



Kenyatta University newsletter

Special
Graduation
Edition

A Fortnightly publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The vision of Kenyatta University is to be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity.

Congratulations! Chancellor tells the class of 2009

Kenyatta University Chancellor, Dr. Harris Mule has congratulated the graduating class of 2009 who graduated on Friday, 26th June, 2009. "Our graduands are our pride and I am happy to note that the qualifications you have obtained are world-class. I am sure you will be good ambassadors of this country and Kenyatta University and as you go out to start new careers and other ventures, we wish you every success and hope that you will stand out as responsible citizens of this country with superior skills gained from a great University," said Dr. Harris Mule.

Speaking during the occasion of the 26th Graduation Ceremony held at the University Graduation Square, Dr. Mule expressed his joy at being the Chancellor of a great University that has set its priorities towards fully achieving its mission of giving its students the best education in the region and beyond. Dr. Mule described the graduands as a unique group of students with enormous talent who worked incredibly hard to reach the University and also completed the academic journey that culminated in their Graduation. "You deserve to celebrate. I pray that you realize your full potential in life and that you will find the best ways to share your many talents

with your communities," Dr. Mule concluded.

The Chancellor conferred a total of one thousand one hundred and ten (1,110) graduands with various certificates, diplomas and degrees. Twenty five (25) candidates were awarded doctorate degrees (Ph.D).

He hailed the University management for ensuring that there are two graduation ceremonies every academic year, which has enabled the University to not only accommodate the very large numbers of completing students, but to include in its programmes relevant activities that add value to the experience acquired by its students and to release to the world of work qualified young women and men for the development of our country.

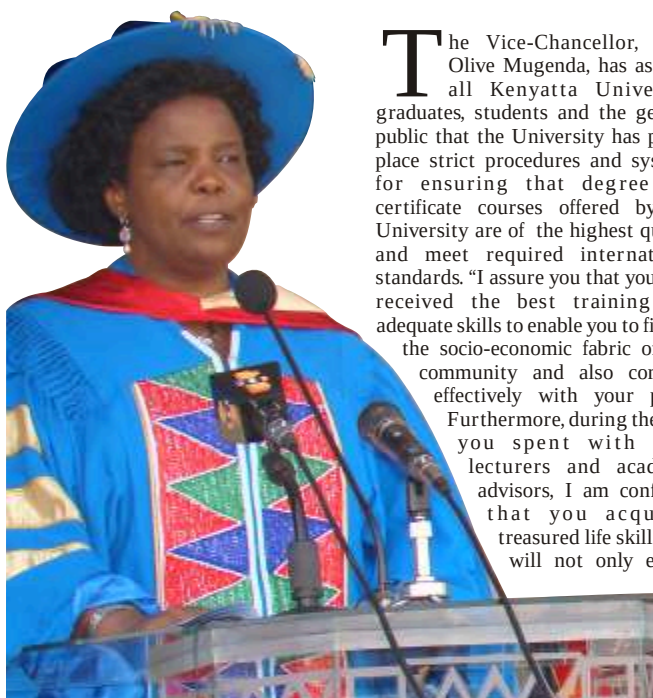
Dr. Mule assured parents, guardians, development partners and stakeholders that the University is sparing no effort to ensure that it puts in place appropriate facilities and develop the most conducive environment possible to meet the challenges of the changing world. He urged



Kenyatta University Chancellor, Dr. Harris Mule.

the graduating class to remember that the University is sending them out there as her ambassadors and that the world will know and recognize Kenyatta University through them.

You got the Best-Graduands Assured



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, has assured all Kenyatta University graduates, students and the general public that the University has put in place strict procedures and systems for ensuring that degree and certificate courses offered by the University are of the highest quality and meet required international standards. "I assure you that you have received the best training and adequate skills to enable you to fit into the socio-economic fabric of the community and also compete effectively with your peers. Furthermore, during the time you spent with your lecturers and academic advisors, I am confident that you acquired treasured life skills that will not only enable

you to have a fulfilling career in your life but also allow you to realize your potentials beyond your wildest dreams", stated the Vice-Chancellor.

Prof. Mugenda was speaking during the 26th Graduation Ceremony held at the University Graduation Square on Friday, 26th June 2009. She urged the new graduates to utilize the education and skills they acquired in this University to the best of their ability adding that University has been releasing well nurtured and fully trained professionals into the labour market since its establishment. "I am confident that they meet the expected standards," Prof. Mugenda continued. "I congratulate the graduands for their hard work and commitment towards seeing this day come true. I applaud you, graduands, for your determination, focus and untiring effort. This is the true spirit of the KU community. I commend you for living up to the spirit and urge you to keep up the good work and you will no doubt reap the fruits of your labour for days to come."

Regarding the issue of students disturbances in the University, the VC

assured stakeholders that despite the setbacks experienced in the University as a result of its closure, KU's resolve to be a world class centre of excellence in academics, teaching and research remains strong. "We shall focus our unwavering attention towards this end as we forge on with our resolve to ensure that our students receive only the best in quality education for both their personal and professional growth. I appeal to prospective employers, locally and internationally, to consider Kenyatta University graduates objectively and on merit when conducting recruitment. Our graduates have worked hard, are well trained and ready to offer their professional services nationally and internationally for the betterment of humankind", Prof. Mugenda concluded.

Meanwhile, the committees investigating students involvement in the disturbances have completed their task. Appropriate action will be taken as per the recommendations of the committees, following which the University will re-open.

From the Editor's Desk

The prevailing mood at KU is upbeat. Like a phoenix rising out of the ashes, the institution has rejuvenated itself and we are back in business.

KU's moment of glory this year was the 26th Graduation Ceremony. During the event, the Chancellor hailed the University management for instituting the twice yearly graduation that has facilitated the timely conferment of degrees, and other academic honours, to the students of our diverse programmes, thus avoiding a backlog.

At the same ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor congratulated the graduands and reassured them of the high quality and authenticity of the credentials they have received from K.U. She praised them for their hard work and wished them well in the world.

It is encouraging to note that there has been many laudable activities going on despite the closure. Our biotechnology labs were visited by a cadre of leading international scientists. These labs are part of our pride as they are state-of-the-art. The radio station through the auspices of the US Embassy, held a writers' workshop that was conducted by the renowned IOWA University Writers' Program. Participants heard some of the best current literary voices in the United States reading from their published works.

The visitors on the other hand, listened enchanted by poetic renditions from two of our students - Jacqueline Ndinda and Edna Mwaura. On the international front, we have teams of our students representing Kenya in the forum for global student leaders at Fayetteville, Arkansas and in the Annual Model United Nations at Geneva, Switzerland. But as charity is supposed to begin at home, we are happy to note that Kenyatta University will participate in the rehabilitation of Kahawa River in concert with the neighbouring communities.

We are happy to offer our readers a full page "campus roundup". This will be a regular feature which will be compiled by our new editorial board member, Mrs. Erica Mwololo. Readers can contact her through our offices. We hope this will make the newsletter really representative of our ever expanding family of campuses and centres.

Have a good read and remember that we are always ready for your contributions and comments.

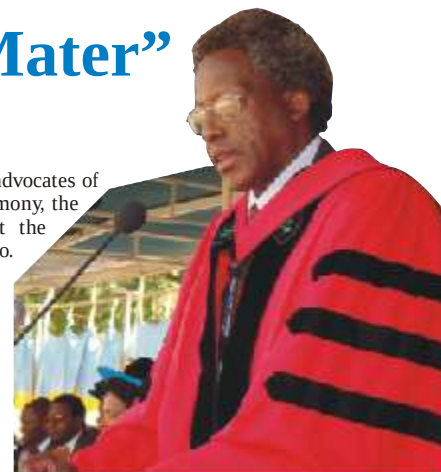
David V Karanja,
Editor

"Uphold your Alma Mater" urges the Chairman of Council.

Graduands of the the 26th graduation ceremony were urged to be advocates of positive and peaceful behaviour. In his address during the Ceremony, the Chairman of Council, Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi noted that the graduands were expected to be engineers of goodwill wherever they go. "Wherever you go, please remember to carry high your identity by ensuring that nobody discredits your alma mater," said the Chairman.

Prof. ole-MoiYoi further acknowledged the selfless contribution of parents, guardians and sponsors towards the achievements and the accomplishments of the graduands. He expressed confidence in the graduands, saying that the academic engagements and experiences at KU had equipped them to cope with the demands of work environment.

He further emphasized said that all must endeavour to make Kenyatta University a peaceful institution adding that destructive behaviour not only affects the perpetrators but also those who are associated in any way with those who destroy. "The core business of Kenyatta University is to produce highly trained manpower for development of our country, and we all need peace to do that", he advised.



Kenyatta University Chairman of Council, Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi.

"Be the best Ambassadors of KU and Kenya," graduands advised

The outgoing German ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Walter Lindner has cautioned the graduands and the youth in Kenya against resorting to violence but instead follow the right channels to solve their grievances.

Ambassador Lindner advised that as the future leaders of the country, the youth needed to follow their convictions and not allow themselves to be misused by selfish individuals. The Ambassador noted that Kenyatta University was producing great students and advised the graduands to uphold integrity and humility.

During the same function the Assistant Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria urged the graduands to be the best ambassadors of KU and Kenya. Dr. Mwiria commended the University for partnering with the government to provide quality education. He further lauded the infrastructural development and the community outreach programmes in the university.



H.E. Ambassador Walter Lindner addresses the congregation during the graduation ceremony.



Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria addresses the graduands and guests.

Government Promises to Support Venture



(L-R) Prof. Olive Mugenda with Permanent Secretaries Amb. Francis Muthaura, Prof. Karega Mutahi and Prof. Crispus Kiamba in a cocktail hosted by the VC at the Northcoast Beach Hotel

Kenyatta University Management under the leadership of Prof. Olive M. Mugenda has been commended for its insight and ability to make timely innovative decisions

when opportunity presents itself. This was the running theme in the remarks by Amb. Francis Muthaura, Permanent Secretary, Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Public Service, Office of the President, Prof. Crispus Kiamba, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Prof. Karega Mutahi the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

The Permanent Secretaries were addressing a host of other Permanent Secretaries who were guests at a sumptuous cocktail hosted by the Vice-Chancellor at the Northcoast Beach Hotel on Friday, 26th June, 2009. Remarking on her unusual stamina, given that she had just officiated the 26th Graduation Ceremony a few hours earlier, Amb. Muthaura marveled at what Kenyatta University had been able to achieve within a very short time. "I commend the Vice-Chancellor and staff for the acquisition of this facility which will not only be a source of income to the University but will also provide training for the hospitality industry. I challenge you to make it the best hospitality training institution in Africa", Amb. Muthaura urged.

On the developments in the country, Amb. Muthaura stated

Cont. on pg 3

KU and University of Syracuse in a joint International Conference on Education

Teacher Education has been identified as a key component in the education sector and needs to embrace desirable reforms to encompass new challenges. Innovative teacher education and new approaches to education delivery is therefore very key to address emerging issues in Africa.

Teacher Education was the focus of an International Conference on Education held in Kenyatta University between 8th-10th July 2009. The Conference whose theme was **"Innovative Teacher Education and Classroom practice in the 21st Century"** was a joint collaboration between KU and Syracuse University, USA. The Conference provided a forum to generate, share and disseminate knowledge on innovative approaches to teaching and learning for the 21st century.

While officially opening the Conference, the Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Asman, Abongotum Kamama said that issues of equitable access to educational opportunities, poor remuneration of teachers, lack of information technologies, large enrolments due to free primary education as well as negative impact of examination oriented curriculum and student indiscipline were serious threats to education in the country. Hon. Kamama was hopeful that the Conference would be a powerful



Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology addresses participants of the International Conference on Education held at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre recently.

institutional framework towards the much needed pedagogical improvements.

In his keynote address, Dr. P.L.O. Lumumba said that the country's education system should aim at equipping students to participate in national and international arena. Dr. Lumumba said that there was need to give practical meaning to the education laws adding that education ought to respond to our local needs.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Prof. Karega Mutahi underscored the fact that teacher education and classroom innovations in teaching should be research based and teacher educators must therefore embrace research as a fundamental activity. In a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Senior Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Michael Ojiambo, Prof. Karega lauded Kenyatta University for spearheading

the initiative to provide quality teacher education in the country and serving as a centre of excellence in education matters. The PS also challenged the teacher educators to take bold measures to embrace practices that will improve learning and sustain confidence in the education system.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda said that quality education is critical to genuine learning and human development. "Processes that support quality education include well-trained teachers who continually engage in professional learning and development; well managed child friendly and gender centered participatory methods; skilful assessment to facilitate learning and appropriate technologies", she emphasized. The VC was represented by the DVC (Finance, Planning & Development), Prof. Daniel Mugendi at the Conference.

The Conference was the culmination of an academic link between Kenyatta University and Syracuse University, USA. It brought together scholars, educators, administrators, policy makers, teachers, students and other stakeholders in education. The theme was aligned to the Kenyatta University mission of providing quality education and training, innovation and creativity for sustainable individual and societal development.

Kenyatta University a Pace-Setter in Biotechnology Research



Some of the visiting scientists from US-Africa Connections in the Biotechnology greenhouse.

Over twenty distinguished world-renowned scientists and key donors visited Kenyatta University's ultra modern

research facilities on 23rd June 2009. The main objective was to see KU's Biosafety Level II Plant Transformational Lab (PTL) to get

first knowledge of the facilities and to meet the University's scientists involved in the research. It was also an opportunity for the University's researchers to interact with internationally distinguished scientists and donor representatives to develop mutually beneficial links.

Kenyatta University established the Plant Transformational Lab (PTL) in 2004 on the premise of using modern advances in Biotechnology to find solutions for problems facing agriculture in Africa.

The University is one of the few research institutions in Kenya with a Biosafety Level II Laboratory. Under Prof. Jesse Machuka, the Lab has been specially instrumental in post-graduate training and conducting research in diverse fields of Plant

Biotechnology. To date, the laboratory has trained over twenty (20) M.Sc. and four (4) Ph.Ds graduates. Currently the lab has eighteen Ph.D students.

Plant Transformational Laboratory undertakes research in crop trait and nutritional improvement. Partnerships have been established with local, regional and international labs focussed on application of molecular biology to improve human health, mainly through research on enhancing crops for resistance against biotic and abiotic constraints.

The high cadre team consisted of scientists from the US and sub-saharan Africa plus representatives from the Science and technology team of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the US-National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Bec A-ILRI Hub.

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Government Promises to Support Venture

that the country had witnessed phenomenal growth in the higher education sector following the Government's decision to allow universities to take initiative for their development.

He challenged the universities to consider opening campuses beyond the country's borders but to also ensure the expansion does not

compromise quality. "When the country is grappling with challenges of unemployment, expansion means growth which provides opportunities for employment. However, this expansion should not be at the expense of quality", Amb. Muthaura cautioned.

Prof. Kiamba, on his part urged the Permanent Secretaries to support

Kenyatta University's venture by hosting conferences, workshops and Christmas get-together and team-building initiatives at the facility. In reference to Prof. Mugenda's footprints of achievements during her tenure in office, Prof. Karega concluded "We are as good as what we leave for posterity".

The Permanent Secretaries were

attending a Permanent Secretaries Retreat on Sector Performance Standards at Sun N Sand. Over 40 of them toured the various facilities at the Northcoast Beach Hotel and attended the cocktail. The Harmony Band entertained the guests.

KU students selected for a Leadership training Programme in USA



(L-R) Registrar Academic Dr. John Koga, Sylvester Mwanga Musembi, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Wambura Boniface Kabochi, Adan Abdinoor Abdulkadir and the Ag. Dean of Students Dr. Swaleh Sauda.

Recent achievements by our students will put Kenyatta University on the world map as they leave for different parts of the world to represent KU and Kenya.

Sylvester Mwanga Musembi, a 2nd Year student in Telecommunications and Information Technology, Wambura Boniface Kabochi, 3rd student Year in Nursing and Public Health and Adan Abdinoor Abdulkadir, 4th Year student in Bsc. general were selected to participate in this year's programme of **"The United States for Global Student Leaders"**.

The five week programme will take place at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. They were selected for demonstrating leadership qualities in their respective communities at the grassroots level and in their universities. The Students Leaders Programme is organised annually by the US Embassy in Kenya. The three were among six other students selected to represent Kenya in the competitive programme.

The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda congratulated the students for the remarkable achievement adding that despite the latest negative publicity, most of the KU students were hardworking and had demonstrated excellence in different areas. She urged the students to work hard and be good representatives of the country and the University.

Kenyatta University Flag Flies High in Switzerland

Philip Duncan Kange'the Maina, from the School of Law, and Deborah Masara, a third year student in Bsc. Software Engineering, will be representing KU in Switzerland.

Philip was selected by the United Nations Department of Public Information to participate in the First Annual Global Model United Nations Conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of the Conference will be **"The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty"**. The one month Conference will be attended by students from several countries.

Deborah Masara qualified for a two

months internship programme at Google Offices in Zurich, Switzerland. Deborah was the only Kenyan student among the three African students who were selected from Africa.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, congratulated the students for their outstanding achievements and expressed her appreciation and pride on KU's behalf. She advised the students to work hard and network with other students in order to get more exposure.

Meanwhile, KU students, that is, David M. Kimaro, Malcom Ngugi, Albert Gicheha and Andrew K. Lang'at continue to do well in the Zain Africa Challenge and we wish them success.



(L-R) Mrs. Jane Masara, VC Prof. Olive Mugenda, Debora Masara, Philip Kang'ethe Maina and the Ag. Dean of Students, Dr. Swaleh Sauda. Debora and Philip will be representing KU in Switzerland.

The Newsletter Editorial team congratulates the students for their achievement and wish them all the best in their future.

KU receives funding for Environmental project

Kenyatta University has received a funding of one million Kenya Shillings from the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources. This was after a successful proposal that was presented to the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources by a team consisting of the Director, KU Community Outreach and Extension Programmes (KUCOEP), Dr. Dinah Tumuti, Dean School of Environmental Studies, Prof. Stephen Njuguna and the Chairman, Department of Environmental Education Dr. John Muriuki.

The Ministry will work with Kenyatta University to promote environmental education and awareness. The fund will go towards the project on **"Environmental Awareness and Management in Kenyatta University and its Environs"**.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Lawrence Lenayapa noted that the Ministry was committed to increasing the levels of awareness. He said that the youth and especially university students are influential members of the community and would therefore play a key role in the initiative.



Prof. Olive Mugenda receives a cheque from the PS, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources Mr. Lawrence Lenayapa. This was phase 1 of the funding.

The project will be a joint collaboration by the University's Centre for Community Outreach and Extension Programmes and the School of Environmental Studies. The focus will be on the rehabilitation of Kahawa River, which KU shares with surrounding communities.

The implementation of this project will involve mobilizing students through their Environmental Club and members of the neighbouring communities.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda thanked the Ministry of Environment for agreeing to fund and work with KU. Prof. Mugenda assured the PS that the University was committed to addressing the current and emerging environmental issues.

Prof. Mugenda also said that KU is currently involved in the Teachers' Environmental Rescue project, whose objective is to reorient and strengthen teacher education on environmental sustainability aspects. This project will focus on environmental awareness creation and improve links with KU and teachers in primary and secondary schools.

Campus Round Up

Parklands Campus

Parklands campus hosts the School of Law and is the Nairobi regional centre for Open learning. For the 2nd semester 08/09 academic Year, a total of 440 students were registered, a number that is higher compared to 390 students for the 1st semester 08/09 academic year.



Parklands Campus

Ruiru Campus

Ruiru Campus has been repaired following the destruction during the student disturbances in March 2009.



Ruiru Campus

Kitui Campus

In May 2009, Staff of Kenyatta University contributed foodstuff donations that were distributed to families neighboring Kitui campus. The Director Outreach Programmes, Dr. Dinah Tumuti, and the Director Kitui campus, Prof. Wilson Njue, who was representing the Vice-Chancellor witnessed the distribution of the foodstuff.

The kind gesture by Kenyatta University was well received by members of the community under the leadership of local area leaders.

- In June 2009, Kitui Campus received visitors from the USA Cultural Affairs Section. The Purpose of the visit was to sensitize teaching staff on opportunities under the Fulbright scholarships program. The Embassy staff later issued

application forms to the lecturers who attended the function and encouraged submit the forms for consideration.

- The Campus hosted a one day seminar on 27th June 2009 on Anti-Corruption and Ethics The seminar which was facilitated by Mr. Jones Wambua, Deputy Finance Officer in-charge of Revenue, was attended by more than thirty participants drawn from the teaching, non teaching and support staff at Kitui campus and teachers from neighboring schools. Kitui campus expects to admit for the first time students under the Institutional Based mode of study to pursue Courses in Bachelor of Education (Arts); Master of Business Administration and Master of Education starting in August 2009.

Meanwhile, construction work on improvement of infrastructure at the campus is in progress. The Campus has been experiencing an acute shortage of water for the last two months. The Director is working with the administration at the main campus to explore ways and means to enhance supply.



Kitui Campus

Nyeri Centre

The Nyeri Centre recently relocated from Nyeri Technical Training Institute to 4th floor, Tabby Plaza building which is situated adjacent to the Nyeri Kamukunji grounds behind the Police Station and very near the Lower Bus Stage. The University is in the process of establishing a library and a computer lab.

Currently, the centre hosts students under Open Learning and Full Time for Bachelor of Commerce modes of study. Evening Classes for Bachelor of Commerce are expected to start soon. The University recently recruited fulltime lecturers for the Bachelor of Commerce programmes in Management Science, Accounting, and Business Administration. To market their programmes in the Institute of Open Learning, Institutional-Based Programmes and all other programmes offered by Kenyatta University both at the Centre and other campuses, plans are under way for an Open Day in September



Nyeri Centre

Mombasa Campus

Mombasa Campus has expanded greatly and is still growing. The campus continues to introduce new academic programmes to run concurrently with those offered at the Main Campus, Nairobi. The Campus recently held a workshop for CISCO instructors in Eastern Africa. Following the workshop, the Campus is going to admit the first batch of students for the CISCO Academy programme.

The new students are scheduled to report sometime in August 2009. In addition to the CISCO programmes, Mombasa Campus, is now a centre for the ACCA and CISP examinations. The Campus during the vacation organized a number of activities which included: Seminar for Students on Drug and Substance Abuse, Seminar on Anti-Corruption, and on Mentoring and Gender Affirmative Action.

The Students' Red Cross Club was selected to represent the University in Kilifi while Environmental Club took part in the Annual Marine Day where all members were involved in a cleaning exercise at the Kenyatta Beach. Mombasa Campus is preparing to participate in this year's Mombasa International Show scheduled for 12th - 16th August 2009.

Since its establishment, Mombasa Campus has been relying on staff from the main campus to teach its various academic programmes. In view of the developments taking place on campus, however, the University is now employing staff who are resident in Mombasa. The new staff members are expected to report in August 2009.

In line with the University Vision and Strategic Plan 2005-2015, the Campus aims at enhancing its image and transforming itself into a world class teaching and research institution at the Coast.

The Campus has over 700 students in the regular programmes and 520 Institute of Open Learning students. These numbers are scheduled to increase tremendously in the next intake beginning September 2009 with a target of 2000 students by the year 2010.

Mombasa Campus had a tranquil semester. The Director of the Campus, Prof. Edwin Wamukoya on behalf of the University Management, wishes to commend the student for having conducted themselves in a rational manner that resulted in all programmes being carried through to completion.



Mombasa Campus

26th Graduation Ceremony in Focus

PICTURE Speak



Kenyatta University Chancellor, Dr. Harris Mule, places a cap on a Ph.D graduand as the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda looks on.



Oruba Girls in action at the graduation square.



Graduands celebrate their big day.



Mr. Sylvester Otieno leads members of the KU Staff Choir in entertaining the guests



Ph. D graduands after being conferred their degrees.



Students from University of Berkely, California, who were in KU for the International Summer Programme also attended the graduation ceremony.



The Mace bearer, Mr. L. A. Aloo from the School of Law, leads the procession from the graduation square.

PICTURE Speak



"We are happy to be in KU" seems to be the expression of these guests from Iowa State University who visited the University recently. (Story page 10)



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, in a group photo with students from Oruba Girls Secondary School who were guests of the VC during the graduation ceremony. On the far right is Mrs. Grace Odhiambo, who accompanied the students. Mrs Odhiambo is a good friend of the University.



(L-R) Prof. Joanna Masingila of Syracuse University, Constitutional Lawyer Dr. P.L.O. Lumumba, Deputy Senior Secretary, Ministry of Education Mr. Michael Ojiambo and the DVC (Administration) Prof. Godfrey Muluvi during the International Conference on Education. (Story page 3)



Permanent Secretaries treat themselves to sumptuous delicacies at Northcoast Beach Hotel. (Story Page 2)



Assistant Minister for Education Science and Technology, Hon. Asman Kamama, Dr. John Tillotson and Prof. Joanna Masingila of Syracuse University share a light moment during the Conference. (Story page 3)



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda with post-graduate students after the Post-Graduate seminars. (Story Page 8)



Director, African Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania, USA, Prof. Lee Cassanelli receives literature about KU from the DVC (Finance, Planning & Development) when he visited the University to meet members of the English and Linguistics Department to discuss the logistics of hosting the Multi-Lingual Conference to be held in July 2010. The English Department will co-host the Conference with the University of Pennsylvania, Language Division.

EMS Awareness Training Conducted

Kenyatta University is about to implement the Environmental Management System, ISO 14001:2004 after successfully attaining the Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001:2000 last year.

The training is part of the requirements for attainment of the ISO 14001:2004 as per the University's Strategic and Vision Plan 2005-2015 which includes Environmental Management as part of our core values and guiding principles.

Speaking during the opening of the awareness training for University Seniors held on 30th June 2009 at the KUCC, the Vice-Chancellor, noted that the University has made major strides in the realisation of the standards targeted in the University's 2008-2009 performance contract with the Government. She said that so far the

University had been able to undertake the various activities towards certification which is scheduled for December 2009, namely: Staff awareness and training; Appointment of a Management Representative; and Appointment of the implementation Committee.

The next stage will be the initial environmental review to determine the significant environmental aspects and their impacts. Some of the ensuing benefits are: improved teaching and learning due to improved work environment; Reduced environmental risk; Sustainable use of resources; Enhanced credibility and promotion of University's positive image; and Enhanced compliance with legislation. The Kenya Bureau of statistics and has been training our staff since mid may 2009.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, and DVC (Finance, Planning & Development) Prof. D. Mugendi, join members of Senate in the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Awareness training exercise held recently.

18th Postgraduate Seminars held

Kenyatta University Graduate School held the 18th Post Graduate seminars between 8th and 10th June, 2009 at the AVU Main Hall.

The seminars featured presentations by post-graduate students graduating with Masters and Ph.D degrees. There were a total of 23 Ph.D and over 100 masters presentations showing the high quality of research being undertaken in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, in her speech at the ceremony noted that there is an immense wealth of knowledge generated in the University which rarely gets disseminated to other scholars and the wider community.

She explained the theme of this year's postgraduate seminars which was titled:

Moving Research from Laboratory to Communities: The Challenges Faced by Institutions of Higher learning in Kenya,

adding that the theme resonates with the objective of this effort and urged presenters to demonstrate how their research can be moved to the field and to the communities where it is most useful. Prof. Mugenda encouraged the graduands to ensure that their research findings are disseminated at conferences, both locally and internationally and published as books, book chapters and in reputable national and



CEO, JMG Solutions and Governor and Chairman, Public Finance Sector, Mr. Kariithi Murage Murimi gives his address during the Post-graduate Seminars. Looking on is Dr. Michael Wainaina, Associate Dean Graduate School and Prof. Judith Waudu, Dean, Graduate School.

international academic journals. She thanked all sponsors and well wishers who have continued to support the Postgraduate seminars over the years. They include the Government of Kenya, DAAD, ICIPE, KARI, KEMRI, HELB, ICRAF, KEFRI and others who have continually given support to the Postgraduate students by way of scholarships and other forms of research funding.

The keynote address was given by the Chief

Executive Officer, JMG Solutions and Governor and Chairman, Public Finance Sector, Mr. Kariithi Murage Murimi who challenged the graduands to follow the implementation of their research so as to move it to where it belongs to the society. Mr. Murimi lamented that the lack of a clear policy, limited or non-existent funding for research and apathy among universities to develop applied research has resulted in a lukewarm relationship between universities and the industry.

He called for an economic and institutional regime that provides incentives for the efficient use of the existing knowledge; the creation of new knowledge, and the flourishing of entrepreneurship; an educated and skilled population that can create, share and use knowledge well; a dynamic information and communication infrastructure that can facilitate processing, communication, dissemination; and an effective innovation system that can tap into the growing stock of global knowledge, assimilate and adapt it to local needs, while creating new knowledge and technologies as appropriate to allow effective exploitation of knowledge.



The Minister for Immigration and Registration of Persons, Hon. Otieno Kajwang' and his wife Rose (middle) and members of staff when they paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor. (Extreme right)

Hon. Kajwang' Visits Kenyatta University

The Minister for Immigration and Registration of Persons, Hon. Otieno Kajwang, visited Kenyatta University on 1st July 2009. The Minister was in the University to join family, friends and colleagues in the fundraising for the funeral arrangements of the late Mr. Francis Peter Kenya.

Hon. Kajwang' said his Mbita Constituency had lost a very resourceful person who had contributed greatly to its development. He said that the death of Mr. Kenya was a big loss to both the university and the constituency as he was a leader committed to prosperity.

Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources



Dr. Otieno from National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) makes her contribution during the conference on Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources and Sanitation Management. Dr. Otieno is also a lecturer in the Department of Environmental Studies.

Kenyatta University held a one-day Conference on Capacity Building for Integrated Water Resources and Sanitation Management jointly organized by the Centre for International Capacity Development (CICD), University of Siegen and the Department of Geography, Kenyatta University.

In a speech read on her behalf by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance, Planning and Development), Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda wrote that the effective management of water, its quantity, quality and availability, is a priority for everyone because water is fundamental to the economic

development and way of life. She thanked partners in the coordination of the one-day Conference, the University of Siegen, Germany, the various partners in development, including the GTZ and Water Resources Management Authority and commended the Department of Geography (KU) for hosting the Conference and also for successfully implementing the Masters Programme in Integrated Watershed Management.

Prof. Mugenda assured Conference participants that Kenyatta University will continue to support development activities and invited them to partner with the University in bringing about change within the various watersheds. She challenged participants to come up with action-oriented plans that can propel capacity building in water resources and sanitation management to the highest level.

Prof. Shem Wandiga, a renowned researcher at the Department of Chemistry in the University of Nairobi, gave a key-note address on the Link Between Integrated Water Resources Management and Integrated Sanitation Management:

Water Quality Management.

He called upon the participants to embrace a participatory action approach that involves all stakeholders including women, local leaders, communities at risk, private sector, policy makers and technical persons in the management of water resources.

The Conference focused on capacity building in Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) and Integrated Sanitation Management (ISM) implemented by two EU-funded projects and their contribution to the water sector reforms in Kenya. The projects include Capacity Building Integrated Watershed Management in East Africa (IWMNet) and University Capacity Building for Integrated Sanitation Management in Eastern and Southern Africa (UCDISM). It addressed the need for capacity building in Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) in Kenya in order to guarantee the sustainability of the water sector reforms and particularly focused on aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Integrated Sanitation Management (ISM).

Mzumbe University, Tanzania, seeks Links with KU

Mzumbe University (Tanzania) and KU are set to collaborate in the areas of capacity building.

According to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Mzumbe University, Prof. Magisha Mgasa, the University seeks to collaborate with KU in the areas of Training of trainers and establishment of a Science Programme aimed at developing education courses for science teachers and Masters training in different areas.

The two universities will also seek to collaborate in the areas of staff and students exchange. While paying a courtesy call on the



The DVC (Academic), Mzumbe University, Tanzania, Prof. Magisha Mgasa, signs the visitors book when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor recently.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mgasa lauded Kenyatta University's teacher training programme adding that Mzumbe University had made a good choice in the collaboration.

Mzumbe University, founded seven years ago, specializes in Management Sciences and Business with a student body of 3000 students.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, underscored KU is commitment to collaboration with other universities in the region for development.

Academic Members of Staff Awarded Salary Increase



The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda and other members of management in a group photo with UASU (KU Chapter Officials)

The industrial court awarded a 30% increase on the basic salary to Academic members of staff backdated to 1st July, 2006.

The University has been consulting the Government with a view to getting the funds since the award. These were after the Inter-Public University Councils Consultative Forum (IPUCCF) representing the Government, and the Universities Academic Staff Union (UASU), arrived at a compromise over implementation of the 30% salary awards. The

lecturers' salaries will be backdated to July 1st 2006.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof. G. Muluvi clarified through a memo that the payment that was made at the end of June 2009 was the difference between the IPUCF payment, which has already been given and the 30% awarded by the industrial court. The DVC (Administration) stated that this would include the arrears accumulated so far.

Iowa University and KU Hold Writers' Workshop

On 21st June 2009, the United States Cultural Affairs Attache, Ms. Ellen Bienfstock with her Culture Specialist colleague, Dr. Justus Mbae (a former KU philosophy lecturer), led an illustrious team of writers and scholars from the world renowned Iowa International Writing Program in a visit to KU where they exchanged views with a group of KU staff and students.

The visitors read excerpts from their published works. The authors' list reads like a **who is who** among contemporary American literati: Dana Johnson - winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction who has been published in several leading literary journals, including *The American Literary Review* and anthologized in *Shaking of the Tree: A Collection of Fiction and Memoir by Black Women*. She is currently Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Southern California.

Christian Merrill; Director, Iowa University International Writers Program. A poet himself, is widely known for his translations, especially from Slovenian to English, of Balkan poetry, notably that of Ales Debeljak. His recent publications include *The Grass of Another Country* and *Only the Nails Remain*. His own books have in turn been translated into twenty-five languages. Tom Sleight-His most recent poetry book, *Space Walk*, won the Kingsley Tufts Award (2008). A prolific essayist and translator, he teaches in the MFA Program at Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Terese Svoboda: Poet, novelist and short story writer has authored many books including *Cannibal* and *Laughing Africa* that emanated from her sojourn with the Nuer of

Southern Sudan. She has been a recipient of the O'Henry Award for the Short Story and has taught in many American campuses.

Eliot Weinberger-A prolific writer of literary and political essays. Of topical interest is his political essay- **What I Heard About Iraq**. He has won several prizes for the promotion of Spanish culture.



Some of the participants in the Iowa International Writers, (from left) Terese Svoboda, (author), Dana Johnson, (author), Christian Merrill, (director), Douglas Lucas Kivoi, (Lecturer Department of Philosophy and Religious studies), and Eliot Weinberger, (essayist and translator).

Another member in the US delegation was Professor Lee Siegel who teaches philosophy at the University of Hawaii (Barack Obama, Senior's alma mater). This engaging scholar has an intriguing theory that there is a connection between magic and fiction in that people like to be fooled. He goes even further by claiming that, the more intelligent people are, the more they enjoy being fooled. He entertained the workshop with fascinating sleights-of-hand.

KU was represented at the session by the Director, Radio Station 99.9FM who hosted the workshop. Dr. Ezekiel Alembi is best known as a prolific writer of children's literature and an authority on folkloristics. He has also been the Chairman of the Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival. Recently, he has been elected Vice-President of the International Society

Kabale of the French Section of the Foreign Languages Department who has presented several papers on francophone literature at international conferences, Mr. Douglas Kivoi, a graduate assistant in the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies who is a published poet and short story writer for children. David Karanja of the English and Linguistics

Department of Folk Narrative Research in charge of Africa. There were several participants from the Radio Station including: Alfred Sande presenter, writer and KUTT actor/comedian; Jackson Karani poet, comedian and KUTT actor; and poets and short story writers Jacqueline Ndinda and Edna Mwaura. The visiting Americans were very impressed by some skits that were presented by Karani, Ndinda and Mwaura.

Others present were Dr. Kilosho

Department and the University Publications Editor. He taught College Writing in several American campuses including the City University of New York (Lehman) and Edison College (New Jersey) before joining KU, and published several short stories and newspaper articles here and in the United States.

TRIBUTE



Mr. Peter Francis Kenya

The late Mr. Peter Francis Kenya died on 17th June 2009 after a brutal gun attack. Until his death, Mr. Kenya was a Lecturer in the Department of Environmental and Community Development. He joined Kenyatta University in October 1998 and had been teaching various courses in environment, tourism and community development in the School of Environmental Studies. He was also a committee member, UASU (KU Chapter). During a fund-raising ceremony for the late Mr. Kenya's funeral arrangements, the Minister for Immigration and Registration of Persons Hon. Otieno Kajwang' said his Mbita Constituency had lost a great man who contributed immensely to its development. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda in her message of condolence to the family and friends during a memorial service held at the Maxwell Adventist Church on 2nd July, 2009 described the late Peter Kenya as a person who served the University with great commitment, devotion, simplicity and humility in his departmental and university-wide assignments. All who knew the late Mr. Kenya described him as a friendly, humorous person who was also very resourceful.

The late Mr. Kenya was buried in his home in Rusinga on 5th July 2009.

The late Gerald Matti died on 15th June 2009 after a short illness. Until his death, Mr. Matti worked at Kenyatta University as a lecturer in the Department of Kiswahili and African Languages. He was also the Vice-Chairman, UASU (KU Chapter). The late Matti joined the University on 15th February 1994.

He was the Departmental Examinations Coordinator in addition to other responsibilities he held at the university. In a condolence message to the family of the late Mr. Matti, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda said the university had lost an industrious and reliable lecturer who will be missed by his students and colleagues alike.

The late Mr. Matti was buried on 25th June 2009 at his home in Tharaka.



Mr. Gerald Matti



May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Change of Telephone Numbers

In an effort to improve on the provision of communication, Kenyatta University would like to inform our esteemed Customers, our telephone numbers have changed from the previous six (6) digits to seven (7) digit numbers as shown in the examples given below:

Pilot Numbers

Old	New
810901	8710901
811622	8711622
811575 fax	8711575 fax
812450 fax	8712450 fax
811517 fax	8711517 fax

Our extensions remain the same.

Please note that the area access code remains 020

Appointment



Dr. A. G. Gachau

Dr. A. G. Gachau has been appointed the Coordinator and Lead Pathologist of Thika Road Funeral Services. He will be in charge of supervisory and liaison, clinical Medical-legal duties and consultancy, planning and development.

UNIVERSITY SET TO RE-OPEN

Plans are at an advanced stage to have the University re-open for continuing regular students to complete their interrupted 2nd Semester 2008/2009 Academic Year caused by the student disturbances.

A statement distributed to media houses indicates that the University is currently finalizing renovations of facilities destroyed during the disturbances and all are expected to be ready by the opening date to be determined by the University Senate in due course. The students will be informed of the reporting dates by Friday 24th July, 2009, the statement added.

Meanwhile, The University completed investigations and finalized disciplinary cases of students suspected to have been involved in the disturbances that occurred in the University between 18th and 29th March 2009 leading to the closure of the University.

The Special Senate Investigations Committee and an ad hoc committee of Council received submissions from students and the public between April 30th and May 15th. The Senate Students Disciplinary Committee (a Sub-Committee of Senate) held sessions between June 29th and July 13th where 50 students who had been implicated in disturbances were given an opportunity to defend themselves on various charges of planning, executing or participating in the destruction of University property.

We, the editorial team of the KU Newsletter, look forward to the return of the students and our ardent readers back to the University.

Mathematics assignment

Try it

- 1) Key-in the first 2 digits of your phone number into the calculator (not the area or service provider code)
 - 2) Multiply by 80
 - 3) Add 1
 - 4) Multiply by 250
 - 5) Plus last four digits of phone number
 - 6) Plus last four digits of phone number again
 - 7) Minus 250
 - 8) Divide by 2
- Is it your phone number? :-)

Poem

Do you have the time?

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
I had to hurry and get to work
For bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
And jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done
My soul could rest at ease.....
All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need
But at last it was time to die
I went before the Lord,
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.
For in his hands God! Held a book;
It was the book of life.
God looked into his book and said
"Your name I cannot find
I once was going to write it down...
But never found the time"

Do not seek so much to be consoled,
as to console, do
not seek so much to be understood,
as to understand, do
not seek so much to be loved as to love.

Anonymous



Different vistas of the newly acquired North Coast Beach Hotel



The Northcoast Beach Hotel

1. Renovations of rooms to highest standards and furnishing them elegantly is in progress with a view to raising the standard of the hotel from a paltry 2 star at the time of take over to a possible 4 star. This includes the establishment of a gym, salon, sauna and business center; in addition a curio shop equipped with artifacts and mementos from Kenyatta University. Executive landscaping is also in progress.
2. Recruitment of highly trained personnel is in progress.

School of Humanities & Social Sciences

School of Environmental Studies

School of Visual & Performing Arts

Mildred Jennifer
LodiagaBeatrice Wairimu
ChuruSolomon Juma
MumahNamkari Grace
David MsangiWarkach Kipkorir
TonuiElizabeth
Achieng Andang'o

School of Education

Wilfrida Arnodah
ItolondoDoyne Kageni
MugambiMary Akinyi
OtienoMaurice Ingati
MakatianiPeter Alex Mucheru
Mwaura

School of Pure and Applied Sciences

Eric Bertrand
KouamGodfrey Kibe
MachariaJacinta Malia
KimitiJohn Muthini
MaingiJohn Vincent
Omondi

Omwoyo Ombiri

Spala Oduor
Ohaga

Robert K. Muniu

Jackson Muthengia
Wachira

School of Applied Human Sciences

School of Health Sciences

Eunice Wambui
NjoguTom Kevin
Olielo

George Ayodo



Mohamed Karama



Tom Were