



Kenyatta University newsletter

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.

Culture Week 2009 Ends in Style

The 2009 edition of the Culture Week 2009 came to a conclusion on Sunday, 8th November 2009 at the KICC, Tsavo Ballroom.

The performances and variety shows that featured during the well-attended Grand Finale represented the best-of-the-best among the items presented during the entire week at the Kenyatta University Graduation Square, Main Campus.

All the performers were upbeat before the show kicked-off at 2.00 pm. They went through their paces with precision and preparedness and, judging from the applause, the audience, was thoroughly entertained.

The Chief Guest during the Grand Finale was the American Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency Michael Ranneberger. The Ambassador commended Kenyatta University for organizing an event as great as the Culture Week where students get an opportunity to showcase their talent. Promising to support the Cultural activities in the University in the future, the ambassador was applauded when he informed the audience that the embassy would sponsor an American performing group to participate in the 2010 Kenyatta University Culture Week.

In the area of diversity in Kenya and, especially the issue of Post-election disturbances, H.E. Amb. Ranneberger urged Kenyans to use the experience to strengthen the country democratically and promote cohesiveness across the different cultures in the country. He called it a historical opportunity for the current generation to better their future.

Earlier, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Kenneth Marende, was given a rousing welcome to Kenyatta University when he arrived to perform the Official Opening of Culture Week 2009 on Thursday, 5th November



H.E. Ambassador Michael Ranneberger giving a speech during the Culture Week 2009 Grand Finale at Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

2009. The Speaker was treated to a rich menu of both traditional and contemporary music and dance, comedy and skits. Students resonated to Speaker's humour and kept cheering throughout.

This year's Culture Week kicked off with the Gospel Music Extravaganza on Sunday, 1st November 2009 which featured renowned gospel musicians, among them Jimmie Gait, Ecodida, Rosemary Njagi and many others. The guest of honour during the occasion was the Assistant Minister for Education, Hon Callistus Mwatela. He represented the Minister for Education, Hon Sam Ongeru.

Other activities that took place during the week-long event included the variety shows on Wednesday, 4th November 2009; Solo Night; the fashion Show; Body Building and Beauty Pageant on Friday 6th November 2009; Community Service; Bands Galore as well as Sports and Games.

The Newsletter Editorial Board congratulates the students for a sterling performance.

They prepared wonderful pieces of entertainment as well as educational value, notwithstanding the short time they had for rehearsals between September and October 2009. We also congratulate the Culture Week

Organizing Committee for organizing this year's event. With the high standards set we can hope for an even better show next year.

“H.E. Amb. Ranneberger urged Kenyans to use the experience to strengthen the country democratically and promote cohesiveness across the different cultures in the country.”

From the Editor's Desk

In the last few weeks the University has been buzzing with activity at all quarters: Culture Week '09 closed with a crescendo at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre; the long-awaited ole-MoiYoi Lecture Halls, together with the new Science Laboratories, have been opened and are already being used; and the redesigned Gate 'A' has swang open resplendent with its classic Greco-roman colonnades and arches- beckoning all comers to our beautiful campus.

Starting with this issue, we have launched a new section dedicated to the quintessential members of the University that is aptly entitled Focus on Students. Among the student-related topics covered, we especially note the impact our young people have made in helping the needy and tending the environment.

Through the auspices of the Directorate of Outreach and Extension Programmes, they visited Mji wa Huruma in Nairobi and Nyumbani in Kitui where they not only fed and clothed the resident children and senior citizens, but also cleared and swept up the compounds.

Their companionship and caring attitude also buoyed up the spirits of these disadvantaged fellow nationals. The editorial board commends all the participants in these noble gestures.

We are happy to report that three of our postgraduate students have been granted DAAD scholarships. And, of course the University has not forgotten those among KU's sons and daughters who have 'gone beyond the call of duty to advance the cause of this institution. Consequently, several awards will shortly be presented to alumni and friends of KU during the coming re-union that has been organized by the Alumni Affairs Directorate..

Staff development is one of the VC's pet projects and following her recent promise to assist members of the academic staff yet to complete their doctoral degrees, a cadre of new supervisors for postgraduate students has recently been inducted by the Graduate School. The past few weeks have indeed been a very significant period in the continual growth of the University and augur well for the future.

Sadly, though, we've had our share of grief: we have lost a member of staff and several relatives of our community members. May the Almighty grant those who have passed on Eternal Peace and the strength to carry on bravely to their survivors.

Enjoy the Newsletter and keep those suggestions for improving our content and presentation coming.

Lastly, take more than a casual look at the poem *Entangled Tongue*. It's very instructive for all who use the English language. Until the next issue, have a pleasant time.

David V. Karanja
Editor

Non-Ph.D. Holders to be Assisted

The Vice-Chancellor has appointed a committee to coordinate the activities of the Next Generation of Academics Network.

The network will have young Academic Staff Members who have newly acquired their Ph.Ds and those about to do so. Those who qualify to be members will undertake various activities to help build their professional,

research and leadership skills.

The committee has been set up to ensure that the modalities are in place and these will be communicated to staff involved. Recently the Vice-Chancellor addressed Ph.D. holders who are Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers and promised to assist them complete their Ph.Ds.

Issues that the University will address are related to provision

of time for data collection and analysis, assistance with research and supervisors. Asked for comment, the VC urged all the staff involved to take advantage of this generous gesture to complete their doctorates. She promised to follow up progress with the Dean, Graduate School, Prof. Judith Waudu.

Minister Lauds KU over New Academic Facilities



The Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science & Technology, Hon. Asman A. Kamama cuts the tape to officially open the Onesmo ole-MoiYoi Lecture halls. Looking on is the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda (right), and the Dean School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Prof. Gerald Muthakia, who was the Chairman of the Event planning Committee.

Kenyatta University has been lauded for the tremendous accomplishments in its endeavour to enhance access to higher education.

During the official opening of the Onesmo ole-MoiYoi Lecture Halls and the New Science Complex Laboratories on Tuesday, 27th October 2009, the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgei congratulated the University and its leadership for the focused infrastructural growth.

The completion of the two facilities is in line with the University's Vision of widening access to higher education. In a speech read on her behalf by the Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Asman A. Kamama, the Minister noted that Kenyatta University was setting the pace in the development of higher education in the country and in the region.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, reiterated that the new academic facilities will go a

long way in alleviating the shortage of lecture rooms that has in the past proved to be quite a challenge. "With the increasing student numbers and the corresponding expansion of programmes and courses being offered by the University, it has become imperative that growth in physical facilities and infrastructure matches these growing demands," said Prof. Mugenda.

The three storied state-of-the-art building houses two lecture halls with a capacity of 500 students each, and four lecture halls with a capacity of 300 students each, and six lecture halls with a capacity of 150 students each.

The Science Laboratories will accommodate laboratories for the Zoological sciences, Plant and Microbial Sciences, Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Physics, Chemistry, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Pharmacy Departments. Kenyatta University has invested heavily in the development of capital infrastructure, academic and student welfare facilities as well as the general improvement of learning environment in all its campuses.

Graduate School Inducts New Supervisors



Dean, Graduate School, Prof. Judith Waudo giving her address during the School's induction workshop of new supervisors.

Recent Ph.D graduates, who are now expected to start supervising postgraduate students were inducted into their new role through a workshop organized by the Graduate School on October 14th 2009 at the

KUCC. The Workshop aimed at furnishing the new supervisors with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to cultivate productive approaches and attitudes towards supervision. It was opened by the then Acting DVC (Academic),

Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, and covered various aspects of graduate studies, supervision, university careers, and research ethics.

Prof. Judith Waudo, Dean Graduate School, took the new Supervisors through the procedures of the Graduate School such as interaction between students and supervisors and challenges that face postgraduate students and suggested practical ways in which supervisors can alleviate them.

Different disciplinary research cultures and their effect on supervision as relates to university careers were discussed by Dr. Michael Wainaina – the Associate Dean, Graduate School. In his presentation on Career Direction in Postgraduate Supervision, the Associate Dean discussed the factors that influence success rates on completion for supervisors and how the new supervisors can harness institutional, disciplinary and individual characteristics to make a successful supervision career.

Prof. Eric Aseka, the Director, Institute of Research Science and Technology, in his address emphasized the crucial role morality and integrity play in all aspects of scholarship. The workshop was a great success and it ended with a unanimous call from the participants to the Graduate School to organize a similar workshop to re-tool all supervisors in the University. Plans to do so are under way.

Catering Accommodation Services Board Restructured

In an effort to improve service delivery to our clients, especially the students, the Vice-Chancellor has restructured the Catering and Accommodation Services Board (CASB), by separating the Catering from Accommodation Services, each headed by a Director.

This has been necessitated by the increased number of students residing in hostels and those looking for assistance to locate appropriate accommodation elsewhere and those using the food outlets located at strategic locations in the various campuses. This move will no doubt improve service delivery and accountability, an endeavour that the University Management is committed to. The Directors of the restructured board are Dr. Dorothy Mutisya (Catering Services), and Dr. Ruth Ndung'u



The imposing Nyayo Hostel which was opened recently by Prof. George Saitoti, E.G.H. M.P. Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security.

(Accommodation Services). Dr. Ndung'u was until her appointment the Director,

Confucius Institute while Dr. Mutisya was Director of CASB.

Thika Road Funeral Services Hearse Commissioned

The Vice-Chancellor Kenyatta University, Prof. Olive Mugenda, commissioned the Hearse Services at Thika Road Funeral Services (TRFS) on 2nd November 2009.

According to the Coordinator, Thika Road Funeral Services (TRFS), Dr. A. Gachau, the Hearse service is one among the planned expansion income-generating projects at TRFS. It comprises a 7-seater Nissan Urvan van, complete with a state-of-the-art lowering gear and a public address system.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, flags off a hearse for the Thika Road Funeral Services.

It will be used for transport services to bereaved clients among them being dispatches of bodies to interment venues and collection at airports of repatriated bodies from overseas. In addition, it will form part of the marketing and publicity strategy for Thika Road Funeral Services.

The Chairman of the Committee of TRFS, Prof. E. Kabiru, acknowledged the commitment of the Kenyatta University Management especially the Vice-Chancellor whose devotion has made TRFS what it is.

Focus on Students

KU Students Reach Out to Communities



The Director, Community Outreach and Extension Programme, Dr. Dinah Tumuti, with KU students when they donated foodstuff at Kitui as part of outreach activities.

Kenyatta University students, through the Directorate of Community Outreach and Extension Programmes (COEP), marked Moi and Kenyatta Days this year by reaching out and touching the lives of under privileged children and the elderly.

A group of 52 Kenyatta University students from Parklands Campus visited Mji Wa Huruma in Nairobi on Moi Day, 10th October, 2009 and made a generous contribution of food and clothing they collected among themselves. The students gave other services including,

clean-ups, splitting firewood, cooking, feeding and playing with children. The students were accompanied by the Deputy Dean of students, Rev. Dr. Mutwiri, and the Director, Kenyatta University Community Outreach and Extension Programmes, Dr. Dinah W. Tumuti.

Another group of 120 students from Kenyatta University Economics Students Association (KUESA) visited Nyumbani Village in Kitui on 20th October, 2009. Twenty-two students from Kitui Campus accompanied the Main Campus students for the trip to the

Nyumbani village. Six members of staff, including Board members from Directorate of COEP also accompanied the students on this trip.

The village houses 523 double orphans (children who have lost both parents) and fifty-four grand-parents. The Kenyatta University group, from the Main and Kitui campuses joined hands to carry out the day's activities which involved: having packed lunch together with villagers; giving motivational talks to children and grandparents; cooking for the children in their respective houses; washing beddings and personal clothes for the children; working in the household kitchen gardens; cleaning houses and sweeping the compounds; and playing games together.

The Director, Community Outreach and Extension Programmes, Dr. Dinah W. Tumuti, who accompanied the students on both visits, thanked the students for serving the two communities through material donations and services.

The Directorate of COEP takes this opportunity to invite other organized students' clubs/ organizations to initiate more viable community-based activities and collaborate with the Directorate of COEP in reaching out and touching the lives of Kenyans by helping them improve quality of their lives.

School of Economics Welcomes new Students

The School of Economics, in conjunction with Kenyatta University Economics Students Association, held an orientation day for its first year students on 28th October, 2009.

The purpose of the orientation meeting was to provide new students with the information they need to make their courses in the school productive. They were introduced to the departmental staff, structure of courses offered,

and how these relate to projected careers.

Speaking during the event, Dr. Tom Kimani, Dean of the School, congratulated the students on their successful entry into the University and welcomed them to the School. He further informed them that they were the first lot to be admitted directly to the School as JAB students.

He assured the students that the school is doing all it can to make their programme interesting, worthwhile and productive. He

further advised the students to take their studies seriously and aim high, adding that the School has a vibrant programme where the students could further their interest in economics.

The students were also advised to maintain a high level of decency so as to uphold the University's image. On academics, the Freshers were urged to apply the very same principles that they applied in high school besides setting achievable goals. Further, they were informed that those who will get First Class Honours will be awarded scholarship for their masters.

Other members of staff present during the occasion were Dr. Paul Gachanja, chairman Department of Economic Theory, Dr. Susan Okeri, chairperson Department of Econometrics and Statistics, Dr. Nelson Wawire, chairman Department of Applied Economics, Mr. Makokha, School's Administrator and 8 other lecturers from the 3 departments. KUESA officials were present as well as the KUSA representative.



Dean, School of Economics, Dr. Tom Kimani, addressing first year students who have been admitted to the School.

focus on Students

DAAD Awards Scholarships

Three applicants from Kenyatta University have been awarded DAAD In-Country Scholarships for the academic year 2009/2010. Ms Felista Waihuri Muriu from the School of Environmental Studies was awarded a PhD scholarship tenable in Germany.

Ms. Faith Ongachi Olwenyi and Mr. Ernest Wandera Apondi, both from the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, were awarded Masters Scholarships. Kenyatta University was represented in the pre-selection by Dr. Michael Wainaina, the Associate Dean, Graduate School.

The 3 awardees were selected from a pool of over 202 applicants from all public Universities with 24 of these being from Kenyatta University. Each

University was expected to select only three applicants for the award. The criteria required an applicant to have a first class Bachelors degree and be registered for a post-graduate programme in either a local or external University.

The In-Country-and In-Region Scholarships for postgraduate programmes aims primarily at staff development for public Universities. The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, DAAD) is a German organization for promotion of international Relations through Scholarships, exchange of students, academics and Researchers.



Dr. Alexander Hansel from the Germany Research Foundation, receives a memento from the DVC (Administration), Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi when he paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Hansel also met with DAAD Alumni at Kenyatta University

VC Meets Postgraduate Students



(left to right) Dean, School of Health Sciences Dr. Okello Agina, Dean, School of Agriculture, Prof. Gitonga Mburugu, and Dean, School of Economics, Dr. Tom Kimani, during the Vice-Chancellor's meeting with Post-graduate students held recently.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, held an interactive meeting with postgraduate students. The meeting which focused on academic and administrative matters aimed at creating teamwork and a common sense of purpose.

During the meeting the Vice-Chancellor noted that the goal of postgraduate education is to provide quality education in the context of progressive and vibrant academic community. *"Graduate education is a critical component in the development of new knowledge, current research, new ideas and exceptional scholarship within the University,"* said the VC.

Prof. Mugenda advised the postgraduate students about the expectations that would assist them in completion of their degree programmes. These, she added, include honesty in research and scholarship, communication with faculty advisers about progress in their programmes, timelines and upholding appropriate academic behaviour.

The Vice-Chancellor further implored the postgraduate students to take advantage of the immense opportunities open at the University adding that by enrolling in Kenyatta University the postgraduate students were joining a thriving community of scholars and researchers.

Regarding future plans for the postgraduate students, Prof. Mugenda said that the University was going to construct hostels for postgraduate students to address the challenges of accommodation. She further said that plans were under-way to introduce post-doctoral programmes and exchange programmes for the postgraduate students.

In the same forum, the Dean of Students Affairs, Dr. Edwin Gimode, assured the students of the various services available to assist postgraduate students and urged them to actively participate in students activities especially in the area of governance.

KUPAS in Community Outreach Service

Members of Kenyatta University Presidents' Award Scheme were at Oleoshobor, in Ngong Hills, during a silver expedition covering 105KM on foot in 3 days in a difficult unfriendly terrain. All the 50 participants made it to the last checkpoint and qualified for the silver award, awarded by the President who is the patron.

Presidents Award Scheme is an exciting self development programme available to all young people (aged between 14 and 25 years) worldwide equipping them with life skills to enable them to make a difference to themselves, their community and the world as a whole. It aims at encouraging self-reliance, self-discipline, perseverance and community involvement. Entry into the Award is voluntary and [to pg 8](#)



Members of the KU President's Award Scheme (KUPAS) at State House Nairobi on 15th Sept 2009 during the National Gold Award Ceremony. In the picture is the President's Award (K) patron, His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, Prof. Sam Onger, Minister for Education and PA Director Mr. Edwin Kimani. On the extreme right end row is KUPAS patron.

PICTURE Speak



Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Kenneth Marende gives his speech when he officially opened Culture Week 2009 on 5th November 2009.



Flanking a beaming Vice-Chancellor, are *left*, Rubis Kanyingire-Mr, KU and *right*, Ms. Winnie Achieng, Miss KU during the recent Culture Week Grand Finale that was held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre .



The visiting Chinese dance troupe in action.



The Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Asman A. Kamama, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, and the Chief Executive Officer, Higher Education Loans Board, Mr. Benjamin C. Cheboi, after officially opening the Onesmo ole-MoiYoi Lecture Halls and the Science Complex Laboratories.



The Assistant Minister for Education, Hon. Callistus Mwatela, receives a souvenir from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda. Looking on is the DVC (Finance, Planning and Development), Prof. Daniel Mugendi (*partly hidden*).



Students from Olololunga High School perform a Maasai Dance during the 2009 Culture Week.

PICTURE *Speak*



The KU Football Team Captain, Emmanuel Juma (fourth year student-education) receives the Winners Cup from the DVC (Finance, Planning & Development), Prof. Daniel Mugendi, during inaugural Kenyatta University Sports Day.



Medical personnel attend to a patient during a Medical camp organized by the KU Community Outreach and Extension Services Programme and the KU Health Unit. The Medical Camp was part of the activities of Culture Week 2009.



Students from the Department of Music perform Tindikti dance during the official opening of Culture Week 2009 at the Graduation Square.



Hon. Kipng'eno Arap Nge'ny, Chairman, South Western Teachers Training College, receives a copy of the signed MOU between KU and the College from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda.



Rosemary Njagi performing during Culture Week Gospel Music Extravaganza.



Front-view of one of the Hostels.



Back-view of one of the Hostels.

The Newly opened Nyayo 5 and 6 Hostels.

Research Update

ASARECA Review Mission visits KU



Prof. Jesse Machuka (middle) explains a point to visitors from ASARECA review team.

A team of World Bank and European Union visited Kenyatta University on a review mission on ASARECA funded projects. The aim of the mission was to review the progress made so far in the project, including the capacity building efforts.

During the courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, team representative Dr. Charles Mugoya commended the collaboration with Kenyatta University adding that the University has cooperated very well especially on compliance with procedures of ASARECA.

The DVC (Administration), Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi who represented the Vice-Chancellor in the meeting, said that Kenyatta University puts a lot of emphasis on research partnerships and the need for compliance. He said that the University had institutionalized research through establishing the Institute for Research Science and Technology to enhance research activities in the University.

Ph.D students from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia are undertaking thesis research in the University's Bio-safety laboratory. The team has also provided funds for expansion of the glasshouse facilities in KU. Prof. Jesse Machuka of Kenyatta University is a key player in the ASARECA Projects. Prof. Machuka and his students have been working on a drought tolerance maize transformation project that is considered one of the key contributions by ASARECA to the regions' research and development efforts towards solving serious food security problems. The ASARECA project aims at transforming agriculture for improved livelihoods.

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Researcher visits KU

Mrs. Marcil Jacinthe, a Researcher from (IDRC) Ottawa Canada, visited the University on 7th October 2009.

The purpose of the visit was to gather information on resource mobilization activities at Kenyatta University as part of a research by IDRC's on the State of Universities and their efforts in mobilization of resources, both financial and others.

During a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Jacinthe said that most tertiary institutions are public and get the bulk of their funding from government sources and therefore any significant increase in student enrolment would lead to strain on the public system.

Mrs. Jacinthe was confident that the visit to Kenyatta University would enrich the research as well as IDRC's knowledge of the topic and inform the

Centre on possible programming and collaboration opportunities. She was optimistic that the research will eventually lead to an improvement of the resource mobilization mechanisms in sub-Saharan Africa and thus to stronger more financially viable institutions.

The Director, Institute of Research, Science and Technology, Prof. Eric Aseka, welcomed the guest on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and briefed her on the various initiatives and income generating activities that provide alternative funding at the University.

Some of these activities include, market driven programmes, consultancy services, the restaurants within the University, Thika Road Funeral Services that is the human anatomy laboratory that serves as a teaching and research facility, among other activities.



Mrs. Marcil Jacinthe receives a memento from the Director Institute for Research Science and Technology, Prof. Eric Aseka when she recently visited the University.

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KUPAS in community Outreach Service

open to all. There is no competition between participants. It gives young people the opportunity to develop their own talents, qualities of good citizenship and habits in four key areas; Community Service, Skill Development, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey (Expedition). It is

achievement-focused. It presents to its participants challenges that require persistence and determination to overcome. Along the way many feel daunted or want to give up, but at the end they will have the satisfaction of knowing they overcame the challenges and succeeded, learning about themselves, their

hidden depths of character and developing as a human being in the process. Now that's a sense of achievement! KU President's Award is run by a team of 13 dedicated and highly trained assessors, all of whom are students in K.U. The Scheme's patron is Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University.

Research Update

Farmers Voice Radio Sign an MoU with KU



Farmers Voice Radio Country Director, Pamela Mburia, and Director, Institute for Research Science and Technology, Prof. Eric Aseka, exchange copies of the signed MOU between Kenyatta University and Farmers Voice Radio.

Kenyatta University and the Farmers Voice Radio have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will define the framework and procedures for the establishment of a sustainable

network of Radio Extension Officers throughout Kenya, supported by University Radio Interns and the University Community Interns.

The Farmers Voice Radio

initiative began when executives from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Kenyatta University on 18th February 2009 to explore possible areas of collaborations between the two institutions. The officials were from the Farmers Productivity team of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that supports the agricultural sector in Africa in terms of technology, policy and market access programmes among other activities.

The focus on Radio as a communication channel is due to the fact that radio helps to package and deliver content to a large number of farmers.

Following the visit, a meeting was held between a team from Kenyatta University and representatives from American Institute for Research, South Africa, to further discuss the implementation of the project aimed at reaching out to farmers in the country.

The Vice-Chancellor thereafter appointed a Committee to work on

the Farmers Voice Radio Project which was chaired by the Director, Institute for Research, Science and Technology, Prof. Eric Aseka.

Kenyatta University will benefit from the placement of radio interns and community interns in practical settings linked to a new delivery system for agricultural extension which is consistent with the University's degree programmes.

The University will also define data collection and analytical procedures and has a considerable leadership role in developing gender sensitive farm and support best practices.

During the signing ceremony, the Farmers Voice Radio Country Director, Pamela Mburia, said that FVR was confident that the collaboration between the two institutions was going to be very beneficial to the farmers.

She noted that the discussions on the partnerships were very encouraging and looked forward to a successful partnership.

The 19th Postgraduate Seminar-2009

The annual 19th postgraduate Seminars were held from 23rd to 25th November, 2009 at various school venues in Kenyatta University. The 19th Postgraduate Seminar theme was the *Role of Universities in the Realization of Kenya's Vision 2030*. This is a platform for the postgraduate students who will be graduating in the forthcoming Graduation Ceremony to share their research findings with their peers, other members of the faculty and to market their ideas to the outside world. The Graduation Ceremony will be held on 18th December 2009.

These series of presentations are held before every graduation ceremony. The selection of the theme this year takes cognizance of the importance of Vision 2030 in directing economic development and seeks to re-emphasize the role of the University in the attainment of the Vision.

Kenya Vision 2030 is a long-term economic plan to transform Kenya's economy into a fast and diversified economy by 2030. It recognizes the role of scientific, technological and innovative aspects that are directly under the mandate of universities.

This year's seminars showed how current research at Kenyatta University is contributing to the lofty goals of the Vision. It is worth noting that the Vision 2030 Delivery Board is chaired



CEO, JMG Solutions and Governor and Chairman, Public Finance Sector, Mr. Kariithi Murage Murimi, addresses the 18th Post-graduate Seminar 2009. Looking on is Dr. Michael Wainaina, Associate Dean Graduate School, and Prof. Judith Waudu, Dean, Graduate School.

by Dr. James Mwangi, the CEO of Equity Bank, an Alumni of Kenyatta University.

The Ph.Ds presentations were held on 25th November at AVU Main Hall from 9.00

O'clock while Masters Presentations will be held on 23rd and 24th of November at various Schools' Boardrooms and other venues.

We will bring you full coverage of the seminars in our next issue.

OBITUARY

1. The Kenyatta University community regret the death of Ms. Jane W. Ngari of School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Dean's Office. The late Ms. Ngari passed away on Thursday 5th November 2009 on her way to Kenyatta University Health Unit. The University expresses heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and relatives of the late Ms. Ngari and pray that God will rest her soul in eternal peace.

BEREAVEMENTS

1. Ms. Pauline Moraa Atege of CASB Department lost her husband, Mr. Joseph Magari Akuma, on 7th October 2009. Mr. Magari was laid to rest on 16th October 2009.
2. Mrs. Jane Waweru of the Vice-Chancellor's Office lost her father, Mzee Murigi Kingi Ndoria on Saturday 3rd October 2009 and the burial took place on Wednesday, 14th October 2009 at Gaikuyu Village, Magutu Sub-Location, Mathira, Nyeri District.
3. Mr. Kennedy Omosa Oyugi of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's (Administration) General Registry Section lost his father, Mzee Samuel Omosa Oyugi on Sunday 11th October 2009. The late Samuel Omosa Oyugi was buried on 23rd October 2009 in Nyamira District.
4. Dr. Beatrice Digolo, Dean, School of Visual and Performing Arts, lost her Mother, Mama Bethseba Oyule. She was laid to rest on Saturday 17th October 2009.
5. Rev. Lance P. Nadeau, the Catholic Chaplain has lost his dear father, Mr. Paul J. Nadeau of 1221 Harrison Street, Philadelphia PA, USA.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, sent separate message of condolence to the bereaved families on behalf of the University Community.



On Track with Infrastructural Growth

Refurbished Gate 'A' Completed

The main gate is almost ready for use with final painting under way. Tarmacking and clearing of debris is also ongoing. The gate is expected to be operational soon and staff, students and visitors can now comfortably enjoy this elegant portal.



The new look of the main gate 'A'

KU Website Goes Multilingual

We are pleased to inform you that the University website has gone multilingual.

Now information about news, events, programmes and services offered by Kenyatta University can be accessed in more than 50 languages through the University Website.

This makes Kenyatta University the first University in Africa and among few globally that have a website that can communicate to stakeholders in more than one language at the click of a button.

Date Set for 3rd Alumni Reunion

Kenyatta University alumni will hold their Third Reunion on Saturday, 5th December 2009 at the Main Campus.

The highlight of the occasion will be the presentation of awards to alumni and friends of KU who have made exemplary contributions to the University in particular, and humanity in general.

Eminent Alumni Award is the most prestigious title and is reserved to those individuals who have made nationally and internationally meritorious contributions to society; Distinguished Alumni Award is given for sustained dedication to the advancement of Kenyatta University; Outstanding Young Alumni Award is in recognition of people thirty five years old, or younger, for excellence in their chosen field; and the Honorary Alumni Award is reserved for non-alumni of KU who have contributed exceptionally to the advancement of Kenyatta University. Nominations for all these awards have already been completed.





RE-STRUCTURING AT THE MOMBASA CAMPUS

Mombasa Campus has been re-structured. To facilitate improved service delivery, the Vice-Chancellor has appointed a Deputy Director and put in place a new Management Committee.

Mr. Francis Kiarie has been appointed as Acting Deputy Director of the Campus. Mr. Kiarie joins the Management Committee from the School of Business where he was serving as an Assistant Lecturer based at the Mombasa Campus for the last two years.

The Campus Management Committee was officially launched at the Mombasa Campus by the Vice-Chancellor on 11th September 2009. The Committee has scheduled its weekly meetings for every Wednesday from 8.30 a.m. to consider the week's activities and make plans for the following week.

The current Management Committee comprises the following:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Prof. Edwin K. Wamukoya | - | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Francis Kiarie | - | Member |
| 3. Mr. Samson Kaplelach | - | Member |
| 4. Mrs. Alice Nzioka | - | Member |
| 5. Mr. James Kathuri | - | Secretary |

The restructuring also saw the appointment of the following coordinators:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| - Mrs. Alice Nzioka | - | School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. |
| - Mr. James Kathuri | - | School of Humanities and Social Science replacing Mr. David Okello. |
| - Mr. Felix L. Ming'ate | - | School of Environmental Studies |

Ruiru Campus

Ruiru campus shines

Ruiru Campus which has grown in leaps and bounds in almost all areas staged a show of might during the just concluded inaugural K.U. sports day. The event, was held on 24th and 25th at the main campus ground. It included Darts, Badminton, Basketball, Netball, Football and Softball.

Ruiru Campus sent a crack squad of over 131 athletes, sportsmen and women in ten disciplines which included: Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Volley ball, and Table tennis, Netball, Badminton, Scrabble, Swimming and Lawn Tennis. In Football, Ruiru were winners in their pool but lost 2 - 1 to Daystar in the Quarters.

In Basketball they lost to USIU 31 - 21 in a closely contested match. In table tennis, Winnie lost in the semi-finals to main campus. Generally most teams performed a notch higher than their previous performance.

Kitui Campus

The semester has picked up well and students have settled down to their lectures. The student population now stands at two hundred and thirty. Eighty six new students (JAB & SSP) have registered for this semester. The beginning of the semester has seen an increase in the development of infrastructure. A total of thirty five staff houses have now been completed. Twenty six of them are 3-bedroom teaching staff mansionettes, two 3-bedroom senior staff mansionettes, one principal mansionette and six 2-bedroom flats for non-teaching staff. With this facility in place, lecturers who take lessons in Kitui are encouraged to live within the environs of the campus if not on campus so that they can be involved in various activities of the campus other than teaching.

In addition, sixteen lecture rooms and two computer labs are now completed. One of the large lecture rooms is currently being used as a library. Arrangements are at an advanced stage to equip the computer laboratories with computers, computer desks, and tables. Enrolment of science based programmes (B.Ed (Science), Agriculture, Biochemistry and other Sciences) which were deferred will commence as soon as the construction of the science laboratories is completed.

The health care of the Kitui campus community has not been neglected as a dispensary facility has been put in place. The facility is operational and very soon will have staff working on full-time basis. Currently, the clinical officer and medical laboratory technician are engaged on locum basis. The increase in the student population has seen a notable increase in the number of emergency cases which requires patients to be transferred to Kitui Hospital. Plans are also



(left to right) Nyeri Campus Students, Benson Wambugu, Ann Ngenjere and Benson Mwirigi.

under way to provide an ambulance for the campus.

To address the need for students accommodation, three hostels with a capacity of two hundred and sixteen (216) are now complete and fully occupied. This is a significant step in the provision of accommodation to those students who do not come from the region and especially those who have joined the institution during one of the severest droughts the country has experienced. The completion of more hostels will be an added advantage to the efforts to increase enrolment at Kitui campus.

Kitui campus is proud to have over two thousand tree seedlings in the nurseries ready for planting during the rainy season. Most of the trees planted in the last season dried due to severe drought. We have now seedlings propagated from local trees resistant to drought and termites ready for planting. This will be a major exercise of greening the campus that we hope will highlight the seriousness Kenyatta University attaches to conservation of the environment.

South African High Commissioner to Kenya Pays a Courtesy visit to Kitui campus.

On 30th September 2009 the High Commissioner of South Africa to Kenya, His Excellency Tony Msiwanga visited the campus while on tour of Kitui District. He was accompanied by the Kitui District Commissioner. He held discussions with the Director on possible areas in which Kenyatta University, especially academic staff can collaborate with other academia in universities in South African. He presented the Director with a DVD and a book entitled: *Oliver Tambo Remembered*.

Nyeri Campus

The students at Nyeri campus have been busy doing sit-in cats which ended on 6th November 2009. It has not been all academic work at the campus either. The students have started a vibrant Christian Union Service which takes place on Fridays. They are in the process of starting a campus choir which will draw inspiration from the main campus Choir that is backed by the Music Department. Elections for student representative at various levels took place and saw Benson Wambugu and Benson Mwirigi elected as class and assistant class representatives for 1st year 2nd sem and 1st year 2nd semester respectively.



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From 20th Dec. 2009 to 4th Jan 2010

HALF BOARD MEAL PLAN

Singles Kshs 7,000/=
Double Kshs 9,000/=
3rd Bed Kshs 4,500/=

CHILDREN'S RATES

Infant 0-4 years - free
4-12 years (sharing with two adults, 50% of adult rate per child)

4-12 years (in own room or sharing with one (1) adult, 75% of the adult rate per child).

WMAS AND NEW YEAR SUPPLEMENTS
From 24th Dec. 2009 to 1st Jan 2010
inclusive 2,500/= per person

TRANSFER

Airport / Hotel / Airport or
Mombasa / hotel / Mombasa
Kshs 1,200 per person
Minimum 4 persons



Mind bender

1. Which is the odd one out?

KENYA
MALAWI
TANZANIA
ANGOLA
NIGERIA
GHANA

2. What three letter word ends the first word and begins the second?

LINE (?) MATE

3. What is the missing number

2	13	5	11
-1	5	?	

Answers
1. Malawi, the rest of the Countries have a Coastline
2. LINE (age) MATE
3. 1 : Add the number in the two rectangle above and subtract the other two.

Poem Twisted Tongue

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough thorough, slough, and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of head, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed not bead;
For goodness' sake, don't call it "deed"!
Watch out for meat and great and threat,
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt)
A moth is not a moth in mother.
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.

And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose
Just look them up and goose and choose.
And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword.
And do and go, then thwart and cart
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Why, man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!
And yet to write it, the more I try,
I'll not learn how till the day I die. (Anonymous)

FAITH CORNER

By G.J.O. Monayo

SPIRITUAL LIFE

All inhabitants of this earth whether they ever realized it or not are God's by birth. Yet, the life we all share in this world is very temporary. Sin has brought decay and death not only to every human being, but to all life on the planet. Nothing is immune to the crushing devastation caused by sin.

We have a choice as to whether this life is all we have or whether we will accept the wonderful gift of eternal life. 2nd Corinthians 5: 17 states that "therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new": John 10:10 records Jesus famous statement that he has come to give us life 'to the full' life to the full, is not a combination of good health, good looks, satisfactory education and nice income. Life to the full. Is the kind of life that has meaning. It is a life that issues inner peace. It is a life that is connected to the source of life and will, therefore, be eternal. One of the purposes of our lives is to be a blessing to others, particularly in our own community. Full life or abundant life; is a life lived in a responsible way, caring for our physical life as best we can. It is also a life lived for God-designed human beings to live in communion with others.

END

Editorial Board Members: Mary Nge'he (Chairperson/Editor-in-Chief), Margaret Otolu (Member), Charles Nderitu (Co-Chairman), Janet Muthimi (Member), Grace Muchiri (Member), Mrs. Erica Mwololo (Member), Julius Maore (Member), Isaac Mwangi (Member), Mercy N. Kanyi (Member), Kaniaru Ndirangu (Photographer), Patrick Minai (Design & Layout), Susan Ndichu (Secretary), David Karanja (Editor/Proofreader) Simon Kirwa (Student Representative).

The Kenyatta University Newsletter is published by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The Editorial board welcomes brief comments/articles of news and events on topical issues.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit/shorten articles and or determine what is to be published and when.

You can send the articles to the pro@ku.ac.ke or drop them (in hard or softcopy) in ROOM 109 or 106 at the main Administration Block