

# CHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

APRIL-JUNE 2014

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



The Department of Chemistry had both undergraduate (2,3,4 year) and postgraduate (year one) teaching which ended on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester exams started on 14-4-14 and ended on 25-4-14. These students are now on vacation until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. In the meantime we have 1<sup>st</sup> year students (Jan 2014 intake) who started their 2<sup>nd</sup> semester on 5-5-14 and will proceed until 4-8-14 when their exams will start. Second years (May 2013 intake) resumed studies on 26-5-14 and will continue and complete the academic year on 20-12-14. The September intake (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) will report in September 2014.

Dr Amir Yusuf, Chairman

## PROMOTION

In academics four tutorial fellows were promoted to Lecturer. The four are: Dr. Njomo Njagi, Dr. Vincent Madadi, Dr. Eric K. Korir and Dr John Wabomba. The four got their Ph.Ds from Western Cape (South Africa), UoN (Kenya), KwaZulu Natal (South Africa) and UoN (Kenya) respectively. In technical section Ms Marion Ngunju was promoted to senior technologist having served as technologist. The department wishes them well in their new roles.



Dr V. Madadi

Dr. N. Njomo

Dr. E. Korir

Dr. J. Wabomba Ms. M. Ngunju

## VISITORS

The following visitors paid courtesy calls on the Chairman:

Wolfgang Schlor, Gil Sinclair, Ed Martini (Western Michigan University, USA); Francois Vergor, Fabian Spencer (Controlab, France); Raffaele Scoccianti (Procter & Gamble); Alejandro Palermo, Hellen Bailey (Royal Society of Chemistry); Oduor Odote, Patrick Muthendu (KMFRl); Preston MacDougall (Middle Tennessee State University); H.E. Grace Asirwatham (Deputy Director-General, OPCW); Ambassador Kalimi Mworja (Chair, Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Service) and Waweru Kariuki (Chief Chemist, Government Chemist). The Chairman held discussions with them on areas of mutual benefit.

## **PUBLIC LECTURE**



The Department of Chemistry in collaboration with the College, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor hosted Deputy Director-General of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), H.E. Grace Asirwatham. She gave a public lecture on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in MH1 on the functions, opportunities and challenges at OPCW. We do thank the Principal Secretary (Health) for facilitating the lecture.

Mrs Asirwatham had a long career in the Sri Lankan diplomatic service, during which she held several positions in Colombo, most recently as Director-General for South Asia and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. She has served overseas in Pakistan, Germany and as Ambassador to Nepal and The Netherlands.

## **FROM CHEMISTRY TO THE KENYA AIR FORCE**

Ms Benardatte Kikechi undertook her BSc Chemistry and after graduation joined The Kenya Air Force as a cadet. She has since rose through the ranks to Major. She undertook further training in helicopter engineering in Russia, USA, Israel just to name a few countries. She has since become head of helicopter squadron in the Kenya Air Force. This is a story from the laboratory to the air.



Maj. Kikechi

## **CHIROMITE APPOINTED PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR HEALTH**

Prof Fred Segor, Principal Secretary for health has a long history as a Choromite. He did his BSc Chemistry, MSC Chemistry and Ph.D chemistry in the Department of Chemistry, UoN. He then joined Moi University as a lecturer where he rose to position of associate professor. He also served as our external examiner in physical chemistry for four years. We wish him all the best.

## **APPOINTMENTS**



Dr Korir

Dr. Korir has recently been appointed as Kenya Science coordinator, taking over from Dr. Patricia Gitari. He will be assisting the chair to run the chemistry section at Kenya Science Campus. He will oversee on behalf of the Chairman, procurement, teaching, ISO, timetabling just to name a few.



Dr Kerubo

Dr Leonida Kerubo was appointed as Performance Contracting Champion and her duties entail mobilization of data on publications, appropriations in aid, conference and workshop attendance, student attachments just to name a few. The following are the publications of academic staff from July 2013 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014:

| Name         | Pub | Name          | Pub | Name         | Pub | Name       | Pub |
|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Dr. Yusuf    | 11  | Prof . Orata  | 10  | Prof . Abiy  | 6   | Dr. Kerubo | 3   |
| Prof. Gitu   | 2   | Prof. Bhatt   | 2   | Dr. Kariuki  | 2   | Dr. Mbugua | 2   |
| Dr. Njomo    | 3   | Prof. Kamau   | 1   | Prof. Njenga | 1   | Dr. Derese | 1   |
| Prof. Onyari | 1   | Prof. Shiundu | 1   | Mr. Wafula   | 1   | Ms. Ndunda | 2   |
| Dr. Ndakala  | 1   | Prof. Midiwo  | 1   | Ms. Marina   | 6   | Dr Hellen  | 3   |
| Dr. Mbui     | 3   |               |     |              |     |            |     |

To boost webometric ranking, staff are encouraged to publish at least ONE paper annually.



Dr Derese

Dr Solomon Derese was appointed the chemistry website champion whose mandate is to facilitate the uploading of materials that increase our presence, excellence, impact and openness in our webometric ranking. That is why UoN was 9<sup>th</sup> in Africa and 1<sup>st</sup> in Kenya. Individuals are asked to populate their personal websites with news, publications, past papers, activity photos, CATs and other relevant information.

## OUTREACH SERVICES

The **International Year of Chemistry (IYC) Outreach Committee** at the **Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi** organized a Chemistry Open Week for Secondary Schools and Teachers Training Colleges on 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. During the open week, there were demonstrations of selected experiments with respect to chemistry and its applications; and visits to other Departments relevant to applied chemistry. The Chemistry Open Week presented an excellent opportunity to foster interaction between students and teachers with the University lecturers, technical staff and university students in various science disciplines. Below is the photo gallery for the visit:

