



Kenyatta University newsletter

A Fortnightly Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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

The 27th Graduation Historic!

*“Be Ambassadors of Goodwill and Engineers of Change,”
Chancellor exhorts more than two thousand graduands*

The 27th Graduation ceremony was held amid pomp and celebrations by staff, graduands, relatives, friends and the University community in general. The colourful ceremony took place at the Graduation Square on Friday, 18th December 2009 and was attended by cabinet ministers, senior government officials, vice-chancellors of other universities, chairmen of university councils, representatives of various diplomatic missions, international organization heads, donors, friends and well-wishers.

While presiding over the ceremony, the KU Chancellor, Dr. Harris Mule, congratulated the graduating class of 2009 for a job well done. *“It is a remarkable and commendable achievement. It has taken a lot of hard work on your part and on the part of the University for this day to become a reality,”* said the Chancellor.

He noted that Kenyatta University has in the last couple of years implemented an extensive development of physical infrastructure to match the needs of its growing student population and sustained capacity building to ensure that KU graduates are fully equipped with the skills to cope with the demands of the modern work environment. The Chancellor added: *“I would also like to recognize the remarkable efforts of the University Council, the Senate, the Management, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof.*



The Chancellor, Dr. Harris Mule who presided over the 27th graduation ceremony.

Olive Mugenda, and the entire Kenyatta University staff for steering this University towards its goals. I hope that the alumni of Kenyatta University will be our ambassadors and engineers of goodwill to all the corners of this nation and beyond”

A total of 2681 students graduated with a record 32 PhD graduands. This is the highest number of PhD graduands in the history of KU and probably in Kenya.

KU Opens City Centre Campus



The imposing Kenyatta University City Centre Campus along Haile Selassie Avenue, opposite the Government Press.

The demand for higher education in the country has been soaring. In response, Kenyatta University is delighted to open yet another window of opportunity for its clientele by establishing a campus in the Nairobi Central Business District.

This is in line with the University's commitment to the provision of higher education and training of high-level human power for Kenya and the world at large. The new Kenyatta University City Campus is located at the KU Plaza, formerly Autorama House, MFI Office Solutions, along Haile Selassie Avenue, opposite the Government Press.

The offering of programmes within the Nairobi CBD is a remarkable milestone in the institution's expansion programme. More specifically, this will provide an opportunity for academic empowerment of people within the CBD as articulated in the University's motto “Elimu ni Nguvu”. This expansion is very essential in the University's efforts to accommodate its expanding programmes and to cater for the ever-increasing scholarly demands of its clientele.

The establishment of the City Campus is welcome news to many students who attend evening classes at the main campus who have persistently requested the University to offer programmes in the Nairobi Central Business District. The City Campus will, therefore, cater for students wishing to take Kenyatta University programmes **cont...pg 2**

From the Editor's Desk

*K*U, like any other university worth the name, is a wellspring of rationality. But the recent spate of deaths of colleagues and kin has left many of us wondering if the "Grim Reaper" is singling us out for an unknown reason. That is idle superstition of course, testimony to our naïve human nature.

But instead of succumbing to despair and despondency, we need to pay our debt to our departed by helping their dependants where we can, and to honour their memory by living every minute of the rest of our lives meaningfully.

Meanwhile, classes have started with the First and Second Years finishing their First Semester and the Third and Fourth pursuing their Second Semester programmes.

Other developments include the teaching of Portuguese. This augurs well for our dream of uniting Africa since Lusophones are third after Anglophones and Francophones in number in those African countries that were victims of European colonialism.

We have to salvage what we can from our colonial legacy. How pleasantly ironic it is that the languages that were used to demean us are now helping to cement us together!

In sports, K.U shone in the Inter-University Games. The last year closed with a splendid luncheon in which the V.C rewarded those who distinguished themselves in service to K.U: the extra-mile awardees, and those who brought the University research grants. Long servers, with thirty and thirty-five year service, were also recognized.

The University has also expanded its wings further with the opening of the City Centre Campus.

These and other stories are in these pages.

Have a good read.
May your dreams blossom this year.

David V. Karanja
Editor

"Be Self-Driven", Urges FKE Boss



The Executive Director, Federation of Kenya Employers, Mrs. Jackline Mugo addresses Kenyatta University community at the end of year luncheon and Honours Day Ceremony.

The Executive Director, Federation of Kenya Employers, Mrs. Jackline Mugo, has appealed to members of staff to cultivate the culture of self-appraisal and reinforcement.

"The greatest honour and fulfillment should come from within and not without," Mrs. Mugo said. She was addressing the members of staff during the Kenyatta University Honours Day celebration that was held on 23rd December 2009 at the Kenyatta University Conference Centre.

The event was organised by the University Management in an effort to institutionalise the tradition of recognizing and rewarding excellence in the University's workforce.

Three main categories of awards were presented to the deserving members of staff, namely, 13 for the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award; 69 for Extra Mile Award, 37 for the Long Service Award (over 35 years) and 121 for the Long Service Award (over 30 years).

Key among those awarded were Prof. Jesse Machuka, Prof. Olive Mugenda, Prof. Agnes Gathumbi and Prof. Chris Shisanya for the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award. The late Dr. Ezekiel

Alembi and late Mr. Michael Njuguna were among those awarded the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Extra Mile Award for exemplary performance.

In her address to the staff, the Vice-Chancellor pledged to make honouring excellence, long service and any other work that moves the University towards its vision a tradition as is the case in most world-class universities that Kenyatta University is aspiring to be. "Pongezi", "hongera" and "keep up the good work", Prof. Mugenda extolled the awardees.

She was, however, quick to add that she was thankful to all other members of staff for their individual and collective roles in the many achievements the University had realised within the year. A sumptuous luncheon was served to all members of staff.



Recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award pose with the VC during the End-of-Year Luncheon.

Members of Council also attended the colourful ceremony which was spiced up with great tantalizing entertainment from various groups.

New City Centre Campus Opened

cont...pg 2

at the city centre and those working in the CBD who wish to enroll for evening programmes. day classes are also on offer.

This is also in line with the University's Strategic and Vision Plan and Kenya Vision 2030's goal of enhancing access to University education through expansion of facilities and increasing University presence in various parts of the country.

Programmes to be offered in the University's CBD Centre beginning February 2010 will include : MBA; Executive MBA; PhD in Business; PhD in

Economics; PhD in Education; Bachelor of Commerce; Bachelor of Economics and Finance; Postgraduate Diploma in Economics; Master of Economics (Finance); Master of Economics (International Trade & Finance); Diploma in Early Childhood; Postgraduate Diploma in Education; MED (Educational Administration); MED (Educational Psychology); Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Management; Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication; Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations; and Foreign Languages (Japanese, Chinese and Arabic).

SGS Conducts 3rd Surveillance Audit at KU



Mr. Philip Ndende of SGS signs the visitors book when he visited the University during the third surveillance Audit. Looking on from left is Deputy Director QMS, Dr. Joyce Mwaniki, Director (QMS & PC) Mr. Justine Nyaga and Ag. DVC Prof. P.K. Wainaina.

Kenyatta University has been commended for the significant improvement observed in its performance.

This was the observation made during the third Surveillance Audit conducted by external auditors from SGS (K) Ltd. Mr. Philip Ndende of SGS, lauded the University Management for embracing the Quality Management Systems and benchmarking its performance against the ISO standards. He noted that the management systems were well-received by the University staff right from the beginning.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, assured the auditors that the University was committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to improve its performance.

She emphasized that the University management was taking the lead to ensure compliance with ISO standards. She attributed the successful implementation of the ISO standards at the University to the intensive sensitization of staff.

KU and Kangwon National University MoU Renewed

Kenyatta University and Kangwon National University, South Korea, have renewed an MoU between the two institutions.

The MoU, which was renewed in 2009 for five years, was first signed in the year 2005. This was observed during a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor by Prof. Kim Won Duck from Kangwon National University. Prof. Kim Won Duck has visited Kenyatta University every year since 2006.

According to the Director, Centre for Linkages and International Programmes, Prof. Caroline Thoruwa, three Kenyatta University students have received full scholarships for undergraduate studies at Kangwon National University. Two of them are currently enrolled for Masters Programmes after completing undergraduate studies. Kangwon University has requested KU students to apply for undergraduate scholarships



Prof. Kim Won Duck (left) of Kangwon National University with Prof. P.K. Wainaina, Ag. DVC Academic signing the visitors book when he visited the University recently.

in engineering for 2010. Approximately 12 students from Kangwon National University have studied at Kenyatta University since 2006.

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. P.K. Wainaina, who received Prof. Kim on behalf of the Vice-

Chancellor, hailed the MoU between Kenyatta University and Kongwan National University as one of the active MoU's being implemented as evidenced by the number of staff and students exchanges. Meanwhile, the School of Engineering bid farewell to Prof. David Bowen, a

visiting Fulbright Scholar at Kenyatta University.

Prof. Bowen, an associate professor at California State University, USA, joined Kenyatta University on 12th August 2009 on appointment as a Fulbright fellow for five months. He had been teaching SET 301: Innovation and Design and SET 407: Ergonomics at the School of Engineering and Technology at Kenyatta University.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, said that faculty and students exchange was one way to internationalize the University. She reiterated the need to explore collaborations in capacity development, collaborative research and faculty exchange. She added that the collaborations would seek to increase the number of students exchange programmes and promote regional exchange.

French Programme Revamped

Apart from English, French is the first foreign language that has been taught for a long period of time at K.U. It is the common Language of francophone Africa and as such, important for continental communication.

To continue a long tradition of promoting the teaching of French, the French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Madame Elisabeth Barbier, visited K.U bringing a cornucopia of gifts. As a result, the foreign Languages Department now has new teaching electronic hardware, paid-up subscriptions to Multi-Choice and DSTV, and scholarships for students and staff

This is further evidence of the continuing generosity of the French government which donated to K.U the first language laboratory on campus (still functional) that has been used to teach all the languages taught here, including English.

The Vice-Chancellor received the gifts graciously and expressed her profound gratitude to the French people for this largesse.

The Editorial Board of the newsletter joins her in thanking the people of France, and takes this occasion to apologize for an oversight in the last issue where we referred to H.E. Madame Barbier as the Kenyan Ambassador to France.



(From Left) Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, the French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Madame Elisabeth Barbier and Dr. Choka

focus on students

“Happy New Year”-says Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor has sent a message of good wishes to all students and staff of Kenyatta University. In her message the Vice-Chancellor said *“As we start the year, I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous Year 2010 full of God's Blessings.”*

“I am confident that this year the University will continue making progress as we have in the previous years. I thank you all for the team-work spirit that we maintained during the year ended. This enabled us to complete and achieve our targets as stipulated in the University's Strategic and Vision Plan 2005 – 2015.”

An Eclipse of Semesters

Kenyatta University opened its gates to yet another campus session for its regular students on 9th January after a New Years break.

Despite the usual hustle characteristics of registration there is a unique phenomenon worth noting. For the first time, for as long as many students can remember, we are having the 1st and 2nd semesters juxtaposed-like the recent eclipse of the sun-only longer.

1st and 2nd year students reported to wind up their first semester while the other senior students came to begin their second semester. There is also a contrast of activities; while the junior years struggle to study for their CATs and examinations, the seniors are having an easier

time, having completed their examination late last year.

Nevertheless, the students welcome the Management's decision to adjust the semester dates to enable the completion of both semesters as planned. We wish them all the best in their academic work. Continuation of lectures



Students register for the January 2010 session.

Careers' Week Preparation on Course



Students at one of the corporate tents during a past Careers' Week event.

The preparation for the annual Careers' week fair is in top gear at the Center for careers Development and Attachment Programmes (CCDP). The event which is scheduled for 20th -26th February 2010 is already creating excitement among the students community as the centre has taken the initiative to involve student in the planning and preparation of the event. The event will begin on 20th with

an orientation of high school students to university programmes and exhibitions by schools and departments.

The 22nd to 24th will see a series of public lectures on such areas as career and volunteerism, networking, financial investment, entrepreneurship and other corporate interests. The center has invited several top-notch career specialists to deliver the lectures, in an effort to provide an insight on the job market expectations to the students. Similarly, several companies are expected to set up tents at the graduation square during that period to impact on potential employees the job market expectation and provide insight on the means to meet the expectations.

The official opening of the fair will be on 25th February 2010, with the Chief Guest expected to be the Nation Media Group C.E.O, Linus Gitahi. The Vice-chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda is also expected to attend. A gospel extravaganza and several other genres of entertainment from nationally acclaimed performers are also lined up during the event.

On a pace setting note, the souvenir magazine which would highlight the event will feature interviews from renowned career experts including the French Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Elisabeth Barbier. Similar articles from writers of international accolade will grace the magazine. The Director, Prof. John Okumu, is urging all the students to take advantage of this auspicious event.

Disability Day to be Celebrated

Among the public universities, Kenyatta University is noted for its unique programmes for persons with disabilities. Firmly committed to the axiom that: *“Disability Is Not Inability”* the University has long opened its doors to the physically challenged in sight as well as in locomotion.

Our Tuk-Tuk fleet for transporting challenged students has specially lauded. Ramps and special washrooms are also available throughout the campus for the convenience of these students.

It is in keeping with this spirit of sensitivity to our challenged brothers and sisters that 26th February 2010 has been dedicated as KENYATTA UNIVERSITY DISABILITY DAY.

The event, under the auspices of the Special Education Department, will kick off at the Graduation square at 10.00 a.m. Top of the agenda is the promotion of integration of all students in the mainstream.



Staff and Students of Special Education Department pose besides the signboard during preparations of disability day celebration.

focus on students

KU Model United Nations Pays a Courtesy Call on the Vice-Chancellor

The Kenyatta University Model United Nations Club met with the patron to make a powerpoint presentation on the

achievements of the club throughout the year 2009, and to introduce the secretariat to the Vice-Chancellor.

Some of the achievements and milestones include undertaking the R.I.O.T (Righteous Invasion of Towns) in Naivasha 2009, sending two delegates to Geneva in August 2009 to represent Kenya at the Global Model United Nations, and dispatching eight students from Kenyatta University Model United Nations and Environmental Club to Copenhagen between December 7th-18th 2009 to represent Kenya at the Cop 15 Climate Conference.

There was also the presentation of the first prize awarded to Kenyatta University Model

United Nations members who took part in the leadership debate challenge set up by Transparency International and Kenya Anti-corruption commission.

The meeting was also used to put forward a formal request to get a bus for transportation to the main annual Kenya Model United Nations Conference which will be held at UNEP Gigiri in March 2010. Kenyatta University Model United Nations will be sending an average of 60 delegates to this conference.

Kenyatta University Model United Nations delegates have also been cordially invited and nominated to the National Model United Nations Conference to be held in New York at New York University. This will be held in March for a period of one week and delegates from all over the world will be in attendance to discuss global issues and come up with working papers and resolutions that will be adopted, if they are valid and constructive, by the United Nations in formulating its future policies.

In attendance was the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Olive Mugenda, the Club's patron, Prof. Gravenir, the acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics, Prof. Wainaina, the Secretary General of the club, Lawrence Ndambuki, the Deputy Secretary General, Mwangeli Mercy, the Under Secretary General, Planning and Logistics, Dorcas Nthoki, former Deputy Secretary General, David Wainaina, Club members, David Mcharo, Eric Mugendi and Neema Aroni.



Kenyatta University Model United Nations delegates meet the Vice-Chancellor.

Citizen TV Airs the 27th Graduation Ceremony

Citizen TV, a division of Royal Media Services, broadcast the Historic 27th Graduation Ceremony in its entirety.

Further more, the station extended this courtesy to KU *free gratis*, another testimony to the corporate partnership with academia that is one of Ku's national development objectives.

Mr. S. K. Macharia, owner of Royal Media Services, and Mrs. Macharia graced the ceremony.

The KU Newsletter Editorial Board thanks Royal Media Services for its generosity.



Mr. and Mrs. S.K. Macharia of the Royal Media Services when they attended the 27th Graduation Ceremony on 18th December 2009.

Kenyatta University Academy (Pre-School)



KU Academy (Pre-school) is situated along Ethiopia Way and serves KU community and its environs.

We enrol children in the following categories:-

- Day Care - 2 years and above
- Baby Class - 3-4 years
- Nursery - 4-5 years
- PRE-Unit - 5-6 years

Enrolment for Year 2010 is ongoing

For more information please contact:
The Headmistress
Te: 8170901 Ext 57544

PICTURE *Speak*



The Chancellor confers a Ph.D degree to one of the Graduands.



Dr. Rosemary Kyahiya, the mase bearer leads the Academic Procession during the 27th Graduation Ceremony.



Ph.D graduands listen keenly during the 27th Graduation Ceremony held recently.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, with Students and Teachers from Mulango Girls High School who were the VC's guests during the 27th Graduation Ceremony.



Graduands celebrate their achievement during the 27th Graduation Ceremony.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Olive Mugenda and Academic Director, Riara Group of Schools, Dr. Eddah Gachukia when she attended the 27th Graduation Ceremony.

PICTURE *Speak*



Prof. P. Kinyanjui, University Council Member, presents Mr. Mwangi with his Extra Mile Award.



The Executive Director, Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo is presented with a souvenir by the Vice-Chancellor.



Selfa, the late Dr. Alembi's Daughter delivers a moving eulogy at her father's funeral service in SZ39 on 27th January 2010.



Staff enjoy their lunch at the end-of-year luncheon.



Guests are entertained by Santa Claus at the Northcoast Beach Hotel.



The Cheche Troupe Band regales luncheon guests on Honours Day.

Research Update

KU and Syracuse Universities in Joint Research Collaboration

A team from Syracuse University USA, visited KU to finalize the KU-Syracuse Collaborative Research proposal. The Universities have linkages in Communication Technology through the Department of Education and Communication Technology.

The project started through the initiative of Prof. Joanna Masingila of Syracuse University.

Syracuse University's School of Education has a Memorandum of Understanding with Kenyatta University for the exchange of faculty members and graduate students, joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, exchange of academic materials, and other information.



(From left) KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda and Prof. Joanna Masingila of Syracuse University when a team from the University visited KU.

KU Participates in Agrodiversity Conservation Project



Kenyatta University Lecturers Dr. Emmanuel Manyasa (second left) and Dr. Nelson Wawire (third right), accompanied by their Research Assistants, speak with Maasai elders (in traditional attires) in Maasai Mara during one of their fieldwork visits

Two lecturers from the Department of Applied Economics, Dr. Manyasa and Dr. Wawire, recently won a research grant to implement a project on how to integrate agrodiversity in conservation to improve livelihoods in the savannah ecosystem.

The study is funded by the World Bank through Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and involves a partnership of six institutions. The institutions involved in the project include National Museums of Kenya, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Wildlife Service, Tanzania National Parks, University of Dar es Salaam and Kenyatta University. Each institution is charged with implementing a specific aspect of the project. Kenyatta University is responsible for the socio-economic component of the project.

The project, which lasts up to December 2010, has three phases. Phase I, already completed, involved carrying out a baseline survey of the livelihoods and biodiversity in the area. Phase II, which commences this January, involves identification, validation and further development of best practices; while phase III will involve packaging of knowledge and facilitation of community partnerships for uptake of the innovations.

It is hoped that, when completed, the project will create harmony between communities and wildlife thus enhancing both conservation and livelihoods in the area. It will also bolster cross-border collaboration in conservation efforts as it is being implemented in both Kenya and Tanzania.

KU and James Madison University to Collaborate on Environmental Sustainability

Kenyatta University and James Madison University, USA, have put up a proposal whose goal is to improve Campus Sustainability, Curriculum Greening and Outreach.

The project will be implemented through reciprocal visits by teams of staff from each university. The two institutions will focus on sustainable management practices through

comparison of environmental design research and implementation, and evaluation of the types of environmental education programmes in both universities.

The teams will also discuss methods of encouraging involvement and commitment to campus and curriculum greening among faculty members. The project will further examine how each university has built or

could build sustainable relationships with local communities to facilitate collaboration on sustainable issues.

Other key areas to be explored for future collaboration will include alternative sources of energy, engineering and environmental sustainability.

Kudos to the Triumphant Athletes of Kenyatta University

Sports highlights



Kenyatta University is basking in glory following a landslide victory in the Kenyan Inter-University Sports Championship held in December 2009 at the University of Nairobi.

Members of the University management led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, graced a colourful ceremony on 21st January 2010 to present trophies, medals and certificates to the champions.

Due to the hard work and dedication of the sportsmen and women and the Sports and Games Department, Kenyatta University scooped the following three trophies: Best men's Team, Best Women's team and Best Overall team. The victory came despite many odds against it as the students were sitting for their examinations midst preparation for the games. The team was also able to do well even after the long closure of the University that hampered practice.

The VC was full of praise for the teams' sterling performance and the staff of the Sports and Games department for their selfless dedication and effort in coaching the teams. *"I wish to congratulate the winning teams for doing us proud in the Inter-University competitions last*

year. We look forward to more of these important celebrations", said the VC. She, however, advised the students to exercise balance so as not to neglect their academic work. *"Aim for first class honours even as you seek excellence in sports",* she continued.

Prof. Mugenda noted that the sports activities and programmes at the University were unique in that they engage all students including those with special needs. She said that the University would in future give Sports Scholarships as well as honour students who were excelling in different areas including sports and games.

The KU "golden girls" stood out since they scooped the majority of the gold medals.

The Dean of students Affairs, Dr. Edwin Gimode, who was the head of the delegation, while congratulating the teams, said that emerging winners in the a very competitive environment was no simple feat. Dr. Gimode commended the students for their commitment and good behaviour. *"KU has to be known for all the right reasons and this victory has indeed uplifted the image of the University,"* he added.

The Coordinator of Sports and Games Ms

Peninah Wahome said the achievement was a result of the hard work by the students and staff of the Sports and games department. She thanked the University Management for the tremendous support accorded to the department. She commended the staff in the department for their dedication and passion for their respective sports.

In his remarks, Sports Congressman, Mr. Bernard Wanjala, said that the achievement by the sports teams was a culmination of many activities that included residential training that enabled the players to sharpen their skills in readiness for the competitions. *"The state-of-the-art training equipment and facilities have also been very beneficial to the sports fraternity,"* Mr. Wanjala said.

The teams will now be focusing on this year's highlight which is the East Africa University Games that will take place at the University. *"I urge all teams to double their efforts in order to stamp our authority in sports in Kenya, East Africa and the world at large",* concluded the Vice-Chancellor.

Camp Shriver Project: Reaching out to Kenyans with Intellectual Disabilities through Sports

The Inaugural Camp Shriver was held at Kenyatta University last December. The Camp Shriver project at the University will be raising awareness of the needs of Kenyans with intellectual disabilities while at the same time disseminating research findings on how to mainstream such individuals in the activities of society.

The camp was also an opportunity for Community Outreach as it brought together 106 youths from the neighbourhood of Kenyatta University. Out of these, 53 had special needs while the other half were youths without intellectual disabilities. The camp provided comprehensive experience to all the young people who would otherwise be excluded from such camp programmes.

According to the coordinator of the Camp Shriver Project at Kenyatta University, Mr. Peter Bukhala of Physical Education Department, most of the children in attendance were drawn from families that could not afford to pay for their children to attend a sports camp. However, sponsorship from Safaricom, Population Services International, CocaCola, Alive & Kicking, CECAFA, Kenya Football League and Echuka Dairies provided the much needed support.

During the closing ceremony of the camp, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, in a speech read on her behalf by the Registrar Academic, Dr. John Koga, urged the Special Olympics International to consider establishing a centre at the University to train coaches and research in the area of intellectual disabilities for the region adding that the establishment of such a centre would enhance diversity of training provided by Kenyatta University. The VC also noted that the

University is designing and redesigning physical facilities to cater for students and staff with special needs.

Camp Shriver is an additional programme for children that will support those with disabilities who may not benefit from the academic programmes.



Youngsters from communities neighbouring KU pose with their counselors in the Camp Shriver Project.

TRIBUTES



Dr. Ezekiel B. Alembi

Until his untimely death, Dr. Alembi was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literature and the Director, Kenyatta University Radio Services. He was a member of the Board of Directors, Equity Bank.

He was also the National Chairman, Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival. In her message of condolence to the family, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive M. Mugenda described Dr. Alembi as *a man who was a good supporter of the University Mission, humble, trustworthy and friendly.*

Dr. Alembi will be missed by the literature fraternity in Kenya and East Africa for he had a passion for writing, especially interesting children's books and was loved and treasured by his students. He is survived by his wife Patricia and five children.

He was laid to rest on 30th January at his home in Ebwiranyi, Emuhaya in Vihiga District.

Mr. Absolom Wafula Munyasi and his wife Phyllis Wanjiru perished in a road accident on the 9th of January.

Mr. Munyasi was employed in December 1989 as a Tutorial Fellow.

He was promoted to the position of a lecturer in 1992. He was the Exam Co-ordinator for the Department and served in several committees of the department.

In her message of condolence to the family of the late Munyasis, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mugenda, termed Mr. Munyasi a man *"who performed his work efficiently and diligently"*. At the time of his death, Mr. Munyasi was conducting field research for his Ph.D studies as well as writing his thesis. He will be dearly missed by the students, staff as well as the entire University community. The late Munyasis were laid to rest on Monday, 18th January 2010 at their rural home in Milo, Webuye.

They are survived by two daughters and a son.



Mr. Absolom Wafula Munyasi

May The Almighty God Rest There Souls in Eternal Peace

Library Catalogue Now Online

The University Library Catalogue is now available online and can be accessed from any PC connected to the KU Intranet. The catalogue is made available through KOHA, which is an integrated library management system.

To search the online catalogue, follow the following steps:

1. Visit the Library catalogue website at <http://maktaba.ku.ac.ke>
2. Key-in the search terms such as:
 - (a) Name of author, e.g. Chege Fatuma
 - (b) Keywords from title, e.g. Critical Thinking.
 - (c) Subject keywords, e.g. primary education

3. Click Go button to view the results.

Note: To make your results more specific, choose the search field of either author, title or subject from the selection list.

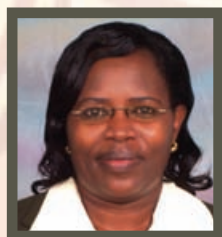
For more information please contact the ICT Librarian, Mr. John Thuku, on Ext.57044 or email library@ku.ac.ke, or thuku.john@ku.ac.ke

BEREAVEMENT

1. Ms. Priscilla Gitonga of the Music Department lost her mother on 18th December 2009. Mrs. Mary Gitonga was laid to rest on 23rd December 2009 in Embu
2. Mr. George Kamau Karanja of Security department was bereaved with the death of his mother, Ms Anne Wanjiru Kamau, on 3rd January 2010. She was laid to rest on 9th January 2010.
3. Ms. Gladys Agoi of the Department of Fine Art lost her sister, Ms. Florence K. Agoi, on 16th January 2010. The late Florence was a former employee of Kenyatta University and worked as a Senior Nursing Sister at the Health Unit. She was laid to rest at her home in Vihiga on 23rd January 2010.
4. Ms. Jesinta Juma Otieno of the Department of Finance, Central Stores, passed away on Thursday 21st January. She will be laid to rest on 6th February 2010 at her home in Seme Koyoo, Kisumu West District.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, sent separate messages of condolence to the bereaved families on behalf of the University Community.

Appointments



Prof. Waceke Wanjohi has been appointed Chairman, Department of Agricultural Science and Technology



Dr. Josephine Gitome is the new Director, Centre for Capacity Development in Higher Education



Engineer Shadrack M. Mambo of ICT Department is now the Acting Chairman, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering



Dr. Hellen Oduk from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is the Acting Director, Catering Services.



A holiday experience at the **NORTHCOAST BEACH HOTEL**



Guests are entertained by Santa Claus at the Northcoast Beach Hotel.

The crowning of Mr. & Mrs. North Coast Beach Hotel concluded the night with many guests swearing to return next year as they danced away the rest of the night to "mugithi" on the illuminated sandy beach. Yes, this was our first festive celebrations and, from the look of things, the sky is the limit for North Coast Beach Hotel.

Parklands Campus

We take this opportunity to welcome the students back to Campus in the new decade and New Year 2010 after the long festive season. As we look back to our successes in the year just ended, we would like to sincerely thank all those who took part in our Launch of School of Law on 27th November, 2009.

We had the honour to host Senior Deputy Solicitor General, Muthoni Kimani, who represented the Chief Guest, the Attorney General Hon. Amos Wako. A day before the launch of the School there was an interesting and educative lecture from a renowned lawyer, Dr. P.L.O Lumumba.

A variety of books on law were displayed at a successful exhibition during which our students had the opportunity to meet and interact with members of the legal fraternity. With such an impetus, the School, as it commences this session, is ready for the formidable challenge of making it to the top to narrow the gap in the country's need for lawyers. On a sad note, we at the School of Law extend our heartfelt condolences to the families.

The festive season kicked off with a bang at the NCBH where about 250 happy Kenyans gathered to celebrate the Christmas festivities.

Santa Claus in a *man-drawn* chariot was accompanied by two little angels camouflaged in white tunics. They showered the guests with gift hampers and each guest took home memories that will not fade any time soon. On 31st December 2009, over 200 hotel guests witnessed the countdown to the New Year with melodies from the KU Harmony band.

The neighboring villagers, estimated at 2,000, were attracted by the unusual activities at the hotel and came to witness the spectacle as they held their breath in anticipation of The Hour.

After the count of 1, the skies brightened with exploding fireworks that rained on revelers below. It was indeed a sight to behold! A cake to usher in the New Year was shared by all and sundry as each picked a piece that bonded them to the New young Year, 2010.

Mombasa Campus

The students at Mombasa Campus reported back on 6th January 2010 for the new academic year. The pioneer continuing students are now in their Third year, First and Second semesters, while the Second Years are in their first and second semesters. The campus also admitted new students for the new academic year. Addressing the students, the Director, Prof. Wamukoya, welcomed both the new and continuing students to the campus and wished them all a happy and prosperous 2010.

He emphasized to the students the need to focus on the objectives that brought them to the campus. The students were encouraged to consult widely and embrace dialogue with the campus management in order to maintain the peaceful atmosphere that has prevailed at the campus. Meanwhile, the construction of a campus health clinic and the laboratory for the hospitality and tourism management programme is under way.

The two long awaited facilities are expected to be completed by the end of January 2010. The health facility, when fully equipped and staffed, will bring to an end the dependence on the General Hospital and other health facilities within the proximity of the campus to attend to students and staff suffering from ailments that can be handled at the facility.

The hospitality and tourism laboratory will facilitate the hands on teaching of the programme which is expected to attract a larger number of students who, on completion of their studies, should compete favorably with graduates from other institutions offering training in hospitality for jobs in the Industry that has various hotels at the tourist towns of Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu.

Kitui Campus

The pioneer group of 3rd year students successfully completed their end of 1st semester exams on 30th December 2009 before breaking to usher in the New Year with their families and friends. They reported for registration on 6th January 2010 for the 2nd semester.

Meanwhile, the 1st and 2nd year students reported back to complete the 1st semester. All the students are settled for their studies. Infrastructural development at the campus is on course: the two computer laboratories with a capacity of two hundred (200) computers are complete and the installation of equipment for networking by Kenet has been done.

The ICT Directorate is expected to install the indoor infrastructure. Once this is done, the computer laboratories will be fully served with internet. This will enable the students to access useful material that should enhance their studies. Meanwhile, the acute water shortage situation that threatened to cripple provision of services at the campus has improved with the campus receiving water at least three times a week. This supply is adequate to service the hostel reserve water tanks through an internal piping system.

Nyeri campus set to expand.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, began her first working day of the New Year when she led a team of University Management Board members on a high profile visit and tour of Nyeri campus on 2nd January, 2010.

She was accompanied by Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (F.P. & D.), Dr. Nelson Karagu, the Registrar (F.P. & D.), and Mr. Joseph Gitahi, the Finance Officer. The team was received by Mr. Cosmas Kathungu, the Nyeri ODeL Regional Co-ordinator and the entire staff. During the visit, the team held a meeting with the Co-ordinator of the campus and the purchasing of the parcel of land identified for the construction of the campus was top of the agenda.

Fruitful discussions and decisions were made and later the team visited the proposed site for the Nyeri Campus. The co-ordinator was mandated to liaise with the landlord to negotiate the use by the University of the entire 3rd floor of Tabby Plaza to create more room for conducting lectures for the fulltime programmes which are expected to start in May, 2010.

The space will also host the computer laboratory. An additional 15 computers are set to be procured. The Ag. ICT Director has been asked to ensure there is internet connectivity. The Co-ordinator Nyeri ODeL Centre will also be allocated offices on the 3rd floor.

An Open Day to market Kenyatta University programmes will soon be organized. The Vice-Chancellor has appointed a ten-member committee headed by Prof. Wangari Mwai, the current Director of City Campus, to oversee the Development of the campus.

City Campus

Kenyatta University has established a City Campus. It is located at the KU Plaza, formerly Autorama House, MFI Solutions along Haile Selassie Avenue, opposite the Government Press.

This is a welcome relief to the students who hitherto had to find ways to beat the heavy Thika road traffic jam to attend evening classes at the main campus. Potential students have can now take advantage of the location, especially those working in the CBD, and register at the campus.

A broad range of programmes in various disciplines at Certificate, Diploma, Degree, Masters and P.h.D. levels has been advertised to begin in February, 2010.

Spiritual Corner

"Oh death, where is your sting?"

Death is so brutally real that it is often personified – the cruel hand of death, an enemy, a robber etc. Why, why, why do good people die? Usually there are no answers.

We rarely tell humorous stories about death but let me paraphrase one. A man died and instantly found himself before two entrances on the other side of life. He decided to check out both. A very pleasant scene met him at the gate to the first entrance. There was good music, dancing and merriment. He was mesmerized.

He thought he should check out the second entrance. He found St. Peter at the gate in a white robe, long beard with a large register in his hand. This reminded him of the boring parish priest at home. He decided, the first gate was the place to be, quickly ran back and asked to be let in. He was shoved in and immediately came face to face with horror scenes of people in torment. A big sign read: 'welcome to hell' He was dumbfounded and confused. He protested, "This is not what I saw at the entrance." An attendant informed him, "That was our promotion window."

Many faiths agree that death is not the end of life. The Bible teaches us several truths about death. For example, we learn that death is the only way to eternal life because flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. (1Cor. 15:50). We are also assured that Christ conquered death so that in Him we may live and have assurance of eternal life. This is the greatest comfort of our Christian faith when we lose our loved ones. In the chapter above, the Bible tells us that Christ took away the sting of death. But it also says the sting of death is sin. So, if we hang on to our sin by not believing in Jesus Christ the only one who conquered sin by His death and resurrection, we hang on to the sting of death. Let us put our faith in Christ and obtain a visa stamp for heaven – never have to be confused by the promotion window!

Joyce Wangia (PhD)



Mind bender

1. Complete the following titles

- Things Fall
- A.....of Wheat
-of the Savannah

3. Diamond is the only one of these minerals whose name is not used as a colour.

2. Photophobic is to light as Hydrotropic is to.....?

1. (a) Aport, (b) Grain, (c) Anthills

3. Which is the odd one out?

- Turquoise, Diamond, Ruby, Emerald, Gold, Silver, Bronze

ANSWERS

KU Retains Position 1 During The 2nd KIUS Championships



Kenyatta University won the 2nd Kenya Inter-University Sports Championships (KIUSC) games in style. KU won 113 medals followed by University of Nairobi with 69 medals. KU won medals in nearly all sports disciplines entered.

In some cases KU ran away with victories easily as they seemed to be better prepared than the opponents. These victories did not come easily; they were achieved following intense preparations during a 10 day residential training camp. During the camp training began at 6.00 a.m. and ended at 7.00 p.m with appropriate breaks.

The Kenyatta University contingent consisted of 270 students and 16 staff. On 17th December the entire squad relocated to the games village at the University of Nairobi. Out of the 23 Universities expected for the games, a total of 20 actually took part.

The teams from KU performed so well that at the end of the competition we were awarded trophies for:-

1. Best team - men
2. Best team - women
3. Best team over all

The Editorial Board Congratulates our intrepid Champs

Editorial Board: Mary Nge'the (Chairperson/Editor-in-Chief), Charles Nderitu (Co-Chairman), Margaret Otolu (Member), Janet Muthimi (Member), Grace Muchiri (Member), Mrs. Erica Mwalolo (Member), Julius Maore (Member), Isaac Mwangi (Member), Mercy N. Kanyo (Member), Kaniaru Ndirangu (Photographer), Patrick Minai (Design & Layout), Susan Ndichu (Secretary), David Karanja (Editor/Proofreader) Simon Kirwa (Student Representative).

The Kenyatta University Newsletter is published by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The Editorial board welcomes brief comments/articles of news and events on topical issues.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit/shorten articles and or determine what is to be published and when.

You can send the articles to the pro@ku.ac.ke or drop them (in hard or softcopy) in ROOM 109 or 106 at the main Administration Block