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Kenyatta University newsletter

A Monthly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives.

Sparkling career week 2023



At a Glance

The VC Returns to the Institution

KU-Kodris Africa coding partnership

Inauguration of the New Students Governing Council

Harvest of Drama and Film Trophies

(R-L) Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, CEO Music Copyright Society of Kenya, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIO), and Dr. Margaret Muturi, Director Career Development and Mentorship Programme inspects a prototype product during the 2023 career week innovation day.



Editorial

This January newsletter highlights the colourful and exciting activities and events that happened towards the end of the year 2022 and at the beginning of the year 2023.

Some of the colourful activities related to the just-concluded career week have been covered, including the fantastic guard of honour at the opening ceremony. Just before the Christmas break, there was the pomp and ceremony of the 52nd graduation ceremony, with the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya as the Chief Guest.

Then there's the story of the return of Prof. Paul K. Wainaina as the Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, just in time to address the newly sworn-in students' governing council of the Kenyatta University Students' Association (KUSA); as well as an inspirational session between him and the pupils of KU Primary School.

The "Striga Smart Soghurm" is an inspiring story in these difficult economic times: let us all learn and then share how to increase the yields without expensive agricultural inputs. On the international scene, there are updates on conferences and visits by staff from partner universities. And to top it all, there is the annual ceremony of receiving trophies...

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EKM.*

Kabare Girls follow proceedings during the 2023 career week High Schools Day

On 2nd February 2023, the official opening ceremony of this year's career week took place at the graduation square. 'Digital disruptions: The future of work in a hybrid world' was the theme of the week-long event. The Chief Guest was Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Freda Mugambi, High Court judge and Deputy Director, Judiciary Academy; alongside members of Kenyatta University management including Prof. Bernard Kivunge, Registrar (Academics), representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina; Dr. Margaret Muturi,

Director Career Development and Mentoring Programme; Dr. Eric Masika, Deputy Director Students Affairs; with Dr. Isaiah Oyugi, Coordinator University Entertainment as the Master of Ceremonies.

After the National, East African and Kenyatta University anthems, prayer and entertainment by the Entertainment coordinator, Dr. Isaiah Oyugi, Dr. Margaret Muturi was the first speaker to take to the podium. She started off by thanking the Chief Guest for honoring the



High Court Judge and Deputy Director, Judiciary Academy Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Fredah Mugambi inspects a guard of honor during the 2023 career week opening ceremony.

invitation and accepting to come and talk to KU students. Dr. Muturi further explained that Career Week is aimed at preparing the students for the profession they want to go into in future and their careers. “The directorate also offers elaborate mentorship programmes,” she added. Dr. Muturi thanked the students for participating in the event in such a sublime manner.

The KUSA Chair, Mr. Teddy Odhiambo, was given a chance to address the students and among the things he mentioned was the need to create the connections that one may need in the future. He also praised the directorate for organizing the career week each year. Dr. Muturi then ushered to the podium Prof. Bernard Kivunge, Registrar (Academics), who was the one representing the Vice-

Chancellor. Prof. Kivunge started by describing the essence of the event's theme saying that as a result of the Covid-19, the use of technology was catapulted to the top in our places of work hence the theme itself. He also said that KU is aware of the problem of youth unemployment and strives to raise the percentage of graduates entering the job market. The Registrar acknowledged the benefits of the career week and mentioned the 86 high schools that had come during the first day of the event. He also mentioned that for two days, the event would have corporate exhibitors; urging the students to make connections from there and at the same time thanking the corporations that came to grace the event.

The Registrar invited the Chief Guest, Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Fredah

Mugambi, to the podium to give her speech. The High court judge started by thanking the directorate for inviting her and asking her to come and speak to the students. She urged the students to think out of the box and to make sure to choose a career in an area that they love.

The Lady Justice acknowledged that digital technology influence has vastly grown and that there are many fascinating things in technology impacting our lives. She encouraged all of us to embrace this development, the same way that Kenyan judges embraced virtual courts in the recent past. “We must realize that workplaces of the future will integrate technology and people,” she added. After her speech, she declared the event officially open.

The 52nd Graduation Ceremony



HE Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya Hon. Rigathi Gachagua poses next to a portrait presented to him on the occasion of the University's 52nd graduation ceremony by VC Prof. Paul Wainana. Looking on (from extreme left) Chancellor Dr. Benson Wairegi and (extreme right) Education CS Hon. Ezekiel Machogu. Over 5,641 graduands received their certificates and diplomas including 51 Phds

Kenyatta University celebrated the 52nd graduation ceremony on the 16th December 2022 with approximately 6,420 students graduating: doctorates, masters, postgraduate diplomas, bachelors, diplomas and certificates. The Guest of Honour at this ceremony was the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mr. Rigathi Gachagua, this being his first graduation ceremony to preside over since becoming the Deputy President.

The graduands procession started at around 7 a.m. together with the invited guests and family members;

with the graduands taking the seats assigned to them in the graduation square. The next action that followed was the Academic procession which normally has members of Academic Staff of the University and other Universities, two students' representatives, and two international students. The Chancellor's Procession has members of top management at the University and other Universities, University Council members, invited guests and the Chief Guest who was H.E. The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

After the entertainment by the

Kenyatta University choir, the Administration Police band and the Rambolo Dancers, prayers were said by the University chaplaincy and the programme got well underway.

The DVC (Academic), Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, congratulated the graduating class and invited the graduands with the highest average mean to speak to the congregation and later invited the alumnus. Prof. Waceke Wanjohi then invited the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K Wainaina, to the podium and the VC expressed his joy and delight with the graduating class of December 2022. Prof. Wainaina explained



Kenyatta University Chancellor, Dr. Benson Wairegi and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina awards a Ph.D graduand during the 52nd Graduation Ceremony.

the journey that the University has been through and what every single graduation ceremony means to the entire staff of the University and with this, he invited the Chairman of the University Council, Prof. Shem E Migot-Adholla, to address the congregation and he, in turn, invited the Cabinet Secretary for Education to address the graduands. After his speech the CS invited the Chancellor to the podium.

Dr. Benson I Wairegi shared sentiments similar to the Vice-Chancellor's, congratulating the graduating class of December 2022. The Chancellor then invited H.E. the Deputy President to address the congregation and His Excellency Rigathi Gachagua took to the podium first of all presenting the President's greetings and then

congratulating the graduands on their achievement. He then explained the government's plan to curbing the unemployment menace; and plans to create more jobs for the graduating youths.

He then shared a light moment of when he first came to Kenyatta University and how they met with Her Excellency the Second Lady who studied in Kenyatta University. After his speech, the conferment of the degrees started with the Chancellor giving the power "to read and to write and to do all that appertains" to the various degrees starting with the Doctoral Degrees, Master's Degrees, Bachelor's Degrees and the Awarding of Diplomas, Post Graduate Diplomas and Certificates.

The VC expressed his joy and delight at the graduating class of December 2022. Prof. Wainaina explained the journey that the University has been through and what every single graduation ceremony means to the entire staff of the University

Inauguration of the New Students Governing Council



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina addresses the newly sworn in students governing council during a retreat in Nakuru.

There was a change of guard at the institution as the new Kenyatta University Students Association Governing Body was sworn into office on the 26th of October 2022. This was the 18th congress of KUSA as per the number of SGC's that had come before them.

The National, East African and Kenyatta University Anthems were sung by the KU choir after which, Sheikh Abdullahi Bundid and Father Boniface Kariuki blessed the ceremony with prayers. Entertainment by the choir, Rambolo dancers and Mr. Israel Omwayi a 3rd year student was organized by Dr. Isaiah Oyugi who is the university entertainment coordinator.

Dr. Eng. Daniel Oyoo The Chairperson, KUSA Electoral

Commission started the speeches section saying that the Vice-Chancellor had tasked them with conducting a free and fair election and that they managed to deliver on that mandate.

He also thanked the commission for the achievement and declared United Bureaucratic Action Alliance as the governing body and Teddy Odhiambo Osano as the Chairperson. Mr. Moses Kurgat, the Commissioner of Oaths, just before swearing in the new SGC, said that there was only one appeal out of all the posts vied for and that the election was viable and credible. The following then took the oath of office:

1. Mr. Robert Rhova Bonaya-
The Organizing Secretary for Social Welfare and Co-curricular activities
2. Ms. Juliet Elphiridah Ngele-

The Gender and Special Needs Secretary

3. Ms. Anab Mohammed-

The Academics Secretary

4. Mr. Muhsin Jafar Kasaya-

The Treasurer

5. Mr. Samuel Thiong'o-

The Secretary General

6. Ms. Mary Nzilani Muli-

The Vice Chairperson

7. Mr. Teddy Odhiambo Osano-

The Chairperson

After this, the outgoing KUSA President Mr. Moses Ngigi said a few words, mentioning some of the things his administration achieved and those in motion. The new Sec. Gen., Mr. Samuel Thiong'o, then said a few words, including what he would wish to start with as he assumes office. Mr. Teddy Odhiambo Osano then addressed the audience sharing the same sentiments with his Sec. Gen. on various issues facing the students. He then pledged to work hand in hand with the VC and her administration to ensure quality service for the students.

Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. DVC (Academic), congratulated the new SGC and also the outgoing one and said that competition can be fierce but peaceful. She then thanked the Electoral Commission before welcoming Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, to the podium. "You have a responsibility of providing leadership to all the 70,000 plus students," she congratulated the new SGC. She equated the University elections with the recently concluded General Elections noting that both did not have violence, stating that it marked our growth as a society.

Prof. Waceke also thanked the Commission for fulfilling the mandate she had given them and as she finished, she emphasized on the commitment her administration has to working with the new SGC in mutual understanding and co-operation.

Prof. Wainaina returns to KU



KUSA officials lead students in welcoming back Prof. Paul K. Wainaina to the institution.

Prof. Paul Wainaina made a remarkable and spectacular return to the corridors of the Central Administration complex after being away for more than four months over the Kenyatta University and Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital land issue.

The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by members of the Kenyatta University staff and the KUSA officials together with Kenyatta University students who ushered him in to the Institution from the main gates to the offices at the Central Administration.

Fr. Boniface Kariuki, the Kenyatta University Catholic chaplain led the crowd with a word of prayer before anyone could speak, thanking the Lord for bringing back the Vice-Chancellor after several months of being in the cold. After this, Mr. Mutata Joseph, security personnel and an employee of Kenyatta University, spoke on behalf of the

non-teaching staff and he tabled several issues that they wanted the Vice-Chancellor to look into, including due promotions and remuneration criteria. He was soon followed by the new KUSA President who spoke on behalf of the students, one of the issues being the allowance of the institution's medical students to do their clinicals at the KUTRRH, among other things.

Other speakers who followed were Prof. Elishiba Kimani the Dean, Graduate School; Rev. Esther Wainaina, Chaplain of the Protestant community of Kenyatta University; and The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Paul Okemo. They all hailed the return of the Vice-Chancellor and congratulated him for sticking to his guns and his stand. Prof. Elishiba Kimani also thanked the Government of the day for reinstating the Vice-Chancellor. The DVC (Admin) then invited Prof. Paul Wainaina to speak to the

staff and students.

Prof. Wainaina started by thanking God for his return to the institution's helm and also thanked the Government saying that it made right the wrongs that were done previously using the available structures. "I am back, I am with you and we will handle the issues that made me go away," said the VC.

He stated that he will fight for the return of the KUTRRH hospital back into the University's custody among other things. He also touched on the land issue and Kamae squatters with due procedures being followed to rectify the murky issues. He then spoke to the media houses which had come to cover his return.

With this, he then invited some of his staff to his office to share a light moment and congratulated them for waiting and remaining steadfast until his return.

THE CLIMATE-U HYBRID EVENT



Participants during the Climate-U Hybrid Conference launch

Kenyatta University played host to the Climate-U Hybrid Event which sought to seek out the role of the Universities in the climate crisis that is currently a major concern to world leaders. This event was an International dialogue with several universities participating from across the world. The timing of the event was on point with the world converging in Egypt to discuss the climate change and how to handle it in the recently concluded 'COP 27'.

The School of Architecture and the Confucius building at the University was the venue chosen for this event. The opening ceremony started at 8:30 a.m. with the anthem and entertainment being organized by Dr. Isaiah Oyugi, the University entertainment coordinator, after which a prayer by Rachel Okinyi a Climate-U Kenya Research Associate had the ceremony ready to start. Dr. Mary Otieno, a Participatory Action Research Group Member at KU opened with introductory remarks, welcoming the guests and the audience.

The guests comprised of faculty

members of the 3 Kenyan Universities participating in the event and a representative from the University College London. Those from KU were Dr. James Koskei, Executive Dean School of Agriculture and Environmental Studies, who was representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina; Prof. Samson Rosana Ondigi, Executive Dean School of Education and Lifelong learning; and Dr. Jackline Nyerere, Climate-U Kenya project Lead. Others were Dr. Stella Omari, Chairperson Department of Business Administration, Kisii University; and Dr. John Muchiri, Affiliate Researcher from the Kenya Methodist University. Prof. Tristan McCowan is the PI Climate-U Project from the University College of London.

Dr. Jackline Nyerere, who is the project lead in Kenya, shared her statistics and findings of how the youth have reacted to the climate change matter and through what channel have they reacted best. She was closely followed by

Prof. Tristan McCowan from the University College of London who, via zoom, shared his research on the same and also mentioned that the project is currently done by 17 Institutions across 6 Continents. The representatives from the other two Kenyan Universities, Dr. Stella Omari and Dr. John Muchiri, were excited and happy to be participating in this project and both were confident of their Institution's capabilities to bring a lot to the table.

Prof. Samson Rosana Ondigi, in his speech, said that it is due to the human activities that the climate is changing and it is through our activities that we will set the climate right again. The Executive Dean School of Education admitted that the impact of climate change is getting worse each year with unpredictable weather patterns being evidence of this. Dr. James Koskei the Executive Dean School of Agriculture and Environmental Studies thanked the School of Education for being their partners in the Institution and, through the VC's speech, he thanked Dr. Jackline Nyerere for organizing the forum and also thanked the partnering Universities. "Kenya is grappling with extreme drought due to climate change and this can no longer be ignored", were the words from the Vice-Chancellor that painted a picture of the Country's environmental crisis. The VC also encouraged the students to be the ambassadors of change and to try to bring change in the communities they come from.

With this, the conference was declared open by the Vice-Chancellor, through the Executive Dean School of Agriculture and Environmental studies.

Pictorial



His Excellency Deputy President, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua (centre) together with Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Ezekiel Machogu (2nd left) Kiharu MP Hon. Ndindi Nyoro (left) and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul K. Wainaina (right) during the 52nd Graduation Ceremony.



Ms. Anastacia Gichui from KU directorate of TVET Programmes guides high school students during the 2023 career week.



Ms. Indira Negi, Deputy Director Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Discovery and tools, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Centre), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor RIO, (4th Left) and other university officials during a courtesy call.



Pupils participating in sports during the 2022 Culture Week.



Prof. Shem E Migot-Adholla, Kenyatta University Chairman of Council and Prof. Paul K. Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor cut a cake during the 2022 end of year party.



Kenyatta University School of Education Post-graduate students during a seminar.

Pictorial



Dr. Pacificah Ogolla (left) from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry plants a commemorative tree during the 12th African Regional Centre of Expertise meeting.



Kenyatta University Students in procession to mark the International Men's Day



Ms. Charlene Ruto plants a commemorative tree during the Panda Miti Initiative meeting at the University together with Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)



The Council of Legal Education Audit team led by Mr. Moses Muchiri (centre) Directorate of Quality and Standards and Prof. Benard Kivunge (5th left) Ag. Registrar (Academic), Dr. Richard Wafula (Executive Dean School of Law, Arts and Social Sciences) and other officials from both institutions after a successful audit meeting of Kenyatta University School of Law.



Mr. Kabiru Mwangi, Deputy Director University Education awards Grace Kawala a YALI cohort 45 participant.



Dr. Gatama Gichini (3rd left) from the Ministry of Higher Education, Prof. Ratemo Micheka (2nd right), Prof. Paul Wainaina, KU Vice-Chancellor (right), Prof. Richard Oduor, Ag. Registrar (RIO) (2nd left) and Prof. Steven Runo, co-principal investigator (left), tours a science laboratory.

Growing leaders Programme Opening Ceremony



Mr. Mamo B. Mamo, Director General, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) gives an address during the Growing Leaders Programme

Today, getting the job done is not enough for employers but showing creativeness and other elite skills adds value,' was the memorable quote from our Ag. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Waceke Wanjohi during the opening ceremony of the Growing Leaders Programme first semester 2022/2023. The ceremony took place in the University's amphitheatre on the 19th of October 2022, graced by the Chief Guest, Mr. Mamo B. Mamo, who is the Director General, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).

Dr. Mildred Nawiri who is the Director, Centre for International Programmes and Collaborations, doubled up as the Master of Ceremonies for the day, with Dr. Isaiah Oyugi, the University Entertainment Co-coordinator providing some much needed entertainment with the KU choir, Rombolo dancers and Mr. Israel Omwayi, a 3rd year student giving a

speech related to leadership.

After the choir sang the National, East African and Kenyatta University anthems, Sheikh Abdullahi Bundid and Fr. Boniface Kariuki opened the ceremony with prayers. Dr. Margaret Muturi, the Director Career Development and Mentoring Programmes, gave her introductory remarks as her sector is the one directly in charge of the programme. She explained that the programme is examinable and that there are currently 3000 students registered under the free programme. Dr. Paul Sang, the Ag. Registrar (Academics) also briefed the audience saying that the course will enable the students to challenge their leadership skills on top of their academics.

Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, the Ag. DVC (Academics) was next in line with her saying that young people have the power to transform the world with their leadership. The DVC also said that every day we are challenged to keep upgrading our

skills and adapt to the environment. The DVC then ushered in our Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, to make her remarks. The VC thanked Dr. Margaret Muturi's Directorate for continuing the programme through the pandemic. She then told the students present that the course is free and on top of this, it presents them with an opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

Just before officially opening the programme, the VC said that the skills that the students require when they graduate are available in the programme. The Chief Guest took to the podium and just like the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Mamo B. Mamo thanked the Directorate for coming up with the programme and urged the students not to fear dreaming, stating that no dream is too big. He also urged the students not to be copies but to be the original versions of themselves. "We need to take responsibility for our actions and our environment and to do this, we need to be leaders of self," said the Chief Guest. He mentioned five key principles that great leaders use and they are as follows:

- I. Have a dream
- II. Possess a great Desire
- III. Have a vision for your dream
- IV. Start with what you have
- V. Never give up

Dr. Nyambura Salome gave the vote of thanks as the ceremony drew to a close.

The 12th Regional Center of Expertise Regional Meeting



A delegation of RCE regional meeting officials visiting an exhibition.

Kenyatta University once again was at the centre of business as the Institution hosted the 12th Regional Centre of Expertise regional meeting in their premises. Several organizations and institutions made the meeting possible by partnering with Kenyatta University under the theme 'ROLE OF AFRICAN RCE's IN CLIMATE ACTION' which was the theme of the week-long conference.

The Chief Guest, the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Hon. Rosalinda Soipan Tuyu, represented by Dr. Pacifica Ogolla, the Director Climate Change in the ministry, planted a tree in the front lawn of the University administration complex after which she made her way to the Kenyatta University Conference Centre where an exhibition by several stakeholders including Kenyatta University, NEMA, KWS and other important organizations was mounted.

The conference had several dignitaries from the organizations and Ministries present including: Mr. Mamo B Mamo, the Director General NEMA; Mr. Keisuke Midori, the representative from the Ministry of Environment Japan; Mr. Eric Mungai, the Chairman NEMA Board of

Management; Prof. Paul Okemo, DVC (Administration), representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina; Prof. Richard O. Oduor, Registrar (Research Innovation and Outreach), representing the DVC (Research , Innovation and Outreach), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa; Dr. Evangeline Njoka, the Secretary General KNATCOM, represented by Dr. James Njogu; Prof. Hubert Gijenz, the Regional Director and Representative for Eastern Africa UNESCO, represented by Mr. Saidou Sireh Jallow; Dr. Cyrill Siewe, the Kenya Country Coordinator Regional Office for Africa UNEP; Dr. Akpezi Ogbuiwe, the Regional Advisor to the RCE Community in Africa; Madam Jonghwi Park, the United Nations University-IAS Global RCE Service Centre; and Dr. Gathu Kirubi, the Coordinator RCE Greater Nairobi, Kenyatta University.

After a short entertainment session by the Kenyatta University choir and the Rambolo dancers organized by Dr. Priscilla Gitonga, the Ag. Coordinator University Entertainment; and a prayer by Rev. Esther Wainaina, the University's Protestant Chaplain; the opening ceremony kicked off. Dr. Gathu Kirubi gave his welcoming remarks, cordially welcoming all the guests to the University and the start of the conference. Prof. Richard Oduor took to the podium on behalf of Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, DVC (RIO) and

also welcomed the organizations and Ministries to the conference. The VC's speech was read by the DVC (Administration), Prof. Paul Okemo, and among the comments made by the Vice-Chancellor was that it is his delight to note the engaging and empowering of the youth and children as champions for climate action as in order for the planet to survive this, we need to include the future generations in the fight.

Many speakers of the day including Dr. Cyrill Siewe, Dr. Akpezi Ogbuiwe, Mr. Saidou Jallow and Mr. Keisuke Midori spoke of the urgency of rectifying the damage done to the planet and some of the ways this can be achieved. Mr. Midori expressed his gratitude and joy to be a part of this conference on behalf of the Japanese Ministry of Environment. Mr. Mamo B Mamo explained that Kenya has the highest number of RCE's and as such, much is expected of the country. He also added that Kenya has done well especially with the banning and the upholding of the ban on plastic bags and vowed that NEMA will support the RCE's in every way possible.

The Chief Guest, represented by Dr. Pacifica Ogolla, the Director Climate Change in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for accepting to host the conference and also mentioned how it was a great honour to be in this forum immediately after COP 27. She also mentioned that Africa remains the most vulnerable continent in the face of climate change and that the African Union has launched a climate action project for collective action for year 22/23. Among other things mentioned by the Chief Guest was that Kenya has sustainable waste management policies and that laws to provide regulations in the environment sector are underway.

After her speech, a gift was handed to the representative of the CS to take to her when she returns to the Ministry and with that, the conference was declared open.

Harvest of Drama and Film Trophies



Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina (centre) receives trophies won during the 2022 National Drama and Film festival accompanied by other university management officials, actors and actresses who participated.

Kenyatta University Drama members presented their collection of trophies to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, on the afternoon of 19th January 2023. The trophies were won during the Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association National Festivals held from the 4th – 13th November 2022.

Dr. Tommy Kiilu, the Chairperson Department of Communication and Media studies, welcomed and congratulated the students for their incredible performance in the festivals, stating that the students are now film makers for their exemplary work. The students captured societal issues in their films in an attempt to raise awareness of them. Keith Victor, a student film director, brought to light the mental health issue especially when it comes to men. Corruption was also highlighted in one of the films raising concern over the financial issues of the society. Keith, on the behalf of the Kenyatta University Student Fraternity, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the continued

support through the years. He also urged the school to upgrade the software and equipment to better the quality of their films.

“Acting is like a sport,” said Tracy Khayeli, a film student representative. She added that artists require energy and concentration just like sport. The end product of a film is usually the result of a lot of sacrifices by the members. She also thanked Dr. Kiilu; Prof. Mugubi, the drama and film patron; and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina.

Evans Katana, the drama student representative, recognized the VC, Prof. Paul Wainaina; and the patron, Prof. Mugubi, for the continued support. He also, on behalf of the students, requested for them to be recognized in the school entertainment events.

Prof. John Mugubi celebrated and recognized the young talents that have made the school proud years on end. KU drama members are from different schools and

he believes that they portray the same creativity in their respective areas of academic interest. Prof. Waceke Wanjohi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), appreciated how the students were able to bring to light the problems the society faces.

“Our students are brilliant students,” said Prof. Paul Wainaina. He commented what is happening in the university in terms of re-organizing. He also appreciated the drama members for withstanding and enduring all the challenges but always making the school proud, and promised to look into the students’ requests.

KU drama members are from different schools and they portray the same creativity in their respective interest.

INSPIRING KU PRIMARY CANDIDATES



Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina shares a light moment with pupils from Kenyatta University Primary School.

On the 24th of November 2022, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Paul Wainaina, invited the candidates of the Kenyatta University Primary School to the Institution's amphitheatre to wish them success in their upcoming exams at the year's end when they would be doing their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment. The pupils invited were from grade 6, class 7 and 8. With the grade 6 being the pioneers of the CBC curriculum in the school, this was a special moment for both the pupils and, indeed, the University.

Prof. Paul K Wainaina, the Vice-Chancellor of the University was the main speaker of the day; accompanied by the Executive Dean School of Education and Lifelong learning, Prof. Samson Ondigi; KU-Primary Chairperson, Board of Management, Mrs. Fildah Kageni; and Mr. Charles Ndung'u, the Principal KU Primary.

Entertainment by the pupils, organized by Patricia Kamande, a grade 6 teacher, kick started the

programme. Soon after, Mr. Charles Ndung'u, the school Principal, took to the podium for his speech and among the things he started with was to thank God for the return of the VC to the helm of the institution, acknowledging that it was through prayers that Prof. Paul Wainaina returned. The Principal also thanked the University for the Good Security the school enjoys inside the University and also touched on how organized and effective the University students doing their teaching practice from the University are. Lastly, the Principal made some few requests on behalf of his school and hoped that the VC would consider taking a look at them.

The Chairperson, Board of Management, Mrs. Fildah Kageni, did not have much to say but to thank the VC for coming to speak to the pupils and also expressing the Board's joy to have him back. Prof. Samson Ondigi said that Kenyatta University is the home of both the Institution itself and the Primary school. He went on and said that his children passed through the primary school and are now

successful individuals, showing the effectiveness of the school. He then encouraged the pupils to work hard and not ease up on their studies.

The Vice-Chancellor insisted to the pupils that they should not fear exams that it is just a stage in growing up. He also urged the parents not to force their children towards something they are not passionate about but, instead, help them in their areas of talent and passion. The VC also touched on the CBC curriculum saying that both the parents and the pupils should not be worried about their next step especially the Grade 6 pupils after doing their exams, saying that it is, and will be, sorted out soon enough.

The VC also said that the Department of Music and Dance will be urged to take the Primary School under their wing and nurture talents and so will the Department of sports and recreation. The Vice-Chancellor then signed the success cards for grade 6 and class 8 and had a photo session with the pupils there after.

Kenyatta University and Kodris Africa partnership



Kodris Africa Chairman, Mr. Mwaniki Munuhe and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina announce their partnership on Teacher Digital training course.

Early on the Thursday morning of 19th January 2023, Kenyatta University announced their plans to partner with Kodris Africa in training teachers on coding, computational thinking and digital literacy. This is aimed at re-tooling the teacher and bringing them up-to-speed with the ever changing world especially the 21st century that has seen a digital revolution of sorts.

Prof. Paul Wainaina recognized the presence of the Kenyatta University administrative management staff who were present at the function as follows: Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, the acting DVC (Research, Innovation and outreach); Prof. Elishiba Kimani, the Executive Dean Graduate School and Chair Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development; Dr. Francis Kiarie, Department of Management Science and Lead Consultant; Dr. Olivia A. Opo, Coordinator Teacher Professional Development Programme and Co-lead Consultant; Dr. Maina Muuro, Department of Computing

and Information Technology and Co-lead consultant; Dr. Mildred Nawiri, Director, Centre for International Programmes and Collaborations; and Mr. Aaron Tanui, Legal Officer.

“As a key stakeholder in the Education sector in this country, we took notice of last year’s approval of curriculum support material on coding by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development,” said Prof Wainaina. On top of acknowledging the comprehensive nature of the university, the VC pointed out that even children nowadays are well conversant with the digital world hence the need to re-tool the teacher with the same diverseness to cope with the changing world.

Prof. Elishiba Kimani, in her turn, emphasized the long-term impact that this programme projects and that’s the reason the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development had no hesitation approving the project. The Chair KICD and also the Executive Dean Graduate School at

Kenyatta University pointed out the preparedness of both institutions. The acting DVC (Research, innovation and outreach), Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, pointed out that research is a component of this programme and that Kenyatta University is looking forward to training the teachers. The short courses will focus on providing teachers with a solid understanding of the fundamental concepts of coding, as well as the tools and techniques needed to teach it effectively in the classroom.

Kodris Africa CEO, Mugumo Munene, said the partnership with KU carries immense potential to positively impact society. “We are excited about this historic milestone in the area of digital literacy and the impactful value-add it will have on teachers who daily impart knowledge to young minds”, said the CEO of Kodris Africa.

The two heads of Institutions stood up and shook hands before being joined by the stakeholders and consultants.

The Federation of Eastern Africa Sports Games



Sportsmen during a medal awarding ceremony.

The Games were held from 17th to 21st December 2022 at Ndejje University, Luwero, Uganda. 32 Universities from across the East African Region participated in the games. Kenyatta University presented a strong team of 157 student athletes inclusive of 15 men's teams and 13 women's team. Uganda emerged the overall winner with total 333 medals including 122 golds, 102 silvers and 109 bronze. Kenya took the second spot with 139 medals including 28 golds, 45 silvers and 66 bronzes.

In the ranking, Ndejje University, the host, was the overall winner with a total of 124 medals (59 golds, 39 silver and 26 bronze). Makerere University of Uganda emerged second with a total of 68 medals (21 gold, 20 silvers and 27 bronze). Makerere University Business School was third with 40 medals.

Kenyatta University was ranked fourth with a total of 63 medals (9 gold, 21 silvers and 33 bronzes). KU was the best Kenyan University

performance-wise. Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) was position 7 in the FEAUS ranking and second to Kenyatta University among the Kenyan Universities. The 13th edition will be in Kenya in December 2024 and Kenyan Universities are in the process of bidding to host.

In the meantime, a Kenyatta University student, Felista Wairimu Mwaniki, is part of the Kenya National Softball team which is participating in the Africa Women's Softball World cup Qualifiers being

held in Gaborone, Botswana from 6th – 10th February 2023. Ishmael Kurui, a member of staff in the Directorate of Sports and Games, is the team coach.

The University Football team, the Hardnuts continue to prepare for World University Soccer World Cup to be held in Jinjiang, China from 27th October – 7th November 2023. The team qualified for the world event after emerging the winner in the Federation of Africa University Games, FASU hosted in Kenyatta University in 2022.





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