



Kenya University newsletter

A Fortnightly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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

Focus on Career Week 2010

Kenya University Career Week 2010 fair received a major boost when Barclays Bank became the first corporate organization to sponsor the event. Barclays Bank C.E.O Mohammed Aden who personally came to deliver the endorsement worth Kshs. 700,000 lauded the importance of supporting higher institutions of learning in an endeavor to shape lives of students.

Mr. Aden who was accompanied by two company directors and five departmental heads also paid a courtesy call to the Vice-chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda. On her part, the Vice-chancellor thanked the Barclays Bank for taking such a noble initiative. Thereafter, at a luncheon hosted by the Vice-chancellor at the Kenya University Conference Centre (KUCC), the University took the opportunity to give a presentation on her programmes. Barclays Bank of Kenya Limited is a subsidiary of Barclays Bank Plc International and has operated in Kenya for more than 90 years. It has a network of over 115 outlets with 236 ATMs countrywide.

Similarly, Co-operative Bank on Tuesday moved in to join hands with other corporate bodies to support the same event. The Chief Marketing Manager Ngumo Kahiga, representing the Co-operative Bank Managing Director Mr. Mureithi presented the cheque worth Kshs. 500,000 to the University. Receiving the cheque, the Vice-Chancellor thanked the Bank for their kind gesture and outlined an ambitious programme that the University plans to initiate in an effort to help needy students pay for their university education. Mr. Kahiga on the other hand reiterated the importance of youth to the banking industry citing that the institutional banking has revolutionized the banking industry.

Joining the list was Royal Media Services who presented advertisement airtime worth Ksh 1.2 million in support of



The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda (left) and the Royal Media group Corporate Communications Manager, Ms. Catherine Kasavuli, display copies of the MoU after Ms. Kasavuli presented her with advertisement airtime worth Ksh 1.2 million in support of Career Week 2010.

the event. The advertisements are already being run in Royal Media networks, Citizen T.V, Citizen Radio and nine other vernacular stations. The group corporate communications Manager, Ms. Catherine Kasavuli, also outlined an ambitious plan where the media house will offer eight internship opportunities each year to the university students.

Kenya University Career Week Fair commenced on Saturday 20th February 2010 with high school students career day where over fifty schools were briefed on university programmes. Various experts and motivational speakers are expected this week to talk to students on such issues as

volunteerism, entrepreneurship and career opportunities in the media and financial sectors.

Among those expected are Red Cross C.E.O Abbas Gullet, Dyer and Blair M.D, Jimnah Mbaru and Royal Media Services personnel Catherine Kasavuli. Students will also be accorded a chance of a lifetime as top-notch companies such as Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Deloitte international are scheduled to hold a recruitment drive. On the other hand, over eighty companies and corporate organizations will pitch tent in the University for Exhibitions.



Dennis Nyariaro, Special Needs Secretary, KUSA, boards a Tuk-Tuk.

KU Launches Disability Day

Kenya University will mark the first KU Diasability Day on Friday 26th February 2010.

This will be a big stride for the KU community as the celebrations will create awareness on the special needs of people with disabilities. The committee organising the launch under the chairmanship of Dr. Wamacho has worked tirelessly to ensure the events of the day will be successful.

Arrangements have been done in consultation with the Kenya University Disabled Students Association (KUDSA). KUDSA deals with issues concerning the welfare of students with disabilities. It is guided by the principle that opportunity is the greatest weapon anyone can have and it is the pillar upon which we stand as we pursue our members' welfare.

KUDSA has about ninety students with various disabilities—hearing impairments, physical impairments, visual impairments, and albinism. Through this Association that the interests of persons in the

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From the Editor's Desk

The truncated 1st Semester for First and Second Year students has finally come to a close. The Second Semester starts on Monday, 22nd February. The immediate forthcoming event is Careers Week. Preparations for the Week are well under way having been given a generous push by Barclays and Cooperative Banks. The two financial institutions contributed well over one million Kenya shillings between them.

From the diplomatic front students were treated to a morale boosting speech by His Excellency, The Iranian Ambassador. He exhorted them on the value of cultural pride and patriotic dedication to national development. Other student-related activities include a charity visit to the Mercy Children's Home at Kahawa West; celebration of the World Wetlands Day; inspiration talks from an AISEC delegation; and visits by local media personalities and authors who addressed the increasingly vibrant Journalism Club.

The Centre for Research, Extension, Dissemination and Publication is to conduct a baseline study for the Farmers Voice Radio while IGAD has KU consultancies on disaster management. These are achievements indicative of KU's growing reputation as a global intellectual resource.

We have dedicated a good portion of this issue in honour of our departed dynamic member of staff, Dr. Ezekiel B. Alembi. We had an overwhelming number of tributes to him and we apologize to those writers whose contributions we could not publish because of space constraints. Dr. Alembi was given a hero's funeral on the 30th of January at his ancestral home, Ebwiranyi in Vihiga District. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Sadly, we have yet again lost another staff member, Mr. Martin Odero of the Department of Exercise, Recreation and Sports. His funeral will be on Saturday, 27th February. We send heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Meanwhile, life must go on. We hope you enjoy reading our articles and, as always, we welcome your contributions and suggestions. The Editorial Board wishes you all the best in your endeavours.

David V. Karanja
Editor

Visit by Iranian Ambassador



The Iranian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Seyed Ahmad Serajzade (left) addresses students during his visit to the University.

The Iranian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Amb. Seyed Ahmad Serajzade, visited KU on Thursday 28th January 2010.

While in KU, the Ambassador paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda and later held a meeting with KU students at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre.

Various students' organizations were represented at the meeting including KUSA, KU Model United Nations (KUMUN), AISEC

and KU Environmental Club (KUNEC).

Speaking through a translator the Ambassador emphasized the importance of preserving once culture in a highly dynamic and globalized society.

He also talked about other issues such as land, population and government that he said were key to every country's development.

He pointed out some of the great milestones that Iran has reached with regard to policy changes, politics and the economy. *cont'd... to pg 2*

Prof. Amos Carmeli Visits KU



The National Director, PERACH, Prof. Amos Carmeli signs the visitors book when he paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor.

Prof. Amos Carmeli, National Director, PERACH with Mr. Lawrence Osano Executive Director, and Michael Olwenyi Programme Officer, Illuminate Africa Institute in Nairobi, paid a courtesy call to Kenyatta University on 27th January, 2010. PERACH is a tutoring and mentoring project founded by the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Illuminate Africa initiative has mentorship as a major focus in their programmes. Prof. Amos Carmeli was invited to Kenya to share

experience in mentorship and tutoring at Kenya's learning institutions. The purpose of the visit to Kenyatta University was to share best practices and lessons learnt on mentoring programmes.

The team was received by the Ag.DVC. (Academic), Prof. Wainaina, and Mentoring Programme Director, Dr. Elishiba Kimani consequent to being impressed by the Kenyatta University mentorship activities, the team affirmed the participation of Kenyatta University as a key stakeholder in the launch of a national mentoring programme.

In this endeavour Kenyatta University will work with MOE and Illuminate Africa to ensure the success of the

programme.

Prof. Amos Carmeli promised to give any support that his organization can offer in the form of guidance and materials in order to make a national mentoring programme in Kenya a reality.

Thanking the team for recognizing the Kenyatta University capacity in this noble venture, Prof. Wainaina assured the team of the University management's commitment and goodwill.

Links with Columbia University Mooted

A team of senior professors from the Institute of Human Nutrition (IHN), Columbia University, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor on 12th February 2010 to commence discussions on collaboration between the two institutions, especially in the field of nutrition.

The mission of the Institute of Human Nutrition at Columbia University, USA, is to provide outstanding academic professional education and training programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students in human nutrition and conduct basic scientific and translational research on the role of nutrition in human health.

IHN has expressed interest in cooperating with Kenyatta University with an aim of facilitating an exchange of expert skills and knowledge in human nutrition, in particular for the medical, nutrition and biochemistry students in Kenya.

A link between the two universities is intended to facilitate an exchange of expert skills and knowledge in human nutrition for all sectors, in particular for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Kenya and other African countries.

Specific objectives of the collaboration are to build capacity within IHN for collaboration with Kenyan institutions and to build capacity within Kenyatta University to address regional issues of importance, in particular nutrition issues. The VC promised the team from IHN of total support from the University so as to make



Prof. Debra J. Wolgemuth and Prof. Bonnie S. Dunbar receive information packs from the Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor.

the collaboration a success for the benefit of the two institutions.

The IHN team was comprised of Prof. Richard J. Deckelbaum, Prof. Debra J. Wolgemuth and Prof. Bonnie S. Dunbar while the team from Kenyatta University consisted of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive

Mugenda, Dean Graduate School, Prof. Judith Waudo, Chairperson, Food Nutrition and Dietetics department, Prof. Eliud N. M. Njagi and Dr. G. Orinda, both of the Biochemistry and Biotechnology Department.

KU Launches Disability Day

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Anupa Sanghrajka of Marketing Department, Tile and Carpeting Centre, presents T.Shirts to the Disability Day Committee Chairperson, Dr. Francisah Wamuch, to be used during the KU Disability Day launch. With them are members of the Committee and Students.

various disability categories are articulated and represented. We work hand in hand with Kenyatta University Students Association (KUSA) and the University Management to create an enabling environment for people with disabilities.

We organize many activities that are geared towards sensitizing the community on the enormous abilities that can be cultivated in people with disabilities. The aim is to enable our members to achieve self actualization. For instance, we organize sporting activities as well as social events where our members interact with other members of the society as a means of trying to build bridges with them.

We send the message to the community that disability does not affect abilities; beyond the loss of sight, the limp, loss of hearing or the light skin lies intellect that, when allowed to flower, in time blossoms into awesome achievement.

Opportunity and an enabling environment are all we insist on for it is the inner abilities, more than anything else, that determines who we are and what we can do.

My personal philosophy, and one widely shared by many in my situation, is that I am a man with visual impairment who sees very well where I want to go. All I ask is that you don't stand in my way by setting up barriers—attitudinal, physical and others.

Visit by Iranian Ambassador

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These he said were the main driving forces towards improved efficiency in Iranian mineral and energy resource industries.

His Excellency, encouraged the KU community to visit Iran and get insights that would serve as meaningful lessons for Kenya's development.

He surprised many of the students at the meeting by citing some of the

landmark achievements that Iran has made. For example, he reminded the audience that Iran was second largest producer of natural gas, the fourth largest oil producing country apart from also owning 60% of the oil rich Persian Gulf construction which has 582 dams. In higher education, Iran boasts of having 500 Universities with over 4 million

students. After the meeting, a sumptuous luncheon was served at the dining area at KUCC restaurant.

The Iranian Ambassador's meeting was an important step in the journey of partnership between the Republic of Iran through their Kenyan Embassy and Kenyatta University.

focus on students

KU Marks World Wetlands Day

2nd February each year is World Wetlands Day (WWD). It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian sea. WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997.

Each year government agencies, NGOs, and groups of citizens at all levels of community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general, and the Ramsar Convention in particular.

From 1997 to 2009, the conventions website has posted reports from more than 98 countries of WWD activities of all kinds, from lectures and seminars, nature walks, children's art contents, sampan races, and community clean-up days, to radio and television interviews and letters to newspapers; the launch of new wetland policies, new Ramsar sites, and new programmes at the national level.

This year's suggested theme was "Caring for Wetlands-an Answer to Climate Change".

KUNEC has itself collaborated with organizations such as Teachers' Environmental Rescue (TER), Ruiru Youth Community Empowerment Programme (RYCEP) to do clean-ups, community services, inspire pupils and students and disseminate environmental education.



Dean, School of Environmental Studies, Prof. Steven Njuguna and Kenyatta University Students, plant a tree to mark the World Wetlands Day.

Students in Charity Work



Members of the Kenyatta University Catholic Community prepare food when they visited Mercy Children's Home.

Members of KU Catholic Community recently organized and took part in charity work, event took place at Mercy Children's Home in Kahawa West. About two hundred members of the parish took part. The main purpose was to reach out to and touch the lives of the needy members of the society, especially orphaned children during Christmas.

Donations were given to the Children's Home. The community also, through the donations of its members was able to raise a total of Ksh. 20,000 in cash which was used to purchase some pieces of furniture that included two tables and five benches. The furniture was made in KM and was carried to the venue on that day. The rest of the money was used to purchase more foodstuff.

Other items included twenty-five kilograms of rice, twenty-five kilograms of sugar and ten kilograms of cooking fat, and a bag of charcoal. Some potatoes, tomatoes onions and beef were also purchased. Other donations from members included *cont'd... to pg 5*

First Semester Finally Ends



The long awaited relief for 1st and 2nd years finally came when they completed their first semester on Friday 12th February 2010, bringing to an end the phenomenal eclipse of the semesters.

The juniors who completed their

examinations during that week took a well-deserved weeklong break before reporting for their second semester. The break was to allow them complete the payment of second semester fees as well as prepare for the registration of units. This will bring them at par with the 3rd and 4th years who

have since early January been on campus for their second semester.

Once again, there is a contrast of activities as the seniors are engrossed with their first CATs and research projects while the juniors have an easier time unwinding after a semester that took close to six months. The second semester will witness various activities, the most anticipated being the KUSA elections. Already there is a modicum of excitement as those nursing political ambitions transverse the Campus cutting deals and wooing voters.

The Dean of Students has however, warned the students against premature campaigning, advising the aspirants to wait until the official campaign period is announced. The Kenyatta University Students Association (KUSA) wishes the student community a fruitful semester and a productive year.

focus on students

Students in Charity Work Report

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exercise books, clothes, beddings, sanitary towels and also bought full school uniform for five children who were unable to join Class One on January 2010. The total value of all donations was

around Ksh. 80,000.

Members of the community participated in various activities including cooking for the children, washing their clothes, cleaning their compound and

playing games with them.

The climax of celebration was marked by the cutting of a Christmas cake.

AIESEC Prepares to Launch Projects



Corporate Organizations Representatives in a past AIESEC event

"I am part of a 35,000 member global youth organization. I have a network across 17,000 universities in 108 countries, access more than 5,500 exchange experiences and 7,700 leadership opportunities every year. The movement I belong to partners with 4,000 organizations worldwide and give a competitive edge to life to more than 800,000 young people".

These are the words of Martha Diana, a 3rd year AIESEC member and a beneficiary of the leadership experience, international opportunities and a global networks provided by the largest student run organization in the world as it celebrates 40 years of existence in Kenya.

AIESEC, K.U chapter marked its 10th year anniversary recently in an exquisite dinner held at Red Court Hotel attended by major corporate organizations representatives such as Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), Price Waterhouse Coopers and Barclays Bank.

A major global conference and international Congress slated for August 2011 is to be hosted by AIESEC, Kenya. The Conference will attract hundreds of young leaders from 108 countries and territories. Meanwhile, AIESEC K.U is preparing the launch of 4 projects this year. These are AFRICAN, Beyond the Horizon, Competitive Edge and Microfinance Entrepreneurship. This is in line with the aim and vision of the organization to enable young people to explore and develop their leadership potential and impact the society positively.

Currently AIESEC K.U has interns from Canada, Norway and Germany, with more expected with the launch of the projects. Similarly two members from the K.U chapter are expected to leave for their internship in Uganda. There are also plans to recruit students interested in taking international internship exchange over the long holidays.

Journalism Club Holds a Pentalk Session

The Kenyatta University Students Journalism Club (KUSJC) held another session of its ambitious *Pentalk* programme on Saturday 30th January 2010.

The programme, which involves the mentoring of students interested in journalism and mass communication, was introduced last year by a Kenyatta University alumni and *True Love* editor, Wayua Muli.

Pentalk which targets students within and without the Journalism Club, identifies renowned writers and mass media personalities who in turn are allocated a number of students who share the same interest and genre of writing to guide and train them in an effort to develop and nurture talent.

The mentors, most of them editors and senior writers in major publications in the country, also share their experiences and the challenges they faced as budding writers. They are also instrumental in directing the student writers on ways in which they can get to contribute to major newspapers and magazines. Those who are interested in publishing books and journals are also guided through the process.

So far the programme has seen six accomplished writers hold session with the students. These are *The Nation* Newspapers columnist Oyunga Pala, senior writer *Drum* magazine, Clay Muganda and *Pulse* gossip columnist and poet Tony Mochama. Others are the chief facilitator Wayua Muli, Director, Kenyatta University Quality Assurance Prof. Francis Imbuga and Kinyanjui Kombani. Mr. Kombani, also a K.U alumnus is a prolific author and playwright whose book *The Last Villains of Molo* is a student's literature set book in Kenya and South Africa.



Tony Mochamo AKA Smitta (in dreadlocks), a Columnist and Poet of the Standard Media Group with some of the participants of the PENTALK Programme held recently.

PICTURE *Speak*



Barclays Bank Managing Director, Mr. Adan Mohammed (*left*) who is also the head of the bank's operations in the East and West Africa region signs the visitors book when he visited the University to present a sponsorship cheque of Kshs. 700,000 towards the upcoming Kenyatta University Careers Week. Looking on is the VC. (See story front Pg)



Mentorship Programme Director, Dr. Elishiba Kimani (*centre*) in red dress, pose for a photo graph with students representatives selected after a one day seminar at the KUCC recently.



Prof. P.K. Wainaina Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (*Academic*) presents a certificate to one of the Presidential awardees.



A team of senior professors from the Institute of Human Nutrition (IHN), Columbia University comprised of Prof. Richard J. Deckelbaum, Prof. Debra J. Wolgemuth and Prof. Bonnie S. Dunbar when they paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor.



Students and Staff of KU during the World Wetlands Day. (See story pg 4)



Foreign Language Department lecturer, George Verweryen (*right*) signs the visitors book during a recent collaborative meeting between KU and DAAD. Looking on is Gabriel Von Fricks, from DAAD Africa Regional Office.

PICTURE *Speak*



Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda lays a wreath on the grave of the late Dr. Ezekiel Alembi. He was laid to rest at his home at Enwiranyi on Saturday, 30th January 2010.



The Vice-Chancellor holds a medal presented to her by the National Director, PERACH, Prof. Amos Carmeli when he paid a courtesy call to the University. (See Story pg 2)



Students listen keenly to the Iranian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Seyed Ahmad Serajzade, during his recent visit to the University. (See story Pg 1 & 2)



Co-operative Bank Chief Marketing Manager, Mr. Ngumo Kahiga, (right), presents a Cheque for Kshs. 500,000 to the Vice-Chancellor, a further boost for Careers Week.



Associate Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Michael W. Wainaina (left) and Dean Graduate School, Prof. Judy Waudo, during the recent workshop for lecturers at the KUCC. (See story Pg 8)



Mr. Jeremy Ndirangu, former Big Brother Africa contestant with fellow AISEC members at an event held at the Red Court Hotel, Nairobi. (See story Pg 5)

Graduate School Holds Workshop for Lecturers



Associate Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Michael W. Wainaina, addresses lecturers on facilitation for Ph.D candidates among them.

On Wednesday, 3rd February 2010, Assistant Lecturers, Lecturers and Senior Lecturers who have not yet attained the doctor of philosophy degree met for the second time at KUCC at the behest of the Graduate School.

The purpose of the workshop was to acquaint them with the latest developments, in the form of guidelines, for the facilitation of the 'Vice-Chancellor's Project'. The epithet refers to the VC's erstwhile promise to the group to see to it that 80% of the group graduates in three years time. The essence of the Guidelines ensues.

On application and subsequent consideration, members of the academic staff in this category can expect the following assistance: 50% fee waiver, semester-long time off for the collection of data or write-up, and research grants.

The news was received with qualified enthusiasm – some lecturers felt the University Management could have been more generous. However, the Graduate School team pledged to forward all views expressed to the University Management without prejudice.

Dr. Michael W. Wainaina, Associate Dean of Graduate School orchestrated the proceedings, while the Dean, Prof. Judy Waudo, spelt out the minutiae of the Guidelines. Prof. Okumu fielded questions dealing with supervision. Participants shared a cup of tea with buns at the end of the Workshop.

Dr. Alembi Laid To Rest

Dr. Ezekiel Brown Alembi was laid to rest in his Ebwiranyi in Emuhaya constituency on Saturday, 30th January 2010 after a solemn funeral service attended by his family, relatives friends, students and colleagues at Kenyatta University led by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda.

Also present were drama teachers and Ministry of Education officials led by the PS Prof. Karega Mutahi, Equity Bank Board of Directors and staff led by the Chairman, Mr. Peter Munga and senior Government officials and Local Members of Parliament led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government Hon. Musalia Mudavadi and Emuhaya MP Hon. Dr. Wilbur Otichilo.

In his tribute to the Late Dr. Alembi Prof Mugenda, said the University had lost a person of integrity and a

team player. "was honest, humble and hard working. He was an avid supporter of my vision for KU and a strong pillar in my administration.

I will miss his friendship" Dr. Alembi, the VC said will be missed by the Literature fraternity in Kenya and even East Africa for he had a passion in writing and had authored over 40 publications including many children's books. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Prof. Karega Mutahi, said the education sector had lost "a special person who contributed to the development of education not only in class but also in drama and music".

While paying his tribute to the Late Dr. Alembi, the Equity Bank Chief Executive Officer, Dr James Mwangi, announced that the Bank has already set up a scholarship fund in honour of the Late Dr. Alembi which will be known as the Dr. Ezekiel Alembi Memorial Scholarship Fund. It will benefit seven

children from four schools surrounding the Late Dr. Alembi's home in Ebwiranyi. Dr. Mwangi added that the fund was in recognition of the role played by the late Dr. Alembi in ensuring that poor orphans get education in the area. Among the first beneficiaries will be Dr. Alembi's daughter, Abigail.

Until his untimely death, the late Dr. Alembi was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literature and the Director, Kenyatta University Radio Services. He was a member of the Board of Directors, Equity Bank. He was also the National Chairman, Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival.

Earlier on Wednesday, 27th January 2010 a memorial service was held at the SZ 39 hall in the University. It was attended by hundreds of friends and relatives in Nairobi.

May the Lord Rest Dr. Alembi's soul in eternal peace

A Requiem for Ezekiel Alembi

David V. Karanja

It's hard to believe that we shall no longer hear Ezekiel's signature laughter that typically started as a low chuckle, swelled to a crescendo that shook his whole body, and suffused the hearts of all around him with joyful mirth.

He died young. But as the ancient Greeks said, "those that the gods love die young"

But we are concerned with the man's life, not its end. Who was Ezekiel Alembi?

To me he was the most remarkable student that I have had the privilege to teach. As the student metamorphosed to a friend and colleague, he amazed me with his inexhaustible zeal, resourcefulness and clarity of vision.

The man was full of surprises. Who but Ezekiel would register for a PhD at Kenyatta University (KU) and the next time you see him he is writing a dissertation, for, of all places, the University of Helsinki? And what in the world is folkloristics? His field of expertise. He had transferred to the Finnish University because they had one of the few departments of folklore in the world, not because he did not like KU. Tell me what qualifies a folklorist to found a university radio station? These are the kinds of rabbits the man often pulled out of his hat. That's not all. What does a literature don, a discipline far removed from accounts, know about banking?

Ezekiel was always working on three or four projects at a time. His life, therefore, was short but he accomplished more in it than most of us do in twice the years that he lived. The man was involved in international folklorist affairs, he was the African President, was the Chairman of the Kenyan Schools and Colleges Drama Festival, and Director of the KU 99.9FM Station. He also taught.

But what drove the man more than anything else was his concern for the plight of children. This was his *raison d'être*. If he hated anyone at all, it was those who would cripple the morals and lives of children and young people. His biographies and storybooks are replete with paternal advice on how to live a morally upright and productive life. The villains in his works are lazy and criminal. I once pointed out to him that successful criminals work very hard. His swift rejoinder was that their criminality rendered their work irrelevant.

He was the exemplar extraordinaire of the values he popularized. He was generous to a fault. I long lost track of the number of children for whom he was paying school fees. I believe he paid hospital bills for people who were his relatives only by a long stretch of the imagination. In the words of William Shakespeare in "A Funeral Elegy" he was, "As kind to give and as thankful to receive"

We honour you, Ezekiel. Farewell, my friend, and may your laughter resonate eternally in the halls of heaven.



The Late Dr. Alembi

Research Update

KU Wins IGAD Consultancies



Some of the members of the IGAD Consultancy group.

Kenyatta University has won two service tenders from Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD) in the field of disaster risk management. (DRM)

The staff from the departments of Geography and Environmental Planning and Management is executing the tenders on behalf of the University. The KU experts are in two lots: lot 1 comprising Dr. Simon Onywere (team leader), Dr. Dorothy Mutisya and Mr. Alan Kirui is investigating the level of mainstreaming of disaster risks into the national development planning of IGAD member states with a view to weaning them from a reactive culture to proactive approaches to disaster management.

Lot 2 comprising Prof Chris Shisanya (Team leader), Dr. Joy Obando and Dr. Peter Kamau are reviewing the regional research capacities on disaster risk management. This team is also tasked with compiling a roster of experts in the field of DRM and developing

a research plan. So far both teams have visited all member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya to collect the baseline data. They are currently compiling their respective reports.

KU and Farmer Voice Radio Conduct Baseline Survey

The Centre for Research Extension, Dissemination and Publication is implementing the monitoring and Evaluation aspects of the farmer voice radio (FVR) project.

This is a collaboration between Kenyatta University, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) radio, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), FIT Resources, Kenya Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) and the American Institute of Research (AIR).

The project is aimed at introducing radio agricultural service provision through the national broadcaster, KBC

Between 3rd and 5th February, a research team consisting of FVR, Kenyatta University, JKUAT assisted by Regional Extension Officers from Central Province carried out the first part of the baseline survey in Gatanga and Nyeri Districts.

The Centre for Research Extension, Dissemination and Publication jointly with the Centre for Gender conducted training for the baseline survey data collection. The team will soon be going out to collect



FVR research team of University research interns (URIs) and the monitoring & evaluation coordinator, Prof. Charity Gichuki (extreme right) in a group photo during the baseline survey.

data in the Coast and Rift valley Provinces. The data collected will be used to generate information for setting the

baseline against which the impact of the whole project will be assessed.

Kenya DAAD Scholars Association Conference

The Kenya DAAD Scholars Association is arranging a conference which will tentatively be held between 14th to 16th April 2010 at the Kenyatta University conference centre (KUCC).

The conference theme will be: *"Intellectual Social Responsibility and the Fight against Corruption in Kenya"* Prominent scholars from within and outside the University will give keynote addresses.

Keynote addresses will focus on the following topics:

- Defining and un-packaging Corruption into its myriad Dimensions (Dr. Arbogast Akidiva – Principal Officer, Education - KACC)
- Effect of Corruption on Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Research (CHE or IUCEA)
- Translating Research findings into tangible Outputs and Impacts (Prof A Shaukat NCST)
- University Curricula have not been helpful in producing an intellectual community that abhors corruption (Prof. K Wambari)

- The gender factor in HE and corruption (Dr. Regina Karega – National Gender Commission)
- Corruption as perceived from the students dimension (Mr. Martin Luther and Dean of Students)
- Re-invigorating intellectual responsibility in the fight against Corruption (Prof Eric Aseka – Kenyatta University)

Other conference activities will involve the Demonstration of the DAAD-Alumni portal. It is envisaged that this will be a forum for DAAD-Alumni

For more information regarding the conference kindly get in touch with
Dr. Fuchaka Waswa, Secretary,
KDSA-KU Chapter
Mobile: 0723-580126
Email: wfuchaka@yahoo.com

Kenyatta University ranking improves significantly

Kenyatta University has once again registered a tremendous improvement in the January 2010 Webometrics rankings. The Website has moved 1940 positions up, becoming position 7,189 from the previous 9,129 worldwide.

In Africa KU has attained position 74 moving from the position 100 in the previous 2009 rankings. This is indeed a great leap and a major development towards making Kenyatta University a truly world class University. The table below gives a summary of our performance.

Ranking	Aug 2009	Jan 2010	Margin of Improvement (Ranks)
World	9129	7189	1940
Africa	100	74	26
Kenya	5	4	1

We wish to thank the University management and all members of staff for their contribution and support which has lead to this significant improvement in our rankings.

KU to host the 17th Biennial ISCPES Conference on 6th – 8th June 2010

After Kenyatta University's Department of Physical and Health Education and the Department of Recreation Management and Exercise Science won the bid to host the 17th Biennial Conference for the International Society for Comparative Physical Education and Sports (ISCPES), preparations are in the highest gear.

The ISCPES President Prof. Walter King Yan Ho visited Kenyatta University on 18th – 19th January 2010 to assess KU's level of preparedness for the Conference and expressed his satisfaction after meeting Prof. Olive Mugenda and the Local Organising Committee (LOC). ISCPES Biennial Conferences have been regularly held since 1978 and this is the first one to be held on the African soil.

The Conference is timed to come just a few days before the World Cup hence it is being considered the Pre-World Cup International Conference and over 500 delegates from all over the world are expected. The Conference dates are 6th to 8th June 2010 and the abstracts submission dead line is 31st March 2010. For more information, visit www.ku.ac.ke/conference or www.iscpes.org.

UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES Liaison Office Established in February 2008

UCLO was mandated to ensure the provision of effective and efficient transfer of information, goods and services between the campuses and the Main Campus. The University Campuses Liaison Office: Acts as an administrative link between Kenyatta University Campuses and the Main Campus; Liaises with the Directors, follow up requests of the campuses and the respective administrative arms of the main campus; Provides an effective communication system between the Campuses and the Main Campus; Liaises with relevant divisions, departments and sections on matters related to the better functioning of the University campuses; Follows up requests from the Campuses and update the Campus/University Departments/Sections of the status; Keeps a register of all requests/issues raised by the Campuses and the action taken;

We are located in Rooms 66 & 64 of the New Administration Block on extension 57157.

Parliamentary Investment Committee, and KU Management Visit Kamae



The Parliamentary Investment Committee Chairman, M.P. Igembe, Hon. Linturi Mithika (right) introduces Kasarani DC, Evans Mr. Mutari (2nd right), during a recent visit to Kamae Village by the Committee and KU fraternity to access KU and Kamae Boundaries. They were accompanied by MPs, Dr. Eseli David (left), Sammy Mwaita and Yusuf Chanzu (front). Partly hidden behind is KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda and DVC (Finance, Development and Planning) Prof. Daniel Mugendi.

On 15th February 2010, the Public Investments Committee accompanied by officers from the office of the Auditor General and the District Commission, Kasarani, visited the University. The visit was a follow up of an audit query about Kamae squatters' settlement of Kenyatta University land.

The officers thereafter were to make an opinion and advice the University on the way forward on how to deal with squatters' issue.



Members of Management Board with PIC members when they visited Kamae Village recently.

Campus



Mombasa Campus played host to five guests from James Madison University, USA on 20th January 2010.

The team comprised: Jerry Benson, Ph.D. Vice-Provost for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; Lee Sternberger, Ph.D. Executive Director, International Programmes, Jennifer Coffman, Ph.D. Associate Executive Director of

International Programmes; S.Keith Holland, Ph.D. School of Engineering; and Robert J. Prins, Ph.D. School of Engineering.

During their visit, the team held discussions with the Director Prof. Edwin Wamukoya that touched on campus sustainability, Curriculum, Greening and Outreach before being led on a tour of the Campus. They later made a tour of the Mombasa Old Town before visiting the North Coast Beach Hotel. Meanwhile, Mombasa campus conducted Sit In Examinations for Diploma and Undergraduate students for Open and Distance Learning programme between 23rd - 24th January 2010, while exams for the Postgraduate and Masters students were done on 30th and 31st January 2010. Both sessions of examinations were conducted successfully. Registration for the regular students who are in their 1st - 2nd and the pioneer 3rd year students will end on 5th February 2010.

Mombasa Campus



Main entrance to Mombasa Campus.

KU City Campus Admits Pioneer Students

Students of the recently opened KU City Centre Campus started reporting.

250 Postgraduate Students in MBA and Masters in Economy will be the Pioneer Students in the City Centre Campus. According to the Deputy Director incharge of Programmes, Dr. Ombuki, all the logistics for starting classes are well in place. The Undergraduate Programmes of the Campus will start in May 2010 during the 2nd intake. The Campus will have both day time & evening programmes,



Dr. Charles Ombuki
Deputy Director,
City Centre Campus
in Charge of Programmes



Kenyatta University Programmes will be offered at the Autorama House (presently, MFI Office Solutions) along Haile Selassie Avenue opposite the Government Press.

Nyeri Campus



Odel students in a past conference.

Kenyatta University plans to revamp the Nyeri Campus into a fully fledged University campus by May 2010.

The VC appointed a committee to facilitate this revamping chaired by Prof. Wangari Mwai. The Committee spent a whole week from 20th February carrying out a training needs

assessment (TNA) and marketing th KU programmes.

The members went round Central & Eastern Provinces sourcing for an overview on the most popular courses.

Information collected by the Committee reveals that Education and humanities are the most popular courses especially among teachers who have a 1st Degree and have a need to acquire Masters & Ph.D. Both Odel and Institutional Based Programmes are very popular but a need exists for regular programmes especially for Science based courses that require laboratories to be set up in Nyeri Campus.

The population requested for Institutional Based Programmes to be decentralized to a Teacher Training College preferable Kagumo, Kigari or Meru TTC. Other popular courses include Hospitality & Tourism. Towards achievement of the revamping process, the first intake of Undergraduate & Postgraduate Students in Nyeri Campus will be done in May 2010.

Ruiru Campus

The New Year started with infrastructural improvement through the provision of a staff room for the lecturers and the installation of the Cisco telephone in the offices which is on-going.

The access control system in the computer laboratory has been installed and this arrangement will be extended to the Library.

The systems will enhance security of the use of the facilities. Finally, the student-lecturer evaluation that started on 19th January 2010 was completed on 29th January 2010.



Ruiru main entrance

THERE IS NO APPLICATION FORM FOR DISABILITY

(a member of the Kenyatta University Disabled Students Association, KUDSA)

There is no application form for disability
If there were I would not imagine filling one
They call me disabled; handicapped a more polite word
So they say impaired, all this is a list of adjectives
But surely, is disability inability?

Heaven knows, the Creator bears me witness
Pain, agony, grief and trauma experienced
In the hands of the human race
It is difficult to live in this world.
Some people look at us with raised eyebrows
Yet they do not know
They do not know they are lost.
That I can do things which they can't.

In the street attention is drawn
They stare as if I come from a different planet
Some with eyes of pity
Some with eyes of ignorance
Don't judge my use of white cane, hearing aids
Crutches, prosthetics, and wheelchair
They are but a means of assistance
They are not part of my body.

They describe me as one would objects:
Kipofu, kiwete, kilema, kiziwi in ngeli ya Ki-VI
But surely are we objects?

You! You and you there
Disability is different ability.
Given time and space
I can show you my abilities.
Yes, we have seen them
The disabled men and women
Of high profile and integrity
Rubbing shoulders with others
In national and international arenas
Yet their disability hinders them not.

Who will create awareness,
Sensitize and mobilize them?
It's you and I; go tell it that
Disability is difference in ability.
Arise I say, you disabled brothers and sisters
Let's fight for the rights to show our abilities

Do I see you sneer when you see a disabled person?
Remember disability is an open-membership club
There is no application form for joining,
And even if there were any
I can't imagine myself filling one.

BY: MAKENA D.K

Mind bender

1. What is the missing number?

8.	3	6	7	5	7
5	3	5	4	1	?

2. Which is the odd one out?

ORAL, AURAL, NASAL, VISUAL, PEDAL,
MANUAL, CRANIAL, BANAL, GENITAL

3. What is the missing word?

DON (KEY) STONE
HONEY () STRUCK

3. NOOW

2. BANAL means ordinary or common place,
the rest refer to parts of the body.
1. 6 (The second row is obtained by
subtracting 2 from each digit in the first
row and listing in reverse order.

ANSWERS

GOOD

news

-KU's Ranking Rises

According to Webometrics, the University's standing has improved globally, continentally and nationally. Between August 2009 and January 2010, we have risen to No. 7189 globally (from 9129); No. 76 in Africa (from 100); and No. 4 in Kenya (from 5).

This information has been received from the Coordinator, University Website, Dr. Vincent Onywera. The Newsletter Board congratulates all the University Stakeholders for this achievement.



Editorial Board: Mary Ng'ethe (Chairperson/Editor-in-Chief), Charles Nderitu (Co-Chairman), Margaret Otolu (Member), 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