

# VarsityFocus

A magazine of the University of Nairobi

DECEMBER 2020

SOUVENIR COPY



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



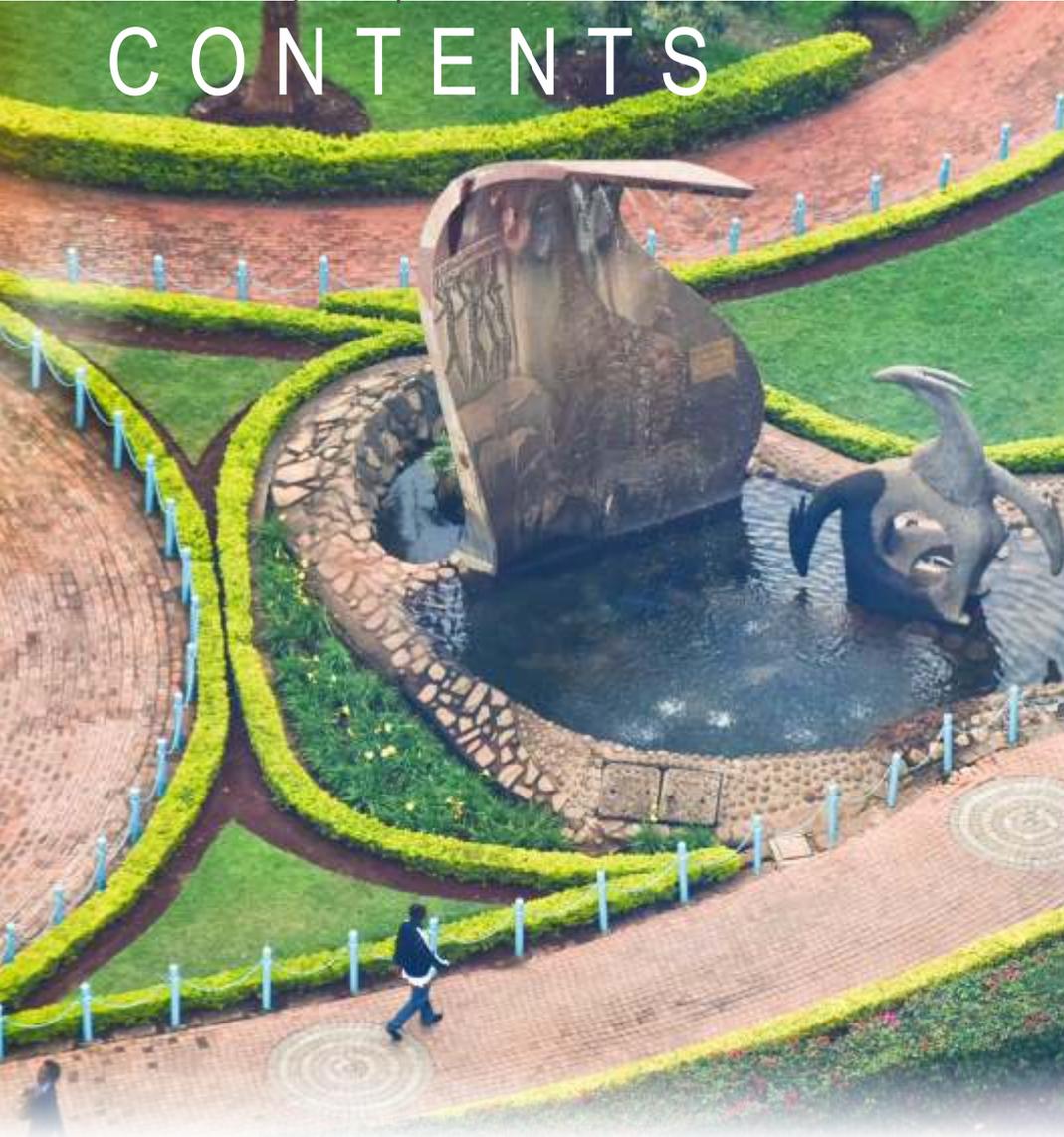
### **Our Vision**

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.

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# Editor's Note

Today we feel like a newly born child - we want to cry for joy, we want to breathe and fill our lungs with the Creator's free and fresh air so that as our lungs expand to the full, we may stand with our heads held high to survey the land which is our rightful heritage from our fore-fathers; to ponder its future and so prepare its present to ensure the soundness of its foundations which we lay today that will constitute our legacy to those who are still to come and for whom, therefore, we hold the present in trust - *Mr B.M. Gecaga, Chairman of Council at the Inauguration of the University of Nairobi and the Conferment of Degrees & Award of Diplomas December 10, 1970*



**John A.O. Orindi, mCIPR**  
**Director, Corporate Affairs**

**W**e have prepared this December issue of *Varsity Focus* in the spirit of celebrating 50 years since the University of Nairobi came into being after its elevation from University College Nairobi, which was one of the three constituent colleges of the University of East Africa. The University today represents the optimism that was expressed by the founding Chairman of Council, Mr B.M. Gecaga, on the occasion of its inauguration in 1970. Over the years, the University has been thriving due to the strong foundation put in place by the founders and propped by the injection of new ideas from the subsequent leadership. It is gratifying to know that UoN is now under the leadership of its eighth Vice-Chancellor and continues to function like a well-oiled machine, drawing upon its inbuilt resilience to weather many storms such as the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The lessons from the last 50 years show the recipe for success as consisting of a focused management, dedicated and loyal staff, and students who are proud of their University. The lessons show that even in the face

of the inevitable upheavals, everyone's good intentions have prevailed for the University to emerge even stronger and better. In the twenty-first century, the value of technology and collaborations cannot be gainsaid and hence these components will play a crucial role in the University's growth going forward. Therefore, as the University celebrates the milestones of the last 50 years, the greatest responsibility is to recalibrate and put in place a roadmap for the kind of legacy to bequeath the future generations.

*Varsity Focus* congratulates the University of Nairobi as it turns 50 and is proud to have the opportunity to document the challenges that became lessons and the achievements that are a sense of pride and the motivation to do even better. We look forward to a fruitful future for the University of Nairobi.

Happy holidays!



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WISHING YOU ALL A

*Merry Christmas*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Chancellor's Message

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The University of Nairobi is celebrating 50 years of teaching, learning, research, and service to our great nation and we do have plenty to be thankful for. I choose to celebrate the great men and women who laid the foundation for this institution and set it on its path. The Founding Father and First President of the Republic of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, not only gave his blessings for establishment of the University of Nairobi but also witnessed its actualisation and became the first Chancellor. I choose to celebrate those who believed in the dream, took the baton, and successfully delivered it to us. They include my predecessors, the late Mzee Daniel arap Moi, second President of Kenya; Mr Emilio Mwai Kibaki, Kenya's third President; and Dr Joseph Barrage Wanjui, renowned entrepreneur and businessman.



**Dr (Mrs) Vijoo Rattansi**  
Chancellor,  
University of Nairobi

I would also like to recognise the great effort of the University's governing councils from the first one under Dr B.M. Gecaga to the current one led by Prof. Julia Ojiambo. I thank the seven Vice-Chancellors who offered their dedicated service and contributed immensely to building the University for the current Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama Gitahi, to take it to the next level.

I would like to particularly commend our students and members of staff, both past and present, for their resilience and commitment to the University of Nairobi. I wish to thank friends of the University of Nairobi and well-wishers for supporting us on our journey and helping to make our load lighter. The immense contribution of the Government in ensuring the survival of the University is very much acknowledged. I would like to express our gratitude to the Gandhi Society, which has also been instrumental in the development of the University for the entire period since its establishment.

We still have a lot of work to do on our journey to attaining world class excellence. As we celebrate work that began 50 years ago, let us consider this as a break only in order to draw wisdom and some inspiration from history. As a University, achieving our goal of world-class excellence will require putting in more hard work hence my appeal to everybody to join us and do whatever they can to move us forward. We must not rest until we accomplish our goal.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UoN!

# Chair of Council's Message

I am privileged to be part of the University of Nairobi story, having graduated from this institution with a Diploma in Education during its nascent years. I am also proud to say that I have scored many firsts in this great institution and in the process contributed to its growth. I was the first African woman to be appointed as lecturer at the University of Nairobi as well as the first African woman to serve as Warden of University Women's Hall of residence. As we celebrate the University's fiftieth anniversary, I am honoured to be here serving as the Chair of Council; again as the first woman to hold this position in the institution. I wish to congratulate the University of Nairobi community as we celebrate 50 years of academic excellence and at the same time pay tribute to the first Chancellor, and also the Founding Father of the Nation H.E. President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, who went for nothing but the best quality academic product.



**Prof. Julia Ojiambo**  
Chair of Council,  
University of Nairobi

I would also like to thank those who have contributed to making the University the great institution that it is today now under the stewardship of the Chancellor Dr (Mrs) Vijoo Rattansi and the able leadership of the eighth Vice-Chancellor Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama.

The University of Nairobi has come a long way, but the remaining journey is much longer and perhaps more challenging than what is already covered. The celebrations marking 50 years bring back fond memories that we created with fellow students and later with colleagues in academia. The five decades of reforms at this institution have come with many achievements in teaching, research, development and consultancy and we are proud of where we are. Our challenge today is to prepare the ground for a greater future for those who will come behind us. The University has set its eyes on becoming a world class centre of academic and research excellence and we must begin to make that happen today. In another few years, our actions today will be revisited by the next generation trying to find their way. Let us leave a legacy that we can be proud of. Let us make the University of Nairobi more prosperous.

Thank you and God bless you all.

# Vice-Chancellor's Message

We have dedicated one year of celebrations to mark 50 years of existence of the University of Nairobi because of the significance of this milestone. First and foremost, this is a time to show gratitude to those who had the vision of establishing the University and laid the foundation for it. It is also a time for remembering those who believed in the vision of the founders and took up the daunting task of developing the University into the academic giant that it is today. However, we recognise that we still have a long way to go and must continue working.

Our interrogation of the past has shown that this University was established and developed by great men and women who made a lot of sacrifices to keep it moving. We salute them all. I would like, on behalf of the University of Nairobi community, to pay tribute to the first President of the Republic of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, who was also the first Chancellor of the University. He was determined that the University should succeed and pledged Government support and mutual cooperation in order for this dream to be realised. I am proud to say that with about 240,000 graduates produced over the last 50 years, the University continues to realise President Kenyatta's wish to produce high quality human resources for the country. Our graduates continue to influence many spheres of our country's development, not to mention the tens of thousands who have ventured into the international space and have made us proud. I would also like to thank our alumni for demonstrating their readiness to support their alma mater through the University of Nairobi Alumni Association during the last 15 years.

Following in the footsteps of the founding Chancellor are two former Presidents H.E. Daniel Arap Moi and H.E. Mwai Kibaki; industrious entrepreneur and businessman, Dr Joseph Barrage Wanjui; and our current Chancellor Dr (Mrs) Vijoo Rattansi. I would like to thank them all for their leadership and guidance which has contributed to the university's



**Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama, PhD.**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

track record of success. During the last 50 years, the University has also benefitted immensely from the wisdom and dedicated work of eight Council Chairs and their teams with the current Chairperson being Prof. Julia Ojiambo, whose own growth is closely tied to that of the University. Similarly, the University has been served by seven astute Vice-Chancellors before me. I have had the privilege of working under some of them and can attest to their ability.

“I thank our alumni for demonstrating their readiness to support their alma mater through the University of Nairobi Alumni Association during the last 15 years.”

The 50 years celebrations remind us that it is our time to provide the shoulders for others to stand on as they move the University to the next level. We have a duty to build a legacy that will propel the University to world-class excellence in addition to achieving vibrancy and sustainability. Work is already going on in this direction especially buttressed in my five-point reform agenda. I am aware that expectations are high not only from our students and their parents, but also the University staff, the country, and the world at large. Times

are gone when the University could get away with being an ivory tower and hence we shall continue to seek ways of being relevant to all our stakeholders and to work with them in achieving our common goals.

# Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Over the years, the University has undergone purposeful, decisive, and aggressive transformational change, which has enabled it to ensure that the physical capacities, quality and availability of staff, and relevance of academic programmes are in sync with the ever-increasing demand for access to higher education.

The University's organisational structure has four deputy Vice-Chancellors in charge of the four existing divisions of Academic Affairs (AA); Finance, Planning, and Development (FPD); Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE); and Human Resource and Administration (HRA). Until 2018, the divisional heads in place were Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration & Finance; Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension); and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs). In 2019, the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance) was divided into two such that the roles of Finance, Planning and Development were placed under one office while the roles of Human Resource and Administration became the responsibility of a different office. The office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) which provided support services to students throughout the University was dissolved. The office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production, and Extension went through a name change to Research Innovation and Enterprise (RIE).



**Prof. M. J. Hutchinson**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ag.),  
Finance, Planning & Development

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Finance, Planning and Development (DVCFPD) is the head of the FPD Division whose functions include management of finance, assets, and development plans of the University. The current Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVCFPD) in acting capacity is Prof. Margaret Hutchinson. The departments under this Division are Finance, Internal Audit, Procurement, Planning, ICT, and Construction and Maintenance.



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

The office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs (DVCAA) is responsible for supporting the work of the academic staff, whose teaching, advising, and scholarship brings the academic programme to life. The current Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs is Prof. Julius Ogeng'o. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs oversees the University curriculum and new curricular initiatives; academic staff hiring and promotion; and support for teaching. The office is also in charge of the administration of all academic departments and programmes, the library, and offices within the Academic Affairs division. The Academic Affairs Division is made up of the following sections: Academic Registrar's Office, Examinations Office, Admissions Office, and Deans/Senate Secretariat.



**Prof. Enos Njeru**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ag.),  
Human Resource & Administration

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Human Resource & Administration (DVCHRA) is the Head of Administration of the University whose functions include management of personnel matters. The current DVCHRA, who is holding the office in acting capacity, is Prof. Enos Njeru. The departments falling under this office are Administration Department, Legal Office, University Health Services, Security and Safety, Transport and Garage, and Estates.



**Prof. Horace Ochanda**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Ag.),  
Research, Innovation & Enterprise

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Enterprise steers and manages research, innovation and enterprise activities, supported by the Research Development and Advisory Board. The Acting DVCRIE, Prof. Horace Ochanda, is in charge of the Division. The departments within this division are Intellectual Property Management Office, Library Services; Quality Assurance; and Science Park.

# Governance and Management



## Five Chancellors



**Dr Vijoo Rattansi**  
(2013-to date)



**Dr Joseph B. Wanjui**  
(2003-2013)



**H.E. Mwai Kibaki**  
Third President of the Republic of Kenya  
(2002-2003)



**H. E. Daniel T. Arap Moi**  
Second President of the Republic of Kenya  
(1978-2002)



**H. E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta**  
First President of the Republic of Kenya  
(1970-1978 )

# Eight Council Chairs



**Prof. Julia Ojiambo**  
(2018-to date)



**Dr. Idle Omar Farah**  
(2013-2017)



**Dr. John Simba**  
(2004-2013)



**Prof. David P.S. Wasawo**  
(1999-2004)



**1Prof. Sam Ongeri**  
(1995-1998)



**Mr. Lawrence Sagini**  
(1983-1995)



**Mr. William Odongo Omamo**  
(1980-1983)



**Mr. B.M. Gecaga**  
(1972-1979)

# One Principal, Eight Vice-Chancellors



**Prof. Stephen G. Kiama**  
(2020-to date)



**Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi**  
(2014-2019)



**Prof. George Albert O. Magoha**  
(2005-2014)



**Prof. Crispus Makau Kiamba**  
(2002-2005)



**Prof. Francis John Gichaga**  
(1991-2002)



**Prof. Philip Muinde Mbithi**  
(1985-1991)



**Prof. Joseph Maina Mungai**  
(1978-1985)



**Prof. Josephat Karanja**  
(1970-1978)



**Dr Arthur T. Porter**  
(Principal)  
(1964-1970)



# Celebrating 50 Years of Academic Excellence

This year, the University of Nairobi (UoN) is marking its golden jubilee since becoming the first public university in Kenya on July 1, 1970. The University owes its origin to developments in the higher education sector in Kenya and the East African region that created an opportunity for its establishment. After 50 years of existence, UoN has taken the time to reflect on the past and share its distinguished record of achievements in teaching, research, and consultancy. Of course, there were turbulent times, but coming out stronger to lay new strategies for a better tomorrow is perhaps one of the greatest lessons gained during the last five decades.

The University has recorded a tremendous increase in student enrolment, and as would be expected, produced more trained human resources than any other institution of higher learning in Kenya. In the 1970/71 academic year, UoN had about 2,580 undergraduate and 184 postgraduate students. Today, the university has over 65,000 students with 414 programmes to choose from. We have 87 bachelor's degree programmes, 218 programmes at master's level, and 109 programmes at PhD level. Over 240,000 graduates have passed through the University's system and carry the mark of quality that has distinguished UoN as a centre of academic excellence.

## Early beginnings

The idea of an institution for higher learning in Kenya goes back to 1947 when the Kenya Government drew up a plan for the establishment of a technical and commercial institute in Nairobi. By 1949, this plan had grown into an East African concept aimed at providing higher technical education for the region. In September 1951, a Royal Charter was issued to the Royal Technical College of East Africa and soon afterwards the foundation stone of the college was laid in April 1952.

As these events were happening, the Asian Community of East Africa was also planning to build a college for the arts, science, and commerce as a living memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. To avoid the duplication of effort, the Gandhi Memorial Academy Society agreed to merge their interests with those of the East African governments. The Gandhi Memorial Academy was incorporated into the Royal Technical College of East Africa in April 1954 and the college proceeded to open its doors to the first intake of students in April 1956.

Soon after the arrival of students at the college, the nature of higher education in East Africa came under scrutiny. Through the recommendation of a working party formed in 1958, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London Sir John Lockwood, the Royal Technical College of East Africa was transformed to become the second university college in East Africa on 25 June, 1961 under the name Royal College Nairobi. The Royal College Nairobi was renamed University College, Nairobi on 20 May, 1964. Upon attainment of 'University College' status, the institution began preparing students for bachelor's degrees awarded by the University of London, while also continuing to offer college diploma programmes.

The University College Nairobi provided educational opportunities in this capacity until 1966 when it began preparing students exclusively for degrees of the University of East Africa, with the exception of the Department of Domestic Science. In 1968, the institution started offering postgraduate programmes.

With effect from 1 July 1970, the University of East Africa was dissolved and the three East African countries went ahead to establish their own separate national

Universities. This development saw the birth of the University of Nairobi set up by an Act of Parliament. Following subsequent reforms in the higher education sector in Kenya, the University of Nairobi is now a body corporate established under the Universities Act 2012 of the Laws of Kenya and the University of Nairobi Charter.

While forging ahead with its own growth, UoN has also midwived the expansion of the higher education sector in the country by 'donating' academic staff and chief administrative officers to firm up the foundation of other institutions. From Kenyatta University College in the 70s and 80s to Koitaleel Samoei University College today, the UoN has participated actively in the establishment of eight other institutions of higher learning.

### UoN Expands

Resulting from its rapid expansion and the accompanying administrative challenges experienced, UoN put in place a major internal restructuring programme in 1983 which culminated in the decentralisation of the administrative function. This move saw the creation of six campus colleges headed by principals. The restructuring created the following colleges:

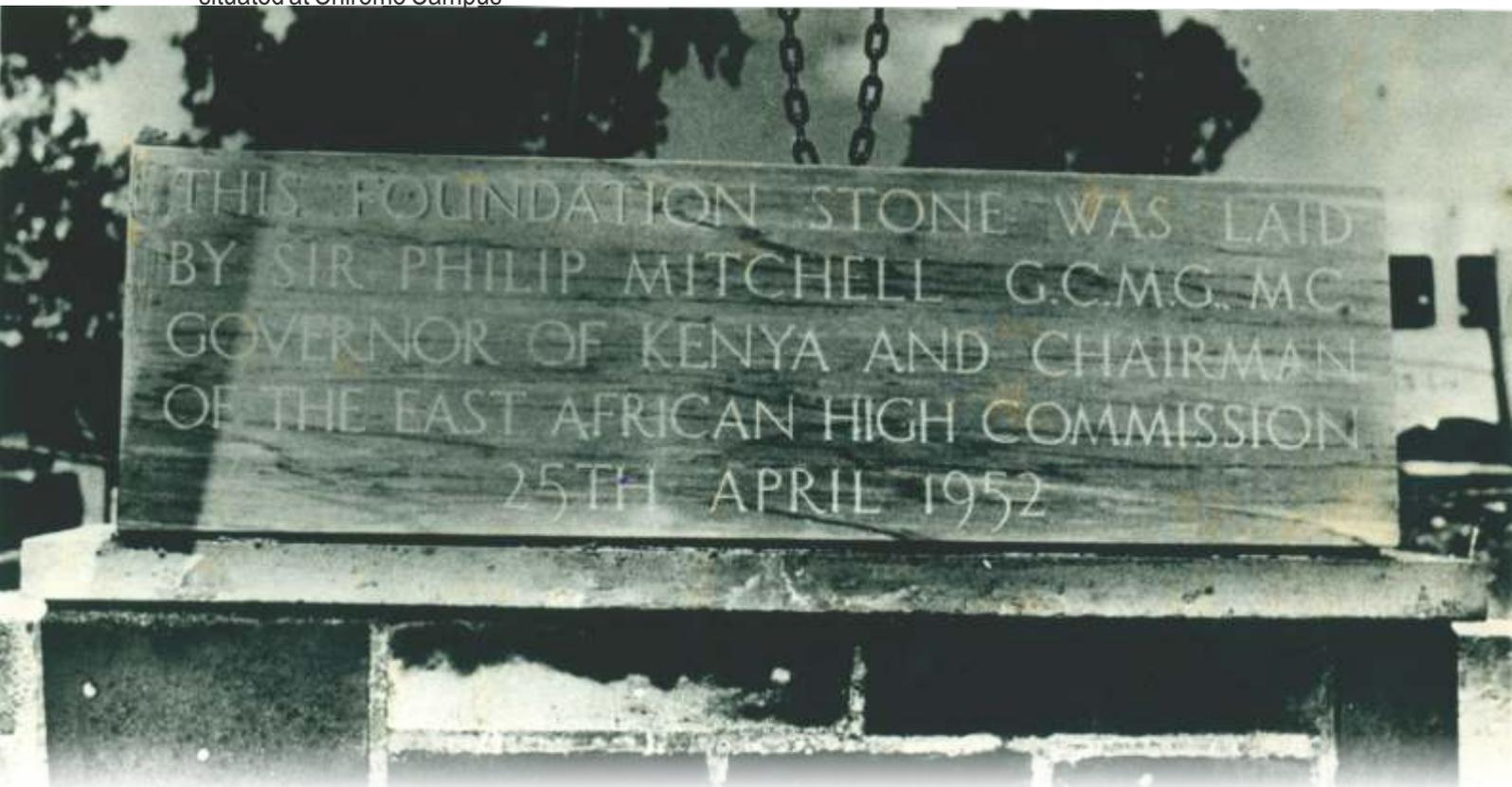
- College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences situated at Upper Kabete Campus
- College of Architecture & Engineering situated at the Main Campus
- College of Biological & Physical Sciences situated at Chiromo Campus

- College of Education & External Studies situated at Kikuyu Campus and Kenya Science Campus
- College of Health Sciences situated at the Kenyatta National Hospital Campus
- College of Humanities & Social Sciences situated at the Main Campus–Faculty of Arts; Parklands Campus–School of Law; Lower Kabete Campus–School of Business.

In 2015, the Open, Distance and eLearning (ODEL) Campus was established to mainstream the integration of modern technologies into teaching and learning at the University. ODeL provides enhanced access to quality education and training to students not only from Kenya but also across the world.

### Module II Programme

An innovative development in the University's mode of delivery of education and training was the introduction of the Module II programmes in 1998. The Module II programme proved to be a major turning point in the higher education sector by opening up an invaluable opportunity for hundreds of qualified students to access university education. The programme targeted those who had ordinarily met university admission requirements but were unable to secure admission due to the restricted intake into the regular programme which was determined by limited government funding.



1952: Foundation stone of the Gandhi Wing Building at UoN Main Campus.



### **An expanding postgraduate programme**

The Graduate School, which coordinates the postgraduate programmes at UoN has remained committed to ensuring the provision of quality and relevant graduate education. The postgraduate studies programme began with about 20 students in 1968 but this number now exceeds 14,000 students enrolled in over 300 programmes across the University.

### **Changes in leadership**

The first UoN chancellor, who was inaugurated in 1970, was the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first President. In 1978, Kenya's second President, the late Mzee Daniel Arap Moi was installed as the second chancellor. As the country's third President, Mwai Kibaki, however chose to deviate from tradition by appointing private citizens to the position of chancellor in all public universities. Dr Joseph Barrage Wanjui was therefore appointed as UoN's third chancellor in June 2003. It was not clear at the time how the new chancellor would fit in the University set up or even what his role was going to be. Dr Vijoo Rattansi is the fifth and current chancellor of UoN and has the distinction of being the first woman at the helm of the University's leadership.

In another unprecedented move in 2005, the UoN became the first public university to appoint a Vice-Chancellor through a competitive recruitment process. Traditionally, the chancellor who was also the head of state, would appoint the Vice-Chancellors of public universities. Dr Wanjui changed this practice by engaging the University Council, Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders in

identifying a process that would offer the highest probability of finding the right candidate in a credible and transparent manner. The position of Vice-Chancellor was advertised and Prof. George A.O. Magoha became the first Vice-Chancellor of a public university to be appointed through a competitive recruitment process. This has become the accepted method of appointing Vice Chancellors in public universities in Kenya.

### **Identifying new strategies for growth**

Dr Wanjui introduced some fundamental changes in the spirit and administration of the University aimed at achieving efficiency. In April 2005, the University launched a five-year Strategic Plan (2005 to 2010) under the theme 'A leading African university with true international character.' The management also launched a service delivery charter and introduced performance contracting and a system of employee performance appraisal in 2006. As a start, the university management oversaw the organisation of intensive training for change management and pursued ISO certification which was attained in 2008 among other reforms all of which were guided by the University's Strategic Plan.

Well, the commitment and hard work did pay off because in 2012 the University of Nairobi not only emerged tops in the State Corporations category, but also managed the feat of scoring "Excellent", to become the only state agency to manage that score since the government introduced performance contracting in the 2004/2005 financial year.

### International links

UoN continues to promote and be involved in international scholarly undertakings. Currently the university has over 1,350 collaborations and links with organisations from all over the world. Over the years, UoN has hosted a number of distinguished visiting professors and researchers from international universities.

### Our alumni, our strength

On 5 February 2005, the University of Nairobi Alumni Association was launched. After 15 years, the association has 17 faculty- and region-based chapters. To date, UONAA has donated a total of KES 23 million to the University of Nairobi Bursary Fund that has benefited over 3,000 students. In addition, UONAA has also established a KES 1 billion Endowment Fund with a very impressive forward-looking plan.

### As UoN turns 50...

As UoN turns 50, the enormous challenges facing the University cannot be wished away. The obvious challenge of providing quality education and research against the diminishing resources is a critical one. In the current globalised world dominated by new information technologies, the University continues to provide high quality and cost-effective education to meet the changing learning, teaching, research and management needs.

During its 50 years of existence, the University of Nairobi has spearheaded numerous successful initiatives geared

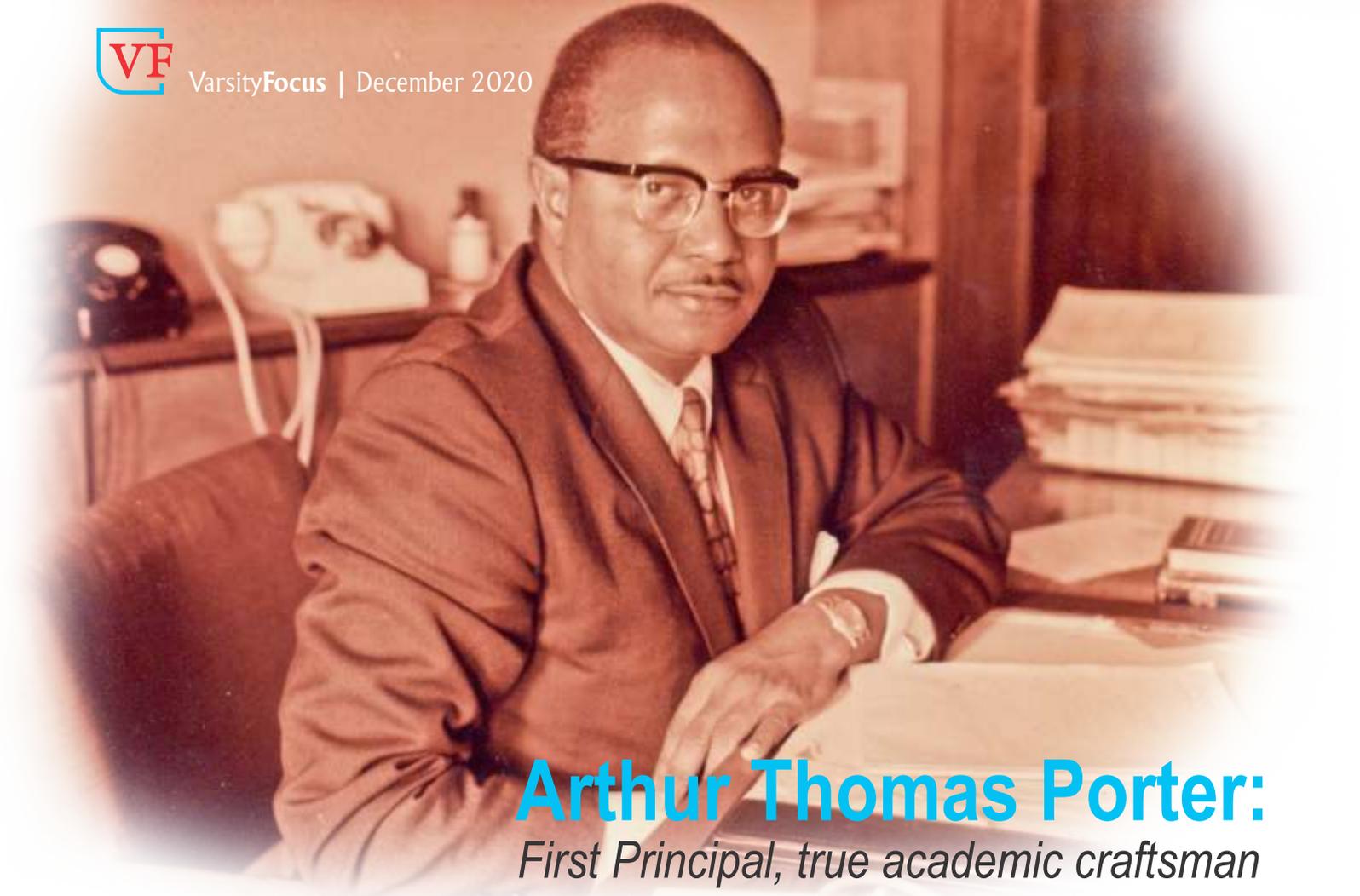
towards finding solutions to the country's development challenges. In addition to the development of high quality manpower, the University of Nairobi has continued to support research that contributes to knowledge enhancement and acceleration of the country's socio-economic progress. Research by the University of Nairobi has also positioned the country favourably with the rest of the world in the quest for scientific and technological progress. The deployment of the First Kenya University Nano Satellite Precursor Flight (1KUNS-PF) in 2018 by researchers from the College of Architecture and Engineering and the medical breakthroughs and ongoing research on HIV/Aids and the novel coronavirus at the College of Health Sciences are only some of the University's achievements in research. The various colleges have continued to contribute to the deliberate determination by the University to excel in academia and also move with the rest of the world in addressing society's challenges such as poverty, food insecurity and climate change, among others captured under the banner of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development frameworks.

The celebration of 50 years is an indication of the UoN's commitment to work towards a greater future guided by the core values of freedom of thought and expression, good governance, care, partnership and teamwork, innovativeness and creativity, and above all, excellence.

**Viva UoN!**



**2012:** President Mwai Kibaki presents the University of Nairobi Charter to the Chancellor, Dr Joseph Barrage Wanjui (C), at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). Looking on is Minister for Education, Prof. Margaret Kamar (L) and the Chairman, Commission for University Education, Prof. Crispus Kiamba (EL). Next to Dr. Wanjui is Chairman of Council, Dr Idle Farah (R) and Vice-Chancellor Prof. George A.O. Magoha (ER).



## Arthur Thomas Porter:

*First Principal, true academic craftsman*

**A**rthur Thomas Porter is largely credited for laying the foundation for academic excellence that has defined the University of Nairobi to date. Dr Porter was the founding Principal of University College, Nairobi, which later became University of Nairobi. He was so passionate about his work, meticulous, and determined to the extent that his name was almost synonymous with the very ideal of excellence that he sought to achieve for the college.

Born on 26 January 1924 in Freetown, British Sierra Leone, Arthur Thomas Porter joined the University College, Nairobi in 1964 on invitation by the governing Council of the college and approval by the Kenya Government. He served until June 1970 when his contract expired, which is also the same time that the University of Nairobi was being established. The government of Sierra Leone had also requested his return home so that he could offer service to his country.

The commemoration of UoN at 50, would be incomplete without a mention of the man who steered the institution through a monumental phase of development amidst many challenges. Over the years, various UoN scholars and administrators have described in glowing terms the different attributes of Dr Porter. The late Professor Thomas R. Odhiambo of the ICIPE fame once referred to

Dr Porter as 'an academic colleague who is a centre of excellence in himself'.

While complimenting Dr Porter for his exemplary work at the helm of the college, during the 1969 graduation ceremony, the former Chairman of Council of University College, Nairobi, Mr B. M. Gecaga, stated that Dr Porter was admirably suited to undertake the crucial and challenging task of steering the course of the craft of the young University College towards full autonomous university status.

'I know I speak without fear of contradiction when I say that any future Principal will find that this College's foundations have been laid by a true academic craftsman, and that each brick has been placed firmly upon the next brick with the meticulous care of a master builder that is Dr Arthur Thomas Porter', said Mr Gecaga.

Before joining the University College, Nairobi, Porter was the Vice Principal of Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone. A historian by training, he had risen through the ranks including serving as the head of the department of history at Fourah Bay. Upon his return to Sierra Leone from Nairobi, Dr Porter served as Vice-Chancellor of University of Sierra Leone and later pro-chancellor of the same institution. The development of the College during

Dr Porter's tenure included infrastructural expansion; growth in student numbers; recruitment of academic staff of high calibre including East Africans; introduction of new faculties and the expansion of existing ones; and increased recognition of University College, Nairobi within the international academic community as a quality institution of higher learning. All these and other manifestations stand out as an eloquent tribute to Dr Porter's outstanding work and immeasurable contribution to the University that we have today.

Those who interacted with Dr Porter both at work as well as socially describe him as a man who approached problems with the highest principles, absolute devotion to duty, abundant resourcefulness, and open mindedness. Those who met him were charmed by his intelligence and sense of humour. These facets were echoed in the tributes and eulogy, during his funeral in 2019.

In June, 1970, the University held a farewell party in Taifa Hall to honour Dr Porter. The celebration was reported in the *Daily Nation* newspaper of 5 June 1970, which described the 'lavish praise of his ability as a principal educator and an important developer of education in Kenya, as students and lecturers bid him farewell.' The

president of the students' union at the time, Mr Y. Adhola remarked that as Dr Porter's exited, an era of objective and impartial leadership was being closed. Adhola invited Dr Porter to visit the university often, in order to keep abreast with developments in the institution that he had so ably helped to build.

In 1994, the University awarded Dr Porter an honorary degree in recognition of his exemplary work as the founding principal of the University College, Nairobi. He was described in the citation as 'a pioneer scholar and the son of Africa who had achieved great academic status both at home and abroad.' Professor Francis John Gichaga who was the Vice-Chancellor at the time confirms that the award was received in absentia.

A recurring theme in Dr Porter's speeches during various functions at the college was the need for relevance and excellence. In 1965 for instance, he stated that, 'we know that without excellence in every field that is advanced by teaching, our day as free Africans shall soon be done, for our very freedom will depend on the quality of our teaching and learning.'

On another occasion in 1967 he said, 'we must be a service institution fully responsive, within the limits of our capacities, to the needs of Kenya and East Africa. Our



*Dr Arthur Thomas Porter (C) with Peter Nazareth, Secretary of the Gandhi Society and other members of the society at a function.*



*Dr Porter with an unidentified guest.*

basic evaluative criteria are relevance and excellence.'

In 1969, during his last graduation ceremony as Principal, Dr Porter said,

“ *In pursuit of our two criteria of relevance and excellence, plans are now afoot for establishing closer working links, and strengthening them, where they already exist; between our professional faculties and organisations and institutions in both the public and private sectors engaged in the applied and practical aspects of development. These are the consumers of our graduates, and it is both their right and duty to point out to us any identified weaknesses in our graduates.* ”

Dr Porter remained committed to academic excellence, and intellectual freedom, as aptly captured in the *University Platform* newsletter which quoted his last message at the farewell party, 'The task before us, wherever we may be is the same; to build our nation and to achieve our cultural independence.'

Arthur Porter may have been a serious academic and administrator, but he was also a man who possessed appropriate wit, as illustrated in one of his remarks to students captured in the June 1970 edition of the *University Platform*. He said, 'There are two things more difficult than a reply; one is to climb a ladder which is leaning towards you and the other is to succeed in kissing a girl who is leaning away from you.'

Arthur Porter died in Canada on 26 March 2019 slightly over one year to the fiftieth anniversary of the University whose foundation he had so diligently crafted. He was 95. Those who came after him have continued to build upon the firm foundation that Dr Porter established during his time.



Here is an institution of the highest importance, integrating into the life of our Republic. There must in the future be no mutual isolation of the university body and the executive centre of national design and decision. There must be the fullest use of resources within the University so as to secure the fruit of intellect and technology within the framework of our nationhood. I am confident that this university will abundantly justify the hopes and sacrifices of our people. **Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, First President of the Republic of Kenya, speaking at the Great Court in his capacity as Chancellor of UoN during its first graduation as an independent university on 10 December 1970**

The University of Nairobi and our other institutions of higher learning, have an important part to play in developing the KENYA WE WANT. The Kenya We Want is a country which is developing, in a viable and sustainable manner, for the benefit of all its citizens: a country which is democratic and united and in which basic freedoms and human dignity are guaranteed: a country in which our valuable traditions are respected and promoted: And a country which actively participates in African and International affairs. This is the image that leads me to continuously urge the people of Kenya to uphold the principles of unity, love for our country and one another, and peace.

**Former President Daniel T. Arap Moi, the second President of the Republic of Kenya and second UoN Chancellor on 24 November 1978 during the ... graduation ceremony at the Great Court**

To the youth, use your energy productively by opposing those who are busy destroying the environment under the guise of development. Good governance is crucial to sustainable use of the environment and hence international peace as the environment knows no boundaries- **The late Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate at a public lecture in Taifa Hall on 19 November 2004**

Looking out at this crowd of young people, I have faith that you will fight this fight too. You will decide if your leaders will be held accountable, or if you will look the other way. You will decide if the standards and the rules will be the same for everyone regardless of ethnicity or of wealth. And you will determine the direction of this country in the 21st century – whether the hard work of the many is lost to the selfish desires of a few, or whether you build an open, honest, stronger Kenya where everyone rises together. This is the Kenya that so many who came before you envisioned - all those men and women who struggled and sacrificed and fought for the freedom you enjoy today. I know that honoring their memory and making that freedom real may seem like an impossible task - an effort bigger than you can imagine - but sometimes all it takes to move us there is doing what little you can to right the wrongs you see. **Former US President Barack Obama when he spoke at a public lecture in Taifa Hall during his visit as Senator of Illinois on 28 August 2006**

I noticed the sign as I was driving into the university, "This is a corruption-free zone," and I think that the goal of the university and the young people here – civil society, many members of the private sector, and of course, reformers within government at all levels – is to expand that zone to cover the entire country and to provide the opportunity for people to have a chance to go as far as their hard work and talents will take them. **Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State during a town hall meeting in Taifa Hall on 6 August 2009**

Just like this university, Kenya has a considerable number of other seats of learning. I believe this demonstrates the importance attached to education in your country, and I can only add that one can sense the great opportunities awaiting Africa in the future. Like their peers all over Africa, Kenya's young people want to seize these opportunities. They are committed to, and want to be actively involved in, the development of their country. **German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel during a public lecture in Taifa Hall on 12 July 2011**

Kenya has made great strides since independence. Every Kenyan, young or old has a special responsibility to make this country better. I call upon the youth to take their rightful role as leaders rather than being used as pawns by politicians. Kenyans need to embrace the "I can make it" spirit which calls for people to be active in choosing all their leaders and take charge of how they will be governed. **Luis A. Ubiñas, former Ford Foundation President when he gave a public lecture in Taifa Hall on 12 November 2012**

Progress in the education sector from primary, secondary to university in the last few years has contributed immensely in unlocking the potential of Kenyans right across the country. The gains so far, recorded, however, do not

automatically translate into a modern state with decent living standards for all. So far, the leadership of this country has done what has been within its ability and reach with regard to getting Kenyans to the Promised Land. However, a lot still remains undone. My hope is that each of us in this country will play their part fully and faithfully especially in the area of creating both jobs and wealth, be it with and from our natural or imported resources. We must also embrace innovation, especially in industrial technology on a national scale in order to up our ante in our endeavour to transform our country. That way, we are sure to bring about a broad change of fortunes for the good of all. The future is very promising. And we can do it. **Former President Mwai Kibaki, the third President of the Republic of Kenya, at a public lecture in Taifa Hall 2 December 2013**

I urge University students who are the ultimate beneficiaries of projects like the UoN Towers to maintain and uphold discipline, and jealously guard the image of your brand. I also urge members of staff to be diligent and professional in keeping with their calling and in discharging the responsibility that this nation has placed on them to produce a wholesome product. I also urge the University Community to provide innovative ideas, through your Science Park and research, to help us in confronting various problems affecting our country. **President Uhuru Kenyatta, the fourth President of the Republic of Kenya, at the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of UoN Towers on 26 August 2014**

The reason I purposely came to speak at a University is because I believe that education is key, and universities are frontiers in combating extremism. I challenge you all to come up with new ideas and strategies. What Europe needs right now are university discussions that will come up with solutions. I challenge the staff, students and the general public to be leaders everywhere they are instead of being followers. The youth have potential to build a new world. **His Excellency Matteo Renzi, Prime Minister of Italy at a public lecture delivered in Taifa Hall on 15 July 2015**

Here in the heart of this University where minds and hearts of new generations are being shaped, I appeal in a special way to the young people of the nation, let the great values of Africa's traditions, the wisdom and truth of God's word and generous idealism of your youth guide you in working to shape a society which is ever more just, inclusive and respectful of human dignity. **Pope Francis I, when he visited Kenya and celebrated mass at the Chancellor's Court on 26 November 2015**

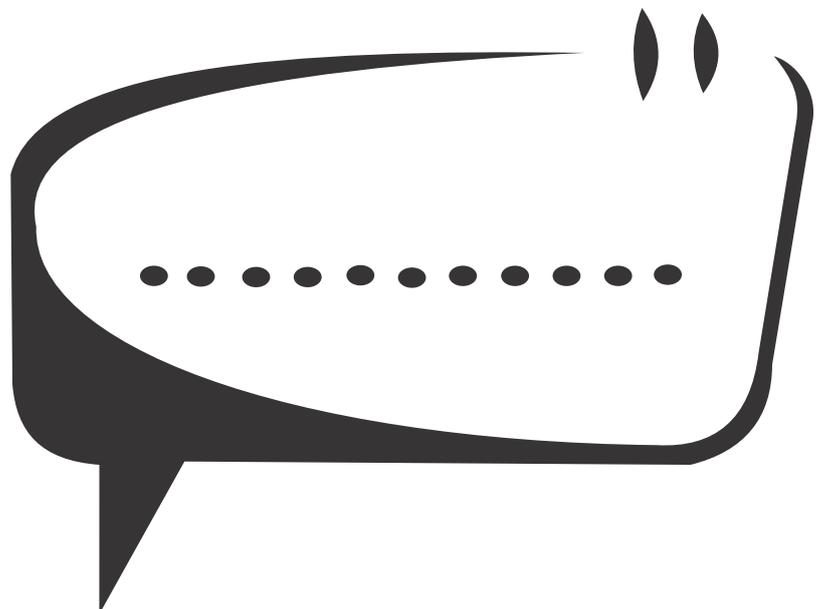
You are the pride of this land and represent Africa's tomorrow. Your aspirations, ambitions and actions will not only shape the direction and

destiny of this great country but also guide the march of this great continent into a future of prosperity. When I see your young, eager and intelligent faces, I know why. Generations of political leaders, engineers, scientists, social activists and artists have passed through the doors of this seat of learning. **Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, when he delivered a public lecture in Taifa Hall on 11 July 2016**

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 to survive the failures and rejection. If you make a mistake, if you fail, never give up. There are many opportunities out there. **Jack Ma, Chinese entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of Alibaba Group at a public lecture in Chandaria Auditorium 20 July 2017**

As a member of the economic elite, we risk losing everything if we do not listen to the voices of change and have the people at the center of change. The young people have an important role to play as our engines of change. **Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation, when he gave a public lecture at Taifa Hall on 10 January 2019**

The challenges facing the nation are not unique and can be overcome through global partnerships. You may think that you have more challenges than we have in France. Challenges are common. By coming together we can write a different story for our countries and our world. This is one of the key emerging countries with a lot of hope. This is a youthful country and I can feel the energy even in this room. **H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, during a town hall meeting in Taifa Hall on 14 March 2019**



# The 1970 Graduation

The University of Nairobi held its first graduation on Thursday 10 December 1970 at the Great Court in a ceremony presided over by Mzee Jomo Kenyatta; Kenya's founding president and the University's first Chancellor. It was also during this occasion that President Jomo Kenyatta was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*). Among those who witnessed the historic first UoN graduation were the Chairman of Council at the time, Mr. B.M. Gecaga; Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephat Karanja; and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bethwell Ogot.

The inaugural graduation undoubtedly brought a sense of pride and great joy to the graduands, their families, and friends. For the University of Nairobi and the country, the unprecedented occasion signaled the beginning of a new era in higher education not only in Kenya but also East Africa as a whole. The presence of President Kenyatta to preside over the inauguration of the new university was an acknowledgement of the fact that Kenya had come of age to independently chart her own course in the development of high-level human resources to steer forward the country's development. The President's installation as Chancellor was an endorsement of the capability of the University of Nairobi to carry this enormous national responsibility while also fulfilling the aspirations of the Kenyan people. In his speech, President Kenyatta reiterated the importance of the university's intellectual mission for the country by stating thus:

*Here is an institution of the highest importance, integrating into the life of our Republic. There must in the future be no mutual isolation of the university body and the executive centre of national design and decision. There must be the fullest use of resources within the University so as to secure the fruit of intellect and technology within the framework of our nationhood. I am confident that this university will abundantly justify the hopes and sacrifices of our people.*

On behalf of the University, the Vice-Chancellor accepted UoN's new responsibility, set the tone, and placed the University on its journey into a future whose goal was also clear. Prof. Karanja said,

*We are obliged to design a system of education that will help to promote social change and contribute to rapid economic growth, not only by training educated manpower needed for specific tasks of development, but also by creating proper attitudes of mind in our people.*

At the ceremony 494 graduands were conferred degrees and awarded diplomas of the University of Manchester, University of East Africa, and University of Nairobi. Four PhD degrees and seven master's degrees were awarded. From the University of Manchester, the Teachers Certificate was awarded to 12 students.

The degrees conferred and diplomas awarded from the University of East Africa include Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Arts in Building Economics, Bachelor of Arts in Land Economics, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Postgraduate



**1970:** First President of the Republic of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, getting ready for installation as UoN's first Chancellor on the occasion of the first graduation on 10 December 1970. Assisting the President is Chairman of Council, Mr B.M. Gecaga.

Diploma in Education, and Diploma in Fine Art.

The degrees conferred and diplomas awarded from the University of Nairobi were the Bachelor of Philosophy, Diploma in Advanced Nursing, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Meteorology.

Five decades later, the University has prepared over 240,000 graduates to take part in the country's development. About 60,000 more are in the pipeline as UoN continues to pursue more relevance of its graduates for the market. The University is also well on its way to becoming a world-class academic and research institution. This was the vision and counsel offered by the first Vice-Chancellor when he said,

*My call to all University men and women is to uphold the cause of reason wherever they go, to do whatever they set their hands. To uphold reason, not as a sole or sufficient answer, but as an indispensable part of that better Kenya, better Africa, and better world we wish to bring about. If we can do all this, both in the University and in our professions and callings beyond, then the promise for the future which the present holds is bright indeed.*

The Varsity Focus Team wishes UoN a Happy Fiftieth Anniversary.



*1970: The first University of Nairobi graduation ceremony on 10 December during which 494 graduands were conferred degrees and awarded diplomas of the University of Manchester, University of East Africa, and University of Nairobi.*



*1970: President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, flanked by Chairman of Council, Mr B. M. Gecaga (L) and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephat Karanja (R) during the first UoN graduation on 10 December.*

# From the colleges

## CAE

College of Architecture  
& Engineering

The College of Architecture & Engineering, more commonly referred to as CAE, is proudly associated with the establishment of the University of Nairobi. When the Royal Technical College of East Africa (RTCEA), a precursor of the present day University of Nairobi, opened its doors to the first batch of students in 1956, they were admitted to the faculties of Engineering, Architecture and Art, and the Department of Surveying. The College of Architecture & Engineering was later created from these units through the University of Nairobi Act of 1985.

The vision of CAE is to be a leading centre of professional training in creativity, innovation, and design. We are driven by the mission of training top notch professionals in the disciplines of engineering, technology, design and the built environment through teaching, research and technology.

Our mandate is to train a pool of professionals in the following disciplines: engineering, architecture, quantity surveying, valuation, property and facilities management, land management, construction management, planning, nuclear science, and art and design. We would like to see professionals in these fields embrace critical thinking and creativity in their approach to research aimed at providing solutions to the needs of society. Presently, CAE offers a variety of courses in the

academic disciplines of engineering, the built environment, design, and nuclear science technology. The college has 49 programmes at diploma, undergraduate, masters, and PhD

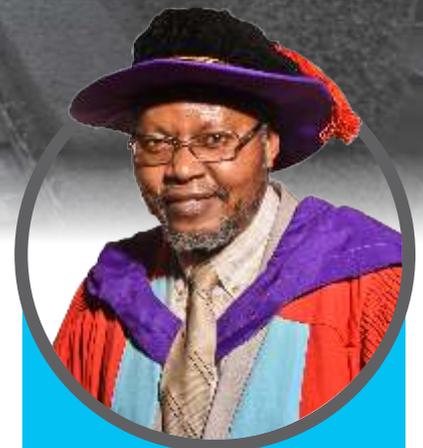
levels. We offer STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as art-based courses all of which are vital for national economic and technological transformation including the achievement of Kenya's Big 4 Agenda and Vision 2030.

### About CAE

The college consists of three schools and one institute:

1. School of Engineering (SoE)
2. School of the Built Environment (SoBE)
3. School of the Arts & Design, (StAD) and
4. Institute for Nuclear Science & Technology (INST)

The Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (INST) is the only one of its kind in Eastern Africa offering training in the nuclear sciences.



*Prof. Robert Rukwaro,  
Principal (Ag.) CAE*

*Student distribution at the College of Architecture and Engineering during 2019/2020 Academic year*

	<b>SCHOOL/INSTITUTE</b>	<b>DIPLOMA</b>	<b>BACHELORS</b>	<b>MASTERS</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	School of Engineering (SoE)	-	2814	149	46	3009
	School of the Built Environment (SoBE)	47	2149	212	17	2425
	School of the Arts & Design (StAD)		378	21	5	404
	Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (INST)	-	-	69	9	78
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>5341</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5916</b>

The college has 213 faculty staff and 164 non-teaching staff. The composition of the teaching staff consists of:

- Professors 13
- Associate Professors 25
- Senior Lecturers 44
- Lecturers 71
- Assistant Lecturers 2
- Tutorial Fellows 44
- Graduate Assistants 16

**Collaborations**

The College has established collaborations with various government agencies:

- National Water and Conservation
- National Pipeline Corporation
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- Ministry of Energy and Petroleum
- Climatic Change Resource centre at the Kenya Department of Meteorology
- County Governments of Nairobi



*Early days: Students in a Mechanical Engineering Workshop*



- County Government of Kitui
  - County Government of Tharaka-Nithi
- We have also signed MoUs with other institutions across the world.

**Recent Milestones**

1. On May 11, 2018 Kenya became the first sub-Saharan African nation to deploy a nano-satellite into space. The satellite, which was launched in Japan is named 'First Kenya University Nano Satellite' (1KUNS). It was developed at CAE's School of Engineering.
2. The college established two new degree programmes, namely Bachelor of Interior Design in the School of the Arts; and Bachelor of Science in Petroleum and Chemical Engineering in the School of Engineering.

**Our links to society**

1. The First Kenya University Nano Satellite has the potential of expanding the country's access to space and opportunities for exploration. The satellite will make it possible to conduct crucial activities like environmental monitoring, weather forecasting, crop monitoring, forest management, and wildlife tracking.
2. CAE contributes significantly to the realisation of Kenya's Big 4 Agenda in relation to enhancing manufacturing and affordable housing which form part of the core deliverables of the College.
3. CAE is contributing to healthcare improvement through the manufacture of ventilators and

4. masks in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. The college produces expertise and research in the electrical and information engineering fields for Kenya's electrification project.
5. The roads and buildings construction industries benefit immensely from our graduates in architecture, civil and construction engineering, real estate, construction management, quantity surveying, and geospatial and space engineering.
6. The Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology is currently investing in research and capacity building which may result in the production of cheaper electricity generation through nuclear energy.

**Plans for the future**

1. Maintaining our leading position in Architecture, Engineering, Design, and Nuclear Technology
2. Achieving financial self-reliance and self-sustenance
3. Reviewing existing undergraduate and graduate programmes to attract more students
4. Marketing our programmes internationally
5. Enhancing compliance with all regulatory requirements
6. Strengthening our research infrastructure and facilities and building strong research teams
7. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector and government agencies
8. Enhancing our infrastructure by developing ADD2 and Engineering & Science Complex

# CAVS

College of Agriculture and  
Veterinary Sciences

## CAVS Technologies Control Food Loss and Waste in Kenya

It is estimated that 30 percent or 1.3 billion tons of the food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted every year thus threatening the food and nutritional security of millions of people. As a result, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Malabo Declaration of 2014 have set targets meant to encourage the reduction of food loss and waste globally and continentally. It is in light of this that a multi-disciplinary Postharvest Research team was established at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) to contribute to the ongoing efforts in addressing the problem of food loss and waste (FLW) in Kenya.

The Postharvest Research team is working with students to build their capacity as the next generation of 'soldiers' in the war against reduction of food loss and waste. Already, the research team has trained over 30 MSc and PhD students by involving them in various multi-disciplinary projects. The researchers are also involved in aggressive outreach and advocacy activities targeting farmers with tested technologies aimed at reducing food loss and waste. The multi-disciplinary team, which is led by Prof. Jane Ambuko (Horticulturist and Postharvest Specialist) also consists of a horticulturist (Prof. Margaret Hutchinson, the Acting DVC Finance, Planning and

Development); food scientists (Dr Catherine Kunyanga and Dr George Ooko); agronomists (Prof. George Chemining'wa and Dr Onesmus Kitonyo); agricultural economists (Prof. John Mburu); and agriculture engineers (Dr Duncan Mbunge and Mr Eliakim Mwachoni). The team members complement their different expertise in collaborative efforts to create awareness about the FLW problem, develop and promote applicable solutions to the problem, and build the capacity of practitioners in the food supply chains.

The team is also collaborating with other local institutions such as Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Some of the ongoing initiatives of the UoN Postharvest Research team are described below.

### All-Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition Series

The UoN postharvest research team, in partnership with other local and global institutions and the strategic support and funding from the Rockefeller Foundation



Prof. Rose Nyikal  
Principal (Ag.) CAVS



**Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition pose for a group photo at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa**



**A section of the organising committee and partners pose for a photo with Prof. Stephen Kiama (Vice-Chancellor, UoN)**

conceptualised and spearheaded the convening of the First All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE). The AAPHCE is a platform for creating awareness about FLW and showcasing sustainable solutions to address the problem in Africa. Following the successful first AAPHCE in March 2017 at the Safari Park Hotel, the African Union Commission (AUC) adopted it as a Pan-African platform to showcase solutions to the problem of food loss and waste, build partnerships, and monitor progress towards set targets for FLW reduction. Subsequently, the Second AAPHCE was co-hosted by UoN and the AUC in Addis Ababa in September 2019. The UoN was represented by the Vice-Chancellor (DVC, Human Resource at the time) who officially handed the baton of convening AAPHCE to the AUC. Plans are underway for the Third AAPHCE in September 2021.

As part of continued efforts to raise awareness about FLW, UoN recently partnered with SNV-Kenya, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO-Kenya), Ministry of Agriculture, and Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya (SOCAA) to host the United Nations First International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, which was marked on 29 September 2020 and will be marked on the same date every year.



**Mango fruits stored in a Coolbot cold room at the Karurumo Aggregation Centre**



**Mango fruit slices drying in a tunnel solar dryer at the Karurumo Aggregation Centre**

### **From the Lab to the Land**

The postharvest research team has been at the forefront of translating research outputs into tangible products to impact society such as 'from the Lab to the Land' initiative. Using support from the Rockefeller Foundation, the team has established smallholder aggregation centres equipped with low-cost cold storage and small-scale processing technologies which are outputs from their research. Farmers at Karurumo Smallholder Horticulture Self-Help Group in Embu County and Masii Horticultural Farmers' Cooperative in Machakos County are now able to aggregate their perishable produce under cold storage. This allows them to negotiate as a group for better prices from traders. In addition farmers can transform the perishable produce (fruits, vegetables, herbs, tubers/roots) into shelf-stable value-added products using the installed small-scale juice-processing unit and drying technologies. The agro-processing option helps the farmers to minimise food loss and waste and also reap greater profits from the processed products .

The UoN team has also partnered with the United Nation's World Food Program (WFP) to introduce low-cost cold storage technologies for traders at Kalobeyei Market in Turkana County. This initiative seeks to not only reduce food losses at the market level but also make nutritious food available to the vulnerable groups living in United Nations-supported settlements in Turkana County. These initiatives for technology scale-up will be spread to other counties as the team continues to engage with more development partners and county governments.

### Capacity Building in Postharvest Management

The postharvest research team recently established two facilities at CAVS in efforts to facilitate the adoption research-based technologies and good practices in postharvest handling and small-scale processing. The two facilities are the food processing hub and innovative cold storage technologies.

### Food Processing Hub

The Food Processing Hub has been established in a collaborative project called 'Strengthening African Food

Processors (SAP) to Reduce Food Losses', which is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation under the YieldWise Initiative. The goal of the collaborative project between UoN and Purdue University (USA) is to increase the availability and adoption of improved and modern fruit processing technologies to expand markets, reduce food losses, and improve nutrition in Kenya. Using the 'hub' and 'spoke' model, UoN serves as a hub to support the processing activities of spokes, which include farmer groups, youth groups, women groups, and private processors among others. This collaborative initiative is also supported by the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) through funding to the Consortium for Innovation in Post-harvest Loss and Food Waste Reduction, to which UoN is a member. The hub was officially commissioned on 30 October 2019 by the Acting Principal of CAVS, Prof. Rose Nyikal, in a ceremony that was also graced by Prof. Bruce Hamaker (the project Principal Investigator from Purdue University) and Mr. Amos Kioko (representing the Rockefeller Foundation). The ceremony was also attended by other partners from research institutions, county governments, Ministry of Agriculture, and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector.



*Prof. Jane Ambuko takes the invited guests on a tour of the facilities installed at the hub*

The hub has since trained small scale processors from the two spokes (Karurumo Smallholder Aggregation and Processing Centre and Masii Horticultural Cooperative Society) and other private processors. As part of hands-on and experiential learning, students of Food Science, Nutrition and Technology, Horticulture, and Agriculture have also benefitted from the training on small-scale processing of different products from mango fruit including juices, jams, mango-enriched yoghurt, canned mango, mango wine, mango chips, and mango leather (rolls). There has been interest from various groups (private and public) for training in value addition of fruits and vegetables. However, the training activities were suspended due to the restrictions aimed at curbing the Covid-19 pandemic. The vision of the team is to work with county governments and development partners in training practitioners (including youth and women) in value addition of fruits and vegetables as agribusiness ventures that also contribute to the efforts towards FLW reduction in perishable commodities.

### Innovative Cold Storage Technologies

The goal of this initiative is to demonstrate the practical application of innovative cold storage technologies in order to enhance adoption of the technologies as part of the efforts to reduce postharvest losses in horticultural value chains. This unit which is located at the CAVS field station has been established through a collaborative research grant to Prof. Ambuko from the National Research Fund (NRF-Kenya). The initial NRF funding also attracted other partners including Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research, FFAR (supporting the Consortium for Food Loss and Waste Reduction),

UK Research and Innovation (supporting SOLCOOL' - Solar Powered Cold Food Chains for Food Waste Reduction and Value Addition Project), and D-Lab (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA). The innovative cold storage technologies installed at the unit include the improved zero energy brick Cooler, improved evaporative charcoal cooler, and the Coolbot cold room. An additional technology, which is based on phase change materials (PCM) designed by a team from Brunel University in UK is due for installation soon. The key feature in all the technologies (except the Coolbot cold room) is that they do not require electricity, making them suitable for the rural areas where most of the horticultural production takes place. The Coolbot cold room requires electricity, but is a low-cost alternative to conventional cold rooms. These technologies have been adapted and tested for effectiveness by the UoN postharvest research team and the graduate students and are ready for scale up. The design and fabrication of the technologies has been made possible through collaboration with a team from the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering led by Dr Duncan Mbuge (Chairman) and Mr Eliakim Mwachoni.

The unit will be used for research and experiential training of our students. It will also be used for demonstration and outreach activities targeting potential users of the technologies.



**Cold storage Technologies Research, Training and Demonstration Unit at Field Station, CAVS**



**Zero Energy Brick Cooler: One of the low-cost cold storage technologies at the Demo unit**

The UoN research team is seeking to expand collaborations and partnerships for technical and financial support from institutions and development partners that are directly or indirectly engaged in food loss and waste reduction initiatives. The goal of the team is to contribute to the national, regional and global efforts towards FLW reduction. Food loss and waste reduction has direct and indirect benefits to all practitioners in the food and agriculture sector and is critical to the sustainable achievement of food and nutritional security.



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# CBPS

College of Biological and  
Physical Sciences

This is an exciting time for us as we celebrate 50 years of academic excellence at the University of Nairobi. Since its establishment as a college in 1983, the College of Biological and Physical Sciences has continued to play its leadership role in teaching, research, and product development through the application of basic and applied sciences.

Our vision at CBPS is to be the premier international African centre of excellence in the pursuit of knowledge generation, preservation, dissemination and application in science and technology. We offer a diverse range of academic programmes, short courses, and other activities in six academic units and one research unit. The college has one of the largest concentrations (230) of basic science scholars in the country today. Professors constitute about one-third of our academic staff, which also consists of 80 percent PhD holders and 20 percent MSc holders. The rich mix of highly qualified academic and support staff, teaching and research infrastructure, and a serene environment has transformed CBPS into a centre of intellectual life and locus for research activities. The college is also a place for professional development and community service.

Graduates from CBPS have a wide range of career opportunities to choose from including those in pharmaceutical companies and the crop protection industry involved in the development of biopesticides among others. As we move forward, we shall endeavour to maintain our position as the leading institution in Kenya and the region attracting top students and competent staff.



*Prof. Francis Mulaa,  
Principal (Ag.) CBPS*



## College of Biological and Physical Sciences

The College of Biological & Physical Sciences (CBPS), located at Chiromo Campus, is a leading centre in teaching and research in science, technology, and innovation. The mandate of CBPS emanates from that of the University of Nairobi and includes training, research, income generation, and consultancy in the areas of biological and physical sciences, mathematical sciences, biotechnology and bioinformatics, computer science, and climate change. The College offers a diverse range of academic programmes in several academic units, namely School of Biological Sciences, School of Computing and Informatics, School of Mathematics, School of Physical Sciences, Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA), and Centre for Biotechnology & Bioinformatics (CEBIB).

The student enrollment at CBPS is 6,500. The substantial increase in the number of students graduating with PhD and master's degrees has led to an increase in publications and also contributed to the strong national, regional, and global ranking of the University of Nairobi.

### School of Biological Sciences (SBS)

The School of Biological Sciences (SBS) was established in 2006 through a merger of two of the oldest and well-known departments of the University; that is, Botany and Zoology. The school is structured into nine thematic areas each with a thematic head. They include Ethno-biology and Taxonomy; Biological Natural Products; Ecology and Environmental Sciences; Fresh Water and Marine; Genetics and Biotechnology; Insect Science; Microbiology; Physiology and Biochemistry; and Parasitology and Immunology.

### School of Computing and Informatics (SCI)

The School of Computing and Informatics (SCI), formally the Institute of Computer Science (ICS), was established in 1977. The mandate of SCI includes academic as well as university ICT services. The School is a regional leader in research and development (R&D) as well as advanced education in computing. It was the first centre to offer bachelor's and postgraduate degrees in Computer Science in the East African region.

### School of Mathematics

The School of Mathematics was established in 2005 during the restructuring from the mathematics departments at CBPS and College of Education and External Studies (CEES). The school takes pride in being the overall coordinating centre for the Eastern Africa Universities Mathematics Programme (EAUMP) whose other members are Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. It has linkages with International Science Programme (ISP), International Mathematical Union (IMU), and the Mathematics Association of Kenya (MAK) among other key organisations in the field of mathematics.

### School of Physical Sciences

The school is part of the former Faculty of Science, which was one of the oldest institutions in the University of Nairobi prior to the major restructuring that took place in 2006. The school is composed of the following departments: Chemistry (1961), Geography and Environmental Studies, Geology (1956), Meteorology (1963), and Physics (1956). The Department of Meteorology plays a major role in training highly skilled meteorological personnel, most of whom are currently managing the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of most countries in Africa.

### Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics (CEBIB)

The Centre for Biotechnology Bioinformatics (CEBIB) is a virtual research centre offering training at MSc and PhD levels in biosciences (biotechnology and bioinformatics) to increase capacity and develop manpower in health, agriculture, industry, environmental management and related fields.

### Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA)

The Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA) was approved by Senate on 3 September 2011. The academic programmes offered at ICCA build climate change and adaptation capacity for national, regional and international candidates seeking to enrich their studies using transdisciplinary approaches to learning and solving the modern challenges posed by climate change.

# CBPS Milestones

## ICIPE established at Chiromo Campus (1970)

The late Prof. Risley Odhiambo, who was a lecturer in the Department of Zoology, founded the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). ICIPE is now a centre for scientific research and training in Africa collaborating with over 200 national systems, research institutes, and universities around the world.



## CEBIB established (2005)

CEBIB was the first institution of its kind in the Eastern and Central African Region. The programme admitted the first batch of 15 students on 3 July 2005.

## Amycotoxins laboratory established (2009)

The laboratory was started by Prof. Sheila Okoth, a mycologist at UoN. The idea of building the lab came after Prof. Okoth was awarded the African Women in Agricultural Research & Development (AWARD) fellow in 2009. The lab has carried out various tests for organisations such as the World Food Programme and Kenya Bureau of Standards among others. The laboratory team also worked with the County Government of Meru in drafting a model bill for aflatoxin risk management for the county. The laboratory received the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation by the Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) on 21 May 2019.



## ICCA established (2011)

The Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA) was established to address the unique climate change and adaptation needs of vulnerable communities through teaching, action-oriented research, development of innovative technologies, and community participation. The Institute also provides expert advice for national and regional policy formulation and implementation. Currently, ICCA has 271 master's and PhD students.

## C4D Lab established (2013)

The lab is an innovation hub for startups that have a computing element. The lab provides resources and services that startup companies need in order to develop their ideas. Some of the projects undertaken by the lab include the UoNBike programme for renting a bike, and a ready-to-work programme that aims to equip learners with the right skills for transitioning to the world of work among others.



## Student invents Sign-IO gloves

Roy Alela, a 25-year-old graduate from the Department of Physics, invented smart gloves with the capacity to auto-translate sign language into speech. The invention was inspired by Roy's desire to communicate with his niece who is deaf. The gloves have an accuracy of 93 percent. During the Mashujaa Day celebrations on 20 October 2020, President Uhuru Kenyatta lauded Roy for his innovativeness.

# CEES

College of Education and  
External Studies



*Prof . Isaac Jumba*  
*Principal CEES*

The College of Education and External Studies (CEES) proudly joins the University of Nairobi community as well as stakeholders in celebrating 50 years of excellence as a key player in teacher education, teacher training, teacher professional development, and human resource capacity building in Kenya. The college has a rich history that dates back to 1953 and has undergone enviable structural development over the years.

The College offers five distinct undergraduate programmes: Bachelor of Education Arts, Bachelor of Education Science, Bachelor of Education in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education, and Bachelor of Education in Information, Communication Technology. At postgraduate level, students may register for master's or doctorate programmes in any of our 24 areas of specialisation. These programmes are benchmarked from time to time to accommodate global trends and stakeholder expectations.

The total student enrollment at CEES is 5,500 with students spread in our learning centres at Kikuyu Campus, Kenya Science Campus, and Kisumu Campus Complex. Graduates from CEES have proudly continued to enjoy employment opportunities as teachers in schools; researchers in educational, industrial, agricultural and technical institutions; and ICT trainers. There are also opportunities for those interested in becoming curriculum developers in social sciences and STEM subjects; educational and public administrators; marketers and relationship managers in the insurance and banking industry; sports managers and trainers; as well as business prospectors and entrepreneurs.

The college has been enabled to achieve its objectives over the years through corporate support. We have modern physical infrastructure which includes state-of-the-art ICT and Science laboratories, lecture halls, and other amenities. The college also has sufficient land for expansion and boasts of a vibrant workforce and collaborations, linkages and partnerships at the local and international levels. Through these linkages, CEES has been able to propagate a strong brand, good image, and high visibility while promoting student and staff exchange. The college has linkages with the

University of Helsinki, Linköping University; Canadian Organization for Development in Education; Concordia University; the African Community Development Organization (AFRICOD); Howard University; and USAID Washington. Findings from the research activities by CEES researchers have been disseminated successfully through donor support of vibrant seminars, workshops, and conferences, which the College has been proud of especially over the last 10 years.

The future of CEES is bright. The 2018–2023 CEES Strategic Plan gives additional emphasis on educational

research and evaluation, physical education and sports sciences, early years education, and STEAM and TVET education. These strategies strongly support the implementation of the Social Pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030, the global Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and the national Big 4 Agenda. When fully achieved, the strategic objectives will enable the College to realise its mission of providing leadership in the realm of educational studies, sports sciences, and teacher professional development in an effort to contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of the people of Kenya.



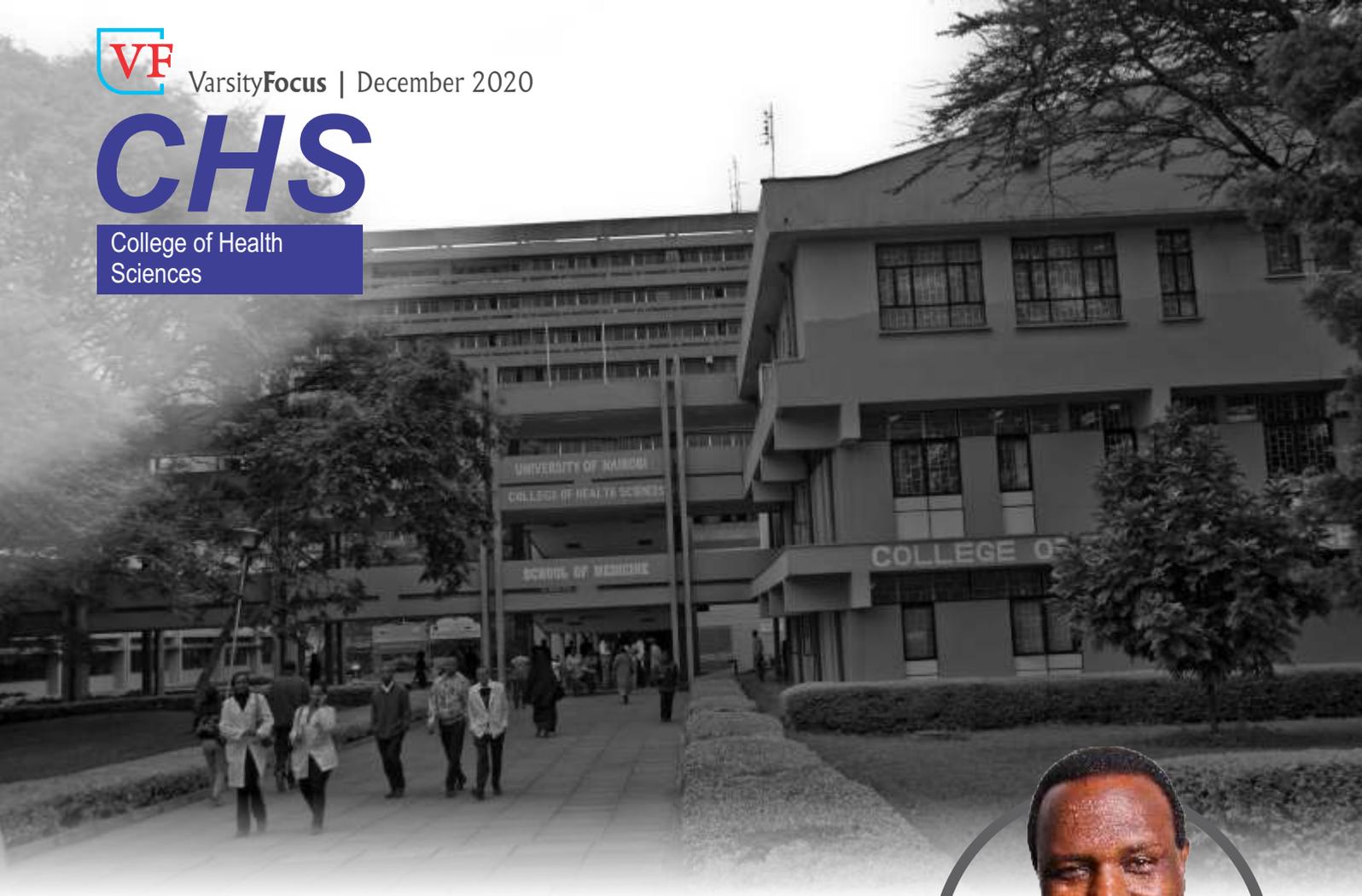
*Sports and Games Lecturer, Dr Michael “Tank” Otiemo (C), during a lesson with B.Ed Sports students*

### CEES Milestones

1. Increase in the number of programmes offered from the initial one (Bachelor of Education Arts) to 30 with 24 areas of specialisation at postgraduate level.
2. Increase in student enrollment from less than 100 in 1972 to 5,500 in 2020. We have over 800 students registered in our postgraduate programmes.
3. Increase in the number of graduates produced annually from less than 100 in the 1970s to an average of about 5,000 in the last ten years.
4. Growth in annual revenue generation for the University from KES 52.5 million in 2005 to a peak of over KES 1.1 billion in the past decade thus enabling the University to sustain its growth and expansion.
5. Purchase of the British Council Library building and plot in Kisumu and the subsequent construction of Kisumu Campus Complex that is now home to the vibrant Kisumu Campus.
6. Purchase of Uni-Plaza building in collaboration with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and subsequent establishment of the now vibrant Mombasa Campus. Both Kisumu and Mombasa campuses were accredited by CUE in 2016.
7. Introduction of programmes and practical disciplines in Physical Education and Sports sciences at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Student enrollment has increased from the initial five in 2005 to the current 280 in 2020 and is still expected to continue growing.
8. Launch of programmes that support the implementation of the national Big 4 Agenda, Kenya Vision 2030, the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and the global Sustainable Development Goals as a contribution to the socio-economic empowerment of the people of Kenya.

# CHS

College of Health  
Sciences



**T**he College of Health Sciences (CHS) is the leading tertiary healthcare training, research, and innovation institution in Kenya and East Africa having been recognised as a centre of excellence in health sciences by the East African Community.

The College comprises five schools and three institutes. The schools which constitute CHS are School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing Sciences, School of Dental Sciences, and School of Public Health. The University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID) has unique laboratory infrastructure capable of supporting both basic science and applied research. KAVI-Institute of Clinical Research (KAVI-ICR) is a world-class research hub spearheading research and training in global health. The institute focuses on research on non-communicable diseases, communicable diseases, clinical trials, and knowledge translation. The East African Kidney Institute is a centre of excellence in nephrology and urology sciences. The College also houses the Africa Coordination Centre for abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation.

The College of Health Sciences was established in 1985 with an enrolment of 30 students. Presently, the College has 5,386 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Over 14,086 students have graduated from the College, including two with Doctor of Science degrees, about 25 with fellowships, more than 3,500 with master's degrees, over 9,000 with bachelor's degrees, and more than 790 with diplomas.

The schools and institutes under CHS offer 87 academic programmes which are delivered through face-to-face and online modes of teaching. The programmes are serviced by 438 well-trained academic staff and a corresponding establishment of 655 research, technical, administrative, and support staff. The diversity of programmes offered at CHS promotes multidisciplinary teaching, research, and community service. They are market driven and syllabi developed with stakeholder participation to ensure employability of the graduates. Facilities, equipment and other infrastructure are



*Prof. James Machoki*  
*Principal CHS*

in place for the effective delivery of these programmes including a well-resourced e-learning function.

The College boasts of training students, researchers, scientists and other healthcare professionals who make a great contribution to the delivery of Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC). Health experts at CHS have been in the forefront in formulating health policies in addition to serving in various technical working groups at the Ministry of Health. Medical experts at CHS have also conducted historical surgeries and in the process positioned the College on the global map. One of the outstanding achievements is the successful separation of conjoined twins in a 23-hour operation. The faculty who were involved in this feat were honoured with national awards by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta.



*Separated conjoined twins Blessing and Favour after the surgery.*



*Joseph Theuri with some of the doctors from CHS who successfully re-implanted his severed arm following an accident with a chaff cutting machine.*

Experts from the College have also conducted other highly skilled surgical procedures including re-implantation of the right hand of a 17-year old boy, which was accidentally severed into two pieces by a chaff cutter machine. Another remarkable medical procedure performed by the medical team at CHS is re-implanting a severed penis of a 16-year old boy. The successful surgeries provided unique opportunities for both faculty and registrars to get involved in the planning and execution of the complex procedures.

## Collaborations and linkages

The College of Health Sciences contributes about 75 percent of the University's research portfolio of KES 2.1 billion. The College is well-known for its cutting-edge research capability, which has attracted many local and international collaborations and linkages. Internationally, CHS is in partnership with funding agencies such as Centers of Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Department for International Development (DFID), Wellcome Trust, European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), and World Health Organization (WHO).

The College also has strong ties with renowned world institutions of higher learning including Washington State University, University of Washington, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and Emory University.

Locally, CHS works closely with the Ministry of Health through the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) and National AIDS and STDs Control Programme (NAS COP). The College also collaborates with other universities in the country including Kenyatta University, Maseno University, and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology. The College is also working closely with county health departments across the country.

The CHS has enhanced the support available for researchers in relation to finding and applying for funding opportunities, implementation of projects, and eventual closeout. The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a strategic partner in this endeavour which has seen CHS establish the Centre of Excellence for Research, Innovation and Grants Advancement (CERIGA). A team of five fully trained staff who are conversant with the key components of Research Administration and Grants Management manage the self-sustaining centre.

The College of Health Sciences is fully aligned to the government policies and guidelines and Big 4 Agenda. Further, the College is in the forefront of the implementation of the applicable sections of the Sustainable Development Goals, Kenya Vision 2030, and African Union Agenda 2063.

# CHSS

College of Humanities and  
Social Sciences

*The iconic Great Court at UoN Main Campus*

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) is extremely proud to celebrate the University of Nairobi's 50 years of academic excellence.

This is a wonderful time to reflect on and celebrate all our achievements since 1970 and in particular the leadership role the University of Nairobi provides in the social, cultural, and economic development of Kenya and the world.

The University of Nairobi officially founded the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in October 1983 under the direction of the first Principal of the college, Prof. Onesmus K. Mutungi. Prof. Mutungi built CHSS on a foundation fortified by his own belief that the study of humanities made human connections stronger and better. Prof. Mutungi set the tone for how CHSS runs today in terms of teaching, research and management.

Today, CHSS is the largest of the six colleges of the University of Nairobi. Structurally, it is composed of one faculty, four schools, four institutes and three centres. From a few hundreds of students in the 1980s to over 30,000 students currently making up over 60% of the entire university student population, CHSS has come from far.

As Confucius said, "Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace." CHSS continues to provide wholesome education to its students. We not only provide relevant and rigorous courses but also guide and provide mentorship. We

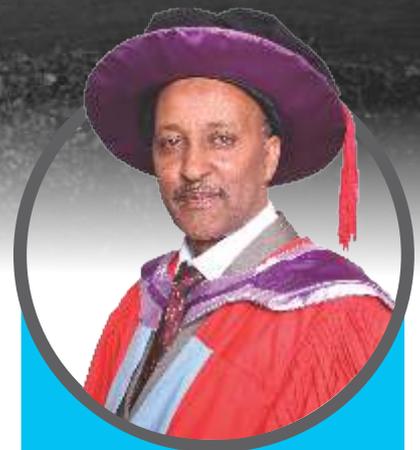
consistently set our sights on access, excellence and impact. Through multiple delivery modes, we provide access to education to those who may not have had it. Our impact remains providing world class education that is relevant in today's interconnected world. Our research output continues to inform industry practices and public policies to make the world a better place.

As we enter a new decade, CHSS looks forward to building its future and continuing to lead students to success guided by its vision of being, "A leading college that promotes excellence in teaching, training, research, consultancy and community service."

## CHSS Milestones

### Growth in student numbers

The College has experienced a consistent increase in student enrollment in its diverse programmes and currently constitutes about 60 percent of the entire student population of the University of Nairobi. In 1998 CHSS launched the self-sponsored programme, which provided expanded the enrollment as fees increased for more students to pursue university education. In 2007,



**Prof. Jama Mohamud Abdi**  
Principal (Ag.) CHSS

the Faculty of Arts and School of Business launched the Distance Learning (Module III) programme also bringing about a remarkable transformation in the modes of teaching and learning in the College. Starting with only a few departments, CHSS today boasts of one large faculty, four schools, four institutes and three centres. The College officially opened its satellite campuses in Mombasa and Kisumu in 2007 thus ensuring that students from the two cities and neighboring towns no longer needed to travel to the Main Campus in Nairobi for studies.

The Faculty of Arts has 12 academic departments offering arts-related programmes. The school of law is located at Parklands, Kisumu and Mombasa campuses, while the School of Business is located at Lower Kabete, Mombasa, and Kisumu campuses. The School of Journalism and Mass Communication, located at Main Campus, is a regional leader in print and electronic journalism. Also based in the Mahatma Gandhi Wing at Main Campus is the School of Economics, which is a premier teaching and research school in the region.

#### **Rising number of professors**

The College has steadily increased the number of faculty staff and has over 100 professors thus guaranteeing students access to high quality teaching and research.

#### **State-of-the art facilities**

The College has invested in high quality infrastructure to

ensure that students have the right tools to acquire both practical and theoretical knowledge. Some of notable facilities in the College include the well-equipped Department of Geography lab, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications studio, the French department computer labs, the Confucius Institute lab, and the School of Law's moot Court.

#### **Strategic Partnerships**

In line with the University's vision of becoming a world class centre of academic excellence, the College has since the year 2002 established over 50 international and local linkages worth US\$ 4.9 Million.

#### **University Rankings**

Through its vibrant faculty, CHSS has contributed to the high ranking of the University of Nairobi globally. In 2016, for example, The University of Nairobi was ranked in the 51-100 category in development studies worldwide by the sixth edition of the QS World University rankings.

#### **One-Stop Huduma Shop**

IN 2015, CHSS launched a one-stop-shop called Huduma to provide all college related services at one place. The Huduma shop offers services on academic matters, procurement, finance, human resource and general customer service enquiries.



# UoN Legal Scholars Awarded CB Madan Prize of 2020

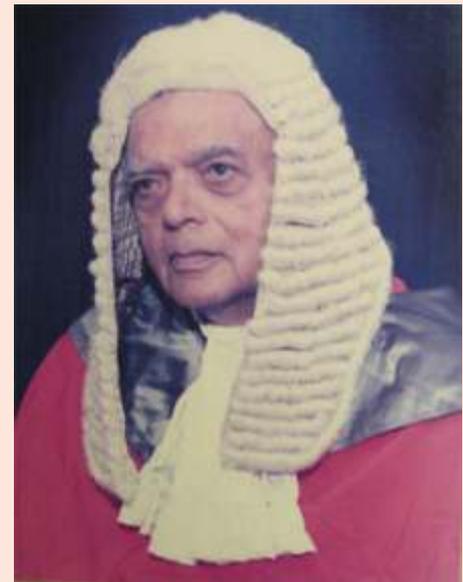
The 2020 C.B. Madan Prize has been awarded to the post-doctoral legal scholars of the University of Nairobi. The prize, which is awarded by the Platform magazine, is the most prestigious legal award in Kenya which recognises 'individuals who have demonstrated significant effort to support constitutionalism and the rule of law'. The 2020 recipients are 124 Bachelor of Laws alumni of the University of Nairobi's School of Law who attained their PhDs between 1970 and 2020. An event to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> C.B. Madan Prize and Memorial Lecture was held on 8 December 2020 during which Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor of Makueni County and former dean of the School of Law, gave a lecture on the 'Rule of Law and Development'. Here is the citation for the Post-Doctoral Legal Scholars, which was first published in the November 2020 issue of the *Platform* magazine.

## The 2020 CB Madan Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> CB Madan Prize Recipient

The Post-Doctoral Legal Scholars of the University Of Nairobi's School of Law for their 'Commitment and Outstanding Scholarly Contribution to Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Kenya'

C.B. Madan Prize Citation for  
The Post-Doctoral Legal Scholars of the University of Nairobi's School Of Law

As the bedrock of just and peaceful societies, the rule of law has played a significant role in elevating Africa to the status of the world's most rapidly growing economic region. Apart from bringing about economic transformation, the rule of law has been instrumental in influencing social and political transformation on the continent. Over the last fifty years, the University of Nairobi's School of Law has been part of this transformation through the training of more than 12,000 lawyers who continue to play a central role in safeguarding the rule of law in Kenya and abroad. More than 124 of these lawyers have advanced in their studies and attained Doctor of Philosophy degrees (PhDs) either from their alma mater or from other distinguished law schools across the world. These has sharpened their skills and opened multiple pathways of public or non-governmental service through which they continue to shape the next generation of scholars, practitioners and global leaders. While we have lost some of these leading luminaries, those that remain among us, including those who currently or in the past have taught at Kenya's premier law faculty, continue to influence the trajectory of legal discourse in the country and beyond. It is these post-doctoral legal scholars whose basic (Bachelor of Laws) legal education was obtained from the University of Nairobi who are, collectively, the recipients of the 8<sup>th</sup> C.B. Madan Prize for the year 2020.



Former Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya (1985-1986), The **Hon. Mr. Justice C.B. Madan**, Q.C., seen here in a Judiciary file picture in the formal dress of the Court of Appeal.

The recipients of the award exemplify the characteristics of C.B. Madan who has been hailed as the best Judge and Chief Justice that Kenya has ever had due to his brilliance and independence, his sense of justice and deep understanding of the law, and – above all - his respect for the rule of law. The post-doctoral legal scholars we honour today have been at the forefront in ensuring that they not only impart knowledge of the law required in professional practice, business, and government, but they also

undertake transformative work across the globe. They have maintained a distinctive character in contribution to the legal profession and the legal fraternity in Kenya and are the leading source of legal knowledge and skills in the country.

At the local level, the post-doctoral scholars have made significant contributions to the rule of law by serving as academics in various public and private universities, as senior legal officers, as senior members of government, as legislators and technical staff of Parliament, as Magistrates and Judges of Superior Courts, and as members and technical experts of key constitutional bodies, including the Kenya Constitutional Review Commission, the Committee of Experts on Constitutional Review, the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, the Truth Justice & Reconciliation Commission, the Kenya Law Reform Commission and the Judicial Service Commission.

Their ground breaking work in support for the rule of law has been felt beyond the borders of Kenya through their contributions to the work of a variety of international organisations, including: the International Criminal Court, the International Finance Corporation, the United States Department of Defence, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Campus of Human Rights, the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), the International Centre for Not for Profit Law (USA), the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly & Association, the African Union, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the African Centre for Strategic Studies (USA), the Centre for International Criminal Justice (Africa), the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the East Africa Law Society.

The scholars, in their distinguished service, have traversed various disciplines in public and private law. Their scholarly influence and setting trends in legal philosophy is notable across the fields of international law, human rights, constitutional law, environmental law, corporate governance, governance, family law, commercial law, to mention a few out of a potentially non-exhaustible list.

The post-doctoral legal scholars we celebrate today can trace their background to the University of Nairobi's School of Law which was founded in the late 1960s as the Department of Commercial Law in the Faculty of Commerce. It was constituted into a fully-fledged Faculty of Law in 1970 and has evolved steadily from the small department to its current status as a hub of legal scholarship and a champion provider of legal education in East and Central Africa. We are also glad to note that many of the post-doctoral legal scholars are active members of the School's Alumni Chapter who continue to support the School's programmes and activities in various ways. The School, which marks its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, has a range and depth of expertise in various fields of legal scholarship, with more than 40 members of its staff being holders of PhDs in law.

We congratulate the post-doctoral legal scholars of the University of Nairobi's School of Law for this outstanding achievement.

Even as we celebrate these scholars, we are mindful of the fact that the rule of law is constantly under threat in nations across the globe, and this calls for legal scholars to engage continuously with other stakeholders to safeguard and cement the rule of law. Closer home, we are currently going through a contentious constitutional moment as we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Millions of Kenyans are looking up to these scholars and the rest of us in the legal fraternity to offer a voice of reason and a candid informed assessment of the proposals that have been made.

There are endless opportunities for post-doctoral scholars in academia, in the private sector, in public service, and in national and international non-governmental organizations, and we hope this award will inspire current law students and other young lawyers to advance their studies and to pick up the baton in this never-ending race towards a just, peaceful and truly democratic society governed by the rule of law.

# ODEL

Open, Distance and  
e-Learning



*Prof. Gakuu Christopher*  
*Director, ODeL*

The ODeL Campus was approved by the University of Nairobi Council in September 2015 under Statute XXXVI to mainstream the integration of modern technologies into teaching and learning at the University. The main objective of the Campus is to provide enhanced access to quality education and training through use of modern instructional content delivery techniques. The ODeL Campus targets students from Kenya, and from other countries, who meet the minimum admission requirements for specific undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The specific mandate of the Campus is to support, guide, and facilitate learners pursuing courses through the use of open learning, distance learning, e-learning, blended learning, mobile learning, and short lifelong courses at the University of Nairobi.

The establishment of the ODeL Campus is linked to the history of Open, Distance and e-Learning (ODEL) in Kenya and the University of Nairobi in particular, which goes back to the establishment of the first Department of Extra-Mural Studies at Makerere University in 1953 and later the appointment of a resident tutor for Kenya in 1956. The mandate of this department was to offer open learning courses at community level. In 1962 the Department of Extra Mural Studies was transferred from Makerere University to the then Royal College Nairobi which later became the University of Nairobi in 1970.

In the same year, that is 1962, the College of Social Studies based at the current Kikuyu Campus, which had been running an independent centre for residential adult education since 1961, was absorbed into the University College, Nairobi. The Centre together with the Extra-Mural Department became the Institute of Adult Studies.

In 1967, a Correspondence Course Unit was established as another department in the Institute of Adult Studies. In 1983, the Institute of Adult Studies was accorded college status and became the College of Adult and Distance Education (CADE). In 1988, the University of Nairobi re-introduced the Faculty of Education and placed it in the College of Adult and Distance Education (CADE). The College was then re-organised, re-structured, and renamed the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) with three faculties, namely Faculty of Education, Faculty of External Studies and Faculty of Social Sciences. In 2005 the Faculty of Social Sciences was disbanded and merged with other faculties in the University. The faculties of External Studies and Education were renamed School of Continuing and Distance Education and School of Education, respectively. A new centre, namely Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL), was also created to facilitate all other faculties/schools/institutes/departments in the University to develop the ODeL component of their programmes. The School of Continuing and Distance Education continued with its mandate of admitting, teaching and graduating students in its three departments namely Educational Studies, Distance Studies, and Extra-Mural Studies. The Department of Extra-Mural Studies initially had six centres in Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, Nyeri, Nakuru, and Kakamega

but these were later expanded to other areas such as Garissa, Meru, Isiolo, Embu, Kitui, Machakos, Wote, Kisii, Bungoma, Eldoret and Kitale. The expansion was due to great demand by local communities to enroll for programmes offered by the University of Nairobi and be able to undertake them in a convenient and flexible way. Due to declining enrollment and the Covid-19 pandemic, all these learning centres have been closed except those located in University Campuses in Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nairobi.

In February 2015, the University appointed a taskforce chaired by Prof. Timothy Waema to mainstream ODeL into teaching and learning in the University. It proposed that all the units that have something to do with open, distance, and electronic learning be integrated into a single unit. These include the School of Continuing and Distance Education (SCDE), Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL), eLearning Directorate, and the e-Learning unit at ICT Centre. The document approved by Council laid out a five-year strategic plan from 2015 – 2020 and the Statute. The Statute provided for College level status and representation at the University Executive Board. The Campus was launched and operationalized in February 2017 by appointing a Director and a Deputy Director. In order to carry out the mandate as stated in the statute, an operational structure consisting of the functions of Open Distance and e-learning was developed. The departments created are Courseware Development and Production, Programme Delivery and Learner Support, e-Learning and Research, Evaluation and Short Lifelong Learning Courses. The organisational structure enabled the smooth coordination of tasks, allocation of resources in terms of physical offices, staff and finances, and a system for monitoring and evaluation of performance and measurement of results.

### **Milestones of ODeL Campus**

In nearly four years of its existence, the Campus has carried out its mandate effectively despite the usual institutional challenges of scarce resources and resistance to new ideas. The notable achievements are:

#### **Accreditation**

ODeL Campus received accreditation by the Commission for University Education after implementing all the 38

standards in Schedule 4 of the CUE Standards and Guidelines in March 2018.

### **Teaching and Learning**

ODeL introduced a new Learning Management System (LMS) at no cost to the University by installing and customising MOODLE which is an open source software used by many other institutions globally. The Campus has also trained staff in all the colleges in courseware development. The former School of Continuing and Distance Education, which was incorporated under ODeL has continued to admit students. From 2017 it has generated an average of KES 550 million annually in tuition fees. It is also a model school where the students who are enrolled in the ODeL mode of learning are used as the testing ground for new innovations and technologies. This was also the case during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Transition to online learning**

In March 2020, ODeL Campus and the ICT Centre teamed up to provide a solution that involved training staff and students to enable them move their teaching and learning to online platforms. Through this partnership, the University conducted online examinations between May and August 2020, while the orientation of first-year students took place in August and September 2020.

### **Collaborations and Partnerships**

Through initiatives to ensure sustainability, the Campus has collaborated with both internal and external partners to reduce costs and ensure quality service delivery. These initiatives include partnership with UNITID which paid for the development of study materials. The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) has provided six free learning modules to the University. The University, through the ODeL Campus, also entered into partnership with the County Government of Nyandarua to offer short lifelong learning courses as well as certificate courses to the people of Nyandarua County. In 2019/2020, the University entered into an agreement with a Chinese company and UNESCO-ICHE to install smart classrooms in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu. Through another agreement, the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) has trained about 100 University teaching staff on online learning as part of a global Covid-19 rapid Response Training Series.





# Changing Faces of the UoN Library

*By Angela Mbula Mumo and Hudson Liyai*

## **First Library**

The University of Nairobi has placed a high premium on library services right from when it was established as the Royal Technical College of East Africa. This is not unusual, for the academic life of a university revolves around its library. Indeed, when the newly established college opened its doors to the first batch of 215 students on 23 April 1956, the list of the first members of staff consisting of the Principal and seven Heads of Department also included a librarian.

The first library at UoN was located on Second Floor within the tuition block of the Gandhi Wing in what is today's Senior Common Room. The library had an initial stock of 8,000 books and a seating capacity of 200. It was clear even at the time that the issue of space would be one of the major challenges to the growth and development of the library. As a result, the College Development Plan (1960) proposed a separate library building and generous funding for the project.

Relief was to come three years later when the library was relocated to the new Gandhi Memorial Library building, leaving the old space to 'the long overdue requirements of a good Senior Common Room, quiet room, and extended refectory facilities'. The building was opened on 28 June 1963 by the Chancellor of the University of East Africa, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

In the new environment, the library embarked on the development and expansion of facilities and services to match the institution's evolution, changing status, and new roles. The Technical College became Royal College (1961), then University College, Nairobi (June 1963), and finally University of Nairobi in December

1970. The 1960s saw the establishment of basic library facilities and services. It was also a period for developing various professional and technical systems and processes in the realm of the library's role of acquiring, processing, and disseminating information in diverse formats.

## **The Library Expansion Period**

The 1970s saw the emergence of branch libraries as the University established other campuses. The decentralisation of the library has continued into the twenty-first century, with the library system now having 14 branch libraries spread beyond the Nairobi metropolitan area to other towns including Kisumu and Mombasa.

The period also witnessed major developments in human resource requirements through the extensive recruitment and training of staff at para-professional and professional levels. The latter cadre moved in to replace the expatriates, who had dominated all the senior positions from the time of establishment of the library. At para-professional level, the University having put in place a policy and commitment towards training became the unacknowledged training ground for various sectors in the country. This trend has continued as new institutions of higher learning are established in the country, but the University of Nairobi Library still has the highest concentration of trained and experienced library professionals and technical staff.

The 1980s saw tremendous growth in the library stock of books and journals in response to expansion in the teaching programmes of the University. The expansion in programmes also meant expansion in student

enrolment. Vigorous publications exchange programmes and donations supplemented the library budget. The library once again became increasingly constrained in meeting the user requirements in terms of facilities and services and the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library (JKML) at the Main Campus was built.

In August 1987, the Main Library was moved yet again from the Gandhi Memorial Library building to the new JKML building with a seating capacity of 1500 (international standards) and additional space for other operations of the library. This was an opportunity for expansion and establishment of new facilities and services including Bindery, Reprography, Photography, Computer Applications, and User Services. There was also expansion in specialised collections including East Africana/Special Collection, Archive Unit, Rare Collection, United Nations Collection, and later, the nascent Jomo Kenyatta Collection and the National Gender Documentation Centre.

The 1990s were years of slow growth. As the institution, and indeed the country, faced economic constraints in the wake of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS), the Library was faced with the challenge of maintaining standards of service provision in the midst of 'expanding services with shrinking budgets'. Nevertheless, for acquisition of publications, lifelines came through World Bank Programmes, the British Overseas Development Agency (ODA) programmes, and Lanfury Library donations services. Local donors to

the library were the Mohamed Rattansi Trust and Michael Blundell Trust.

### The Era of ICTs

The onset of the twenty-first century called for new approaches to the provision of information services. In keeping with global trends and best practices, a library should place emphasis on diversity with consistency in quality. The library thus became innovative in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in all its applications.

The traditional print format materials have been augmented by electronic journals and electronic books coupled with revamping of the library website to enhance access to these resources. The library also established a digital repository to capture and provide global access to materials generated by the University community. This visibility has enhanced the University's high ranking in the region and globally. The Library has also maintained external links with several institutions to enhance the use of electronic resources including International Network for Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC).

### A Specialised Graduate Research Library

When the Main Library moved to the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library building in 1987, some space in the Gandhi Memorial Library was retained for library services. The space is occupied by the graduate



*Students inside the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library at the Main Campus*

libraries of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI), and School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SoJMC).

The idea of establishing a fully-fledged Graduate Research Library was mooted to cater specifically for the needs of graduate students and academic staff. This library was established on the Ground Floor of the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library building. The embryonic stock consisted of texts on research methods and general reference materials. In 2019, the stock was transferred to the Gandhi Library, now re-organised as an ultra-modern Mahatma Gandhi Graduate Library. The services offered here include research commons, state-of-the-art ICT centre, video-conference rooms, self-study rooms, a self-check system, coffee bar, and relaxing lounge.

### Library Teaching Programmes

In the year 2000, the Library established the Diploma Course in Library and Information Studies (DIPLIS). Following the success and high demand for this course, the Bachelor in Library and Information Sciences, Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS), and Doctor of

Philosophy in Information Science programmes were established in 2013.

### Library Staff

The University of Nairobi Library has the largest pool of highly trained and experienced professional staff. Senior library staff continue to serve on national and international organisations and institutions, thus enhancing the image and leadership role of the University in library services. As we celebrate the steady growth and achievements of the University of Nairobi Library, we are delighted to recognise those who have been at the helm, as University librarians and directors, on this long journey.

1.	Mr Douglas A.R. Kemp	-	1956 - 1966
2.	Mr John Ndegwa	-	1966 - 1989
3.	Mrs Patricia Larby	-	1970 - 1971
4.	Mrs Mary E. Kimany	-	1989 - 2003
5.	Ms Salome W. Mathangani	-	2004 - 2005
6.	Mr Matthew J. Ong'any	-	2006 - 2007
7.	Mrs Salome N. Munavu	-	2007 - 2013
8.	Dr (Mrs) Sophia I. Kaane	-	2013 - 2016
9.	Mrs Angela Mumo	-	2015 - to date





## *Dean of Students Office: Enabling Students' Growth*

**O**ffice of the Dean of Students was established in the 1970s with a primary focus on handling student affairs and welfare matters. The aim is to address the holistic growth, development and wellbeing of students with a view of achieving the University's vision, mission, and objectives.

The core mandate of the Dean of Students Office is classified under various students' needs categories including Disability Issues, Work-Study Programme, Financial Aid, Student Advocacy and Liaison, Chaplaincy, Career and Placement, Entertainment, and Student Liaison services for professional bodies and student leadership (UNSA).

The history of the Dean of Students Office revolves around student leadership by the Student Organization of Nairobi University (SONU) established in 1982 as the main body representing UoN students, now the University of Nairobi Students Association (UNSA) established in 2017. Over the years, student

leadership has been made visible by brave, bold, and confident leaders such as James Orengo (1973), Tito Adungosi (1982), Miguna Miguna(1987), David Osiany (2009/2010), and Babu Owino (2011 and 2014-2017) among others. Former student leaders of UoN have for many years played critical roles in influencing political transition in Kenya thus making the University of Nairobi's student leadership quite influential in Kenyan politics.

Top on my agenda as Dean of Students is shaping the character of students to become people of integrity with great morals and values. This will be achieved through holding regular mentorship sessions with alumni and specialists in various areas and providing leadership as well as soft skills training as a way to preparing our students for the job market. We would like our graduates to become not only skilled and empowered but also competitive, employable, enterprising, and innovative.

As Dean of Students, I will also focus on student life on

campus. Students at UoN are challenged to accept responsibility and be held accountable for their choices. My office is proactive in responding to and addressing students' needs and crisis situations while also offering opportunities for holistic growth. We are also committed to cultivating opportunities for students' personal and academic achievement through education, skills trainings, extra-curricular activities, and community service and engagements.

It is also our goal to provide a suitable environment for our students to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally, and intellectually. We will focus on four major projects to ensure the holistic development of our students in addition to ensuring that they are market and future ready. The projects include establishing a Student Wellness Centre, Financial Aid Office, UoN Skills Centre, and Disability Resource Centre.

To our students, I wish to encourage you to continue observing the Covid-19 guidelines provided by the Government through the Ministry of Health for your own safety and that of others. I would also like to assure you that the University counsellors are available for consultation on matters touching on your welfare through the UoN RADAApp available on Google Playstore and Apple store and online via teleconferencing services. For all student welfare matters, contact the Dean of Students office.



# Flying the UoN Flag in Sports and Games



Former President the late Daniel arap Moi (fourth right) accompanied by the late Prof. George Saitoti (fifth right) at the Federation of African University Sports (FASU) Games in 1978 on UoN sports grounds.

The office of the Director, Department of Sports and Games has shining silverware everywhere. The vast collection of trophies on display attests not only to the enormous talent concentrated in the University of Nairobi but also the numerous accomplishments by university teams in sporting and games activities over the years. Even those pressed for time can hardly resist the temptation of stopping to admire the spectacular collection.

Mr. Mbaabu Murithi, the current director, signals this writer to emphasise that there are more trophies in the adjacent room. Every available space in the cabinets, and on the shelves, is occupied by trophies. Also available are numerous certificates awarded for the University's participation in local and international tournaments.

Mr. Murithi, who also heads the Kenya University Sports Association, traces the beginning of the Department of Sports and Games to one games tutor and the basic sports activities of the time: soccer, volleyball, and netball. The department is as old as the University, having come into existence during the days of the Royal

College of East Africa. Currently, the department has more than 20 members of staff and offers instruction in over ten sports categories. The sporting facilities have also been expanded to include fields, swimming pools, and indoor games arenas in the various campuses.

The department has grown from being a sports venue for only a few teams to one that successfully hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> All Africa University Games held in 2014. The University of Nairobi also plays host to numerous prestigious sporting events including Division One league games and university teams participating in national federation leagues for sports like rugby, basketball, handball, hockey, and athletics. The University is also a favourite place for the convergence of major inter-university games in the country. This includes the Nairobi South Conference, which is the Kenya Universities Sports Association zonal league.

One of UON's most remarkable teams is Mean Machine, which has consistently posted excellent results in the Kenya Rugby Union League. The team, which is nicknamed as 'Eschuma', was established in 1977 at a time when rugby was still a white man's game. The team

won the prestigious Kenya Cup that year, thus starting what would arguably become one of the most successful rugby teams in the country. The team is also one of the richest in terms of talent, having produced some of the best players in the country.

Famous sporting personalities who began their careers at *Eschuma* include Absalom Mutere, who was one of the founders and also first captain of Mwamba RFC; Joe "JJ" Masiga, who was perhaps better known due to his career in football afterwards with AFC Leopards and Kenya Breweries FC; and Edward Rombo, famous for his side-step, which was nick named the 'Rombo jig'. The latter proceeded to play for Mwamba RFC and Leeds RFC (UK). Mean Machine has certainly produced many talented individuals who flew the Kenyan flag high both as players and coaches, making the team one of the most talented sides in the country. Today, a new breed of players continues to build upon the legacy of their predecessors, such as former captain and continuing student Shadon Munoko and Marvin Ng'ang'a. They are both recognised stars in the rugby world.

Other UoN groups which feature in the national leagues include the volleyball, hockey, handball, basketball, and martial arts which features both Karate and Taekwondo teams. The teams include both men and women. Some

athletes from the University such as Denis Nyongesa and Ferdinand Omanyara regularly get a piece of the national action in the short distance and relay categories. The UoN was also the first university to introduce American Football in the country, and the sport is gaining traction locally. Five other universities have also established competitive American Football teams. All in all, UoN is a major contributor of talent to various sporting disciplines in the country.

On the future of the department, Mr. Murithi summarises the task ahead in one simple statement, 'There is still a lot to be done', he says. For one, plans are underway to recognise the most outstanding players and teams in the University. The recognition will cover team captains and outstanding players from each sports discipline. 'This will go a long way in improving team morale and encouraging more students to participate in sports activities', says Mr. Murithi. There are also plans to begin scouting for upcoming talent from secondary schools and, if possible, offer them scholarships. For now, however, many of the department's activities have been shelved owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Mr. Murithi is optimistic that with time, the university will be in a position to use sports as a way of changing and shaping the future of the country.



Former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi, (in tie middle row) shows off some of the University's trophies accompanied by staff and students. With him are Prof. Madara Ogot (second right back row) and Director Sports and Games, Mr Mbaabu Murithi (extreme right back row).



Doctorate  
This is to certify that

## Higher Doctorate Degrees

To date, the University of Nairobi has awarded six Higher Doctorate degrees.



**20 December 2019**

Prof. Annie Patricia Kameri-Mbote was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD). She was the first woman to receive a Higher Doctorate Degree from the University of Nairobi.

**14 September 2018**

Prof. Julius A Ogeng'o was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science of the University of Nairobi.



**4 September 2015**

Hon. Justice (Prof.) Jackton B. Ojwang, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) of the University of Nairobi.

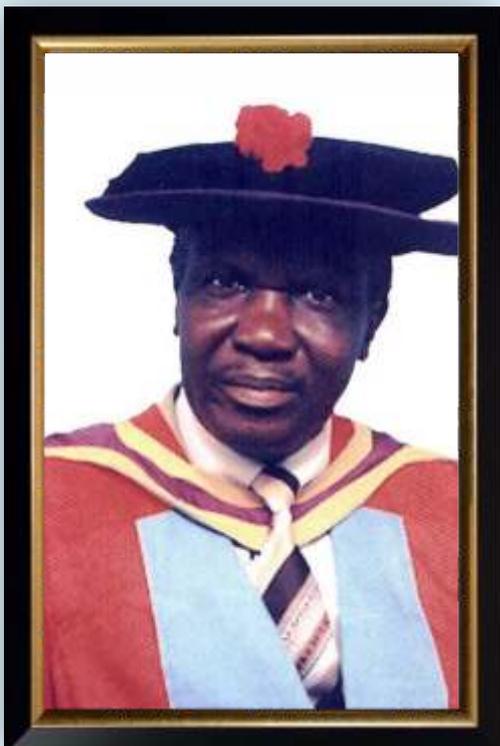


**6 December 2013**

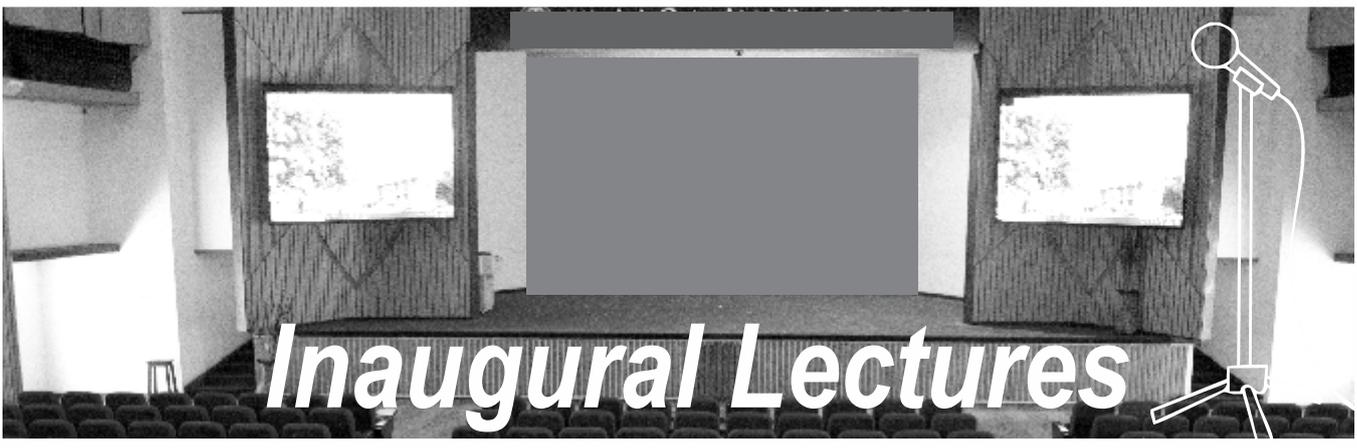
Prof. David Musyimi Ndeti was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (DSC) of the University of Nairobi.

**23 October 2013**

Prof. Geoffrey Moriaso Ole Maloiy was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science of the University of Nairobi.

**17 October 2008**

Prof. John Onyango Kokwaro (deceased) was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science of the University of Nairobi.



# Inaugural Lectures

The inaugural lecture series began in the days of the University of East Africa when it was the practice of the University College Nairobi to have the newly appointed professors deliver their first public lectures in Nairobi. This academic tradition began in 1966 when Prof. H.W. Alexander gave the first inaugural lecture. Fifty years later, the University has registered the delivery of 46 inaugural lectures.

<p><b>13 November 2017</b>  <b>Prof. Julius Alexander Ogeng'o</b>            'Anatomical Variations among Black Kenyans: Relevance in Health and Disease'</p>	<p><b>20 November 2015</b>  <b>Prof. Clement Meshack Peter Oniang'o</b>            'The Role of Philosophy at the University'</p>
<p><b>24 January 2013</b>  <b>Prof. Annie Patricia G. Kameri-Mbote, SC</b>            'Fallacies of Equality and Inequality: Multiple Exclusions in Law and Legal Discourses'</p>	<p><b>14 March 2012</b>  <b>Prof. Julius W. Mwangi</b>            'Herbal Medicine: Do They Really Work?'</p>
<p><b>4 October 2007</b>  <b>Prof. Collete Suda</b>            'Formal Monogamy and Informal Polygamy in Parallel: African Family Tradition in Transition'</p>	<p><b>26 July 2007</b>  <b>Prof. Ciarunji Chesaina</b>            'The Role and Significance of Oral Literature in Social and Psychological Development of Children: Towards a Re-evaluation of Children's Oral Literature'</p>
<p><b>26 May 2006</b>  <b>Prof. Francis A. Aduol</b>            'From Rope-Stretcher to e-mapping: The story of the Discipline of Surveying'</p>	<p><b>May 18, 2006</b>  <b>Prof. Jacob T. Kaimenyi</b>            'Achieving Oral Health for all in Kenya: A Reality or a Myth?'</p>
<p><b>9 September 2004</b>  <b>Prof. Ratemo Waya Michieka</b>            'Environmental Degradation and Pollution: Let us Reverse the Trends'</p>	<p><b>9 October 2003</b>  <b>Prof. George Albert Omore Magoha</b>            'Urological Footprints in Kenya "That Water May Flow": A Story About Male Genital Cancer and Dysfunction'</p>
<p><b>19 June 2003</b>  <b>Prof. Chris. L. Wanjala</b>            'The growth of Literary Tradition in East Africa'</p>	<p><b>4 October 2001</b>  <b>Prof. D. Okoth Okombo</b>            'Language Policy – The Forgotten Parameter in African Development and Governance Strategies'</p>
<p><b>13 August 2001</b>  <b>Prof. David Musyimi Ndetei</b>            'The Walk towards the promise: A view of Mental Health in Global, Kenyan and Individual Perspective'</p>	<p><b>30 September 1999</b>  <b>Prof. Lucia N. Omondi</b>            'Language and Life: A linguistic Glance at Kenya'</p>

<b>July 2, 1992</b> <b>Prof. James Kirumbi Kimani</b> 'Prevention of Fainting and Oedema in the Giraffe'	<b>2 November 1989</b> <b>Prof. Francis J. Gichaga</b> 'The Engineer in Road Building: The Kenya Perspective'
<b>23 July 1986</b> <b>Prof. R.S. Rostom</b> 'Survey in Developing Kenya: The Role and the Prospects'	<b>May 27, 1982</b> <b>Prof. Reuben Benjamin Ogendo</b> 'Geography: The Discipline and its Role in Public Policy'
<b>April 28, 1981</b> <b>Prof. Otieno Malo</b> 'Pervasiveness of Physics in Life'	<b>March 26, 1981</b> <b>Prof. Gideon S. Were</b> 'History, Public Morality and Nation Building: A Survey of Africa since Independence'
<b>26 February 1981</b> <b>Prof. R.B.L. Smith</b> 'The Engineers and the Environment'	<b>January 31, 1980</b> <b>Prof. J. Muhangi</b> 'Psychiatry in Kenya: New horizons in Medical Care'
<b>30 November 1978</b> <b>Prof. Gellaram Ghetandas Asnani</b> 'Will it Rain Tomorrow'	<b>11 May 1978</b> <b>Prof. Neville John Skinner</b> 'Geophysics in Tropical Africa'
<b>9 March 1978</b> <b>Prof. Hillary Peter Ojiambo</b> 'Twenty Years in Medicine'	<b>22 November 1977</b> <b>Prof. Gerald Munene Mugeru</b> 'Useful Drugs and Cancer causing Chemicals in Kenya Medical and Toxic Plants'
<b>10 March 1977</b> <b>Prof. Joseph Gerardus Donders</b> 'Don't Fence us in: The Liberating Force of Philosophy'	<b>19 May 1976</b> <b>Prof. Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi</b> 'The Art of Rainmakers'
<b>May 12, 1976</b> <b>Prof. Henry Sinclair Wood</b> 'Synthesis in Design and Education'	<b>2 December 1975</b> <b>Prof. Thomas R. Odhiambo</b> 'Insect Production and Reproduction'
<b>October 1, 1971</b> <b>Prof. Hector M. Cameron</b> 'Kenya's Cancers'	<b>8 October 1971</b> <b>Prof. Francis C.A. Cammaerts</b> 'A Definition of Teacher Education: Traditional growth and Future Development'
<b>22 October 1971</b> <b>Prof. David Robertshaw</b> 'The Relevance of Animal Physiology to Animal Production in Kenya'	<b>29 October 1971</b> <b>Prof. Andrew J. Gurr</b> 'Home is either here nor there'
<b>26 November 1971</b> <b>Prof. Mohamed Hyder</b> '...and Foresight is Power'	<b>12 November 1971</b> <b>Prof. Stephen C. Neil</b> 'And this should not be forgotten'
<b>16 November 1968</b> <b>Prof. Joseph M. Mungai</b> 'The Anthropological basis of Medicine in East Africa'	<b>22 February 1968</b> <b>Prof. Simeon H. Ominde</b> 'Geography and African Development'
<b>25 November 1966</b> <b>Prof. Peter Robins</b> 'Chemistry and Archeology – A meeting place for the two cultures'	<b>23 September 1966</b> <b>Prof. H.W. Alexander</b> 'Mathematics and the Arts'



# List of Honour: Honorary Degrees of the University of Nairobi

**A**n honorary degree or *honoris causa*, which is Latin 'for the sake of the honour,' is conferred as a way of honouring a distinguished person's contribution to a specific field or to society in general. Since 1970, the University of Nairobi has conferred 33 honorary degrees.

**2015**

**Mr Peter Munga** was recognised by the University of Nairobi Senate and Council for his philanthropy and charitable work. He was awarded degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

**2014**

**Dr (Mrs.) Vijoo Rattansi** was recognised for her philanthropy and charitable work. She was honoured by conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (*honoris causa*)

In the same year, the University also honoured **Dr Samuel Kamau Macharia** for his philanthropy and charitable work by awarding him the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

**2012**

The University honoured **Mr John Simba** for his contribution to the institution. Over a seven- year period, Mr Simba injected into UoN a business approach to the management of its programmes and affairs including legal precision leading to brilliant results.

**2008**

The University honoured **H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki** for being an inspiring leader committed to scholarship, democratic ideals, and ensuring access to opportunities and fair treatment for all and especially for the vulnerable members of society.

The University honoured **Hon. Raila Amollo Odinga** as a nationalist who had walked the journey of the academic, public servant, entrepreneur, as well as liberator of the oppressed and was now walking the journey of an eminent African statesman.

The University of Nairobi further recognised **H.E. Dr Kofi Annan** for his diverse diplomatic successes and for the paradigm of peacemaking he had applied in Kenya and which was being replicated in other countries.

**2005**

The University honoured, for the first time, an African woman, **Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Muta Maathai**, in recognition and acknowledgement of her distinguished and selfless service to the nation and her outstanding work in conservation of the environment.

**2004**

The University of Nairobi honoured **H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki** for his tireless work to establish harmony, understanding, and cooperation between the many groupings and parties of Kenya. Kibaki was a consummate national leader with truly instructive lessons, gifts, and a priceless and important legacy for future generations.

**Dr Joseph Barrage Wanjui** was also recognised as an outstanding industrial development professional with exemplary skills in business leadership and a major contributor to the development of institutional management in Kenya.

**2001**

The University recognised the contributions of **Vak-yeong Yoo** towards the promotion of medical education in Kenya. It is through the efforts of Yoo that the College of Health Sciences received a much needed facelift to inspire students to pursue the truth and scholarship.

**2000**

In this year the University recognised the contribution of **Gerald Munene Mugeru**, the first black African to attain a PhD in Veterinary Medicine in Africa.

**1999**

The University honoured **Prof. David Peter Simon Wasawo** in recognition of his outstanding dedication to the application of science and technology to development. An outstanding scholar with impeccable

credentials, Prof. Wasawo made enormous contribution to research and teaching of science.

Also recognised in that year was **Richard Darwin Keynes**, a distinguished physiologist who was awarded the degree in recognition of his contribution to the understanding of electro-physiological processes and international science.

#### 1998

The University paid homage to **Dr Joseph Maina Mungai**, in recognition of his immense contribution to higher education in Kenya, and to the application of advanced knowledge in dealing with health problems in Kenya.

**Godwin Olu Obasi** was also recognised for his contribution in the field of meteorology and hydrology. A distinguished scientist and a son of Africa, Obasi played a crucial role in policy and research matters in meteorology worldwide.

**Hassanally Rattansi** was similarly recognised for his outstanding personal contribution to social justice. A renowned philanthropist, Rattansi had raised millions of shillings to support education in Kenya. He was regarded as a true friend of the University of Nairobi.

#### 1997

**Dr Julius Gikonyo Kiano** was recognised as a promoter of educational opportunities and business linkages for Kenyans. Dr Kiano was described as the perfect blend of an intellectual and professional politician. He was the first Kenyan to earn a PhD degree and the first Kenyan to teach at the then Royal Technical College, which would later become the University of Nairobi.

**Manilal Premchand Chandaria**, an outstanding industrialist, was also honoured for his involvement in many charitable and social welfare activities in support of education in Kenya.

#### 1995

**Lawrence George Sagini** (awarded posthumously) was described as a nationalist who served his country with dedication in a difficult political office at a difficult time. He humbly shared and radiated his vision while serving as chairman of the Council of the University of Nairobi.

The University also recognised the distinguished academic career of **Simon Hongo Ominde**, the first African professor of the University of Nairobi and East Africa.

**Gideon Saulo Were**, a historian was also recognised for his pioneering scholarship on the history of Kenya and was described as an inspiration to young scholars to research the history of their people.

#### 1994

The University recognised the activities of **Arthur Thomas Porter**, the founding principal of the University College, Nairobi. A pioneer scholar, Porter, the son of Africa, achieved great academic status both at home and abroad.

#### 1992

**Daisaku Ikeda** was nominated in recognition of his immense contribution to promoting a culture of peace. An idealist with a clear vision for the future of mankind, Ikeda remained selfless in his commitment to the course of world peace. His pursuit to promote peace through humanism for 60 years was recognised worldwide and for which he had received over 340 academic honours.

#### 1984

**Walter Plowright** was honoured in recognition of his contribution to the study of animal diseases. His research and publications at Kabete and Muguga research stations are public property.

#### 1983

The University recognised the contribution of **Bethuel Mareka Gecaga** for his distinguished service to the University of Nairobi through his steering of the governing council of the University in the post-independence period, during which he promoted the Kenyanisation of staff, defending the quality education the University was giving. Between 1972 and 1979, Gecaga served as the UoN Chairman of Council.

**Judge Taslim Olwale** was singled out for his achievements as an academic and international scholar in the field of law. An African personality and intellectual, Olwale was the first African to hold the position of the president of the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

**Albert Matson Thomas** was singled out for his contribution to the study of the history of Kenya. His research and writings retrieved fundamental and invaluable material relevant to the study of the history of Kenya.

**Rafael M. Salas**, a distinguished scholar in population studies was honoured for his meritorious services to the United Nations, where he played a crucial role in convincing developing countries to embrace population studies and economic development.

**1980**

The University of Nairobi paid homage to **Abdus Salam**, in recognition of his discoveries in theoretical physics, which formed an invaluable contribution to the transfer of science to developing countries.

**1977**

**Amadou Mahtar M'bow** distinguished himself with his long and outstanding service in the development of education. M'bow, the first African to hold the position of Director-General of UNESCO, believed that through education the foundation of Peace could be laid in the minds of men.

**Hon. Daniel T. Arap Moi** received recognition for his long and varied experience in public affairs. Daniel Moi, was described as a courageous statesman who defended the constitution and the rule of law and hence promoting Kenyans' greater freedom and unfettered pursuit of their goals.

**1970**

**Mzee Jomo Kenyatta**, first President of the Republic of Kenya, was recognised and appreciated for his leadership in building independent Kenya.





# Our History



Former President the late Daniel arap Moi (fourth right) accompanied by the late Prof. George Saitoti (fifth right) at the Federation of African University Sports (FASU) Games in 1978 on UoN sports grounds.



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga (1911-1994), with a walking ceremony at the University of Nairobi.



Current Chair of Council, Prof. Julia Ojiambo (centre) takes her students through a practical session during her days as a lecturer at the University.



A prototype of the Nyayo Pioneer car on display at the Nyayo National Stadium in 1990. The cars were the University's contribution towards Kenya's industrialisation efforts.



President Uhuru Kenyatta (second left, facing Ngina Kenyatta and other members of his family Vice-Chancellor Prof. Francis John Gichaga (left exhibition to mark the twentieth anniversary of H.E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.



stick, follows proceedings during the 1973 graduation



Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o signs the visitors' book at the SONU office during his 2006 visit to the University of Nairobi. Looking on are student leaders and his wife Njeeri wa Ngugi (L).



The Late Dr. Hassanaly Rattansi (centre) and current Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi from the Rattansi Educational Trust when they paid a courtesy call on Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Crispus Kiamba. Prof. Kiamba was Vice-Chancellor in 2002-2005.



camera) and Former First Lady, H.E. Mama are received at Taifa Hall by former facing camera) for a memorial lecture and the death of the founding father of the Nation



Former US President Barack Obama addresses the crowd outside Taifa Hall after delivering a public lecture on August 28, 2006. Barack Obama was at the time Senator for Illinois. He is accompanied by former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha.



Mr John Simba (centre), Chairman of Council, receives the top award on behalf of the University of Nairobi in the State Corporations category from President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga during the Performance Contract awards ceremony held on 16 June 2011 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre. Looking on is Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha (L)



The then President of the Republic of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki Council on March 1, 2013. The Charter, as a legal ins



The Chancellor, Dr Joseph Bamage Wanjui, confers an honorary degree on Dr Kofi Annan (1938-2018) during the graduation ceremony on 17 October 2008. The University of Nairobi recognised Dr. Annan for his diverse diplomatic success and contribution to the peace process in Kenya after the 2007 General Elections.



President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta Communion when Pope Francis celebrated Holy Mass at



University of Nairobi community led by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha, makes a donation in aid of the Sinai fire victims on 20 September 2011.



ki presents the Charter Award to University of Nairobi  
 instrument, defines the operations and obligations of the University.



and First Lady H.E. Margaret Kenyatta receive Holy  
 the University of Nairobi on 26 November 2015.



Prof. Wangari Maathai (1940-2011), Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,  
 plants a commemorative tree at the Great Court before  
 delivering a public lecture in Taifa Hall on 19 November 2004.  
 With her are members of the University management.



Celebrating diversity: International students at UoN pose for  
 a photo with their national flags at the Great Court in 2018.



The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the  
 University of Nairobi Towers on 17 May 2013 presided over by  
 the Chancellor Dr. Joseph Barrage Wanjui.



## Alumni Association Supports UoN

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) was launched on 5 February 2005 at a colourful ceremony in which the late Professor George Saitoti, Minister for Education, Science & Technology at the time, was the chief guest. The launch was attended by Kenya's top personalities in education and the public and private sectors. The UoN alumni present during the occasion were obviously happy to be celebrating the birth of the overdue baby as hearty handshakes and exuberant hugs dominated the event.

Speaking during the function, Professor Saitoti congratulated the alumni for taking the bold step of launching the association. He appealed to the UoN alumni to give total support to the association to enable it achieve its objectives adding that the government viewed alumni associations as positive synergy and energy that could be tapped for the benefit of institutions and society at large. Prof. Saitoti reminded the guests that the best universities worldwide had strong and vibrant alumni associations and this was a practice to be emulated by Kenyans. The then UoN chancellor, Dr Joe Wanjui pledged to support the association adding that involvement of the alumni in the governance and development of the institution was critical in today's dynamic world.

The journey to launching an alumni association began in September 2004 when the University Council requested Dr. Betty Gikonyo to lead the way in establishing the association. There were consultations between the University Legal Officer and the Registrar of Societies aimed at expediting the registration process. It was clear from the beginning that the new outfit would need to be weaned for some time. The University administration, led

by the then Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha, agreed to support the association until it could run independently. Prof. Magoha also mandated officers from the University to work with Dr Gikonyo in planning for the launch of the association. An Alumni Launch Committee was then put in place.

Next, the Committee identified volunteers to serve as interim officials of the association led by Dr Gikonyo as the interim chairperson. The others who accepted the challenge were Robert Obudho, Bernard Waweru, Mildred Owuor, Frank Njenga, Njeri Muhoro, and John Kenduiwo. Other members of the interim committee were Charles Kimathi, Josphat Kirimania, Bernard D. Njuguna, Charles Sikulu, and Charles Okello. The University supported the activities of the association by allocating it office space and deploying personnel. Mr Bernard Njuguna, was seconded to the Association as its first administrator.

In 2016, UONAA held its first Annual General Meeting that saw Dr. Betty Gikonyo hand over the leadership mantle to Mr. Isaac Awuondo as the Chairman of UONAA for a period of three years. In 2019, Mr. Awuondo was re-elected to serve for a further term of three years. His team comprises Dr. Anne Aseeey, Vice-Chairperson; Prof. Patrick L.O Lumumba, Secretary; Mrs. Mildred Owuor, Treasurer; Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Organising Secretary; Dr. Fronica Monari, Deputy Secretary; Dr. Hastings Ozwara, Deputy Treasurer; Mr. Andrew Gakiria, Deputy Organising Secretary; Mr. John Orindi, Newsletter Editor; Mr. Brian Ouma (Co-opted member); and Mr. Kenneth Sawe (Ex-Officio member), Executive Director.

Since 2005, members of the Association have continued

to contribute in many ways to ensure that their mother institution remains the undisputed fountain of knowledge. At the launch ceremony of the Association, the alumni present raised over KSh750, 000 (from 75 members who registered on the spot). Millions of shillings have since been raised by the association, which has undertaken several development and academic projects during the last 15 years.

### UoN Bursary Fund/Scholarship Fund

In 2009, UONAA made a significant donation of KES 5 million to the University of Nairobi Bursary Fund and committed to support the kitty with an annual donation of KES 2 million. The Association has donated a total of KES 23 million to the fund, which has benefited over 3,000 UoN students. In the 2019/2020 academic year, Mr. Isaac Awuondo pledged to kick-start an Alumni Scholarship Fund that will support 1,000 bright and needy students pursuing their studies at the University of Nairobi over the next five years. The Chairman noted that although the scholarship targeted first year students, the Association had received over 700 applications from first years and continuing students, which was a clear indication that more needed to be done to support the many needy students pursuing their studies at the University.

In addition to the scholarship, the Association will endeavour to have beneficiaries attached to alumni in the industry for mentorship and practical exposure through internship and work study programmes. UONAA has also continued to support the Nairobi Innovation Week (NIW). To date, UONAA has supported this initiative to a tune of Ksh.2.5 million. As part of its support to UON students, since 2005, UONAA has on an annual basis rewarded the top performing students in each of the six

colleges. To date, UONAA has awarded over 100 students with over KShs. 1.5 million set aside to reward and award the top achievers. Since 2006 UONAA has supported various graduation ceremonies to a tune of KShs. 4 million over the last 10 years. In addition, UONAA has continued to support University of Nairobi Open Days, Sports Days, and Research Week among other University-wide activities.

### Ranking OF UoN Chancellor

In 2013, University of Nairobi Alumni Association became the first alumni group to actively participate in the ranking of the University chancellor in line with the provisions of the Universities Act 2012. Dr. Vijoo Rattansi emerged top and was installed Chancellor during the 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony in December 2013.

### Alumni Chapters

University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) has over the last 15 years launched 17 faculty based and regional alumni chapters to support their various schools and faculties by offering financial support, student mentorship, public lectures, and attachment and industry linkages.

### UONAA Endowment Fund

One of the goals of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) is to raise funds and set up a KSh1 billion Endowment Fund. The fund will be used to establish Endowment chairs, scholarships, student fellowships, faculty research and innovation, and academic programme and support funds. UONAA will endeavour to bring on board alumni from across the globe through a structured resource mobilisation strategy to raise funds to support this noble venture and create a sustainability plan for the future.



University of Nairobi Alumni Association Chairperson Dr. Betty Gikonyo receiving the UONAA logo from former Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui during the UoN 2005 Graduation Ceremony. Looking on is Prof. George Magoha (second left), the then Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Peter M. F. Mbithi (right), then Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance.



UONAA elected officials & UoN Management pose for a photo. From left (sitting) Mr. John Orindi, Dr. Anne Aseey, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o (UoN), Dr. (Mrs.) Vijoo Rattansi (UoN), Mr. Isaac Awuondo, Mrs. Mildred Owuor, Mr. Brian Ouma (UoN), Dr. Fronica Monari. From left (standing) Mr. Keneth Sawe, Dr. Hastings Ozwara, Prof. Patrick L.O Lumumba, Dr. James Michira, Mr. Andrew Gakiria, Mr. Johnson Kinyua



*Prof. Xiao Shan,  
Director Confucius Institute*

## Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi

The Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi (CIUON) joins the entire University of Nairobi community in celebrating its milestone of 50 years in operation. Confucius was a great thinker, educator, philosopher and the father of

Confucianism in Chinese history and his doctrine has had a very important influence all over the world. The Confucius Institute is an educational organisation, with a mission of helping people all over the world to learn Chinese language and Chinese culture.

On 19 December 2005 the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi was launched as the first Confucius Institute in Africa. It has been voted among the top 20 Confucius Institutes and has won the title of 'Confucius Institutes of the Year' seven times consecutively from 2007 to 2018. In 2014, CIUON won the award of 'Pioneer Confucius Institute', and in 2015 it was selected as one of the 15 'Global Model Confucius Institutes' among 500 Confucius Institutes and 1000 Confucius Classrooms across the world.

Through the Confucius Institute, the University of Nairobi and Tianjin Normal University are collaborating in the exchange of students and lecturers, including having Chinese lecturers teach Chinese language at the

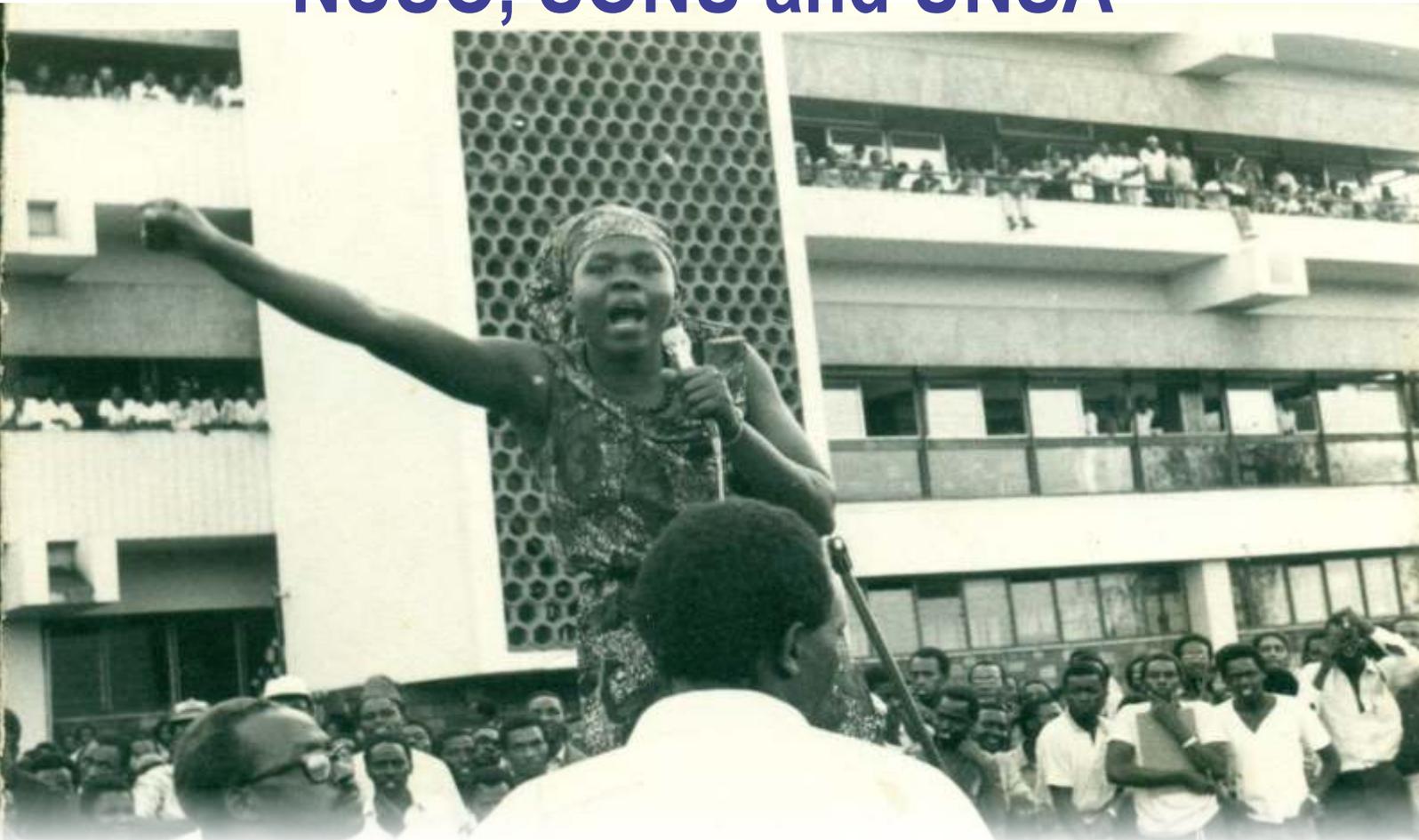
University of Nairobi. The Confucius Institute scholarship programme that was developed through the collaboration benefits students of various schools and institutes in the University of Nairobi.

Since 2006 about 500 students have benefitted from scholarships and opportunities to study at the Confucius Institute in China. In 2019, four students applied for PhD scholarships to study in China. Students taking majors in journalism, business studies, international relations/studies and other subjects that require language skills would also find a course in the Chinese language programme to suit their specialisations. The Confucius Institute is currently offering bachelor's, diploma, and certificate courses in Chinese language and culture. The Institute has three intakes in a year in January, May, and September. Successful students in the Chinese language course at the Institute stand a chance of being awarded scholarships for further studies in China for master's, a certificate programme of one year or one semester, or a summer training programme which takes one month.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi has four student associations; Choir, Dance Club, Gongfu Club, and Dragon Dance Team. The club members have participated in many important receptions and events and have been affirmed by officials at all levels in China and Kenya.

Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi has a very close connection with Chinese government, organisations, and companies and acts as a link between Kenya and China for schools, institutes, and other establishments.

# Five Decades of student activism: NUSO, SONU and UNSA



*Student leader Chelagat Mutai addresses students outside the Central Catering Unit (CCU) in this picture believed to have been taken the mid-seventies.*

The Student Organisation of Nairobi University (SONU), like NUSO before it, was the breeding ground for some of our national leaders. Today, we have men and women who were former SONU leaders redefining national leadership. Back in the day, student activism under SONU was not without some form of drama, depending on how you look at it. To the students (read comrades), this was the comrades' power or pride. 'Comrades power' and 'A people! United! Shall never be defeated!' were common rallying chants before a riot and have remained with some of us to date. As a result of being a hotbed of radicalism, SONU has been banned, deregistered, renamed, restored, and registered again on several occasions.

Some of the student leaders of the early 1970s who later became national leaders include James Orengo and Mborio Mwashengu wa Mwachofi among others. By 1978, the students' organisation was known as Nairobi University Students Organisation (NUSO). The chairman then was Mukumu Muchina who was

succeeded by Rumba Kinuthia. Karanja Njoroge was in charge of the Foreign Affairs docket, which was later taken by Mukhisa Kituyi (the current UNCTAD Secretary-General). Makau Mutua (currently a professor of law at State University of New York) was also a student leader in the early 80's but was among a group of students who were expelled. He completed his law degree at the University of Dar es Salaam.

During the mid-1970s to around 1979, students used to commemorate 2 March as JM day. Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, popularly known as JM, was a popular Member of Parliament representing the then Nyandarua North Constituency. His body was found in the Ngong Forest on 2nd March 1975 but the circumstances surrounding his murder were never resolved. JM was critical of the government of the day and senior officials in government were implicated in his murder. The commemoration of this day always made the government uncomfortable as students would also use the opportunity to demonstrate through the streets of Nairobi, making stopovers at

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**OUR ALUMNI, OUR STRENGTH**

various government offices to make statements or castigate the authorities for various acts of commission or omission. The day was finally obliterated from the students' calendar when the government closed the University a few days before it was commemorated in 1980 or thereabouts. With students at home, the day was not observed for one year and by the next year its significance had faded away.

In the 80s and 90s, student activism continued to contribute to the expansion of the national democratic space. During this period, the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) party reigned supreme and those who dared to voice opinions that deviated from official government policy or the position of the ruling party found themselves in trouble. This situation led to the exodus of many lecturers from UoN while dissenting students were expelled. Many former students believe that 1982 was a turning point for the University of Nairobi. Students allegedly took part in the 1 August 1982 coup attempt. It is recorded that over 60 UoN students were arrested in the aftermath of the rebellion against former President Daniel Arap Moi's government. Army platoons were released onto University soil, taking up positions around the premises including the halls of residence.

The late Titus 'Tito' Adungosi, the SONU chairman of that year, was sentenced to a 10-year jail term on charges of sedition, thus becoming the first civilian convicted in connection with the coup attempt. Tito was 22 years old at the time. The prosecution alleged that during the seven-hour uprising, Tito addressed the students and slum dwellers from atop a hijacked city bus. The fiery outspoken and radical SONU chairman was at the time a

third-year student in the Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Development. Tito Andugosi succumbed to illness in 1988 while still in detention. Of the 60 students arrested, 22 appeared before a court and were charged with taking part in a riot during the coup. Those who stood out were Philip Murgor, Kibisu Kabatesi, Moses Samwel Ogweno Ongo, and Patrick Ouma Onyango popularly, known as Paddy Onyango.

In 1985, students took part in a two-week long riot over the allegation that some students had been admitted without the proper qualifications. 'Dubbed the Mwandawiro riot', some former students note that they do not really know what they were rioting about. The University was closed for three months and students ordered to report to their local chiefs to keep them busy as they pleased. Those who went through this ordeal remember it as humiliating. After this, the student riots appeared to have died down in the next two years, basically because the senior students were tired of being in the University and wanted to complete their studies.

In early November 1987, ten thousand students were expelled and ordered to report to their respective chiefs twice a week. Around 40 of them were arrested and several others seriously injured following a two-day clash with the Kenya Police. It all started on Friday, 13 November 1987 when the newly elected SONU officials were sworn in. The new chairman, Wafula Buke, pledged a new era in student leadership. He promised loyalty only to the students and criticised the University administration for not allowing the student body to invite onto University grounds speakers who were known for being outspoken on national issues. The students also



Staff and students from Tsinghua University in China when they visited the African Union Offices in Nairobi on 6 September 2018 through a student and staff exchange programme organised by Office of Career Services.

vowed to reject official overseas trips unless these were sanctioned by SONU. At the time, the government used to lure leaders to its side using the offer of overseas travel.

Seven students were whisked away for questioning that night and the next day the battle with the police, then the GSU, began. Several university workers and passersby caught up in the fracas were seriously injured. The then Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, also had a rough time trying to calm the students. The government banned SONU and expelled its leaders from the University. Wafula Buke was sentenced to a five-year jail term in connection with the activities surrounding his election, and notably links with the Libyan Embassy in Nairobi. Buke was then a third year BA student and an active SONU member.

### Meatball riot

Tuesday is a day that UoN students in the 80s and 90s looked forward to. At meal time, expectations were always high as they looked forward to their favourite meal of meatballs. One Tuesday, in 1989, the cafeteria did not serve the delicacy and this so riled the students that it sparked a riot. The students were sent home, yet again. Despite the management's stand against restoring SONU after the government ban in 1987, the students continued to agitate for SONU's return and in 1992 they succeeded in relaunching it as SONU 92. The interim SONU '92 officials, led by their chairman, Francis Kajwang, were focused on getting unconditional amnesty for academic exiles and their reinstatement to public universities. These academics included Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o and lecturers from the Faculty of Law like Gibson Kamau Kuria and Shadrack Gutto.

In August of 1992, the University Council banned SONU '92 arguing that the union's activities were inconsistent

with the objectives of the University. The SONU leader at the time was Kabando wa Kabando. According to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga, the decision to ban SONU was reached after a four-hour Council meeting which resolved that the students' union activities would be undertaken by college-based organisations.

A disciplinary committee, constituted in the course of 1993, chaired by the late Prof. Joseph Nyasani, Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, faced a number of challenges. The Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana (now the Governor of Makueni County) declined to sit as a member of the committee giving the reason that he was an interested party. Kibwana was sacked as dean for this action. During the disciplinary hearings, Dr. Willy Mutunga also wrote to advise the Vice-Chancellor that the student leaders were his clients, but the legal experts retained by the University argued that the rules on the conduct and discipline of students did not allow for this. This brought about a stalemate that delayed the reopening of the institution.

The forment of student activism and the activities of the students' union, whatever name it adopted since 1970, might have had its fair share of drama, but one can only look back and marvel at the number of national leaders that emerged from these activities and dominated Kenya's democratic space. They are leaders that the current crop of student leaders looks up to. For whatever it is worth, SONU was indeed a platform that propelled students to national leadership positions. As we celebrate the student leadership in the early years of the University's existence, we can only look forward to a different kind of leadership by the current and future University of Nairobi Student Association (UNSA) leaders considering that theirs is a different environment altogether.



Newly elected student leader Babu Owino (centre) takes the oath of office administered by the UoN Legal Officer Ms Rebeccah Ng'ondo. Babu Owino served as student leader in 2011 and later in 2014-2017.



School of Law students participating in the AIBUMA Conference 2011

# Contribution of Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU) to the University of Nairobi

By Dr Charles Mukhwaya

The story of the University of Nairobi, a premier public university in East and Central Africa, would be incomplete without the footprints of her non-faculty members of staff working in different faculties, schools, directorates, and departments.

The non-faculty members including professional administrators, technical, library and information sciences staff members are organised and represented by the Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU). Specifically, the said professionals include registrars, librarians, accountants, information and ICT officers, HR personnel, procurement officers, medical officers, pharmacists, clinicians, registered nurses, medical laboratory scientists, transport managers, estate managers, halls managers, and catering managers among others.

The University of Nairobi boasts of a rich mix of highly trained, skilled, and qualified non-faculty members of staff. These professionals are in very high demand especially from the young and emerging universities, research institutions, national and county governments, and international organisations. As a result, UoN continues to be the biggest breeding ground of such professionals.

## THE ROLE OF KUSU

As a union, KUSU plays both direct and indirect roles in the functions of the University. These roles inter alia include:

### Policy Formulation

KUSU is involved in the policy formulation process courtesy of the constitutional requirement for stakeholder participation. This has enhanced constructive and structured dialogue between social partners thereby reducing the time expended on policy formulation. It has also minimised the unnecessary duplication of opinion seeking. This opportunity granted to staff to contribute ideas and views on matters touching on staff welfare and other policy issues has inculcated a strong sense of ownership and belonging amongst and within the workforce of the University. Further, it has enabled the University to be compliant with relevant constitutional requirements.

### Negotiation for better terms

The union routinely negotiates with the University for better terms and conditions of service for staff, hence

increases motivation and the productivity of the said staff. The successful completion of collective bargaining agreements forms an integral part of the performance contract (PC) targets of the University. As a result, the University is able to meet its targets set out in the PC. Such negotiations have also encouraged and built a strong social dialogue between the University management and members of staff.

### Dispute resolution

KUSU has established a strong partnership with the University for the amicable resolution of trade disputes arising between employer and employee relationships. As a member of staff disciplinary committee, the union has ensured that disputes are resolved expeditiously and fairly. Consequently, the University has realised a just and cohesive workforce devoid of common employer-employee mistrust and suspicions

### Research, innovation and fabrication

Non-faculty members of staff, particularly those working in teaching and research departments, are involved together with other leading researchers in research projects and programs. For example, at the Kenya Aids Vaccine Institute (KAVI) many medical laboratory scientists are involved in efforts to find a vaccine for HIV and AIDS. Other technologists in engineering departments of the university pioneered in developing novel innovations such as ventilators during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

### Teaching and academic programmes

In all departments, teaching science and technical based programmes, non-faculty members and in particular technologists, are involved in demonstrations and practical sessions for all undergraduate students. Besides, hands on experience and practice are an integral part of syllabi of all science and technical programmes. This role played by such KUSU members ensures timely coverage of syllabi and completion of studies.

Similarly, technologists in teaching departments are attached and assist post graduate students undertaking their research projects in science based programs.

### IGUs and consultancies

As part of cost-sharing with the government, many KUSU members are involved in consultancies and other Income Generating Units (IGU) in their respective departments. The resultant generated revenue is ploughed back to support the University budget deficits.

### Vision

KUSU aims at building on the strong partnership it enjoys with the employer to ensure better staff welfare and assist the University to achieve its vision.



# Poem

## UoN @ 50

All of us can get a chance to attend a university  
 But not all of us get a chance for 'the university'.  
 They say if wishes were horses.....  
 Well, those people who said are only found 'in the university'.  
 And although I cannot call myself a beggar, I think am riding.  
 I am riding in a plane flight no. G34/83597/2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain, Captain VC speaking.  
 We are currently passing the World Class Mediterranean Sea.  
 Please remain seated and fasten your seatbelts.  
 We are now at flight engine level number 01 KE  
 And flying at an altitude above the standard education level  
 The flight will touch down after 4 years and for some will take 6.  
 Ladies and gentlemen, brace for impact.

When a pilot says these words,  
 What type of questions ring in your head?  
 For me would be, How long has this plane been on air  
 And will I make it in one piece. Then the pilot confidently says,  
 "The plane has been in service for 50 years; relax and enjoy the ride"  
 Now, I'm not saying that other planes can't ride better  
 But mine makes me feel safer and  
 I write poems, yes, but writing this was special  
 Because my writing (was) not about my performance  
 But about my experience  
 Show me your friends and I'll show you your future  
 Show me your university and I will show you your culture  
 I have wondered about great men in the country  
 I have also wondered about effective women in the society  
 It never made sense till I noticed where they came from.

I don't know how it feels to be 50. I really don't know  
 But it must be that age  
 When all the ideas you've left must be right  
 When all the moves you PowerPoint must Excel  
 Our predecessors called it UoN after its graduation  
 Well, they didn't know it would take over the nation  
 Forming an attraction to all ambitions that offer solutions to all situations  
 There was a time our parents only knew of one university.  
 There was a time this university was the only university,  
 With my writing fully crafty, UoN is now at fifty.  
 Without a hefty appraisal in mind, I'll just say Asanti

Written by  
 Uon School of Law Drama Society  
 Theatre of the Absurd

# UASU

## *Champion of Employee Rights*

In April 1966, an organization called the University College Academic Staff Association was registered with the Registrar of Societies. The association was very much a social organization which welcomed and sent off expatriate staff as they joined and left college. Prior to 1972, most lecturers at the University of Nairobi were members of the University Staff Association, which was provided for in the University of Nairobi Act (1970). The staff association was entitled to representation in the University Council.

The political environment in the country had for long been characterized by intolerance to any challenge to authoritarianism including oppression of any socialist leaning opinions, torture and murder. Many academics had fled the country. Government held the view that academics were not low level workers and so did not deserve representation through trade union, their concerns could be sorted by recommendations of Presidential Commissions.

The Association was transformed into a Union due to its inability to access certain information and offer effective representation considered crucial to staff welfare. Some Dons had rejected membership of this body which they regarded as part of the government machinery to curb academic freedom. Academic staff decided to form a trade union which could make certain demands with the backing of the law. They took the initiative of registering UASU. The move was unpopular with the University Council because the Union Constitution provided for strike action among others. Although there was a lot of lobbying from Council and certain members of the University of Nairobi Senate to reconsider their decisions and revert to association, the pressure that came with being unrepresented in Council and its committees, members in 1992 voted overwhelmingly to remain in a trade union.

The draft constitution of UASU provided inter alia:

*WHEREAS The Universities' Academic Staff Union (UASU), has been founded upon principles of social justice, labour democracy and democratic action and is dedicated to the achievement of greater unity among its members for the purpose of improving their terms and conditions of service, standards of living, social responsibility and empowerment, bringing fairness and dignity to the workplace and ensuring academic freedom and social equity in the universities;*

*WHEREAS the Union will act as a bargaining instrument for its members, unite and assemble a progressive coalition on overcome unfair wages, unfair working hours, unfair working conditions and unfair labour policies and practices wherever these exist, and create a collective force within the labour movement that will speak on the public policies and issues that affect the lives of the academic staff;*

*WHEREAS the Union has formulated and adopted the following rules and regulations, and recognizes a need for organizing and collectively bargaining for the purpose of attaining its objectives.*

In an attempt to force government to register UASU, members of academic staff had several confrontations with state machinery including going on strike, the longest lasting of which took nine months in 1994 and resulting in the summary dismissal of 6 members of staff. Academic staff did not relent until the NARC government came to power and on 2nd May 2003, UASU was registered.

The union immediately called its members out on strike to agitate for improved terms and conditions of service, this yielded success in the highest ever increase in basic pay and house allowances for academic staff, it also enabled the Chapter officials to directly negotiate other terms and conditions with their respective Councils.

UASU has empowered academic staff by providing an avenue for championing employee rights through constructive engagement with management and this has benefited the University of Nairobi in improving its ranking and performance. The University of Nairobi Chapter is not only the largest but has the highest concentration of its members in senior ranks.



## The University of Nairobi Choir and University Anthem

By Dr Atoh Fred

The University of Nairobi Choir was established formally in 1988 by the late Dr. Arthur Mudogo Kemoli after his return to the University from a tour of duty at the Ministry of Education as Director of Creative Arts (Music & Drama). The choir, for a long time, had only a few members from the staff and student communities of the University. Most of the singers were from the famous *Kariokor Nyayo Choir*, a vibrant choral group during the reign of the late President Daniel Arap Moi. History has it that Kemoli had started a students' choir much earlier in 1967 during his time as a student, but the group became dormant when he left for further studies abroad.

The student singers in the newly established choir were drawn mainly from the School of Education (Kikuyu Campus) with only a handful joining them from the other campuses. All rehearsals would take place at the School of Education. Soon, the choir attracted the attention of students from the rest of the student community and became an association for all students with an interest in singing. The choir was registered officially as a students' association in the University under the office of the Dean of students as 'Student Music Association of the University of Nairobi' (SMAUON). Consequently, the University began to provide transport for students to attend choir rehearsals at the Main Campus. With guidance from the Dean of Students' Office, membership in the choir was reserved for *bona fide* students of the University of Nairobi. This transition was meant to give the students a chance to explore as well as express their musical talents as part of their co-curricular activities. The choir membership immediately grew to over 70 singers

drawn from different campuses of the University.

Dr. Kemoli directed the choir from inception in 1967 and after its revival in 1988 until his demise in 2012. He worked closely with some of the students who demonstrated musical abilities such as Professor Thomas Senaji, the late Amos Ombayo, and this writer. He was also assisted by Esmond Majanga and his brother, the late Evans Aswani Kemoli. Upon Kemoli's demise, I became Director of the choir, having served as a trainer between 1990 and 1993 and from 1999 to 2012. I am assisted by Mr. Chris Wekulo, a former student of Chemistry and choir member.

### A New University Anthem

In 1997, during celebrations to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of Nairobi, the choir was commissioned to provide entertainment in various campuses. Dr. Kemoli used this opportunity to compose the University anthem, which was launched as part of the celebrations. The anthem, whose text is provided below, is premised on the University's Latin motto, *Unitate et Labore* (By Unity and Labour), and extols the virtues of unity and labour as essential components of success in work situations. The UoN anthem also reiterates the foundational philosophy of a university as the place of knowledge and truth that sets the mind free. A university is only productive if it networks with the industry where real labour occurs rather than remain an ivory tower. The anthem acknowledges the significant role of God in energising life and the acquisition of knowledge on this journey to freedom.

*University of Nairobi*

*We labour altogether in search of knowledge and truth.*

*We bless and honour Thee.*

*We are the pinnacle of excellence in knowledge;*

*Knowledge to serve our mother-land (oh Kenya),*

*Knowledge to serve all mankind.*

*Be not engulfed by pride, let excellence prevail.*

*May we all shun the pitfall of being the ivory tower.*

*With sacrifice and dedication, our problems we'll overcome.*

*We are the fountain of knowledge; we create and hold the vision.*

*God gives us the grace to serve, and the future for us is bright,*

*And the children shall drink from the fount of knowledge.*

*Knowledge shall surely set them free (beyond the stars),*

*Knowledge shall surely set them free.*

We sing this anthem alongside the Kenya national and East African anthems during the official functions of the University such as graduation ceremonies, the Vice-Chancellor's address to first-year students during orientation, the Nairobi International Trade Fair (at the University stand), and the University of Nairobi Open Day and Prayer Day among others.

### Our Activities

The University choir provides entertainment during University activities and has participated in several local and international events. We hold concerts occasionally in collaboration with different orchestras especially the Kenya Conservatoire Orchestra.

The choir also participates in national public holiday celebrations when called upon. We take part in competitions with other university choirs during the annual national Kenya Music Festival and also organise in-house charity events like visits to children's homes as part of the CSR activities of the University.

The choir has travelled to different countries to represent the University in various events. We have performed at the University of Transkei in South Africa during a graduation ceremony and also visited South Korea at the invitation of the International Youth Fellowship. We have been to the Chinese, Portuguese, and French embassies during celebrations of their countries' national days. The choir's collaboration with the University of Nairobi's Confucius Institute has seen several of its members not only perform in China but also obtain free classes in Chinese language at UoN as well as scholarships to further their studies in Chinese universities. As such, the choir performs many songs in the Chinese language as part of its musical repertoire.

The choir is a place where students network with each other and find opportunities to explore and express their musical talents. Membership in the choir has also enabled students to socialise and find opportunities for mentorship and rehabilitation during their life at the University. The choir is open to students of all levels who are recruited annually through strict and open auditions. We hold elections annually to give leadership roles to different students within the association as part of the mentorship programme. In this way, we give the students a chance to learn teamwork as well as build leadership confidence as they handle the different challenges that abound in such complex groups.

*Dr Atoh Fred is the Choir Director at the University of Nairobi.*



*President Uhuru Kenyatta (centre) and Deputy President William Ruto with members of the University Choir. The President was at the University to lay the foundation stone of the University of Nairobi Towers on 22 August 2014.*

## Professor Judith Mbula Bahemuka: On 'growing up' at UoN



I was admitted to pursue a master's degree in philosophy and religious studies at the University of Nairobi in 1971 on a Government of Kenya scholarship. I remember the first day at the University of Nairobi with nostalgia. I was received by Rev. Dr Stephen Neil and Prof. Joseph Donders who interviewed me to join a master's programme at the University of Nairobi.

Walking at the Great Court was a warming experience; the grass was green and the Court was beautifully kept. I thought to myself what a wonderful place to be in and what a beautiful institution this must be! It was an experience that, perhaps on hindsight, set me towards playing a role as a juror for the University of Nairobi Towers Model Competition in 2014. The only qualification I had to be selected as a juror must have been that first impression of the University of Nairobi, and specifically the Great Court. I kept talking of the first experience at the Great Court and it must have rubbed people the right way. I had seen something beautiful as I walked through the foyer; and my first sight of Gandhi Wing, the Taifa Hall, and the Fountain of Knowledge with the water trickling down reflecting the rays of the sun, gave an impression of eternal youth. This

imagery has remained with me for over four decades.

I was recruited to the position of tutorial assistant in 1973, to support the late Prof Joseph Nyasani in teaching Social Philosophy. In 1974, after receiving my master's degree I was absorbed into the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies as a Tutorial Fellow. I registered for a PhD programme in the Department of Sociology and embarked on teaching courses in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the same time providing tutorial assistance to the Department of Sociology. For the doctoral studies I was fortunate to receive a partial scholarship from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 1976, I was promoted to full lecturer and completed my PhD programme. I was awarded a PhD at a ceremony held at the Great Court and presided over by the then Chancellor, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. This was one of the happiest moments of my life. It felt special since there were only two people who graduated with doctorates. The other recipient was a doctor, Prof. Geoffrey Mati, who was awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree.

In the 70s the University was one big happy family. It was difficult to differentiate a tutorial fellow, a lecturer, and a senior lecturer. The relationships were cordial and our seniors guided, mentored, and appreciated our work. University members of staff visited each other in their homes. I vividly remember the many Saturdays when the Late Prof. Kivuto Ndeti, who was Chairman, Department of Sociology, would invite students and staff for *nyama choma* at his home. There was a communal feeling and we shared a beautiful warmth and comradeship. In those days there was no lift in Gandhi Wing and as we walked the stairs to the fifth floor, people chatted and laughed and the level of interaction was high. I had an office on the fourth floor and the then Vice-Chancellor, Late Prof. Joseph Mungai, would walk into the offices unannounced and without security, to check on members of staff.

We had a high level of academic engagement. There were fiery exchanges in the weekly seminars. The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) was the place to be every week for most of us young scholars. As young scholars, we watched in amazement as the best minds tore into each other and shredded the written word. In these forums, I learnt a lesson in appreciating academic tolerance. This exchange of ideas, constructive criticism, and accepting that 'you don't know it all' helped me in the

later years as I supervised master's and PhD students. This academic vibrancy seems to have been lost during the early 90s, but it seems to be coming back through the webinars due to COVID-19 and what a silver lining in a dark cloud!

I find a change at the University of Nairobi today. It looks as if there is a clear divide between administrators and the teaching fraternity. This divide was not there up to the 1990s. The year 1982, seems to have been the turning point for the University of Nairobi. The attempted coup was destructive and disruptive. It scattered the University community. The coup directly affected the University forcing a closure for two years. Once the University was reopened, the mood had changed and the tempo had slowed down. A Visitation had been called upon the University by the Chancellor and decentralisation of the University began. The formation of colleges with Kikuyu, Kabete, Parklands, and Lower Kabete coming into existence meant that we had to change our way of thinking. The lawyers were in Parklands and the educators went to Kikuyu. I remember wondering what those of us who were left at the main campus were meant to be. Were we the favoured children or were we the 'troublesome dissidents'. A close look at the number of staff and students strikes concentrated more on the main campus and I must own up, I played a role in singing and trying to grow up during those demonstration moments. The decentralisation brought about financial constraints as the University's expenditure grew. New buildings had to be constructed to accommodate the staff in the new

areas. The University had to look for new ways of generating income to supplement the capitation from Government. A committee was set up to look into avenues for fundraising and expanding opportunities for Kenyans who wanted to come back and study as they continued with their employment. I was privileged to be part of that committee, which was chaired by Prof. Francis Kibera, the then Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It was this committee which operationalised the Module II programme. The Module II programme was well-thought out, but implementing the changes that came with it was not easy. I can only describe the beginning of teaching Module II as a gathering season. However, the changes brought about by decentralisation had the long-term effect of scattering; making the University of Nairobi to record significant growth, expanding it to the colleges which are like universities in their own right.

The University of Nairobi gave me an opportunity to study, to grow, and to expand my knowledge horizon. It has provided opportunities for me to be trained at the master's, doctoral and post-doctoral levels. I was privileged to receive scholarships under the Hubert Humphrey Scholarship Programme to study Agriculture and Rural Development at Cornell University and International Relations at the Humphrey Institute for International Affairs at St. Paul's University, Minnesota. The University also gave me an opportunity to reach out and experience teaching in international universities like Leiden University, University of Amsterdam, the Catholic



*Prof. Judith M. Bahemuka with constitution expert Prof. Yash Pal Ghai.*



*Prof. Bahemuka with the late Prof. Hastings Okoth Oundo.*



**1990:** Prof. Bahemuka when she organised a public lecture and exhibition to mark the twentieth anniversary of the death of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta at Taifa Hall. The occasion was graced by the presence of former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta (centre).

University in Washington DC, Maryknoll College in New York, and Columbia University. These were great opportunities provided to me by the University of Nairobi.

I have taught students from various departments including health sciences, architecture, planning, development, and agriculture. I have also taught the common undergraduate course. I enjoyed teaching the Rural Sociology and Development course to students at the Kabete Campus but my favourite course was Sociology of the Family. This to me, is a course which reflected and continues to reflect the importance of development, a sound work ethic, the importance of values, and a sense of belonging. The Kenyan family has always reminded me of the oneness of *Taifa*. This explains my commitment to creating a beautiful *Taifa Hall* for the University family.

After my 49 years in the University, I look back at the relationships that have been established. I was employed when Dr. Josephat Karanja was the Vice-Chancellor. I have had the joy of serving under Prof. Stephen Kiama, the eighth Vice-Chancellor. I have been privileged to live through the history of the University of Nairobi as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Interestingly, working with each of these eight Vice-Chancellors has given me unique insights into their persona. I was appointed as the youngest warden to Women's Hall (Box) and it was a time of tremendous growth for me as I interacted with the students. I developed friendships with students that have stood the test of time. I experienced the trauma of the 1982 coup when the late Prof Joseph Maina Mungai was the Vice-Chancellor and we all have lived to see the University grow. I remember those moments and the memory of these great Vice-Chancellors with fondness.

The three events which have had real sentimental value to me are: first, the graduation ceremony in 1977 when I received my PhD. Second is when I organised a memorial lecture and exhibition at *Taifa Hall* to mark the twentieth anniversary of the death of the founding father of the Nation. The event was beamed on national TV and *Taifa Hall* brought the nation together. The third most sentimental moment for me was in 2000 when I was voted as one of the best lecturers from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and was given an award for it.

The question is, how did I get to where I am today? I have faced many challenges during my sojourn at UoN. Each challenge, however, presented immense opportunities. I believe this is the experience of anyone who tries to be a teacher, a mentor, and a scholar. Self-assurance is important. I always felt that I needed to affirm my presence. I do not believe in allowing other people to define my persona. Once given an opportunity, believe in it, take it up, and discover your talent to use that opportunity. Many times I have had to pull myself up, take in a deep breath and remind myself that I have to be there for my colleagues, my students, my friends, and above all I have to do my scholarly work. I have fought negativity. It diminishes individual growth. I think, I am a better person today than I was yesterday.

I leave the University of Nairobi with a great sense of satisfaction. My advice to my colleagues is strive to be the best, invest in young people, and give your students the best attention. Be a parent, a mentor, and a friend to each one of your students. I had a great time growing up at UoN and congratulate the entire University for helping me grow up.

# The Three Bhatt siblings at UoN



*Prof. Kirna Bhatt (L) and Prof. Shrikant Bhatt at the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi.*

**P**rofessor Shrikant Bhatt from the Department of Internal Medicine and Professor Kirna Bhatt from the Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics are referred to as the brother and sister of the College of Health Sciences. The two siblings, who are teaching and practicing together, have shared the same passion for medicine right from when they were growing up. They were born two years apart in Karatina, Nyeri. Shrikant, the younger one of the pair, was born in 1949. The 'third Bhatt' is their younger brother, Professor Bhalendu Bhatt, from the Department of Chemistry in the College of Biological and Physical Sciences.

## The Bhatt doctors

Shrikant Bhatt and Kirna Bhatt have been part of the UoN community for over 50 years, being students of the University of East Africa. Shrikant pursued bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery degrees between 1969 and 1974. Soon after, he enrolled for a master's in internal medicine in 1975 and graduated in 1978. Shrikant came back to the University's School of Medicine in 1979 as an honorary lecturer in medicine and was promoted to the position of lecturer in 1981. This was the beginning of his bright career in medicine spanning about 41 years.

Kirna, on the other hand, enrolled for a bachelor of

medicine degree in 1968 and graduated in 1973. She joined her brother in studying for a master's degree in medicine in 1975. Their graduation in 1978 was the first one that the late President Daniel Arap Moi presided over as Chancellor. Kirna has been teaching undergraduate students at the Kenyatta National Hospital since 1976 and postgraduate students since 1978.

A prolonged lecturer's strike is the reason why the two siblings ended up in the same master's class. 'Because we were in the same class, we used to revise for examinations together and would end up answering the same questions and scoring almost the same marks; if there was a difference, this would be by five marks perhaps', Kirna explains and indicates that their lecturers could not understand this and thought that they copied each other's work.

## Key appointments

In 1994, Shrikant was appointed the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Therapeutics and served in this position until the year 2000. On many occasions, he has also served as Principal, College of Health Sciences, in acting capacity.

Between 2002 and 2006, he was a visiting professor teaching the Tropical Medicine course in Lima Peru

under the Gorgas Institute Alabama University, U.S.A. Shrikant also served as a member of the International Congress of Infectious Diseases (ISID) Council from 2002 to 2008. In 2013, he was appointed by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to the selection panel for the chairman and members of the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation.

On her part, Kirna was appointed as a member on the National Council for Science and Technology in 2010. In the same year, she was appointed as the chairperson of the National Bioethics Committee where she oversaw research in the country. Since 2003, she has been representing the country as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative based in Geneva. Kirna has held numerous training workshops and seminars in different fields in medicine including malaria, HIV, and research ethics.

For ten years, Shrikant and Kirna have been teaching groups of visiting American student doctors through annual seminars. The highly published professors also taught some of the prominent physicians in Kenya including Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Prof. James Machoki, Principal, College of Health Sciences..

### Presidential awards

The Bhatt doctors have received a number of awards for their great contribution to society.

'On December 12, 2006, former President Mwai Kibaki bestowed on my sister and me the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS)', says Shrikant. 'It was such a big honour for us to receive the presidential award', he remarks.

In 1986, former president Daniel Moi presented to Shrikant the Insignia of Serving Brother to the order during the investiture held for the admission and promotion of members into the most vulnerable order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. He also received the Exemplary University of Nairobi Employee of the Year in Medicine 2008 by Kenyatta National Hospital.

Kirna has also been honoured in many areas. She is a recipient of the Second Bar and Third Bar to the Service Medal Awards from St. John ambulance and the Afya Excellency Award in Malaria Research Education and Practice. 'I was awarded the Honor of Serving Sister for the Order of St. John by President Daniel Arap Moi in July 1988', she reveals adding that, 'In 2013, I was awarded the Commander in the Order of St. John by Her Majesty the Queen of England'. In 2001, she received the Staff Merit award by UoN in recognition of outstanding contribution towards the University's mission.



*Prof. Kirna Bhatt receives a medal from former president, Daniel Moi, in recognition of her distinguished service to the St. John's Ambulance in July 1988.*



*Prof. Kirna Bhatt holds the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (E.B.S.) award received from retired President His Excellency Mwai Kibaki on 12 December 2012.*



*Prof. Kirna Bhatt is a dedicated member of the St. John's Ambulance.*

*Prof. Shrikant Bhatt was also awarded the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (E.B.S.) award by retired President His Excellency Mwai Kibaki on 12 December 2012.*



### **They value honesty**

The three Bhatt siblings live in different houses but share the same compound. Their father, who was a head teacher in the colonial era, was a strict adherent of the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. He taught his children that honesty was the foundation of a successful life and they have continued to live by this value to this day. The two medics also recall living at a time when the law on racial segregation was in force and restricted access to many facilities. Even though schools were segregated into those for Africans, Europeans, and Indians, their father would allow them to play with the African children in their compound for he abhorred the idea of racial inequality.

Shrikant is married and has two children. Kirna chose not to get married. Given that she grew up in a very conservative community which believed that the girl's place was in the kitchen, Kirna is emphatic that she knew that was not her place. For a very long time, she was the only woman in her community who had advanced her education to university level. 'My mother used to say that I can cook and knit and at the same time get an education. She was my cheerleader', she reveals as she also talks about her determination to beat the odds.

'I had to go to a boys' school in high school certificate for

forms 5 and 6 as there was no science stream in the girls' schools available during her time. This is where I met the brilliant Dr. Florence Manguyu, she recalls in reference to renowned Kenyan paediatrician and researcher. Out of 45 students in her medicine class, only six were women. She explains that times were quite tough for the female students because their male counterparts did not believe that women could match their achievement.

'We were sort of oppressed and had to fight for everything. If it was dissection, the men would refuse to give us an opportunity to practice. So, we would wake up early to go to the table and practice dissecting the cadaver. Eventually, the men came to accept us when they realised that we too had the ability to do what they were doing', explains Kirna.

The Bhatt siblings have a lot of dedication and discipline when it comes to teaching. In the event that one of them has to be away, the other one steps in and takes over the classes and ward rounds because they are in the same ward at the Kenyatta National Hospital. They like to tease each other that having studied and worked in America, Shrikant has an American way of doing things while Kirna has a British approach because of her stint in Britain.

*Editor's Note: Prof. Bhalendu Bhatt was on leave at the time of compiling this story.*



In his final remarks at the University during the installation of his successor, the sixth Vice-Chancellor, Professor George A.O. Magoha, singled out one person for a special mention. Moses Naibei. Professor Magoha advised the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Mbithi, to keep Moses close, for he was a dedicated employee with an outstanding record of work performance. With these words, Moses was about to add one more to the list of Vice-Chancellors that he had worked with very closely during his employment. The new Vice-Chancellor would be his fifth.

'The event was being beamed live on national television and my sister called me from Mt. Elgon to tell me that she had heard my name on TV and that Prof. Magoha was talking about me', Moses recalls this incident and also adds his own reflection, 'That was a great day for me. It is my most treasured experience during my service at UoN. I felt appreciated and honoured'.

Moses Naibei has worked in the Vice-Chancellor's Office since he was employed by the University in October 1989 as an office assistant. He was 24 years old when he joined the University. This year, he marks 31 years of

# Moses Naibei:

*I have served five Vice-Chancellors*

service having worked closely with five Vice-Chancellors. Moses is someone who can rightly say that his work has been somewhat unique, having experienced firsthand the day-to-day happenings in the topmost office in the University during the reign of five different occupants of the office. He shared his experiences and reflections with *VarsityFocus*.

Moses joined the University during the time of Prof. Philip Mbithi as Vice-Chancellor. He remembers Prof. Mbithi's leadership style as being people-focused and protective of the employees' interests. 'He encouraged all to work hard, but to also rest when necessary. He encouraged all to take their leave because resting is healthy', he remembers of the third UoN Vice-Chancellor.

In 1991, Prof. Francis Gichaga took over as Vice-chancellor. Moses remembers Prof. Gichaga as a social person who was welcoming, gentle, and a very good advisor. 'Professor Gichaga would tell me, "Moses, listen more, talk less"', he discloses. This is a piece of advice that Moses has always heeded and it has kept him out of trouble.

Prof. Crispus Kiamba came in as Vice-Chancellor in 2002. Moses describes Prof. Kiamba as 'sharp and a stickler for time'. The issue of time is key in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, but Prof. Kiamba emphasised its importance even more during his tenure. In order to remind himself of the importance of keeping time, Moses wrote in his diary, 'Moses against time'. He remembers Prof. Kiamba as one who had very high standards of cleanliness and so he had to go that extra mile to get things right by the standards of this particular Vice-Chancellor.

After Prof. Kiamba's time in office ended, Prof. George Magoha took over in 2005. Moses describes Prof. Magoha as a tough-talking man who was also good. He was a people person who commended employees for any good work done. He recalls that Prof. Magoha transformed the University, and that together with the former Chancellor, Dr. Joe Wanjui, they initiated the construction of the towering University of Nairobi Towers.

In 2014, Prof. Peter Mbithi was installed as the seventh Vice-Chancellor. Moses recalls Prof. Mbithi from his days as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration & Finance). He was known for his passion in driving the introduction of ISO certification which helped to improve

the implementation of University processes. Prof. Mbithi was also the driver of performance contracting in the University. According to Moses, Prof. Mbithi continued with these initiatives during his time and propelled the University to achieve a lot during his leadership.

Many incidents have happened in the 'big office', but some which are still etched on Moses' mind are the student riots that arose from the introduction of the cost-sharing system. Moses has a vivid recollection of one particular encounter with students when the idea of cost-sharing was first introduced. He says,

Cost sharing brought problems. The students did not want to pay fees or meet the cost of their meals on campus. They demonstrated and took to the streets. They forced their way into the VC's office and harassed us, took tea, poured sugar all over the office, and made phone calls. They would touch Prof. Gichaga's beard and say he was their father but he was going to do what they wanted.

He admits that working closely with these great men instilled in him a strong work ethic and the spirit of teamwork. Moses, whose current work station is Office of Registrar Administration, summarises his experience by sharing the story of the three frogs that were asked to climb a flight of stairs. The first two were well on their way up when the other frogs yelled at them saying that they were not going to make it. The two frogs were discouraged and stopped halfway up. The third frog went up the stairs, one by one, until he reached the top. When asked how he managed to make it to the top, he said by ignoring all the negativity and going for it. According to Moses, the moral of the story is that we should focus on what we want to achieve, strive to do our best, and ignore the negative voices because they will always be there.

'I have served the Vice-Chancellors for 31 years. All I can say is that I have served them diligently. I have learnt to be patient and to accept people and their different personalities. Leaders have different styles of leadership and they need good support to succeed', says Moses as he concludes.



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# Catherine Wambugu:

## *I have been around for 44 years*



**H**er colleagues describe her using words like 'motherly, God fearing, disciplined, and hardworking'. Catherine Wambugu joined the University of Nairobi on 1 March 1976 and is the longest serving member of staff in Central Administration having worked for 44 years. 'Catherine is the person to go to in case of a problem because she has the experience', says one of her colleagues.

'I joined UoN as an assistant secretary after completing my O-levels and acquiring skills in typing and shorthand', says Catherine. 'My salary was KES 900 per month, which was a lot of money back then because I could afford to pay rent of KES 200 and transport was 60 cents per trip', she adds.

### From Kenyatta to Kenyatta

Catherine is among the proud Kenyans who can say that they have served the country from the reign of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the country's first president to that of Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, the fourth president. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta was the chancellor when Catherine joined the University. This was also the time when Mr B. M. Gecaga served as Chairman of Council, Prof. Josephat Karanja was Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Douglas Odhiambo was Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

She was first deployed to the Admissions Department but over time Catherine has worked in various other units including Board of Postgraduate Studies (now Graduate School); Examinations Centre; Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs under Prof. Festo Mutere; and Vice-Chancellor's Office during Prof. Philip Mbithi's tenure. Catherine also took a six-year break from the University when she was seconded to the Office of the President. When she resumed her duties at UoN in 1997, she was transferred to the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES)

limited to serve as personal assistant to the Managing Director. Catherine was among the nine members of staff who started the new outfit established to run the Module II programme. When the Centre for Self-Sponsored Programmes (CESSP) was set up, Catherine joined the unit as personal assistant to the Director until the unit was disbanded in 2019. Today, she is an assistant executive secretary in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

Catherine indicates that a lot has changed in the University's structure from management to infrastructural development. 'We did not have Kikuyu Campus back then and the Education Building at Main Campus housed the then Faculty of Education. The Faculty of Arts was at the Hyslop building and graduation ceremonies were conducted at the Great Court', she recalls. Catherine is yet to come to terms with the changes that took place at UNES considering the amount of work that went into its establishment. 'It was unfortunate that UNES had to be restructured leading to the formation of CESSP. We had dedicated a lot of time and effort in setting up UNES from scratch. The Module II programme transformed the University to what it is today. I am still adjusting to the changes', she reveals.

One leader that Catherine has fond memories of is the late Prof. David Wasawo who served as the Chairman of Council between 1999 and 2004. 'The Chairman of Council was also the Chairman of the UNES Board. During his tenure, Prof. Wasawo treated us very well; he had time for us and was fatherly and kind. He is one leader that I will always appreciate', she says.

Catherine remembers the first day of her employment at UoN. She reported when her boss was on leave. 'Things were scattered all over the place. It had been a while since Mr Kang'ori had a secretary. I arranged the office and when he came back, he was very happy to see the transformation', she remembers vividly. One of the habits that Catherine acquired in the course of her work is to report to the office very early in the morning and leave only when the day's work is done. She also developed a strong bond with the University as the only employer she has worked for throughout her career. 'I truly love this institution. I used to say that UoN is my mother and father. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues with whom we interact as if we are members of the same family. We have always supported each other', she says.

Catherine has invested a lot of effort in advancing both her education and career. Besides acquiring certifications in Business English and advanced typing, she has a Diploma in Human Resource Management, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration and Sociology, and a master's degree in Project Planning and Management all from UoN. She is currently working on her PhD thesis in project planning and implementation.

# Studying and working at UoN

By Njeri Muhoro



I was asked to share my reflections on life as a student, and later a member of staff, at the University of Nairobi. I have done 34 years at UoN. Flash back to 1984, when I set foot on University soil for the first time. I was a young girl barely out of my teens and recently graduated from the National Youth Service. I was expectant of great things. The two weeks of registration and orientation were a great way to introduce us into university life. The Vice-Chancellor used this time to address us, chat with us, tell a few jokes, share a cup of tea, and generally induct us into the life of a student at the University of Nairobi.

Life at the University then was like a baptism of fire. You woke up and prepared for the day then headed down to Main Campus for a lecture, a visit to the library, or just lounge around and wait for lunch. No one supervised you, and no one checked on your activities. We indulged in fun activities, those of us who were so inclined. We had many options around town to while away the time and have a good time in the evenings. We did visit some of the famous night spots around town. I could name a few, but many have since shut down. The Chief Medical Officer at the time, Dr Githahu, had the perfect way of ensuring that nobody visited the students' clinic twice if they could avoid it.

For three years at the University, I enjoyed three square meals including fruit and dessert. We also received an allowance known as 'boom' every semester. We used this money to take care of our personal needs, but some of our colleagues used it to take care of their families back home. Such was life. In the halls of residence, we had to adhere to the ten-to-ten rule of receiving visitors. Those were the days of the Toyota Corolla and the Toyota Celica.

The first riot that I took part in, which was definitely my last, was the 'Mwandawiro riot' in 1985. I cannot even explain to this date what we were rioting about. All I remember is that we spent an entire week in running battles with the riot police and General Service Unit officers, punctuated with shouts of 'Comrades' power!' We would always run back to the Great Court to escape the violent fumes of tear gas. Once inside, we demanded to be addressed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Maina Mungai. One of the times he came to talk to us armed with an English-Kiswahili dictionary. After the events of 'bloody Sunday', the University was closed for three months. We were forced to endure the humiliation of reporting to our local chiefs who ordered us around and made us do menial tasks like trimming the bushes around their offices, cutting grass, and cleaning offices. We also endured insults and jeers from members of the public. I remember my father also banished me to the village as part of the punishment.

In spite of all the drama, I left the University with the confidence that I could face the world. I had been nourished, nurtured, and equipped to form words, to argue, to debate, to write papers, and to hold my own with my professors. What I learnt from these men and women of letters was that ideas and concepts were important and one ought to be an intellectual rather than a peasant; that for so long as there was a university, then academic freedom was inevitable. I learnt that Africans are notoriously religious and that the intelligentsia in Africa is weak at promoting nationalism and the national interest. My head soaked in knowledge on strategic arms limitations and anti-ballistic missiles among many others. Four years after graduating, I returned to work for my alma mater as a communication specialist. This is a job that I was trained for and to which I added during my association with the University as a student and staff member for 34 years to date. It has been a challenge trying to ensure that my skills, expertise, and passion are understood. There are those who have chosen to compartmentalise staff into teaching and non-teaching. All members of the non-teaching staff are considered as administrative. It has been difficult to find my place in this categorisation.

Working in the University cannot be regarded as financially rewarding, but the associations have been exciting. Some encounters have been stressful, but this is normal. I have had the opportunity to grow in many areas; project writing, developing research skills, and organising events like town hall meetings with international figures. I have acquired skills in leveraging scarce resources to achieve more. I have improved my

editorial skills; and I have had interesting interactions with students and with colleagues at the Senior Common Room.

As the University celebrates 50 years of academic excellence, I am gratified to have been part of a bigger part of this existence. I wish the University a long life and may it continue to illuminate and drive our great nation of Kenya. *Unitate et labore.*



*Njeri Muhoro talking to a guest at the UoN stand during the Public Service Week held at KICC on 1-7 March 2011.*

*Njeri Muhoro (L) and other members of staff of UoN Press during the launch of Prof. Francis Gichaga's memoirs, 'Surviving the Academic Arena: My complex journey to the apex', published in 2011 by the UoN Press. Prof. Gichaga is standing next to the banner (R).*



*Njeri Muhoro with Dr Manu Chandaria, Mrs Aruna Chandaria, and Prof. Lucy Irungu (R) at the ground breaking ceremony of the University of Nairobi Towers.*



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