

Masters Students Conducts Online Defense through Skype



Ms. Faith Owuor (center) at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences where she undertook an online defense for her Masters. Looking on is Ms. Patricia Gitonga, Chief ICT-Officer CBPS and Prof. Paul Kanyari

A Master of Science in Veterinary Epidemiology student conducted an online defense at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences to examiners at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London using Skype.

University of Nairobi has embraced technology and implemented fast internet access , as well as utilization of technology tools to facilitate communication.

Ms. Faith Owour is presently undertaking a Master of Science in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health through distance learning. The programme coordinator Prof. Paul Kanyari was present during the defense which was undertaken at the College of Biological and Physical Science, ICT office.

The Skype video conference was facilitated by Ms. Patricia Gitonga, ICT Officer in Charge of the College.

The University has continued to be in the forefront in steering technology and innovation as well as automation of its services.

During the Global Entrepreneurship Summit hosted by President Barack Obama and President Uhuru Kenyatta, Mechanical Engineering 5th year student, Taita Ngetich, and

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Economic and Statistics 4th year student, Brian Bett presented their innovation *Mkulima Hodari*.

Third year Engineering and Medicine students also developed a social networking site, VoSpine, to share knowledge on different topics of interest. Sidney Rema (Medicine) and Phelix Juma (Engineering) launched the site which has already attracted 1,500 users.

To crown its initiative role in innovation, the University of Nairobi organized its first innovation week from 5-7th August 2015. The innovation week themed 'Innovate and Prosper, strengthening Academia Industry and Government Linkages for Economic Growth' provided a platform to showcase and recognize outstanding innovations in Kenya. Key innovation speakers were Mr. Langdon Morris, Founder Innovation Labs LLC and Mr. Saul Singer, American-Israeli journalist and co-author of the bestselling book *Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*.

An innovation and startup lab, Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab), is housed at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences. The innovation lab incubates and mentors tech startups which are mentored to be fully fledged businesses. The lab also conducts short term training in cyber security and cloud computing. Dr. Fred Matiang'i, former Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Information Communication and Technology, currently the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology activated C4DLab on April 8, 2014. The University has already broken ground for the construction of Center for Computing for Development (CC4D).

In August 2015, UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi launched The Africa Technology and Innovation Accelerator (AfTia) which received technology startups in Finance, Agriculture, Education, Governance and Health. The startups will be accelerated for commercialization. The best innovation will be awarded seed capital worth \$100,000.

Other service automations include Management Information Systems such as Student Management Information System, eLearning portal, access of electronic library resources and online library access.

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<http://cbps.uonbi.ac.ke/node/27445/>
