



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SEPTEMBER 2018

# VarsityFocus

*A magazine of the University of Nairobi*



## Career Services Office launched



## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

### **Our Vision**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence

### **Our Mission**

To provide quality university education and training and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilization of knowledge.

### **Our Core Values**

- Freedom of thought and expression
- Excellence
- Care
- Good governance
- Innovativeness and creativity
- Partnership and teamwork

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# I N S I D E



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

## Varsity**Focus**

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Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
Director of Corporate Affairs  
University of Nairobi  
P.O. Box 30197 - 00100 Nairobi  
Tel: 020 - 3318262 Ext 28263  
Tel: 020 4913193  
Email: director-ca@uonbi.ac.ke  
www.uonbi.ac.ke

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### Editor

John A.O. Orindi

### Consulting Editor

Otuma Ongalo

### Editorial Team

Mariam Maina  
Peter Muturi  
Johnson Kinyua  
Brian Ouma  
Esther Nekesa  
Peter Oluoch  
Naomi Nyaboga  
Brian Abook  
Florida Keru  
Julius Thurania  
Silas Katam

### Photography

Charles Muriuki  
Kevin Wamola  
Peter Oluoch

### Creative Design

Kevin Wamola

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## Renewed impetus for students' career development

Preparing students for successful career development is getting serious attention at the University of Nairobi. Universities have received a big boost from the new government policy on the implementation of the Office of the Career Services. They have been challenged to empower their students with the right skills and attitude to make their graduates market ready for employment and entrepreneurship. Working with the industry and the government to produce competent graduates was the dominant theme during the recent inaugural Chancellor's Career Fair 2018. During the Chancellor's CEO roundtable breakfast meeting with the government and the academia, 24 CEOs of different private companies resolved to work with the University in bridging the gap in skills required by the market and those possessed by graduands. At the University of Nairobi appropriate structures and systems have been put in place to track students career

trajectory as soon as they are admitted to the University upto their exit into the market. UoN became the first university in Kenya to launch the Office of Career Services (OCS). The Office shall be responsible for mentoring students through a successful career journey. A journey to ensure students are nurtured to achieve their potential and life goals. The OCS UoN chapter was launched by the Cabinet Secretary on 13 August 2018. Its core function is to guide the students to make right career decisions and choices that are aligned to their dreams. UoN has lined up a number of programs in partnership with the government and the private sector to provoke the students' thinking to self discovery, allow them to assess their skills, strengths, interests, values and personality that help them make critical decisions about their careers.

University of Nairobi students enjoy a wide range of career development opportunities. They have access to periodic graduate

recruitment programs. The University organizes at least two job recruitment fairs annually with Multinationals for selection of fresh graduates. There are also Internships and attachments, exchange and cultural immersion programs with partner institutions worldwide, mentorships by alumni and peers and unlimited opportunities for them to show case their innovations and entrepreneurial skills.

University of Nairobi training is holistic. Students talent development is supported through extracurricular activities. UoN students have continued to excel in performance Arts and various sports disciplines winning prizes and trophies

This issue of the varsity Focus therefore lauds the University for Showing Leadership in supporting students' career development and recording impressive performance in global Varsity rankings. The University has also done Kenya proud by becoming the first University to develop and deploy satellite into the orbit in partnership with JAXA and UNOOSA. The strategic plan 2018-2022 which shall be launched soon is expected to bring changes in the thinking design of the University and transform it from a financially surviving institution to self sustaining and prosperous corporate. The giant must wake up from the slumber or dissipate into oblivion. [VF](#)

*“At the University of Nairobi appropriate structures and systems have been put in place to track students career trajectory as soon as they are admitted to the University upto their exit into the market.”*

# Varsity courting the industry and government for expanded roles



*Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi,  
Vice-Chancellor*

**T**he rising need to improve economic growth and solve social challenges means that Universities should broaden their roles as research and teaching centres that produce products and services that meet the changing needs of the society. Universities cannot achieve that on their own without accommodating strategic partnerships with the government and the Industry. It is through such Partnerships that Universities become relevant and competitive as centers of research and innovation. We, as University of Nairobi, have opened the space to the Industry and the government to ensure the production of skilled manpower for sustainable development.

Lasting partnerships come with generous advantages to the students, the industries and the community. For the industry, it creates the opportunity to identify and prepare potential employees via internship and mentorship programs. The students bring new and innovative ideas to the organizations and therefore present a

cost effective Human Resource recruitment practice and succession planning in the organizations.

Students stand to gain from the exposure to practical problems and issues that possibly are not found in a typical classroom environment. The students get self-assurance while developing an expanded network of associates, mentors and professionals during internships. Additionally, it amplifies their marketability to prospective employers or those in need of their service. Having the required skills seamlessly converts students into entrepreneurs or reliable employees who can be immediately productive to the economy.

Partnerships play a big role in the improvement of curricula that cater for the dynamic needs of the market. Through partnerships the faculty and university researchers get linked to the respective industries and thus keeping them side-by-side with the contemporary advancements in their professional field. Besides, robust ties with the alumni in the professional fields are also enhanced. As a result, the relevant knowledge will be transferred to the students and, in due course, more competitive, employable and innovative human capital will be produced for the nation.

Dwindling fortunes in resource capitation for higher education sector presents a threat to sustained quality education in Kenya. The government capitation for the University has gone down by 1.7 billion in the current fiscal year 2018/2019. Other alternative

revenue sources have also suffered shocks in the face of depressed economic performance.

The University has put in place a raft of austerity measures to enable it deal with the unforeseen challenges of budgetary deficits. A new strategic plan has also been developed, awaiting council approval, to breathe fresh thinking and new approaches that will navigate the University through the financial storm and catapult it to a higher level of global excellence.

Government needs to expand the space for public universities to play key roles in the delivery Big Four Agenda. There is urgent need to deliberately create favourable policies that enhance the participation of Universities in the implementation of turnkey projects that are currently skewed in favour of foreign Multinational Corporations. Giving Universities a chance in these big projects will enable them to not only put their idle potential to maximum utilization but also provide avenues for improved revenue.

As we approach our 59<sup>th</sup> Graduation on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, I take the earliest opportunity to congratulate both staff and students of the University for their Commitment and loyalty that has ensured that the University continues to achieve improved global rankings and consistently produce quality graduates that are market ready.

VF

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY

# University hosts inaugural Chancellor's Career Fair

**T**he University of Nairobi held a two-day Career Fair to create an enabling environment for the industry and government to provide students with opportunities for mentorship, internships, employment and innovation culture. The Career Fair, which was spearheaded by the Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, was held on August 13 and 14, 2018 and brought together over 70 private companies and government agencies. The Fair's dominant themes were job market and entrepreneurship. Through exhibitions, panel discussions and training sessions, students gained insights on branding

for employment, cyber security, talent and image management, technology trends, curriculum vitae writing and interview etiquette. They were also trained on startups management, negotiations, creativity and innovation and business models.

"The Career Fair creates environment for the industry and government to work closely with the universities in providing opportunities for mentorship, internships, and employment," said Dr. Rattansi during the launch.

During the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi decried serious challenge of unemployment and underemployment in Kenya, noting

that youth are the most affected. "The University community has agonized about the challenges of our youth. We have reflected upon them for some time now and we have come to the realization that a community problem of the current magnitude is a threat to the stability of our society. It requires the concerted efforts of great men and women to provide leadership," said the VC.

## Office of Career Services

The Career Fair initiative is based on a government national strategy to establish Office of Career Services (OCS) to develop essential competencies that will produce



A University of Nairobi student receives an appointment letter presented to him by the Cabinet Secretary Education, Amb. Amina Mohamed on behalf of Beta HealthCare.





*Education Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Amina Mohamed launches the University of Nairobi Career Services Office. Assisting her is the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.*

appropriate human capital for Industrial Revolution. Among the initiatives to realize the goal is the Careers Fair that brings together the Government, Private sector, and academia to discuss and offer solutions to various challenges.

The overall goal of the Office of Career Services in all the universities and tertiary institutions is to empower students to make right career choices, provide career services and skills development to all students.

The services provided by the office include career testing, assessment, counselling and advisory services, career and venture capital fairs, skills development programmes, students exchange programmes, job placements, internships, mentorships, graduate recruitments

drives, alumni networks, soft skills, student ambassadorship.

As part of the prelude to the Chancellor's Career Fair, the Cabinet Secretary for Education Ambassador Amina Mohammed launched UoN's Office of Career Services on August 13, 2018. The CS observed that the launch was one of the initial projects she embarked on upon her appointment in education docket.

"It is a result of independent discussions with many stakeholders and the office will go a long way in bridging the skills gap, helping students develop their soft skills, personal development and branding, addressing issues of internships, apprenticeship and jobs," she said.

### **Career Fair Launch**

The Cabinet Secretary subsequently officially opened the inaugural University of Nairobi Chancellor's Career Fair in a well-attended ceremony at the Chandaria Auditorium on August 13, 2018.

In her key note speech, Ambassador Mohammed urged students to venture into entrepreneurship and create startups as small and medium enterprises create the bulk of the jobs in the country.

She said every constituency in the country will have one Technical and Vocational Training College, (TVCs) hence a total of 290 TVCs across the country. "In addition, every county will have a polytechnic where young people can acquire technical skills.



*The CEOs Roundtable which brought together the industry, government and academia.*

Without developing our technical skills, Kenya will experience job saturation by the year 2030 as there will be too many managers with less technical knowhow," she observed.

Chancellor Dr. Rattansi, while quoting the former President of South Africa and apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, noted that education is a great tool of personal development. "With education, the child of a farm worker can become president. Education can make everything possible. It can transition an individual from learning to earning," she also noted that "Kazi Connect", a platform that will allow employers to engage all the 84,000 UoN students, will soon be launched.

Prof. Mbithi, stressed the need to work closely with the industry to solve their problems via research and innovations. He also called upon the industry experts to be adjunct lecturers and help in shaping students and imparting skills.

### CEOs' Roundtable

On the first day of the Career Fair on August 13, 2018, the industry, government and academia converged to explore ideas on prerequisites for producing graduates who are ready for the job market. The Chief Executive Officers' Roundtable brought together more than 20 CEOs and human resource directors from various organizations.

"It has been proven that when the

industry, the government and the universities work together, a country will always develop faster," said Prof. Mbithi during the Roundtable.

Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chairman Comcraft Group, observed that the third and fourth year students require mandatory internship opportunities to acquire work skills. "Without hands-on experience and skills training, it will be difficult to get jobs as there are three people for every one job in the country," he observed.

Employers in the technology sector urged students studying technical subjects to be conversant with the latest technologies and work on their critical thinking and problem solving skills. In addition, graduates were encouraged to work on their communication and writing skills, and personal presentation..

### Entrepreneurship Forum

The second day of the Chancellor's Career Fair focused mainly on entrepreneurship. Students were challenged to work on their business startups and were promised funding



*Students interact with industry representatives at the Chancellor's Career Fair. The companies were offering internship and employment opportunities.*



from Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

The Youth Fund CEO Mr Ronnie Osumba, however, challenged the youth to explore self-financing as opposed to getting money from the fund. "Most successful people rely on self-financing. Work on your soft skills and technical skills. I can give you Kshs 1 million daily for 365 days but your business will still fail if you lack the skills," he warned.

Mr. Osumba urged the students to explore the option of business entrepreneurship as the formal sector only creates 50,000 jobs annually compared to the 1.2 million youth who are looking for jobs annually. Chancellor Vijoo Rattansi challenged the students to think globally and learn from their mistakes. The Chancellor challenged the youth against corruption.

"I want to see you rolling out innovations and winning awards, not engaging in corruption and going to jail. Seize the opportunities that come your way; be the change agents. Work with diverse teams which will enrich your ideas," she said.

Ms Caroline Mutoko, from Radio Africa Group, challenged students to prepare themselves not only to create jobs, but also to be ready to work in jobs that do not exist currently. "Jobs such as social media managers, ethical

hackers, data analysts, food stylists and chief listening officers, among others, were nonexistent ten years back," she noted.

On industry involvement in curriculum development, Ms. Mutoko observed that the industry players should be part and parcel of academia and help in curriculum development.

Prof. Bitange Ndemo, from the School of Business, UoN, challenged business owners and entrepreneurs to embrace technology.

"Use data analytics, internet of things, artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual augmentation and block chain technology in your daily business operations as they are bound to get targeted audience and increase your revenues unlike mass media which targets everybody," he explained.

"Travel to far lands and discover the

opportunities which in most cases is disguised as problems in those places," he added.

The Chancellor's Career Fair will be an annual event which brings together industry, academia and government to deliberate on ways of building sustaining partnership.

The fair attracted companies such as Google, Oracle, I & M Bank, Beta Healthcare, Housing Finance, IBM, Microsoft, McKinsey, Grant Thornton, Nation Media Group, Jambo Pay, Comcraft Industries, Demo Africa, Institute of Human Resource Management, Computech, DTB Bank, and Kingsway Motors.

At the closing ceremony on August 14, 2018, awards were presented to outstanding student innovations and participating companies. VF



*University of Nairobi students keenly follow proceedings during a training session on the job market etiquette. The training session was part of the Career Fair.*

# Government launches Ajira Digital Programme at UoN

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has launched Ajira Digital Programme at the University of Nairobi. The programme will train 1,000 students and equip them with the necessary technical skills to enable them tap into the huge potential of online jobs.

Speaking during the event, Jerome Ochieng, the Principal Secretary for ICT and Innovation, said Ajira programme will address unemployment challenges since the youth will be able to access millions of online jobs. The programme aims at training one million young people across the country.

"You will be provided with practical solutions to the challenges our country faces. You will be prepared for the job market upon graduation. The programme involves collaboration with many players, including the Ministry of ICT, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education and the private sector," he said.

Internet has created an opportunity for multinationals to source human resource across the globe. The online market place is estimated to be \$4.6 billion. Some of the success stories from the Ajira Digital Training Programme are the young people earning close to Kshs 40,000 every week. "People earn close to \$400 weekly. The government will engage the private sector to give the young people an opportunity to work on online jobs; even government jobs will be online," said the Principal Secretary.

Members of Parliament have been involved in the digital programme too. They are expected to lead the campaign by not only engaging the youth in their constituencies to participate in Constituency Innovation Hubs, but also in constructing the hubs. The PS called on students to be at the forefront in supporting the government's 'Big Four' agenda of affordable housing, manufacturing, universal healthcare and food security.

Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, noted that the University of Nairobi is focused on training young people and equipping them with skills to enable them become global citizens. Some of the efforts the university has put in place to help young people include setting up Career Services Office and working in close collaboration with the private sector to train young people.

Some of the companies that have worked with the University of Nairobi in training young people include; Barclays Bank, Google, IBM, Microsoft, and Africa Development Bank. Prof. Ogeng'o represented the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi during the event.

Ajira Digital Programme has trained 150 students in the first cohort. The programme is expected to train over 1,000 UoN students in phases. [VF](#)



Students follow proceedings at the Ajira Digital training session at the University of Nairobi. (Insert) PS Jerome Ochieng' addressing participants during the official launch of the Ajira Digital Training at UoN.

# Kenya's first satellite deployed into orbit



The Kenyan delegation led by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Amb. Amina Mohamed pose for a group photo in Japan after the successful deployment of Kenya's first satellite into orbit.

When the clock struck exactly 1:30Pm on 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, the University of Nairobi was thrust into enviable history with the deployment of Kenya's first space satellite into orbit. The mid morning spectacle captured live by national television wasn't just a university or national pride. The feat was a technological trailblazer in Sub-Saharan Africa and developing nations worldwide. Kenya formally joined the community of nations which have successfully deployed a space satellite developed by their own scientists and engineers.

## The satellite

The pioneer satellite is christened 1<sup>st</sup> Kenya University Nano Satellite Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF). It was

successfully deployed from KIBO (a satellite deployment module at the International Space Station) from the Japan Space Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Centre in Tokyo, Japan. Its payload consists of two commercial cameras and experimental web audio upload and broadcast, which are capable of limited earth observation and audio broadcast.

The historic deployment was witnessed by high profile Kenyan delegation at the Tsukuba Space Center in Tokyo. The team led by Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohammed comprised Principal Secretary University Education Prof. Micheni Ntiba, the Chancellor of the University Of Nairobi Chancellor Dr Vijoo Rattansi, Kenya's Ambassador to Japan S.K. Maina, and University

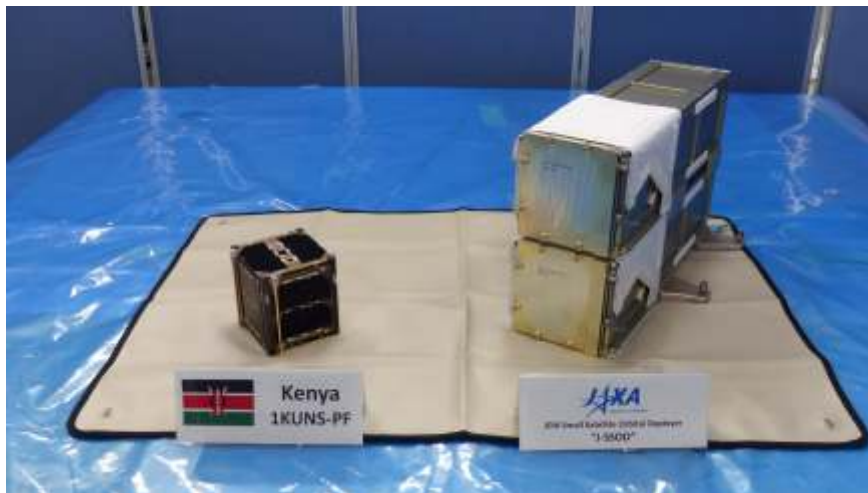
of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

The Kenyan technical team was led by 1KUNS-PF project Principal Investigator Prof Jackson Mbuthia, who is also the Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Nairobi.

## Benefits to nation

In his congratulatory message, President Uhuru Kenyatta said the University of Nairobi had achieved a major milestone, which he said will play a key role in the nation's affairs. "The successful deployment of the satellite will go a long way in helping Kenya to advance into space science. The data collected by the satellite will be key in helping the government to make key decisions like weather





The actual KiboCUBE CubeSat, 1KUNS-PF (1st Kenyan University Nano Satellite-Precursor Flight) that was deployed into the orbit.

forecasting and disaster management,” said the President in a key message delivered by Ambassador Amina while in Japan. Speaking from Nairobi, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Macharia Kamau noted that the satellite was one of the deliverables and an outcome of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development Conference (TICAD 6) that took place in 2016 in Nairobi. “Our economy will become tech driven. Reliable data will be given for early warning systems and data marking. Weather data will be key in disaster preparation,” he said. According to Prof. Mbithi, the launch of 1KUNS-PF was one mere step in the long journey that would ensure advancement in many national spheres.

“From our point of view as the University of Nairobi, this successful satellite launch is not an end in itself. Rather it is the foundation for the next phase which will involve developing even bigger constellations with capacity to provide more scientific,

technological and commercial value to the country,” he said.

The Kenyan satellite can provide data services and benefits in diverse areas such as earth mapping; weather forecasting; data collection for applications in agriculture, transport and food security; disaster management; coastline monitoring; and environmental, livestock and wildlife management.

According to Prof. Mbuthia, the launched 10cm x 10cm x 10cm satellite weighs about 1.2 kilograms and is about 4,000km from earth. The satellite was assembled at a cost of approximately Sh100 million and has an estimated lifespan of between 12 to 18 months upon which it will

disintegrate into debris. He noted that the significance lies not in its size (though it is a remarkable example of what can be achieved by Nano technology) but in what lies inside it. Prof. Mbithi observed that Kenyan planners and decision makers in these areas need the most accurate information available, and their staff need as much data as possible in order to come up with viable policy options which would help resolve existing challenges.

“The economic benefits are unlimited but will be realized in the long run and create new opportunities,” assures the VC. “The University requires the support of the government and partners to sustain the momentum of space technology and innovation in Kenya.”

Depending on the mission goals for each year of the space programme, the cost of design, manufacture, launch per nanosat and gradual setting up of the requisite laboratories will require a financial commitment ranging from \$ 0.5m to \$1m per year



A screen shot of the view on TV as Kenya's first satellite is deployed into orbit. Indeed, it was a sight to behold!

### Project background

1KUNS-PF is a result of scientific and technological collaboration between the University of Nairobi, School of Engineering, the KiboCube Team, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), University of Rome (Italy), and the Kenya Space Agency. Through a highly competitive process, the University of Nairobi was selected to be the first beneficiary of the KiboCUBE programme in 2016. The KiboCUBE project was launched in 2015 by UNOOSA and JAXA as a capacity building initiative to offer educational and research institutions from developing countries the opportunity to deploy cube satellites (CubeSats) from Japan's Kibo Experiment Module of the International Space Station.

Responding to the global announcement of this opportunity, the University of Nairobi in collaboration with the University of Rome "Sapienza" worked to develop a CubeSat which was named 1<sup>st</sup> Kenyan University Nano Satellite-Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF).

Kyushu Institute of Technology of Japan was the technology partner for human resource development in satellite design, manufacture and testing to meet the quality standards set by JAXA.

On April 2, 2018, the completed CubeSat was transported/ launched as cargo by NASA (USA) to the International Space Station ; from where it was be deployed into orbit. And into history.

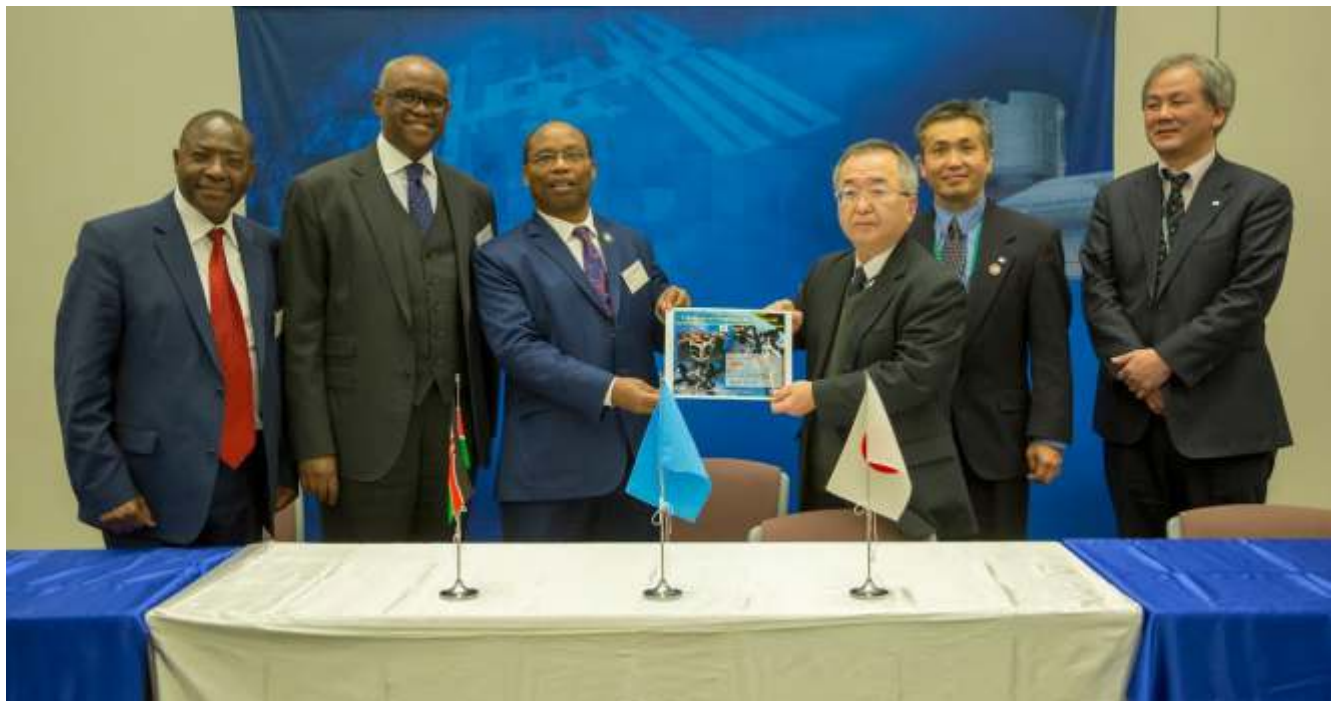
### Future plans

The successful deployment of 1KUNS-PF heralds the next phase

for UON/Kenyan scientists and Engineers to develop bigger high resolution satellites (3U CubeSat) with serious scientific and technological value for the country.

The satellite development activities in each year will incorporate new mission goals. It is proposed that every year, M.Sc. and PhD students who show a great passion for space science will be recruited to join the satellite design, manufacturing, launch and mission operations teams.

The University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof Mbithi has invited interested collaborators and partners from both the Public and Private sector to work with the University in expanding the programme, which he reiterates it will yield enormous benefits for Kenya and the region. [VF](#)



*The team from the University of Nairobi led by Prof. Jackson Mbuthia hand over the KiboCUBE CubeSat, 1KUNS-PF to JAXA Tsukuba Space Center on January 16, 2018.*



# UoN Kisumu Campus Complex officially opened



*The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi commissions the University of Nairobi, Kisumu Campus Complex. Looking on is the (left) Kisumu County Commissioner, Pauline Dola, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Kisumu County's CEC Education, ICT and Human Resources Development, Dr. John Ogone.*

**T**he University of Nairobi Kisumu Campus Complex was officially opened by the Chancellor (Dr) Vijoo Rattansi on April 20, 2018.

Speaking during the ceremony at Kisumu Campus, Dr. Rattansi observed that Nyanza region has produced great people and following the establishment of the campus, the region is bound to produce more giants. "We are confirming our commitment to grow with future generations; we shall mould thousands more," she said. The Chancellor pledged that the University of Nairobi will continue advancing quality education in the region. She congratulated the Vice-Chancellor for resilience despite the challenges during the construction of the British Council building. The

Chancellor also congratulated the Kisumu Campus for passing the recent CUE Audit convincingly.

In order to increase access to higher education, Dr Vijoo urged Kisumu County government to provide scholarships to bright but needy students from the University.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi said the expansion and growth of the University is driven by established need and the philosophy to provide solutions to challenges facing humanity and the philosophy of excellence. With the introduction of devolution, the goal of the university is to work with local communities to transform their regions.

"University exists to safeguard and provide solutions to the society. We have opportunity to provide solutions to the challenges facing humanity," he said. The Vice-Chancellor urged

Kisumu County government to work with the University in establishing accommodation facilities for students.

Kisumu County Government was represented by Dr. John Obiero Ogone, CEC Education, ICT and Human Resources Development. Dr Obiero challenged the university to bid for consultancy services in the county. He congratulated the university management for a strong brand that is able to withstand challenges within the higher education sector.

"You will continue to attract students because you have a strong brand, and a very high research profile," he said.

The launch was attended by the university management, staff and students from Kisumu Campus. [VF](#)



# Varsity to help Kitui County realize potential



*The Governor, Kitui County, H.E. Charity Ngilu and the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the institution.*

**T**he University of Nairobi will assist the Kitui County Government develop a spatial plan for infrastructure development.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi and Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu signed a Memorandum of Understanding on April, 17, 2018 in the Vice-Chancellor's Boardroom. The MoU will provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate collaboration.

The UoN team will offer professional guidance in sustainable urban development in line with national and internationally accepted themes, including environment and climate

change, land and housing, social economic, social-health, work-livelihoods information and monitoring, capacity building, and development and management.

The VC observed that with the advent of devolution it has become important for universities to work with counties and enhance development. "Counties can tap into the rich human capital we have at the University and foster further development. Our College of Architecture and Engineering is well versed with matters planning," said Prof. Mbithi.

The Governor said the signing of the MOU would enable the county realize its full potential.

"A social plan is important for the county. There are a lot of untapped resources in Kitui County. The plan will enable us understand our county better. Proper planning will enhance infrastructure development and meet the needs of our people."

The cooperation will provide an opportunity for practical training and internship for UoN students and research and professional practice with innovation for faculty.

Meanwhile, the University of Nairobi is developing a plan for the development of Tharaka Nithi County. The Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the County was signed on March, 15, 2016. [VF](#)

## Prof. Muriuki retires after illustrious career in scholarship



It is not always the norm for university professors to reverently refer to one of their peers as Mwalimu but to Prof Godfrey Muriuki, this title comes naturally in recognition of more than half century dedication to scholarship.

For 54 years, since 1962, the world renowned historian has bestrode the University of Nairobi corridors like colossus and now he finally retires from service having left an indelible mark in the education sector.

The history of the 81 years old scholar is intricately entwined with the history of UoN, the premier institution of higher education in the country previously known as University College, Nairobi, when Prof Muriuki joined it. Since then, he has seen Kenya grow from one university to over 70 universities.

### Times of Arthur Porter

He is one of the few members of staff today who served the university during the tenure of Dr. Arthur T. Porter as the Principal of the University College, Nairobi, having been employed in July 1964 as a history tutor in the then College of Social Studies, Kikuyu.

"I joined the university at a time when Kenya was a very young country after independence in 1963. I vividly remember the date was July 1, 1964. It was barely two months since the Royal College Nairobi was renamed University College Nairobi as a constituent college of inter-territorial, Federal University of East Africa. I have proudly served

under the first president Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and now I retire having served under the son of Mzee Kenyatta," the historian recalls.

As the first university in the country, the students enrolled then studied for degrees of the University of East Africa and not London as was the case before.

Born in July 1937, Prof Muriuki studied at the Government African School in Kagumo, in the present day Nyeri County, where he obtained a first division and received an overseas Cambridge School Certificate. In 1964, Prof. Muriuki graduated from the then Makerere University College with a BA honours in History. In 1966, he joined the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies and four years later attained PhD in African History.

"Upon my graduation in 1969, I returned to Kenya in 1970 and was employed by the University as a lecturer in the Department of History. The University had now changed from the University College Nairobi to the University of Nairobi, the first national university in Kenya," says

Prof Muriuki.

In a span of nine years, Prof. Muriuki rose to senior lecturer position and Chairman of History department between March 1975 and December 1989.

In December 1977, Prof. Muriuki became a visiting professor in African History at Stanford University. Later in 1978, he went back to his alma mater, University of London, as a visiting scholar in the School of Oriental and African Studies. He has also been a visiting research professor at the University of Western Cape and St. Lawrence University, New York.

In 1979, he was promoted to an Associate Professor and in 1987; he became Professor of History in UoN.

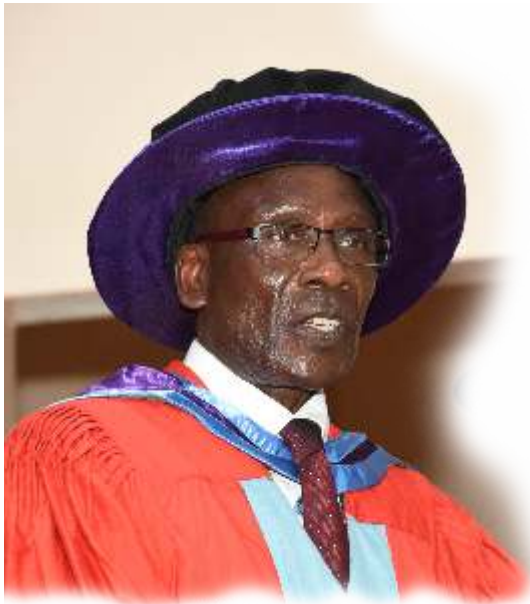
While serving as the Director, Board of Common Undergraduate Courses, he secured a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Northeast Missouri State University, now Truman University.

A widely published scholar, Prof. Muriuki has over 20 publications and 15 book reviews to his name. He also has over 40 seminar/conference papers and lectures. Over the years, Prof. Muriuki has received various honours and awards, including a two-time Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS). He has sat in various boards, including Chancellor, Kisii University.

"To succeed in your career, you must be committed to your work. There is no other option except hard work. I retire happy and feel accomplished. Currently, I am establishing a home library in Nyeri. This library will be open to postgraduate students interested in the Kenyan history," he says.

And as professor settles for a life in retirement, we at the Varsity Focus wish him well. **VF**

# Prof. Ogeng'o defends Doctor of Science thesis



*Prof. Julius Ogeng'o defends his thesis for the Higher Doctorate degree before a public audience in Taifa Hall.*

**P**rof. Julius Alexander Ogeng'o defended his Doctor of Science thesis to join the ranks of four other professors who have achieved the coveted feat since the establishment of the University of Nairobi in 1970.

The public lecture was delivered at Taifa Hall, Main Campus, on March, 19, 2017 in the presence of the University Senate, staff, students and members of the public. Ogeng'o is a Professor of Human Anatomy. He holds BSc, MBChB, PhD and MD degrees from the University of Nairobi.

The title of the DSC defense was 'Insights into and anatomical perspective of Atherosclerosis among Kenyans. Prof. Ogeng'o said Atherosclerosis is an inflammatory wound that burns slowly. It is an old ailment that usually causes

cardiovascular diseases. Atherosclerosis is associated with risk factors such as hypertension, tobacco smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and malnutrition. According to Prof. Ogeng'o, the study was conducted in various hospitals including Kijabe, Tenwek, Kenyatta National Hospital, Lancet Laboratory and Veterinary Laboratory. The findings of his study reveal that the disease is prevalent among individuals between 50-60 years, regardless of gender.

Prof. Ogeng'o urged Kenyans to exercise daily and avoid alcohol, cigarettes, and irresponsible behaviours. He also called for avoidance of salty and sugary foods and pollution of the environment. The study will be translated into Kiswahili to enable majority of

Kenyans to understand the scholarly work. Prof. Ogeng'o will also partner with the industry, carry out interventions and help in influencing health policy.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi paid tribute to the illustrious career of Prof. Ogeng'o, who is based at the College of Health Sciences. "Prof. Ogeng'o did his PhD and finished in 3 years, backed by 13 peer reviewed publications. In 2015, Prof. Ogeng'o was awarded Doctor of Medicine and will be getting his Doctor of Science in 2017/2018 Academic year," he said.

The VC said Prof. Ogeng'o is well published, with 270 articles to his name. He is internationally renowned as his works are cited by scholars in Poland, Spain, Brazil, Chile, Britain and America.

The Director of Graduate Studies Prof. Lydia Njenga said the award of the higher doctorate to Prof. Ogeng'o was the "first baby since the establishment of the Graduate School in 2016." VF



*The panel of examiners.*



## Harvard Professor urges artists to protect their work



**A** Harvard School of Law Professor has advised Kenyan researchers and artists to patent their works in order to earn from their innovations. Prof. William Fisher made the appeal

during his public lecture at the University of Nairobi on April 26, 2018. According to Prof. Fisher, virtually all original works can be patented and copyrighted, including music, films, movies, fashion, and recipes.

"Even yoga has been copyrighted. The original creator makes money by teaching people the yoga moves, speaking engagements, selling licences, selling the movies via CDs, DVDS and even online. He makes close to \$4.9 million annually," he said. Other pieces of work that can be copyrighted include photographs, architectural pieces of work and choreography.

Prof Fisher said Harvard and Stanford, among other Ivy League universities, have earned billions of dollars from copyrights and patents. He underscored the need to

recognize artists and pay them revenues and royalties based on the popularity of their works.

The Harvard Law professor was accompanied by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Affairs, who represented Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi. The DVC said UoN has been protecting its research findings through the Intellectual Property Office, which was established in 2007.

"The university also offers courses on intellectual property to help create awareness. With the support of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), University of Nairobi is conducting an intellectual property audit to adopt best strategies of commercializing the products of research," said Prof. Mbeche. **VF**



*Prof. William Fisher from Harvard School of Law.*

## Dons challenged to harness their IP potentials

**T**he Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi has urged academic staff members to take advantage of intellectual property (IP) within the institution.

Prof Peter Mbithi said the intellectual property assets could earn the university billions of shillings in revenue if well harnessed. He delivered the message during the Intellectual Property Audit Validation and IP Commercialization workshop at the University on July 23, 2018.

The VC urged members of the academia to harness IP assets. "In the process of doing your research, you could be looking for doctorate degrees and forget the IP assets. I urge you to increase commercialization of IP assets in the University," he said.

He observed that harnessing of IP assets is the foundation of great

universities and as a world class university, the University of Nairobi should venture in the domain. He further thanked the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) for supporting the University in its IP audit.

Mr Silvan Sange, the KIPI Managing Director, challenged the University to set up incubation labs to enable students incubate their business ideas and scale startup businesses.

Ms Joyce Banya, from WIPO, congratulated the University of Nairobi for harnessing IP assets. "This is a first from an African University. No African university has approached us to help them in harnessing the IP assets. We are happy the University of Nairobi came and asked for our assistance," she said.

World Intellectual Property

Organization works with over 250 government and non-governmental organizations around the world in protecting intellectual property. They have an IP Academy that has over 200 graduates who work with several universities around the region.

Prof. Tom Ogara urged the University Management to fast track IP awareness and training by introducing IP course as a common unit at undergraduate level. He said this will enable IP awareness levels improve across the University. IP awareness levels remain low across the staff members at 20% and 15% among the researchers. According to the research findings, the University has an IP potential of 144 unlike the current 14 registered IP patents. He urged the University to embark on screening of dissertations and thesis for IP assets before putting them into the library. [VF](#)



*Ms. Joyce Banya from the World Intellectual Property Organization addresses students and staff on intellectual property at the University of Nairobi.*

# EAC central banks lauded for maintaining stability

**T**he central banks of the five East African countries have been hailed for maintaining stability across the region despite the tough business environment over the last decade.

Speaking during a public lecture at the University of Nairobi on February 27, 2018, former Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof. Benno Ndulu praised the central banks for helping the East African countries remain afloat during the global financial meltdown and the Euro crisis.

"Central bank generally has a duty to maintain stability in the financial markets, maintain inflation and work on monetary policy. We have had several meetings to maintain stability to avoid depreciation of the currency and avoid commodity price collapse."

Managing shocks is one of the duties

of the central bank to help sustain growth, said Prof Ndulu. He further noted that central banks work via Monetary Affairs Committee of the East African Community to coordinate and analyze progress. He congratulated Kenya for being the cradle of mobile money and mobile banking. The growth in the financial sector has been made possible by allowing innovation to take place, monitoring it and regulating it.

Prof. Ndulu was speaking during a memorial public lecture in remembrance of Prof. Francis Mwega, who contributed significantly to both academia and industry at the University of Nairobi and Central Bank of Kenya. He cautioned banks against the rising non performing loans and urged them to raise their capital base to absorb shocks. He attributed the slow economic growth in the region

to the rise in the non-performing loans.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi paid tribute to Prof. Mwega for helping students master the complexities of macroeconomics and public finance. He was relentless in ensuring that sound monetary policy was formulated and implemented, said the VC.

Central Bank Governor Dr. Patrick Njoroge described Prof. Mwega as the best of the best. "He was a mentor to many people in the CBK fraternity. He displayed the highest professional humility and most of his research work informed policy decisions at the Central Bank," said the Governor.

Varsity Focus salutes Prof. James Mwega, who served the University of Nairobi from 1985-2017. [VF](#)



Former Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof. Benno Ndulu delivers a public lecture at UoN.



# UK Secretary, Joanna Roper on a mission for girl child education

**F**emale students should work diligently on their studies and careers in order to realize their full potential. This was the message from Joanna Roper, the UK Envoy for Gender Equality, when she spoke to students at the University of Nairobi.

Roper observed that 130 million girls are out of school. "Many girls are getting married younger; one in three women faces sexual abuse. Girls who are educated marry late, get few children and establish better families. Educating girls is the smart thing to do," she said at the Chandaria Centre of Performing Arts on June, 26, 2018.

Girls education can lead to great financial and economic growth, said Roper. She assured girls from

marginalized communities of the support from the government of the United Kingdom. "All around the world, we see commitment to education. We are happy to support girls to stay in school," she said.

The University of Nairobi was commended for achieving gender parity in virtually all disciplines. Female students have embraced male dominated courses like science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Roper urged the male students to be powerful change agents and to support girl's education in their communities.

Prof. Japhet Ntiba, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, noted that girls enrollment has improved significantly, compared to some two decades back although retention has been a challenge. "Fifty

percent of girls don't transit to secondary schools," he said.

He observed that measures are being undertaken to ensure girls attain quality education and those measures have started bearing fruits because parity is being achieved in institutions of higher learning.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi thanked Joanna Roper for coming to the university to galvanize support for girl child education.

Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, pointed out the efforts being made by the University of Nairobi to ensure gender issues are addressed. Key among them is establishment of the Institute of Gender Studies, a policy on gender issues and provision of equal opportunities for both male and female students. [VF](#)



*Ms. Joanna Roper, the UK Envoy for Gender Equality gives a public lecture titled '12 Years of Quality Education for Girls: Promoting an International Response' at the University of Nairobi.*

# CJ urges youth to support peace building and cohesion

**T**he President of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga has urged the Kenyan youth to live by the rule of law and avoid being used by politicians to cause chaos.

The CJ was speaking at the University of Nairobi to students from various universities across the country during an event dubbed 'Youth Uniting to Reclaim Kenya'

"We have a wonderful country. Let us strive to live by the rule of law and we shall move forward," the Chief Justice told the students in Taifa Hall on July 19, 2018. He observed that young people are full of energy which should be put to good use like peace building initiatives and cohesion

The CJ praised President Uhuru Kenyatta and the former Prime Minister Raila Odinga for their efforts to unite the country and build

bridges. He said youth face major challenges such as unemployment and urged them to come up with ideas that can help in uniting the country and bringing peace. On governance, the Chief Justice called upon the youth to hold their political leaders accountable.

Justice Maraga urged young people to come forward and reclaim Kenya and prepare to take over leadership as the current leaders prepare to exit the stage.

Dr. Manu Chandaria, the Chancellor, United States International University-Africa, called on the young people to shape the destiny of the country. "If we do not work and build this country, we shall never get anywhere. Have the fire in your belly to build this country as nobody will do it for you," he said.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that the mandate of the University is

to build young people into solid human resource that can be used in building the country.

The Vice-Chancellor was represented by Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs. The VC observed that the forum and the subsequent trainings will lead to the development of a roadmap for youth in reconciliation, healing and national cohesion.

He said the University of Nairobi and other universities should provide leadership in this process because they host youth groups that are influential in society. "The conversations should start from the grass root. That is where we should start the process of reconciliation and national cohesion by building a strong framework which can expand to national level," he said.

Also present during the event were leaders of county governments and several universities, including USIU-Africa, Kenyatta University, and Mount Kenya University. [VF](#)



*The President of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga addresses young Kenyans at the 'Youth Uniting to Reclaim Kenya' event at UoN's Taifa Hall.*

## Mombasa Campus mentorship programme launched

The University of Nairobi Mombasa Campus has launched a mentorship programme that involves professionals from the industry. The programme, which was launched by the University in 2016, provides both academic and professional guidance on careers.

Speaking during the launch of the programme on June, 23, 2018, the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi urged students to develop their personal brands. "I look forward to seeing you as brands to behold," he said.

Prof. Mbithi thanked 160 mentors who have committed to guide students for one year. "It shows that you care. Indeed care is one of our

core values and I thank you for the opportunity to serve the students," he said.

The mentorship programme by professionals came days after the Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohammed launched the Career Services Office and urged institutions of higher learning to create linkages with industry and to help students improve on their personal brands.

The Career Services Office will also help students get internships, attachments and jobs. Prof. Mbithi said guidance by professionals would enable students to achieve their dreams. "The billions of shillings we spend on education will be wasted if students are not well guided," he observed.

Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, said mentorship is a link to professional bodies like Engineering Board, among others. "I am a product of mentorship. I have mentors locally and globally," he said.

Mombasa County Executive Committee (CEC) member for Devolution and Public Service Seth Odongo noted that mentorship shapes the society. He urged students to become decorated leaders, fully packaged and brands that sell.

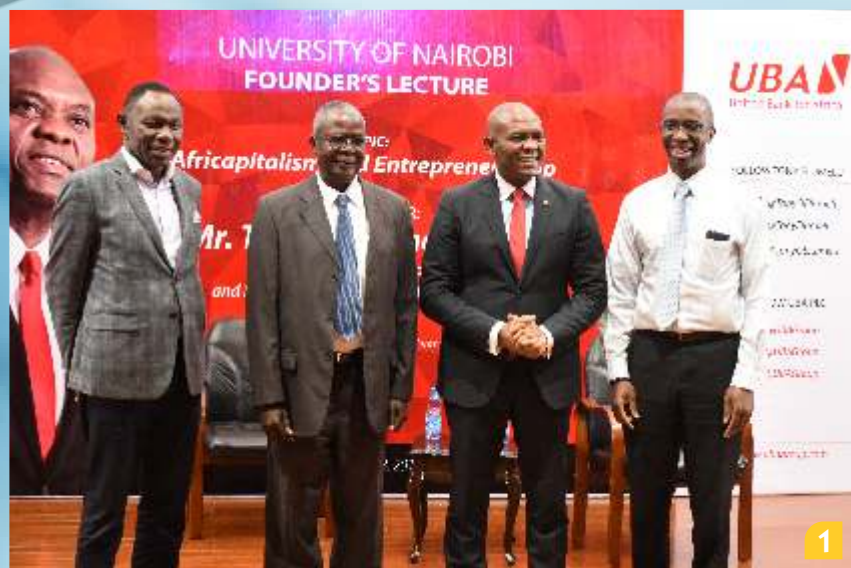
Also present during the launch were Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Sarah Kinyanjui, Director, Mombasa Campus. [VF](#)



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi leads other guests in cutting a cake as part of the launch of the Mombasa Campus Mentorship Programme celebrations.



# Pictorial



1. Elumelu in Kenya: Prof. Bitange Ndemo from the School of Business, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Mr. Tony Elumelu, Chairman, United Bank of Africa and Prof. Madara Ogot, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension.
2. A view of the newly commissioned University of Nairobi Kisumu Campus Complex in Kisumu County.
3. A University of Nairobi staff explains an innovation to the Chairman of the Council of Governors and Governor, Turkana County, Hon Josphat Nanok. The Governor was a guest at the 2018 edition of the Nairobi Innovation Week.
- 4.





4. The President of FASU Mr. Larette Malumbete presents the 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up trophy to the UoN's Director, Sports and Games, Mbaabu Muriithi and Mean Machine Captain, Shadon Munoko at the KUSA 7s Rugby Games held at the University on August 4-5, 2018.
5. University of Nairobi students take selfies with local artiste Nyashinski during the International Condom day which was held on February 14, 2018 outside hall nine. Nyashinski gave a motivational talk.
6. College of Education and External Studies physical education students show off their Zumba skills at the 8<sup>th</sup> UoN Open Day.

## Varsity Focus congratulates the following for appointments and promotions

### Appointments to managerial positions:



**Prof. Julius Ogeng'o**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Academic Affairs



**Prof. Madara Ogot**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Research, Production and  
Extension



**Prof. Prof. M'imunya Machoki**  
Ag. Principal,  
College of Health Sciences

### Promotions to associate professors

NO.	NAME	DEPARTMENT
1.	Prof. Isaac. K. Mwangi	Urban and Regional Planning
2.	Prof. James M. Nguhia	Clinical Studies
3.	Prof. Eddy M. Mogoa	Clinical Studies
4.	Prof. Eliud K. Ngugi	Plant Science and Crop
5.	Prof. John I.Mburu	Agricultural Economics
6.	Prof. Richard N.Onwonga	Land Resource and Agricultural Technology
7.	Prof. Alfred O. Opere	Meteorology
8.	Prof. Robert O. Oboko	School of Computing and Informatics
9.	Prof. Lewis Ngesu	Educational Foundations
10.	Prof. James M. Njihia	Management Science
11.	Prof. George O. Oyamo	Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy
12.	Prof. Faith A. Okalebo	Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy
13.	Prof. Charles O. Olunga	Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies(IAGAS)
14.	Prof. Jackson K.Maalu	Business Administration

NO.	NAME	DEPARTMENT
15.	Prof. Mary W.Kinoti	Business Administration
16.	Prof. Justus O. Inyega	Educational Communication and Technology
17.	Prof. Hellen N. Inyega	Educational Communication and Technology
18.	Prof. Agnes W. Kibui	Educational Communication and Technology
19.	Prof. Grace Nyaga	Educational Administration and Planning
20.	Prof. Hezron Mogambi	School of Journalism & Mass Communication
21.	Prof. Wambui Kiai	School of Journalism and
22.	Prof. Musambayi Katumanga	Political Science and Public Administration
23.	Prof. Adams Oloo	Political Science and Public Administration
24.	Prof. Jane Ngala Oduor	Linguistics and Languages
25.	Prof. Helga Schroder	Linguistics and Languages
26.	Prof Lilian Kaviti	Linguistics and Languages
27.	Prof Attiya Waris	Commercial Law



# Students challenged to be job creators

**G**hanaian entrepreneur and leadership development expert has urged University of Nairobi students to be job creators rather than seekers after graduation. Mr. Fred Swaniker was speaking to staff and students in Taifa Hall on July 5, 2018. The entrepreneur outlined his goal of creating one billion jobs. "In 6,000 days we shall have 1 billion jobless youth across the African continent. A crisis is waiting to happen. We either take advantage of it by preparing well or we wait for the crisis to happen. This is the greatest opportunity for us all since the average age of the African population is 19 years," said Mr. Swaniker.

The entrepreneur observed that Africa has an opportunity to create innovations and prosperity for the world at large. He said Kenya is a leader in innovations, citing the Mpesa technology.

As part of the initiatives to achieve his dream of creating one billion jobs,

Mr. Swaniker proposed working with the University of Nairobi to establish a leadership programme. "If you need doctors, you open a medical school; if you need engineers, you open an engineering school and hence if we need leaders; we must open a leadership school," he said.

Some \$ 200 million has been raised to train 3 million leaders across Africa. Some of the graduates of Mr. Swaniker's leadership programme have been absorbed by giant multinationals like McKinsey & Company, Google, and Microsoft. University of Nairobi students were told to work hard and create jobs to help the less privileged youth in the country and in the continent. Some of the opportunities that can be explored include urbanization challenges like housing, sanitation, healthcare, education and infrastructure.

According to Mr. Swaniker, as more people continue to migrate to towns, housing problems will increase

tenfold and hence those who venture into low cost housing will make millions of shillings as they create employment to the youth. He said urbanization portends issues of garbage and sanitization. "You can be garbage millionaires," he advised the students.

He urged students to embrace technology and use it to deliver quality education. He said other sectors that can be invested in include infrastructure development, climate change, agriculture, creative industry, tourism, and wildlife conservation.

"To succeed, budding entrepreneurs should develop skills like critical thinking, data analysis, communication and problem solving. University graduates should embrace continuous professional development as it gives them an edge over their peers and enhances their chances of employment," he said. [VF](#)



Mr. Fred Swaniker, Founder and CEO, African Leadership Group, at a speaking engagement at the University of Nairobi.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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2. Must be highly proficient in **English** and at least one other language from among: **Kiswahili, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian** and **Portuguese**.

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Application should be done online at [application.uonbi.ac.ke](http://application.uonbi.ac.ke)



# Varsity assessed for quality

The Commission for University Education (CUE) carried out a five-day quality assessment at the University of Nairobi in May.

The regular institutional quality audit was preceded by a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi followed by a meeting with University Executive Board and Senate.

On the first day of audit, University top managers made presentations on University Governance, Institutional Resources, Academic Matters and Academic Integrity Standards. Other activities during the week included interviews with students, staff, alumni, stakeholders, University Council and the Chancellor. The team also inspected facilities.

The basis of the audit is the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012, Universities Regulations 2014, Universities Standards and Guidelines 2014 and, the University's Self-



Prof. James Kiprop Tuitook, leading the nine-member team from CUE and Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, presents the CUE audit report on UoN to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Assessment Report, which had been submitted to CUE in November 2017.

The nine-member peer review panel is chaired by Prof. James Tuitook. VF

## Orchestra enchants audience

Orchestral tunes and exquisite melodies rent the air at the first ever Orchestral Concert by the University of Nairobi Choir, in collaboration with the Nairobi Conservatoire Orchestra.

Those in attendance at the concert were treated to performances adopted from Mozart and Handel. The presentations included Handel's lift up your Heads, O ye Gates, O Thou that Tellect Good Tidings to Zion, Glory to God in the Highest,

Halleluyah and Worthy is the Lamb... Amen. Magnificat by Mozart was also performed. All these were conducted by Keziah.

In addition, there was a solo performance of The Trumpet Shall Sound. The choir sang Gloria by

Mozart which was conducted by Chris Wekulo with Dr. Fred Atoh running the programme.

After the performance the team received a standing ovation from the elated audience.

In addition, there was a solo performance of The Trumpet Shall Sound. The choir sang Gloria by Mozart which was conducted by Chris Wekulo with Dr. Fred Atoh running the programme.

After the performance the team received a standing ovation from the elated audience.

"It is such a great feeling, sitting here and listening to some good music," said Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor. "I wish to thank and congratulate the choir and the Conservatoire Orchestra for putting up such a concert. This is just the beginning of the University of Nairobi's journey toward setting up an orchestra." VF



The Orchestral Concert by the University of Nairobi Choir, in collaboration with the Nairobi Conservatoire Orchestra.



# Dental Sciences Alumni Chapter initiated



*Celebrating a new chapter: Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Kenya's Representative to the Permanent Mission (UNESCO) launches the Dental Sciences Alumni Chapter.*

There was pomp and colour as the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UoNAA) launched the Dental Sciences Alumni Chapter. The 16th Alumni Chapter was launched by the Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi, Kenya's Representative to the Permanent Mission (UNESCO) on March 28, 2018 at the Sarova Panafric Hotel.

Prof. Kamenyi who is also an Alumni of the Dental School congratulated the Association on the achievements realized to date.

"I urge the UoNAA Executive Committee to focus on the vision of the Association which is to be a leader in promoting active, visible leadership in the community and to foster interaction between the alumni and the students of the University of Nairobi and the Industry," he said. "This will go a long way in improving the image of the University,

equipping the students with relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, mentoring the students in readiness for the job market and giving them exposure in translating theoretical learning in to practice."

Prof. Kaimenyi also had a word for the Dental School alumni.

"My message to the alumni especially from the School of Dental Sciences is please let us come together and support our alma mater through cash and in-kind support towards projects and activities lined up by the school. I am aware that the school is planning to build a Post Graduate Center that students, lecturers and alumni will use to engage with one another. This is a great vision set out by the School and the Alumni Association. Our role as alumni is to give towards this noble initiative," he continued.

The Chancellor, UoN, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, congratulated the members on the launch of the new chapter.

"Alumni across the globe play a critical role in the growth and development of their alma mater," she said. "It is through alumni associations that alumni are able to come together to re-connect, network and support their University. I believe that the University of Nairobi Dental Sciences Alumni are pacesetters in the health sector in

the region. I would like to encourage all of you seated here tonight to reflect on how you can pay it forward by supporting our students through coaching and mentorship. It is through your networks that the University is able to reach out to more stakeholders both locally and internationally."

The Dean, School of Dental Sciences, Dr. Regina Mutave, recognized the pioneers of the school that had lead to its growth. She called on the alumni to support the construction of the modern postgraduate wing by giving donations towards it.

The launch brought together alumni across the four disciplines of dentistry. Namely; oral surgery, periodontology community and preventive dentistry, conservative and prosthetic dentistry and oral and maxillofacial dentistry. **VF**

## First off grid lighting lab in Africa receives accreditation

**T**he University of Nairobi Lighting Laboratory (UoN-LL) is now the first lab to be accredited to test off grid lighting products in Africa. Located in the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology in the College of Architecture and Engineering, the lab has met the ISO 17025:2015 specifications.

The certificate was presented to the Vice-Chancellor, UoN, Prof. Peter Mbithi by the Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS), Mr. Martin Chesire, on May 15, 2018.

"The lab conducts testing of off grid solar products/kits under the

lighting global quality assurance system. It is the only accredited lab in Africa that performs this testing," Prof Michael Gatari, the Director, Quality Assurance.

Upon receiving the certificate, Prof. Mbithi congratulated the team on the great achievement.

"Over the years, the University has worked to ensure that all laboratory equipment is up to standard and well calibrated," said Prof. Mbithi. "Our members of staff are our foot soldiers, who ensure that our standards are met."

On his part, Mr. Chesire, congratulated the University on receiving the certification which

he termed as 'a first' since he took office as CEO.

"KENAS is charged with the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. We issued over 200 accreditations in the country. Our role is to drive-up standards to meet international standards. We are the 'checkers' of 'checkers' as we are the second body in the region doing that," he explained.

Some of the UoN-LL partners include the Lighting Global, International Finance Corporation, Kenya Bureau of Standards and Schatz Energy Research Centre, California. VF



CEO Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS), Mr. Martin Chesire, presents the certificate to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi. Looking on are members of staff from the two organizations.



# World Refugees Day Celebrated

**T**he University of Nairobi community joined the world in marking World Refugees Day at the Chancellors Court on June 20, 2018.

The Principal Secretary State Department of Immigration and Citizen Services, Maj. Gen (Rtd) Gordon Kihlangwa encouraged Kenyans to embrace refugees. He thanked the government for hosting refugees from Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan. The Kakuma and Dada camps host over 400,000 refugees.

Maj. Gen Kihlangwa challenged development agencies to support refugee camps as government support and foreign aid continue diminishing. He urged refugees to

take advantage of the ongoing voluntary repatriation programme and go back to their countries and reconstruct their lives. He said refugees need education and skills training before returning home.

Several success stories and testimonies were given at the event by refugees who were integrated by the host countries and have risen up to top business and leadership positions.

Prof. Peter Mbithi observed that the World Refugees Day aims at drawing the public attention to the issues affecting the refugees and how to improve their living conditions. He pointed out that the university, through the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS), carries out research on refugee's

socio political development. The Vice-Chancellor was represented by Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

Prof. Maria Nzomo, the IDIS Director, stated that Refugees Day is reserved to honour men, women and children who have been forced to flee from their homes by conflicts. She said the University of Nairobi has bestowed on IDIS the opportunity to work with UNHCR, Department of Refugees and International Agencies, on refugee matters.

The event was attended by ambassadors from various countries across the region and entertainment provided by gospel musician Mercy Masika. [VF](#)



*Burundian drummers entertain the crowd at the celebrations. (Inset) Gospel musician Mercy Masika was also present.*



# 10,000 trees planted during annual fete



*Prof. Japheth Ntiba, the Permanent Secretary for Higher Education, Ministry of Education plants a tree at the UoN annual tree planting day.*

**T**he University community planted close to 10,000 trees during the University of Nairobi Annual Tree Planting Day at Wangari Maathai Institute, Upper Kabete Campus.

Speaking during the exercise on April, 6, 2018, the Chief Guest Prof. Japheth Ntiba, the Principal Secretary for University Education and Research, praised the University for mitigating the effects of climate change. He noted that trees play important role in absorbing carbon monoxide, which is destructive to the ozone layer.

He urged Kenyans to plant more trees so that the country can achieve the forest cover of 10% and above.

Prof. Ntiba praised the government for waging war against tree logging and plastic bags menace.

Prof. Ntiba also observed that in future, paper shall be produced from seaweeds since the forest cover is under siege. He challenged Kenyans to look up to countries like South Korea, which has 80% forest cover.

Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, the University of Nairobi Chancellor, paid tribute to Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai for her exemplary role in conserving the environment by mobilizing women groups to plant 30 million trees in various schools and churches.

She observed that the unprecedented drought and climate

change effects experienced in Kenya recently are due to environmental degradation. "The environment is the wealth we hold in trust for our children's future. When we plant trees, we plant seeds of hope and peace," she said.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbiti challenged staff and students to

promote environmental sustainability. He thanked the partners who supported the initiative: Wangari Maathai Institute, Green Belt Movement, Kenya Forest Service, ILRI, University of Nairobi Alumni Association, Lions Club of Nairobi, Kenya Defence Forces and the surrounding schools.

The Wangari Maathai Institute Campus, Upper Kabete, plays a leading role in producing environmental champions who use their knowledge to mitigate the effects of the climate change. Several post graduate students from the Institute gave presentations on the need to preserve the environment. **VF**

# Kenyan born Senator of South Australia discloses how she triumphed over odds



*The Kenyan born Senator for South Australia, Lucy Gichuhi delivers her speech at the University of Nairobi.*

**T**he Kenyan born Senator for South Australia, Lucy Gichuhi, has called on Kenyans to learn to embrace one another, irrespective of colour, tribe, gender or place of origin.

The Senator delivered a speech titled 'How to disagree agreeably,' at the University of Nairobi on January 18, 2018.

She reflected on the life lessons learned while she was growing up. She narrated how different experiences in her childhood molded her into the leader she is today; having interacted with different cultures as she pursued her education in high school and at the University of Nairobi.

"I would not change a thing about my childhood," she said. "It was the most enjoyable part of my life as my siblings and I were sheltered and protected from a poverty of scarcity

mentality. I appeal to our public leaders to use the resources at their disposal to protect Kenyans from a poverty and scarcity mentality."

Madam Gichuhi summed up her presentation with several lessons to share. That one, Kenyans should seek first to understand the other person's position before expecting them to understand theirs.

"I had to understand the new culture I came into when I moved to Australia before expecting my host culture to understand me," she explained.

"This is a sign of respect for others and also creates a sign of honour and respect, which is the bedrock of any constructive development."

Another lesson is that every Kenyan, irrespective of tribe, colour, gender, economic class or race, is a steward of the national cake.

"We all have a contribution to make to develop Kenya. We need a

paradigm shift in order to see ourselves as stewards, agents and trustees of this nation and not as controllers, possessors or owners of the country," she said.

The Senator, asked Kenyans to learn to solve conflicts and not aggravate them.

"When in conflict, find the root cause of the problem," she said. "Many times, we are hacking at the leaves instead of digging out the roots."

She advised Kenyans to preserve and take in the good and to learn to say 'no' and stand for what they believe in with a strong conviction.

"Love, mingle and know your fellow Kenyans," she said. "We must love in freedom and responsibility and not in guilt and manipulation."

At the event, the senator had an opportunity to interact with the University of Nairobi community. **VF**

# Students awarded for top performance

**T**he 419 students who performed well from the Academic Year 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 were awarded cash, trophies and medals.

The victors' gala was held at Taifa Hall on April 27, 2018. Chancellor (Dr) Vijoo Rattansi observed that rewarding good performance in research and academia is one of the best ways to motivate students to continue pursuing education.

She quoted Chanakya, an Indian teacher and philosopher, who said that "Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth." The

Chancellor pledged to continue supporting the university so that students can benefit from high-quality education.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi thanked the corporate sector for supporting the event via cash donations, trophies and medals. "Students are inspired to register better performance and conform to appropriate behaviours when rewarded. Good mentorship has the power to unlock university students' potential," he said.

The event was supported by Crown Paints, Kenindia Insurance, Knight Frank, PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Institute of Surveyors, and General Motors, among others. Staff

members who also donated cash awards and trophies include Prof. Crispus Kiamba, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Prof. Stephen Kiama, Prof. PLO Lumumba and Dr. Jane Mariara.

Prof. Mbithi urged more companies to support academic endeavours. "We have a mandate of working concurrently with partner industries and corporations to mould our academic programmes, structures and student skills to meet the needs of the external industry. Through this, we play the vital role of providing workforce training that successfully meets the employers' development needs within the required timeframes," he stated. [VF](#)



*The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, presents an award to a top performing student at the Prize Giving Ceremony.*



## Smallholder aggregation and processing center initiative to be replicated

**T**he University of Nairobi in partnership with Rockefeller Foundation, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Technoserve Kenya renovated and upgraded a Smallholder Horticulture Aggregation and Processing Centre in Karurumo, Embu County.

"The center is equipped with facilities for aggregation of fresh produce and small-scale wet and dry processing," University of Nairobi's Postharvest Project team led by Dr. Jane Ambuko. "The installed facilities for aggregation include evaporative cooling technologies which comprises zero energy brick cooler and evaporative charcoal cooler and the Coolbot cold room which is a low-cost alternative to conventional cold rooms."

The Centre which was commissioned in March 2018 by Hon. Martin Wambora, the Embu Governor, has small scale wet processing facilities which can be used to process various products including pulp (puree), fruit

concentrate, ready to drink juices (including juice blends) and other high quality products. To facilitate high quality dry processing, the center has two tunnel dryers each of which can dry one ton of fruit slices in one loading.

On 18th May 2017, the Managing Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Region Office, Mr. Mamadou Biteye and the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Kiama Gitahi visited the Karurumo.

During the visit, the team witnessed the dry-processing steps for leafy green vegetables and mango fruit.

"These impressive operations make the centre a one-stop station where farmers and other stakeholders can find technologies to help them in their efforts to reduce postharvest losses, access market for their produce and attain quality, quantity and consistency in agricultural production," elaborates Dr. Ambuko. "With such facilities, the center becomes the first of its kind in

Kenya and is meant to demonstrate postharvest technologies and innovations for postharvest handling of perishable horticultural commodities."

"Shared vision in partnership has given us success in this project. The aggregation center will enhance the farmers' welfare, reduce postharvest loss, create wealth and increase profits in agricultural production because the facilities and technologies are in line with the demands/needs of the community" said Mr. Biteye. "The Rockefeller Foundation will replicate the aggregation project in other African countries."

Prof. Kiama thanked the Rockefeller Foundation for their financial support and assured a long-term engagement of the University with the farmers on the project. He further commended the initiative as one of the many community outreach engagements of the University of Nairobi.

While the aggregation centre belongs to the Karurumo Self-help Horticultural Farmers, it is expected to benefit the more than 4,000 horticultural farmers in the area. **VF**

*Dr. Jane Ambuko, Lead Project Researcher, University of Nairobi's Postharvest Project explains the concept to Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Managing Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Region Office and other guests.*



# University celebrates excellence

**V**ice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi received trophies and awards from various student teams and members of staff at a colorful ceremony to celebrate the University's excellence.

The trophies were from different sports teams, UoN travelling theatre and researchers. Speaking during the awards, Prof. Mbithi thanked the teams for doing well in various domains. "The University of Nairobi is a great institution with highly trained staff and good students with rich diversity and backgrounds. Our great diversity is our strength and I

am happy when we harness this to produce impressive results," he said. The Vice Chancellor urged students to excel both academically and in extracurricular activities. "Whatever you engage in and excel, you are building this great university. We are together building a great institution that future generations will aspire to be part of," he said.

Prof Mbithi said sports, drama and research are part of the tenets that make the University great. He called upon staff and students to embrace their diversity, work together and achieve greatness. He urged them to shun tribalism, which he described

as a cancer that is tearing apart the country. The VC said the university must lead in national reconciliation and cohesion.

Mr. Mbaabu Murithi, Director of Sports and Games, said various sports teams have bagged 98 trophies this year. The teams include the rugby team (Mean Machine), hockey team, basketball, volleyball, tennis, handball, swimming, netball, and football teams.

During the event, researchers Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering and Dr. Jane Ambuko from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences were also recognized for their scholarly contributions. [VF](#)



*Sports teams, the University travelling theatre and researchers display their trophies.*

# UoN students awarded scholarships



*Mitsubishi Corporation General Manager, Mr. Ichiro Sugane and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbiti congratulate a scholarship recipient (center) upon presenting her with the award certificate.*

School of Biological Sciences received scholarships from the Mitsubishi Corporation. Mitsubishi Corporation General Manager, Mr. Ichiro Sugane, pledged to continue supporting bright and needy students from the University of Nairobi to enable them realize their dreams and future endeavors. The Corporation has supported 112 students from all over the country for the last nine years.

UoN alumnus, Valentina Ndolo, also received the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship award. Valentina, who graduated from UoN in 2013 with a BSc in Biochemistry, will pursue a PhD in Veterinary Medicine, Churchill College. The Gates Cambridge Scholarships are among the most prestigious international scholarships available and Cambridge's global standing is well known. **VF**

In 2018, over 30 University of Nairobi students have received scholarships from the Rattansi Education Trust and Mitsubishi Corporation.

In a separate ceremony, 14 students, drawn from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and the

Needy students from private and public universities received a big boost towards their education after Rattansi Education Trust donated Kshs. 26 Million towards their education for the current academic year. Speaking during the check donation exercise, where over 20 private and public universities were represented, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chairperson of the Rattansi Education Trust, said that students who benefit from the scholarship should put more effort in their academic endeavors.



*The Rattansi Family: (Left) Safina Madhan, Imran Rattansi and Dr. Vijoo Rattansi during the presentation of Rattansi Educational Trust Fund scholarships for university students.*



# Students off to Israel for advanced training in Agriculture



*Off you go: Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Noah Gal Gendler and the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation symbolically flag off the 118 students.*

University of Nairobi students will undergo 11-month advanced practical training in agriculture in Israel.

The training for 118 students follows a five-year MoU, "Jerusalem Declaration", signed by President Uhuru Kenyatta and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on 23rd February 2016 on capacity building on irrigation and mechanized farming in Jerusalem.

Dr. Andrew Tumor, the Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, outlined cooperation between Kenya and Israel and the benefits achieved.

The recruited students will be trained at Arriva International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) in Negev Desert in a course, "Learning by Doing," leading to the award of Diploma in Agriculture.

Speaking during the flagging off

ceremony at Kilimo House, Prof. Stephen Kiama, the Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, said the students will be exposed to different farming practices. "Israel is a desert but they have managed to convert the desert into a land flowing with milk and honey," he said. Prof. Kiama represented the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi.

Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Noah Gal Gendler urged students to embrace technology that would enable the country achieve its development goals and the Big Four Agenda, which includes food security.

"Size doesn't matter. Traditions don't count. If you see something better, don't discard it. Shortages give you an opportunity for success. Agriculture pays off if you do it well," he said. He observed that Israel has

since embraced innovation ecosystem and is known as a startup nation, as opposed to advancement in agricultural technology.

The first cohort of 120 students was drawn from Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), National Irrigation Board (NIB), Jomo Kenyatta University, Egerton University and Karen Institute of Agriculture. They were flagged off on July 5, 2016 at State House Nairobi by President Kenyatta and Prime Minister Netanyahu.

In 2017, the second cohort of 120 students was drawn from the same institutions and 20 from the University of Nairobi. They were flagged off on July 27, 2017 at Maji House by Mr Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary of Water and Irrigation, and Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Yahel Vilan. [VF](#)

# UoN community unites in prayer



A section of University of Nairobi staff bow their heads in prayer during the prayer service.

**O**n a day set aside for reflection and thanksgiving, the University of Nairobi community gathered at the Taifa Hall to fellowship and to thank the Almighty God for His blessings.

The prayer service, which was interdenominational, was a clear demonstration of how the University values diversity and inclusivity. The Muslims, Hindus, Seventh Day Adventists, Protestants and Catholics were all represented. Recitations were made, prayers said and songs were sung by various student choirs. In the reflection, Rev. Hosea Mitei, the Protestant Chaplain, challenged the University community to learn to give thanks when good things happen.

"A story is told of an engineer inspecting a building under construction. While on the second floor of the building, he noticed that the cement was not well mixed. He

tried to signal the foreman on the ground floor in vain because of the noises. He reached into his pocket for a coin and tried to hit the foreman with. The coin hit his (foreman) head and he felt pain. On looking at what hit him, he saw the coin and pocketed it saying that the coin equates the pain he felt. Frustrated that the foreman did not look up, he threw a second coin and the foreman did the same. Angered, the engineer then took a broken brick and hit the foreman's back. The pain was of course immense, the foreman then saw it was a brick and looked up to see who had thrown it," preached Rev. Mutei. "Let us not let God reach a point of throwing a brick on us. Learn to give thanks immediately and do not forget who the Giver is. Let us not allow the joys of this life affect our relationship with our Maker."

The Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Peter

Kaigua said that indeed God has done great things for the University community and called on all to always be grateful. As he moderated the service, Fr. Kaigua repeatedly reminded the congregants the importance of giving thanks to the almighty.

The Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, applauded the University for the Initiative.

"I am encouraged that the university decided to gather and worship and pray," she said. "Where two or three are gathered, God is there. As we fellowship and work, He is with us."

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, said that God has been faithful.

"He is kind and loving; and that is why the management decided to have a prayer day every year and fellowship as a family," he said.

"Thank you for being part of this prayer service." **VF**



# UNSA officials tipped on leadership skills

**T**he University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) held a two-day retreat on leadership.

The retreat, whose overall theme was "Changing the Narrative", was held on June 28-29, 2018 at the Mombasa Beach Hotel. Student leaders were sensitized on topics such as studentship, governance, statutes and procedures, finance, procurement and communication skills.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi told the student leaders that the key mandate of the University is to produce holistic graduates. "True education doesn't consist of acquiring a few facts, but development of character and dignity. We are going to be leaders through excellence and you also shall lead with excellence. You are the best among the 84,000 students and that is why you have been given the leadership mantle," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor further urged UNSA leaders to be courageous but loyal to the University of Nairobi brand, which he said is the most prestigious university in the East African region.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, told the student leaders to be transparent, accountable, and responsive and adhere to the rule of law. "We need total culture change brought about by students, staff and the university. We need to maintain a positive image of our brand," he said.

The Dean of Students Dr. (Fr) Dominic Wamugunda observed that the UNSA student leaders will be operating in a completely different legal and political environment from that of SONU. He said unlike SONU, UNSA leaders were elected through an Act of Parliament and the UNSA Constitution.

Fr. Wamugunda urged the student leaders to embrace 5Ps of

leadership: purpose, picture, people, passion and participation. He explained that a leader must have a mental picture of where he is taking his followers, purpose and passion for leadership.

Speaking during the retreat, UNSA chairman Mr. Antony Manyara outlined his vision for the students' body, key among them changing the narrative. He said unlike in the past when university students were active in riots, there shall be no riots in his era.

Mr. Manyara promised that under his leadership UNSA will embrace technology and innovation to promote effective communication with the students. He asked University Management to support student internship, apprenticeship and jobs study programmes.

The two-day retreat was attended by members of the University Executive Board and student leaders from all the colleges and campuses. [VF](#)



University of Nairobi Students Association officials take a group photo with members of the University management during the retreat on leadership.



# Keep off drugs and alcohol, students warned

**T**he University community celebrated the International Day Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (IDADA) with a clarion call against substance abuse.

Speaking during the event at Main Campus on June, 19, 2018, NACADA CEO Mr. Victor Okioma observed that 12.7 percent of Kenyans are affected by the drugs menace.

"The young people are most affected. The situation is not good as alcohol consumption is on the rise. Schools and universities have a worrying drugs problem," said Mr Okioma, who was the Chief Guest. He said NACADA will work in partnership with universities and

schools to train the youth on the dangers of drug abuse. He blamed the drug menace among students on lack of role models. Other factors contributing to the problem include, peer pressure, bars and local brews near schools and over the counter sell of drugs.

Parents were challenged to inculcate moral values in their children and establish rapport with them to take preventative actions before things get out of hand. He said that many youth think that drug abuse is trendy and harmless.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi noted that drug abuse poses challenges to social economic development. He cautioned students against indulging

in drugs and instead focus their energies on their studies, research, innovation and extra curriculum activities like sports. His speech was delivered by Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Academic Affairs.

Prof. Bernard Aduda, the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, urged affected students to seek counselling services as the University of Nairobi offers counselling and psycho-social support to both students and staff.

The event was supported by NACADA, Liverpool VCT, Plan International, Ministry of Health, JhPiego, and I Choose Life, among others. [VF](#)



Marching for a worthy cause: University of Nairobi community and partners walk in the streets of Nairobi, raising awareness of the effects of drugs and alcohol abuse as part of the IDADA 2018 celebrations.

# Engineering students rewarded for innovations

**E**ngineering students at the School of Architecture and Engineering received cash awards for their innovations.

The awards were donated by Dr. Patrick Mweu Musimba, Member of Parliament for Kibwezi West Constituency, to spur innovation among students. The best student took home over Kshs. 200,000.

"Engineering is the backbone of the economy and indeed it's one of the Big Four Government agenda," said Dr. Musimba, who was accompanied by Eng. Nicholas Gumbo.

Dr. Musimba noted that the awards

are part of the initiatives to encourage the young innovative minds to come up with solutions to the challenges facing technology.

Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, said Dr Musimba's awards have spurred many innovations in the College. Prof. Ngau represented the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi at the event.

The Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Jackson Mbutia, thanked the sponsor for catalyzing engineering innovations within the School of Engineering. The School designed a nano-satellite that was

launched into space in May 2018. Prof. Mbutia said Dr. Musimba had donated close to Kshs 9 million to support innovations.

Engineering Students Association Chair, Nelly Omina, said the association empowers students to come up with innovations, get funding and develop their startups into viable commercial businesses. Students expressed the need to have both local and international internships to help increase their experience and worldview.

Past winners of the awards will have a session to showcase their innovations to investors. [VF](#)



Engineering students display their certificates and awards for innovations. The awards were donated by Kibwezi West Constituency Member of Parliament, Dr. Patrick Mweu Musimba (extreme left).



# Annual sports day kicks off in style

**T**he Vice-Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi has urged the corporate sector to support the development of sports in the university.

The appeal was made during the inaugural Sports Day celebrated at the University of Nairobi Sports Grounds on February 28, 2018. The theme of the Sports Day was "Enhancing cohesiveness and wellness through sports."

Prof. Peter Mbithi urged the University community to maintain excellence in both academics and sports. He hailed the College of Education and External Studies,

CEES, for the lead in physical education training of teachers. The VC also urged the government and policy makers to put in more efforts to nurture sports in the country by putting up more sports academies.

The Chief Guest during the occasion was Mr. Haron Komen, Sports Director from the Ministry of Sports. The Director called upon institutions of higher learning to establish sports scholarships to encourage more students to pursue sports as a career as they nurture their talents. He unveiled plans to establish Annual Sports Day, where sportsmen and women will be celebrated.

Prof. Isaac Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, said the university will continue to partner with many organizations in the country to promote sports.

The highlight of the day was a tug of war between staff from the Central Administration and the College of Health Sciences. The Central team emerged victorious in the contest. Several teams that emerged winners were given trophies during the occasion.

The event was sponsored by Tecno Mobile, Infinix, Kweze Television, Kericho Gold, Prime Wood and the University of Nairobi Alumni. [VF](#)



Teams play against each other in a game of volleyball. (Inset) College of Health Sciences team celebrate after being crowned the champions.





## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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**From our archives:**

**The late H.E. Dr. Kofi Annan is conferred the Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) (Honoris Causa) of the University of Nairobi by the then UoN Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui on October 17, 2008. The University of Nairobi recognized H.E. Dr. Annan for his diverse diplomatic success and the paradigm of peacemaking he applied to Kenya which is being replicated in different countries. Looking on is Prof. George Magoha, former Vice Chancellor.**



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**The Office of the Vice-Chancellor**

Director of Corporate Affairs, University of Nairobi | P.O. Box 30197 - 00100 Nairobi

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