



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SEPTEMBER 2017

VarsityFocus

A magazine of the University of Nairobi



**UoN hosts
Chinese
billionaire
Jack Ma**



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Our Vision

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

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

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VarsityFocus

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Relentless pursuit of excellence

The dominant theme in this edition of the *Varsity Focus* (VF) is 'relentless pursuit of excellence' by UoN in a highly challenging operating environment. When it becomes unfeasible to catch fish in the shallow waters, a fisherman will change tact and venture into deep waters where there is sufficient stock of big fish. Like an experienced fisherman, UoN is looking far and venturing into deep waters to catch more fish. The University has a strong tradition of excellence that continues to make it more attractive and a compelling choice for partnerships and collaborations with local and international stakeholders.

Hosting Jack Ma, the billionaire founder and chairman of Alibaba group of companies at the University of Nairobi Chandaria auditorium was not only an image-building event but also a historical moment of inspiration for the youth by a man whose determination and resilience in pursuit of success defied all odds. He was here to tell his own story and there is no doubt that he gave good account of himself.

UoN's School of Medicine celebrated its 50th anniversary. The school prides in having produced over 10,000 medical professionals since its inception and remains the leading medical training college in the Eastern and Central Africa region.

The University has a tradition of excellence that continues to be exhibited in all fields. It was indeed a moment of glory when the University's Rugby team, "The Mean machine", retained the Kings of Rugby crown for a second consecutive year. The University choir was not to be left behind. They harvested 8 trophies in various categories during the 2017 national music festivals. UoN was also crowned the most social learning institution during the 5th Annual OLX Social Media Awards. At individual level UoN scholars and researchers have also continued to stamp their footprints in their areas of specialization. Prof. Otieno Abinya, an oncologist, is one of the celebrated researchers that have been featured in this VF edition.

The strings of success have been made possible by strong support from the management and the stakeholders. The editorial team of the *Varsity Focus* notes with much appreciation the strong support from the stakeholders that enabled the University to organize the Second CARTA-Vice Chancellors conference, the National Thought leadership Forums, students Leaders conference on sustainable peace, the AIBUMA conference 2017 and the award of scholarships by the Rotary Club of Nairobi. Other Corporate entities like Coca-cola and Techno mobile also made it possible for the University to mark

the International Day against alcohol, Drug abuse and illicit trafficking successfully. The Nation Media Group and the Institute of Human Resource Management were also kind to support a career fair day to mentor and counsel students.

Forging strong partnerships and building global networks is a strategy that the University will pursue to engender cross-fertilization of ideas and to enable it borrow global best practices from the best in the world. UoN's agreements of collaboration with Tshingua and Cambridge Universities should be seen in that light.

The *Varsity Focus* also takes a moment to pay tribute to the late G.P. Mbugua (Registrar-Administration), the late Prof. Oucho, the late Dr. Owino OKwiri (Director of Quality Assurance) and other staff who passed on but left a rich legacy through remarkable contributions to the university's excellent performance during their employment. May the Almighty God rest their souls in Eternal Peace.

JOHN A.O.ORINDI
DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AFFAIRS.

UoN offers unlimited opportunities and space for growth and prosperity for all



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

This issue of the *Varsity Focus* coincides with the successful admission of about 4,000 freshmen and the 57th Graduation. Graduation is a culmination of hard work and sacrifice by the graduands, parents, sponsors and staff of the University. It is a special moment for the university community to celebrate the unleashing of new entrepreneurs, employees and talent into the market. I congratulate all the 57th graduands and wish them success in all their undertakings. I also invite them to immediately join the University of Nairobi Alumni and be part of the rich heritage that defines UoN.

I am also delighted to welcome all the 2017/2018 first years to the university community and urge them to build on the strong foundation of excellence laid by their predecessors. The University offers them unlimited opportunities for growth and prosperity if they possess the right mindset. Students are key stakeholders of the University and that is why the University is committed to creating a conducive environment that promotes learning and skills development. For the

University to succeed in that endeavour, students must also reciprocate. They should engage the management in constructive dialogue instead of destructive and wasteful

discourses, which not only spoil the image of the University but also ruin their careers.

I encourage the graduands to enrol at the University of Nairobi for further studies. We have introduced new graduate programmes that are relevant and marketable. The restructuring of Board of Postgraduate Studies into the Directorate of Graduate School and the OdeL Campus into a Virtual University are all geared towards strengthening our graduate programmes.

The University has maintained leadership in quality academic and research performance in the region. In the recent Times Higher Education ranking, UoN is one of the two universities in Eastern and Central Africa that made it to the top 50 in Africa and top 1,000 globally.

Rapid Globalization of higher education presents serious challenges to universities but it shall not dampen our resolve to emerge as one of the key global contributors in the attainment of sustainable development goals. We shall boldly pursue our internationalization strategy because we believe that it will keep us relevant in providing solutions to various global problems. The University has been honoured to partner with important International partners and stakeholders like UNCTAD, WTO, UNFPA and other top league universities.

On that note I applaud the University team that worked with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the WTO Accessions Division to successfully organise the Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for the Greater Horn of Africa in Nairobi on 28th -30th August, 2017. The University has

also continued to spread its global networks through mutually beneficial partnerships with other universities.

Since charity begins at home, I urge the County governments, local industries and business community to forge partnerships with universities in building the national capacity to exploit our vast natural resources. UoN has abundant talent and human capital that can be tapped to rapidly transform Kenya into a flourishing middle-income country.

Universities are identified by their contribution in providing thought leadership in policy formulation, innovations and environmental conservation. I am delighted by the bold steps taken by the government in outlawing the use of plastic bags in Kenya. One of our strong values is environmental conservation. The University is ready to offer solutions on how to dispose the existing plastics with minimal effects on the economy and to participate in keeping our environment clean and safe.

On behalf of the University, I am pleased to recognize hard working staff and students who have excelled in various fields. I commend the University choir for scooping eight trophies during the national music festivals 2017 held in Kakamega. The University theatre and Rugby team, Mean Machine, also deserve commendation for their sterling performance.

Finally, I express my appreciation to the staff who have secured research grants that will assist the University in fulfilling its key mandate of producing quality research that impacts positively on society. Proposals on creating a reward system for motivating researchers who win grants were recently approved by senate and are being implemented.

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY

Jack Ma tells budding entrepreneurs the secrets of overcoming challenges



Asia's richest man and Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, Mr. Jack Ma, gives a public lecture at the University of Nairobi on July 20th, 2017.

The University of Nairobi hosted Asia's richest man and Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, Mr. Jack Ma, for a public lecture to empower young African entrepreneurs.

Mr. Ma, who is also the Special Adviser to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for Youth Entrepreneurship and Small Business, addressed a group of more than 500 aspiring business leaders at the ultramodern Chandaria Auditorium at University Towers on July 20, 2017. He was in the country at the invitation of UNCTAD Secretary-General Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, and was accompanied by 38

Chinese billionaires.

According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, the 53-year old e-commerce entrepreneur from China is the 14th richest man in the world with a net worth of about \$43.2 billion while *Fortune* magazine ranked him second in its 2017 list of the "World's 50 Greatest Leaders". However, this fortune did not come on a silver platter, as the mogul narrated to the packed audience at the University, which also included the university community and government officials. The humble and publicity shy Jack Ma shared his story of failure before success, an apparent motivation of young men who think that they cannot rise above desperation and repeated

setbacks. The billionaire in the making applied for 30 different jobs and was rejected by all companies. He also applied 10 times for admission to Harvard and got rejected.

"I went for a job with the police; they rejected me. I even went to KFC for a restaurant job interview and we were 24 people looking for jobs; 23 were accepted. I was the rejected one," he said.

Jack Ma recalled nostalgically how he and his cousin waited for two hours in a queue to be waiters in a four-star hotel in his city on a very hot day. His cousin's scores were much lower than his but he was picked while the future billionaire was rejected.

His mantra was that getting used to failure is one of the key building blocks to a successful business but for as long as one bubbles with youthfulness, there is hope.

"Being young is the best opportunity in life. As young people, there is always optimism. There are always opportunities. However, the biggest hurdle as a young entrepreneur is how you survive the failures and rejection. To the young people, never give up. If you make a mistake, if you fail, never give up. There are many opportunities out there," he advised. Jack Ma is one of the world's most

influential businessmen and a philanthropist known for expounding his philosophy of business. He challenged the youth to be part of philanthropic activities, help people and stop expecting to be helped.

"If you make your customers happy, they will pay the money. If you make your employees happy, they will be more creative and innovative. If your customer and employees are happy, then your shareholders will be happy. Do not spend a lot of time talking to your shareholders. Spend that time talking to your customers and employees," he advised.

Jack Ma further advised the budding entrepreneurs never to be hindered by complaints, arguing that people complain most and that is where the opportunity lies.

"When I said that there was a future in e-commerce, they said that there was no payment system. I said let's build one. Then they said that there was no logistic system and I said let's build one. Then they said that the government doesn't support us and I said that they will someday," he said to a rousing applause. **VF**

The life and times of Jack Ma

MaYun (professionally known as Jack Ma) was born September 10, 1964 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. Ma started to study English at a young age and practised English daily by conversing with English-speakers at Hangzhou international hotel. He would give them tours around the city for free to improve his English. He became pen pals with one of those foreigners, who nicknamed him "Jack" because he found it hard to pronounce his Chinese name.

Later in his youth, Ma struggled attending college. The Chinese entrance exams are held only once a year and it took Ma four years to pass. After that, Ma attended Hangzhou Teacher's Institute and graduated in 1988 with a BA in English. While at school, Ma was head of the student council. After graduation, he became a lecturer of English and International Trade at Hangzhou Dianzi University. He later enrolled at Beijing-based Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business (CKGSB) and graduated in 2006.

In 1994, Ma heard about the Internet. In early 1995, he went to the US and with his friends' help he got introduced to the Internet. During his first encounter he searched the word "beer". Although he found information related to beer from many countries, he was surprised to find none from China. Further, he tried to search for general information about China and again was surprised to find none. So he and his friend created an "ugly" website related to China. He launched the website at 9:40 am and by 12:30 pm he had received emails from some Chinese wishing to know about him. This is when

Ma realized that the Internet had something great to offer.

In April 1995, Ma, his wife and a friend went around, asked for \$ 20,000, and started their first company dedicated to creating websites for companies. He named their company "China Yellow Pages." Within three years, his company had made 5,000,000 Chinese Yuan which was equivalent to \$ 800,000.

From 1998 to 1999, Ma headed an information technology company established by the China International Electronic Commerce Center. In 1999, he quit and returned to Hangzhou with his team to found Alibaba, a China-based business-to-business marketplace site in his apartment with a group of 18 friends.

In October 1999 and January 2000, Alibaba twice won a total of a \$25 million foreign venture capital investment. The programme was expected to improve the domestic e-commerce market and perfect an e-commerce platform for Chinese enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to address World Trade Organization (WTO) challenges. Ma wanted to improve the global e-commerce system and from 2003 he founded Taobao Marketplace, Alipay, Ali Mama and Lynx. After the rapid rise of Taobao, eBay offered to purchase the company. However, Ma rejected their offer, instead garnering support from Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang with a \$1 billion investment.

In September 2014 it was reported Alibaba was raising over \$25 billion in an initial public offering (IPO) on the New York Stock Exchange. Alibaba became one of the most valuable tech



companies in the world after raising \$25 billion, the largest initial public offering in US financial history.

In November 2012, Alibaba's online transaction volume exceeded one trillion yuan. Ma was thus labeled "trillion Hou", meaning literally "Trillion Yuan Marquis" in Chinese.

Ma has often been invited to lecture at universities such as the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and Peking University.

As of 2016, Ma is the owner of Château de Sours in Bordeaux, Chateau Guerry in Côtes de Bourg and Château Perenne in Blaye, Côtes de Bordeaux.

On January 9, 2017, Ma talked with United States President Donald Trump at Trump Tower about how to create 1 million US jobs in five years. **VF**

Leading scholar authors book on new methods of cancer treatment

Cancer is one of the most dreaded ailments that have caused anguish in many families across the world. The management and treatment of the disease is not only laborious but also costly, besides the intense pain experienced by patients.

A leading researcher and scholar at the University of Nairobi, Prof Nicholas Abinya, has authored a book which provides the latest methods of cancer treatment and management. The scholar is based at the Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics and is head of oncology at the School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences (CHS).

His book, *Drug Management of Haematologic Neoplasms*, gives background information on cancer treatment, how the cancer cells behave and the medicines used in treatment. It is a valuable publication in the health sector. It will empower medical practitioners and cancer specialists to cure cancer with minimal costs.

"The book highlights immune checks and reviews current cancer treatment methods. Most lethal types of cancer have been covered and their treatment methods. The book takes pride in using locally generated data," said Prof Abinya at the book launch on April 24, 2017.

"I developed an interest in this field during my postgraduate studies. I was encouraged by one Prof. Thomas Ogada who advised me to pursue hematology. After high school, I read a novel titled *Cancer Ward*. It built an interest in me on cancer treatment and research," Prof Abinya told *Varsity Focus*.

Throughout his postgraduate studies at

the University of Nairobi, Prof. Abinya worked in the hematology ward at Kenyatta National Hospital and had a short stint at the Royal London Hospital between 1991 and 1992. He joined UoN in 1974 as a medical undergraduate student and graduated in 1979. In 1987, Prof. Abinya was employed at UoN as a lecturer in the Department of Hematology and Oncology. The scholar is highly published in the areas of cancer treatment with several books and articles on breast cancer, prostate cancer and cancer of the cervix. He has written articles in *Africa Journal of Cancer* and *the American Chinese Journal of Medical Health Sciences*.

"I have analyzed data on biological correlation of cells and leukemia. Looking at determinants to failure of treatment of leukemia, the rare manifestation of leukemia and the malignant cells growth. I have authored and co-authored text books on cancer treatment. In addition, I have been privileged to head the Ministry of Health Taskforce, National Cancer Treatment Guidelines in 2012."

Prof. Abinya is also running a programme dubbed the Glivec International Patient Assistant Programme, (GIPAP) which was started by Mark Foundation, USA.



Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi with Prof. Nicholas Abinya during the book launch at the College of Health Sciences.

"The foundation buys drugs from Novartis and donates to those who cannot afford to buy. The programme is based at the Nairobi Hospital. We have over 1,000 patients on free treatment. We are the only country in Africa, doing a fellowship on medical oncology," said the researcher.

What motivates Prof. Abinya?

"The desire to discover something, make contributions to the society and help mankind is my main motivation. There is this desire to discover something faster than the Americans. The Americans have the funds. We are discovery oriented, rather than publications oriented."

Prof. Abinya believes that Kenya has the resources to deal with cancer treatment.

"We can cure 95% of cancer cases and hence no need for travelling abroad. The main challenge is that Kenyans do not believe that a black doctor can treat them. Surprisingly, white people believe in African doctors more."

Prof. Abinya says that he is training people from Africa. He advises young and upcoming doctors to be specialists and not to be motivated by money. VF

President lays foundation stone for Koitalel Samoei University

President Uhuru Kenyatta laid the foundation stone for the construction of Koitalel Samoei University College. The university college, located in Nandi Hills, is a constituent college of the University of Nairobi.

The ceremony, held on June 12, 2017 was also graced by the Deputy President William Ruto. The University Chancellor Dr. Vijoo Rattansi and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi led the UoN delegation.

The President called on the youth to take advantage of access to education to achieve progress.

"The university will bring economic growth to Nandi Hills town. Let us all strive to expand our economy because no one else will come to develop our country. This new university will be opened in two years time," said the President.

Mr Ruto said the leaders of the region had insisted that the first course the university college offers should be law to represent the freedom and justice that Koitalel stood for.

"We want the university college to produce people who will defend our freedoms and the sovereignty of our nation," he said. The university will also offer business and sports related courses.

While thanking the President for appointing UoN to mentor the new university

college, Dr. Rattansi pledged to donate books worth Kshs. 18 Million.

Prof. Mbithi said UoN will do its best to ensure the new university college thrives.

"You have given us a duty and we are going to do it to the best of our ability, to make this institution a world class facility. This new institution will be center of excellence in business studies, legal studies and sports to serve the needs of both the local and global community. The Sports faculty shall include sports medicine and a research laboratory that will serve

the needs of our athletes in conducting doping tests which are currently done only in South Africa at very expensive costs to our athletes.

The community has donated 100 acres to the proposed university college from the Samoei Secondary School.

The foundation stone of the Koitalel Samoei University College was laid at the spot where Koitalel was tricked and killed in 1905. Koitalel was the supreme chief of the Nandi and is revered all over Kalenjin land. [VF](#)



President Uhuru Kenyatta lays the foundation stone for the construction of Koitalel Samoei University College. Looking on is the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi

Chief Justice launches School of Law Alumni Chapter



Chief Justice Hon. David Maraga launching the UoN School of Law Alumni Association Chapter. Looking on from left are Ireri Kinyua, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Isaac Awuondo and Prof. Peter Mbithi, of University of Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi School of Law Alumni Association Chapter was launched by the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya Hon. David Kenani Maraga at a colourful ceremony which also brought together top lawyers in the country. The Chief Justice hailed the UoN School of Law for producing prominent lawyers and scholars who occupy key leadership positions. He said the UoN scholars are working in Parliament, Judiciary, and civil society and virtually in every sector of the economy.

CJ Maraga said law is an honourable and distinguished profession as lawyers make wheels for their clients. He said change requires just a few people who seriously think about their people and country. He observed that the biggest challenge to the development in Kenya is corruption and emphasized the need to mentor

young legal professionals to be men and women of integrity.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi commended the School of Law for being top in Kenya and for training over 10,000 lawyers since its inception. Prof. Mbithi pointed out that the Advancement Office was created to cultivate lifelong relations with the Alumni and reiterated his support for any infrastructural projects aimed at promoting teaching and learning, such as the proposed School of Law Tower.

The Dean of School of Law, Prof. Kiarie Mwaura, told the audience that the University of Nairobi has three campuses teaching law (the Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu campuses) with over 3,500 students. He further noted that Kenya has over 14,000 trained lawyers with over 10,000 of them graduating from the University of Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association Chairman, Mr. Isaac Awuondo outlined some areas in which the alumni can support and give back to their alma mater, such as students' skills development, scholarships and bursaries, renovation of UoN facilities, Research and Development, leadership programmes, networking and contributing towards the construction of the proposed School of Law Tower.

The construction of the ultra-modern building will cost approximately Kshs. 1.8 Billion. The donations can be in cash or in kind by supporting the construction of floors or facilities. Prof. Kameri-Mbote Patricia of the School of Law has contributed Ksh. 500,000 towards School of Law Tower project while Mohammed Muigai Advocates has contributed Kshs. 50,000. Other latest contributions to the School of Law include:

- **Dr.(Mrs.) Vijoo Rattansi**, UoN Chancellor – Books worth Kshs. 9 million
- **Hon. David Kenani Maraga**, – Ksh. 100,000 (Gold Membership)
- **Hon. Ken Obura** ,MP, –Ksh. 100,000 (Gold Membership)
- **Prof. Kameri-Mbote Patricia**, Ksh. 100,000 (Gold Membership)
- **Henry Mwaura Kabiru** - Ksh. 25,000 (Bronze Membership)
- **Justice Patrick Omwenga Kiage** - Ksh. 25,000 (Bronze Membership)
- **Justice Otsyula Muchelule** - Ksh. 25,000 (Bronze Membership). [VF](#)

UoN to revamp ICT infrastructure

A new Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) master plan has been approved to enable the University to improve its service delivery.

This was revealed at a meeting of the University Executive Board members together with deans, directors and heads of departments at the University of Nairobi Towers on July 13, 2017.

The new ICT master plan will ensure that the university systems are integrated, secure, robust and able to serve over 80,000 students and staff effectively and efficiently. Also in the ICT master plan is the ICT call center that will be integrated with the university student management information system (SMIS) and university social media accounts. The university broadband internet and the network are also bound to be upgraded in the ambitious plan that will see the university ICT services enhanced for the next 10 years.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman of the ICT Master Plan, Prof. Timothy Waema, from the School of Computing and Informatics, noted that with improved network infrastructure, staff and students will easily bring and use their electronic devices within the

university, a concept popularly known as 'Bring your own device - BYOD'.

Other University systems that will be integrated into new ICT master plan are online admissions, research and grants management, automation of documents and implementation of business intelligence to enable quick decision making process.

Also discussed during the meeting of University managers are increases in the student enrollment in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) courses, University brand image and its visibility, improvement of research outputs, and management of research grants.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi urged staff members to give their best so that the University can remain a market leader in the education sector. "We must attract the best staff and students, retain the best staff, focus on student affairs and stay ahead of the competition. We must inculcate a disciplined culture among staff and students," he said.

Based on its strategic plan and its short term implementation plan for the year 2017/2018, the University of Nairobi is working on improving its competitiveness, quality of graduates, quality of research outputs, quality of service delivery, its brand image, employee performance and making a significant contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). VF



Student in a computer lab at the University of Nairobi.

UON and Beijing University strike deal

The University of Nairobi and Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT) have mutually agreed on student and staff exchanges, staff development and research collaboration.

The two universities will encourage and promote collaborative research activities between their staff and students in order to promote the generation of knowledge and development of the institutions and their respective societies.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC), Student Affairs and acting DVC, Administration and Finance, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, said programmes and linkages provide avenues through which academic members of staff and students can further their research activities.

"Through partnerships, we can jointly source for funds in order to promote research activities, institutional capacity building and exchange of publications and journals," he said. The collaboration will mainly benefit students and staff in the College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE) and College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS).

Prof. Wang Fang, the Chairperson, University Affairs Council, BUCT, spoke during the occasion.

"Through this collaboration, we hope to mutually benefit from each other's strengths. The partnership agreement states that BUCT will offer opportunities to nominate staff and students from UoN to obtain formal

qualifications in the full-time mode at doctoral levels. The specific terms and conditions will be agreed upon," she said.

The agreement also states that UON and BUCT will develop and upgrade curricula and qualifications to offer quality programmes and qualifications subject to the approval by the respective university senates. The parties also agreed to investigate partnership opportunities to raise funds to support this collaboration and exchange programmes.

Prof. Peter Ngau, Principal, CAE and Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal, CBPS, witnessed the signing of the collaboration agreement on May 10, 2017. [VF](#)



Deputy Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche and Chairperson, University Affairs Council, BUCT, Prof. Wang Fang, shake hands after signing of the MoU. Looking on are the UoN and BUCT delegations.

Partnership struck to boost health workers' capacity

The University of Nairobi has partnered with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to enhance processes of developing and strengthening skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that students need in order to survive and competently adapt.

A team from UNFPA held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi to deliberate on effective ways of implementing the strategies of strengthening online capacity building courses with special interest to nurses, other health care workers, health care supply chain workers and the University's

Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI). Among the key items of discussion was the use of the University as an axis of e-learning to empower the health care workers with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, so that they can realise their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation.

Key in the partnering pact is the fact that UNFPA pledged to work with the University to create dialogue on issues that affect the country thought leadership forums. Speaking during the meeting, Prof Mbithi thanked the team for their

efforts. He assured them that the University embodies the aspirations of Kenyan people, the global community and the fast changing market needs. In doing that, it optimizes on industrial linkages and employability of the students as well as the healthcare workers.

Prof. Mbithi commended the use of online media to connect with the youth via open-distance learning and challenged the members to further take up the research solutions in their publications into practical use.

"This move will help in addressing human resource challenges and provide lasting solutions for the government and the nation as a whole," he said. [VF](#)



Dr. Ademala Olajide, UNFPA Representative to Kenya after holding a meeting with Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi.

UoN and Tsinghua strike deal on partnership

The University of Nairobi and Tsinghua University, China, have entered into a partnership to collaborate in education and research activities.

The agreement was signed by UoN Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Tsinghua's Chairman of University Council, Prof. Chen Xu on September 1, 2017 at UoN, Main Campus.

According to the agreement, the Tsinghua University- University of Nairobi Office of Global Competence Development will be established by both parties to facilitate the collaborations and activities between the two universities. It is expected that each university will provide office spaces on campus and appoint a director to coordinate office

operations.

In addition, the two universities will run student and staff exchange programmes and Tsinghua will award two scholarships for Masters and PhD to successful applicants to study at the Chinese based university. Speaking during the signing ceremony, Prof. Mbithi welcomed the collaboration saying that the university was committed to implementing tenets of the agreement.

"Internationalization is a key pillar of the University of Nairobi. We are keen on establishing partnerships with universities and organizations that will be of mutual agreement. We are committed to enhancing our research activities and developing innovative and creative ways of

addressing the challenges affecting society," said the VC.

Prof. Xu thanked the Chinese Embassy in Kenya for linking Tsinghua University to the University of Nairobi.

"It is through the embassy that we were able to start discussions on collaborations and today, we finally sign the agreement. As Tsinghua University celebrates its 106th anniversary, we have developed a global strategy in order to improve various aspects of the university. In this strategy, partnerships and collaborations are key," she said.

Tsinghua University will work closely with the College of Architecture and Engineering, the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, the College of Health Sciences and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. **VF**



Prof. Chen Xu, Tsinghua's Chairman of University Council, and Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi after signing an MoU at the University of Nairobi.

UoN and University of Concordia boost partnership

The University of Nairobi and University of Concordia, Canada have signed an agreement on research, pedagogy and educational technology. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on June 9, 2016 to engage in joint research.

The Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Concordia University, Prof. Graham Carr, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi on May 31, 2017. He was accompanied by Prof. Philip Abrami, Director, Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance (CSLP), Concordia University.

Prof. Abrami announced that the University of Concordia together with other partners, including the University of Nairobi, had received

a 7-year grant of Ca\$2.5M from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada covering April 2017 to March 2024, to research on "Using Educational Technology to Develop Essential Educational Competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa."

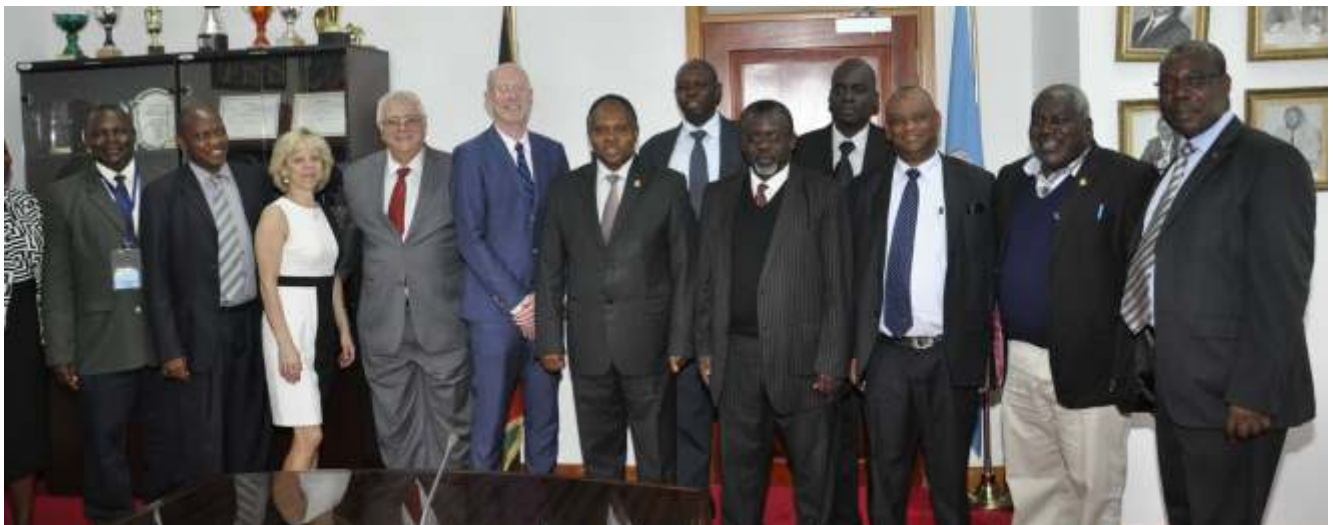
The grant team is made up of 16 co-applicants, 20 collaborators, and 21 partner organizations. UoN's Dr. Justus Inyega is one of the co-applicants in the project. The academic partners include University of Nairobi, Concordia University, Chinese University at Hong Kong, University of Quebec at Montreal, Wilfrid Laurier University, UK, and Shanzu Teachers Training College. The non-academic partners include Aga Khan (Academies Unit, Foundation Canada, Foundation East Africa, & Foundation Mali),

MoEST (ICT4E, KICD, & KISE), World Vision (Canada, & Kenya), African Storybook,

Camara, CEMESTEA, English Montreal School Board, and I Choose Life-Africa.

The grant will support a doctoral student working on the project through a bursary grant of Ca\$5,000 per annum.

Present during the meeting was Prof. Winston Akala, Dean, School of Education, Prof. William Ogara, Director, Centre for International Partnerships and Linkages, Prof. Christopher Gakuu, Director, ODeL Campus, Prof. Harriet Kidombo, Deputy Director, ODeL Campus, Dr. Justus Inyega, Deputy Director, Centre for Pedagogy and Andragogy, and Dr. T. W. Maonga, Teaching Practice Coordinator, University of Nairobi. [VF](#)



The delegation from the University of Concordia together with University of Nairobi Managers pose for a group photo after the meeting.

UoN to honour top researchers



University of Nairobi researcher in a laboratory

Top researchers at the University of Nairobi will be rewarded for their exemplary scholarly works and publications in peer reviewed journals.

The decision was made during the University Executive Board meeting held on Wednesday, July 20, 2017 at the University Towers.

The proposed research rewards and award programme aim to honour the efforts of outstanding researchers, as well as to encourage an increase in research productivity. According to Prof. Madara Ogot, Director, Research and Extension, the programme will further encourage publications within leading peer reviewed international journals, as well as protection and commercialization of intellectual property produced at the University of Nairobi.

“The benefits to a university from instituting a reward and award programme can provide significant dividends, one being an increase in annual publications that will bring significant returns back to the university in terms of international stature, rankings, ability to attract international and local collaborators and additional research funding,” said Prof. Ogot.

Works that will be rewarded are publications in high impact journals, reviewed book publications by a reputable publisher, and granted patent for work done.

Also discussed in the same meeting, in a session chaired by the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi was management of performance contracts at the University of Nairobi for the financial year 2017/2018. The performance contract is drawn from the strategic plan

and the short term implementation plan. The main focus of the performance contract is efficient delivery of quality service to the members of the public. Prof. Mbithi pledged to support and facilitate University managers to achieve their targets.

Other areas of importance in the performance contract include; prudent management of finances, resolution of public complaints, management of research grants, succession planning, producing holistic graduates, and corruption prevention, among others.

The meeting was also attended by deans and directors of the various colleges and schools. **VF**

“Proposed research rewards and award programme aims to honour the efforts of outstanding researchers, as well as to encourage an increase in the research productivity”



Entrepreneurship tips shared at GAUP conference

The University of Nairobi's School of Business hosted the 6th annual German African Universities Partnership Conference, whose theme was "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Africa." Speaking during the event held on 19th July, 2017, conference chairman, Prof. Bitange Ndemo, said it was appropriate to host the event in Nairobi since Kenya is one of the leading African countries with the most start-ups and incubation centers where entrepreneurship thrives. Prof. Ndemo added: "The conference brings a rich diversity of approaches to understanding entrepreneurship and the range of contexts in which it is taught, studied and used across the globe."

Prof. Justus Munyoki, Chairman, Department of Business

Administration, said the theme of the conference befitted the situation in Africa, where universities are challenged to embrace entrepreneurial ways of generating income as well as producing graduates who will rather create employment opportunities than seek unavailable jobs.

The conference brought together academics, researchers, industry practitioners and students from Germany, Ghana and Kenya to discuss the interdependence between theory and practice. Papers focusing on analysis, description and teaching of entrepreneurship were presented at the forum.

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bode, Vice President of International Affairs and Diversity, Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Science, said

German African Universities Partnership is a platform for the development of entrepreneurs and small/medium enterprises. "The labour markets in Africa show graduates with sufficient theoretical skills but exhibit lack of practical experience which needs to be overcome. In order to raise the awareness of the potential in the African market, the project addresses German SMEs and universities to get involved with this topic by using the advantages of a university partnership platform," said Prof. Bode.

Since its launch in 2015, the German African Universities Partnership Programme has promoted practical knowledge acquisition through student and academic staff exchanges between the participating universities. [VF](#)



6th annual German African Universities Partnership Conference participants drawn from various organizations pose for a group photo.

Scholars, Stakeholders hold meeting to promote research in Africa



Members of Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa follow proceedings during the two day workshop held at the University of Nairobi.

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) 2nd Vice-Chancellors' meeting on promoting research in Africa was hosted by the University of Nairobi.

The two-day meeting held on July 10 and 11, 2017, brought together Vice-Chancellors from CARTA's African partner universities, heads of CARTA's partner research institutions as well as representatives from CARTA's Northern partner institutions. Selected funders, representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education and the Commission for University Education (CUE) were also present.

The meeting adopted an interactive approach comprising targeted presentations from CARTA Co-directors and invited experts in higher education and research capacity building. The meeting advocated for the creation of post-doctoral positions at African universities and raising the profile of

research in higher education to secure a research track for university staff. There were also deliberations on how to institutionalize improvements in doctoral training at African universities and more specifically on the role of universities, African governments, and donors, in improving the funding landscape for research and doctoral training in Africa.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi lauded the decision by CARTA to allow the university to host the high powered meeting and reiterated his commitment to continue working with CARTA.

"Without research the great African dream of prosperity by all for all will never be realized. To make Africa's aspirations attainable, it is incumbent upon us to solidly deliberate and render tangible resolutions to engender quality research for both knowledge

advancement and development in our respective economies," said the VC.

UON has 23 fellows in CARTA and hosts fellows from other universities. In addition, faculty from UON have facilitated at CARTA joint advanced seminars, faculty and administrators staff training.

Since 2008, CARTA has been pursuing the goal of re-launching African universities as central actors in the production of rigorous high-quality research for Africa's development. The African-led nature of CARTA and its focus on sustainable, measurable changes in research capacity and output are in tandem with the current emphasis on home grown and intellectually sound solutions to the problem of sustainable capacity for research for health and development in Africa.

The meeting was co-hosted with African Population and Health Research Center. [VF](#)

Scholars, business magnates convene at AIBUMA conference 2017

The University of Nairobi's School of Business held the 8th African International Business and Management (AIBUMA) conference.

The theme of the July 20, 2017 conference, which brought together key players in the world of business, was "Business in the 21st Century: Managing in Uncertainty." More than 25 papers were presented.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said that the conference convened to provide an opportunity to corporate personalities, scholars, students and practitioners to interact and share ideas on various topical issues.

The Dean, School of Business, Dr. James Njihia noted that the AIBUMA conference provided an international platform for academia, business, professionals, government officials and the public to exchange ideas on how to manage uncertainties in business and management.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Chris Kirubi, who is also a prominent investor, challenged the youth to take up entrepreneurship opportunities instead of waiting for employment. "I am here to inspire you to become drivers of industrialization," said Dr. Kirubi.

The broad aim of the AIBUMA 2017

annual conference is to provide an international platform for academia, business, professional, government officials and the public from all over the world to exchange ideas on how to apply global best practices in business and management in emerging economies.

AIBUMA is an annual event that began in 2010 and seeks to showcase academic research as well as provide a forum for business leaders and practitioners to share their experiences with a view to bridging the gap between the industry and the academia. [VF](#)



Participants follow proceedings during the 8th African International Business and Management (AIBUMA) conference.

Varsity hosts Peace Conference targeting student leaders



Student leaders drawn from various universities in Kenya take part in Universities for a Sustainable Culture of Peace and Security conference.

The University of Nairobi hosted the 2017 Universities for a Sustainable Culture of Peace and Security conference for university student leaders to enable them become ambassadors of peace and security. The two day Conference held on May 24-25, 2017 at the main campus drew participants from 50 public and private universities. The conference was hosted UNESCO/UNITWIN. Speaking during the opening ceremony, the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair Prof. Judith Bahemuka noted that universities have been recognized for promoting a culture for peaceful co-existence and to ensure the community has responsible citizens. Universities are central to peace building and sustainable security through engagement in critical research that

bridges the gap between research, policy and practice and the development of a curriculum to address peace and security. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi observed that one of the challenges facing our universities and the country in general is radicalization of youth. He said the output of radicalization is extreme violence, and at times terrorism. "This is an area where universities have to vigorously counter, with knowledge, technology and determination, all attempts to radicalize our youth in order to secure our country and national institutions," said the VC. He noted that the other challenge is the increase in cyber crime. The Vice Chancellor observed that the pain experienced by ordinary Kenyan citizens due to cyber bullying, misguided information, and down-right stealing of funds from banks

and other financial institutions can be minimized if the universities, particularly the students, can play their part.

"The most valuable resource that we have is our students. It is critical then that universities move away from looking at our students as a problem, but rather, as an asset, a great strength and a major resource for leadership and transformation of the Kenyan economy," said Prof. Mbithi. He challenged the students to realize that they are critical

thinkers, dynamic and energetic members of the University fraternity, and it was out of that conviction that the University of Nairobi had convened the conference.

Other speakers at the conference called for youth to be engaged in peace and security given their high social competence, flexibility, exuberance and ability to challenge leadership. It was noted that students are great communicators and problem solvers, and thus they have a positive influence in the community.

The Conference drew expertise from university chancellors, the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, UNESCO, and the Office of the President. VF

UNITID to offer taught PhD courses

The University of Nairobi's Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID) will offer taught PhD courses.

"We are now focusing on getting faculty graduates with PhDs through cutting edge research that will lead to innovations and patents. We continue to apply for research grants and scholarships for this," said Prof. James Machoki, Director, UNITID.

Prof. Machoki was speaking at a meeting where the Vice-Provost for Global Affairs, Washington University, Jeffrey Riedinger, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi on May 23, 2017.

The discussions focused on identifying areas for further partnership. The two universities have been in partnership since 2010 on the just concluded PRIME-K programme. The programme allowed students pursuing medicine to acquire hands-on clinical experiences using expert patients and simulation models. In addition, the faculty was trained in clinical teaching, and new educational approaches have been rigorously evaluated to promote the most effective methods university-wide.

Prof. Mbithi said the two leading universities are working on global issues that affect humanity and that

was a commendable move. "We need research that will have an impact on the communities around us," he said.

Prof. Riedinger expressed the need for partnership that will have a strong global impact. "The partnership and research thereafter will be around innovation, health, business, law, climate change among other disciplines," he said.

The two universities will utilize their strengths to expand their impact and reach. They have been working on training of doctorate students, doing cutting edge research, developing patents and protecting them via copyrights, and getting training grants. [VF](#)



Prof. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice-Provost for Global Affairs, Washington University and Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.

Staff attend CARTA's capacity building training



Delegates who attended 2017 Faculty and Administrators (FaS) training workshop at University of Rwanda, Kigali.

A University of Nairobi team attended 2017 Faculty and Administrators (FaS) training workshop under the auspices of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA).

The training, which is the 7th FaS workshop since CARTA's inception, was held from 16-20 July 2017 at the University of Rwanda, Kigali. It was aimed at strengthening capacity of staff in CARTA-member universities in research management, governance and information technology, among others.

The other participating institutions were University of Rwanda, Makerere University, University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Witwatersrand, University of Malawi, Moi University, APHRC, INDEPTH, IFAKARA, Agincourt, and KEMRI Welcome Trust Research Programme.

The topics covered by the expert speakers were: understanding the roles of the different university functionaries, the role of research in the wellbeing of African universities, understanding institutional

challenges with research capacity, building leadership capacities and research governance. Group discussions were done in focus groups to enable sharing of experiences and best practices within functional areas.

Participants were tasked to choose a challenge that is a priority that they could work on during the group discussions and implement in their home institutions. The University of Nairobi team committed to strengthen structures of mentoring and training postgraduate students and early career researchers.

The University of Nairobi team that attended the FaS workshop comprised Prof. Lydia Njenga, Director Graduate School, Mr. Christopher Moturi, Director ICTC, Mr. John Orindi, Director Corporate Affairs, Mrs. Rosemary Omwandho, Assistant Registrar Office of DVC (RPE), Ms. Elizabeth Gachithi, Senior Accountant Grants Office, Mr. Silas Katam, Procurement Officer, Prof. Mutuku Mwanthi, Co-Focal Person, Dr. Rose Opiyo Faculty and Dr. Ann Khasakhala, Focal Person.

The workshop was concluded with a

visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial Museum as a reminder of what happens when leadership fails.

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) is a south-south partnership with south-north collaboration established in 2008. CARTA is jointly led by the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya and the University of Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa. The consortium was formed with a mandate of establishing the vibrant African academy able to lead world-class multidisciplinary research that impacts on population and health.

The CARTA programs offer well thought out approaches to building and strengthening the capacity of African universities to enable them produce world-class researchers, research leaders and scholars, strengthening human resources and university-wide systems critical to the success and sustainability of its programs at affiliated universities through workshops for non-academic staff members who support research and postgraduate programs in their line of duty. **VF**

Varsity boosts WTO accessions initiatives

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, and the School of Economics of the University of Nairobi held the first Regional Dialogue on WTO accessions in office.

The meeting held from 28 to 30 August 2017 in Nairobi targeted four WTO observers (Comoros, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) who were urged to accelerate the process of accession to WTO.

The conference presented a platform to exchange experiences and lessons learned from the accession processes in the region, reflect on ways in which WTO membership can foster regional integration and cooperation and mobilize support for facilitating and accelerating African accessions. Other countries (China, Liberia, Oman, Yemen and Seychelles) that joined WTO

recently, were also represented at the conference. They shared their accession experiences and reflected on ways in which WTO membership can foster regional integration and cooperation.

The University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said the University is ready to make its contribution using both theoretical and empirical research approaches to articulate issues confronting multi-lateral trading system and generate useful knowledge that can help nations to work together in reaping the benefits of international trade using their comparative advantages.

"I believe we can work together with WTO and other state actors present here to address these challenges through capacity building, research and reporting and through outreach programmes by articulating our regional perspectives to the rest of the world and influencing national

policy adaptations to WTO," he said.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohammed said that the government will provide technical expertise to the four countries, which are in the process of being admitted to WTO.

"Accession to WTO by African countries is crucial for regional and continental integration process. Accelerated regional integration will increase intra-Africa trade which currently stands at 12% compared to Europe at over 60%," she said.

UoN's School of Economics in collaboration with WTO has been instrumental in coordinating various training programs in Regional Trade Policy for the English speaking Africa countries. Towards the end of 2009, the School of Economics was awarded the WTO Chair for the Eastern Africa region. [VF](#)



Delegates at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Regional Dialogue Accessions take a group photo.

Pictorial



1. Dr. Lilac Osanjó - Director, School of Art & Design interacts with potential students at the UoN Open Day 2017.
2. Chinese Billionaire Jack Ma, signs the visitors book at the University of Nairobi. Looking on is from left is ICT Cabinet Secretary, Joe Mucheru, UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, UoN Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi.
3. Students and members of the public follow proceedings during the Institute of Human Resource Management career fair held at the University of Nairobi.



4. President Uhuru Kenyatta engages the University of Nairobi Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi before laying the foundation stone for the construction of Koitalel Samoei University College, a constituent college of UoN.
5. A member of staff leads participants in a jig at the IDADA 2017 celebrations held at the University.
6. Students drawn from various Kenyan universities undergo induction after successful completion of the Heros for Change programme by Unilever.

School of Medicine celebrates 50th anniversary

The University Of Nairobi's School of Medicine celebrated 50 years since inception at a colourful ceremony held at the College of Health Sciences on July 29, 2017. The peak of the occasion a dinner was hosted at the Chandaria Auditorium, Main Campus.

Speaking during the event, Moi University Chancellor Prof. Miriam Were urged medical practitioners to stay true to their calling and be more caring and ethical as they carry out their duties. She narrated the earlier days when the medical school was established in 1966 with only 28 students compared with the more than 500 students currently.

The medical school has grown over the years and has secured global partnerships that have contributed

significantly to the advancement of the medical practice in Kenya. The school has produced 10,000 Medics since its inception.

With increase in the use of technology, medical practice has improved tremendously. Medical practitioners, therefore, have to stay up to date with the latest technological advancement in the profession.

Prof. Peter Mbithi, the Vice-Chancellor, congratulated the School on their achievements as it marked 50 years. He urged the school to stay true to its course in producing holistic medical graduates who will plug into the country healthcare system.

Dr. Amir Thakrar, CEO, Avenue Healthcare, who is also the Alumni Chair, Medical School Chapter,

observed that Kenya has made significant advancements in the provision of healthcare in the continent and up to 40 African countries benchmark with the country. He said only 3% of the population are medical practitioners and urged them to be efficient in their field. He called upon medics to join the University of Nairobi Alumni Association and experience networking opportunities and job references.

Dr. Samuel Oroko, Chairman, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union, KPMDU, urged the University Management to establish medical centers of excellence to train expertise in the country. He observed that medics need specialized training to cope with the healthcare challenges and medical needs of Kenyans.

The 50 year celebrations were supported by Equity Bank, National Hospital Insurance Fund and the University of Nairobi, among other partners. VF



Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, cuts the cake at the 50th anniversary celebration of the School of Medicine. Looking on are Prof. P. Thairu, Prof. Miriam Were, Prof. Fredrick Were and Prof. Peter Odhiambo.

“The school has produced 10,000 Medics since its inception”

UoN sets pace in new ISO certification

The University of Nairobi has once again scaled new heights by becoming the only institution of higher learning to be awarded the new International Organization for Standardization (ISO) by Kenya Bureau Standards (KEBS). The certificate was received by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi on Wednesday, August 2, 2017.

The ISO 9001:2015 standardization, which has replaced the ISO 9001:2008, was awarded after a successful audit by KEBS. The new standard provides many benefits to the University, including better process integration, improved evidence for decision making, engagement of staff and students, improvement of customer satisfaction and improvement in credibility and image.

The key components of the new standard include its scope, quality policy, quality objectives, six main processes, 32 sub processes and 81 procedures.

“We must all conform to this. All University processes such as admissions, staff and student disciplinary cases, examinations, and graduations need to follow the guidelines,” said Prof. Mbithi. He said risk based thinking has been integrated into the Quality Management System (QMS) process. This will enable the University to take action to address any risks or opportunities the QMS may highlight.

The new standard is customer focused and hence institutions and organizations being awarded the standard have put great emphasis on ensuring customers are happy. ISO 9001:2015 certification marks the fifth major revision of the University Quality Management System.

Speaking on behalf of the Managing Director, KEBS, Director Quality Assurance, KEBS, Mr. Eric Chesire, said the customer focused standard will bring immense benefits to the University.

At the meeting comprising of deans, directors and heads of departments from the central administration signed their 2017/2018 performance contract, in line with the 14th cycle performance contracting guidelines which resonate with the public expectations, demonstrate progressive achievement of Vision 2030 targets, benchmarks with international best practices and is fully aligned to the University strategic plan and approved budgets.

Since 2005, the University of Nairobi, through the University Council has been signing performance contract with the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The University is expected to achieve and surpass the set targets.

In order to carry out a comprehensive review, a QMS Review Committee was appointed by the University Executive Board (UEB). The Committee, chaired by the Deputy Management Representative,

Christopher Moturi, comprised experienced internal quality auditors.

Other members were Francis Juma (CBPS), Dr. Kenneth Kaduki (CBPS), Paul Kariuki (ICTC), Watitwa Masieyi (CBPS), Joseph Nguyo (CHS), Onserio Nyamwange (CHSS), Joseph Omollo (Administration), Dr. Ibrahim Otieno (ICTC), Prof. Florence Oyieke (SWA), Dr. Njeri Wachira-Towey (CAE), Beatrice Wanjala (Administration), and Lawrence Mulota (Administration and Secretary). **VF**



Mr. Eric Chesire, Director Quality Assurance presents the new ISO certificate by KEBS to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

WIPO gives Ksh 4.2M for intellectual property audit



Mr. Sylvance Sange, KIPI Managing Director, presents the cheque to Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro. Looking on from left are Prof. Madara Ogot and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Lucy Irungu (R).

The University of Nairobi has received Kshs. 4.2 million from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for an intellectual property audit. This is the first intellectual property audit to be done by a university in Africa.

"Following a proposal drawn by UoN's Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO) to WIPO through Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), WIPO has agreed to fund UoN's intellectual property audit," said Mr. Sylvance Sange, KIPI Managing Director, when he presented the cheque to UoN on July, 18, 2017.

"Academia has a lot of potential in creating and preserving knowledge. Creating knowledge has no

boundaries and I urge all students to take their student projects seriously as it could open immense opportunities for them upon completion of their studies," Mr Sange added.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, thanked KIPI for the support accorded to the university.

"This being the very first intellectual property audit to be done by a university in Africa is indeed a great achievement. The University of Nairobi has an intellectual property policy that established the IPMO office," said Prof. Mutoro who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor,

Research Production and Extension, Prof. Lucy Irungu said the audit of UoN's intellectual property will enable the University to tap from the vast wealth from the copyrights. "The University of Nairobi has many innovations and technologies that are yet to be commercialized. The findings from the audit will help us identify the projects in all the colleges," said Prof Irungu.

The IPMO Director Prof. Julius Mwangi also thanked KIPI for the support it has accorded the University. He said the audit will be a case study and a point of reference to other universities.

The Research Director, Prof. Madara Ogot said the audit is a major stride for the university. VF

CS Wakhungu challenges universities to find remedies to Nexus problems



Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, gives her remark during the forum. Looking on is Prof. Michael Adewumi, Vice-Provost Penn State University and Prof. Madara Ogot, Director Research at UoN.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Prof. Judi Wakhungu, has challenged universities to capitalize on their strengths and provide solutions to the global problems of food, water and environment, dubbed 'the Nexus', through a multi-disciplinary approach.

"Individuals, businesses and governments need to work together since at the heart of Nexus is understanding of interdependencies," said the CS. She further said the government has set in place various measures to address the challenges of water, food and environment. Key among them is developing and implementing policies on water to control irrigation, encouraging

the use of solar and renewable energy such as wind, geothermal and a national forest policy to grow and sustain a tree cover of 10%, use of biofuels and biomass to supplement energy usage.

With the population of Kenya growing rapidly, now approximately 45 million people, competition for natural resources will in future put a strain on water, food and the environmental resources, said the CS. "There is hence a need for conflict resolution mechanisms and design of good Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to resolve conflicts as communities fight for the scarce resources and to ensure good water utilization," added Prof. Wakhungu.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, pledged to support Nexus partnership that will focus on joint research, capacity development, and community engagement. He observed that no one university has the resources to solve the global challenges of climate change, water and environmental degradation and thus the need for collaboration. Prof. Mbithi was represented by Prof. Madara Ogot, Director of Research at the University of Nairobi.

Present also were Prof. Michael Adewumi, Vice-Provost Penn State University and Prof. Esther Obonyo, Professor of Engineering, Design and Architectural Engineering, Penn State University. [VF](#)

National Thought Leadership Forum take shape

The University of Nairobi (UoN) and the Nation Media Group (NMG) have established a partnership to organize and host the National Thought Leadership Forums at the University of Nairobi quarterly.

The objective of the forum is to promote quality discourse that provides solutions to Kenya's main challenges and enrich policy discussions. The strategic partnership between NMG and UoN is an initiative that will provide leadership in shaping national discourse on strategic issues like governance, resource management, security, food security, elections etc.

The inaugural event on food and water security was held on April 3, 2017. The panelists were Mr. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Mr. Willy Bett, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr. Jane Ambuko of UoN, and Dr Abbas Gullet, Secretary General Kenya Red Cross.

There was general consensus that the country needs to shift from overreliance on rain fed agriculture

and look for long term solutions that include: Research to develop drought resistant varieties and to produce quality seeds, construction of dams for water storage, adoption of innovative technology in agri-business, reduction of food waste and losses and improvement of farmers' access to credit and extension services.

Dr. Chris Kirubi, Chairman, Capital FM and CEO Brand Kenya, encouraged organizers of the event to host more discussions on issues that affect Kenyans. He also raised pertinent issues like the use of extension officers to help farmers, financing for farmers and the use of quality seeds. "Farming is business. We need to support our farmers to produce more food. We need the banks to support our farmers too. Lastly, we need extension services to help our farmers at the grassroots," he said

The second edition of Nation Leadership Forum on credible elections was held on August 8, 2017 at the Chandaria Auditorium. The Independent Electoral and

Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Chairman, Wafula Chebukati, was put to task on the commission's preparedness for the general elections that were scheduled for August 8, 2017.

The forum provided a platform for members of the public, private sector, media owners, religious community, the civil society, politicians and academia to discuss pertinent issues on elections. The panelists were Sumayya Hassan-Athman, the Managing Director, Azzure Kenya, Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, from the Institute for Development Studies, UoN and Joshua Boinett, Inspector General of Police. IEBC was advised to put more effort on political preparedness by engaging stakeholders.

Following the first forum, one of the cabinet secretaries was able to implement some of the recommendations from the first forum. The Ministry of Water initiated the sinking of a number of boreholes and irrigation projects to enhance food security. [VF](#)



National Thought Leadership Forums at the Chandaria Center for Performing Arts, University of Nairobi.

Prof. Magoha's autobiography launched

Former University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor Prof George Magoha's autobiography was launched at the University in a pomp and colourful ceremony presided over by Education Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang'i.

The book, *George Magoha: Tower of Transformational Leadership*, vividly captures the life and times of Prof. Magoha. He shares details about his formative years, including family life, his pursuit of education, his thoughts on transformative leadership, his tenure as UoN vice-chancellor and the lessons learnt. The don celebrates and acknowledges those who played a critical role in his life in the book published by East African Educational Publishers (EAEP).

Several speakers at the launch that took place on June 14, 2017 paid

tribute to Prof. Magoha's leadership acumen and style.

"I have the privilege of working with Prof. Magoha as the Chairman of the Kenya National Examinations Council where he is spearheading reforms. Prof. Magoha's outlook of life is different. He asks for output from the institutions he leads. Many people make reference to Prof. Magoha when it comes to transformational leadership. If we all serve our nation diligently, Kenya will have great achievements to boast about," said Dr. Matiang'i

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi challenged dons to relentlessly publish not only articles and book chapters in their area of specialization, but also to publish for a general readership.

"I salute Prof Magoha for taking up

the testy subject of leadership, and of servant leadership and breaking it down so that we appreciate it. I wish that we could all begin to apply some of the principles alluded to in the book. If we do so, then we will prove our worth not only as the university community but also as Kenyans," he said.

The book received commendations from former UoN Vice-Chancellors Prof. Crispus Kiamba and Prof. Francis Gichaga, the former Dean, School of Law, Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, the Director, Kenya School of Law, Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba, the Chief Executive Officer, EAEP, Mr. Kiarie Kamau, and the Chairman, EAEP, Dr. Henry Chakava.

The book is available at the University of Nairobi Bookshop, Textbook Centre, Prestige Bookshop, Savanis and other bookshops countrywide. [VF](#)



Education Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Fred Matiang'i officially launches the autobiography. Looking on are Prof. George Magoha and his son Dr. Michael Magoha.

University honours Prof. Okoth Ogendo

The University of Nairobi honoured Prof. H.W.O Okoth Ogendo by launching a book in his honour at a ceremony presided over by the Attorney General Prof. Githu Muigai on, May, 19, 2017.

Prof. Muigai described Prof. Okoth Ogendo as a brilliant academic who mentored several law scholars, including Prof. Yash Pal Ghai, Prof. Okoth Owiro, Dr. Ogola Bondi and himself. Prof. Muigai paid tribute to the late scholar, noting that his depth and understanding of the law was beyond measure.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi said the contributions by Prof. Ogendo to the legal fraternity are immeasurable. He observed that Prof. Ogendo was among the

finest law scholars Kenya has produced. The Vice-Chancellor's remarks were delivered by Prof. Henry Mutoro, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

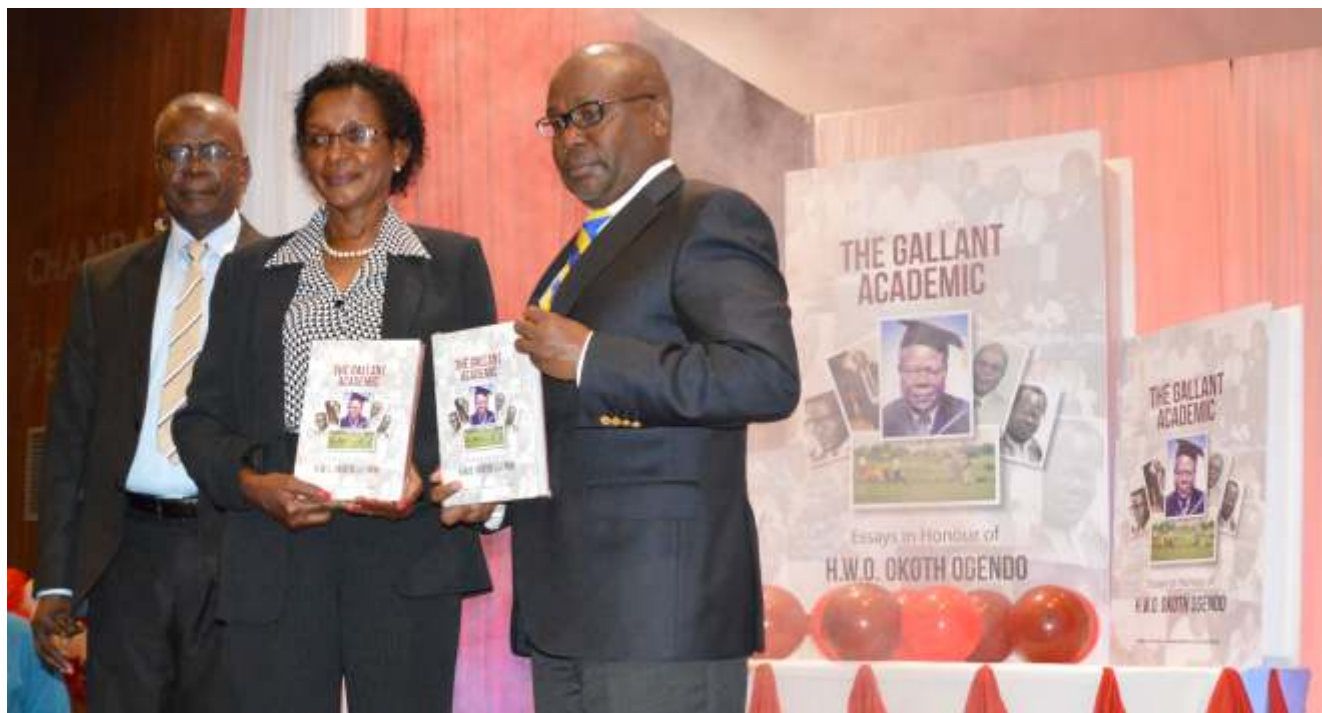
The public lecture on Prof. Ogendo was delivered by Dr. Dan Bondi Ogola, who narrated the difficulties and the challenges experienced during the negotiations that led to the signing of the Paris Agreement. Dr. Bondi spoke extensively on the dangers of greenhouse gas emission and how the developed economies have contributed to it. Efforts are now in place by the developed countries to reduce the emission of the gases that contribute significantly to climate change.

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, the

book editor, explained the journey towards publication of the book. She cited the various chapters of the book which include: Okoth the person; impact of Okoth's work on land use; governance issues; constitution without constitutionalism; land use issues and the appendix which includes Prof. Okoth Ogendo's CV.

Mrs. Winnie Okoth Ogendo thanked the law scholars, the university community, the various contributors and financiers for enabling publication of the book. She urged leaders to be servants first, then aspire to lead.

The book launch was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the University of Nairobi. [VF](#)



Mrs. Winnie Okoth Ogendo (Center) and Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai display copies of the book. Looking on is Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro.

French envoy applauds UoN on innovation



French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Antoine Sivan and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, exchange views during the meeting held at the University of Nairobi.

The French Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Antoine Sivan, has commended the University of Nairobi on her achievements in creativity and innovation.

“Creativity and innovation are the sole basis for scholar education for the new generation. It is also important to have a sustained interconnection between universities and industry. A student should be able to use that degree in a company,” said Amb. Sivan. He was speaking at UoN when he paid

a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

The ambassador said the French embassy is seeking to have Kenyan students secure internship opportunities in French companies operating in the country.

Prof. Mbithi said securing collaborations with industry is a key mandate for UoN. “There are renewed efforts in enhancing experiential learning at the university. We are keen in technology and innovation initiatives as they not only expose

our students to creative ideas but also encourage entrepreneurship hence job creation,” said the VC.

The Vice-Chancellor called for continued cooperation between UoN and French universities and companies.

Present during the meeting were the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Enos Njeru, Director, Center for International Programmes and Links, Prof. William Ogara, Director, UNES, Mr. John Kenduiwo, and Finance Officer, Peter Busienei. **VF**

Varsity marks International Day against Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The University of Nairobi joined the rest of the world in marking the International Day against Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (IDADA).

During the event held on June 23, 2017, UoN members of staff and students engaged in sports activities such as volleyball, football, netball and basketball. Various teams were awarded trophies.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, noted that the commemorative event was an appropriate recognition of the extraordinary progress made and an important reminder that the most profound challenge that still remains is to end the devastating vice in the society.

"To strengthen the set preventive activities, the University has developed a Student Assistance Programme (SAP) and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) whose specific activities include sensitization campaigns to create awareness, health education sessions, training (peer counselors/educators), guidance

and counseling, orientation of students, appropriate referrals when specialized service is necessary and active participation in ADA prevention activities organized by the ADA sub-units and ADA clubs," he said.

The University of Nairobi has a policy on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.

The key note speaker, Dr. Catherine Mutisya from the Ministry of Health, commended the University for her Commitment to fight the vice in the institution.

"It is important for the institution to continue sensitizing the students, staff and other stakeholders on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse," she said. "It is unfortunate that drug abuse and addiction starts as early as the age of 12 years. Research has shown that 50% of the addicts are youth. We need to encourage our children and colleagues to engage in healthy behaviour and lifestyles by engaging in activities such as sports."

The international theme for this year's celebrations, 'Listen First!' is a

clarion call to all to understand the effects and dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and also illicit trafficking

The Chief Medical Officer, University Health Services, Dr. M.R.B. Otieno, pointed out the efforts towards fighting ADA; peer counselors and Trainers of trainers (ToT) on call and sensitization programmes available.

During the celebrations, there was a processional march from Taifa Hall to the Chancellor's Court flagged off by Prof. Mbithi accompanied by the Kenya Police Band. Local gospel artiste Mercy Masika and various student dance crews entertained the crowd. Participants were sensitized on drug and alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS. UoN also offered testing services on HIV/AIDS, blood sugar checks, blood pressure and body mass index (BMI).

Some of the sponsors for the event included: National Authority for Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), TECNO Mobile, Coca Cola and Liverpool VCT. [VF](#)



The team from central Administration Department celebrates winning the overall title during the International Day against Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking games at the University of Nairobi.

USAID, UoN provide technical support to Health Ministry



The USAID and UoN team working on the project pay courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is working with the School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), University of Nairobi, to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health on health informatics project.

The collaboration follows the award of a USD 4.1 million grant on September 26, 2016.

A team from SCI, led by the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda and the Director, SCI, Dr. Agnes Wausi paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi on July, 28, 2017 to update him on the progress of the project.

The project leader, Prof. Peter Waiganjo, observed that the University was working with USAID

and Ministry of Health to implement the health informatics project, whose main objective is to support and enhance evidence based decision making through the use of health data at all health levels and by all stakeholders.

“USAID is keen on working with local institutions to assure sustainability of development projects. It is a great opportunity for the University of Nairobi to contribute further to this sector,” said Prof. Waiganjo.

The health informatics project has since incorporated the local county governments and local universities such as Maseno University and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology with the University of Nairobi being the focal partner. Plans are also underway to establish

an online learning platform for health workers.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi congratulated the team for securing strategic partners like USAID and the Ministry of Health, laying the foundation for data-driven decision making, building local capacity and incorporating research in the project. Prof. Mbithi urged the team to carry out impactful research that will change the lives of people. He challenged the team to develop and mentor young researchers.

The Health IT project falls under the University Enterprise and Services Limited (UNES), headed by Mr. John Kenduiwo, the Managing Director, who also accompanied the team. UNES is a key player in supporting University development and research endeavors. [VF](#)

A moment with Student Welfare Authority Director



Dr Jackson Maalu, Director SWA

The University of Nairobi, through Student Welfare Authority (SWA), has created efficient student services in order to provide the required support for academic activity and stimulate personal, social, cultural and cognitive development needed to for the student holistic development.

Varsity Focus spoke to Students Welfare Director Dr Jackson K. Maalu about the services offered by SWA, successes, challenges and future plans. Excerpts:

Question: From your career profile, it appears you've had a journey full of successes. Do you feel well-placed to steer SWA to new heights?

Dr Jackson: I have always believed in myself as a committed and reliable person who cherishes team spirit. My academic background is in business administration and I have an earned PhD in Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management from the University of Nairobi.

I have a vast experience in both academic and administrative worlds. Before assuming my current position, I was the University of Nairobi- Mombasa Campus Director from January 2012 to December 2016.

What are the core functions of SWA?

It offers catering and residential services to the students. Over the years, our services have grown and transformed to become a hospitality wing for the University and its community on cost-recovery terms; especially when having events and functions.

Tell us more about your catering services and meals.

Our meals are delicious and have been rated highly by our clients. We've hired professional caterers who are committed to ensuring that students have the best quality meals that come in a variety. Since we procure most of the food products from College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, our meals are so fresh and affordable. We recently reduced the prices by 25% for the students.

Reduction of cost has helped a lot, especially in reducing cases of students cooking in the hostels and thus ensuring the safety of students from fire accidents while in the campus.

How are you handling the ever increasing student population when it comes to providing quality accommodation?

With approximately 23,000 bed capacity against approximately 70,000 students, the student population far outstrips the development of facilities. However, strategies are in place to overcome this challenge.

We use Halls Accommodation Management Information System (HAMIS) to allocate rooms to the students. This system offers an opportunity to rationalize and give first consideration to students who have pressing needs. When booking halls, students indicate their

personal details. Accommodation is also given depending on the capacity of the halls and thus reducing cases of overcrowding, improves their hygiene and safety.

The system also ensures that the University conforms with the Commission for University Education (CUE) Regulation on student accommodation. In the long-term the University, through Advancement Office, is seeking partnership with investors through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to develop affordable and comfortable hostels for the students.

Are your accommodation services fully addressing the needs of students with disabilities?

The University has special rooms that cater for their needs. For instance, we have specialized washrooms and ramps. Requirements for students with special needs have all been taken care of to excellent levels.

With high student numbers, how do you manage the physical maintenance and appropriateness of the accommodation facilities?

It hasn't been a walk in the park, especially when the students go on a rampage. We sometimes spend much to restore the destroyed facilities and this affects our capacity to offer best services.

We are working together with the students and their student leaders to enlighten them on being the custodians of their facilities. We promptly do repairs and maintenance of the halls so that the rooms remain appropriate, safe, secure and comfortable. Presently, we have been conducting massive renovation of hostels, and also modernised facilities to keep up with developing trends of accommodation. VF

Executive board signs performance contracts

Members of the University Executive Board (UEB) signed their performance contracts with the Vice-Chancellor in the Council Chamber on July 21, 2017.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi urged the members of the UEB, which comprises the principals of the six colleges and the directors of the

Graduate School and the newly created ODeL Campus, to implement fully and surpass their targets in the 2017/2018 performance contract year.

Prof. Mbithi urged the team to work with zeal and make their clients happy. "Meet your targets and surpass. The difficulties are the opportunities. Make your clients happy, in this case the students, their parents and guardians

and the university will be successful. Do not complain; make use of the opportunities and excel."

Also discussed during the meeting are the challenges facing the University, such as frequent power and water issues. The members of the University Executive Board also adopted the recommendation of rewarding top researchers as agreed in the meeting with deans, directors of faculties, schools and institutes. UEB members agreed that the money will be used to create an endowment fund that will enable the University to reward its top scholars.

Following the successful negotiation of the return to work formula by the University dons after a strike over the implementation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), it was agreed that the management will negotiate with UASU officials on the lecturers making up for the lost time. [VF](#)



Prof. Horace Ochanda, Deputy Principal College of Education and External Studies and Prof. Winston Akala, Dean, School of Education after signing a Performance Contract. Looking on is Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi.

UoN crowned 'most social learning institution'

5th Annual OLX SOMA AWARDS

The University of Nairobi has been crowned the 'most social learning institution' in the OLX Social Media Awards

2017. Kenya Social Media Awards (SOMA) is a combined effort designed to identify opportunities, personalities, and organizations and celebrate the best on social media annually. SOMA has gradually grown since its debut in 2013 and each year it comes up with a new theme and unveils untapped opportunities in social Media.

UoN has been active in using its social media platforms to inform the members of the public. The University also uses social media as a medium of exchange and

interactions with students, staff, alumni, suppliers, professional bodies, government agencies, among others.

To enhance its service delivery and deal with customer complaints as required by the Commission for Administrative of Justice (CAJ) and the performance contract, the University of Nairobi has been at the fore front in responding to clients complaints via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The public is informed of the university programmes, events, innovations, research endeavours, scholarships and jobs. [VF](#)

Senior University managers appointed



DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

The University Management has appointed **Mr. Michael Mwareri Wangai** as the Acting Director, Directorate of Quality Assurance to replace the former Director, the late Dr. Owino Okwiri. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Wangai was a Quality Assurance Officer, Programmes in the Directorate of Quality Assurance Office at the University of Nairobi. Mr. Wangai is a M. A. degree holder in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi and is currently pursuing a PHD degree in Education from the University of Nairobi. Besides working at the University of Nairobi he has worked as a Quality Assurance and Standards Officer at the Ministry of Education.



DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

The University Management has appointed **Dr. Peter K. Nzuki** as the Deputy Director, Directorate of Quality Assurance. Prior to his appointment Dr. Nzuki was the Programme Coordinator, ODEL Campus, University of Nairobi. Dr. Nzuki has been a Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Department of Educational Studies at the College of Education & External Studies. Dr. Nzuki holds a PhD degree in Distance Education and a M.A degree in Education.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UONAA

The University Management has appointed **Mr. Kenneth Kimutai Sawe** as the Executive Director, University of Nairobi Alumni Association. Prior to his appointment Mr. Sawe held various positions in different organizations viz: Alumni and Volunteer Relations Director (YALI Program) at Deloitte Ltd, Communications and Marketing Manager at Kabarak University and Enrolment & Marketing Coordinator at KCA University., Enrollment Coordinator, Management & Student Affairs Department at KCA University as well as Operations Manager at the Family Bank. Mr. Sawe has a degree in Public Relations from Daystar University and he is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration at Kenyatta University.



ACTING REGISTRAR, ADMINISTRATION

The University Management has appointed **Mr. Peter Mwai Muturi** as the Acting Registrar, Administration with effect from July 31, 2017. Mr. Muturi who is the immediate former Public Relations Manager has served in the University Administration for close to 25 years. He is more closely associated with Performance Contracting in the University, having served as a member of Central Performance Contract Secretariat. In recent years, he has been a member of the University's Strategic Planning Taskforce. Mr. Muturi is a holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nairobi and a M.A. degree in Communication Studies, University of Nairobi.

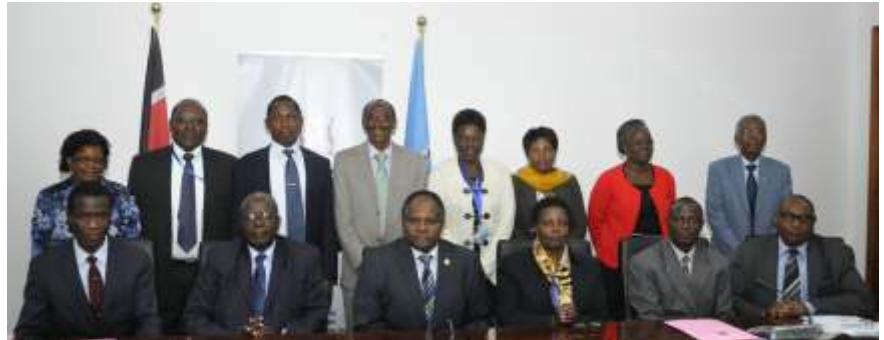
Varsity Focus wishes the new appointees all the best in their new duties.

ODEL and Graduate School boards inaugurated

The boards of Open Distance and e-Learning Campus (ODEL) and the Graduate School were inaugurated at a ceremony presided over by University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

Speaking during the ceremony held at the University on September 4, 2017, the Vice-Chancellor urged the two boards to start work immediately and help the University with its transformation agenda. The list of priorities of the two boards include enrollment of more international students, female students and students from marginalized communities.

"I look forward to a vibrant Graduate School with more publications and better curriculum. Graduate students should have a feeling that they belong. Teaching, learning and marking of examinations should be



The Graduate School board poses for a group photo after being formally inaugurated.

according to the statutes," said the Vice-Chancellor.

To create a cohesive team, the Vice-Chancellor urged the boards to carry out capacity building to help the teams bond, create synergy and achieve their mandate of producing quality graduates.

On ODeL, Prof. Mbithi noted that the new campus, which was created with approval of the University Senate, is

expected to grow and become as big as the other six campuses. He observed that the new campus will have to work extra hard to help the university generate revenue as the Government capitation has been on the decline over the years.

In order to attract students, the two boards are expected to 'make themselves relevant by efficient customer service that is appreciated by customers'. [VF](#)

Prof. Njeru elected PANGeA president

Prof. Enos Njeru, the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), has been elected as President of Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics (PANGeA).

Prof. Njeru was elected unanimously at the PANGeA board meeting to take over from Prof. Edward Kirumira, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, after the expiry of his term.

Members of the network are: University of Stellenbosch; University of Ghana; University of Yaunde; University of Makerere; Anta Diop University; University of Malawi; University of Dar es Salaam; Botswana University and University of Nairobi.

The network, whose secretariat is at the Stellenbosch University, runs a prestigious Doctoral Programme in the Humanities and Social Sciences. There are 14 University of Nairobi PhD candidates at the Doctoral Academy in Stellenbosch pursuing their degrees in Humanities or Social Sciences. The

network has also launched the Early Careers Fellowship Programme for young scholars with PhD. The University of Nairobi won 4 fellowships out of the 8 available

for 2017 fellowships. The Four fellows from the Faculty of Arts currently at the Stellenbosch University are Dr. James Orao, Dr. Theresah Mbatia, Dr. Elias Makori and Dr. Judith Jefwa. The University of Nairobi's Coordinator for PANGeA is Prof. Peter Wasamba, Dean, Faculty of Arts. [VF](#)



Prof. Enos Njeru with members of PANGeA after being elected the president of the network.

UoN choir shines at national music festival

The University of Nairobi (UoN) choir bagged 8 awards at the Kenya National Music Festival 2017.

The students' choir was crowned Best University in the festival and won the coveted Challenge Trophy. The UoN choir was number one in 5 other classes. Namely: the best overall music composition, the best arrangement pop tunes and melodies 'zilizopendwa gospel,' the best in mixed voices, the East African anthem, zilizopendwa from the rest of Africa, small choir class and the CBK composition class. In the special composition class, UoN took third position.

Presenting the trophies to the UoN Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, the choir director, Mr. Fred Atoh thanked the university management for the support accorded to the choir. "This team has shown commitment and dedication to making the choir a success. Despite the challenges the choir has faced, they have strongly held on and now we can clearly see the rewards of their hard work," said Mr Atoh.

Prof. Mbithi congratulated the team on the great achievement: "Indeed, you have flown the university flag high and we are proud of you. You went to the festivals and did great

things." The Vice-Chancellor added that the university will continue supporting the choir and its activities. He pledged to implement some of the requests made by the team.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro also congratulated the team. "I have always told you that you are a world class choir in a world class university. Congratulations. Continue representing us well."

The University of Nairobi competed against 16 other universities at the National Music Festival 2017 held in Kakamega. [VF](#)



The University of Nairobi Choir performs a jig in celebration of a big win at the Kenya National Music Festival 2017.

Rotary Club awards scholarships to five students



Dr. David Githanga, Rotary Club of Nairobi President, handing over scholarships to the Chancellor of University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi. Looking on is the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi has awarded scholarships to five University of Nairobi (UoN) students from the School of Business.

UoN Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, received the cheque of Kshs 175,000 on behalf of the University. The Chancellor thanked the Rotary Club for supporting needy students. "I am happy to see this initiative come to fruition. We thank you, our donors, for having the heart to give and for choosing to give to our students. I wish to invite you as our supporters to start an endowment fund with the University in order to raise more funds to support our students," she said.

Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Mbithi appreciated Rotary Club for the scholarships and support to the

University of Nairobi. "On behalf of the university management, we will endeavor to continue serving this University and country at large," said the VC.

The Rotary Club of Nairobi President, Dr. David Githanga, said the foundation is keen on offering scholarships to more UoN students. "We need to encourage the bright, needy students to apply and benefit from the scholarship opportunities presented to them. I am a proud alumnus of the University of Nairobi and it is indeed a great honour to support my alma mater. Indeed, around the world, alumni are seeing the importance of supporting their universities," said Dr Githaiga.

The Academic Registrar, Mr. B.M. Waweru, described the awarding

committee's experience during the scholarship application and selection process. "I wish to assure all that all applicants were given due consideration and the five students identified met the criteria. I wish to thank the club for their willingness to making some amendments to the signed memorandum of understanding so as to allow more students to apply in the future," said Mr Waweru. [VF](#)

“We need to encourage the bright, needy students to apply and benefit from the scholarship opportunities.”

- Dr. David Githanga
President Rotary Club of Nairobi

Geography students study Mau Forest destruction

The University of Nairobi Geography students visited the Mau Forest and witnessed firsthand the destruction of the indigenous trees and the devastating effects of climate change as the rivers dry up.

Accompanied by their Lecturer, Dr. Parita Shah, the students saw the locals cutting down trees and setting the forest a blaze. Once the forest is burnt, the land is used for agricultural purposes, such as growing potatoes and maize.

According to Dr. Shah, the burning of

the indigenous trees will accelerate the effects of climate change and the area will soon experience floods. The area is bound to experience biological weathering - weakening and subsequent disintegration of rock by plants, animals and microbes. Once the land is weak, cases of landslides occur.

The preservation of the Mau Forest is critical and this can be achieved by educating the local populace on the dangers of climate change.

Mau Forest is beautiful scenery for bird watchers and since the

destruction of the forest began, the birds have reduced significantly, hence denying the country income from tourism.

Unlike Karri Forest, which doesn't suffer from desertification, because of 'Friends of Karri' who have been in the forefront in protecting it, Mau Forest faces challenges. The forest has since been deforested up to 70%. Mau Forest also faces the challenge of parasitic weeds like Lantana Camara which feed on the few remaining indigenous trees.

In the recent past, University of Nairobi Geography students and Kenya Forest Services have planted trees in the forest. The visit to the Mau Forest is in line with this year's environment theme: 'Connecting people to nature.'^{VF}



Dr. Parita Shah and University of Nairobi Geography students during a visit to the Mau Forest to see the devastating effects of climate change.

Olympic Champions train University of Nairobi handball team

The University of Nairobi handball team was trained on handball defence, attack and scoring skills by World Olympic Champions, 2016, Denmark, led by their head-coach, Anders Thomsen.

Several other universities, including Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya (TUK), St. Paul University, and Nazarene University, joined the training session. The one day training clinic

was organized by Kenya Universities Sports Association, (KUSA).

Speaking during the training session, the Danish coach observed that Kenya has talented players, who need to be coached on defence and scoring skills to realize their potential.

"The only thing lacking in the Kenyan team is strategy. Once the Kenyan teams work on their structure and strategy, you should

be as good as any other world champion. I can see a lot of talent here," he said.

Denmark has produced world class players by having organized structure which the Kenyan teams lack. They begin by nurturing talents of school going children and developing their talents as they grow up.

The Danish team has started coaching high school students in Kenya to develop the handball talent. They have been working with Alliance Girls High School and Alliance High School. They have also coached students from Raila Educational Centre in Kibera slums.

The Olympic Champions plan to introduce beach handball in the country. [VF](#)



University of Nairobi handball team training by 2016 World Olympic handball Champions at the University of Nairobi grounds.

Mean Machine retains Kings of Rugby crown

University of Nairobi rugby team, Mean Machine, has won the Kings of Rugby trophy for the second consecutive time in a duel involving university rugby teams.

The first trophy was awarded to Mean Machine after they beat competing universities in the first series of Kings of Rugby' league played at Dedan Kimathi University, Nyeri. The team won the second trophy during the

Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) series last league in July 2017.

"Mean Machine is the best university rugby team in Kenya and we are proud of what the players have been able to achieve so far," said Mbaabu Mureithi, Director, Sports and Games, UoN. He said despite the challenges the team has faced, they have honoured all matches and continue to positively project the

image of the University.

The Director highlighted the lack of proper and sufficient kit, equipment and gym facilities as some of the challenges the team faces and hoped to secure sponsors to support Mean Machine.

"Rugby is getting more competitive in Kenya. We have clubs out there hunting for our players," said Rene Inyanga, the Mean Machine skipper. "We hope to get more support for the team because we are playing rugby with our basic skills for the love of it. As a team, we will soldier on," he added. [VF](#)



Mr. Mbaabu Mureithi, Director, Sports and Games receives trophies won by the University of Nairobi Rugby Team, The Mean Machine, after the team was crowned Kings of Rugby.

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- Konza Techno Cadastral Survey through the Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA)
- Study to establish the National Demand and Supply of Sugar 2014-2018 in Kenya through the Sugar Directorate of the Agriculture Food and Fisheries Authority (AFFA)
- Eldoret Industrial Park by ICDC
- Nairobi City County Development Control Policies to facilitate Implementation of the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Master Plan (NIUPLAN)



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President Jomo Kenyatta, First Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, signs the visitors book during a graduation ceremony at the institution. Looking on is Dr. Josephat Karanja, the Vice Chancellor. -File Photo



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Payment Modes

- One may opt to deposit the registration fee directly (cash, cheques and EFT) to the Association's Account 1108316638/271, KCB, University Way.
- M-Pesa payment system – Pay-bill No. 826300 A/C No. Name and Project being supported (e.g J. Mogaka-Annual /Bronze/Silver/Gold Membership)
- Check-off system – monthly deductions for staff in UON payroll.

Issuance of letter:

Acknowledging the payment and allocating membership number and category of registration.

 @AlumniUON  University of Nairobi Alumni Association

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