Consolidating Africa’s dream: Pioneers graduate at PAUISTI
What’s Inside

Students Learn about Aquaponics Farming

Data Centre at JUAT

JUAT Marks 20th Anniversary

New Deputy Vice Chancellors take Office

JUAT Red Cross Chapter Rated the Most Active
The premier University, JKUAT, is this time round witnessing a unique convocation as it marks its 24th Graduation Ceremony, November 24, 2014. Out of this year’s graduands, 52 of them are pioneer graduate students drawn from 11 African countries under the Pan African University, one of the five African Institutes sponsored by the African Union.

To the region, the joint graduation is in itself a statement of endorsement that JKUAT can be entrusted with the training of all round graduates who could be instrumental in providing solutions to human challenges not only in Africa, but globally, a tradition that JKUAT has been associated with, as a hub of relevant quality education.

As we mark this historic event, we take pride in our scientists who continue putting the University on the global map. Prof. Antony Ngure Gachanja, an Analytical and Environmental Chemist who has been inducted as a fellow to the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry, UK, and Dr. Sheila Ommeh, a research fellow (IBR) who has been appointed to represent Africa at the Scientific Training Advisory Board of the Genomics Analysis Centre, UK. These achievements among many others, have come too soon to a University that is only Celebrating 20 years of autonomy. This has been possible due to the University’s clear mandate and focus on training.

We laud all graduands for their well-earned achievements and urge them to become useful and responsible citizens wherever they will practice their training. The Universities have done their bit; the rest is yours to deliver.

The University too, congratulates the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini – Zuma, for the award of Public Health degree (Honoris Causa), as well as pay homage to her for accepting to grace the graduation.

We wish all our graduands well in their quest to position themselves in world of work and service to humanity.

Meanwhile, the death of former JKUAT Chancellor Prof. Ali Al’Amin Mazrui, the global towering academician remains fresh in our minds. The University Management once again sends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and the academic world as a whole. He was a scholar par excellence.

- Hindzano Ngonyo
Editor

The 24th Graduation, a Historic Ceremony
Pioneering students at the JKUAT based Pan African University Institute of Basic Sciences Technology and Innovation (PAUISTI) are graduating in November 2014, a feat that will consolidate African Union’s dream of integrating member states through higher education. The students who were admitted in 2012 for various masters programmes have successfully completed their research projects; a number of them having published in refereed journals.

Addressing PAUISTI students and staff at JKUAT, Thursday July 10, 2014, African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, H.E. Martial Ikounga noted that what started as a simple idea has now metamorphosed into a reality with tangible outputs.

The AU official challenged the students to proceed and offer solutions to the problems afflicting Africa, not just for the present generation, but for the future ones too.

"Am looking forward to coming with the Chairperson of the African Union to witness your graduation come November," Ikounga enthused.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga who received the Commissioner at the University thanked AU for honouring JKUAT to host the East African hub of the continental university. Prof. Imbuga equally lauded the requisite contribution of the government of Kenya and JICA, which is the lead thematic partner and in the implementation of PAUISTI.

The Vice Chancellor commended the students for their discipline, dedication and cooperation that she said had enabled them to complete studies within schedule.

To facilitate faster integration and effective learning, Prof. Imbuga noted that JKUAT had inaugurated Linguistics and Foreign Languages Centre to assist PAUISTI students learn the languages of instruction which include English and French.

Prof. Manabu Tsunoda who addressed the meeting on behalf of JICA reiterated the commitment of the agency in helping Africa actualize its aspirations. Tsunoda who is a Chief Advisor to JICA and ICT coordinator for the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN project indicated that Japan plans to set up innovation and fabrication labs at JKUAT to intensify applied research and innovations for the continent.

The students, led by Sambujang Marreh expressed their gratitude to the PAUISTI partners and particularly to Prof. Gabriel Magoma who is the Institute’s Director; emphasizing that the training had not only developed them academically but also professionally. "We are ready to be part of the solution for Africa’s problems by being productive and useful members of our society," Sambujang reinforced.

Commissioner Ikounga also toured the upcoming PAUISTI Complex, whose phase one of the construction is nearing completion. The Complex will house the Institute’s workshops, laboratories and administration facilities.
Deputy Director General of International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tokyo, Japan Mr. Kingo Toyoda, has reiterated the significance of Kenya as an active cooperation partner to Japan.

Speaking at JKUAT during his visit to the university to familiarize himself with the progress on the various projects the Japanese Government is partnering with JKUAT, Mr. Toyoda observed that, “human resource development is very important for us” adding, “Kenya is a key partner especially in human resource development.”

Mr. Toyoda who was on his first visit to Kenya and accompanied by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan and the Embassy of Japan in Kenya officials including Mr. Yasuhiro Nakai (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Mr. Keita Saito (Researcher / Advisor, Economic Cooperation Division), visited the JKUAT Nissin Foods Limited where he was shown the noodles’ manufacturing plant.

The Deputy Director General also visited the Institute of Energy and Environmental Technology (IEET) to witness the progress made by the Institute in the implementation of various thematic areas undertaken under the BRIGHT Project, a technical cooperation between JKUAT and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which aims at developing the capacity of JKUAT in Research & Development, Education and Training in the field of rural electrification using renewable energy, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

In her welcoming remarks, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga conveyed to the people of Japan through Mr. Toyoda, the university’s appreciation of the Japanese support through JICA which she recalled, predates the history of JKUAT as an autonomous university in 1981.

The Vice Chancellor said, JKUAT has trained many students and singled out the Babaroa scholarships which have benefited scores of bright but needy students.

Prof. Imbuga who was also accompanied by Prof Esther Kahangi and Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, acknowledged the African Union – African Innovation – JKUAT and PAUISTI collaboration which she said, had reinvigorated the partnership between Japan and JKUAT.

Others present during the visit included: Prof. Manabu Tsunoda, Shinjiro Shiomi and Noriaki Tanaka (JICA Africa -ai- Japan Project); Prof. Simon Muhoho and Kenichi Nagatomi (Nissin Foods Ltd).

Dr. Wafula Wins the 2014 IBM Faculty Award

Dr. Joseph Wafula Muliaro(pictured), Director of Information Communication Technology at JKUAT has won the 2014 IBM Faculty Award worth $20,000.00 USD.

In a letter to Dr. Muliaro, the Program Manager, Global University Programs, Jeffrey Brody said: “The award is highly competitive and recognizes the quality of your program and its importance to our industry.

He added: “…The IBM Faculty Award is a gift in recognition of your achievement…I am delighted to provide you with this award, and I wish you much success in your endeavors.”

Upon receiving the good news, Dr. Muliaro said, he will utilize the award to enhance the capacity of the certified Mobile Application developer trainers and their assistants at JKUAT.
The global academia was Monday October 13 engulfed in an outpouring of grief following the death of Prof. Ali Al’amin Mazrui, Africa’s foremost scholar on African and Islamic studies. Mazrui, who until his death was the Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton, will be remembered for monumental scholarly capability and insights that has shaped international discourse for decades.

At Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, where the literary icon and mentor to many served as the inaugural non president Chancellor between 2003 and 2009, staff and friends reminisced over the demise of Prof. Mazrui. The death of Mazrui equally struck a raw cord with students who in their primary and secondary education levels remembered reading books and poems authored by the fallen hero.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga who learned of Mazrui’s death from United Kingdom where she was on official visit, eulogized the scholar as a man under whose guidance and wisdom, JKUAT threaded its way into global academic and research attention, a feat that has defined the institution to date.

“Professor Mazrui easily interacted with students and staff as a way of fostering dialogue, a situation that has remained part of the current JKUAT culture,” Prof. Imbuga intoned.

The Vice Chancellor equally recalled how the Professor of Political Science intellectually nudged JKUAT alumni to aim for more and never wait for greatness to be placed on their laps

Prof. Imbuga as well, remembered how the fallen scholar lamented of the limited opportunities he was accorded to serve his motherland-Kenya. Mazrui first worked in Kenya as a clerk at Mombasa Institute of Muslim Education (MIOME), now Technical University of Mombasa. The second and last opportunity came knocking when former President Kibaki appointed JKUAT Chancellor.

“Drawing parallels of great and historical personalities like Alexander the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, President Barrack Obama, Prof. Mazrui always reminded our students that the historical figures simply persevered to greatness,” averred Imbuga.

But Mazrui’s death sent shockwaves beyond the gates of JKUAT. At the national level, senior government official led by President Kenyatta could not hold back their grief.

In his condolence message, President Kenyatta eulogized Mazrui as a towering academician whose intellectual contributions played a major role in shaping African scholarship.

“His brilliance raised him to the apex of scholarly distinction and earned him respect and following among his peers globally,” Kenyatta said.

In his message, JKUAT Chancellor Prof. Geoffrey ole Maloiy appreciated the role played by Prof. Mazrui in the world of academia, pointing out that he was the first African and non-Briton to deliver the Reith Lectures, lectures that were normally presented by top and respected scholars in the world. He challenged universities in Kenya to introduce academic debates as Prof. Mazrui constantly advocated for if the country was to produce scholars of the fallen hero’s stature.

Pauline Utti, the widow of the Late Mazrui eulogized her late husband as a generous and humble man who embraced human race indiscriminately and shared whatever he had.

“He met the mighty and the humble, and yet he himself remained the most humble of them all,” Pauline said.

In his academic and professional journey, Prof. Mazrui has authored over 30 books and lectured or worked in five continents. He leaves behind a wife, six children and fond memories of a man who used his intellectual endowments to make humanity better.
“Mazrui had it all, yet Remained Purposeful”

By Fred Mugambi Mwirigi

The death of Professor Ali Al’amin Mazrui has brought to an abrupt end a journey of exemplary service to humanity by one of the greatest sons this Nation has produced.

Prof. Mazrui was celebrated globally, as one of the best Professors of African and Islamic Studies.

This was a man who had it all, yet remained purposeful, selfless and humble. He did not at any point of his illustrious academic career allow the great power of his mind, the wide and important global networks he had built, or even the great history of his family to dictate how he related with the world. He remained one with the people and used these great strengths to serve everyone. Whether you were a black African or an Arabic African, European or American, Muslim or Christian, Prof. Mazrui was able to find time for you. He wanted the best for humanity across the world. Though Kenyan, Prof. Mazrui was a global citizen.

I fondly remember how he so easily and freely connected with the staff at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) during his call of duty as Chancellor. It is during his time as Chancellor that JKUAT was inspired to open a campus in Mombasa. He wanted his people to get good education and he wanted to give them this opportunity many times over during his lifetime.

Indeed, during the inauguration of the campus, Prof. Mazrui flew into the country purposely to cut the ribbon and, in effect, opened a new door of higher education for the Coastal people. In his speech that day, he expressed deep gratitude to my Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga and the then Chairman of Council Mr. Adan Mohamed (now Cabinet Secretary) for making the decision to open a campus in Mombasa. Never mind that he was their boss.

Prof. Mazrui has rested at a time of numerous rifts among tribes, religions and nations which have caused untold suffering to humanity. Prof. Mazrui taught us to belong to religions but to love those who belonged to other religions as well; to belong to tribes but to respect those who belonged to other tribes; and to belong to nations but to serve humanity regardless of their nationality.

May his life inspire the genesis of healing the differences that now exist in the world. Rest in eternal peace, Professor.

- Dr. Mugambi is the Director, JKUAT-Mombasa Campus . email: fmgambi@gmail.com
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has impaled its image on the sword of excellence to remain true to its billing as the “University of Choice” by clinching four coveted top prizes at this year’s Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF), organized by the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK).

For the first time in its history of participation at the NITF, the University managed to ward off stiff competition from public and private institutions of higher learning and research institutions to emerge: “The Best University Stand,” wrestling the honours from the University of Nairobi which has won the trophy for several years.

The University also bagged: “The Best Engineering Based Institution of Higher Learning,” “The Best Stand Exhibiting Agricultural and/or Earth Moving Equipment,” and “The Best Institution of Higher Learning in Developing of Advanced Technology.”

The trade fair that attracted over 433 local and 43 international exhibitors from Egypt, Israel and China, also saw JKUAT emerge runners up in “The Best Innovation and Invention Stand.”

Last year, JKUAT bagged 3 top awards, an improvement from 2012 when the institution clinched two trophies while in 2011, it scooped only one. However, during this year’s trade fair which opened its doors, Tuesday, September 29, the university has progressively consolidated its gains in training, research and innovation and technology transfer, having entered in ten (10) ASK trade classes at Jamhuri Park showground.

Other trade classes that the university entered were: “The Best Most Striking Display Large Stand,” “The Best Stand in Research Development,” “The Best Agro-Processing Stand” and “The Stand that Best Interprets the Current Show Theme.”

Speaking at the official opening ceremony, President Uhuru Kenyatta said, the Jubilee Government would put one million acres of land under irrigation in the next three years in Galana-Kulalu to boost food security.

He further announced Government plans to establish a food seed development fund and to enhance funds allocation to it to the tune of Ksh. 15 billion in 5 years, as well as setting up a fertilizer plant in Kenya.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga and the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research,
Production and Extension Prof. Esther Kah angi together with Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Administration, Planning and Development Prof. Victoria Ngumi, appreciated the entire JKUAT team for their hard work and dedication which culminated in posting impressive performance ever.

During the trade fair, the university attracted hordes of visitors eager to experience what makes JKUAT tick, as well as the much sought after academic programmes offered, in addition to the array of phenomenal innovations namely; the block making machines, maize Sheller, multipurpose processor, and value added food products, among others.

The university has developed a modern farming method that is set to enhance food security: the aquaponics system combines aquaculture (fish farming) and soil-less plant farming (hydroponics). The system has many social, economic and ecological advantages and it’s a sustainable way of food production using minimal outputs.

The university’s effort to support agricultural mechanization were also evident through the fabrication of a three-wheel-tractor which provides cost effective technological solutions to farmers owing to its versatility to do ploughing, planting, irrigation, spraying, transportation among others.

The indigenous vegetables research project spearheaded by Prof. Mary Abukutsa, saw nutrition conscious visitors make inquiries about its value, availability of seeds, how to grow and its agronomical requirements and pest-control methods. The theme of this year’s trade fair was: “Enhancing Technology in Industry for Food Security and National Growth.”

The 9th JKUAT Scientific and Technological Conference was held November 13 -14, at the Juja Main Campus, under the theme: Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development, with significant innovations from the University and scholarly discourses on diverse academic fields and topics being showcased.

President of Okayama University (Japan) Prof. Kiyoshi Morita, in his key note address to the international gathering, read by Prof. Kiyoshi Okuda, said, “as JKUAT celebrates 20 years of autonomy, Okayama university has managed to maintain a solid working relationship for the benefit of humanity” and reaffirmed his institution’s continued support to JKUAT.

He challenged the conference participants to “to deliberate and address the challenges faced by the society on day to day basis.”

Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga said, since its inception in 2005, the forum has been an opportunity for researchers and innovators to showcase and disseminate their research findings and innovations.

Prof. Imbuga expressed deep concern that these efforts “may not be sufficient to spur national socio-economic development.” She therefore made a clarion call for the up-scaling of such innovations into viable business enterprises and further challenged industry, entrepreneurs and investors, “to take advantage of the ideas and innovations for further development and possible commercialization.”

She also revealed that, “JKUAT has committed significant resources in the current financial year, to the tune of over KES 90 million to support research activities, adding that the university had partnered with the Government and other funding agencies to supplement her research budget, which has “in the last 10 years, attracted cumulative external funding of about KES 1.29 billion.

Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research, Production and Extension Prof. Esther Kahangi, underscored the significance of the conference especially the partnership with the key partners which has significantly raised the profile of the conference to global status and encouraged the participants to engage in critical interrogation of issues with passion.

The conference attracted scholars from across Africa, Japan, and United Kingdom, among other countries. Other sub-themes including agriculture, engineering, climate change, energy and governance formed major talking points.
Celebratory dances and festive colours characterized JKUAT Main Campus Juja, Monday, August 18, 2014 as stakeholders came together to launch yearlong commemoration of the 20th Anniversary since the institution gained University autonomy in 1994. Speakers at the event took turns enumerating gains consolidated by the institution in its existence, recalling the many hurdles JKUAT surmounted to realize its current status.

Remembering the formative years of JKUAT as a University College, Prof. George Eshiwani, who was the founding Principal, noted that the institution had remained alive to its original mission to produce graduates who are, innovative, competent and responsible.

“Even as we relish these achievements, it is time to chalk new innovative paths in response to emerging socio-economic challenges facing today’s society,” exhorted Prof. Eshiwani.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga took the audience through the development trajectory of the University which started out with less than 3,000 students in 1994 and today has over 36,000 students spread across three campuses and ten CBD centres in key towns in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Somaliland.

Prof. Imbuga lauded the steady support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Education Science and Technology to the University which she opined had effectively given JKUAT a competitive edge in implementing its mandate.

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Senior Representative, JICA Kenya Office gave account of his Agency’s involvement in the establishment of JKUAT and subsequent technical support including staff training and capacity building.

“We are committed to undertake future collaboration with JKUAT including in the implementation of Pan Africa University Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation,” reinforced Hanai.

While projecting an inviting future for JKUAT, the Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey Maloiy urged the staff to continue actualizing applied research and publish in high impact journals to achieve greater visibility.

Prof. Maloiy equally challenged the scholars to actively participate in public debate with a view to influence national policies touching on their thematic academic disciplines.

Speaking on behalf of the University Council, Ambassador Steven Loyatum reiterated the commitment of the Council to propel
As we celebrate 20 years since the university became autonomous (1994-2014), the University Library cannot hesitate to reflect back on her small beginnings so as to appreciate the positive changes and developments that have taken place over the years.

JKUAT Library started as a college library of the then Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology which later became JKUCAT a constituent college of Kenyatta University in 1981. With its main mandate of supporting teaching and research through acquisition and provision of relevant information resources, the library has tried to catch pace with the rapidly changing trends in ICT with a driving force of to offer excellent services as indicated in our service charter.

It started as a traditional library where it operated on a manual based system to an automated library management system operating within the library building to the current virtual library (Library without boundaries). The first two phases required any library user with an information need to physically visit the library to establish what is available in the library holdings and whether their needs would be met. This situation no longer obtains today. According to the University Librarian Dr. Roselyne Mangira, currently, the library uses a web based integrated library management system (ILMS-KOHA) for its housekeeping operations.

"With this system", Dr. Mangira says, “both students and staff from within and distance learning are excited with new developments which have transformed their lifestyle."

With the use of VPN or Ez Proxy or in other words, off campus access which enables access to e-resources coupled with the adopted Integrated Library Management System (ILMS-KOHA), JKUAT bonafide library users do not necessarily need to visit the library...
Kenya to Establish Data Sharing Centre at JKUAT

By Cavince Adhere

Kenya is set to establish a regional Data Sharing Centre to accelerate generation, analysis, management and archival of scientific data to support its development plans. The Centre to be based at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology will be actualized in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and the United Nations.

ICT Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang’i said the Centre will facilitate creation of people-centric, inclusive, open and development oriented information society where people can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge.

“There is a clear demand for new data sets, manifested by the recent upsurge of request,” Matiang’i confirmed.

The Cabinet Secretary also informed the workshop the government will soon table a draft legislation on access to information and data protection to the National Assembly; a legislation that will guide collection and management of information in Kenya.

Matiang’i was speaking Wednesday August 6, at the United Nations Offices where he opened an international workshop on open data for science and sustainability in developing economies.

JKUAT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga noted that while large data sets permeate various sectors of Kenya’s economy, the country is yet to draw useful insights from such data due to knowledge gaps and inadequate infrastructure.

“The Data Sharing Centre will therefore equip regional data scientists with requisite skills and competences to generate analyze and manage scientific data, which our countries can then leverage on for socio-economic and political progress,” opined Prof. Imbuga.

While welcoming the move to establish a data sharing centre in Kenya, Dr. Mika Odido of UNESCO informed the workshop that the UN agency was keen to see Kenya transition into a knowledge economy that is driven by scientific research, technology and innovation.

Stagnated growth and development in many African nations has been partly attributed to lack of quality, relevant and complete data to inform and guide development plans and initiatives.

The UN hosted workshop was preceded by a two day training session on various aspects of open data at JKUAT. It brings together scholars and early career scientists from Africa, France, United Kingdom, United States of America, Russia, China and Japan.
New Deputy Vice Chancellors take Office

By Patrick Amunavi

Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Administration Prof. Victoria Wambui Ngumi has formally handed over some of the departments that were formerly under Administration, Planning and Development Division, to the first Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Finance Prof. Bernard Otoki Moirongo.

In a brief ceremony held in the Council Room, October 29, Prof. Ngumi who has now effectively taken charge of the newly restructured Administration Division, welcomed her counterpart to his new docket and subsequently handed over documents from the three sections that were hitherto domiciled in the former Administration, Planning and Development Division, namely; Estates, Procurement and Finance departments.

During the handing over, Prof. Ngumi shared a divisional panoramic brief to her counterpart on the status of the three sections, as well as critical tips on the dynamics and workings of the new division, especially as it relates to the three departments that have been moved to the Finance Division.

Prof. Ngumi assured Prof. Moirongo of her total support, willingness and openness to consultation on all issues especially those that may require clarification.

Prof. Moirongo, while receiving the documents said, both of them will work in harmony and will from time to time consult each other as they work towards streamlining operations in their respective dockets to ensure the university fulfills its mandate to its stakeholders.

Appointment of the two Deputy Vice Chancellors was announced by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga vide a memo to staff and students on October 27.

Departments that are under Finance division are: Estates, procurement, finance, planning and infrastructure development, while the Administration division consist of human resource, catering, halls of residence, transport, hospital, tailoring, printery, and personnel registry.

The ceremony was also witnessed by University officials who included the Acting Finance Officer Reardon Indimuli; Acting Administration Registrar Dr. Jane Ng’ethe; Chief Procurement Officer Susan Bukhala; Head of Estates Department Hellen Karu; Human Resources Manager Simon Otieno; Legal Officer Richard Wokaba and Acting Chief Corporate Communications Officer Dr. Michael Ngonyo.

The University Library

Continued from pg.11

physically to register as library members and/or borrow books.

The Librarian is quick to add that “JKUAT fraternity enjoys a wealth of information resources and easy access to over thirty (30,000) thousand most current titles of e-books relevant for all programmes offered by the institution from various suppliers for example 5,835 titles purchased from SPRINGER and other additional titles of 20,000 titles dating 2013.”

These titles ranges from Behavioural

Continued on pg.16
A newly elected officials of the Jomo Kenyatta Students Organization (JKUSO) took a solemn oath of office on November 11 to serve the students fraternity who elected them into office in the just concluded students' elections.

Speaking on behalf of the new students' governing council during the swearing in ceremony, the incoming JKUSO Chairman Eric Jomo appreciated the critical role the students played during the elections in ensuring that they put in office leaders who will champion their welfare.

Mr. Jomo reminded his colleagues that they were elected on a platform and promise to be different, noting that their elevation to the leadership position, was an opportunity for them to serve the students; and redeem the image of their organization, as well as reflect and re-evaluate themselves.

He urged his contemporaries to “take it as a personal initiative and responsibility to do something for the students every day.”

Addressing the elected officials drawn from all the JKUAT Campuses, Mr. Jomo promised that JKUSO will champion fairness and justice for all including needy students, noting that as students, it is important to “recognize that this is a unique and respected institution and the least we can do is to contribute positively to that legacy.”

In her remarks, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga urged the students leaders to be always alert, reminding them that “the call of leadership demanded high level of alertness from any leader.”

The Vice Chancellor advised them to take their leadership role with humility and responsibility, “without sacrificing their academic excellence.”

Prof. Imbuga also said, the new office bearers had the onerous task of working towards the restoration of confidence of the employers and the industry players in JKUAT graduates.

Imbuga urged the students’ leaders to exercise sensitivity to political and academic atmosphere, and further challenged them to read, familiarize and align their leadership role with the Kenya Constitution, the Universities Act 2012, JKUAT Charter and the JKUSO Constitution. On the latter, the Vice Chancellor underscored the need to review the current JKUSO Constitution in order to align it with the other critical national documents.

The new students’ governing council was also addressed by the deputy vice chancellors present who included Professors Romanus Odhiambo, Esther Kahangi, and Victoria Ngumi, who congratulated the incoming student governing council and advised them to exercise responsible leadership and promote dialogue between the students’ fraternity and the administration.

The new JKUSO Executive Officials are: Jomo Eric (Chairman), Elzie Chebet (Vice Chairperson), Victor Marende Nzoka (Secretary General), Chemonges T. David (Finance Secretary), Loise Makena Muturia (Catering and Accommodation Secretary), Eucabeth G. Kabwoya (Academic Secretary), Karanja H. Murigi (Entertainment), Kimani Stella Wangari(External Affairs Secretary), Joseph Achoka Khasira ( Sports and Games).
Two more new colleges were in April 2014 established, bringing to four, the total number of colleges at JKUAT. The two Colleges; College of Human Resource Development (COHRED) and College of Pure and Allied Sciences (COPAS), each headed by a Principal, were instituted following the transformation of what was previously the School of Human Resource Development (SHRD) and Faculty of Science.

Commenting on the new development, Prof. Elegwa Mukulu, COHRED inaugural Acting Principal welcomed the decision to initiate the college, saying it would help to retain similar courses that require related skills in specified schools and departments. Prof. Mukulu further argues that the new college that was currently hosting over 6,000 students at the main campus and was managing more than 70 academic programmes was the largest college in the University.

It was during Prof. Mukulu’s two term tenure as the only elected Dean of SHRD that the School witnessed unprecedented growth in enrollment, a fact that he says necessitated the school’s restructuring to a college. ‘It is of paramount importance for the School’s management structure to change for efficient service delivery’ Prof. Mukulu says.

The college status according to the acting principal is expected to greatly enhance service delivery, particularly in examination and transcripts processing, formerly anchored at the only existing school. ‘Services will now be decentralized to the three new college schools”

With a total of four schools and eight teach departments hosting over 5,000 undergraduate students, COPAS is instrumental in conducting research and offering academic programmes mainly in the pure applied sciences domain, besides servicing other teaching and research institutions of the University. The schools are: Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Computing and Information Technology.

Preceding the new colleges are the College of Engineering and Technology and College of Health Sciences.

**New Appointments**

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi has appointed a JKUAT don to the position of Deputy Principal at Muranga University College, a constituent university college of JKUAT. Prof. Grace Njeri Njoroge, 54, a professor of botany who has served JKUAT for over 18 years, was before her new appointment Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies.

Prof. Kaimenyi in a letter dated June 3, 2014, informed Prof. Njoroge she will be the Deputy Principal, Administration, Finance, Planning and Development, Muranga University College for a period of five years.

Congratulating Prof. Njoroge for her new status, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga thanked Prof. Njoroge for the services she had rendered to JKUAT and wished her well in her new assignments.

Meanwhile, the Research Department under the Division of Research, Production and Extension has been strengthened following the recent appointment of Dr. Patrick Mutinda Mbindyo to the new position of Director, Research. Mbindyo, 42, an alumnus of South Africa based University of...
JKUAT Wins Intel App Challenge

By Patrick Amunavi

JKUAT students have reasserted their information and communication technology application versatility by scooping the Best Inter University Intel App Challenge Trophy (2014) at the Inter University Intel App Challenge organized by the Intel Corporation East Africa.

This year’s Intel Inter University App Challenge attracted over 35 teams, including 9 from JKUAT who made it to the competition which also drew other teams from the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Multi Media University, Technical University of Kenya, Egerton and Moi universities, among others.

Speaking during the presentation of the Intel App Challenge Trophy to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga, Intel student ambassadors led by Bettirose Ngugi who was accompanied by Calvin Kebati and Michael Waititu from the Research Consultancy and Training Department of the Directorate of ICT; that the University was very proud of their achievement which reinforced the institutions leadership role in training, research and innovation.

The Vice Chancellor pledged continued support to the students’ innovative and creative exploits and further urged them to maintain the winning spirit and be good ambassadors of the University in all their creative and innovative endeavours.

The Intel Challenge required students to develop applications using Intel Development Environments (IDE). The apps so developed, are uploaded to the Intel Appstore for utilization as entertainment apps or productivity tools in business management, and security alerts among others.

The App Challenge was facilitated by Intel Corporation and coordinated by respective Intel Student Ambassadors across universities in Kenya.

Fish Hunt app, which took third position.

The Stima Lite app gives updates on normal disruption of electricity transmission to different parts of the country, while the Fish Hunt is an entertainment app in form of a game.

Congratulating the student Ambassadors for their achievement, Prof. Mabel Imbuga told the students who were accompanied by Calvin Kebati and Michael Waititu from the Research Consultancy and Training Department of the Directorate of ICT, that the University was very proud of their achievement which reinforced the institutions leadership role in training, research and innovation.

The Vice Chancellor pledged continued support to the students’ innovative and creative exploits and further urged them to maintain the winning spirit and be good ambassadors of the University in all their creative and innovative endeavours.

The Intel Challenge required students to develop applications using Intel Development Environments (IDE). The apps so developed, are uploaded to the Intel Appstore for utilization as entertainment apps or productivity tools in business management, and security alerts among others.

The App Challenge was facilitated by Intel Corporation and coordinated by respective Intel Student Ambassadors across universities in Kenya.

The JKUAT Intel student ambassadors together with the VC pose with the trophy. With them are Kebati and Waititu (extreme left and right, respectively).

The University Library

Continued from pg.11

Sciences; Biometric and Life Science; Business & Economics; Chemistry & Material Sciences; Computer Sciences; Earth & Environmental Science; Energy; Engineering; Humanities, Social Science & Law; Mathematics & Statistics; Medicine; Physics & Astronomy; Professional computing & Applied Computing. ELSEVIER in addition contain 2,077 titles and LEXISNEXIS which is most relevant for law programmes and humanities provide thousands of titles. Other electronic books databases available to users include Ebrary, Science direct and Tailor and Francis database which for instance, it alone contain about 1200 bestselling titles from their collections.

On the other hand the library provides thousands of e-journals subscribed through Kenya Libraries Information Services Consortium (KLISC) every year, which contain 31 databases, relevant for all our programmes and 4 additional database given to developing countries (research4life).

Although their cost may seem exorbitant, Dr. Mang’ira is happy to note that, their benefits cannot be overemphasized since these resources are accessible 24/7 on remote access or (library without boundaries); accessed simultaneously and/or multiple access to thousands of users to the same book at the same time making them relatively cheaper as opposed to print books which are quite expensive and rigid.

The library also facilitates access to its e-resource by providing internet services through wired and wireless networks available to users within the library premises. The networks enable library users to access e-resources that the university subscribes to and/or purchases yearly; access OPAC, etc.

Dr. Mang’ira sums it all by lauding the current requirement of a laptop for every first year student, a move she avers, “has gone a long way in complementing the available computers, as well as easing students’ access to the library e-resources at their convenience.”

The JKUAT Intel student ambassadors together with the VC pose with the trophy. With them are Kebati and Waititu (extreme left and right, respectively).
His name in the medical profession pops up easily in Kenya. He was among the pioneering doctors to be trained at the University of Nairobi, and has made immense contribution to the development of the medical profession in Kenya. In the 70’s, he was among the first generation of Kenyans to be engaged in teaching and research at the University of Nairobi, then only Faculty of Medicine in the country. He later moved to Moi University and founded the country's second Faculty of Medicine and its teaching Hospital.

Prof. Haroun Ngény Mengech, the renowned psychiatrist, is equally credited for transforming Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital from a district hospital into a respected national facility for medical training, research and referral.

With nearly four decades of University teaching and research, Prof. Mengech takes over as the Principal, College of Health Sciences at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, a move that is slated to give new impetus to Health Sciences training at the Institution.

In his signature approach to medical training which encourages research, innovation and community integration with less emphasis on long lectures, Prof. Mengech has outlined a comprehensive plan that will see students at the College acquire what he calls the three defining characteristics of a medical professional: knowledge, skills and attitude.

“Beyond good grades, a properly trained medic is one who can prioritize ten commonest illnesses in the country and be able to handle them without failure,” explains Prof. Mengech.

Aware that medical training is an area where knowledge is evolving quite fast, the don advocates for students to spend appreciable time in a community setting. This, he believes, will allow young medics to comprehend the correlation between lifestyles and illnesses.

“It is imperative for health professionals to understand that patients could be living in environments that may sustain illnesses,” opines Prof. Mengech.

To strengthen graduate training at the College, Prof. Mengech plans to rope in various partners including the Ministry of Health’s Directorate of Medical Services and other research institutions both locally and internationally.

“We need to have more specialists

Continued on pg.20

Antony Ngure Gachanja, a professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has been inducted as a fellow to the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom. Prof. Gachanja was recognized for his two-decade professional contribution as a lecturer, researcher and consultant in the fields of chemistry and environmental science.

Responding to the news of his admission to the exclusive club of chemical scientists that is patroned by Her Majesty the Queen, Prof. Gachanja noted that it opened the oft elusive opportunity to work with the best minds in the field; raising prospects of advanced analytical chemistry research not only in Kenya but also in Africa.

“Analytical chemistry is the crucible upon which industrial development is anchored, yet it has not been prioritized by a good number of African countries,” opines Gachanja, “analytics is a trade item looked for all over the world.”

Chemical analyses for various substances originating in Africa continue to be undertaken either in Europe or United States of America before results are flown back. This, the researcher says, has constrained the pace and depth of analytical chemistry research in the continent.

“Besides lost time, such tests cannot be repeated immediately,” explains Prof. Gachanja.

The scholar who appreciates his admission to the Society as a call to do more to advance the course of chemistry, has now set his attention to help found Analytical Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry in Kenya. He believe this will foster capacity building on analytical methods for local experts within government, industry and academia; to help the country leverage on the recent wave of oil, gas and mineral finds for socio-economic

Continued on pg.18
The recent outbreaks of serious human diseases caused by viruses in various countries in Africa dramatically brought to the fore the fact that mankind continued to face a grave threat posed by new and emerging viruses. As a result, the need for institutions in Africa to strengthen training of their staff in virology (the study of viruses) was deemed important.

It was for this reason that the SAJOREC Directorate recently facilitated training opportunities in virology laboratory techniques for two members of JKUAT technical staff; Mr. Benson M. Macharia of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Mr. Richard K. Rotich of the Institute of Biotechnology Research (IBR). The two left the country on 2nd Sept 2014 to attend a month-long intensive training course in virology laboratory techniques at the Wuhan Institute of Virology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in China.

The training is coordinated by the eminent virologist Professor Yan Zhu, the head of the Emerging Viruses Group at the Institute, and is funded by the China-Africa Center for Research and Education (CACCAS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

While handing over the air tickets to the two beneficiaries, the Director SAJOREC Professor Robert W. Gituru urged them to make the best use of the training opportunity for the good of the Kenyan society, Professor Gituru said the training was in anticipation of the establishment of specialist laboratories in the proposed Sino-Africa Joint Research Center to be established at the Main Campus in Juja. Previous training has focused on plant biosystematics and botanical garden establishment and maintenance.

- Mercy Mugereki works at the Sino Africa Joint Research Center

**Royal Society of Chemistry Fellow**

Continued from pg.17

development.

For the last five years, under the auspices of the Pan African Chemistry Network, Prof. Gachanja has mounted trainings on Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) at JKUAT and University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This has seen a number participants drawn from African countries get trained on analytical methods as well as maintenance of the GC-MS equipment.

Prof. Gachanja earned his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Nairobi in 1981 before proceeding for his Masters studies in Analytical Science and PhD in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry at the England’s University of Hull, graduating in 1983 and 1991 respectively. Between 1992 and 1994, the extensively published scholar undertook his post-doctoral studies at the University of Plymouth, England, where he is currently a visiting scholar.

The don who is also a registered Environmental Lead Expert has consulted widely for various agencies including serving in the task force that wrote the water quality regulations (2006) and later drafted the air quality regulations for Kenya’s National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).

Gachanja who is also a member of advisory board of the Society’s Analytical Methods Journal becomes the second Kenyan to be admitted to the leading international body of chemical scientists after Prof. Shem Wandiga, of the University of Nairobi. The Society boasts over 49,000 professionals spread across the world; who for the last 170 years, have shaped the evolution of chemical sciences.
A five day international workshop on Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) came to a close Friday August 29, 2014 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

The workshop mounted by the Chemistry Department and supported by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK) and the Pan Africa Chemistry Network brought together over 20 participants drawn from the African continent.

During the 2014 edition of the workshop that has been mounted annually for the last six years, participants were equipped with hands-on skills and competencies on how to analyze and interpret data using GC-MS instruments.

According to Dr. Steve Lancaster, Analytical Sciences Team Leader at Domino Printing, Cambridge, UK, deployment and use of GC-MS machines in Africa could significantly contribute to early identification and control of harmful compounds to humans, plants and animals.

Poisonous chemicals, Dr. Steve said, have decimated African biodiversity partly due to incapacity to detect them in commonly used agricultural and domestic products. He cited dwindling population of Vultures in the continent which research has linked to use of anti-inflammatory drugs in livestock.

“These chemicals moves up the food chain, positioning more animals and eventually find their way into waterways, posing greater danger to humans too,” averred Dr. Steve.

Steve’s sentiments are closely shared by Prof. Anthony Gachanja of JKUAT who says that uncontrolled use of pesticides in Kenyan farms posses environmental health hazards to the country as residues from such chemicals can easily percolate into rivers, dams and streams.

“In such circumstances, the GC-MS laboratories like the one we have here in JKUAT is very important as it enables analysis and unequivocal identification of harmful compounds,” explains Prof. Gachanja.

While presiding over the closing ceremony, Director of JKUAT’s Institute of Energy and Environmental Technology, Prof. Robert Kinywa challenged participants to cascade their knowledge to colleagues and students back in their respective countries.

To ensure participants are fully competent to operate and maintain GC-MS laboratory, the workshop also saw the 17 participants taught how to operate and maintain such a facility.

And as the curtain came down on the workshop, participants were unanimous that its usefulness will go among way in improving the continent’s well being.

Emmy Lema, a PhD candidate at Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology and Lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania could not hide her happiness at the end of the workshop.

“Now that am able to operate and maintain the machine, I will use my knowledge to undertake water research to ensure quality and safety while impacting the lives of my students,” Emmy revealed.

Gas Chromatography separates chemicals based on their volatility, or ease with which they evaporate into a gas while Mass Spectrometry is used to identify chemicals based on their structure.
JKUAT through its Mombasa Campus has taken charge to beautify Mombasa’s Nkrumah Road.

While launching the County Beautification and Environmental Management Programme with the County Government of Mombasa October 9, 2014, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga indicated that she was elated to venture into such a partnership as it would enable her University develop a stronger bond with the County.

JKUAT is currently going through various stages of Environmental Management audits in its quest to becoming the first University in the country to achieving the ISO 14001-2004 certification.

The occasion was graced by the County Minister and Executive Member of Environment Water and Natural Resources Hon. Fatma Awale, Mombasa Campus Director Dr. Fred Mugambi, Deputy Director Madam Fridah Simba, Chair of Environment in the County Assembly Hon. Zainab Omar, Chair of Tourism Hon. Amir Dhoya, Ministry’s Chief Officer Mr. Iddi Babu among others.

During the function, JKUAT donated 20 litter bins with the Vice Chancellor committing to donate an additional 100 more bins. There was a beautification procession which started at the County’s offices along Digo road in Mombasa, with the guests, officials, staff, students and the invited guests walking to Nkrumah Road where the unveiling of the signage and mounting of the bins was done by Prof. Imbuga and the Minister and Executive Member of Environment Water and Natural Resources Hon. Fatma Awale.

Taking charge of our programmes. That means investing more on high level training and boosting our teaching and research facilities.’

The scholar has equally left an indelible mark on the fight against HIV/AIDS through AMPATH, an organization he co-founded while at Moi University. AMPATH has been nominated twice for Nobel Peace Prize for its comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme and Primary Health Care activities in Western Kenya.

The psychiatry professor who is also a recipient of both the Elder of order of the Burning Spear (EBS) and Moran of the order of the Burning Spear (MBS) started off his scholarly journey at the University of Nairobi where he graduated with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1973. He then proceeded to United Kingdom where he earned two advanced degrees in Neurology and Psychiatry at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Newcastle respectively.

Besides serving on the Boards of various health bodies and higher education institutions in Kenya, Prof. Mengech was the founding Dean of Moi University’s School of Medicine. He brings to JKUAT over four decades experience in medical teaching, research and administration, having published extensively in field of Psycho-Pharmacology.

Prof. Mengech, a banker, prolific farmer and golfer, has a word of counsel to students who are drawn to study Health Sciences in hope of monetary rewards.

“Those who go for money in this profession lose out on the critical areas of ethical consideration and professionalism. To succeed, you must be driven by need to serve humanity.”
The Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) will be hosting the Ninth (9th) Missions’ Convention, dubbed Commission 2014, from December 28th, 2014 to January 3rd, 2015 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

FOCUS is an interdenominational, non-political organization registered with the Registrar of Societies in Kenya since 1973, and is also a registered Charitable Organization in Kenya. It links and networks Christian Unions in institutions of higher learning in Kenya with a Christian student membership of over 40,000 in 143 such institutions in Kenya.

FOCUS is involved in training and mentoring the students to live full and effective Christian lives while on Campus and after graduation. FOCUS is also a fraternal member of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and a member of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), and internationally, is affiliated to the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) headquartered in Oxford, UK.

Commission Conference is held once every three years (3) since 1988 with the purpose of mobilising university and college students, graduates (Christian professionals), Church leaders and other mission practitioners (Theological Schools & Para-Church Organizations) from Eastern, Southern and Central Africa to be involved in Christian outreach both locally and globally. This year, we target to bring together about five thousand (5,000) delegates from over twenty (20) countries to reflect on the God given mandate to influence the society in Africa and the rest of the world with godly values. Commission is also a training, information exchange and networking conference. Commission seeks to bring together the delegates to think through and engage on issues encapsulated in God’s mission through creation of mission awareness, mission mindedness and active involvement in God’s work.

JKUAT is pleased to host the Commission 2014 especially because it:

a) Empowers students for global impact: Commission is a life impacting conference, raising responsible Christian students with a deep sense of purpose in life and awareness of global issues needing to be addressed. This will result in increased student involvement in initiatives that enhance the quality of life of people in various parts of the world. The more students from an institution attend Commission, the more the institution benefits. Hosting Christian Unions always find it easy to mobilize their students for the Conference.

b) Provides opportunity for marketing: Many of our delegates develop various new interests as a result of the lessons learnt in Commission and want to further studies in some of these areas. An institution hosting Commission has the privilege of marketing its courses and interesting delegates to study there.

c) Offers opportunity for information exchange, networking and partnership development: Commission hosts over fifty (50) organizations, mission agencies, development agencies and Theological institutions as exhibitors. This provides a rare platform for information exchange, networking and partnership development with the host institution.

d) International exposure: Commission is a premier Christian missions Conference recognized worldwide and attracts people from all over the world. This is good for the institution’s exposure to people from other countries.

Hosting delegates from across the world and especially the African continent reinforces JKUAT’s vision of “global excellence in training, research and innovation”, hosting the Eastern Africa node of the Pan Africa University, Institute for Basics Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUISTI) as well as JKUAT’s regional presence in Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia and South Sudan. Hosting the Commission Conference in JKUAT presents the students and staff a special opportunity to attend at the home-tuff and reap the benefits of being equipped to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

The first Commission Conference was held in JKUAT in 1988. Perhaps, it might be prudent to host the 9th and 10th Commission Conferences in JKUAT. That would mean marking the 10th Commission and 30th year Commission Anniversary with the Inaugural Host in 2018!

- Mr. Kiula is a Member of the Commission 2014 Management Team and the Deputy Director, Nairobi Industrial and Technology Park.
The diplomat reiterated that the actualization of the Centre had the support of Chinese Prime Minister, Li Kequiang, who spoke about the same during the Premier's tour of African countries including Kenya, in May 2014.

Education Principal Secretary, Dr. Belio Kipsang in a speech read by Mr. James Kiburi reckoned the scholarships will create the necessary capacity to foster biodiversity management in Kenya. The move to establish the Center and the Botanical Garden, Kipsang argued, is in line with Kenya Vision 2030 and the African Union consolidated plan of action for science and technology; that recognizes the need for conservation and preservation of biodiversity in the continent.

JKUAT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mabel Imbuga who received the diplomat at the institution said the university had already set aside 40 acres of land where the Centre to host eight research laboratories will be established.

Imbuga further thanked the Government of China for the scholarships and urged the beneficiaries to prioritize learning, and be good ambassadors while abroad.

A team of experts have already been seconded to JKUAT to help crystallize concepts and activities towards setting up of the Botanical Garden as well as CACRE.

Veronica Ngumbau, one of the beneficiaries who will study taxonomy and systematics, could not stifle her joy and hope for a better future. "I hope to attain the best skills in my field and be useful to my country at the end of my studies," Veronica averred.

The scholarship beneficiaries are the second batch, with the first cohort of 12 already concluding the first year of graduate studies at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The ceremony was also addressed by JKUAT Council Vice Chair, Dr. Rosa Muraguri Mwololo; Deputy Director-General, Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. Qui Huasheng; and Deputy Director, Wuhan Botanical Garden, Prof. Gong Junjie, among others.
Seven Awarded Scholarships by Japanese Government

By Agritech News Reporter

Seven staff and graduate students from JKUAT are among 55 Kenyans awarded scholarships by the Government of Japan to study various graduate courses in Japan.

The seven who will form the first batch of students in an initiative expected to award 1000 scholarships to students from all over Africa under the African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (ABE) – Initiative were recently awarded their scholarships at a colourful ceremony held at the University’s main campus.

The initiative aims at empowering youths who have the potential to contribute to the development of Africa as well as strengthening the ties between their countries and Japan. The scholarship targets youth from the Private sectors, Government sectors and Education sector, to enable them acquire knowledge and develop skills in varied fields that are key to African development.

The staff, Kariuki Boniface Wainaina and Ondiba Hesborn Andole will be at Hokkaido and Tsukuba Universities respectively, to study Environmental Science, and Life and Environmental Sciences, SUSTEP (Sustainability Science, Policy and Technology).

The graduate students include; Mathenge Jacqueline Njoki who joins International University of Japan to study International Management, Wahinya Fiona Wacera to study Environmental and Life Science at Okayama University, and Gathinji Peter Kiiru admitted at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine to study Veterinary Medicine.

Others are; Gathuka Lincoln Waweru to study Global Environment at Kyoto University, and Mitalo Oscar Witere who is also a beneficiary of the MONBUSO (MEXT) scholarship of 2014, who will study Environmental and Life Science at Okayama University.

The initiative was first officially announced by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013. It offers students in Africa a chance to undertake masters’ courses and internship programme in Japan.

JKUAT and Somalia’s Savannah in Research and Training Pact

By Cavince Adhere

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Somalia’s Savannah University have formalized a capacity building and technology transfer partnership that will see the two intuitions jointly mount academic programmes and implement staff and student exchange programmes towards fostering Somalia’s human capital in areas of health, commerce and management.

Speaking during the formalization of the cooperation at JKUAT, Savannah University President, Prof. Mohammed Sheikh Yusuf noted that the initiative will play a big role in building capacity of Somalia’s human resources, in the wake of immense intellectual hemorrhage because of intermittent war.

“It is time to demonstrate to the world that Somalia is not just about war. It has an economy, academia, civil
Following the commencement of the African-ai-Japan Project at JKUAT, it is planned to construct and launch an Innovation and Prototyping Integrated Centre (iPIC) at the Engineering Workshops building. The facility will host modern state-of-the art facilities that provide machinery and advanced prototyping platform for innovation (Fab Lab), invention and education.

The cross-cutting nature of technologies, innovations and activities at the Innovation and Prototyping Integrated facility lends itself to basic science, agriculture, engineering and technology education, with the noble aim of providing a stimulus for entrepreneurship, mentorship and scholarship which is driven with acquired knowledge, resources, experiences and wisdom.

The facility will be supported by JKUAT, JICA and PAUISTI in line with the overall goal of the African-ai-Japan Project located at JKUAT, and will seek to harness ground-breaking innovation driven with endogenous knowledge, resources, experiences and wisdom.

The facility shall comprise of three key areas, namely the Fab Lab, Fab Academy and an Innovation Lab. It is envisaged that key outputs from the JKUAT Innovation and Prototyping Integrated Centre shall be; of value (to attract stakeholders, partners and customers), of quality (to earn respect and recognition globally), and innovative (to differentiate from the competition).

JKUAT staff fabricating at Tottori University, Japan

Concept of the Innovation and Prototyping Integrated Centre
Officials from Philips, the global technology company, June 25, 2014 held talks with Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga on how the two institutions could work together to engineer innovative and locally relevant healthcare solutions.

The team led by Philips’ Innovation Director for Africa, Dr. Maarten van Herpen was at JKUAT to explore possible partnership that could enable the electronics leader to successfully mount a regional innovations hub in Nairobi. Dr. Maarten noted that Kenya was experiencing a vibrant innovations ecosystem, with a number of players produced by institutions like JKUAT.

Drawing from that technological advantage, Dr. Maarten reckoned, Philips was ready to work with local innovators to roll out innovations that would enhance access and affordability of healthcare in the region. “Philips hopes to impact 3 billion lives through meaningful community led innovations by the year 2025,” averred Maarten.

The Innovation Director noted his company’s healthcare division was keen to entrench healthy living among local population; through for instance increased exploitation and use of abundant solar energy for lighting in place of kerosene lamps.

Prof. Imbuga informed the visiting officials that JKUAT students and staff had demonstrated impactful innovations, noting, a number of them had been deployed to improve livelihoods in the country.

The Vice Chancellor made reference to Tech Expo, an annual platform where students from Kenya and beyond showcase their innovations in various fields to the industry. JKUAT, the Biochemistry don added continue to incubate leading innovations by students each year.

Prof. Imbuga however noted that a number of innovations remained un-incubated due to limited capacity, a situation that could be reversed through strategic partnerships with players like Philips.

“Besides our health training programmes, our university has a dynamic pool of creative and innovative students whose ideas can foster Philips initiatives in health and technology sector,” Imbuga said.

The Vice Chancellor added that JKUAT was setting up an Industrial and Technology hub where further partnerships with the industry will be possible. She pledged the University’s readiness to make the collaboration with the Netherlands headquartered technology giant successful.

The session was also addressed by Deputy Vice Chancellors: Prof. Esther Kahangi, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo and Prof. Victoria Ngumi.
Four JKUAT staffers; Dr. Muliaro Wafula, Dr Agnes Mindila, Mr. Pascal Ouma and Mr. Julius Munene have been certified as IBM Mobil Application Developer Specialists.

This follows the giant company’s initiative to work with Universities in Africa to train and certify Faculty members and Students in the areas of the latest Emerging Technologies to better align university curricula with the IT Industry needs and trends.

The initiative covers areas such as Business Analytics, Information Management & Big Data, Mobile Computing, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing and Web 2.0 Application Development among others.

The move has been necessitated by the fact that there has been a significant skills shortage in the IT industry across Africa and IBM offered to play a key role in addressing the problem by actively implementing long-term initiatives that would provide Resources, Education and Training that cover advanced IT to support the development of local capabilities and economic development in the region.

In Early 2013, JKUAT partnered with IBM as an Industry leader in an effort to build a pipeline of relevant skills that could be readily absorbed into the IT job market. The first task the two partners embarked on was reviewing the JKUAT curriculum to include IBM recommendations to gain global competence. JKUAT chose Information Management as the first area of focus and settled for IBM’s DB2, which was immediately included in the JKAUT curriculum. Since then JKAUT faculty has trained and certified over 150 students in DB2 with one student, Violet Ogega scoring 100% in the DB2 professional examination. Violet is among 4 JKAUT students attached at the IBM Research Lab, working on projects.

Shortly after the signing of the MoU to formalize the partnership, the University established a University-sponsored IBM Centre of Excellence with equipment to train Faculty and Students. IBM completed this initiative by branding the Centre. The University faculty has continuously been attending training both at IBM and JKAUT in various IT disciplines including Business Intelligence (Cognos), Hadoop and Mobile technology. Additionally, Dr Stephen Kimani the Dean, School of Computing and IT, and Dr. Muliaro Wafula the Director ICT have participated and contributed greatly in various industry forums including IBM Global Entrepreneur Programme where they served as mentors and judges. Dr. Muliaro Wafula also serves as a member of IBM Innovation Centre Advisory Council.

Following this proactiveness, and dedication by University faculty and leadership, the students have benefited greatly from the knowledge transfer. JKAUT students have shown brilliance in various IBM competitions including ACM Intercollegiate Programming Competition and IBM Master of the mainframe competition.

Due to this tremendous success, JKAUT has featured in various IBM global publications including IBM Academic Brochure and IBM Ecosystem Video.

In February 2014, Dr. Muliaro Wafula and Dr Agnes Mindila visited Singapore NUS and Nanyang Polytechnic on IBM Invitation, to appreciate what IBM is doing with other global institutions and specifically explore how to embrace Big Data and Analytics as one of the emerging Technologies. This visit was very successful and bore fruits almost immediately. In May 2014, the University set up a PhD in IT with Big Data and Analytics as part of Curriculum. The first lot of 12 students has been exposed to Business analytics with the second batch of 50 students undergoing the training.

JKAUT’s attendance in Academic Days Conference in Milan Italy, 5th-6th May 2014, contributed to the signing of an addendum to the already existing JKUAT-IBM MoU that brought on board the IBM Middle East and Africa (MEA) University Programme. As a result, JKAUT has received the IBM Shared University Research Award including hardware, software and training to support this programme. Training for Faculty has started. Thousands of students are targeted to benefit from this project that is scheduled to run beginning 2014 till 2016.

These efforts explain why JKUAT was recently selected as the host of a new regional Data sharing Centre to accelerate analysis, management and archiving of scientific data. The Centre will serve academia and the government among other stakeholders.
Africa-ai-Japan Project: Japan’s New Initiative in Africa Based at JKUAT

By Noriaki Tanaka

The “AFRICA-ai-JAPAN” project is a new initiative supported by the Government of Japan, through JICA, started in June 2014 at JKUAT/PAUISTI.

The term “ai” stands for “african innovation” and also has a specific meaning in Japanese for “love”.

The full title of the initiative is: AFRICAN UNION - african innovation - JKUAT AND PAUISTI NETWORK PROJECT.

JKUAT, PAUISTI and JICA recognize that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa has a practical and important role as the driving force in mobilizing a sustainable and stronger economy in Africa. The same institutions also recognize that the involvement of African innovation concept in the development of qualified human resource is indispensable in the implementation and successful outcomes of STI related endeavours.

For greater impact, it is also critical that higher education institutions across Africa embrace the African innovation concept in revitalizing and strengthening capacity of its human resource for the overall economic growth of the continent. The African innovation ‘ai’ concept is unique in that it promotes the full utilization of local/ indigenous knowledge, resources, experiences and wisdom generated and accumulated in Africa to solve Africa’s problems.

The Commission of African Union (AUC) launched an Africa wide plan to establish the Pan African University (PAU) in 2008 in order to develop human resources for social and economic development in the African continent through raising the level of higher education institutions.

The Pan African Union Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology, and Innovation (PAUISTI), one of the five institutes of PAU, was thus established in 2012 on the campus of JKUAT. PAU’s five institutes are situated in the East, West, Central, North and South of Africa.

Location of PAU Institutions in Africa:

- **Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAU STI)**
  - **East**: Kenya
  - **West**: Nigeria
  - **Central**: Cameroon
  - **North**: Algeria
  - **South**: (to be identified)

- **Life and Earth Sciences (PAU LERI)**
  - **East**: (to be identified)
  - **West**: (to be identified)
  - **Central**: (to be identified)
  - **North**: (to be identified)
  - **South**: (to be identified)

- **Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAU GHSS)**
  - **East**: (to be identified)
  - **West**: (to be identified)
  - **Central**: (to be identified)
  - **North**: (to be identified)
  - **South**: (to be identified)

- **Water and Energy Sciences (PAU WES)**
  - **East**: (to be identified)
  - **West**: (to be identified)
  - **Central**: (to be identified)
  - **North**: (to be identified)
  - **South**: (to be identified)

- **Space Science (PAU SS)**
  - **East**: (to be identified)
  - **West**: (to be identified)
  - **Central**: (to be identified)
  - **North**: (to be identified)
  - **South**: (to be identified)

**Host Country**: Japan

**Lead Thematic Partner (LTP)**

- **Japan**: (to be identified)
- **Sweden**: (to be identified)
- **Germany**: (to be identified)
- **India**: (to be identified)
- **Nigeria**: (to be identified)
- **Cameroon**: (to be identified)
- **Algeria**: (to be identified)

**Focus Points**: Innovation with actions (Basic Sciences, Bio-technology and Engineering)

JKUAT is the host institution of PAUISTI with Japan as the lead thematic partner.

The relationship between JKUAT and Japan dates back from 1978 to 2000, a duration in which JKUAT received a series of technical cooperation awards and grant aids from the Government of Japan. Due to the collaborations and support, JKUAT has continued to grow into a strong university in the fields of Agriculture, Science and Technology, with special emphasis on practical training.

It is indeed, a testimony of its competitive reputation that JKUAT was chosen host to PAUISTI among several universities in Kenya. However, for it to not only host PAUISTI but also facilitate excellent teaching, learning and research expected by PAU, there is an urgent need to further strengthen the research capacity of JKUAT, which would eventually turn it to a leading university of STI in Africa has been experienced. This has been necessitated by the rapid increase of students’ numbers, academic staff shortage, and aging equipment the University has had since its formative years to date.

In January, 2014, a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Kenya, the Government of Japan and AUC was signed to confirm their cooperation for advancing PAUISTI/JKUAT through the empowerment of the host institute. Following this agreement, the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in June 2014 initiated the ai Project to promote STI activities at PAUISTI/JKUAT.
The project is steered by a 10 member task force representing PAUISTI, Faculty of Agriculture, College of Physical and Applied Sciences, College of Engineering and Technology, Research Production and Extension, and Administration, Planning and Development Divisions, and JICA Experts. The Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs serves as the Project Director.

To enhance ai objectives, the Japanese side is soliciting contributions and collaborations for the project from Japanese universities, industries and government ministries/agencies.

Current activities of the ai Project include the establishment of:
- Innovation/Fab. Lab for All,
- Green House for Biological Research,
- Bio-Tech. Research Lab. and
- Hosting Lecture Course on Innovation and Design Thinking.

The activities will support both PAUISTI and JKUAT students to strengthen their knowledge and skills in engineering, agriculture and bio technology areas.

Further, the above activities will blend special features encompassing the amalgamation of African Technologies and Japanese Motto Technologies such as MONOZUKURI, design process, skillful fabrication technology, 5S-KAIZEN,TQM (total quality management).

5S is a productivity method whose name is derived from the five first letters of Japanese words: Seiri (Sorting), Seiton (Systematic Arrangement for the most efficient and effective retrieval), Seiso(Shining), Seiketsu (Standardizing), and Shitsuke (Sustaining).

The progress and outputs from the above will be explained in more detail in a series of “AFRICA-ai-JAPAN” Project activity releases in future issues of Agritech News.

Regular task force meeting at JKUAT

JKUAT and Somalia’s Savannah University

Continued from pg. 23

service and much more,” said Prof. Yusuf. “We believe JKUAT is the right institution to help Somalia realize these aspirations.”

Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga welcomed the move and expressed readiness of her institution to contribute to the reconstruction of Somalia through higher education.

JKUAT, Prof. Imbuga noted, was in the forefront in training quality and relevant manpower for Africa through the Pan African University Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUISTI) which is hosted at JKUAT.

Additionally, JKUAT has made forays into other African countries with its programmes currently on offer in Tanzania, Rwanda, Somaliland and Nigeria. Savannah University is the latest addition to a network of excellent universities in Africa, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, USA and United Kingdom, that JKUAT has forged linkages with to ensure its graduands suit the needs of a dynamic world.

Partnerships and Collaborations
The Kenya Red Cross JKUAT Chapter has been steadfast and more proactive in its main cause of alleviating human suffering and poverty. It has been carrying out community outreach programs that have significantly improved the standard of living of people more so the less privileged children in the society.

The Chapter has been rated as one of the most active chapters within Thika region by the Red Cross, Thika branch. This was based on the essential and relevant activities that the chapter has been undertaking in every semester, and also on the effectiveness in the delivery of voluntary services within the university and the wider community.

It has been implementing its roles as stipulated in the Red Cross fundamental principles dubbed “HINIVUU” (Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independency, Voluntary service, Universality and Unity).

On 19th July 2014, the chapter in collaboration with Mount Kenya University Red Cross, and Hands of Compassion Ministry JKUATCU took it to Kambui School for the Deaf and Special Needs, a special boarding school for the children living with disabilities, located at Kwamaiko in the South East Kiambu. The school has a population of over 300 pupils’ majority being deaf while a few are physically handicapped.

In preparation for the visit, a lot of activities preceded it. The JKUAT Chapter members engaged in various activities geared towards raising funds for the Charity cause. A notable activity was the car washing, where students devoted their time despite their busy learning schedule to avail themselves for the activity in a bid to raise funds. It was an act of humility and compassionate love of giving back to the community.

Another activity was the Charity live performance event in conjunction with the Safari Band and Salsa group. The event was the first and of its own kind since the inception of the Red Cross Chapter back in 2007. It was characterized by live performances by the Safari Band and Salsa dancers. It was the best avenue of showcasing talents among the students. The event was held overnight and took place at the University’s Assembly Hall, Juja. Funds were raised through the selling of Red Cross wrist bands, coffee, popcorns and biscuits, besides charging an entrance fee.

The raised funds were used to purchase items such as potatoes, rice, cabbages, maize flour and some stationery materials such as books and pens. The Red Cross Thika branch also chipped in by donating 10 boxes of new rubber shoes.

On the material day students had some difficulties in trying to communicate with the kids but after learning some bit of the sign language from the tutors it became possible to do so. It was indeed an eye opener and a learning experience for the students as one could at least be able to communicate some words using the sign language. By close of the day, the students and their hosts were able to help in carrying out various chores which included; cleaning the compound, washing the hostels, splitting firewood and cooking meals.

Entertainments were also organized where students played a football match and other games with the children. Participants felt a sense of satisfaction for igniting a smile on the children faces.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “A man has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow confines of his own individual concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”. I believe we are on the right path.

- The writer is a student and the Chairperson, Kenya Red Cross JKUAT Chapter.
As the University Celebrates 20 years since it got its autonomy (1994-2014), a good number of those who joined at inception when it was started as a middle-level college have since retired, and therefore left with a rich historical background that the University is trying to compile for future generations. However, there are still a few who still recall everything about the University.

Such is the case of Mzee Stephenson Stanley Weru, a man very few might notice. In fact majority would not. He looks too ordinary for anyone to give a second look. His simplicity and humility, never mind his size, gives him off. And yet, behind his ordinary posture, is a strong man who carries loads and loads of the University’s historical data that could fill volumes of pages. An interaction with him would confirm to all and sundry that his knowledge of the institution’s 33 years’ history is still fresh as if it only happened the other day.

His attachment with JKUAT goes back to the time when he was a lecturer at Egerton College in Mach 1978, when he was appointed to become a member of the Planning and Implementation Committee of the JKUAT precursor, Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology (JKCAT), then a project funded by the Japanese Government, through JICA, and the Kenya Government. He was involved in all stages of planning, construction and equipping of the project.

From then on, the energetic bespectacled Agricultural Engineer’s contribution towards the growth of the University has never waned.

Unknown to many, Mzee Weru was the first JKUAT’s Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture (1981 -1988), a position he assumed after TSC appointed him in April 1981. The Faculty then comprised of three departments, namely; Agricultural Engineering, Horticulture and Food Science. The only other faculty then, was that of Engineering, which composed of Mechanical, Civil, Automotive Engineering and Architecture departments.

Some of the first students in the Faculty whom he vividly remembers include former Cabinet Minister in President Moi’s Government, Mr. Kipruto arap Kirwa, Mr. James Thimba (current JKUAT Transport Manager), Roselyn Mokua (Chief Technologist, BEED), and Mr. Muriuki Muhara, a prominent industrialist and proprietor of a Macadamia processing plant based in Nyeri, just to mention but a few.

Mzee Weru points out that his duties then cut across the board, from procuring of equipment and teaching materials, staff development through training, to participation in the college management and development and reviewing of curriculum among others.

He emphasizes that all academic staff were under the TSC while support staff were employed by the College Board of Governors.

These were his additional duties while he served as the Dean.

Mzee Weru also served as the Chairman of Shows and Exhibitions between 1982 and 1990, and even after relinquishing the position, he remained an ardent member to date. Immediately he completed his term, he ventured into an outreach programme for farmers (1990 -1992) where he provided practical farming tips and demonstrations to farmers on how to plough in order to increase their yields, especially in horticulture.

He says he takes pleasure today in the achievements of the University when he makes a flashback.

Mr. Weru will be remembered for being so instrumental in brokering peace with the locals when they resisted the construction of the college in what was termed as “their refusal to allow graders gain access to the construction site.” Persistent resistance forced the government to compulsorily acquire the land and directed the locals to be paid through the courts.

But there were also environmental hurdles too. The red soil mainly for

Meet MZEE WERU,
Meet Mzee Weru, JKUAT’s First Faculty Dean

planting trees and research purposes had to be brought from other areas since Juja either had clay soil or murrum, hence growing of crops posed some challenges.

Equally, the recruitment of staff for the college was a nightmare. Not many people had the desired qualifications. Students’ admission was not easy either. In fact, a committee had to visit all the provincial headquarters in the country for interviews, unlike the case today.

It did not stop at manpower and students alone. Library books too, were a challenge. The new management had either to approach the government or individuals to donate books. This went on for quite some time.

Further, the environment in Juja was unbearable. For this reason Mzee Weru, with a Japanese expert, Dr. Ihara and a Mr. Magoti spearheaded the planting of most trees within the University compound as the place was bare. They initiated the sinking of most boreholes with the help of the Japanese contractor Sumitomo Limited. Unfortunately, the yield and water quality of the boreholes sunk were soon found to be getting either wilting or insufficient forcing some of the boreholes to be abandoned.

The need for domestic and irrigation water therefore, triggered the search for alternative search for water. The first project to pump water from Thiririka was soon abandoned when it became apparent that the water quantity was equally not sufficient even after fixing a pump and laying a pipeline.

Mzee Weru and a Mr. Muriya, a horticulture expert, then spearheaded the Ndarugu river water resource when they came up with original layout of pumping site, water pipe conveyance line and irrigation system. This triggered the demonstration farm project which today serves as a source of domestic treated water from the pond used by the University community.

Today, Mzee Weru excitedly says, the University has created a friendly environment. He opines that the University has realized tremendous vertical growth, transformed the environment, as well as Juja town into a decent University City.

“Considering how Juja was, I cannot believe that we now have such a good drainage system, better health facilities and infrastructure. That today, the entire Juja, once a bush and sisal farm is now cosmopolitan, with high caliber dons, students and a University that is highly acclaimed due to its researched innovations as exhibited during shows and exhibitions,” Observes Mzee Weru in disbelief.

He says, being one of the founders of JKUAT, and a member of staff for the last 30 years, he has not only learnt and benefitted from it, but has also endeavoured to serve the institution, his colleagues and students to the best of his ability.

Weru started his primary school education in his rural home in Nyeri, a year before the State of Emergency was declared in Kenya in 1951, before proceeding to Nakuru High School between 1961 and 1964. He later joined Egerton College (now University) in 1965 to pursue a diploma in Agricultural Engineering. He formed the students’ Agricultural Engineering Society and became its chairman for two years.

He proceeded to California State Polytechnic, USA, between 1968 and 1971 to study a B.Sc degree in Agricultural Engineering (Machinery option) before joining Egerton College as a lecturer.

He later joined the National College of Agricultural Engineering in Britain for a Postgraduate diploma certificate in Agricultural Engineering.

Between 1975 and 76, he joined the Cransfield Institute of Technology, Britain for an MSc in Agricultural Engineering and later Egerton College. This is where he got his appointment to join the planning and implementation committee of the planned mid-level JKUAT, funded by the Japanese Government, though JICA, and the Kenya Government.

Mzee Weru who has attended several conferences, published in various journals either individually or jointly, became an Honorary Citizen of the City of San Luis Obispo, State of California, USA on May 23, 1970 when he graduated from the California State Polytechnic College.

According to his Certificate co-signed by the then Mayor of California Kenneth Schwartz, and Misbahuddin Najmi, the President, People to People Club, he got his Citizenship, “having brought to the citizens of the City of San Luis Obispo a closer relationship with, and better understanding of his people (Kenyans) in a most exemplary manner.”

He is one of those rare people who have made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, the Holy City, and Capital of Israel, and a member of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) in Thika where he has served as Deacon, member and official of the men’s the fellowship (Presbyterian Church Men Fellowship (PCMF).

He is currently the Secretary of the “Mentorship for the Boy Child” Committee whose main objective is to counsel and mould the youth and steer them away from the use of alcohol and drugs and other anti-social activities.

That is how rich in history Mzee Weru, the fourth of five siblings born of Christian parents on March 11, 1943 in Mathira, Nyeri, will forever remain.

He is married to Mrs. Grace Warue Weru, the Vice Chair of the National NGO Council, and the two are blessed with a son, Mr. Michael Wamae, an ICT specialist who runs his own computing firm.
Implementation of Occupational Safety and Health Programmes: A Top Management’s Responsibility

By Daniel Omondi

The Association of Heads of Occupational Safety and Health of Kenya held its first conference on 25th and 26th September 2014 at the Kenya Airways Pride Centre in Embakasi, Nairobi. Themed: “Networking for World Class Safety and Health”, pertinent issues that seriously affected implementation of effective occupational safety and health (OSH) programmes in the country were discussed.

In his inaugural speech, the Chief sponsor Dr. Titus Naikuni challenged chief executive officers in the country to lead from the front and offer leadership in the implementation of occupational safety and health programmes in their organizations.

Citing several examples from Kenya Airways, the Managing Director and Group CEO illustrated how his organization had benefited from the implementation of successful safety and health programmes. He stressed the importance of networking and adoption of a global view to stimulate World Class safety and Health in the country.

Mathew Munyao – the Director National Transport and Safety Authority, and the Chair of AHOSH-K gave an account of proposed radical changes in the transport sector including legislation, supervision, monitoring and enforcement. He assured participants that by December this year, visible and tangible changes to the transport sector will have been put in place to reduce the current statistics of 3,500 deaths per year. Mr. Duncan Kibogong from the World Health Organization presented shocking evidence that despite middle-income countries having half of the number of motor vehicles in the world, 80% of road traffic deaths occurred in these countries. As examples of best practice, Mr. Habel Okema of Bamburi Cement and Mr. Sammy from East Africa Breweries Limited gave their organizations’ approaches to managing transport safety.

Guest speaker Mr. James Mbote from Royal Field Logistics and Services presented an elaborate picture of safety and health in the mining industry and highlighted the need to focus on process safety as opposed to emphasis on personnel safety. Lessons learnt in this presentation included the need for implementation of safe systems of work; emergency response and planning; visible leadership; and the need to make safety a core value and not a priority. What came out strongly was that despite advances in development of occupational safety and health in the mining industry, much had to be done on a continuous basis and the support of all stakeholders was critical.

Mr. Charles Mburu, a Lecturer in the Institute of Energy and Environment Technology where master’s degree in Occupational Safety and Health is offered, took participants through the draft Occupational Safety and Health Bill. He presented some of the challenges facing the National Occupational Safety and Health in Kenya, and proposed the way forward. Among the notable highlights of the bill included strategies to empower the relevant government department with resources to make it efficient and effective, removing duplication of roles among government departments,

Workshop participants follow the proceedings

Continued on pg. 34
Have you ever thought about exam fear and what causes it? People have different perceptions concerning examination. For some students it is just enough to think of the word examination before their body starts reacting. To others, the term examination is enough torture. Exam fever is very common, even to those who have adequately prepared and whenever it occurs, it leaves behind a trail of disaster.

According to Sir Evans Grunig, a psychologist, fear of examination is an emotional and psychological state that occurs before and during exams, accompanied by physical and psychological symptoms of tension, irritability and obsession with negative ideas. While people have the skills and knowledge to do well in examination, their excessive anxiety impairs their performance.

Scholars compare exams with sports; if you care who wins, each thing you do is a bit scary because you care too much about the consequences. They also compare it with stage acting or performance. A music student becomes extremely nervous as she takes the podium. While examinations are administered to gauge learning, if the resulting grade means something to you, the test will always be scary to some extent.

According to Edith Wangari, a student counselor at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, exam anxiety is mainly caused by fear of failure. She compares examinations with a bridge. A platform, whereby you cross from one level to the next. Students are afraid of becoming a disappointment to their families and community at large. As ambassadors of parents, teachers and friends all eyes on you.

Parents are often angry because of their children failing grades caused by test anxiety. Research shows that parental pressure is associated with greater worry, and test irrelevant thoughts. Other causes may include procrastination, previous poor test performance, inadequate study and test taking skills, poor motivation, lack of confidence and low self-esteem.

How can students manage exam fear? Comprehensive preparation for exams is critical. Ensure you research your subject adequately, in consultation with the peers and teachers. Form discussion groups; expression enhances impression, the more you share your ideas with others the better you become. Develop good study habits. Avoid last minute ‘cramming’ for exams and actively listen while in class. The night before exams, get enough sleep. During examination, skip questions you find difficult for the time being and attempt questions you find easier. This way you will be able to answer them confidently.

A test is an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have understood all that has been taught during the coursework. There is no need to panic; just showcase your knowledge.

- The writer is a mass communication student at JKUAT.
Staff at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology will benefit from higher commuter allowances following successful negotiations between the University Council and the Unions.

According to the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) covering the period from July 1st 2012 upto June 30th 2013 (thereafter the parties shall negotiate and bring into force another agreement), staff with motor vehicles will take home a monthly house to office allowance of Ksh. 14,000 up from Ksh. 13,000 while members of staff using other means of transport will pocket Ksh. 8,000 up from Ksh. 7,500.

Speaking at JKUAT Main Campus during the signing of the CBA, early September 2014, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mabel Imbuga appreciated “the efforts of everyone who was involved in the negotiations” particularly the Union officials for “demonstrating good negotiation skills.”

The Vice Chancellor further urged all staff to pull in the same direction towards the realization of the university’s mandate, while the university will rededicate itself towards the enhancement of staff welfare for the mutual benefit of all.

On his part, UASU Chapter Secretary General, Mutuura Mberia commended the negotiators for their constructive negotiation which enjoyed maximum cooperation from both parties culminating in the sealing of the CBA.

KUSU Secretary General, Dr. Charles Mukhwaya commended the University Council for the move that he termed progressive, and urged JKUAT staff to reciprocate by giving value to the employer.

“The University has now done its part. Employees must now put their synergy together to help JKUAT actualize its mandate,” Mukhwaya remarked.

The non-teaching staff CBA sealing session was attended by KUSU national officials: Chairman, Anthony Nyakoni; treasurer, Eng. James Makori; vice chairman, Martin Obiende; and trustee, Eng. Justus D’Oketch. Also present were branch secretary, Nickson Chege and Chairman Isaac Nderitu.

University officials present during the two signings included: Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Development) Prof. Victoria Ngumi; Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Prof. Romanus Odhiambo; Acting Registrar (Administration, Planning and Development) Dr. Jane Ngethe; Dr. Kaibui Mwikamba (Linkages); Legal Officer Vivian Waithaka and Head of Human Resources, Mr. Simon Otieno.
Over 844,475 candidates sat for KCPE in 2013 and 647,602 joined secondary schools in 2014 making a maximum transition rate of 76.7%. This compares unfavourably with the 1970 decade when it reached 95%. One explanation may be that while primary school population is growing at geometrical rates, secondary schools to absorb it are growing at mathematical rates. Fingers may be pointed at the country's educational infrastructure planners. Another explanation could be that there are inadequate incentives for the private sector full involvement. The fact that private schools' candidates are differently treated at secondary school selections may add insult to injury. However let this be another day's story.

The above transition rate is actually less considering that candidates were actually over 844,475. Nearly 200,000 (or more) pupils who sat the examination missed a place in secondary schools. They have been consoled that they can join youth polytechnics. Ironically we are told that the existing technical institutions in the country have a capacity of 100,000 meaning that they can absorb only half of those who missed secondary school slots.

A whooping more than 100,000 pupils would still be left in the cold. Think of the cumulative figure over the years (to which we shall return shortly) and you start imagining the magnitude of the feeling of youth hopelessness. You even start accounting for the high rate of crime and HIV/AIDS among the youth. Consider that over 60% of Kenyans are below 25 years of age (many of who are the not so well educated primary school graduates) and it is not difficult to see why effective youth-led national development lacks in Kenya.

Wait a minute. We are talking only of those who sat for the KCPE. There are those who dropped out before reaching class 8. The Global Education Fund estimates that 60% of Kenyan children do not attend secondary school. Those in school often do not receive a quality education. The 8-4-4 system encourages rote learning to the exclusion of problem solving, leadership and decision making skills. Therefore, pupils do not gain the critical skills and training necessary to access the job market (whether as employees or the self-employed) and become leaders and productive members of their communities.

Back to the cumulative issue! On an annual average about 250,000 young Kenyans miss secondary school slots. Yet, the Kenya Vision 2030 looks upon the education sector to deliver the necessary skills and build adequate human capital to achieve and sustain the country as a middle-income country.

Research shows that if we combine KCPE dropouts and KCSE failures, we get a rough figure of about 450,000 unemployable children dropping out of the school system. Research from the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) shows that the survival rate from Class One to Form Four is below 20 per cent, while those who survive from Class One to university is 1.69 per cent.

To be continued in the next issue...

- Henry Bwisa is a professor of entrepreneurship at JKUAT.
Email: bwihem@gmail.com.
Teaching staff from all the campuses of JKUAT converged at Nakuru CBD for a two day pedagogy training session.

About 100 lecturers were trained in the areas of preparing teaching tools, class management, setting of examinations, administering and awarding scoring of marks. The training took place 5th and 6th day of August 2014.

While opening the training, the Acting Registrar, Academic Affairs of the University; Mr. J. M. Kamau, thanked the lecturers for coming to share their teaching experiences. He said the training was organized in response to an analysis from lecturers evaluation reports received from students. Although some lecturers had the mastery of their respective areas of teaching, the students had claimed, they lacked class management and communication skills. There had been complaints related to setting of end of semester examinations in terms of structuring and wording the test items.

The Deputy Director of the Campus, Mr. Matoke advised the participants to put into practice what they learnt in order to compliment the vision and mission of the University.

While closing the training, the Director of Nakuru CBD, Dr. Juma Wagoki advised the trainees to remain focused and professional while they discharged their duties, as they had a daunting task of mentoring students.

He informed the participants that his campus had acquired a new building where some of the classes would be held starting September 2014. Also in attendance was the new director for JKUAT Kisii Campus Prof. Sigei among others.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs Prof. Romanus Odhiambo has praised Nakuru CBD students for quality presentation of their masters’ theses.

Prof. Odhiambo was part of the panel that witnessed 42 masters students present their final theses. The Deputy Vice Chancellor advised them to appreciate statistics even if they were in social sciences as they had to analyze the collected data for decision making. He said he had noted in most papers students stating null hypothesis and yet the best practice in research was to state the alternative hypothesis.

Research, he told the students, was no longer a classroom unit; but an intellectual movement that cut across all the academic disciplines. He informed the gathering that the university academics office ranked Nakuru Campus highly due to the way it managed and implemented the university academics programmes.

He advised the campus management to consider introducing new courses at different levels such as PhD. in Leadership and Governance, MSc. in Engineering, such as Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Water Resources), BSc. Business Computing, BSc. in Criminology and Security and Certificate in Information Technology fundamentals, especially given that the Campus had the required resources to handle such training.

Prof. Odhiambo challenged the campus management to work towards increasing the student population from the current 2,600 to about 4,000 in the subsequent years.

Later, Prof. Odhiambo visited the Library facility and lauded the staff for their organization. He hailed the Campus’ collaboration with the Kenya National Library Service, which he said had made it easy for the students to access books of any nature they needed for their studies.
New Administration takes over at Kisii Campus  

By Fred Nyabando

The immediate former Deputy Director of Kisii Campus Prof. Johana K. Sigey has been appointed the new Director of the Campus, succeeding his former boss and founding director of the campus Prof. John Ochora whose term has come to an end. On the other hand, Prof. Sigey has been succeeded by Dr. Walter B. Okibo as the new Deputy Director.

While congratulating the new team during a handing over ceremony held at the campus mid July, Prof. Ochora commended the entire staff and especially his former deputy for the unwavering support accorded to his administration during this tenure. He urged all staff to extend the same support to the new administration.

Prof. Sigey pledged to work closely with everyone in ensuring that the campus grew to admirable levels. He also urged the staff to embrace the Quality Management System (QMS) and Environmental Management System (EMS) policies, which he pointed out “would uniquely distinguish us from other competitors in this Kisii region, especially now that we as JKUAT family are about to be ISO Certified with EMS.”

Dr. Okibo’s address to staff and students in his August 22, 2014, stressed on the importance of team work and commitment towards service delivery. During the function, staff and students paid tribute to the outgoing director for steering the campus to the levels it was in, and promised to cooperate with the new administration to take it even further.

JKUAT Kisii CBD campus was established in May 2010 and was put under the leadership of Prof. Ochora who became the first Director of the campus. Under his leadership, the campus has grown to a uniquely and highly placed institution in a competitive academic market in the Kisii region.

The campus has a student population of over 1200 undertaking various programmes ranging from certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Its steady growth has seen the campus start three departments, namely; IT & Mathematics, Social Sciences and Health Science. Kisii region has over twenty academic institutions.

-The writer is an IT Technician at the Kisii Campus.

JKUAT Sets the Pace for Others at Trans Nzoia Fete

By Daniel Mumosi

JKUAT stole the show in Trans-Nzoia during this years’ Annual Catholic Education day held on 27th September, 2014 at St. Joseph’s Boys High School, Kitale when it was selected to represent all other invited universities.

The recognition has enhanced JKUAT’s relationship with schools in the region as a “University of Choice.”

The event, organised by the Catholic Diocese of Kitale was meant to benefit over fifty Secondary Schools that are under the Catholic sponsorship within Trans - Nzoia and the neighbouring counties.

The JKUAT team comprising of four members were able to interact with teachers and students in a bid to market the programmes through brochures and explaining the uniqueness of JKUAT as a trend setter in Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The campus also donated mineral water and trophies during the event.

The occasion was graced by Rev. Phillip Anyolo, who is also the Deputy Chairman of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops as the guest of honour. He lauded JKUAT as a university with a vision for the current generation, adding that parents and students needed to work hard so as to get enrolment into the University that will enable them acquire professions, careers and skills for a better future.

The occasion was also used to recognise and reward Schools, Staff and Students with outstanding performance over the past year.

-Mr. Mumosi is the in charge Registry, Kitale CBD Campus.
It’s important to stay hydrated and it can be easy to fall behind in your water intake. In addition to water and other healthy drinks, you can eat foods, such as cucumbers or strawberries that can contribute to your fluid intake, helping to prevent the headaches and sluggishness caused by dehydration. Another good reason to eat water? Research shows that eating foods that are full of water helps keep you satisfied on fewer calories. Here are seven foods with high water content that can help keep you hydrated.

1. **Cucumbers**
   At 95 percent water content, a cup of cucumber slices is nearly as thirst-quenching as a glass of water. Cucumbers also provide a little fiber and some vitamin C (about 6 percent of the Daily Value per cup).

2. **Salad Greens**
   Part of the reason that 2 cups of salad greens has fewer than 15 calories is that greens are more than 90 percent water. They are also packed with nutrients, such as folate, vitamin C, fiber and the antioxidant beta carotene, which helps keep your eyes and skin healthy.

3. **Strawberries**
   Strawberries deliver the most vitamin C of all berries and also provide folate, a B vitamin that’s essential for the healthy growth of new cells. And, since they’re 91 percent water, they’ll contribute significantly toward your overall fluid intake. Eat them straight up.

4. **Watermelon**
   Ninety-two percent water, watermelon is a good source of vitamin C and, when it’s red (some are orange or yellow), also has lycopene, an antioxidant that may help protect against heart disease and some types of cancer.

5. **Yogurt**
   Regular plain yogurt is 85 to 88% water. You’ll also get calcium, some B vitamins (namely B12 and riboflavin).

6. **Papaya**
   At 88 percent water, this fruit will help you stay hydrated. Better yet, 1 cup delivers 3 grams of fiber for just 55 calories.

7. **Butternut Squash**
   This sweet and nutty squash is 88 percent water. A cup of cooked butternut squash also boasts over 400 percent of your Daily Value for vitamin A—a key nutrient for eye health—as well as healthy doses of vitamin C, potassium and manganese.

- Mr. Madivoli is a Senior Assistant Caterer, Department of Catering and Hospitality, JKUAT.
Softball is a bat-and-ball sport played between two teams of 10 players. It is a direct descendant of baseball although there are some key differences: softballs are larger than baseballs, and the pitches are thrown underhand rather than overhand. The game is played in a series of 7 innings (lasting approx. 1-2 hours). An inning is one series of both teams playing offense and defence.

Each inning is divided into a top half and a bottom half indicating which team is playing which role. The offense bats and attempts to score runs, while the defence occupies the field and attempts to record outs in a variety of ways. After the defence records 3 outs, the half inning is over and the teams switch roles. The team with the most runs after seven innings wins the game - simple!

Softball has become popular in Kenya and it has even spread to most parts of the country. This has been made possible by the softball federation, organizing tournaments in various parts of the country as well as supplying kits at a subsidized rate. The game is played by men and women both as a recreation and competition.

JKUAT softball team also known as “TEAM WISDOM” has continued to maintain its good performance over the years in the National League, Nairobi Metropolitan League as well as various tournaments e.g. Chairlady’s Cup, Western Open Cup, Mombasa Open Cup and the Ryders Tournament, among others.

The National Softball League began in 2009. JKUAT made headlines courtesy of the men’s team. The team won the league two seasons unbeaten. It is for the love of this game that these players, even after completing their studies at JKUAT, came together and formed “Team Ryders” and are the current league champions (both the national and metropolitan), a season that ended in March 2014.

The Varsity’s current men and ladies team (Wisdom) are also a force to reckon with. The men have registered excellent performance in quite a number of tournaments. In 2012 the men’s team emerged winners in the JKUAT open Tournament, Egerton inaugural open tournament and Chairlady’s Cup. All these could be attributed to hard work, discipline and teamwork. They were also crowned the 2012/2013 champions in the National League, and came 2nd in the Nairobi Metropolitan League with 24 points.

The ladies team too has not been left behind. Outstanding performance from these brave hearts was registered in the just concluded National League where they clinched the top title in the 2013/2014 season. They were also crowned the 2014 Nairobi Metropolitan League Champions. The team won after remaining unbeaten for the whole season. MMU came second (17 points), USIU 3rd (14 points), ANU 4th (10 points) and finally KU followed with zero points.

Just because Team Wisdom makes it look easy, doesn’t mean it is easy. This is one of the teams in JKUAT that does not own a pitch and therefore conducts their training sessions in some small space behind the volleyball courts. This has however not deterred them from giving their best.

With the support from the department and the voluntary coaching services offered by Moses Baya and Samuel Gatheri, we believe that Team Wisdom will continue making headlines.

-Ms. Ng’ethe is a Sports Officer
FOCUS Kenya
missions mobilization, training and networking conference

Theme:
As the Father has sent me, so I send you. —John 20:21

Emphasis:
And who is equal to such a task?
—2nd Corinthians 2:16

Delegates Fees
Students: Ksh. 4,900
Associates: Ksh. 11,000
Couples: Ksh. 20,000
Children: Ksh. 4,500

Come and be part of the expected 5,000 delegates!

Main Expositor:
Rev. Calisto Odede
Senior Pastor, Nairobi Baptist Church

Dates:
Sunday 28th December 2014 to Saturday 3rd January 2015

Venue:
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)
Main Campus, Nairobi Kenya.

For more details, go to www.focuskenya.org/commission