



Kenya University newsletter *Souvenir Edition*

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A Fortnightly Publication of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Kenya University Vision: To be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive centre of excellence in learning, research and service to humanity.

H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki Opens The Post- Modern Library



The Post-Modern Library.

Libraries have existed ever since the earliest writing systems began. Nearly 5000 years ago, information was stored in the form of clay tablets. Later on, the Egyptians substituted papyrus scrolls which were lighter and more durable than clay tablets. These ancient records dealt with myth,

legend and above all, theological matters. We have come a long way from those days.

Today's libraries deal with every subject under the sun. The methods of information storage have become more complex, and sophisticated.

Kenya University's new Library boasts

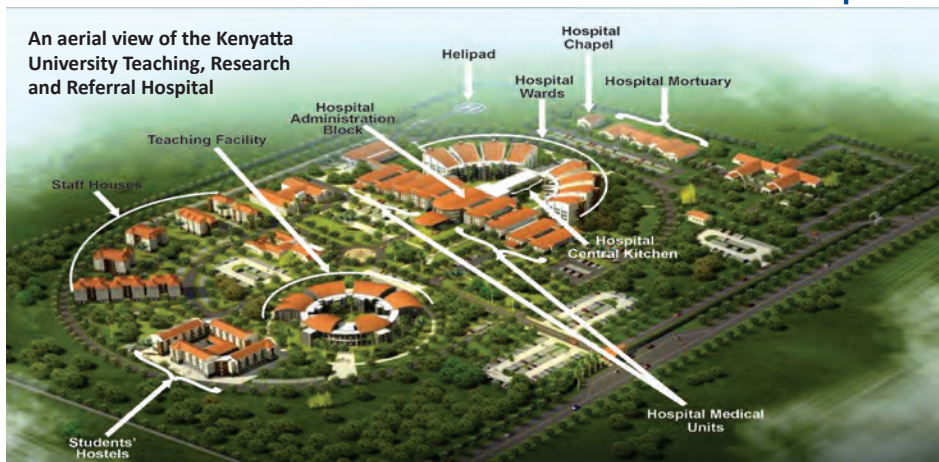
the latest in library technology. The most outstanding feature is Adaptive Technology that caters for users who are impaired visually, aurally or physically challenged.

The library also has resource sharing agreements with other libraries in Kenya.

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H.E the President Breaks Ground for the Teaching, Research & Referral Hospital

An aerial view of the Kenya University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital



It was five years ago when the idea of starting a hospital crossed the VC's mind. She convened a team of dedicated persons to work with her to develop a proposal for the hospital.

The search for a contractor, given the enormity of the project, was long. Eventually, on the 21st April 2011, the Chinese government signed an MOU with the Kenya Government to construct a 600-bed hospital at Kenya University at a cost of Kshs. 8 billion by Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta on behalf of the government and the signing of the agreements at State House, Nairobi, was witnessed by

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Kenya at a University, true to the sentiments of her namesake, the Founding Father of our Nation, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, loathes the tripple evils on which he declared war in his inaugural speech at our very First Independence Day, namely: 'Poverty, Ignorance and Disease,' hence the Post-Modern Library; hence the Teaching and Referral Hospital that we celebrate on this day.

That takes care of ignorance and disease and leaves out poverty. But obviously KU is not going to build a mint as this would land us all behind bars at Kamiti. But if one is wise and healthy, wealth creation would be an option, not an impossible dream. Remember the biblical King Solomon? He asked Yahweh to grant him wisdom and got wealth beyond measure as a bonus.

So as we celebrate these twin dedications: The opening of the Post-Modern Library and the breaking of the ground for our Teaching and Referral Hospital, let us remember with gratitude all those who led us to the attainment of these milestones in the growth of this great institution. And let us not forget that a tool is only as good as its user.

We thank His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Kenya for leading us in this grand occasion. Rarely does an institution such as ours attain twin milestones of this enormity simultaneously. The Newsletter Team extends its accolades to the Chancellor, The Chairman of the University Council and Council Members, and last, but nary the least, our indefatigable VC with her Management Board for making these projects see the light of day. It is profound sorrow that we will not share this joyous moment with Professors Githinji and Mutunga. May the Almighty rest their souls in eternal peace.

David V. Karanja
Editor

H.E. President Kibaki and visiting member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Li ChangChun. The first agreement was on the concessional loan to finance the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital.

Kenyatta University will be the implementing agent and the construction of the hospital which will start soon will be undertaken by China Jiangxi Company who also constructed the new Library.

The project, which will take three years to complete, covers the construction of a hospital, a medical school complete with laboratories, state-of-the-art medical equipment and capacity development. It is envisaged that the doctors and other medical personnel will be trained as the construction work goes on.



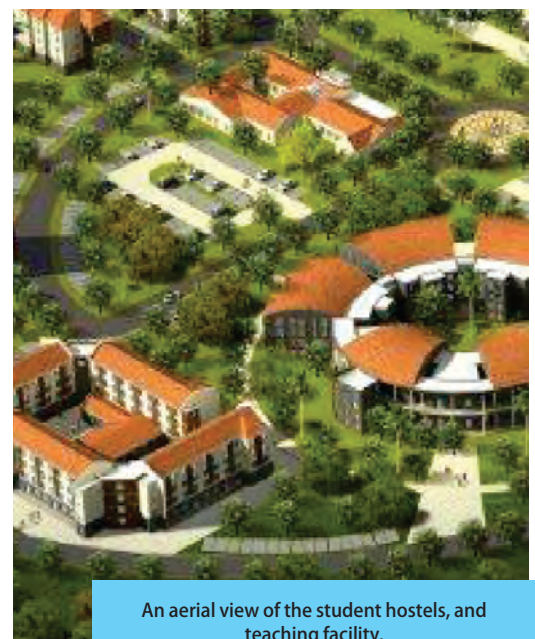
An aerial view of the hospital administration, wards, chapel and mortuary.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, said that the University's dream of having a university hospital has finally come true with the signing of the MOU. She notes that the University had developed a very good proposal whose aim is to decongest Kenyatta National Hospital as well as provide exceptionally specialized treatment. "A university hospital which combines scientific research with practice and which will foster collaboration with other University Hospitals in the world will make a great contribution to health care delivery in the country and realization of the Kenya Vision 2030." says the Vice-Chancellor.

The 600-bed hospital will be the first fully-fledged university hospital. Currently the University of Nairobi's School of Medicine uses the facilities of enyatta National Hospital while Moi University's School of Medicine utilises the facilities of Moi Referral Hospital in Eldoret. Mr. Changchun announced the allocation of Sh8 billion for the Kenyatta University hospital. The money will be used to construct teaching and research facilities at the school of Health Sciences as well as providing equipment and training.

Key features of the Hospital

The Hospital will have a Cancer Unit, a Geriatric Unit to treat the diseases associated with aging, and a Dental school. In addition, a significant component of the Hospital will be the availability of tele-medicine facilities to enable doctors to consult with their peers in reputable hospitals in the world for a second opinion. This will reduce the need for seeking treatment abroad. The architectural design of the hospital provides for a landing pad/strip where helicopters and small planes carrying patients can land.



An aerial view of the student hostels, and teaching facility.

The University's dream of having a university hospital has finally come true with the signing of the MOU.

-Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, KU

UNIQUE FEATURES

The library is five storeys high accessible by escalators. It comfortably accommodates 6,000 users at a time. Each floor is

demarcated for specific function as follows: The Basement – acquisition, bindery and stocks for infrequently demanded resources; Ground Floor – Education and Information Science, Circulation Services, Reprography, Special Needs Services, ICT, Student Lounge with current newspapers and magazines; First Floor – Social Sciences; Second Floor – Humanities; Third Floor – Science and

Technology; Fourth Floor – Research and Special Collection, Health Sciences Collection; Fifth Floor – Reading Area for Postgraduate students and Staff. (More information is carried in other articles in this issue, especially Journey to the Post-Modern Library).



A section of the Post-Modern Library interior.

The library has a sitting capacity of 6,000 users compared to 2500 in the old library.

It has fully automated services compared to manual services previously used with computer laboratories on every floor to serve undergraduate students. The fifth floor serves as a reading area for staff and post graduate students. Internet access through Local Area Network and wireless connectivity, adaptive Technology for users with special needs, e-journals and e-books are some of the

key features to be found in the library. Kenyatta University was the first university to subscribe to e-journals most of which are in full-text and offline databases. To ease mobility, the library has been installed with lifts and escalators.

The library has a special area where users with special needs can access information. The following adaptive technologies are available:

- Jaws – this is software that uses voice technology to read to the user whatever is on the screen.
- Dolphin Pen – magnifies what is on the screen to the required size as well as read what is on the screen if required.

- Duxbury Braille Transcriber (DBT) - This software converts printed matter into Braille characters.
- Audio books and Newspapers recorded on CD for those with visual impairment.
- There are three sound-proof reading areas in the post modern library as well as remarkable reading carrels ideal for un-distracted reading.

To ease mobility, the Library has ramps, Lifts & Escallators



Students reading newspapers in the lounge.

Support from Donors

Kenyatta University acknowledges with great appreciation support from various institutions and individuals of goodwill who have donated books to boost the collection in the University Library.

These include;

Sabre Foundation, USA

In December 2010 the University received the first consignment of books worth Ksh 300 Million to stock the post modern library.

The donation comprised multiples of 20 to 50 copies of 1,244 different titles for various disciplines such as Health Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics and Business. This donation to the University was through the efforts of a distinguished KU Alumnus, Dr. Martin Mwangi of Harvard University, who introduced KU to Sabre Foundation. The Sabre Foundation aims at helping develop education around the world. The second consignment worth Ksh 112 Million arrived on 21st June 2011 making the total cost of the book donation Ksh 412 Million. This donation comprised 896 titles, representing 30,909 copies worth over Kshs. 125 Million.

The books donated are of high quality covering diverse disciplines published between 1992-2010. The field of humanities is predominant in this consignment with 621 titles, followed by social sciences 248 titles, sciences general 45 titles and education 27 titles. The donations have had a profound impact on the delivery of quality education by Kenyatta University.

In particular, the donations have:

- Expand the library collection
- enabled students to access a wide variety of titles in their disciplines and reduce sharing of copies
- Given the library the capacity to achieve the standards for books provision "minimum collection of 60 titles per programme or 5 titles per unit".



The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda, and Ms Tania Vitvitsky, the Sabre Foundation Executive Director, sign the MoU on the donation of textbooks at the University on February 15, 2011.

KU and Sabre Foundation sign an MoU

Kenyatta University and Sabre Foundation, USA, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see the two institutions co-operate in the area of book donation in order to enhance the capacity of Kenyatta University's library to provide adequate services to users as well as enhance the ICT capacity of the University.

According to the MoU, Sabre Foundation will support Kenyatta University by donating books to its Post-Modern Library, assist in the development of ICT capacity for the library and the University and also work closely with the University liaisons in Kenya and in the USA to expedite and customize shipments to the current and future needs of Kenyatta University.

During the meeting to sign the MoU, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, thanked the Sabre Foundation through its Executive Director, Ms. Tania Vitvitsky, for the book donation, adding that many students and faculty had benefitted a lot from the publications. Ms. Vitvitsky, said that her organization was committed to screening of the publications to ensure that they are updated and of good quality.

We thank Ms. Vitvitsky for taking time out of her busy schedule to witness the momentous occasion of the opening of the Library

KU Scholars

Prof. Daniel Kiminyo from the Department of Early Childhood Studies and the late Dr. F. N. Gitau from the Department of Education Foundations donated their collection of books to the University for use by staff and students.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, together with other members of University

management received the books from the two scholars on 7th March 2011. She termed the book donation a "noble gesture" from the scholars who had sacrificed their precious collection of books. Prof. Kiminyo, who joined KU in 1975 stated that he was giving back to an institution that had contributed significantly to his life as a person.

Mrs. Elma Gitau, the widow of the family of the late Dr. F. Gitau, presented the books to the VC. According to Mrs. Gitau, "Dr. Gitau was a giver and giving the books to the University is what he would have wanted to do." Colleagues of the late Dr. Gitau noted that the books were very specialised and would be very useful in the resource centre at the Department of Education Foundations.

The VC thanked Prof. Kiminyo and Mrs. Gitau for their generosity and appealed to other members of staff to do likewise. Another key contributor to the Library is Prof. Thomas Daniels, School of Law who donated 491 volumes of books on Law.

Australian High Commission

The Australian High Commission in Kenya donated books on Australian Indigenous Art and History to Kenyatta University. While presenting the books to the VC, the former Australian High Commissioner to Kenya, H.E. Lisa Philipeto, praised the cordial relationship between Kenya and Australia adding that many students from Kenya had chosen to pursue further studies in Australia. The High Commissioner underscored the close relationship between Kenyatta University, noting that many students had benefited from scholarships and fellowships from Australia. The books will be especially useful to the students of Fine Art, History, Archaeology and Political Studies.

"The University would like to see her Alumni create wealth for themselves, their families, their communities and other Kenyans through the creation of jobs." **-Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor, KU**

Government Support

The Vice-Chancellor is indeed very grateful to the Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who listened to the proposal presentations at the early stages and gave their support.

These include: H.E. Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, The Vice-President who listened to the proposal and gave it necessary support; Hon. Charity Ngilu, Minister for Water and Irrigation who was the Minister for Health when the concept was first presented to her; Hon. Peter Anyang Nyong'o, Minister for Medical Services; Hon. Sam Onger,

Minister for Education; Hon. William Ruto, who was then the Minister for Higher Education, Science & Technology; Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, who supported the proposal and forwarded it to the Chinese Government; Mr. Joseph Kinyua, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, who supported the proposal and found it worth of seeking donor support; Prof. James Ole Kiyapi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, who was the PS Ministry of Health; Prof. Crispus Kiamba, Permanent

Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology; Prof. Karega Mutahi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, who was the PS Ministry of Education, among many others who believed in the project.

The Vice-Chancellor singles out Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi, the former Chairman of Council, who was instrumental in the conceptualization of the unique training model.



H.E. Hon. MWAI KIBAKI, C.G.H., M.P.
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya



H.E. Hon. Dr. Kalonzo Musyoka
Vice-President of The Republic of Kenya



Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Finance



Hon. Margaret Kamar
Minister for Higher Education, Science & Technology



Prof. Crispus Kiamba
PS, Ministry for Higher Education, Science & Technology



Mr. Joseph Kinyua
PS, Ministry of Finance

Professionals Behind the Library Project

Kenyatta University wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following institutions and individuals for their contribution and support in realizing the library project.

Main Contractor

China Jiangxi International (K)

Project Manager

Mr. P. Kabuti Muiruri
Kenyatta University

Architects

Arch. Mugure Njendu – Mbathi and Arch.
Kamau Njend
Gitutha Associates

Quantity Surveyor

Nyagah Boore Kithinji and Alex Kamau
Costwise Associates

Civil/Structural Engineer

Eng. Otieno Odongo
Otieno Odongo Partners

Electrical/Mechanical Engineer

Ms. Karuma Mbaire and Mrs. Cecilia
Kaigutha
Kaigutha and Partners

Interior Designer

Peter Chege Gitura and Noela Maeke
Chege Designers

Plumbing/Drainage

Bharat Patel and Dennis Yegon
Pioneer Plumbers

Electrical Sub-Contractor

Lucas Okebe Omoso and Joshua
Kiprop ODDMAC Engineering

Lifts Sub-Contractor

Marryat and Scott

Library Committee Chair

Prof. Olive Mugenda
Vice-Chancellor

Library Committee Members

Mr. Joseph I. Gitahi
Finance Officer
Dr. Nelson Karagu
Registrar F, P & D

“Investment in quality education for the youth a must,” says VC

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, has called on leaders to join hands to ensure equity and access to quality education by the young people. *“The young people we are training today will go on to take up the leadership of our country and beyond,”* she said. Prof. Mugenda said that students have a key role in the future of Kenya especially with regard to attaining Kenya Vision 2030. She was speaking during the Annual Education Day at Muruguru Girls High School, Nyeri, on 24th September, 2011 where she presided as Chief Guest. The VC emphasized the need to ensure equity and access to quality education especially for girls and vulnerable groups in society. She further challenged female students to take up science subjects to enable them to pursue science based professions at the University and called on parents and teachers to support the girls. *“We need to create a conducive environment for girls to develop confidence in themselves, know that they are naturally as good, if not better than boys and go for top ranking programmes in our Universities and careers in the society”.*

The Minister for Special Programmes, Hon. Esther Murugi, who also attended the function, called on parents, teachers and students to play their respective roles for successful performance. The Minister also donated books for the School's library.

The School Principal, Mrs. Esther Kirira praised the Vice-Chancellor as a role model and mentor.



Mrs. Esther Kirira, Principal Muruguru Girls High School, Hon. Esther Murugi, Minister, Special Programmes and Prof. Olive Mugenda VC, Kenyatta University.

THE RATIONALE THAT CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENT

Health is an integral part of productivity within a population, encompassing economic, social, and cultural dimensions. The importance of health in development is exemplified by the emphasis given to health in the Millennium Development Goals.

problems. Secondly, the rapidly growing population and pressure from neighbouring countries including Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda make it necessary to have another referral hospital in Kenya. Thirdly, various poverty related health problems like malnutrition and non-affordability of health



H.E. President Mwai Kibaki and Mr. Li Changchun witness the signing of bilateral project deals agreements by Finance Minister Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta and Mr. Zhong Shan at State House, Nairobi. The Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital deal also signed on the same day.

The nation is currently having a big deficit of health professionals and facilities. There is therefore the need to expand opportunities for training and research in the medical fields in institutions of higher education to improve the delivery of quality health services to Kenyans. The rationale for establishing the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital is:

Increase in demand for health services in Kenya

Due to the emerging and re-emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and an increase in cancer cases together with other non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, there was need to develop a hospital to take care of these

care services make it necessary to have another referral hospital.

Low health professionals: patient ratios

One major challenge of healthcare delivery in Kenya has always been the low doctor-patient ratio. Hospitals are facing severe health care shortages. The need for nurses, doctors and other health care professionals is greater than ever and the bigger the population, the bigger the problem. Whereas the Doctor:patient ratio is 1:12000, Pharmacist 1:30,000 Dentist 1: 100,000 the WHO ratios are 1:600, 1:5000 and 1:2750 respectively for doctors, pharmacists respectively.

Limitations of Current Health Facilities

The two national Referral Hospitals in Kenya, Kenyatta and Moi have the following:

- 2,300 bed capacity
- 6,000 staff capacity
- A Combined in-patient capacity of 120,600 patients per annum

Absence of Specialized Medical Facilities

There is an increase in lifestyle and old age diseases such as diabetes with accompanying organ failures, aarthritis, obesity and gout. Additionally, specialized treatment is currently out of reach for most Kenyans. The hospital will offer specialised care in these areas hence reduce the high government spending in specialized treatment for top civil servants abroad. Telemedicine will be an important facility in the Teaching hospital. Telemedicine will enhance consultation with foreign medical experts as well as ensure rural reach of quality medical care.

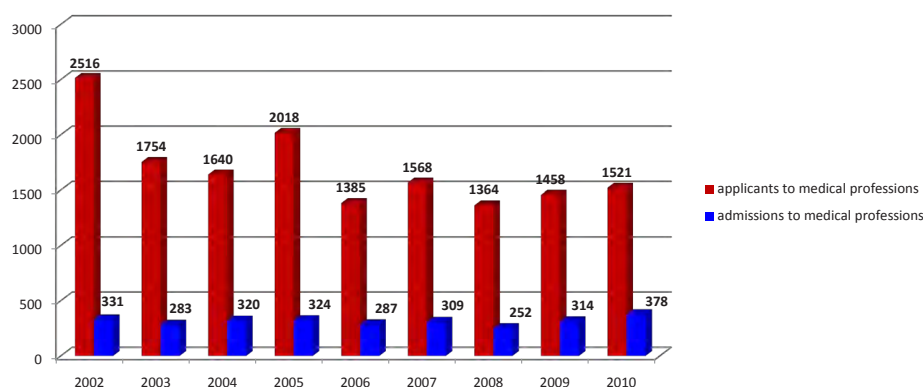
Low number of Medical Training Institutions

There is currently a shortage of medical training institutions. There are only two university level medical training institutions but no there is no public university-owned teaching hospital. The output from health training universities is low as it accounts for only 200 medical doctors trained per year. There is need to enhance capacity to train medical specialists locally because it is expensive to train them abroad. Secondly, the current scenario in which universities depend on Government-owned hospitals creates management problems and double hiring of employees. The Kenya Vision 2030 advocates for separation of ownership from regulation.

Unique Training Approach

The Teaching hospital will use a new medical training approach where the clinician is supported by researchers and technicians for diagnosis. The idea is to fully entrench research in medical training and practice. Currently, there is usually a disconnection between research and the practice of medicine. Secondly, the specialty training that is usually undertaken abroad and after first medical degree will be availed locally and fast-tracked so that specialization is achieved within the first degree of medical training.

Number of applications & admissions into medical courses, Public Universities, 2002-2010



The Post-Modern Library: A magnificent source of knowledge

What others said:



When I first envisaged a new library for Kenyatta University, it was like a dream. As I travelled outside Kenya, I saw many world class libraries in other world class universities and longed for the day we would have one at Kenyatta University. Constructing one using our own resources is a dream come true and I urge our students and staff to take full advantage of the facility in search for knowledge. **Prof. Olive Mugenda, Ph.D, EBS Vice-Chancellor**



“The library is Hot!! I can relate this with my former school in the US (Metropolitan State University). The division of departments into floors makes it really easy to access books without getting lost”. **Ms. Teckla Ngotie, a member of staff, Department of Nursing**



“The Post- Modern Library is a welcome facility as it gives more room for students to access information and library facilities especially with the growing population of students in Kenyatta University. The materials are well placed and defined, making it easily accessible. We are impressed by the magnificent Post-Modern Library, which has come in the nick of time to cater for the high number

of students on Campus. This is a definite show of commitment by the Kenyatta University management to the uplifting of academic standards”. **Eric Mutwiri, Finance Secretary, KUSA.**

“As we witness the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital, we as students are grateful to be studying in this great university.



On behalf of the student community, and especially students taking health-related courses, I wish to thank the University Management for having the foresight of undertaking this project to enable us study in a more enabling environment. **Anthony Okoto, KUSA President**

“A good library is a dream-come-true for many students and scholars around the world. Kenyatta University has shown how much Excellence is important to



them not only through acquiring modern texts and e-resources for the new library but by the efforts (resources and efficiency) with which the library was built. On behalf of our donors (SABRE Foundation), Alumni and friends from the USA ,I wish to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, the management and the Kenyatta University community on this auspicious occasion. **Dr. Martin Thuo, Board member of Sabre Foundation and Seeding Labs**



“Wonderful, I like the arrangement, design, and provision for reading area. The reading carrels are pretty remarkable and the lounge, a place where one can relax and read newspapers really impressed me. The division of floors into subject libraries has eased access of books and other services”. **Mr. Dominic Mwata, A 4th Year Undergraduate Student – Industrial Chemistry**

“The new library is a boon for scholars, both accomplished and aspiring. It will boost research especially the availability of e-books and kindred technology.

As for The Teaching and Referral Hospital, I am hoping that it is the answer to one of our members’ most unsettling problems – the crippling cost of medical care from private institutions. And of course the most obvious benefit is the convenience it provides for our medicine and nursing students – they wouldn’t have to commute to Thika any more”. **Dr. Richard Wafula, Secretary General, University Academic Staff Union**



“The construction of this state-of-the-art hospital is a major milestone in the training of health care providers in the region as well as provision of health care services.

Upon completion, the hospital will provide health care services unmatched in the region. The facility will provide specialized research facilities, training as well as health care in oncology and cancer management, geriatrics, neuroscience and management of spinal injuries and will also have a Gender Violence and Recovery Centre.” **Dr. Okello-Agina Dean, School of Health Sciences**



The Journey to the Post-Modern Library

When the Kenyatta University College admitted its first batch of 200 students in 1972 to pursue studies leading to the award of the Bachelor of Education degree, the library was housed in a two-floor building which had formerly been used as a canteen to serve soldiers of the then Templar Barracks. The first University library had a total seating capacity of 200 and contained resources mainly for the Teacher Education discipline which happened to be the only programme on offer by the Kenyatta University College at the time.

The first library began with only one tutor-librarian and five attendant librarians. From a library stock of 500 books in 1972, the library stock increased to 15,000 volumes representing 5,000 different titles. At the beginning of the 1975/1976 academic year, the library

increased number of books. It is this challenge that propelled the University College to seek a solution. The solution came with the construction of the Moi Library Phase 1, funded jointly by the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Kenya at a total cost of Kshs. 20 million. The Moi Library

volumes of books and periodicals as well as more users. By 2005, the number of Faculties had risen to six and it was therefore necessary to create more space to accommodate the high number of students. It was then that Phase two of the Moi Library was completed. The second phase created more reading space for students.

Following the development of the University's Strategic and Vision Plan 2005/2015, a number of changes took place in the University. One of these was the exponential increase in student enrolment from 15,000 in 2006 to 30,000 in 2009. The book stock also went up to 350,000 from 200,000 volumes. One of the objectives of the Strategic and Vision Plan to, *"Provide an environment that nurtures excellence and high standards of professionalism in teaching, learning, and research and community service."*

The Post-Modern Library was identified as a Priority Project for the 2009/2011 plan period in the 2005-2010 University Strategic Plan. In 2009, the construction work of the Post-Modern Library began. The new library is a five (5) storey building which is equipped with cutting-edge information and knowledge resources for quality services. It has a seating capacity of over 6,000.

With the completion of the Post-Modern library, the Moi Library building will house a number of facilities among them, University Bookshop, the University Press, School of Education Extension, Office space for staff and lecture rooms.



The old library block that was in use from 1972 – 1983

collection had grown to contain well over 20,000 volumes of books and slightly over 1,000 periodical subscriptions of varied titles.

When the Faculty of Education was transferred from the University of Nairobi to Kenyatta University College in 1978, the 12,036 volumes that were previously owned by the Education Library were transferred as well to the Kenyatta University College Library.

The transfer increased the library's stock to 130,000 volumes. While this happened, it had now emerged that the available space was a challenge since it could hardly accommodate the increased number of users and the

was designed with a floor space of 3,225 m² and a capacity to hold 150,000 books, 1,500 periodicals and a seating space for 400 users. The Moi Library was officially opened in 1984, one year before the University attained full university status through the Kenyatta University Act.

After the University was officially inaugurated in December 1985, Kenyatta University immediately started establishing new Faculties. Two new faculties were established at the end of 1985 namely; Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science. The establishment of the faculties brought in more



The Moi Library that was in use from 1984 – 2011

The Post-Modern Library



KU FOUNDATION LAUNCHED



H.E. Amb. Elkanah Odembo
(Ambassador of Kenya to USA)

Ambassador Lauds Kenyatta University

The Ambassador of Kenya to Washington DC, H.E. Amb. Elkanah Odembo has lauded Kenyatta University for being a model for many African Universities. Speaking during the launch of the Kenyatta University Foundation that took place on 27th August 2011 in Worcester, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The Ambassador, who was represented by Mrs. Lucy Kiruthu, Minister Counsellor/Deputy Chief of Mission, referred to Kenyatta University as *"the Harvard of Africa"*. Addressing the audience, the Ambassador said he was impressed by the ambient environment and modern infrastructure comparable to that in any world-class university in the developed world. The Ambassador

noted that *"Kenyatta University has taken a bold step in ensuring that it stands out to compete with other world-class universities."* *"The Foundation"*, he observed, *"will serve as a resource mobilization organ for the University, thereby increasing access to higher education by giving scholarships, attracting and retaining high-flying academicians, improving teaching and learning infrastructure, and enhancing research, among others"*.



Prof. F. Q. Gravenir, Director, University Advancement & Prof. Raphael Njoroge, a former Dean, Faculty of Education who lives in Boston and is in support of the Foundation, during the Launch.

Alumni, Students and friends of Kenyatta University are entertained by Mr. Daniel Ndambuki of *"Churchill Live"* Television Show (Right) during the Launch of The Foundation.



VC Tips Ministry Staff on Transformational Leadership

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda has advised the public service sector to embrace reforms for efficient delivery of services to Kenyans. Prof. Mugenda stated that transformation was key to ensure achievement of Kenya's Vision 2030 that aims at providing high quality of life to all citizens by the year 2030. The VC was speaking on 16th September 2011 during a Ministerial Retreat for Staff from the Ministry of Planning and National Development and Vision 2030, where she was invited as a Motivational Speaker. The Ministry was celebrating after being declared the best Ministry in Performance Cycle of 2009/2010 and ISO 9000:2008 Certification

Among the dignitaries in the event results included the Minister of State for Public Service, Hon Dalmas Otieno, Minister for Planning and Development and Vision

2030 Hon Wycliffe Oparanya, Assistant Minister Hon Peter Kenneth, Permanent Secretary Dr. Edward Sambili, the recently appointed Controller of Budget Mrs. Agnes Odhiambo, Chief Executive Officers and Senior Government Officials of different parastatals in the Ministry of Planning.

The leaders lauded the VC for the outstanding achievements at KU and her notable leadership that has propelled the University to recognition not only in the country but also regionally.

Prof. Mugenda noted that sustained transformation resulted in enhanced efficiency and performance and improved corporate image for an institution. In her presentation the VC highlighted the key elements of transformation as: Vision, Focused leadership, Strategic planning and flexible governance and management structure. She further

said that transformational leaders need to continually sell the vision of the institution.



(L-R) The Minister for Planning, Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, Minister for State, Public Service, Hon. Dalmas Otieno, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda and the PS, Minister of State for Planning, Dr. Edward Sambili cut a cake during the Ministerial Staff Retreat for the Ministry of Planning.

Pictorial



Ms. Mugure Njendu-Mbathi of Gitutho Associates (the KU Post-Modern Library Architects) explains a point to the Prime Minister when he toured the site of the upcoming Post-Modern Library. The Prime Minister had visited the University to open the Engineering Complex.



A side view of the Post-Modern Library.



(Left): The Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, with Dr. James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank during the 2nd Equity Bank Annual Education Leadership Congress held at the KU Amphitheatre recently.



Inside the Post-Modern Library.



A group of students studying inside the Moi Library.



A group of students studying inside the Post-Modern Library.

Pictorial



Students studying in another section of the Moi Library.



A group of Students read newspapers in the lounge inside the Post-Modern Library.



Readers searching materials using the card catalogue inside the Moi Library.



Searching reference materials using the OARS Software inside the Post-Modern Library.



Borrowing books at the circulation counter of the Moi Library.



Students borrowing books at the circulation counter of the Post-Modern Library.



Changing Face of Kenyatta University

Infrastructural Profile

Eye on Prime Projects



The University in the last financial year (2010/2011) has recorded a historical tremendous growth in terms of development where so many buildings have come up. Among the many completed buildings include the Amphitheatre, Post-Modern Library and the water reservoir among others which are now in use.

Some of the ongoing projects include

8.4.4. Building which will be ready for occupation by end of September 2011, School of Hospitality and School of Economics. The New Administration Block is another ongoing project which will be a five (5) storey building and a tower. The building will also have 4 lifts, two for the public and two for VIP.

Among the offices that will be located in the New Admin Block include (*but not*

limited to) Finance section, Procurement section, Examinations, Personnel, Public Relations, Council Boardroom, Video Conferencing hall. There will also be ample parking and a ramp has been provided for the physically challenged students. The New Admin Block will be ready for use before the end of next year i.e. 2012.

Library Boosted by SABRE Foundation, Again



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, admires one of the 28,671 books worth Sh300 million donated by the Sabre Foundation, at the University on December 3, 2010. With her are, from right, Dr Kipkerich Koskei, Kenya's Registrar of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board; Dr Martin Mwangi, a member of the Sabre Foundation's Advisory Board, and Mr Jones Wambua, KU Deputy Finance Officer (Expenditure).

Kenyatta University has received textbooks worth KShs 300million from a charitable organisation in the United States of America.

The donation of 28,671 books from the Sabre Foundation, based in Massachusetts.

It comprises multiples of 20 to 50 copies of 1,244 titles. The University's School of Health Sciences will get 65 per cent of the books, with most having over 800 titles. Other disciplines to benefit will include Engineering, Computer

Science, Mathematics, and Business.

The books, in two containers, were received by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, and the Registrar of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Dr. Kipkerich Koskei, who was the Chief Guest. The donation was presented to KU on December 3, 2010 by Dr. Martin Mwangi, a professor of Chemistry at Harvard University. Dr. Mwangi, a KU alumnus, is a member of the Sabre Foundation's Advisory Board. The Foundation was founded by American

university graduates in 1969 with the aim of helping develop education around the world.

"Sabre Foundation is committed to supporting Kenyatta University and see it become the best in Africa. The Foundation is fully supportive of the University in its efforts to transform young people in Africa and around the world," said Dr. Mwangi, adding that the books were donated by various publishers in the US as well as Britain.

"Sabre Foundation is committed to supporting Kenyatta University and see it become the best in Africa."

-Dr. Martin Mwangi

Thank You: Your Efforts Paid off

THE HOSPITAL PROJECT PROPOSAL TEAM



**Prof. Olive M. Mugenda,
Ph.D., EBS**

Vice-Chancellor.
Proposed and Coordinated
the Proposal development.



Prof. Onesmo ole-MoiYoi

The Immediate former
Chairman of Council who
provided the rationale for
the training model.



Dr. B M Okello Agina

Dean, School of Health
Sciences.
Worked on the rationale
and feasibility study.



Prof. Charity Gichuki

Former Director, Institute
for Research.
Worked on the rationale
and relevant statistics.



Dr. John Muriuki

Department of
Environmental Education.
Worked on Environmental
Impact Assessment.



**Prof. Frederick Q.
Gravenir**

Director, University
Advancement.
Was the main Link from the
Vice-Chancellor's office.



Prof. Ephantus Kabiru

Acting Dean, School Of
Public Health.
Worked on the rationale
with other colleagues.



Dr. Lucy Maina

Director, Institute of
Peace & Security Studies.
Worked on the feasibility
study with other
colleagues.



Dr. J. Korir

Department of Economic
Theory.
Worked on the Social-
Economic Analysis.



Dr. N. Wawire

Department of Applied
Economics.
Worked in Economic
analysis and feasibility
study.



Dr. C. O. Mireri

Environmental Planning
and Management.
Worked on Environmental
Impact Assessment.



Mr. D. Kanja

University Architect.
Helped with design
aspects.



Mr. K. Muiruri

Office of the Registrar
(F, P & D).
Attended the Project
committee meetings on
behalf of the University.



Mr. Joseph I. Gitahi

Finance Officer.
Worked on the costing of
the Hospital.



Mr. Aaron Tanui

Former Legal Officer.
Worked on legal
documents.

Good News!

Pharmacy Degree Course Accredited

The Pharmacy degree course has finally been accredited. This means that the Course is recognized by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, which is the body responsible for the regulation of the Pharmacy Profession in Kenya. Kenya

University Pharmacy graduates will therefore be allowed to practice in Kenya and enjoy all the privileges and recognition of a Pharmacists.

The accreditation was the hallmark of a rigorous process which involved inspection of Kenyatta University facilities in

accordance with the Pharmacy and Poisons Act CAP 244 of the Laws of Kenya and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board accreditation framework.

This exercise took place on 2nd February, 2010 and the areas of focus were administration, laboratories, library and infrastructure. These facilities were found to be adequate to sustain the Pharmacy Course.

The course is offered in the Department of Pharmacy and Complementary/Alternative Medicine within the School of Health Sciences. The student population is currently 90 with 19 members of staff. The department has grown tremendously and the course

is very attractive to potential students. Future prospects are even brighter with the advent of Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital.

**Areas of
focus were
administration,
laboratories,
library and
infrastructure...**

KU Hospital: a Bonanza for KM-Delighted Villagers Convinced

According to Kiwanja residents, the upcoming Teaching and Referral Hospital is a godsend for them in many ways:

Mr. James Ng'ang'a Kariuki and his wife, Mrs. Esther Ng'ang'a, outside their shop in Kiwanja (KM)



Mr. James Ng'ang'a Kariuki, a.k.a. Mukurinu, a shop-owner and landlord says "Our youth will get more jobs. This is another plus for the VC. The employment she has afforded

the people of this community has made this community better fed, better clothed and the crime rate has gone down as idle youth are now gainfully occupied. The hospital will create more of the same."

His wife, Mrs. Esther Ng'ang'a, adds "Business will boom and it will be the end of those awful middle-of-the-night journeys to Kiambu Hospital or Kenyatta National Hospital. What a relief, especially for expectant mothers."

Mr. Simon Duncan Kinyanjui

If I have not been watching the incredible growth that KU has undergone in the last five years, I would say the hospital is an election ploy. But "seeing is believing".



Mr. Simon Duncan Kinyanjui, whose lanky frame belies his nickname, Shortman, is a retired tour operator turned real estate agent, sees a building boom and rise of property values triggered by the combination of the hospital with the Northern By-Pass. "This whole area and its environs will no longer be the 'bush'. A better class of people will want to live here and rents will go way up," he rhapsodizes, rubbing his palms. "As

for the welfare of our community, do you know how many lives the small KU Health Unit and its ambulance service have saved? Imagine what a whole hospital will do. If I have not been watching the incredible growth that KU has undergone in the last five years, I would say the hospital is an election ploy. But 'seeing is believing' and I am convinced the hospital will soon be a reality, just as the Post- Modern Library is."



Mr. Michael Mwangi Chege

A retired school teacher, Mr. Chege is the Vice-Chairman of the Kamiti Farmers Company that manages Kiwanja. Asked whether the hospital is a good idea, reacts incredulously "Good" is not the word. It's a splendid stroke of genius. But I only have one fear: that it might prove to be too expensive for us humble villagers to afford. Reassured that it will be a public institution, he is visibly relieved.

KU Hosts Key Guests at Equity Bank Leadership Congress

Kenyatta University hosted key guests during the second Annual Equity Bank Education and Leadership Congress, which was held in the newly opened KU Amphitheatre.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Raila Odinga; H.E. Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, Vice- President; Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, Deputy Prime Minister; and Mrs. Deloris Jordan, mother to former American professional basketball player, Michael Jordan, were among the key personalities who graced the occasion.

The congress dubbed "*Nurturing Global Leaders*" and funded by Equity Bank, attracted over 3000 Young Equity Scholars drawn from across the country. Dr. James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank, said that the programme targets disadvantaged students, who get trained and nurtured to be future leaders of Kenya.

During the Congress that was held between 8th and 19th August 2011, the speakers, who were drawn from a variety of fields, interacted with the students by sharing their experiences in life. The congress was very inspiring to the students as they enabled them to set appropriate goals and choose careers wisely.



(Top Left) , Dr. James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank; Prof. Patrick Lumumba, former Director, Kenya Anti-corruption Commission; (Top) Safaricom CEO, Mr. Bob Collymore; (Left) The Right Honourable, Prime Minister, Raila Odinga; who were among the key personalities at the function.

Tribute to The Late Prof. Ciriaka T. Kithinji, Ph.D., EBS



Kenyatta University community is indeed deeply saddened by the death of Prof. Ciriaka Kithinji, a Professor of Home Economics and a long serving member of staff. Prof. Kithinji joined Kenyatta University as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Home Economics in 1983 and rose through the ranks to become a distinguished Professor of Home Economics and a scholar in the Department of Educational Communication Technology. Prof. Kithinji also once served as a Deputy Director of Students Affairs where she was commended

for her selfless efforts in getting our students involved in useful educational activities.

The University community pays tribute to an esteemed scholar who made immense contribution to the body of knowledge. She will indeed be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Tribute to The Late Prof. P.K. Mutunga, Ph.D.



Kenyatta University has yet again suffered a loss as we mourn the passing on of Prof. Peter Kiilu Mutunga, an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education in the Department of Educational Communication and Technology.

The Late Prof. Mutunga joined the then Kenyatta University College in 1979 as a Lecturer and rose through the ranks to the post of associate professor. Prof. Mutunga has held various administrative positions, ranging from Chairman of Department, Dean of the School of Education, acted as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), and finally as the Director, Ruiru Campus, a position he held until his demise.

The University has indeed lost a dedicated Professor who performed his duties with zeal and dedication. May God console his family during this difficult period and Rest His Soul in Eternal Peace.

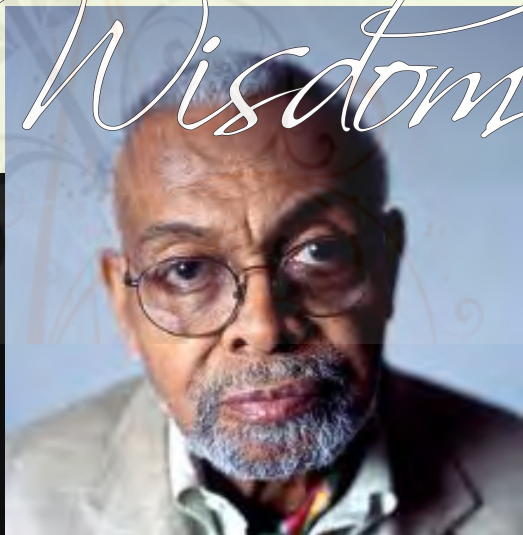
The Vice-Chancellor sends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families on her own behalf and that of the University Community.

Facts in Life

Toddlers slowly walk on their own without hand holding and grown up kids set out to make their own nest. Accepting facts in life is the best way to not suffer loneliness. Life unravels secrets each time and guides us to happiness in daily living.

Anonymous

Wisdom



Thought is more important than art. To revere art and have no understanding of the process that forces it into existence, is finally not even to understand what art is."

Amiri Baraka was born Everett LeRoi Jones in Newark, New Jersey, on October 7, 1934. His father, Colt LeRoy Jones, was a postal supervisor; Anna Lois Jones, his mother, was a social worker. He attended Rutgers University for two years, then transferred to Howard University, where in 1954 he earned his B.A. in English. He served in the Air Force from 1954 until 1957, then moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan. There he joined a loose circle of Greenwich Village artists, musicians, and writers. The following year he married **Hettie Cohen** and began co-editing the avant-garde literary magazine *Yugen* with her. That year he also founded Totem Press, which first published works by **Allen Ginsberg**, Jack Kerouac, and others.

Poem

By Caroline Nderitu-Benjamin

The Woman Who Kissed a Tree

Shall we call her champion?
Is that one who fights ferociously
for her opinion?
Shall we call her warrior?
Is that one whose war is severe and
superior?
Shall we call her pioneer?
Is that one who sets her compass,
and does not veer?

Shall we call her Heroine?
For in heroine,
You will find champion therein
You will find warrior therein
You will find pioneer therein
You will find Professor Wangari
therein

For our environment, she continues
to weep
The roots and shoots of her mission
will never go to sleep
The tentacles of the Green Belt
Will continue to be felt
For her maimed planet, she was
ready to rave, to rant
The least you and I can do in
honour, is plant, plant, plant

For nature is a kind mother, our
bread and butter
But a brutal master, should we
cross her
No peace with nature
Is no peace with each other

May the roots and shoots of a
billion trees run free
May bountiful beasts and birds feel
free to be
May lavishly, lush lands keep
budding
May heavy rains greet heavy
harvesting

Let us all light a candle
From the fire of Wangari's struggle
Let us salute her enduring desire
By ensuring earth doesn't expire

Editorial Board: Margaret Otolu (Member), Atika Manani (Member), Janet Muthimi (Member), Grace Muchiri (Member), Erica Mwololo (Member), Isaac Mwangi (Member), Mercy N. Kanyi (Member), Patrick Minai (Design & Layout), Susan Ndichu (Secretary), David Karanja (Editor),

The Kenyatta University Newsletter is published by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The Editorial Board welcomes brief comments, articles or news on topical issues.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit/shorten articles and to decide whether to publish them.

You may email the articles to: pro@ku.ac.ke or drop them in soft copy at ROOM 115 or 106 in the main Administration Block.