make a difference in their lives and in the lives of others".

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# The HAG



*The Fountain of Knowledge*

The middle-aged women, hair streaked grey, strode through the airport. Behind her, were two porters with two loaded trolleys of luggage. What the he@#\* I thought whose grandmother is that, she must be loaded. I could see that space was not a problem for her. She turned, and I got a glimpse of her, wow, she was lovely, with a full mouth of white straight teeth, an ample body, great legs and even though her hair was grey streaked, I could also not help feeling that I could not estimate her actual age, she was mature and yet this maturity also had the grace that belies a certain status in life.

Now I am a very bold fellow, so I approached her, hey Nan, I said, she turned her calm, brown eyes to me, she smiled and outright asked me my name, Dent I answered, without a break she asked me what my surname was and where I went to school, as I grappled to answer her questions, she told me that she had attended University in Nairobi, its called the University of Nairobi, do you know it. Now, this was a chance in a lifetime and I said yes. Good she responded, that means that we have a common future.

So what is this common future I ask? Well, she says, I was one of the first students at the University of Nairobi. I can relate its history and I look forward with confidence to a better

university.

The queue is long, and thus she tells me her story:

When I joined the University, in 1963, our Chancellor was Julius Kabarege. We were part of the University of East Africa, with colleges in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Makerere. Julius and East Africa tried very hard to give us a good start in life. In the early days there was economic uncertainty and back up. But it was fortunate for us that friends like Rockefeller, Leverhulme, Dulverton, and Ford Foundation arranged for us to get a full education. The Carnegie Corporation arranged for subsidies to enable the University purchase needed equipment and also to pay the salaries for visiting teachers. This kind gesture also extended to financing the recurrent budget that our Principal, George Hyslop sent to him. We grew and flourished.

After graduation, I was offered a junior position in the University, and I was able to watch the University grow. Indeed in 1967, we began to prepare the College to become an independent University in Kenya. And then in 1970, the University of Nairobi was established with the President of Kenya becoming the chancellor. We commemorated this occasion by planting a tree. The Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta, gave me a new name signifying my changed status. He said” you are now called University of Nairobi”

Historically, The University was natured and weaned by the University of East Africa, and the University of London who played the role of academic midwives. During the installation ceremony Jomo Kenyatta vowed that the University would never be isolated from the life of Kenya. He had a vision of the University as a center of fortitude and insight, where students would be free to make optimal use of all the resources and to seek the fruit of intellect and technology for Kenya’s children. Today, then, The University of Nairobi has abundantly justified the hopes and sacrifices of Kenyans, and remained a source of pride and honor.

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*(from pg. 25)*

In 1978, a few of my colleagues transferred to the Kenyatta University College. They took with them the old faculty of education, the books and language lab equipment. Six years later, the faculty of education was transformed into the third University in Kenya-Kenyatta University. Actually, Nairobi gave birth to Kenyatta

Further developments in the University included taking up Egerton agricultural college, here the University was training horticulturalists. It is no secret that Nairobi fostered Egerton, and when time was ripe, Egerton became a full fledged University

We were not surprised at the largess of Nairobi, indeed by 1983, the old forestry department at Kabete, had moved to Eldoret. They were instrumental in providing staff for the third University in Kenya-Moi University. We used to joke that Moi was a scion of Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi has great gifts and assets, management from time immemorial has expanded real estate, facilities, funding and friends. The University of Nairobi mentors students in seven campuses spread over the city of Nairobi. Beyond Nairobi, there are 14 extra-mural centers in the seven regions of the country-there is property and interests in Mombasa, Malindi, Lamu, Embu, Kibwezi and Ngong. We have also raised friends in 100 locations in Europe, the Far East, the US, and Asia. The University is known everywhere, and they often sing her praises, but does she boast? No..

Six years ago, at a luncheon for Vice-Chancellors, Raphael from Moi took on Francis of Nairobi-tell me he said, you are always telling people how Nairobi is the father and mother of the public Universities, but now I am also a mother because I have given birth to Maseno. George of Kenyatta said, I have also given birth to Jomo. This made Francis laugh, is that the case he said, then I am a proud grandmother!

This is part of the history of a University that I attended and worked in, I am now retired but I certainly see a future for the University. A cheeky lad in the queue broke into our conversation- the



***First UoN Vice-Chancellor  
Authur Thomas Poter  
29<sup>th</sup> September 1964 - 9<sup>th</sup> June 1970***

future is here he said, so do not patronize us, this only made my lady smile- you see, she said, “the University of Nairobi has over 90,000 Alumni, these have been important for the socio-economic development of Kenya. Nairobi has mentored, trained, developed and guided the household heads - look at Mibey in Moi, Nick at Jomo Kenyatta, Olive at Kenyatta, and in the nation half of the cabinet and a third of the Parliament are our products, so what can’t the future hold. But I do not see Nairobi stopping there, the wisdom of the ages is required by the Americano, the Catholics East Africa, the Daystar and the Adventist Baraton”

The middle-aged woman, hair streaked grey had reached the counter, I watched as she checked in the luggage, and presented her tickets and passport to the clerk. Wow, I was thinking, what a great advocate and a raconteur, and her status in life, maturity and grace could only have been acquired through a life time of commitment, discipline and academic achievement. Thank you Nairobi is the only thing I could say.

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## Strengthening ties with International Partners

**D**r. James M. Dean, International Relations Executive Director, University of Manitoba paid a courtesy call to University of Nairobi (UoN) and met with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha and part of his management team.

Dr. Dean said that the collaboration between UoN and University of Manitoba was the longest standing in Africa. The two universities have a long fruitful collaboration at the College of Health Sciences with its visibility felt at the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID). He further revealed that the University of Manitoba legal team was working on a new Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) that would extend the existing collaborations. The new MoU according to Dr. Dean would increase areas of collaboration to include staff and student exchanges.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Dr. Dean for visiting UoN and lauded the long standing relationship between the two universities. He noted that UoN had benefited a lot from its links with the University of Manitoba and supported increase in activities in the collaboration. He proposed the need to start Ph.D. sandwich programmes between the two institutions to strengthen the relationship further.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F), Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi congratulated University of

Manitoba for their role in uplifting infrastructure at UoN and funding studies. The most recent being the newly constructed UNITID building at the College of Health Sciences that was funded to the tune of Kshs.280 million. The building was further equipped with modern level 3 laboratories. Prof. Mbithi is also a Ph.D. alumni from University of Saskatchewan.

Others present during the courtesy call were the Principal, College of Health Sciences, Prof. Isaac Kibwage, the Director, UNITID, Prof. B.B.A. Estambale, L. Gelmon, University of Manitoba/Nairobi, Chairman, Department of Medical Microbiology Prof. Walter Jaoko, and Prof. K.M. Mavuti, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Links.

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## Respect My Age - 1962-2007

**T**hey call me the square. I am not sure that I like this name, in my youth if you were described as square; it meant that you were not quite with it, that you had a “garden” in you.

For a long time there, I was quite popular with girls, they liked to rest near me, especially those who were in the family way. As they recovered breath, and relaxed, they would also catch up on news and gossip with others, so my girls began to refer to me as maternity.

I was not offended; I mean how can you not be proud of recognition for all the support that you give to girls?

In the later years, even the boys began to sit around me. I would keep an ear and an eye open for the many thoughts that confused my brothers, they had come to University, expectant of great things, but at times they were confused, tortured and depressed, disillusioned and disappointed.

**Willow talks:** That is the square talking, but the one succor that exists is willow tree. That is me, I have wept at the many thoughts that confuse the daily guests on the benches, I have bled for them all, for their unfulfilled expectations, and at times I have wondered, when will they stop crying? They often pretend that it

is my tears that are streaking their faces but I know better.

**Grey bencher talks:** I say, both of you need to keep silent; it is I grey bencher who is the backbone of help. Every day, they sit on me, me, they flop down on me without a thought or care, they stand on me, as if sitting down is going out of date, and sometimes they even stomp on me. But I say nothing, I, like willow tree know the weight of those who sit on me, not in kilograms, but in the confusion that they wallow in, and after 45 years, across generations and race, I need a salute

So who will salute an old friend?

## Kenya Science Campus Head Appointed

The University of Nairobi Council appointed Prof. Isaac Jumba as the Deputy Principal, Kenya Science Teachers Campus with effect from 3rd October 2007 on a five year renewable contract.

The Campus was acquired recently by the University when the government in its efforts to expand access to higher education, upgraded a number of certificate and diploma colleges to degree awarding institutions either as campuses or constituent colleges of existing universities. The College has a capacity of 600 students and recently admitted its first group of B.Ed. Science students under Joint Admissions Board.

Prof. Jumba will head the Campus that is serviced by two Colleges – College of Education and External Studies (CEES) and College of Biological and Physical Sciences

(CBPS). Administratively, it falls under CEES. Prof. Jumba becomes the first Deputy Principal of the Campus since its acquisition by UoN.

Prior to his appointment, Prof. Jumba had served briefly as Associate Dean, Kenya Science Teachers Campus with effect from August 2007 and Chairman, Department of Chemistry since November 2001.

Prof. Jumba is a full Professor in the Department of Chemistry, a position he has held since December 2006. He joined the University of Nairobi in 1987 as a Lecturer and rose through the ranks to become a full Professor. He has supervised many postgraduate students upto

PhD level, has presented papers in international conferences and published widely. He has been an external examiner in many local and regional universities.



*Prof. Isaac Jumba*

## Promotions

The following members of staff were recently promoted: -

No.	Name	Position	Department
1.	Prof. Walter G. Jaoko	Associate Professor	Medical Microbiology
2.	Prof. Ouma Anzala	Associate Professor	Medical Microbiology
3.	Prof. Reuben K. Kamau	Associate Professor	Obs/Gynae
4.	Prof. Patrick M. Ndavi	Associate Professor	Obs/Gynae
5.	Prof. James K. Wabacha	Associate Professor	Clinical Studies
6.	Dr. Joseph Karugia	Senior Lecturer	Agricultural Economics
7.	Dr. Rose Nyikal	Senior Lecturer	Agricultural Economics
8.	Dr. Ephraim W. Wahome	Senior Lecturer	History & Archeology
9.	Dr. Laila Abubakar	Senior Lecturer	Biochemistry
10.	Dr. Samson O. Gunga	Senior Lecturer	Educational Foundation
11.	Mrs. Emily Rogena	Senior Lecturer	Human Pathology
12.	Ms. Aileen N. Aganyoh	Deputy Chief Internal Auditor	Internal Audit
13.	Mrs. Jacinta Were	Deputy Librarian (Technical)	Library
14.	Mr. Isaiah M. Githiga	Principal Technologist	Pharmaceutical & Pharmacy Practice
15.	Mr. Joseph M. Mutuku Nyguo	Principal Technologist	Pharmaceutical Chemistry



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# TRANSITION

During the past few months, the University community unfortunately lost a number of staff and students. Varsity Focus would like to take this opportunity to pass a message of condolence to family, friends and colleagues. May the Almighty rest their souls in eternal peace.

## MEMBERS OF STAFF

1. **Dr. (Major) Joseph N. Njoka**  
He was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medical Physiology, College of Health Sciences. He joined the University of Nairobi as a Lecturer in October 1985.
2. **Mr. Clement Alloyce Buoga Kanyang'onda**  
He was a Lecturer, Department of Business Administration, School of Business, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. He taught on part-time basis between 1982 and 1991 before joining the University as a full time lecturer in 1991.
3. **Jonah Keru Ndaiga**  
He was at the time of his death a Senior Technologist, Department of Crop Science, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. He joined the University of Nairobi in 1977 as a Technologist in the Department of Chemistry, College of Biological and Physical Sciences.
4. **Michael Kamau Mureithi**  
He was until his death a Senior Technologist in the Department of Land Resource Management and Technology (LARMAT), College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.
5. **Lucy Wanjiku Muhia**  
She was a Secretary in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, College of Health Sciences. She joined the University of Nairobi on 5 August 1975.

## STUDENTS

1. **Samson Odundo Owuor**  
He was a third year student pursuing a B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree at the Faculty of Agriculture, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.
2. **Philip Atito Weche**  
He was a B.Ed. (Arts) student in the College of Education and External Studies.

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



*Some of the students during the Intl' Students Day*

## Second International Students Day

Mlombe, James Maluol, Hilda B. Nchunga, Mary Kathy Owen, Charles G. Byamugisha, Anna Itwari and Elias Aiyambo.

Division had not only an open door policy but also an open heart policy.

In his key note address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha thanked the students for the progress made towards forming the international students' organization. He told the students that the University had embarked on a transformation process that was aimed at enhancing the transition from its bureaucratic past to a customer driven, efficiency and results oriented institution. He pointed out that the new changes would greatly serve the international community at the University.

He assured the students that the University was committed to facilitating a vibrant international student's community and that the University would continue to ensure that their learning experience exceeded their expectations.

In his opening remarks, the Director, CIPL, Prof. K.M. Mavuti, announced that an international desk had been set up within the Centre for International Programmes and Links. He said the desk would deal specifically with international students' issues and concerns.

Speaking on behalf of the Students' Organisation of Nairobi University (SONU), Mr. G.G. Kariuki, SONU Secretary General promised that SONU would work hand in hand with UNISA.

The University choir kept the guests captivated with their tantalizing tunes throughout the function.

For the second time in the year the University of Nairobi held another successful International Students Day. The function, which was celebrated with pomp and colour, took place at the Central Catering Unit (CCU) on 8th November 2007.

Talking on behalf of the International Students, Dr. Mustafa Rajab announced that the students had formed a students association. He said that the association, whose full name is the University of Nairobi International Students Association (UNISA), was mainly intended to be a channel through which issues of concern to the international students could be articulated. He also explained that the formation of UNISA was as a result of the agreement reached during the first international students' day. During that function, a steering Committee led by Dr. Rajab was set up and mandated to work on modalities of forming the international students' union.

Dr. Rajab told the gathering that the steering Committee had finalized the UNISA constitution and submitted it to University Administration to be considered for registration. Other members of the Steering Committee are Dr. Y.B.

Dr. Rajab thanked the University for continued support. He particularly thanked Mr. Kihoro Magu of the Centre for International Programmes and Links (CIPL) and Dr. (Fr) Wamugunda Wakimani, the Dean of Students, for the facilitative role they had played.

The function was attended by several high ranking University officials who included the CIPL Director, Prof. K.M. Mavuti, Dean of Students, Dr. (Fr) D.W. Wamugunda, Prof. I.O. Nyambok, Prof. C.M.P. Oniango and Prof. S.E.O. Mutema who moved a vote of thanks. Prof. E.H. Njeru represented the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Vice Chancellor's speech was read by Prof. K.M. Mavuti who conveyed the VC's apologies. He told the gathering that the Vice Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (AA) Prof. J.T. Kaimenyi and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&F) Prof. P.M.F. Mbithi were all engaged elsewhere on official duties.

The DVC (AA) was represented by Prof. P.W. Kariuki who also read his speech. In his remarks the DVC (AA) assured the students that they were valued customers and that the Academic

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## UoN Excels in Co-curricular Activities

University of Nairobi (UoN) students have excelled in many co-curricular activities. The basketball teams – “Terrorist” and “Dynamite” for men and women respectively have participated in many tournaments. The Mean Machine rugby team on the other hand has continued to carry the University flag high.

At the beginning of year 2006, “Terrorists” won the pre-League and pre-season tournaments. They also reached the semi finals in the Uganda Edition of East African Varsity Games. In 2007, the team participated in the Classic Basketball League to finish fourth, beating nine top teams to qualify for the play offs.

The Dynamite Ladies Basketball Team has had a good season this year defeating many prominent teams in the country including YANA, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Dynamite gave a good account of themselves when they played Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Sprite Storms and Eagle Wings. The University funded their participation in the league.

Mean Machine added another trophy to their collection when they won the Impala Floodlights, which is usually the 1st tournament of the Rugby season in Kenya. Then came the Enterprise Cup in which they progressed to quarter finals before losing to Mwamba. Their performance improved during the Tusker Seven’s tournament which saw the team clinch three bowls (trophies at the first three legs). By the time the team reached the fourth leg it was a much improved side which won the Plate trophy.

The lowest moment of the season came when the team lost the East African Inter-University Rugby title to Moi University. The streak of bad luck continued into the 2007 season, when Mean Machine again lost the Floodlit title after being knocked out at the quarter final stage by Strathmore University. When the main league started (Kenya

Cup), Machine managed three wins and two draws out of the 10 games. This boosted the morale of players for the team to make it to the finals of the Enterprise cup, which it lost narrowly.

This time round Mean Machine performed better in the Seven’s circuit by reaching all the four plate finals and managed to win one. Mean Machine is stewarded by Leslie Lubasia. The University Management Board has pledged to support co-curricular activities to ensure that our students get an all round education.





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# Life

Life is like a newborn baby struggling  
To come out of its mother's womb  
Life is a struggle true enough  
But after all the struggling you have done  
And after all the hell you have been through, there is success

Life is nothing but a big struggle  
Keep the faith and focus on your goals  
Don't let life beat you  
Or you will be walking around like zombies  
Keep on pushing, keep on trying  
Life can be whatever you make it to be

Life can also be a bowl of cherries  
With whip cream and apple pie  
You can achieve or conquer anything it throws at you  
You can't quit or give up  
You have got to keep on working

Life is an ebb and flow of constant changes  
Starting from the existence of a tiny seed  
Blooming with hopeful life  
To the springing forth of a being so full of future promise  
Who continually changes

Throughout the ever-flowing paths of life's ups and downs  
Changing constantly in form and status  
While experiencing awakenings  
Frustrations, sadnesses, and a gamut of feelings  
Related to disappointments, untimely occurrences  
Unwanted occurrences, and exciting occurrences

Life is enjoyed most when we complete big tasks  
And graduating from University often provides us with a thrill that lasts  
Saying goodbye to friends that we may not see again  
Gives way to our respective futures  
And career opportunities without end

Of course, professors should be remembered too  
But the things that are probably remembered most  
Are the ideas discovered, and the problems solved  
Which were only achieved, thanks to students' own great resolve

Truly, what lies ahead may seem very uncertain  
But life will go on, as we try to peek behind every curtain  
In many ways it's like Christmas again and again  
As we go through life's portals

And in the end when life is nearly through  
And when we ask ourselves what more do we need to do  
The answer that should come is that  
It was all good  
The echoing laughter, wisdom, and memories -  
That will never leave, will never depart.

**Seth Ochieng.**