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Kenyatta University newsletter

A Monthly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives.

Empowered and Ready: Stepping into Greatness



Dr. Beatrice Inyangala (4th right), PS State Department for Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Kenyatta University Chancellor, Dr. Benson Wairegi (centre), Prof. Shem Migot Adholla (2nd left) Chairperson KU Council, Prof. Paul Wainaina (1st left) KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi (5th right) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) and Ph.D Graduands during the 53rd Graduation Ceremony.

AT A GLANCE

- Reimagining Gender in Rural Education, Work and Personal Life
- Empowering Life Skills and Values on the CBC Context
- Strengthening Collaboration with Shandong Normal University
- From Campus Glory to Global Stage

The 53rd Graduation Ceremony took centre stage at Kenyatta University's Graduation Square, the symbol of academic achievement and success. Notable personalities graced the event. The Chief Guest was Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education who was represented by, Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, PS State Department for Education and Research, Ministry of Education. Other guests included Dr. Benson Wairegi, EBS, Chancellor; Prof. Shem Migot-Adholla, Chairman of Council; and Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor.

The ceremony resonated with the attendees, having a profound impact on the graduands. Amid the complexities faced by the world in the realms of socioeconomic balance, Kenyatta University's role in imparting knowledge and essential skills to equip the students for their next life chapters emerged as a standout theme. The speeches delivered to the graduating class denoted pride, acknowledging their relentless determination and

fruitful endeavours despite the hurdles encountered along the journey.

Diverse achievements were celebrated on the day marking the culmination of years of dedication and hard work for 3,385 graduands. Among them were 79 Ph.D. recipients, 523 masters' degree achievers, 31 postgraduate diploma holders, 2,590 bachelors' degree awardees, 145 diploma graduates, and 17 certificate recipients. The University ensured that every detail was meticulously managed to provide comfort and convenience to both guests and graduands. The ceremony commenced at 9 am, setting the stage for an extraordinary day.

Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, representing the Chief Guest, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, inspired the graduands to have a balanced ambition mindset as they step into the professional world, embrace lifelong learning, adapt to the ever-evolving societal demands, and contribute to technological

advancement.

During his address, the Chancellor, Dr. Wairegi, emphasised the significance of innovation and research as catalysts for a nation's growth. The graduands were encouraged to nurture their passion for learning and to remain curious, for continuous learning is the key to staying young regardless of age.

Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, the Kenya Administration Police Band accompanied the Chancellor's procession as they marched gracefully to their designated seats. The vibrant melodies and spirited performance filled the atmosphere with a sense of pride and excitement.

With the 53rd Graduation Ceremony immortalised in their hearts, the graduands embark on their unique journeys, ready to face the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. Kenyatta University celebrates their achievements, anticipating they will make a profound impact on society

Empowered and Ready: Stepping into Greatness



Dr. Benson Wairegi, EBS, Chancellor (3rd from left) conferring Dr. Gladys Wangechi Mwangi, Deputy Executive Dean School of Health Sciences, together with Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor (2nd from right), during the 53rd Graduation Ceremony.

Editorial

The new academic year 2023/2024 has just started. We're all back in session and, for a day or two, the main campus will look like a sea of humanity as the "freshers" report; accompanied by parents, guardians, siblings and friends; with every open space turned into a parking lot. But even during the lull of the long vacation, academic, research and community outreach activities have been going on full steam ahead, as the articles in this newsletter will confirm.

You will find details of the academic apex of a graduation ceremony. You will get updates of the dissemination of research findings in international conferences on and off campus.

You will learn about visits from high-powered delegations from strategic partners, and student symposiums in various disciplines. All the areas key to the refinement of a wholesome global citizen have been adequately covered: language and culture; history and education; science and technology; engineering and computers; health and the environment; music and sports. This newsletter will fill you in on all the details you may have missed. Welcome aboard this new academic year!

EKM.

with their acquired knowledge and unwavering determination.

The 53rd Graduation Ceremony at Kenyatta University was a celebration of academic success and resilience amidst economic challenges. Notable themes included the importance of knowledge and skills for tackling global difficulties, the diverse achievements of 3,385 graduands, embracing innovation, and nurturing mental health awareness. The graduates were encouraged to be lifelong learners and make a positive difference in the world. Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Gideons International Kenya Strengthens Partnership with Kenyatta University through Thoughtful Visit

A delegation from Gideons International Kenya, led by Mr. Daniel Kiarie, the CEO of Overseas Students Services Agency (OSSA), had the honour of meeting with the University's Management, represented by the Registrar Corporate Affairs, Prof. Grace Bunyi, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina. Among them was also Rev. Esther Wainaina, the devoted Kenyatta University chaplain, Protestant community, and Dr. David Nzuki, a lecturer in the Management Science Department, along with Christian Union representatives.

The primary objective of this visit was to foster the longstanding partnership between Gideons International and Kenyatta University, which has spanned two decades, and to enrich the spiritual well-being of the University's staff. As part of this gesture, Gideons International presented bibles to the Kenyatta University Management, for spiritual nourishment and strengthening their longstanding partnership. For the past 20 years, Gideons International has been generously

gifting Bibles to first-year students at Kenyatta University during the September intakes, further cementing the bond between the two institutions.

With utmost gratitude, Registrar Prof. Grace Bunyi conveyed sincere appreciation to the visitors on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, recognising the profound value of their longstanding partnership and the transformative influence it has had on the University Community, while each office in the Central Administrations Complex received the bibles as a meaningful token symbolising the profound bond between Gideons International and Kenyatta University.

This visit not only reaffirmed the mutual respect and support between Gideons International and Kenyatta University but also showcased the commitment to enriching the spiritual and intellectual growth of the University's staff. The gesture from Gideons International serves as a testament of the organisation's unwavering dedication to uplifting communities and promoting a holistic educational experience.

Reimagining Gender in Rural Education, Work and Personal Life

Dr. Samuel Mwangi, Chairperson Department of Sociology, Gender, and Development, commenced the event by sharing the remarkable history of the Department. The public lecture aimed at shedding light on the role of gender in the lives of young women in rural areas, encompassing personal life, work, and education. A team of researchers from the University of Sussex and Modibo Adama University of Technology (MAUTECH) led the discussion, presenting their findings from a research project conducted in Girei with a group of 14 young women.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation, and Outreach (RIO), expressed her gratitude for the public lecture, recognising its relevance and timeliness. The presentation revolved around four key themes: Teachers' curriculum and pedagogies; Governance and planning; Identities; and Education, conflict, and displacement.

Dr. Dauda provided a brief history of Modibo Adama University of Technology (MAUTECH), a Nigerian institution founded in 1981. Renowned for its excellence in science, technology, and innovation, MAUTECH offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fields such as engineering, agriculture, environmental sciences, and management sciences. He added that with excellent facilities, modern laboratories, and well-equipped libraries, MAUTECH aims to produce competent and creative graduates who contribute to

Nigeria's socio-economic development.

The University of Sussex researchers focused on examining the relationship between education, work, and personal life experiences, particularly concerning gender dynamics among young women in rural areas. Drawing upon the human capital theory, which underscores the transformative potential of education and skill development, the research emphasises the significance of education in empowering young women to overcome barriers, seize opportunities, and drive socioeconomic progress.

While the human capital theory has traditionally guided education policies, it is crucial to recognise its limitations in addressing the complexities of postcolonial societies and the global economy. The theory's linear approach fails to capture the diverse learning forms and disregards non-linear trajectories. It also reinforces gender binaries and overlooks the historical origins of these constructs.

Dr. Pacifah Okemwa from the Department of Sociology Gender and Development Studies concluded the event with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions. The Kenyatta University Department for Sociology, Gender, and Development remains committed to fostering meaningful dialogue, promoting gender equality, and driving positive societal change through research, education, and community engagement.



Prof. Barbara Croussouard, University of Sussex, explaining findings from the Girei Research.

History Education in Africa: Politics, Policies and Practices

Kenyatta University proudly welcomed educators, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from seven African countries and beyond to the highly anticipated 5th Afrika History Education International Conference. Themed "History Education in Africa: Politics, Policies, and Practices," the event, hosted by the Department of Education, Communication, and Technology, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, delved into the vital intersection of history education with political decisions, policies, and practical considerations across the continent.

The conference commenced with a warm welcome from Prof. Samson Ondigi, Executive Dean of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, who expressed his delight at hosting such a distinguished gathering of experts. Among the esteemed guests were Prof. Johan Wasserman from the University of Pretoria; Prof. Aseka Eric from Africa International University; Dr. Marguerite O'Connor, Chairperson of the Department of Educational Communication; Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor; and Dr. Mary Nasibi, Chairperson of the 5th Afrika-History Education International Conference.

Addressing the audience, Prof. Wainaina emphasised Kenyatta University's rich history and outstanding contributions to education. He lamented the neglect of history in favour of STEM fields and urged a renewed focus on preserving and celebrating Africa's rich historical heritage. Prof. Wainaina passionately declared the conference as a platform to unite as one Africa and ignite a collective passion for history education.

Speaking at the event, Mrs. Doris Njoka, a Lecturer in the host department,

highlighted the diverse representation from prestigious institutions across the continent, including Precious Blood Secondary School-Riruta, Technical University of Kenya (TUK), Kwanthanzee Secondary School, Alliance High School, Garissa University, Stellenbosch University, and the University of Pretoria. She discussed the conference's timeliness and relevance, particularly for student-teachers, as it explored various themes crucial to the African concept of education.

One of the key themes discussed during the conference was the vital role of architecture in history education. Participants explored how architecture serves as a gateway to understanding culture, identity, technological advancements, and political influences throughout history. By integrating elements of art, engineering, design, and history, architectural studies offer students a deeper appreciation and connection to their past.

Prof. Wasserman lauded Kenyatta University's impressive campus infrastructure and encouraged attendees to embrace and own their history as Africans. He argued on the importance of authoritative handbooks on history education, which serve as valuable resources for enhancing the teaching and learning of history in diverse classrooms.

The 5th Afrika History Education International Conference leaves a lasting impact on advancing history education across Africa. As delegates continue to engage in vibrant discussions and knowledge exchange, the conference promises to inspire and empower educators to nurture a profound appreciation of the continent's rich historical tapestry. Together, they forge a path towards an informed, unified, and history-conscious Africa.

Conservation and Sustainable Landscape Management



Dr. John Elungata, Secretary for Administration, Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (seated centre) with Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor. Also in the photo are (from left to right): Dr. Richard Boiyio, Chief Officer for Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, Vihiga County, Prof. Moses Azong Cho, President International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) Africa Chapter, Prof. Robert Scheller, President IALE, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO), and Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), together with the Local Organising Committee members during the opening ceremony of the IALE Conference.

The 11th International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) officially kicked off at the prestigious Safari Park Hotel, situated off Thika Road, on 10th July 2023. The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) is a globally recognised organisation that promotes landscape ecology and interdisciplinary collaboration. IALE encourages the integration of ecological principles and spatial thinking in landscape research and planning.

Through conferences, workshops, publications, and advocacy, IALE works towards conservation and sustainable landscape management to address pressing environmental challenges. The event, which attracted more than 400 participants, commenced with great enthusiasm and promised to be a platform for insightful presentations, panel discussions, group activities, and thought-provoking sessions aimed at achieving the forum's objectives.

The Chief Guest, Dr. John Elungata, Secretary for Administration Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, representing Hon. Soipan Tuyu, Cabinet Secretary, emphasised the significance of the gathering. The forum was themed "Transboundary Resource Management, Climate Change, and Environmental Resilience," which aligned with

the contemporary and pressing challenges faced by the global community.

Prof. Moses Azong Cho, President of IALE Africa Chapter, expressed gratitude for the realisation of the event, taking place in Kenya and Africa at large for the very first time. He lauded the event sponsors and encouraged all participants to actively engage in dialogues and foster valuable networking opportunities.

Providing insights into IALE, Prof. Robert M. Scheller, President of IALE, emphasised the organisation's global impact in promoting landscape ecology and interdisciplinary collaboration. IALE advocates for the integration of ecological principles and spatial thinking in landscape research and planning.

Their conferences, workshops, and symposiums attract participants from diverse backgrounds, and through publications, they disseminate research findings, case studies, and policy recommendations, while promoting standards and guidelines for landscape assessment, planning, and management.

Furthermore, IALE passionately champions conservation and sustainable landscape management, tackling critical environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and habitat fragmentation. Through

their mission of global collaboration, they strive to assist local chapters' access since some governments impose limitations.

Gracing the occasion, Prof. Paul Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, acknowledged the University Entertainment for their commendable performances over the past 13 years. He extended a warm welcome to all the participants, highlighting the forum's significance in advancing a greater cause.

Addressing the audience on behalf of Hon. Tuyu, Dr. Elungata shared insights into Kenya's recent 15 billion trees initiative, endorsed and led by Charlene Ruto, the President's daughter, during a ceremony at Kenyatta University. The initiative encouraged the protection of green spaces and heightened conservation efforts.

In conclusion, Dr. Elungata expressed gratitude to Kenyatta University for hosting this impactful event and welcomed the participants to explore Nairobi's museums, parks, and forest reserves. He officially declared the forum open, paving the way for engaging discussions and networking opportunities throughout the day.

Dr. Jane Njuguna delivered a vote of thanks, inviting participants to interact over tea and get to know each other better as the day unfolded.

Empowering Life Skills and Values on the CBC Context



Dr. David Kariuki, Lecturer, Department of Education Psychology, elaborating on the importance of the workshop to student-teachers.

Kenyatta University welcomed members and representatives from Zizi Afrique Foundation and the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI), for an impactful workshop on the 'Assessment of Life Skills and Values in the CBC Context,' along with Prof. Esther Care from the University of Melbourne, Australia. The event, spearheaded by Dr. David Kariuki, a lecturer in the Department of Education Psychology, aimed to share experiences and create a research framework for evaluating life skills and values in the context of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Participants from diverse educational institutions, including Pwani University, Kahumbu Hill Vocational Training Centre, Machakos University, and Moi University, gathered to explore the CBC competencies. Purity Ngina, the Project Lead at Zizi Afrique Foundation, and RELI collaborated to develop the ALIVE stratagem, focusing on cognitive assessments and literacy in numeracy. A contextualised study carried out in 15 districts within East Africa laid the foundation for tools based on real-life scenarios and performance.

Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) representing Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor, discussed Kenyatta University's leadership role in CBC implementation. With a commitment to ensuring student-teachers' preparedness, shadow teaching forms an integral part of their training, especially during practicums and industrial attachments. Addressing challenges such as personalised assessments, ethical issues, and poor integration, Prof. Wanjohi emphasised the importance of a multidimensional approach for capacity building.

Dr. Nelly Otube, Deputy Executive Dean, representing the Executive Dean, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, highlighted the University's efforts in preparing student-teachers since 2020, a critical phase during CBC's infancy. The partnership with Zizi Afrique Foundation and RELI will facilitate excellence and equip Masters' students with essential 21st Century skills.

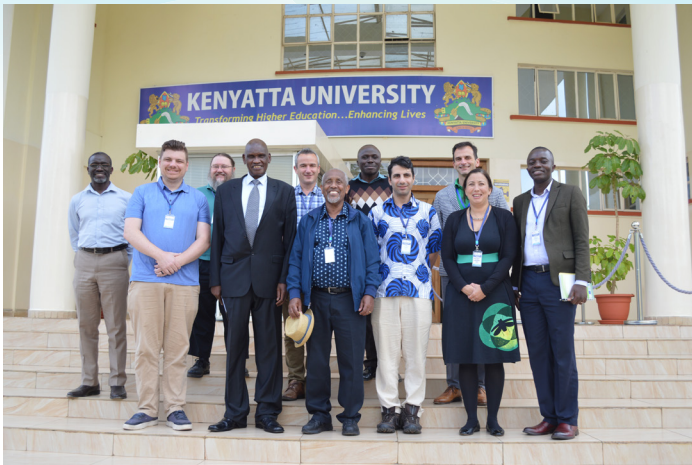
The workshop had the privilege of hosting Prof.

Esther Care from the University of Melbourne, Australia, an expert in education working with global organisations such as UNESCO and UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Prof. Care emphasised the four pillars of a suitable learning environment: learning to live together, to know, to do, and to be. She also shed light on the three dimensions of education she found to be critical and sensitive with the CBC programme: ethical and cultural; scientific and technological; and economic and social.

Prof. Care stressed the importance of interactive tools, heterogeneous group interactions, and fostering autonomy in the learning process. Her keynote speech also addressed curriculum development, professional development, and school organisation as integral aspects of successful education.

Kenyatta University's commitment to excellence, and its collaborative efforts with esteemed organisations, promises to revolutionise education in Africa, empowering students with essential skills for a brighter future.

Pictorial



Prof. James Koske, Executive Dean, School of Agriculture and Environmental Science (front row, 2nd left), and Prof. Daniel Westervelt, Newyork, USA (front row, 1st left) who led the team of international trainers in the East Africa Air Quality Management training. Also in the photo is Dr. Godwin Opinde, Ag. Chairman, Department of Spatial and Environment Planning (front row, 1st right).



Prof. Mairead Dunne (1st from left) and Prof. Barbara Crossouard (3rd from left), University of Sussex, Dr. Samuel Mwangi, Chairperson, of Sociology, Gender, and Development, KU (2nd from left) and Prof. Dauda Moses, Modibo Adama University of Technology (far right) during the workshop.



Kenyatta University student leaders during a leadership training and workshop.



(From left to right) Dr. Benson Wairegi, Chancellor, Dr. Beatrice Ingangala, PS, State Department of Higher Education and Research, and Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor sharing a light moment during a visit to the University.



Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor and Ms. Miriam Waigwa, Teacher, Jomo Kenyatta Girls' High School, during their insightful career talk and guidance session at the University.



The Kenyatta University Students Choir at the 95th Kenya Music Festival after winning.

Pictorial



Prof. Zeng Qinglian together with his delegation from Shandong Normal University and KU Staff during a memorial tree planting.



HE the President, Hon. Dr. William Ruto hands the trophy for Best Overall University to Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor. KU emerged victorious for the 14th year in a row in the just concluded 2023 Kenya Music Festivals.



Participants during the Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) conference at the Amphitheatre grounds.



A visiting school during a benchmarking and career guidance session.



Chief Guest Prof. Oladele A. Ogunseitan, University of California (3rd left), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Innovation and Outreach (4th left). Also in the picture were (left-right) Dr. Geoffrey Anguio, Board Member Push Aid Africa, Dr. Jerry Nutor, Secretary General Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference, Prof. Bonaventure M. Okello Agina, Executive Dean KU School of Medicine, Dr. Justus Osero, Chair Planning Committee for Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference and participants from various Countries in Africa.



Prof. Aggrey Wasunna, Lecturer, receives a plaque, imprinted with his name from Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO).

Strengthening Collaboration with Shandong Normal University



Prof. Zeng Qinglian, President, Shandong Normal University (2nd from left) and Dr. Hellen Guantai, Director Confucius Institute (2nd from right) during a visit to the University's Confucius Institute.

A high-level delegation from Shandong Normal University, led by President Prof. Zeng Qinglian, visited Kenyatta University for a prolific consultative meeting and to celebrate the launch of a new teaching facility at Starehe Boys' Centre and School. The event was marked by warm hospitality, including a lunch and dinner reception at Safari Park Hotel.

Dr. Hellen Guantai, Director of the Confucius Institute, highlighted the institute's achievements and acknowledged the pivotal role of Dr. Susan Wachira, Exams Coordinator, in ensuring operational efficiency and programme success. Dr. Susan Wachira emphasised the institute's commitment to digitisation, enabling greater accessibility to Mandarin and Chinese Culture programmes, particularly for working professionals.

Expressing gratitude for the continuous collaboration, President Prof. Zeng planted an olive tree with Kenyatta University staff, symbolising the strong partnership. He commended the architectural design of the Confucius Institute building and was inspired by the motivational messages adorning the student classrooms.

During the discussions, Prof. Zeng pledged support for programme digitisation, offering certifications jointly accredited by the Confucius Institute and Shandong Normal University. He also committed to donating more books to the library, providing scholarships, and reducing programme costs to expand student enrolment.

As a token of appreciation, the delegation presented gifts to Kenyatta University, including a beautifully crafted circled plaque, a symbolic folding hand fan, and the revered *Analects of Confucius* book, enclosed in exquisite mustard silk packaging.

Following the launch ceremony, the delegation proceeded to Starehe Boys' Centre and School to inaugurate the newly established Confucius Institute classroom. Mr. Joshat Mwaura and Mr. Fred Okono, Director and Deputy Director respectively, expressed their deep appreciation for the collaboration between Kenyatta University, the Confucius Institute, and Shandong Normal University in providing Chinese language and cultural education to their students.

Similarly, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation, and Outreach, delivered an inspiring speech to the students, emphasising the transformative power of education. Quoting Confucius, she highlighted the role of education in fostering confidence, hope, and peace; thus unlocking the path to freedom and self-discovery.

Later, a consultative meeting was held at Kenyatta University, attended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina and the delegation along with members of the University Management Board. Prof. Wainaina underscored the importance of staff and student exchange programmes, proposing closer collaboration for mutual growth and development. The meeting concluded with key stakeholders coming together to solidify their commitment formally, which was witnessed by Mrs. Elizabeth Karanja, the University Legal Officer.

The visit of the Shandong Normal University Delegation has further strengthened the collaboration between the two institutions, paving the way for innovative academic initiatives and cultural exchange opportunities that will benefit both the students and tutors.

Resilience and Collaboration Through Youth Empowerment

Dr. Darius Mogaka, the Director of Higher Education and Research, graciously represented Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, the Principal Secretary of Higher Education and Research, at the inspiring YALI RLC EA Cohort 51 Ceremony. Esteemed guests included Mr. Allen Neece, the USAID representative, Ms. Rose Ndegwa, Principal Education Officer of Higher Education and Research, Dr. George Kosimbei, Chief of Party YALI RLC EA, and Mr. Jimmy Ndihekubwayo, President of YALI RLC EA Alumni Chapter in Burundi.

The graduation ceremony recognised excellence in three distinct categories: business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management. Participants were also honoured with fun certificates under unique titles, such as cohort representatives, king of KUCC, queen of KUCC, most creative dresser, radio presenter, most likely to sell a company to Google, most likely to live on planet Mars, and time's person of the year. Remarkably, 66% of the awards were presented to deserving females, while 33% were celebrated by their male counterparts, reflecting a commitment to gender inclusivity.

Inspirational speeches by Cohort Representatives, Mr. Bakar Omar and Ms. Raho Ali, showcased the exceptional training experience and its profound impact on their personal and professional growth. Mr. Bakar commended the power of collaboration and the unwavering spirit of African determination, urging fellow cohorts to become architects of progress for themselves and their communities. Ms. Raho expressed heartfelt gratitude to YALI's dedicated staff, especially acknowledging the significant role played by Dr. Jane Wanjira, Learning Curriculum Manager, and Ms. Julia Gakii, Resident Assistant.

Representing the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), delivered a resounding message that resonated with the cohorts slogan: 'This is Africa, and Africa is our business.' Prof. Wanjohi conveyed Prof. Wainaina's heartfelt congratulations on the successful completion of their training and the well-deserved categorical awards.

The Vice-Chancellor's encouragement to pursue transformation grants competitively, coupled with the ongoing preaward assessments, promises a bright future for the YALI alumni. Building on the wisdom of Nelson Mandela, Prof. Wanjohi reminded the cohorts of their pivotal role in making the world a better place for all. Dr. Darius

Mogaka, also a proud KU alumnus, proposed a session to highlight the accomplishments of the



Dr. Darius Mogaka, Director, Higher Education and Research, awarding Ms. Afomia Zewdie, a Cohort, Civil Leadership Track, Ethiopia, during the commencement.



Ms. Elinah Kale, Assistant County Commissioner at Ministry of Interior, giving remarks during a cohort commencement.

YALI alumni fraternity.

Notably, the progress made in the Central and East Africa regions is commendable, with more youth equipped with skills to contribute to advancements in their respective countries. Investing in youth programmes cultivates a knowledge economy mindset and reduces negative outcomes.

YALI's mission to empower young leaders drives growth, strengthens democratic governance, and fosters peace and security across Africa. As an integral part of institutions of higher learning, YALI's initiatives at Kenyatta University have empowered students to reach new heights and impact their communities positively.

Senate Committee on Health Visits Kenyatta University



Hon. Sen. Jackson Mandago, EGH, Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, leads the Committee during their visit at the University.

The Senate Committee on Health paid a visit to Kenyatta University and Kenyatta University Teaching, Research, and Referral Hospital. The meeting aimed to find common ground and foster collaboration between the two entities and resolve disagreement over the use and access of the hospital by KU students. Chaired by Sen. Jackson Mandago, E.G.H, the committee consisted of six senators representing different perspectives and expertise.

The committee's day began with a courtesy call on Prof. Paul Wainaina, Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, followed by a tour of the Kenyatta University School of Medicine's classes and labs, and finally, the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital (KUTRRH). Engaging with faculty and students during the tour, the committee witnessed the need for better facilities to enhance medical training.

During the discussion, Prof. Wainaina and other members of University Management highlighted the challenges caused by the strained relationship with the hospital. Their concerns included the takeover of a planned children's hospital, women's hospital, and a manufacturing centre, as well as the need for access to essential facilities like the pathology lab for research and postgraduate programmes.

The Senate Committee on Health then proceeded to the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research, and Referral Hospital, where they engaged with the hospital's board. Tough questions were raised, including the denial of access for Kenyatta University's School of Medicine students, the functionality status of the Academic block meant for the School of Health Sciences, and the lack of representation in the Hospital Board.

The committee probed into the genesis of the problem, addressing issues related to ownership and representation. Both sides presented their perspectives, but the core concern remained about the hospital's status under the Ministry of Health once it reached the level 6 hospital classification. Inclusivity was lacking in the bilateral negotiations.

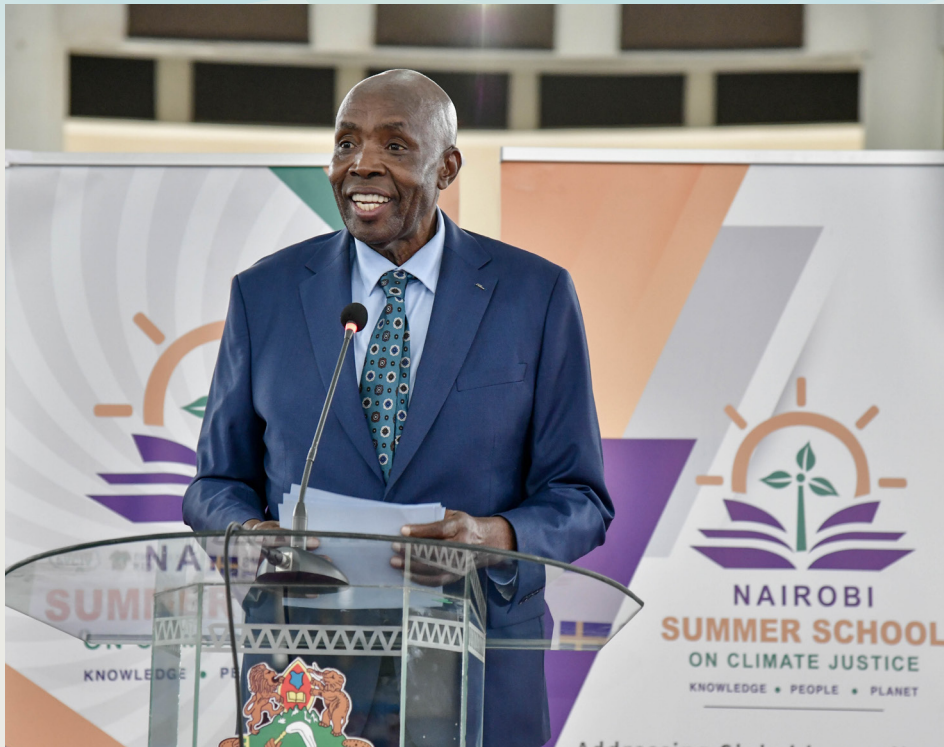
The meeting concluded with the committee's submissions, requesting copies of letters and the Memorandum of Understanding between the institutions and arranging a visit to the relevant facilities. The Senate's Committee on Health intervention seeks to bridge the gap between Kenyatta University and Kenyatta University Teaching, Research, and Referral Hospital, ultimately fostering cooperation for the benefit of students and the wider community.

Bereavements

- Dr. Caroline Wanjiru** was a member of staff in the Department of Zoological Sciences, Mombasa Campus. The Late Caroline Wanjiru passed away on 30th December, 2022. She was buried on 6th January, 2023 at Nyandarua County, Turasha Village.
- Dr. Monisara Wahihia** was a member of staff in the Directorate of University Health Services. The Late Monisara Wahihia passed away on 21st April, 2023. She was buried on 27th April, 2023 at Kathageri, Embu County.
- Dr. Solomon Kago Kaguchia** as a member of staff in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health. The Late Solomon Kago Kaguchia passed away on 2nd May, 2023. He was buried on 11th May, 2023 at Gatumbi village, Kigumo Sub-County, Muranga County.
- Dr. Luke Wasambo Were** was a member of staff in the Department of Literature, Linguistics and Foreign Languages until his retirement on 30th June, 2022. He was buried on Wednesday 14th June, 2023 at Yala, Siaya County.
- Dr. Rhodah Karimi Gitonga** was a Lecturer in Digital School of Virtual and Open Learning. The Late Rhodah Karimi Gitonga passed away on 16th July, 2023. She was buried on Tuesday 25th July, 2023 in Nkubu Location, Meru County.
- Mr. John Wachira Muriuki** was a member of staff under the Head Caretaker, in the Administration Division. The Late John Wachira Muriuki passed away on 24th July, 2023. He was buried on Tuesday 1st August, 2023 at Nyeri County, Karatina, Ngandu – Rititi.

The Editorial Team joins the Vice-Chancellor in sending a message of condolence to those who have lost their dear ones.

Cultivating a Thriving Ecosystem For Future Generations



Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, CBS, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, speaking during the opening ceremony of the Conference.

Amidst a backdrop of environmental concerns, the Nairobi Summer School Cohort symposium convened on July 3rd, 2023, at the Kenyatta University Amphitheatre, focusing on the critical mission of safeguarding the Earth from overheating. Dr. Joseph Kurauka, Chairman of the Department of Environmental Studies and Community Development, warmly welcomed guests, sponsors, and participants, underscoring the significance of their contributions to the event.

Igniting change called for Climate Justice dedicated to cultivating a thriving ecosystem for future generations, the symposium revolved around the imperative need to empower young populations to champion climate justice. Distinguished attendees from across Africa,

excelling in diverse fields, gathered to share their insights and experiences, contributing to a vibrant atmosphere of shared knowledge and purposeful collaboration.

Building momentum as Climate Advocates united, Ayele Kabede, the Programme Manager for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), expressed gratitude to the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) for orchestrating this remarkable symposium, emphasising its pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future. H.E. Amb. Maarten Brouwer of the Netherlands in Kenya asserted that collective action is essential, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable nations.

Dr. James Murombedzi, the Officer in Chief of Climate Change Coordinator for Africa Climate Policy Centre and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, harnessed the power of Africa while he called attention to Africa's under recognised influence on climate change. Delving beyond atmospheric physics, he underscored the transformative potential of the Nairobi Summer School in fostering capacity for climate justice advocacy across Africa. In parallel, Mr. Nicholas Soikan from the World Bank emphasised the institution's commitment to support the forthcoming cohort in their climate action endeavours.

Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, welcomed all visitors, acknowledging the institution's dedication to addressing climate change. Grateful for the support of sponsors and collaborators, he spoke of the University's role in shaping informed and passionate advocates for climate action.

Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, commended the collaborative efforts that culminated in the symposium. Acknowledging the far-reaching impact of climate change on livelihoods, especially in Africa, he reiterated the Ministry's commitment to integrating climate action into the curriculum, empowering the youth as champions for change. The Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) offers a promising platform to drive climate action within the educational framework.

The Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (NSSCJ) stands as a catalyst for inspiration, empowerment, and mobilisation of a new generation of climate advocates in Africa and beyond. Striving for equitable solutions and intergenerational fairness, the symposium aims to bolster the capacity of Africans and their allies to advance climate justice locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally.

The symposium successfully united passionate advocates for climate justice, sparking renewed determination to safeguard our planet and foster sustainable development for all.

Inaugurating 8,000 Bright Scholars

Kenyatta University welcomed her students in a Matriculation Ceremony. The Academic Procession made its way to the dais of the graduation square, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, while the Kenyatta University Students' Choir - who have dominated the Kenya Music Festival for 14 years straight commenced the programme with entertainment. The Head of Teaching Programmes, Dr. Hamisi Babusa, ushered in Prof. Bernard Kivunge, Ag. Registrar Academics to officially begin the ceremony.

The Registrar welcomed about 8,000 new students to the campus, urging them to focus on building a brighter future for themselves citing the provision of resources from the

University. He ushered the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, to address the young scholars. She reminded them of their achievements by stating that they are among the top 20% of the KCSE candidates to gain University admission.

Prof. Paul Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor, with humility and pride, introduced himself to the new students as well as briefly introduced the Directors of various campuses and Directorates, Executive Deans and their Deputies, and the representatives of the Kenyatta University Students' Association (KUSA). The KUSA President extended a heartfelt welcome to the newly matriculated students, emphasising the wealth of opportunities that awaited them.

Prof. Wainaina closed his address with a historic note, acknowledging that this was the largest cohort of matriculated students in the annals of Kenyatta University. He urged them to seize every resource available, both academic and extracurricular, to emerge as well-rounded individuals upon completion of their coursework.

Furthermore, he reminded the students of the University's international community, with scholars from around the world enriching the campus. Prof. Wainaina instilled in the students the importance of seeing their academic journey through, marking the beginning of their ascent to academic excellence.

Charting a New Legal Frontier



Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, EBS, CBS (Rtd.) Judge (2nd from left), Hon. Justice George Odunga, Judge of the Court of Appeal (1st from left) and Ms. Gladys Mwangi, Author, *Civil Litigation in Kenya* (far right) honoring her book launch.

Kenyatta University's Parklands Campus was the venue of a book launch authored by Ms. Gladys Mwangi, Deputy Director of Student Affairs and Lecturer at the School of Law. The ceremony was the launch of her highly anticipated book "Civil Litigation in Kenya."

Gracing the event was an array of notable guests, including Chief Guest Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch EBS, CBS (Rtd.) Judge, and other distinguished members of the legal community.

The book launch was a testimony to Ms. Mwangi's commitment to enriching the legal sector in Kenya by providing a comprehensive guide to navigating civil litigation. The event drew support from acclaimed sponsors, including

Dream Credit Limited, Laikiana Hospitality Solutions, Aquawell, and Lavington DIY Hardware.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch commended the author for her invaluable contribution to the legal literature, noting that during her early career, locally owned reference material was scarce. She highlighted the significance of this book in empowering future legal practitioners with practical knowledge and skills essential for successful civil litigation practice.

Similarly, Dr. Gibson Kamau and Hon. Justice George Odunga extended their congratulations to Ms. Mwangi on her commendable achievement. As a lecturer, practitioner and author, her dedication to advancing legal knowledge

and enriching the understanding of civil litigation earned admiration from the legal community and students alike.

In her book, Ms. Gladys Mwangi delves into the principles of jurisprudence and the art of drafting a plaint, among other crucial aspects of civil litigation. Attendees agreed that her book will serve as a valuable resource, inspiring a new generation of legal minds.

Students in attendance were fortunate to receive copies of the book as a token of appreciation for their active participation in the engaging question and answer session led by Mr. Kimathi Kamencu, an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

Fostering Collaborative Solutions for Continental Health Advancement

Kenyatta University hosted a transformative event that gathered diverse health professionals from across the continent: the 6th Annual Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference. Themed "Advancing Health for All: Uniting through Interdisciplinary Innovation," the conference resonated with a vision of enhancing health provisions for Africa's diverse populations.

Dr. Jerry Nutor, Secretary General, Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference, expressed his elation at the realisation of a long-cherished dream. He commended Kenyatta University for its gracious hospitality, while underscoring the need for interdisciplinary collaboration to fortify the continent's healthcare, a concept that germinated during his final year as a PhD student.

Dr. Justus Osero, Chairperson of the 6th Africa Interdisciplinary Health Conference, welcomed participants to this enlightening three-day event. The conference aimed to spotlight emerging health

technologies and advancements in health sciences, with a pivotal focus on serving Africa's vulnerable communities. Dr. Geoffrey Anguyo, a board member of Push Aid Africa and Executive Director of Kigezi Health Care Foundation in Uganda, reiterated the conference's aim of fostering university partnerships and highlighted its unique campus setting as a distinctive aspect.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Bonaventure Okello Agina, Executive Dean of the School of Health Sciences, stressed the significance of collective efforts in overcoming the multifaceted health challenges of our time. He emphasised that this approach would foster collaborations leading to comprehensive solutions. Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Product Development, spoke on behalf of Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina. She underscored the University's commitment to tackling health challenges through its eight schools, fostering an environment of innovation and cooperation.

Prof. Thoruwa highlighted the conference's purpose, inspiring healthcare providers to bridge gaps and innovate. She thanked Kenyatta University and introduced Chief Guest Prof. Oladele A. Ogunseitan, who zeroed in on the COVID-19 pandemic's lessons and interdisciplinary collaboration's impact on progress. He also spotlighted the healthcare profession saying that it is truly a calling.

Prof. Oladele Ogunseitan, as Chief Guest, conveyed his gratitude for the invitation and praised the unique essence of this year's conference. He extended heartfelt gratitude to Kenyatta University, Push Aid Africa, and the University of California San Francisco Parnassus Campus for orchestrating this remarkable three-day gathering. The conference not only facilitated enlightening discussions but also sowed the seeds of collaborative solutions that promise to redefine healthcare advancement across the continent.

Appointments



Prof. Caroline Thoruwa
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO)



Prof. Godfrey S. Mse
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance)



Dr. Paul Gachanja
Registrar (Administration and Finance)



Prof. Richard Oduor
Ag. Registrar (RIO)



Mr. Ndiritu Gikaria
Human Resource Manager



Dr. James Koske,
Executive Dean,
School of Agriculture & Environmental
Sciences
Main Campus



Dr. Benjamin O. Danga
Deputy Executive Dean,
School of Agriculture and Environmental
Sciences
Kitui Campus



Dr. Perez Onono
Executive Dean,
School of Business, Economics and
Tourism



Dr. Rosemary James
Deputy Executive Dean,
School of Business, Economics and
Tourism



Dr. Stephen T. Waithaka
Executive Dean,
Digital School of Virtual and Online
Learning (DSVOL)



Prof. Samson R. Ondigi
Executive Dean,
School of Education and Lifelong Learning



Dr. Nelly A. Otube
Deputy Executive Dean,
Education and Lifelong Learning



Dr. Fidelis N. Kilonzo
Executive Dean,
School of Engineering & Architecture



Dr. Peter K. Kamau
Deputy Executive Dean,
School of Engineering and Architecture



Prof. B. M. Okello-Agina
Executive Dean,
School of Health Sciences



Dr. Gladys W. Mwangi
Deputy Executive Dean,
School of Health Sciences



Dr. Richard M. Wafula
Executive Dean,
School of Law, Arts & Social Sciences



Dr. Ratemo Tom
Deputy Executive Dean,
School of Law, Arts and Social Sciences



Prof. Michael M. Gicheru
Executive Dean,
School of Pure & Applied Sciences



Prof. Elishiba N. Kimani
Executive Dean
Graduate School



Dr. Peter W. Wamae
Dept. of Computing and Information
Science



Dr. Joseph W. Kamau
Dept. of Plant Sciences



Dr. Raphael Nyenge
Dept. of Physics



Dr. Aflonia Mbutia
Chairperson, Dept of Econometrics and
Statistics



Dr. Jackson M. Musau
Dept. of Geography



Dr. Jackline K. Nyerere
Centre for International Programmes and
Collaborations

A Hub of Creative Excellence: Kenyatta University-RICE360 Design Competition



Mr. Dick Oranja, Country Manager, Kenya Trivitron Healthcare Africa of Hatch Technologies (2nd from right), and Dr. James Koske, Executive Dean, School of Agriculture and Environmental Science (1st from right) award Mr. Juma Theophilus (left) and Mr. Kinyanjui Alexander for championing the competition.

Rice360, an Institute for Global Health Technologies, recently hosted a Design Competition that showcased the creative excellence of student teams from Kenyatta University. These teams presented innovative and affordable technologies aimed at tackling critical global health challenges, particularly in resource-limited environments.

Collaborating closely with the University, RICE360 is establishing a dedicated prototyping centre at the Chandaria Innovation Centre. This centre serves as a hub of creativity, providing students with invaluable guidance and support from industry experts, helping to transform their dreams into tangible innovations.

Selected finalists will have the privilege of receiving mentorship from esteemed global health experts. Their oral presentations will take centre stage in front of a distinguished panel of judges, comprising professionals from medicine, engineering, and public health domains. Prizes will be awarded for the top three positions, recognising outstanding contributions to the field. Additionally, a new accolade introduced in 2023 will honour exceptional design

work that champions diversity, equity, and inclusion.

During the event, Dr. James Koske, the Executive Dean of the School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, conveyed his felicitations on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina. Dr. Koske's extolled the transformative initiatives germinating at the Chandaria Innovation Centre in tandem with RICE360.

Expressing his desire to cultivate enduring collaborations, he underscored KU's commitment to nurturing students with world-changing ideas, thereby enhancing the very fabric of our society. He said: "As these synergistic partnerships burgeon, our students are poised to extract the quintessence of their Kenyatta University experience, truly a hallmark of academic excellence."

Mrs. Khatuchi Nyong'a, Director of Invention Education Partnerships at RICE360, in her address, voiced her appreciation for the two-day design competition, acknowledging the relentless dedication of the exceptional students who

ceaselessly toiled, bringing their visionary designs to life. Renowned for its Design Competition, Rice360 stands as a beacon of innovative prowess, where student collectives fervently engage in crafting low-cost technologies poised to revolutionise the global health landscape.

A symphony of collaboration resonates as Rice360 partners with institutions spanning the globe, fortifying an expansive network that propels ground-breaking projects towards fruition. Among these symbiotic alliances, the Chandaria Innovation Centre at Kenyatta University emerges as a preeminent force, channelling guidance from accomplished experts to facilitate the realisation of student visions.

Undoubtedly, the zenith of the competition was the heralding of the best project, christened "PsychX." This ground-breaking endeavour revolves around delivering comprehensive, personalised, and empathetic mental health services, standing as a testament to the transformative potential of innovation at its apex.

From Campus Glory to Global Stage



(Left) Mr. Tobias Ochola, the Kenyatta University Men's Football Coach and (Right) the victorious Team at the Federal of Africa University Sports (FASU) 2022.

Kenyatta University's Men's football team has secured a spot to represent Africa in the International University Sports Federation (FISU) Football World Cup. The event is scheduled to take place in Jinjiang, China, from October 21st to 31st, 2023. This momentous occasion marks the second edition of the games, following the inaugural event in 2021.

The FISU Football World Cup is set to witness an intense competition among University Football teams, all battling for the championship. A total of 12 men's teams and 8 women's teams will participate. The selection process involved rigorous continental tournaments, ensuring that only the best teams earn their place on the global stage.

The journey to the FISU Football World Cup started with the African qualifying event, Federation of Africa University Sports (FASU), which unfolded at Kenyatta University in June 2022. In a display of skill and teamwork, the

KU men's football team, also known as the "Hardnuts," emerged as winners, defeating rival teams from other countries.

The Kenyatta University football team has been undergoing intensive training and preparation since July in anticipation of the upcoming event. Under the expert guidance of football tacticians Tobias Ochola, Carolyne Ajowi, and Joseph Ndungu, a group of 30 students are rigorously honing their physical, technical, and tactical abilities. The comprehensive training regimen includes build-up matches, gym sessions, hydrotherapy sessions, and enlightening expert talks.

The team's commitment to excellence extends beyond the field. Renowned experts have been sharing their insights, covering a range of crucial topics such as mental preparation, athlete conduct, etiquette, and public relations. The team's engagement with the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya stands as a testament to their dedication to integrity and fair play.

The University's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering holistic development is showcased through its participation in various sporting events. Notably, the Men's Rugby "Blak blad" team also achieved remarkable success, securing the top rank in the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) Rugby 7^s Competition.

As the Kenyatta University teams set their sights on future competitions, they remain driven by a shared spirit of determination and sportsmanship. The KUSA calendar is lined up with events that promise to further elevate Kenyatta University's sporting prowess. From conference leagues to national championships.

Kenyatta University is proud to be at the forefront of fostering athletic excellence, embodying the University's ethos of empowering students to excel in every endeavour they undertake.



Kenyatta University Welcomes All New Students

"Welcome to Kenyatta University, where our commitment to excellence, guided by our core values, nurtures holistic individuals with a global perspective. Our visionary goals empower communities through transformative education, fueled by our unique identity as a beacon of knowledge and innovation. To provide quality education and training, promote scholarship, service, innovation, and creativity, and inculcate moral values for sustainable individual and societal development is at the heart of our mission. It's a pleasure to have you be part of the fraternity."



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