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

Kenyatta University

newslet

A Fortnightly Publication of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



New Chancellor Installed as KU Rolls Out Fresh Initiatives



(R-L) Council Chairman Benson Wairegi, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda and Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi after the 29th Graduation ceremony on Dec. 10, 2010. Prof. Mutungi was installed as the Kenya University Chancellor.

Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi was installed as the Chancellor during the 29th Graduation Ceremony on December 10, 2010, following his appointment by H.E. the President, Hon. Mwai Kibaki.

He was installed by the Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi and the VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda. The Chancellor thanked President Kibaki for giving him the opportunity to serve *"this rapidly-growing University."*

"I can't take this honour for granted," said Prof. Mutungi, adding: *"Kenya University*

is the University to watch in the future." The Chancellor commended KU for having a *"rich curriculum for the realization of Vision 2030."*

Speakers at the colourful ceremony included Prof. Mutungi, Mr. Wairegi, the VC, Prof. Mugenda; Hon. Kilemi Mwiria, Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and

Stick to Global Principles, Graduands Urged

The Chief Guest, Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai, a former secretary general, Association of African Universities, asked graduands to follow the principles that guide higher education worldwide.

He advised them to face life's challenges boldly, not to fear failure but to learn lessons of 'failure' and become more innovative and that Persistence and perseverance be their driving force.

"You, my friends, are going to be part of the next generation of leaders of Kenya and that puts

an enormous responsibility on you. Whether you are in business or you exercise a profession, whether you work in the public or private sector, whether you are in Kenya or in another country, I hope you will always uphold the principles that guide higher education worldwide, and these are: search for truth through learning, service to society, belief in freedom of expression, promotion of excellence, respect for differences of opinion and acceptance of diversity." Prof. Mohamedbhai is a former President of the International Association of Universities.

On how failure could be turned into success, *continued on Pg 2*

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Editorial

Welcome to the second decade of the 21st Century and a fresh beginning in more ways than one, to wit: our VC's second contract has the Council's blessing, thus enabling her to see her pet projects through to completion (the referral hospital springs to mind most readily); we have a new Chancellor, Prof. Onesimus Mutungi, whose inauguration we have featured on the front page (his acceptance speech is fraught with hope and confidence in the success of this institution on its path towards world-class status); and finally, we have started this Second Semester of 2010/11 with renewed vigour.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that last year had its bleak side that served to sober us in the midst of the Jubilee celebrations. Several long-serving members of staff, among whom were Professor Mwaniki, Dr. Kisulu, Mr. Wahome and several others passed away. Others among us lost relatives and friends similarly.

We shall always sorely miss these dearly departed and we wish them eternal peace. But life must go on. And the best way to honour them is to ensure that when our time comes to join them, we will have left this world a better place than we found it. Have a Happy and Productive New Year

David V. Karanja
Editor

29th Graduation Ceremony



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Technology; and Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai (former Secretary General of the Association of African Universities) who was the Guest Speaker. (see their separate remarks on page 2&3).

Key guests included Prof. Francis Gichaga, Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology; and Prof. Everett Standa, the Secretary and CEO ,

Commission for Higher Education and a former KU Vice-Chancellor.

More than 2,840 graduands were conferred various degrees and awarded diplomas and certificates. Among them were 129 Diplomas, 2,362 Bachelors 18 Postgraduate Diplomas, 311 Masters and 22 PhD candidates. The University also saw its first batch of medical students graduate. The KU has 30,081

KU new Chancellor Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus Mutungi, congratulates a PhD graduand. With him are the VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda and the Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi.

students up from 600 in 1985, when the then Kenyatta University College became a fully-fledged university. Its programmes have since risen from 10 to 290.

On the new programmes, Prof. Mugenda said the University is considering introducing the Student Work Induction Programme (SWIP) aimed at strengthening "our programmes and producing market relevant and innovative graduates," while the Business Incubation and Acceleration Centre seeks to "nurture entrepreneurs among staff and students." Both programmes target KU students and staff.

"The starting of the Student Work Induction Programme addresses the constant criticism by employers that university graduates do not fit into employment after graduation," said Prof. Mugenda. **For more on this, please visit www.ku.ac.ke**

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Stick to Global Principles, Graduands Urged

Prof. Mohamedbhai, a former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius, said: "Life is not always made up of successes – you will find hurdles coming your way. And you may have to face failures. Failure can in fact be the pillar of success."

Prof. Mohamedbhai, cited Thomas Edison and Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who both failed many times before they finally invented the light bulb, and developed India's ballistic missile and rocket technology, respectively. Dr Kalam was to become the President of India.

Prof. Mohamedbhai asked African governments to allocate more funds to public universities to help them offer quality education. He said higher education "must be relevant" to the country's development needs.

"Unemployment of graduates is a major issue in Africa. Besides being relevant, higher education in Africa must be of quality. As a result of gross under-funding

over the past couple of decades, and because of the pressure to increase enrolment well beyond capacity, quality in most African higher education institutions had deteriorated significantly. But major revitalisation efforts, led by the African Union and UNESCO, are now under way and we are already witnessing positive results, including in this very campus."

Prof. Mohamedbhai commended KU for its commitment to quality education. "I must say I am deeply impressed by the dynamic approach that the University is adopting in achieving its objectives through a process of revitalisation and expansion. I believe Kenyatta University can be an example to many universities in Africa," said Prof. Mohamedbhai, adding that it was encouraging to note that KU continued to "thrive in all its academic endeavours."

For a complete text of Prof. Mohamedbhai's speech, please visit www.ku.ac.ke

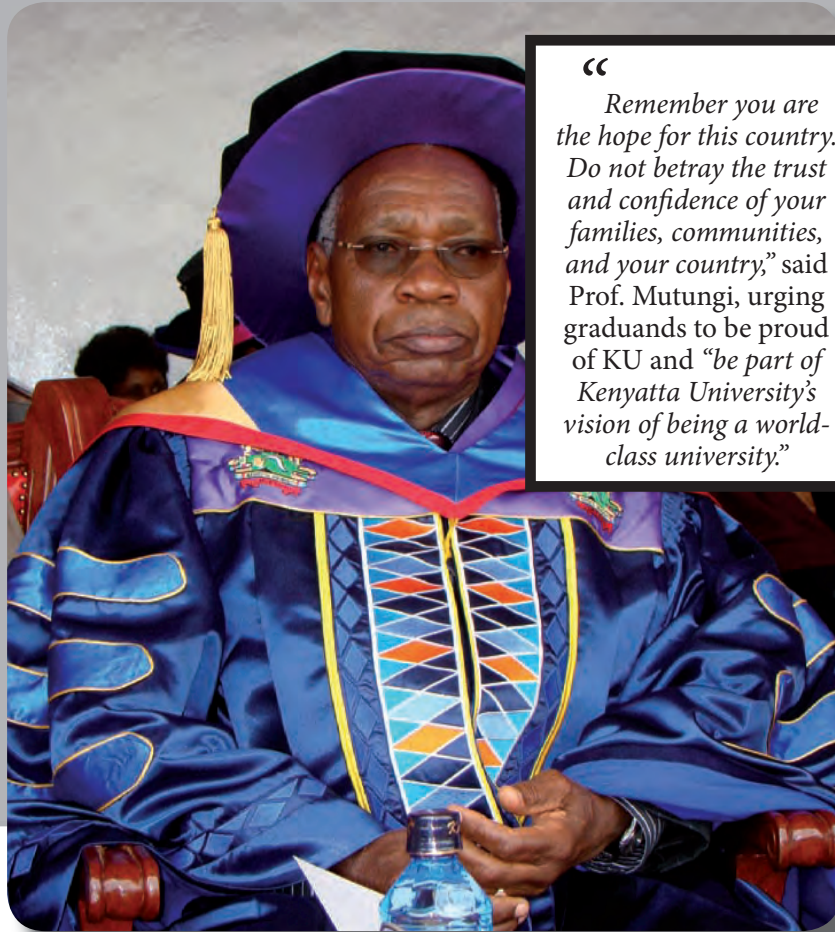


Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai

"I must say I am deeply impressed by the dynamic approach that the University is adopting in achieving its objectives"

-Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai

Messsages



“
Remember you are
the hope for this country.
Do not betray the trust
and confidence of your
families, communities,
and your country,” said
Prof. Mutungi, urging
graduands to be proud
of KU and “be part of
Kenyatta University’s
vision of being a world-
class university.”

The Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi, asked the graduands to seize the opportunities created by the new Constitution, as well as the East African Common Market Protocol. “Exploit all the opportunities that come your way, aim high and do not be limited by the national boundaries,” said the Chancellor.

The Chancellor commended KU for its deliberate efforts to offer “a rich” curriculum “that prepares its students for the realization of the goals of Vision 2030.” Apart from this, the University has been expanding opportunities of access by increasing its intake of students and also introducing new market relevant programmes such as Hospitality and Tourism, Law, and Medicine.

“The opportunities awaiting you are enormous. Kenya is in dire need of creative entrepreneurs, aggressive investors and professionals with skills and integrity to transform the nation into a medium income country. The system of national governance being introduced by the new constitution will only suit smart professionals. Exploit all the opportunities that come your way,” said Prof. Mutungi.

The Chancellor asked the graduands to use their academic power to help the less fortunate. “Be a voice for people who need your help. Be an inspiration to those that God will bring your way. Do your best to provide visionary leadership that will help to solve the myriads of social-economic problems facing the world,” he urged.

Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus K. Mutungi
Ph.D., EBS. Chancellor

“Seize the opportunities created by the new Constitution, as well as the East African Common Market Protocol.”

-Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus K. Mutungi

Dr. Mwiria commended President Kibaki for appointing Prof. Mutungi, saying: “I don’t think the University could have got a better Chancellor.” He said that he was impressed by KU’s efforts to make quality and affordable education accessible to more Kenyans, by expanding its programmes and opening more campuses across the country. “Kenyatta University has made learning much more conducive,” said Dr. Mwiria.

The Minister asked the University to continue diversifying in order to achieve rapid growth. It should, in particular pay attention to graduate training.

“We cannot achieve Vision 2030 if we do not invest in education,” said Dr Mwiria, adding that other countries, including China, Korea and Japan became economic superpowers because they emphasized the investment in human capital.

Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria
Assistant Minister for Higher Education



“
We cannot achieve
Vision 2030 if we do not
invest in education.”

“Kenyatta University has made learning much more conducive.”

-Hon. Dr. Kilemi Mwiria

The VC Gets Another Five-Year Contract

The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda, has been given another five-year contract.

The University Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi, made this announcement during the staff luncheon on December 23, 2010 adding that the Council's decision had the full backing of the Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus Mutungi and the government.

Prof. Mugenda was appointed Vice-Chancellor in March, 2006 and her first five-year term was to end on March 20, this year. However, Mr Wairegi said the Council was impressed by the rapid growth of the University in the past five years. Prof. Mugenda, he said, had also implemented key tasks set in her 10-year Strategic Plan.

Kenyatta University Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi, congratulates Prof. Olive Mugenda after she was appointed KU's Vice-Chancellor for another period of five years. The announcement was made during the staff luncheon on December 23, 2010 at Kenyatta University Conference Centre (KUCC).



Prof. Mugenda thanked the Government, through the University Council, for the faith it had in her leadership and promised to do much more in the next five years. She confided that strategies have been put in place to ensure that Kenyatta University becomes a top competitor among world-class universities. The VC attributed the impressive growth of the University to the support the Council, the Management, the entire staff and students have given her. "I am committed to continuing with my work," said Prof. Mugenda before she and Mr Wairegi joined a mwana wamberi jig as staff lined up to congratulate her. Prof. Olive

Mugenda has overseen tremendous growth of the University in the last 5 years with student enrolment growing to the present 30,000, up from 15,000 in 2006.

She thanked those who have been supporting her within the University and in the Country and promised to work with all staff and students for the advancement of Kenyatta University.

The Editorial Board congratulates Prof. Olive M. Mugenda for her re-appointment as the Vice-Chancellor.

For more, please visit www.ku.ac.ke

KU Receives a 300million Book Donation from the USA



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, is meant to stock the multi-million modern library set to open in March this year. The donation comprises multiples of 20 to 50 copies of 1,244 different 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.

For more on this, please visit www.ku.ac.ke

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

-Dr. Martin Mwangi

FOCUS

ON STUDENTS

KU Students Choir

Excels in 2010 Music Festivals



The seventy strong KU Student Choir paid a visit to the Vice-Chancellor to present her with the harvest of trophies they garnered in the 2010 Kenya Music Festival. The five trophies were; Best Composition; Best Accompanied Set-Piece; Best Advanced Composition entitled 'Mr. Weaver Bird' by Sylvester Otieno; Highest Mark in the Festival; and Best Overall University Choir. Makobi Matete was arguably the star of the show since he scooped the first position in tenor solo set-piece, bass solo set-piece, Western folksong, and operatic solo. The KU crew grabbed over 50% of the awards.

The VC congratulated the students for their exemplary performance and splendid achievement that has enhanced the image of Kenyatta University. "You are our new ambassadors and role models for your peers. You have contributed much to the excitement and vibrancy of Kenyatta University," said the VC. She further thanked the lecturers for their continued support and training that had made the students excel and exercise their potential talents.

The Dean, School of Visual and Performing Arts, Dr. Beatrice Digolo, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for her continued assistance to sustain the activities of the students' choir. In a speech read on her behalf by the Chairman, Music Department, Dr. Timothy Njoora, the Dean also appreciated the excellent work by the students and the staff who facilitate the activities of the Choir.

The KU Students Choir brings together music enthusiasts from various departments in the University and has participated in National Celebrations several times.



Career Week 2011 Set for February

Preparations for the Career Week 2011 scheduled for February are in top gear, and a committee has been constituted.

It is working under the theme: "the paradigm shift from job seeking to job creation." Given the success of February's event, the pressure is on and under the stewardship of the newly appointed acting director, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, the team seems ready for the challenge.

In tandem with the theme, one of the activities in the Career Week is the Projects Exhibitions in which students will be given a chance to showcase their inventions. Submitted projects that demonstrate capability to create jobs will be showcased during the weeklong event. The winning project will be awarded prizes.

Students should register for the exhibition at the Career Centre, at the Business and Student Services Centre. For more

information, please visit <http://www.ku.ac.ke/career/>

The page is dedicated to disseminating information on this year's event and information on past events. The page has a beautiful as well as functional layout with different tabs for the different aspects of the career week. The website can be found by pointing your browser to <http://www.ku.ac.ke/career/>

It can also be reached from the official KU website, [ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke) via a dedicated link.

Meanwhile, preparations are in top gear for the event that is scheduled to take place in February this year. Already, a committee has been constituted and is working under the theme: the **Paradigm Shift From Job Seeking to Job Creation**. Given the success of February's event, the pressure is on and under the stewardship of newly appointed acting director, Prof. P. Aloo Obudho, the team seems ready for the challenge.

As is now tradition, a souvenir magazine will be published during the career week. This publication will feature among other things student articles. Students interested in being published are therefore encouraged to send articles on careers or on 2011 career week theme to the email: addresscareermag@ku.ac.ke.

In tandem with the theme, one of the activities in 2011 career week is the project exhibitions where students will be given a chance to showcase their inventions.

Submitted projects that demonstrate they have the capability to create jobs will be showcased during the week-long event where the winning project will be rewarded.

Students are called upon to register for the exhibition at the Career Centre, located on the first floor of the new Business and Students Centre.



FOCUS ON STUDENTS CONTINUED

Transforming e-learning



A section of IBP students listens when the VC officially launched the new e-Learning system on December 21, 2010.

Kenyatta University is restructuring e-learning in order to offer better services to students through the ODeL centres. The University has appointed School co-ordinators to coordinate e-learning programmes across departments for ODeL and other e-learning programmes in the University. They will also serve as the link between the ODeL Institute and the departments.

The University has also

initiated continuous workshops for module writing across departments.

In addition, the collaboration between KU, Equity Bank and Safaricom will allow students and staff to access laptops at subsidized rates.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, recently met the ODeL facilitators where she addressed the issues affecting e-learning at the University and the way forward to enhance service delivery. The VC called

on the facilitators, to ensure that teaching is conducted during the specified hours to avoid cases of students missing classes and that lecture notes be available on the Moodle e-Platform at all times for students to access from their work places. Departments are also expected to ensure that facilitators have received the ODeL tutorial timetable two weeks before the commencement of tutorials and that Modules are available for the ODeL units being offered in the respective

departments. Assignments should be given to students during tutorials and examinations should be marked within two weeks after administration as in any other mode of study and marks entered in the UNIPUS immediately after marking.

The VC also urged the coordinators to regularly communicate with the students as this would ensure that any issues are identified and solved early enough.

KUCWA Visits 'Imprisoned' Innocent Children

By Pasaka Ngina Gatura,
KUCWA, Vice-Chairperson

Kenyatta University Child Welfare Association (KUCWA) visited Lang'ata Women's Prison, in Nairobi, to interact with innocent children 'imprisoned' with their mothers.

The team of about 50 students led by the Patron, Dr. Rachel Kang'ethe, Chairman Department of Early Childhood Development, and Dr. Peter Koech, a lecturer in the same department, discovered that the innocent children suffer simply because their imprisoned mothers have nowhere else to take them. Some children were even born in jail, while others were as old as four years. The government usually forwards children aged over five to children's homes where they spend the rest of their formative years.

The group was taken around the prison, which is home to 64 children, by Ms Grace

Adhiambo, the Assistant Commissioner of Lang'ata Women's Prison. The students who took time off their studies for the tour on November 13, 2010, just before the examinations, described their experience as an eye-opener. Many struck emotional chords with the children whom they unfortunately had to leave behind.

The joy they brought the children by spending time with them and playing with them showed just how much these children missed the pleasures some of us often take for granted. Apart from playing with the children, the group donated foodstuff, play materials, as well as books and pencils. They also had a chance to socialize with the mothers, praying with them and giving them words of encouragement and hope.

As a result of what they learnt,

KUCWA is now working on a proposal for helping the children. The project would address their welfare and suggest activities to ensure they have developed holistically just like any other child in a normal set-up.



Members of the Kenyatta University Child Welfare Association with some of the Lang'ata Women's Prison Inmates and their Imprisoned children during the visit.

Another First For Kenyatta University!



Dr. Claude Frey, Linguistic Attaché, French Embassy (standing centre in grey suit), with participants in the workshop dubbed "Teaching French." With him are Dr. Daniel Muindi, Registrar (Academic) (standing, third from right) and Dr. Chokah, Chair, Foreign Languages (on his right).

KU has scored another first by becoming the first university in the English-speaking Eastern Africa region to be admitted to the Agency for Francophone Universities (AUF) as an Associate Member.

Member universities are drawn from African French-speaking countries, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and France. Dr. Milcah M. Chokah, Chairperson, Foreign Languages, says benefits include research grants and scholarships and general increased visibility for the members.

KU had earlier been admitted as a member to the Consortium for the establishment of the AUF Regional Graduate School. "Membership to this body is competitive and KU has once again taken the lead," said Dr. Chokah.

IT Workshop

The University, through the department of Foreign Languages, early this month hosted a workshop dubbed "Teaching French" for directors of resource centres. The main objective of the workshop was to emphasize

the relevance of the Internet and media in the teaching of French as a foreign language.

The exercise was sponsored by the French government through the Bureau for Linguistic Cooperation (BCL) and the Kenya Association of Teachers of French (KATF).

Those who attended included Dr. Claude Frey, Linguistic Attaché, French Embassy; Dr. Daniel Muindi, KU Registrar Academic and Dr. Chokah, Chairperson, Department of Foreign Languages

Another Milestone As KU Launches Students' Shuttle Service

The University Management in consultation with the students leadership KUSA, has introduced a Students' Shuttle Service that aims to reduce the hustle and bustle of transport that students have been experiencing.

The University used the power of numbers to negotiate cost effective and student friendly rates for the Shuttle Service. After intense negotiations between the University Management and the Holiday Cars & Tours Ltd, the firm that competitively won the bid to provide the services, students will now pay Ksh 1,500 per Semester for the shuttle service. For 15 shillings daily, students will be able to make several trips to and from campus as they wish. According to the contract signed with the transport company, there will be no fluctuation of fares within the contract period.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda led the University Management in launching the Students' Shuttle Service in Ruiru, Parklands and Main Campuses. In her address

to the student fraternity, the VC said that the service will not only eliminate the jostling and congestion that was apparent in the University buses, but will also be a dignified mode of travel as opposed to public transport. This will be another first for KU as it becomes the first public university to launch a Students' Shuttle Service.

The move to introduce Students' Shuttle service will further ensure that University buses are available for the purpose for which they were procured, that is, academic activities. The buses will cater for students on key routes, dropping and picking them along the designated bus routes and stops and will work on a regular time schedule making it possible for students to plan their day in advance. The Buses will also go to town and drop/pick students at Jivanjee Gardens Bus Stop.

Elated students welcomed the initiative by the University Management. Those who spoke during the launch thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the bold move that is aimed at improving service delivery to the students whose population has continued to increase resulting to majority seeking off-campus accommodation.

Kenyatta University students will now have a chance to travel in comfort and dignity. Those who subscribe to the shuttle service will be issued Bus passes to allow them entry into the bus.

For more information / enquiries, contact the following:

Dean of Students - Dr. Edwin Gimode
Tel: 0727 744 104, Email: dsa@ku.ac.ke
Mr. Wilfred Thairoh, Tel: 0721 264 413

Academic Secretary-KUSA, Mr. Victor Kiplagat
Tel: 0726 312 598
Email: academicsecretary-kusa@yahoo.com

Holiday Cars & Tours Ltd-Mr. Kenneth Njoroge
Tel: 0722 748 758
Mr. Muthoka Musyoki - Tel: 0721 537 814
Email: info@holidaycarskenya.com



The Students' Shuttle Service Bus.



29th Graduation Ceremony



KU Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi (*left*), confers with JKUAT Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga, during the 29th Graduation Ceremony on December 10, 2010.



The Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi, plants a commemorative tree before the Graduation Ceremony.



KU Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd.) Onesimus Mutungi (*left*), the KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda and KU Council Chairman, Mr. Benson Wairegi, after the Graduation Ceremony.



Prof. P.K. Wainaina DVC Admin. (*Left*); DVC Finance, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (*behind centre*); and DVC (Academic), Prof. John Okumu, lead the Chancellor's Procession during the graduation ceremony.



KUSA President Antony Maina (*left*) and Secretary General, Mwabosa Mwasomba in a procession during the 29th graduation ceremony on Dec. 10, 2010.



The mace bearer leads the Chancellor's Procession.

29th Graduation Ceremony



The KU Students Choir entertains guests.



The KU Staff Choir entertains guests.



A section of Ph.D Graduands follow the proceedings.



KU VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda and the Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi, adjust Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus Mutungi's gown.



KU VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda and the Council Chairman, Mr Benson Wairegi, cap Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus Mutungi when he was installed as the new Kenyatta University Chancellor.



KU new Chancellor, Prof. Justice (Rtd) Onesimus Mutungi, addresses the University's 29th Graduation Ceremony.



29th Graduation Ceremony



Prof. Justine Irina, Chairman of Council, Pwani University College and Prof. Kihumbi Thairu, Vice-Chancellor, Presbyterian University of East Africa, share a moment before the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, addresses the congregation.



Hon. Kilemi Mwiria, Assistant Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology, addresses the congregation.



The Guest Speaker, former Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, Prof. Goolam Mohamedbhai, delivers his speech.



The Commissioner for Higher Education, Prof. Everett Standa (left), and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga, listen to proceedings during the 29th Graduation Ceremony on December 10, 2010.



A student representative makes her speech during the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



29th Graduation Ceremony



(Left) The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Council Chairman Mr. Benson Wairegi, Guest Speaker, Prof. Goolam Mahamedbhai, and Prof. Justine Irina, Chairman of Council, Pwani University College follow proceedings during the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



The Alumni Chairman, Mr. Thomas Okore, delivers his speech.



A section of the Graduands listen keenly to the proceedings.



Confucius Institute lecturers led by Mr. Jia Bingbo (left) attending the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



Kenyatta University Travelling Theatre (KUTT) students entertain guests during the ceremony.



Kenyatta University Travelling Theatre (KUTT) dancers regaling guests during the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



Research Updates

Fashion, Design & Marketing

The department of Fashion, Design and Marketing recently held a very successful seminar that highlighted some key issues touching on the Textiles and Apparel Sector worldwide. Some of the seminar presenters included Prof. Steen Karen from Cazenovia College, New York, USA; and Dr. Ann Mason Mastamet, from Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa.

Over 70 participants attended the seminar. They included representatives from the Textiles and Apparel Manufacturing Industries i.e. Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF) and Thika Cloth Mills (TCM). Institutes of higher learning represented included Kenya Polytechnic University College, Maseno University, Egerton University and Kenya Technical Teachers Training College.

Various schools, departments and sections in Kenyatta University were highly represented in the seminar. These included Graduate School, Business,



Prof. Steen Karen (left) from Cazenovia College, New York, USA and Dr. Ann Mason Mastamet (right) from Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa. Both presented research papers during the seminar, among other resource persons.

Hospitality and Education Schools. Departments represented included Fine Art, Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics, Recreation and Sports Sciences and Community Resource Management and Extension. The Kenyatta University Audit section was also represented.

Prof. Karen Steen presented a paper on Integration of Computer Aided

Designs (CAD) into the curriculum to prepare students for the Fashion Industry. Dr. Ann Mason Mastamet presented a paper on Size and Fit issues.

Participants commended Kenyatta University for having organized the first seminar ever to be held in a Kenyan Institution of Higher Learning targeting the Textiles and Apparel Sector.

Cash for Innovative Ideas



In an effort to tap into the resourcesfulness of staff and students for the development of the University, the management

has approved the payment of a token to any student and member of staff — teaching and non-teaching — who comes up with an innovative original idea. However, the token will only be paid for the idea after it has been approved for implementation.

The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda, said the idea should contribute towards the improvement of the academic programmes, infrastructure, service delivery system, and ICT.

However, due to the nature of their offices, members of the Management Board, Senate, Directorates, and Coordinators of Units, will not receive any payment for their ideas. The

VC said contributions from such staff will be acknowledged differently.

Prof. Mugenda announced this during the staff luncheon on December 23, 2010. Two staff members have already received a token of Sh20,000 each for their innovative ideas. One is on for the establishments of a laundry mart to help the University save on laundry-related expenditures, while the other, is on the branding of CAT answer papers with the KU logo. The VC encouraged staff to forward their proposals to her for consideration.

Staff get Christmas, New Year Gift

As the University marked its Silver Jubilee, all the teaching and non-teaching staff were given a rare Christmas and New Year gift as a token of appreciation.

The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda, announced amid jubilation during the staff luncheon on December 23, 2010, that the Management had decided to award all the staff a 20 per cent one time payment of their basic salary for "having gone the extra mile."

The staff were all smiles as they later headed to the banks and found the well-deserved token waiting for them.

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY ACADEMY (Pre-School)

Situated along Ethiopia Way and admits children between 2 - 5 Years

- The Academy held its annual End of Year Party on 24th November 2010 whereby the Pre-Unit graduated after completing their Pre-School Course ready to join Std 1
- Dr. Ruth Wanjau, Ag. Director, Aids Control Unit, represented the VC as the Guest of Honour.
- Dr. Rachel W. Kamau Kang'ethe, Chairperson ECS and Dr. Peter Kibet Koech of ECS also graced the occasion.

Enrollment Year: 2010 (on-going)

The Guest of Honour, Dr. Ruth Wanjau with the Graduands, (left) Angel Wamalwa & Audrey Elamwenya



For more information, please contact: The Headmistress, Tel: 8170901, Ext 57544

Campus Round-up

KITUI

Transforming lives

At the close of the year, during the Silver Jubilee celebrations, several community representatives gave their views about the contribution the campus has made to the community.

The leaders included Mr James Muoka, the Kwa-vonza area chief; Mr Francis Munyao, Kwa-vonza Primary School Headteacher; Mr Danson M. Ndaya, the Ngamyone Primary School Headteacher; and Ms. Josephine M. Mwanzia, a businesslady at Kwa-vonza market. Others included boda boda operators, led by Joram, who doubles up as a KU student.

Local residents say the Campus has greatly transformed their lives.



MR JAMES MUOKA
CHIEF
KWA-VONZA AREA



PUPILS OF
NGAMYONE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
-FOOTBALL
UNIFIES THEM
WITH KITUI
CAMPUS
STUDENTS

KWA-VONZA
BODA BODA
OPERATORS – IN
BLACK SUIT IS
JORAM, A KU
STUDENT AND
A BODA BODA
OWNER

Speakers agreed neighbouring schools have been the greatest beneficiaries with some getting cementing and renovating a classroom at Kwa-vonza primary.



Businesses have been boosted, and many residents now have access to piped water and electricity.

They have also donated food and clothes for instance to Kitui School for the Deaf, during the famine. Also, during the dry season, the Campus has, through the Community Outreach Extension Programme, provided food and clothing to needy families in the area.

Indeed, the perception of Kwa-vonza area has changed from being a 'not so exposed' to 'an educated' community.

MR. FRANCIS MUNYAO, HEADTEACHER KWA-VONZA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

MS. JOSEPHINE
M. MWANZIA,
BUSINESSOWNER
'KWA-VONZA
SUPERMARKET'

Kwa-Vonza is now known and recognized not only in Kitui but in the entire country. All due to the presence of KU.



CITY

Online registration

Registration is set to go online as the VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda, had stated during her tour of the City Campus last year.

The VC visited the Campus in October and participated in a captivating open session with students, who freely expressed their ideas and opinions on how best their stay can be improved.

Prof. Mugenda assured the students that the Campus, would be handling most issues affecting them, thus saving them the trouble of going to the Main Campus to get solutions.



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. OLIVE MUGENDA,
WITH STUDENTS WHEN SHE TOURED CITY CAMPUS.

Campus Round-up

continued

The function was moderated by the Campus Deputy Director, Dr. Charles Ombuki, and students were addressed by the various Deans of Schools present who included Prof. Jonathan Chege (Business), Dr. Tom Kimani (Economics), and Prof. Oluoch Obura (Humanities). Students were also addressed by the DVC (Finance, Planning and Development) Prof. Daniel Mugendi, and his Registrar, Dr. Nelson Karagu.

NAKURU



Prof. Olive Mugenda, Vice-Chancellor Kenyatta University (3rd from right) with members of the University Management Board after a tour of the Nakuru Campus just before the end of the year.

KU Opens New Campus in Nakuru

January 2011 is a historic month for the residents of Nakuru and its environs. Kenyatta University opened its innovative new campus within the Nakuru Central Business District with the pioneer group of 134 students reporting to the campus on January 3, 2011. The day will be remembered with pride by the entire University community, which has worked closely with the local community to conceive a model new campus to offer industry-relevant courses in the region.

In line with Kenyatta University's vision of providing a world-class University education and its commitment to creativity and excellence, the campus aims to provide first-class facilities for learning and teaching, research and intellectual growth to the staff and students, and to the professional working population and school leavers in the area.

The new campus is initially offering courses in Business, Education, Economics and Psychology. In the pioneer class of January 2011, the MBA (Master of Business Administration) and the M.A (Counseling Psychology) post-graduate courses will be conducted in the evenings and weekends while the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and the Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) undergraduate programmes will be conducted under the full-time mode of study.

The Nakuru Campus facility becomes the 8th campus of Kenyatta University, others are; Main Campus, Ruiru Campus, Parklands Campus, Kitui Campus, City Campus, Mombasa Campus and Nyeri Campus. "The objective of this campus is to take Kenyatta University's renowned quality education to the people so as to give them the opportunity to upgrade their skills to fit into modern, world class careers and also allow school leavers to access quality higher education that will benefit them in their future and also improve the local communities," said Prof. Olive Mugenda during a tour of the Campus ahead of the opening.

She said the location of the new campus was key because "We thought of providing a convenient and quality learning atmosphere for Nakuru people who wish to improve their professional skills by offering them the opportunity to study for Kenyatta University degrees without having to travel long distances."

The Kenyatta University Nakuru Campus is located at the KU Plaza (formerly Hyrax Building) along the Nairobi-Eldoret Highway in the Central Business District of Nakuru County. The Campus also houses the Regional Centre for Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) which has been running the KU distance learning programmes in Nakuru town for almost a decade now.

NYERI

Entry Point

For more than a decade, the newest KU satellite campus was known as the Nyeri Open Learning Centre. However, since May 2010, the centre was upgraded to a campus by opening her doors to full-time and part-time students for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Currently, the Campus boasts a pioneer intake of 22 MBA students and more than 50 Bachelor of Commerce students.

The founding Director, Prof. Wangari Mwai, says further expansion is clearly envisaged especially due to the recorded overwhelming enquiries about future courses.

She projects a growth of 60% in the student population come next intake. In anticipation, the learning environment has been made more conducive through major improvements — lecture space has been doubled, a large and spacious library and computer laboratory established, and executive offices provided for the staff.

"Nyeri Campus endeavours to emulate the Main Campus in perceived value and attractiveness to customers," said Prof. Mwai. "We have so far identified our key value proposition as our presence in the rural areas which will help the achievement of part of the KU mission of inclusiveness especially in regards to women and those advanced in age. We have registered case stories in this regard.



For instance, a chief in Tetu District, Location is set to graduate with a bachelors degree. Mrs. Lucy Wangui Maina, a former P1 Teacher, evangelist and currently the chief of Gaaki Location in the County Number One of Nyeri, is to graduate with a B.ED degree.

A further example is Mrs. Abishag Wang'ombe, a retired secondary school teacher and principal, who graduated with a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology in the 28th Graduation Ceremony.

Bereavement

1. Dr. Grace Wamue-Ngare lost her mother, Mama Esther Nyatuga Wamue. She was buried on 30th November 2010.
2. Dr. John Maundu of the Department of Education Communication and Technology lost his son Mr. Patrick Mbithi Maundu on 23rd November 2010. The late Patrick was laid to rest on 4th December 2010.

The Vice-Chancellor and the Newsletter Editorial team send heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for their peace and comfort.

Appointments

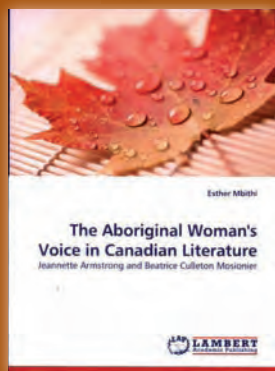


Prof. Waceke Wanjohi has been appointed Acting Dean School of Agriculture & Enterprise Development (AED).



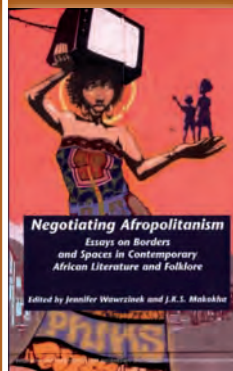
Prof. Caroline Thoruwa has been appointed Director, Kenyatta University City Campus.

HOT OFF THE PRESS



AUTHOR

1. Dr. Esther Mbithi Literature Department



KU CONTRIBUTORS

1. Dr. Michael Wainaina Literature Department
2. Dr. Mbugua Wa Mungai Literature Department
3. Dr. Sim Kilosho Kabale Foreign Languages Dept.



KU CONTRIBUTOR

1. Dr. Mbugua Wa Mungai Literature Department

First One from The KU Press

This special issue of the KU Newsletter heralds a new era in printing for Kenyatta University. Volume 7 issue 1 is straight from the new Kenyatta University Press (KUP) which has been set up by the University and which began its operations in January 2011.

The new modern state-of-the-art digital Printing Press meets internationally recognized printing standards with the vision of establishing itself as a prominent scholarly publisher of books, journals, brochures, magazines and all types of printing works. The Printing Press is being established as a publishing unit of the University to cater for the printing requirements of the University as well as private organizations and individuals.

The press is situated at the New Business and Students Services Centre, 2nd floor. The Press will be Commissioned soon.



Tributes



Dr. Nelson Kisulu died on 12th November 2010 while undergoing treatment at Kenyatta Hospital. Dr. Kisulu joined Kenyatta University in July 1978 as a lecturer in the Department of Educational Foundations. He was later promoted to the position of Senior lecturer in 1986.

He served as Chairman of the Department of Educational Foundations between 1999 and 2003. Dr. Kisulu served the University for thirty-two years with dedication and commitment. The university will miss an exceptional worker.

He was laid to rest on 26th November 2010 at his home in Machakos.



Prof. Louis Mwaniki passed away on Friday 26th November 2010, at Kenyatta National Hospital. Prof. Mwaniki was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Fine Art at Kenyatta University in July 1973 and subsequently rose to the position of Senior lecturer

in 1974 and later in 1983 he became an Associate Professor. He served as Chairman of the Department of Fine Art for several years where he was also the longest serving member of staff. Prof. Mwaniki chaired and participated in several departmental committees and seminars.

The late Prof. Mwaniki made immense contributions to the department of Fine Art due to his wide experience. He was a mentor to students and staff alike through Art training and guidance. The University deeply appreciates Prof. Mwaniki's 37 years of dedicated service.



Mr. David Bitok passed away on Sunday 28th November 2010.

Mr. Bitok was until his sudden demise, working in the Teaching Programmes Publications and Tuition facilities Section. He served the University for 19 years. He was a hard-working and reliable worker who will be missed by his friends and colleagues. He was buried on 4th December at his home in Nandi.



The late Susan Ndirangu and her husband, Mr. Jerome Masengo died in a tragic road accident on 4th December 2010 along Matuu Road.

She was a Tutorial Fellow in the Department of Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics since January 2009. She once served as a Departmental timetable and had been an academic advisor for diploma and third year Bachelor of Science students.

The University has indeed lost an ambitious and resourceful member of staff who was set for great achievements.

Sports

Uganda Shines at EA Varsity Games

1



Ugandan universities emerged winners at the well-organised Seventh Edition of the East African University Games 2010 that ended at KU last month.

The five-day event, which started on December 17, saw Uganda's Ndejje University, lead the pack of 37 universities and university colleges from Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar.

The second spot went to Kampala International University (KIU) while the host, Kenyatta University (KU), settled for the third position. Ndejje scooped 63 medals: 25 gold, 21 silver and 17 bronze. KIU took 44: 20 gold, 17 silver and 7 bronze. KU's haul was 79 medals: 15 gold, 28 silver and 36 bronze.

There was resounding ululation as the Ndejje team, led by their Vice-Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Senyimba, received the coveted trophy from Prof Mugenda. (Picture 1)

The event had officially been opened by Hon. Dr. Paul Otuoma, Kenya's Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs on December 17. (Picture 2)

The VC, Prof. Olive Mugenda (centre), enjoys the men's football final match between Strathmore University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. With her are, from left, Prof. Paul Wainaina, KU's DVC (Administration) and Ms Peninah Wahome, Sports and Games Coordinator, who was also the events LOC Secretary. (Picture 3)

Sports Minister, Hon. Dr. Paul Otuoma, kicks off the sitting volleyball tournament after opening the East African University Games. (Picture 4)



Editorial Board: Charles Nderitu (Co-Chairman), Margaret Otolu (Member), Janet Muthimi (Member), Grace Muchiri (Member), Erica Mwololo (Member), Julius Maore (Member), Isaac Mwangi (Member), Mercy N. Kanyi (Member), Kaniaru Ndirangu (Photographer), Patrick Minai (Design & Layout), Susan Ndichu (Secretary), James Chege (Student Representative), David Karanja (Editor), Stephen Mburu (Production 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 109 or 106 in the main Administration Block.