



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

A world class University committed to scholarly Excellence

A MAGAZINE OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS AND CAREER SERVICES

STUDENT LIFE

In Campus



In this Issue:

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:
ONE - STOP - SHOP

Students' Spiritual, Psychological, Social and Career growth

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM CAREER SERVICES

Career Office linking students to Industry

VC DISCUSSES STUDENT WELFARE MATTERS WITH ASSISTANT DEANS OF STUDENTS

Students welfare: Core focus of the Office of the Dean of Students

ISSUE

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Vision

To be a one-stop shop for all student affairs on all non-academic matters and produce holistic graduates who are prepared for entry into workforce and entrepreneurship

Mission

To foster a conducive environment and development of support systems for the holistic development of students through the provision of services that can enhance spiritual, psychological and social growth including development of students' skills and competencies.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Pg 37 UoN Student Wins Global Finals Huawei ICT Competition 2020 Awards



Pg 44 Department of Chemistry Students tour Unilever Kenya for an Industrial Visit



Pg 46 UoN Students awarded an Advanced Diploma from the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT)



Pg 60 Entertainment Services UoN Choir History

21

Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Students' Life

35

Huawei Graduate Trainee Program Success Story

57

UoN Hosts an Inter-Faith Prayer Day 2021

69

UNSA Leadership Students' Voices

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Inspiring Leadership during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Year 2020 was a year of Jubilee for the University of Nairobi. As we reflect on the past 50 years, we are happy to note that the University has contributed immensely in the transformation of the country. The Covid-19 pandemic period has been a challenging one for the University community. However, the University has managed to achieve its core mandate of learning and teaching despite the hurdles faced.

The online teaching and learning has had its own share of challenges in terms of access, accessibility and ease of learning. The University has listened to all issues raised by both staff and students and addressed them in the planning of the online lectures and exams.

Some of the measures the University took to address the challenges raised on online teaching and learning include providing data bundles for both lecturers and students, training lecturers and students on the new mode of learning, training of non-teaching staff on platforms to use and work online. To a large extent, there is successful business continuity in the university operations.

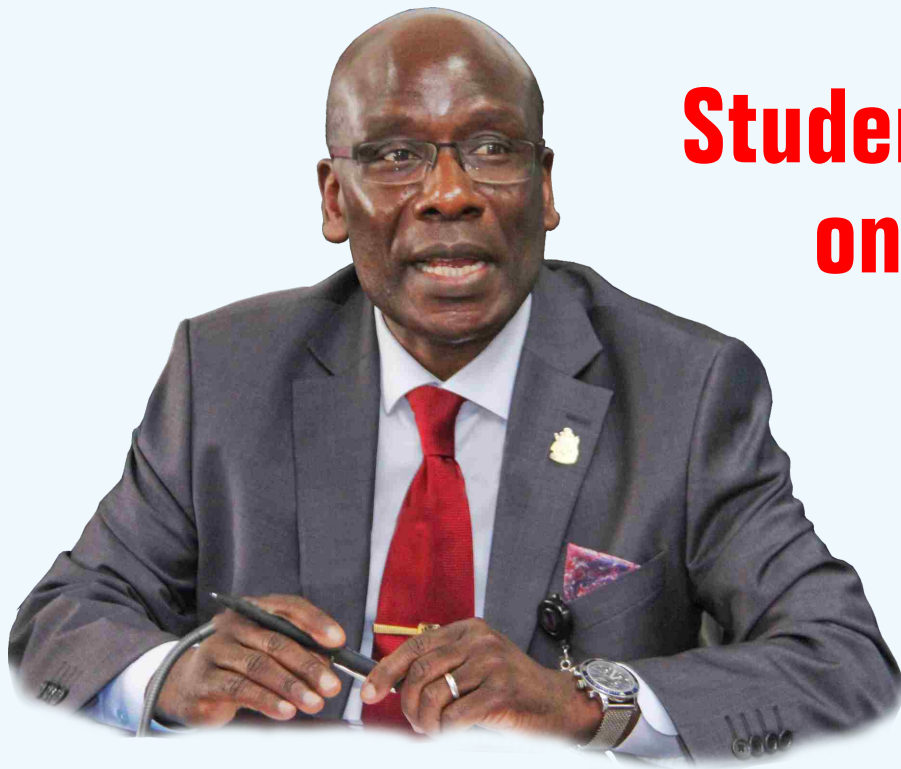
The University is committed to offering quality services to students and supporting the needy students who require material, financial and technological support for them to undertake their online classes and assessments.

Covid-19 has clearly brought an awakening for the Country and University that there is need to invest in technology and increase access to data and internet and make it cheaper for the students to access teaching and learning. The University is committed to ensure that there is continued smooth learning of students while seeking for solutions to the challenges brought about by the Pandemic.

PROF. STEPHEN KIAMA

VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



Students' Welfare on Campus

The University of Nairobi is committed to creating an environment that enables students to focus on their learning, realize their full potential and grow holistically (academically, socially, mentally and physically). As much as the University has been continuously promoting this holistic development of

students, there arose need for a policy and guidelines to regulate the conduct of students while carrying out their activities on campus. This therefore led to the revision of the Students Code of Conduct 2020 to guide students in their behavior and responsibilities as they go about their day to day activities engaging with fellow students and the wider University community. The Students Code of Conduct also enables students to express themselves freely and appreciate that their responsibilities and rights are being respected.

The aim is to produce holistic students who are responsible, honest, accountable and productive once they transit from learning to the job/entrepreneurship market and to society as a whole. This will in return foster a positive image for the University of Nairobi. Overall, the Students Code of Conduct aims to promote a conducive working environment within the University Community where everyone can learn, work and live together in peace and harmony.

PROF. JULIUS OGENG'O

DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR,
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Entrenching a 'Culture of Care' at UoN

The Office of the Dean of Students is mandated to handle non-academic issues affecting students and the aim is to promote the holistic growth, development and wellbeing of students. The Office is keenly focusing on entrenching 'Care' in its service delivery for students. The reason for this is because students are faced with different needs and challenges while on campus ranging from financial, physical to material needs depending on the origin of their background.

In coming up with strategies to address the different needs of these students, the Dean of Students Office has to deliver services with 'Care' so that the students feel that someone cares and is looking out for them.

To help address some of the challenges that the students face, the office launched the Financial Aid Office, Students Wellness Centre, UoN Skills Centre and Disability Resource Centre to help address the challenges facing students 360^o in their quest for academic excellence. The aim is to develop holistic, market and future ready graduates who are globally competitive!

JOHNSON IRERI KINYUA
DEAN OF STUDENTS

Editor's Note

Welcome to the 'Student Life and Career News E-Newsletter', a new annual magazine that outlines the strides and achievements of the University of Nairobi's Office of the Dean of Students and Career Services.

The Office of the Dean of Students and Career Services is grateful for the immense support received from the University Management, partners, staff and students in its activities' implementation. This issue highlights the activities the Dean of Students and Office of Career Services have engaged in to mold students holistically and enhance their employability.

The Office of the Dean of Students' activities covered in this newsletter revolve around Needy Students, Disability Issues, Work-study Programmes, Financial Aid Services, Advocacy and Liaison Services, Chaplaincy Services, Counseling Services, Career and Placement Services, Entertainment services, Students orientation programmes, and Student Liaison Services handling professional organizations & clubs and the student leadership (UNSA).

The Office of Career Services activities focus on thematic areas namely: Skills Development Programmes, Career Development, Mentorship, Student Exchange programs, and Partnerships with the Career Office in support of student development activities. The Career Office is focusing on developing careers in the different sectors in line with the big four agenda and vision 2030.

Moving from Career Development to mentorship, we are proud of the different partners that have played a key role in mentoring our students on matters careers and imparting in them leadership, technical, and soft skills.

The Office of the Dean of Students' focus is to provide a conducive nurturing environment for all students to enable them develop spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally and intellectually and to shape the character of students to make them persons of integrity, honest and with great morals and values that will in return translate to the kind of citizens they will become in society. This is achieved in partnership with the University Management, Partners, Donors, Philanthropists, Students Leadership and Staff.

I hope the stories showcased in this issue leave a long-lasting imprint on you to want to make a contribution towards shaping our students' lives and careers. This is our core mandate, to promote the holistic growth of our students and the development of a skilled workforce to boost Kenya's economy.



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Student Life & Career News



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Office of the Dean of Students and Career Services

The Office of the Dean of Students (DOS) was established in the early 70s and it is primarily concerned with students' welfare right from University entry to graduation. Within the department, there is a wide range of staff categories ranging from Assistant Deans of Students, Counselors, Sign Language Interpreters, Career and Placement Officers, University Choir and Orchestra Trainers, Chaplains and other Administrative staff.

The Office of the Dean of Students is concerned with student affairs to help address the holistic growth, development and wellbeing of students in support of the University's vision, mission and objectives. The officers work in liaison with different University departments as well as with student leaders, staff, parents, external partners and the community to help carry out the mandate of the office effectively and efficiently. The Office handles Needy Students, Disability Issues, Work-study Programmes, Financial Aid Services, Advocacy and Liaison Services, Chaplaincy Services, Counseling Services, Career and Placement Services, Entertainment services, Students orientation programmes, and Student Liaison Services handling professional organizations & clubs and the student leadership (UNSA).

1. Vision

To be an effective referral point for all-round students' growth towards excellence.

2. Mission

To foster a conducive environment for the holistic development of students through the provision of services that enhance spiritual, psychological and social growth and empower students to make responsible choices.

3. Core Values

- Freedom of thought and expression
- Excellence
- Care
- Good Governance
- Innovativeness and Creativity
- Partnership and Teamwork

4. Strategic Objectives

- To manage student affairs effectively;
- To enhance the competitiveness and image of the University
- To seek adequate funding and improve on the productivity of the department;
- To establish and promote collaborations and partnerships for resource sharing.

Services offered by the Dean of Students Office

- Career and Placement Services
- Disability Liaison Services
- Counselling and Mentorship Services
- Financial Aid Office Services
- University Chaplaincy Services
- Students Liaison Services
- Students Communication Services

Career Office

The Office of Career Services is a critical department in the University that helps graduates to transit smoothly from learning to earning. This is achieved by developing essential competencies among graduates to groom them for the job market

The University of Nairobi is committed to producing holistic graduates who are prepared for the job market and entrepreneurial activities. It is estimated that of all the graduates who graduate from the Universities, less than 10 per cent are absorbed in the job market. It is against this background that the Ministry of Education through the State Department of Post Training and Skills Development launched the Office of Career Services (OCS) in 2018.

The goal is to increase graduates' absorption in the job market by developing the "Future Ready Graduates"

Our Mandate

The mandate of the Office of Career Services is twofold; linking graduates to the job market and enhancing the value of graduates through skills and competencies development. This is achieved through continuous recruitment of Career Partners, Career Advisors and Student Career Ambassadors who offer support in linking graduates to the job market and assist students to acquire the relevant skills and competencies for the job market.

What we do

- Skills Development Programs offering Leadership, Technical and Soft Skills;
- Linking students to the industry for jobs and internships;
- Industrial Visits;
- Career Guidance and Counseling;
- Career Fairs and Exhibitions;
- Career Testing and Assessment;
- High School Career Talks;
- Student Exchange Programs;
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation activities; and
- Alumni engagement, networking and outreach





Office of the Dean of Students – A One-Stop-Shop for Student Welfare matters

The overall and holistic wellness of a student is achieved through proper integration of all aspects of their life which is crucial for their student-life balance. The Office of the Dean of Students is a one-stop-shop for all non-academic student welfare matters aimed at promoting the holistic development of students.

The office promotes the mental, psychological, physiological, physical, social and intellectual wellbeing of students. This is achieved through the Student Wellness Centre managed by the Assistant Deans of Students and Student Counselors and various student services offered on campus such as Sports, Accommodation, Health Services and Career & Placement Services.

The aim is to produce all-rounded students, eradicate drugs and substance abuse on campus, promote physical and mental well-being of students, promote student talents, minimize and eradicate exam cheating, indiscipline and goonism and promote timely student completion rates.

The Office of the Dean of Students at a one-stop-centre offers eight types of services to students.

Student counselling and mentorship services come top on the services offered by the Office of the Dean of Students. The Assistant Deans of Students and University Student Counselors offer a wide array of services to students including mentorship, counseling, personal and group therapy, sensitization on HIV/AIDS and Drug and Substance Abuse in collaboration with the University Health Services, Peer Counselors' recruitment and training, seminars and sensitizations, life skills trainings and new students' orientation.

The office also offers **Career and Placement Services** which vary from career guidance for students, building the skills and competencies of students, graduate tracking services, linking students to industry for job and internship opportunities, High School recruitments, students and staff exchange programs, incubation of student entrepreneurship ideas, hosting of student Career Fairs and Career talks and recruiting students for the Brand Ambassadors Program.



Kili Rovers Scouts taking high school students through the process of joining their organization during a past Open Day event at the Great Court

Disability Liaison Services are also spearheaded by the Office of the Dean of students varying from sign language interpretation services, organizing transport for students with disability, sourcing for partners to support students abled differently with resources to help them achieve their social and academic goals smoothly such as white canes, wheel chairs, hearing and learning aids and braille laptops and phones. This section of the department also advocates for a disability friendly environment within the University.

One of the core mandates of the Office of the Dean of Students is to support needy students who are not able to raise their fees and take care of their upkeep while on campus. **Financial Aid Services** come in handy to support the needy students in partnership with different donors, philanthropists and well-

wishers. The Financial Aid Office handles fundraising and resource mobilization for grants, bursaries and scholarships, needy students' assessment and counseling and coordination of the work-study program.

To keep students up to date with activities and events planned by the Office of the Dean of Students, the office offers **Student Communication Services**. This section of the department offers communication to students, partners and stakeholders, handles Website content management, publication of student life newsletters, student information Handbook & brochures, Social Media Marketing, Content & Information Management System, Videography & Photography, Students and staff training programs and management of the Career Portal and Graduate Tracker Management System.

Student Liaison Services are also a core mandate of the Office of the Dean of Students. The student liaison officers coordinate all University of Nairobi Student Association (UNSA) activities, professional associations and clubs' registration and activities, general student activities coordination, students' mobilization for various activities and coordination of Corporate Social Responsibility activities spearheaded by students.

The University Chaplains on the other hand offer **Chaplaincy Services** to both staff and students. They coordinate the registration of all Christian and Muslim groups (mainly the Christian Union, Catholic Association and SDA group) and offer spiritual nourishment to the entire university community. In addition, the chaplains coordinate university prayer days and offer guidance and counseling daily/weekly spiritual meetings for staff and students.

Lastly, the Office of the Dean of Students coordinates University **Entertainment Services**. These are services offered by the UoN Choir during various university events.

The choir also participates in the annual music festival competitions and has won various accolades for emerging top in different music competitions.

With the above outlined eight services offered by the Office of the Dean of Students at a one-stop-shop at the Mahatma Gandhi Building, ground floor, it is our hope that the students will tap into the various services offered and activities organized by the office to enable them develop holistically by the time they exit campus to the job market and to begin their own entrepreneurial activities.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "It is health which is real wealth, and not pieces of gold and silver". This is one adage, which will never lose its relevance. If you have holistic health, nobody can stop you from achieving all the gold or silver or whatever it is that you are after. This is the mantra for the Office of the Dean of Students. At the core of the Office of the Dean of Students activities is the mental, psychological, physiological, physical, social and intellectual wellbeing of students-holistic growth and development.



University of Nairobi Students Choir present trophies and awards they had won during their performance for the year 2020, on September 8, 2021, to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama.

Office of the Dean of Students Leadership Since inception

Established by the colonial government in 1956, the Royal Technical College of East Africa gave birth to the University of Nairobi on July 1, 1970. The University of Nairobi has since made tremendous strides in Research and Teaching and brags of being the oldest and largest University in Kenya.

In a bid to address student affairs effectively, the University established the Office of the Dean of Students in 1971. The mandate of the office was to address students' welfare right from entry to the University until they graduate. The Office is largely concerned with student affairs to help address the holistic growth, development and wellbeing of students.

The University appointed the first Dean of Students, **Joseph Karuga Koinange**, in the year 1971 to 1979. **Amos Kariuki** took over as the second Dean of Students from the year 1982 to 1992. He was then succeeded by **Emmy Jemutai Sumbeiywo** becoming the third Dean of Students from 1992 to 2004. **Fr. Dr. Dominic Wakimani Wamugunda** took over as the fourth Dean of Students from the year 2004 to May 2020. **Johnson Ileri Kinyua** was appointed as the fifth Dean of Students from June 2020 to date.

In 1990, The University Management established the Office of the Special Students Advisor headed by **Prof. Godfrey Muriuki** to ensure that needy students did not fail to pursue their academic studies due to lack of finances or other challenges. The mission of the office was to offer needy students an enabling environment and safety net for them to achieve their academic goals through financial assistance, academic advisory and counseling services. This was made possible through adherence to these core values; confidentiality, empathy, professionalism, quality customer service, strong social responsibility, teamwork and tolerance. Prof. Muriuki served in the capacity of Special Students Advisor up to the year 2018 when he retired. The roles that the Special Students Advisor's Office was handling have since been taken up by the Office of the Dean of Students.

The Office of the Dean of Students has now repositioned itself to handle a wide array of services all aimed at the holistic growth and development of students. The services focus on the Spiritual, Emotional, Psychological, Social and Career growth of students.



**OFFICE OF DEAN OF STUDENTS LEADERSHIP
SINCE 1971 TO DATE**



Joseph Karuga Koinange
(1971-1979)



Amos Kariuki
(1982-1992)



Emmy Jemutai Sumbeiywo
1992 -2004)



**Fr. Dr. Dominic Wakimani
Wamugunda**
(2004- May 2020)



Johnson Ileri Kinyua
(June 2020 to Date)

Vice Chancellor's Reform Agenda 2020

On Friday August 28, 2020, the UoN Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Gitahi Kiama unveiled his five-point reform agenda aimed at promoting effective service delivery.

Focus of the Reforms

The Vice Chancellor's five-point reform agenda was selected on the basis of fulfilling the following five guiding principles:

Agenda Number 1: Data-driven management:

In 2016, our Chancellor recommended a visitation of the university. The Visitation Panel observed that one of the constraints impeding institutional planning and efficient management of the University was the absence of a coordinated university-wide data management and access system.

We therefore shall invest our energies and resources towards setting up a comprehensive and integrated data management system. This will entail reengineering our business processes and embedding the use of technology in:

- Curriculum content delivery,
- Human resource management,
- Financial and research grants management,
- Student management including the administration of exams and timetabling.

The use of data will revolutionize how decisions are made, optimize deployment of resources and improve overall systemic output. Use of data in



decision for better decisions: leveraging on verifiable data to lower decision turnaround time, to seize time-sensitive opportunities, to make better predictions and to improve planning and implementation of projects and programs

Agenda number 2- Governance:

University has over the years grown in size and complexity. To stay in step with the needs of the university, I believe that there is compelling need to refresh our management, administrative, oversight and governance structures. This will entail:

- Identification and elimination of redundant and overlapping systems, processes, structures and reporting centers
- Creating an In-build effective flow of power, resources, responsibility and accountability to the lowest levels

- Institutionalization of efficient decision, policy making and implementation at every level

Agenda number 3- Curricula:

Embark on the path of fit-for-purpose training.

To do this, we will:

- Review all the courses offered at the University
- Assess the overall cost of implementation of each program and the level to which they respond to market, industry, societal and government needs
- Weed out redundant and overlapping courses and programs
- Review fee structure to ensure sustainability of those that remain

Additionally, we will:

- Interrogate the depth of substance coverage in the delivery of curricula, and inclusion of appropriate practical skills
- Integrate industry in the teaching and research at the University
- Review our research exploits to encourage vertical progression in pursuit of new knowledge, standardize and laterally integrate our curricula and integrate entrepreneurial spirit and culture throughout our programs.
- Recalibrate our metrics of world class-talent and to make deliberate efforts in growing the internationalization of the University.

Agenda number 4- The financial reforms:

Currently, the University is operating under a huge financial deficit. This impedes its path to world-class status. Consequently, these reforms are geared towards institutionalizing prudent financial management and controls to put the University back to a positive financial health and path to sustainability.

Specifically, this reform agenda will address:

- Efficient and participatory budget formulation mechanisms, fiscal and budgetary discipline
- Efficient payment and banking services
- Systems to stop revenue leakage, wastage, and optimize utilization of resources
- Review of the financial viability of income generating units
- Re-engineer grants management to effectively support research
- Reform of procurement functions to maximize efficiency, increase transparency and accountability and deliver value for money.

An efficient and optimal internal financial ecosystem will allow the university to move with confidence towards scaling external resource mobilization with a high level of confidence that will ensure rendering 100% value for money and eliminate the financial deficit and maximize on accountability.

Agenda number 5- People

The University students, faculty and staff are the foundation of the success of the University in benefiting the society, ensuring highest quality of learning, teaching and research. The university will proactively take deliberate steps to brand itself and to add value to its staff and students. This reform agenda aims to:

- Identify and celebrate talents and achievements,
- Exploit intangible assets through commercialization and to promote research and technology transfer ecosystem,
- Ensure the University attracts, recruits, supports and retains outstanding staff and students,
- Provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open work environment where people give their best to their work and feel valued.



Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Students' Life

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the state of University Education in the country necessitating the need for measures to be put in place to address the challenges brought about by the new norm.

After the Cabinet Secretary for Education Prof. George Magoha ordered for the closure of Universities owing to the Covid 19 pandemic in March 2020, the University of Nairobi closed for two weeks to plan on how to ensure continuity of learning after which staff and students were trained on how to move to remote/online teaching and learning.

The current state of teaching and learning at the University as far as the Covid 19 pandemic is concerned is good, and great strides have been made with more postgraduate and undergraduate students coming on board and embracing the new norm.

The online teaching and learning has had its own share of challenges in terms of access, accessibility and ease of learning. Being a new innovation different from the usual norm, there have been early innovators, early adapters, late adapters and the laggards at the end. The University has listened to all issues raised by both staff and students and addressed them in the planning of the online lectures and exams.

Some of the measures the University took to address the challenges raised on online teaching and learning

include providing data bundles for both lecturers and students, training lecturers and students on the new mode of learning, training to non-teaching staff on platforms to use and work online. To a large extent, there is successful business continuity in the university operations.

The Corona pandemic brings about the need to infuse ICT in teacher training online platforms more strongly. Covid-19 has clearly brought an awakening for the Country and Universities that there is need to invest in technology and increase access to data and internet and make it cheaper for the students to access teaching and learning. The University appreciates the government for the Google loon and Telkom partnership to increase access to internet. The 4th industrial revolution is here with us and access to affordable internet and data is vital to realize these technological advancements.

Application of technology in solving problems is one of the critical skills for the future that every UoN graduate must acquire for work and for personal survival in this digital era. It is therefore extremely critical that each student is equipped with either a laptop or tablet to enable one to access online classes and learning resources. Covid-19 has brought about technological opportunities that we must embrace as a University.

E-Learning:

Gains, Challenges and Opportunities

The University of Nairobi has a rich history, 50 years in the making of offering Higher Education in Kenya. Through the years, the University continues to adapt to technological changes backed by research and innovation. The University has a well thought out structure to govern operations and ensure various departments like the management academic and service departments work toward a common goal as espoused in our vision: Committed to Scholarly excellence.

The Government of Kenya issued an advisory to close down all learning institutions in March 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. All institutions of higher learning were directed to continue teaching online. The University Senate met and resolved to move all operations -both teaching and administrative online. One of the service departments; the ICT Centre was tasked to provide the necessary technical support to ensure teaching, learning, and administrative operations continue to run smoothly online.

The ICT Centre at the University of Nairobi was established in 2002, with a core mandate to innovate the use of ICT services and products to support research, learning, teaching, and administrative processes. The ICT Centre has played a significant role in providing the necessary infrastructure, expertise, and services to support students, faculty, and staff during this pandemic. Currently, the ICT Centre hosts all University of Nairobi information Systems on the ICT cloud and supports all systems locally.

To find out how the ICT Centre rolled out online teaching and learning to ensure all ongoing semesters were completed and exams done online, we spoke to Mr. Joram Kinuthia,

the Deputy Director Network Infrastructure Services (Ag) at ICT Centre.

The process:

In April 2020, the ICT Centre embarked on a series of vigorous activities, "The first thing we did was to sensitize management on the capacity of the University ICT Data Center Infrastructure to support the Learning Management Systems as well as other administrative systems. Then we embarked on a series of Training of Trainers (ToT) for our ICT support staff" Mr. Kinuthia said. These training sessions were conducted in conjunction with the Open, Distance, and eLearning (ODEL) Campus. The training sessions mainly focused on Google Collaborative tools, eClass, and web VPN services provided by the University of Nairobi. Additional trainings were mounted by industry partners like Cisco and KENET. The training was then cascaded to college management, faculty and then to students.

The ICT Centre was already hosting and supporting E-Learning information systems and SOMAS systems but with the demand to switch to online courses exclusively, there was a need to expand the platforms and use additional platforms to support the huge number of students. "To cater to these huge numbers; The ICT Centre expanded the Student Management Information System (SMIS) portal and Students Authentication Systems to allow students access University resources like emails, online courses, libraries, and even log into eClass and Somas platforms from home," said Mr. Joram. Initially students reported various challenges in accessing the



E-learning Case Study by the UoN ICT Centre

University student emails and portals. Many students had not activated their student emails and had forgotten their credentials. Mr. Joram further added; "in April 2020, the ICT Centre received over 20,000 support requests related to student emails and Active Directory passwords. To address this challenge; ICTC created self-provision tools that allow students to reset their passwords." Short videos have been created and made available on the eClass platform, the videos offer easy to follow step-by-step guide for students to reset their credentials and access lessons on eClass.

The move to switch to online learning presented various challenges for many students; key among them was the high cost of data, access to devices like smartphones and laptops and resistance to adapt to the new way of learning. The University of Nairobi's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kiama; in his biweekly address to students has updated students on the various measures the university is implementing to ensure learning is uninterrupted. To counter the challenges, the University got into various partnerships with various service providers; like Telkom to provide the Soma na Telkom data bundles, Students were issued data-

enabled SIM cards across the country. In addition, the University is in a partnership with KENET to offer subsidized Safaricom data bundles and Huawei has offered bundles to students who are pursuing various short courses. The ICT Centre facilitated the issuance of Data bundles and is continuously tracking usage of the bundles for the intended purpose.

Currently; faculty at the University are using senate approved Learning Management Systems like eClass, The eClass platform is an interactive self-learning Moodle-based platform, the course material is accessible anywhere, anytime the student logs in. since April, the eClass Platform has accommodated over 20,000 users, over 4,000 classes and 7,890 modules. Students taking STEM courses are learning through SOMAS. The Somas system has been developed and authored by Scholars from the University of Nairobi; Prof. Bernard Aduda, Prof.

Patrick Weke, and Dr. Jared Ongaro. Prof. Chris Sagwin from University of Edinburg, Prof. Benjamin Kikwai of Machakos University. Dr. Jared Ongaro has been using the SOMAS systems since 2018 for weekly tasks/homework and to issue CATS to huge classes. Other schools like Engineering, Economics, Education Science and Computer Science have also adapted SOMAS in teaching and learning.

In addition to learning, the ICT Centre has supported various online functions like the VC inauguration that was streamed on the University Livestream website as well as social media platforms, launches, prayer days, Vice Chancellor's biweekly online address, online meetings and numerous webinars.

Future Plans:

Going forward, the ICT Centre is taking the necessary measures to meet the expected upsurge in students' numbers. The ICT Centre is in the process of upgrading the data center to meet this demand and enhance online learning for both faculty and learners. ICTC will continue to offer the necessary infrastructure and technical expertise to allow teaching staff to run

Eclass Platform

20,000 – Users

4,000 – Classes

7.890 - Modules

classes online.

The University of Nairobi has vast online resources accessible to students like email, e-journals, newspapers, library, repositories and websites. We encourage students to regularly check their emails as the university regularly sends useful information on upcoming courses, scholarships and events.

University of Nairobi Students resources:

ICT support: <https://ict.uonbi.ac.ke/>

eClass: <https://Eclass.uonbi.ac.ke/>

SOMAS: <https://somas.uonbi.ac.ke/>

Web vpn: <https://vpn.uonbi.ac.ke>

Students email: <https://mail2.uonbi.ac.ke/>

Students portal: <https://smis.uonbi.ac.ke/>

Students AD: <http://adstudents.uonbi.ac.ke/>



Student Testimonials

Remote learning is not a new phenomenon at the University of Nairobi. For more than five years, several undergraduate and postgraduate courses have been offered remotely through the Open, Distance and eLearning Campus.

As the COVID-19 pandemic quickly spread around the world presenting numerous disruptions to institutions, it availed an opportunity for the University of Nairobi to continue providing world class education through online platforms. To find out how this experience has been for students, we spoke to several of them drawn from different schools.

What was your reaction when the University of Nairobi switched to Fulltime Online learning?

Zam Zam (Bachelor of Arts): I felt much relieved because I would still be able to continue with my studies without having to worry about taking long too long to complete my degree.

Victoria Wambisi (Bachelor of Arts): I had mixed reactions. I felt good at first especially when the university provided Telkom lines with free data bundles but I quickly got sad when I realized that the network coverage in my area is very poor.

Malvika Sanjay (Masters in Environmental Policy): This was wonderful because I could still continue with my studies at the comfort of my home without having to worry about how we will do our exams or when schools were going to reopen.

Judge Oscar Angote (PhD in Environmental Law): As a public servant and student at the same time this is the best thing that the university could ever do for us. I hope this mode of teaching and examinations can become the norm even after COVID-19.

How are the Online Classes Structured?

Zam Zam: Luckily for us, we had finished studying all the course units before the pandemic struck and so we are now sitting for the online exams which are not very much different from the exams we would do in a physical setting.

Victoria Wambisi: Our classes are held mostly via Google Classroom and they are very interactive because the lecturers use various tools including videos and slide presentations among others. My only concern is poor internet connectivity where I occasionally miss classes and I have to borrow notes from my friends. If my friends fail to attend classes then I definitely miss out too.

Malvika Sanjay (Masters in Environmental Policy) The classes and exams were well organized. I thank the Center for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy for making it possible and the ICT staff for making sure that it is a seamless and smooth experience.

Judge Oscar Angote (PhD in Environmental Law): The platforms we used including Google Classroom were not too complicated for me. Again, our lecturers provided us with clear instructions on the steps to follow and we were also free to ask for assistance in case we needed. We also had the ICT staff on standby who provided immeasurable support. So, in general, the success of the online examinations was possible because of the preparedness the university had including setting up online and technical training sessions for us weeks before the examinations date.

What do you miss the most when studying online?

Zam Zam: I miss my friends in campus. I miss going to classes physically and interacting with my lecturers face to face given the fact that I am only in my second year of studies. However, I understand that things will return to normalcy soon and I will be able to walk to campus like I used to do.

Victoria Wambisi: One of the things I miss is physically being present in campus, I miss going to Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library which is my favorite. I also just miss walking around main campus which has breathtaking sceneries. Everything from the iconic buildings and the well-manicured lawns to the vibrant people rushing for lectures.

Judge Oscar Angote: I really like it online because I can balance between my busy work schedules as high court judge and as student at the same time. All I can say is that online exams and learning is a remarkable opportunity provided at the right time.

Malvika Sanjay: I miss the physical interactions with my classmates and lecturers but I am just glad that studies can still go on despite the pandemic.

Do you think the COVID-19 Pandemic will affect how we learn going forward?

Judge Oscar Angote: Definitely, the future of learning is online and we are going to see a lot of institutions robustly investing in e-learning infrastructures. Those who fail to respond to the changing times will obviously be left behind. Personally, I am grateful that the University of Nairobi adapted to the rapidly changing circumstances with equal speed.

Malvika Sanjay: Online education has been given a big boost by the pandemic and even after the pandemic, online education will still remain a popular mode of learning for many students especially the working class or even students from far flung areas subject to availability of internet among other infrastructures.

Victoria Wambisi: In a big way, there will be many institutions offering courses through online platforms. I only hope that there will fair and equal opportunities students from diverse backgrounds to access online education now and in future.

What tips do you have for the University to scale up its online learning?

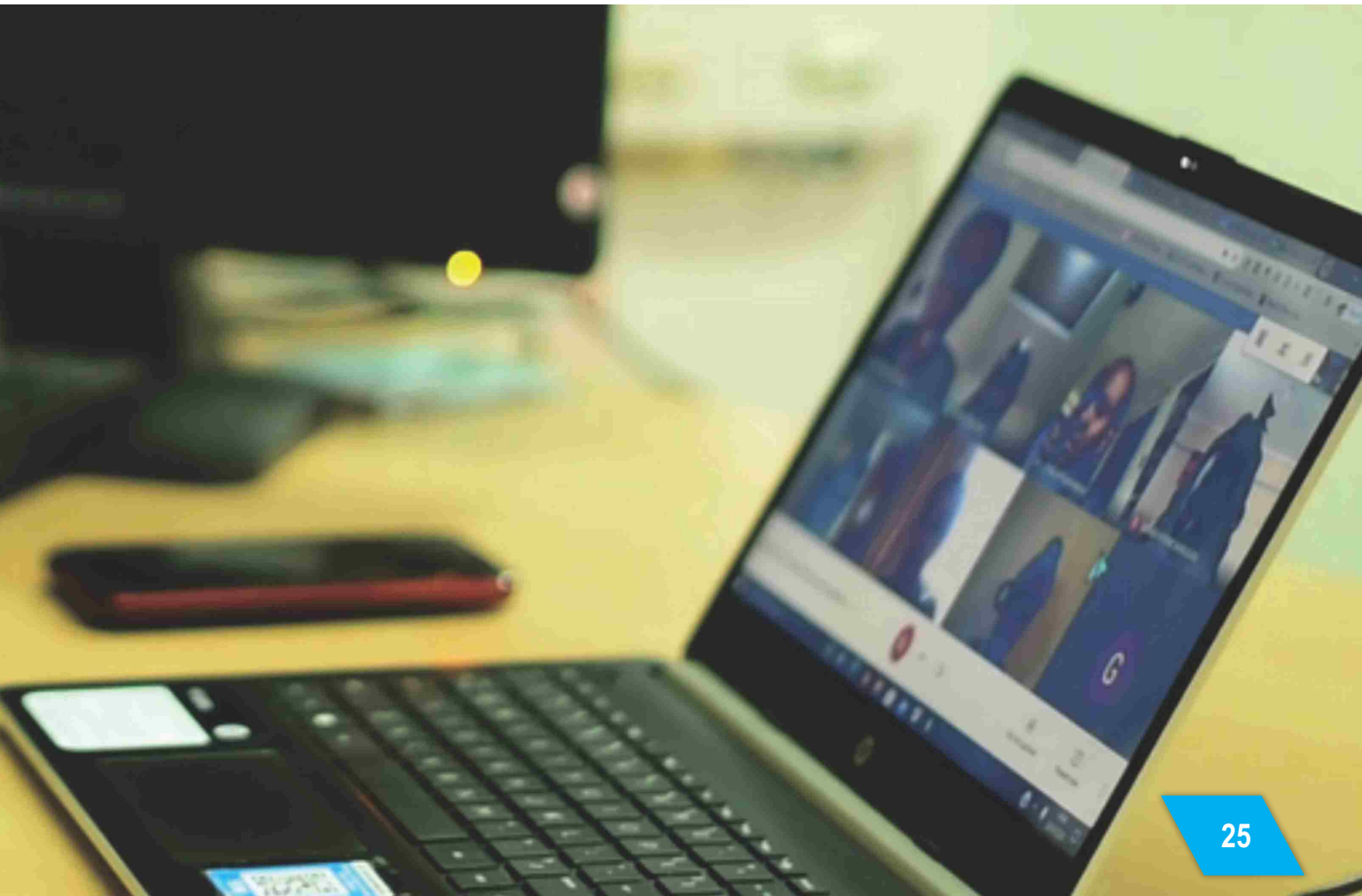


Judge Oscar Angote: Given the disruptions brought about by the pandemic the University of Nairobi has done very well as far as online learning is concerned. I would suggest that this should not end after the pandemic but rather be fully incorporated so that many people across the country can access education without having to compromise much with their daily livelihoods.

Victoria Wambisi: I would like the university to make online learning more accessible to all. I appreciate the Telkom data bundles provided but there are thousands of students like me who are unable to use the Telkom line because of technical network problems. Therefore, there should be alternatives on the table, if Telkom is not working please consider Safaricom or other providers. We sincerely wish to be part of the journey and part of the success story.

Zam Zam: There are some technical challenges that we face including slow internet speeds, so if the university invested more in providing efficient internet things will be fine. I also hope that going forward, online learning can be accessible to all irrespective of financial backgrounds.

Malvika Sanjay: A healthy balance between online classes and physical classes should be the norm going forward. All courses should always be recorded and saved online so that those who miss classes are able to access the lessons whenever they want.



WELCOME FRESHMEN!

CLASS OF 2021

UoN Welcomes 2021 Freshmen and Women Virtually

In April 2020, the University Management decided to mainstream the use of online tools for registration, orientation, teaching and learning for new students admitted in the 2020/2021 academic year.

To achieve this, the University of Nairobi put in place an efficient online system to register new students and take them through orientation. In addition, the teaching and learning has been taking place virtually. The new students were admitted and oriented in their respective Faculties.

The University of Nairobi celebrates this technological milestone in the 50 years of its existence as a University. The COVID-19

pandemic has changed how business is conducted at the university. Registration has in the past has been done physically. Today, a new frontier has been chartered as the University registers over 8000 students online. With the new system, some challenges have been experienced and students are called upon to be patient as complete online registration is done. This system will generate data which will help the University in decision making up until when these students graduate.

For the September 20, 2021 intake, Students were registered online through the student portal (smis.uonbi.ac.ke). The Academic Registrar's office sent admission letters to all admitted students and students were required to take note of a list of documents needed for the registration process to be complete. The system allowed for registration of all new undergraduate and postgraduate students. Online orientation links were then sent to all students who registered to attend a virtual orientation programme hosted by their Faculty. In addition, training was conducted online for all first year students on the platforms used for online teaching and learning.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama addressed first years virtually on Wednesday September 22, 2021.

The University congratulates and welcomes all the new students selected for various Degree programmes at this premier University.





The Vice Chancellor taking selfie shots with continuing students during his welcome address in January 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic

Students Benefit from Career Services



Student Testimonials

Testimonies from 10 students attached at Solar Panda Ltd (K) for Internship and Job Opportunities

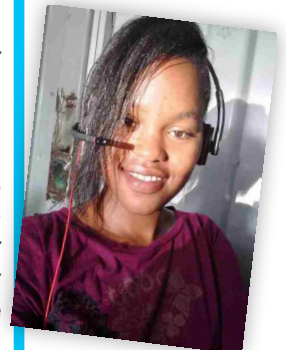
The Office of Career Services has been partnering with Solar Panda since 2018 to secure paid internship opportunities for UoN students. Solar Panda is a Kenyan company providing home solar systems to rural African communities without access to electricity. The goal of the company is to harness solar power to offer customers a clean, safe and healthy source of electricity. Solar panda has since offered 30 UoN students internship and job opportunities. The students are attached to the Solar Panda Customer Care unit where they make follow-ups with customers to offer after sale services and address customer challenges to ensure customer satisfaction is achieved.

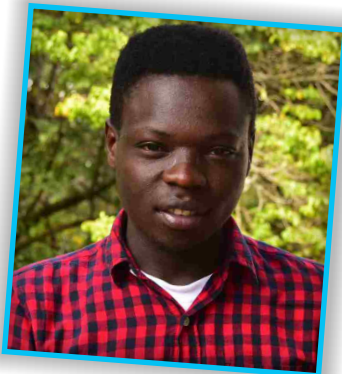
The following are some of the testimonies from our student beneficiaries.



“ My name **Omondi Evans**, a 4th year student of Economics and Statistics at The University of Nairobi, Main Campus. Am so much grateful to the Office of Career Services for connecting me to Solar Panda Company where I was invited for an interview in September 2019 and managed to be considered for an internship from October 2019 till date. I work as a Customer Service Representative, in which my roles entail calling and receiving calls from the company's customers to help them in matters pertaining their Solar kits. This opportunity has helped me a great deal as I am able to cater for my personal needs and also pay for my University fees. Always grateful to the Office of Career Services, May God continue blessing that office to continue helping more students.”

“ My name is **Mueni Kimatu**, a 2019 graduate from the School of Business at The University of Nairobi Lower Kabete Campus. I applied for a job/internship with the Office of Career Services in October 2019 and received a call from Solar Panda to attend an interview for a job/internship opportunity on 1st November 2019. My interview was successful and I was offered an opportunity at the Sola Panda Call Center. My role entails contacting debtors to inquire about their payments status, negotiating payments plans, handling customer questions, escalating priority issues where necessary and also documenting all customer interactions according to standards provided at Solar Panda. Am so grateful to the Office of Career Services for this opportunity. The job has impacted on my life in many ways, first am able to pay my rent, secondly, my upkeep expenses are catered for and thirdly, am able to set aside some savings. The Office of Career Services is indeed playing a key role in linking students to the job market.”





“My name is **Edage Were**, a 4th year student at the School of Physical Sciences, Department of Meteorology at the University of Nairobi. During the unexpected break due to Covid 19, I happened to apply for a job opportunity via the Office of Career Services in April 2020. A day later, I received a call from Solar Panda to attend an interview for a job opportunity on May 1st, 2020. To my surprise my interview was successful courtesy of the training that I had undertaken on “How to Handle Interviews” offered by the UoN Office of Career Services and I was offered an opportunity at the Solar Panda Call Centre. My role entails making follow up calls with clients to give them after sale customer care services such as; trouble shooting on various malfunctioning of the system, issuing updates on their loan status and helping in installation of newly acquired kits. I enjoy my job and am forever grateful to the Office of Career Services for this job opportunity. The job has greatly impacted on my life positively, I am now able to meet my daily needs and even set aside some savings. The Office of Career Services is indeed playing a critical role in linking students to the job market.”

“My name is **Douglas Omollo**. I completed my 4th year studies on January 14th, 2020 with a Bachelor of Commerce in Procurement and Supply Chain Management from the University of Nairobi. After applying for a job at Solar Panda Ltd Kenya through the Office of Career Services, I was successfully selected after a very competitive interview on 9th June, 2020. My tasks include but are not limited to offering after sale customer services through making call follow ups, approving sales, registration of new customers, responding to customer calls and queries. I really enjoy my job and I'm happy to work beside my fellow students from the University of Nairobi. The job has greatly improved my life as I'm able to take care of my expenses: rent, my upkeep and the job has also enabled me to save a little money. The high number of comrades at work proves the great role played by our Office of Career Services.”



“My name is **Makedi Urbanus**. I am a 4th year first Semester student in the School of Economics, at the University of Nairobi, pursuing Bachelor of Economics and Statistics. I firmly ascribe to William Arthur Ward's conviction, “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it” which has guided most of my adult life.

In September 2019, as our first semester of third year drew to an end, I sought the assistance of the Office of Career Services in securing an internship opportunity. I admit self-doubt as I applied to Solar Panda Kenya Ltd, but to my surprise, a week later I received a call from this company inviting me for an interview.

My journey with the Solar Panda team started on 2nd October 2019 on a part time basis as I continue to attend school. Working with this company has been worthwhile and each moment at work has been another opportunity to learn. Customer service has been the most exciting department that I have been in since my posting. Receiving calls to approve sales, making calls to customers regarding the products available, reminding them about their payment plans and replying to their needs in the chat option, have sharpened my interpersonal skills. A mere thank you call to the Office of Career Services would not be enough, but expressing my gratitude and joy through these words, would speak better for me. The allowance from the job has gone into paying my fees, running personal errands and upkeep thus allowing me a conducive environment to study. Indeed, the Office of Career Services, since its inception, has been doing a great and commendable work in linking the students to the job market. Once again, Muchas Gracias!”

“My name is **Adhiambo Valentine Okong'o**, a 3rd Year student pursuing Bsc. Statistics in School of Biological and Physical Sciences at the University of Nairobi. I recently applied for an internship through the Office of Career Services in September, 2019 where I was called for an interview and successfully landed a paid internship at Solar Panda Company as a call centre agent in November. This job entails answering incoming calls from customers and responding to inquiries on products, managing complaints by troubleshooting significant customer service problems and providing general information to potential customers. It also involves outgoing calls where we complete purchases through screenings and educate customers on product terms and features and project a professional company image through voice interaction. Furthermore, we receive, record and attend to all customer complaints for use during report compilation. This job has helped improve my communication skills, ability to work as part of a team as well as multitasking skills. Through this job, I have been able to raise my school fees, cater for my personal needs as well as setting aside savings. The Office of Career Services has indeed played a key role in linking students to the job market.”



“My name is **Mercy Terer**, a student at Kikuyu campus awaiting graduation. I applied for an internship late 2019 through the Office of Career Services. I was called for an interview in January 2020 which I attended and succeeded. I am happy the exposure at Solar Panda has given me a feel of the job market and has helped me get money which I am using to undertake a post graduate diploma and pay for my bills. Solar Panda is a diverse organization. My duties include but are not limited to; Customer service assistance, follow up calls, approving sales, and trouble shooting. It gives me immense pleasure when customers are satisfied with my services. Working at Solar Panda has equipped me with Communication, interpersonal, customer care skills and the ability to work under pressure. I am greatly indebted to the UoN Office of Career Services for gifting me with a platform to start my career journey.”

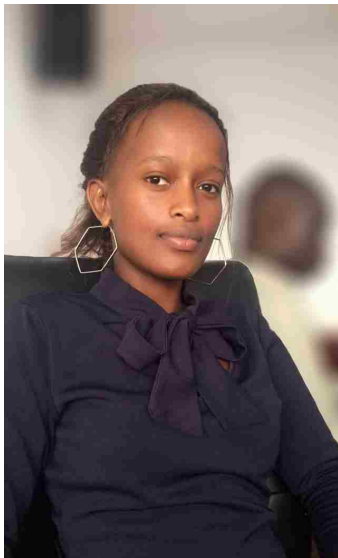
“My name is **Simon Ndiritu**, a recent graduate from the University of Nairobi, School of Biological Sciences College of Biological and Physical Sciences. I applied for a job through the Office of Career Services in July 2019 and received a call from Solar Panda Kenya Limited to attend an interview for a job opportunity on 9 August, 2020. By God's grace I was successful and was given the opportunity to work at the Solar Panda Call Centre. My role in the company entails making and receiving calls to and from customers and field agents, identifying customer needs, troubleshooting issues and providing solutions, educating customers on products by explaining procedures, answering questions and providing relevant information. I am grateful to God and to the entire Office of the Career Services team. This was my first job interview. I have learnt a lot of valuable skills and I am now earning a living. I now send my parents money each month, pay rent, save and sustain my upkeep. The Office of the Career Services to a great extent, is playing a very critical role in linking students to the corporate world and the job market. Many thanks to the office.”



“ I'm **Jackline Akinyi**, I cleared campus and graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Planning from the University of Nairobi. Graduate planners better understand the hustle of getting a job after school. However, for me, the case was different because I applied for a job opportunity with the Office of Career Services in November 2019 just after graduation, and received a call from solar panda to attend an interview on 19th March, just on the onset of Covid 19 in Kenya. Guess what! My interview was successful, I still wow at the fact that I was able to get a job at the Solar Panda call centre during the pandemic, right when many were losing jobs. My work entails screening new customers and making follow up calls; finding out if there are any issues with the kits and reminding the customers of their payment. I enjoy my work and feel so indebted to the Office of Career Services for this job opportunity. Besides the financial advantage, I've really grown in patience due to the nature of the job. I'm about to transit to a planning-related job and just wondering what I would have done all that while before securing the job! The Office of Career Services is indeed playing a critical role to link students to the job market.”



Testimonies from 2 students attached at Liddem International Construction Company Ltd.



“ I am **Faith Thumbi**, a former student of The University of Nairobi currently working with Liddem International Construction Equipment Co Ltd. First, I thank the UoN Career Office for it is through the office that I am working at Liddem. My journey with the careers office started in 2019 where I attended some soft skills training sessions hosted by the Director, Career Services, Mr. Johnson Kinyua. At first, I thought after studying hard in Campus and getting very excellent grades, it would be enough for me to thrive in the professional industry. Well, I was wrong, it takes more effort and determination to grow in your career path. These insights I got from the sessions I had during the various career training sessions. I can still hear the words of The Director echoing in my head as if he was talking directly to me “You will get a job whether you like it or not.” He told us the best way to differentiate yourself professionally is by learning soft skills and making sure you are the best at it. Without hesitation, I set a goal for myself to learn In-design and also took an online google digital marketing course. Being the marketing representative at Liddem, the skills I have learnt have played an excellent role in helping me be the best at my job. I encourage every student to learn digital/soft skills that will help them thrive in their career path even with the changing situations brought about by the pandemic.

My people, things have gone digital. Let us all go digital. Stay Strong, Stay safe, and learn a skill.”



“My name is **Gati Range**, a 4th year student at the University of Nairobi pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology. I applied for a job opportunity with the Office of Career Services in August 2019 then later on received a call from Solar Panda the next month, September 2019. I went for an interview, passed successfully and started working with the company. My role entails making follow up calls with clients to give them after sale customer care services, approving sales, troubleshooting and receiving calls from clients then analyzing and solving serious problems that they may have encountered. Working with Solar Panda has really helped me grow as a student, my communication skills are on another level, which is really good. I can now relate with different kinds of people and I have also gained a lot of confidence. Apart from that, I'm also able to pay my school fees, sustain my upkeep expenses and also set aside some savings. Forever grateful to the Office of Career Services for this paid job opportunity.”

“Am **Phedinard Ongayo** a third year student studying B.A Sociology in the Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi. I applied for a job placement/internship in January 2020 with the Office Career Services. In March I received a call from Solar Panda Ltd (K) for an interview but due to COVID 19 pandemic, the interview was rescheduled to an unknown date. Through the Office of Career Services able and supportive staff led by the Director and Chief Information Officer, I was again called for an interview and with the qualities embodied in me I was offered an opportunity at Solar Panda Ltd (K) call centre. I execute duties like; doing reminder calls to our customers to ensure they do their daily payments as per the policy. Doing screening/approving sales for the new customers, undertaking upgrade calls for those that have attained the required level of getting other products i.e. TVs. attending to customers via SMS those that are seeking help via SMS and finally depending on the call que at times doing inbound calls to attend to customers' needs and offering after sale services and assistance. I find the job in Solar Panda so amazing and becoming part and parcel of my hobbies. I am very beholden to the Office of Career Services for the marvelous work and opportunity. The job has greatly changed my life since I am now able to settle my expenses and be sure of a living and something for my family back at home even at this time of the pandemic. The work that the Office of Career Services is doing am acquiescently sure that its only Almighty God that can reward it since it can't be matched with any pay.”

“My name is **Chepkoech Edah**, a graduate (2019) from the School of Business at the University of Nairobi. I applied for a job/internship opportunity with the Office of Career Services in June 2019 and received a call from Solar Panda to attend an interview for a job/ internship opportunity on July 1, 2020. My interview was successful and I was offered an opportunity at the Solar Panda Call Centre. My role entails handling customer inquiries via telephone and/or SMS and managing/resolving customer complaints; providing customers with product and service information by clearly explaining procedures and answering questions and providing information; identifying and escalating priority issues where necessary and following up customer concerns; documenting all customer interaction according to standard operating procedures; maintaining and improving quality results by adhering to standards and guidelines and recommending improved procedures. I am grateful to the Office of Career Services for this opportunity. The job has impacted on my life positively, I am now able to pay for my rent, sustain my upkeep expenses and even set aside some savings. The Office of Career Services is indeed playing a critical role to link students to the job market.”





“ My name is **Jeremiah Nthumo**, a former Bachelor of Arts student of Economics and Sociology from The University of Nairobi. The Covid-19 pandemic caught me by surprise immediately after doing my final examinations in February 2020. Stepping out of school into the job market made me fret at first. However, I got in touch with the Office of Career Services hoping that I would benefit from being connected with employers who were looking for employees to work with at their companies.

With support from the Office of Career Services, I luckily got invited for an interview at Liddem International Construction Co Ltd and later managed to secure a job role as a Sales Representative in the company after a series of interviews. The opportunity has been a great game changer in my life. This job has not only helped me transition from school life to the job market smoothly, but has also enabled me get exposure, improve on my personal skills and learn a lot as a sales representative in our company. Being a first-born in our family, I am now able to support my parents and siblings during these hard times of the Corona Pandemic. I sincerely appreciate the Office of Career Services for such great support.”





Huawei Graduate Trainee Program Success Story

My Story: A brief narrative of my work experience at Huawei



Dennis Kamindu is a University of Nairobi alumnus. He graduated in September 2018 with a BSc. Electrical and Information Engineering Degree, Second Class Upper division.

While in Campus, Dennis was involved in various activities, but the most significant one was at 'The Journey UoN' where he was a member of the band. Here is where he nurtured his guitar skills, improved my social skills, and formed friendship bonds that have lasted till today.

Dennis joined Huawei through a Graduate Management Trainee recruitment drive that was held at the University of Nairobi in June 2018. He narrates his work experience below.

"At that moment, we were doing our final year projects. I applied for a position at the company and they responded by inviting me for an interview. There were about 87 of us at the interview stage. The

interview itself was held in three separate levels (Group interview, Technical interview & Final interview), on the same day and at each level, some of us got eliminated. A few weeks later, I got an email that he had successfully passed the interview stage and was offered one of the positions available.

The Graduate Management Trainee program itself was quite unique. The first month was an in-class training, done and facilitated by a vast team of experts in their various fields. After each course, we did an exam to measure our understanding of the various courses. After the first month, depending on the score obtained from the exams, you were placed in the specific department in which you preferred and scored the highest. This was followed by a 4 month on job training experience. During this period, I was assigned a mentor who guided and supported me through the whole journey. The mentors assigned to all the trainees were experts with many years of experience in their respective fields.

At the end of the 4 months of on job training, there was an appraisal done based on the tasks handled. The appraisals were very objective, because these were based on results and also how much you were able to learn under your mentor. Therefore, it was very important to learn as much as possible from your mentor because during the final oral defense held in front of a panel of experts, a lot of questions would be asked based on your work experience.

After the 4 month on job training, I was named one of the excellent staff and offered a position in the company. I now works for the IT Solution Sales Department in a very diverse team of experts who have given me so much support in growing my career as well as in understanding the IT product portfolio.

My transition from campus to the Huawei workforce has been made seamless due to the hard work of a dedicated team of experts that came together to formulate a unique management trainee program that seeks to develop knowledge, social skills, communication skills and work ethics while maintaining all the unique aspects of the trainees intact.

Huawei provides a very conducive environment to achieve a work life balance. For instance, there is a floor at the workplace dedicated for recreational purposes where employees can play indoor games. This facility also has gym equipment for physical health exercises. Huawei also provides a platform for showcasing talent. For example in sports, we have had various tournaments in football and basketball. In other areas for example music and culture, Huawei provides a platform to showcase dance, music and cultural talents. I have been offered many opportunities to showcase my musical talent in various Huawei events and gatherings.

Overall, my experience at Huawei has been one of learning, multi-cultural inclusion and support for personal and career growth".



UoN Student Wins Global Finals Huawei ICT Competition 2020 Awards



Maluki Muthusi, a 3rd Year University of Nairobi student at the School of Computing and Informatics was awarded first prize for winning in the global finals ICT competition in the network track.

Competition. He assured on the University's commitment to continue partnering with industry partners to create opportunities for students.

Amb. Simon Nabukwesi acknowledged and commended the ICT Competitions noting the significance they accord to the Education sector. "The ICT Competition is a unique contribution that the private sector can provide that significantly enhances the quality of our ICT education. We recognize the need for different formats that are practical and hands-on to complement the theory," the PS said. He congratulated the students and lecturers for winning these awards and outstandingly representing Kenya at the international level. He also thanked Huawei for commitment and support to building capacity amongst

Three Kenyan teams that emerged top of the Huawei ICT Global Competition were awarded at a colourful ceremony on Monday January 18, 2021.

The event which was held at the Nairobi Serena Hotel and officiated by Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for University Education and Research in the Ministry of Education.

Maluki Muthusi, a 3rd Year University of Nairobi student at the School of Computing and Informatics was awarded first prize for winning in the global finals ICT competition in the network track. The ICT competition, network track, is a skill-based competition involving hands-on experience on computer networks and network security.

The University of Nairobi's Vice Chancellor congratulated the UoN team for their effort & dedication in showcasing technical skills to win the global

Kenyan students and institutions in ICT saying this will go a long way in creating jobs and digital solutions.

The 2019-2020 ICT Competition received over 6,400 student applications out of which 100 students proceeded to the national finals. Five teams later proceeded to the regional finals and eventually three teams represented Kenya at the global stage.

The winners were awarded medals, certificates and a variety of Huawei products and Huawei Exam Vouchers as rewards.

Other guests who attended the award ceremony were Prof. Joseph Rotich, Vice Chancellor, Laikipia University, Prof. Robert Kinyua Wambui Ngumi, DVC JKUAT and Mr. Johnson Ireri Kinyua, Dean of Students, University of Nairobi.

UoN Skills Centre

Skills Development Programs

In response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Career Services lined up a number of Skills Transfer Programs and webinars to equip students with the skills they require to help them transition from campus to the work place. Beginning Friday, 22 May 2020 to July 20, 2020, the Office planned series of webinars in partnership with industry partners (Employers/Agents). The webinars and Skills Transfer Programs focused on various topics such as Digital Marketing, Coding Skillsfinding jobs, internships and work experience, job applications and interviews, jobs and experience, maximizing on social media for networking, mental health, personal branding, and communication.



Workmate
Virtual Jobs Finder

Workmate membership club is an online app portal that provides exclusive remote jobs. The club makes it easy for quality employers and freelancers to connect, collaborate and get work done flexibly and securely and this helps to create job opportunities to millions of skilled youth. Through the skills transfer program, workmate aims to have experts representing every technical, professional and creative world. The skills transfer taps from a pool of experienced online workers who pass the knowledge to less skilled youths through training and mentorship.

Skills Transfer Program by the Workmate Virtual Jobs Finder

Some of the Technical and Soft Skills imparted to our students through the Skills Transfer Program (STP) with Workmate include:

DIGITAL MARKETING SKILLS	DATA ENTRY AND TRANSCRIPTION SKILLS
Front End Web Design (CMS) Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Social Media Management (SMM) E-Commerce Content Marketing E-Mail Marketing Lead Generation	MS Word MS Excel Audio to Text Image Connotation Translation Sub Titles
CODING SKILLS	SOFT SKILLS
PHP Tutorials Python 3 Tutorial C++ Tutorial Java Tutorial JavaScript Tutorial C# Tutorial Swift 4 Fundamentals	Job Search Skills Business Communication Online Research Entrepreneurship List Building Networking Life Skills

Workmate has been a true partner to the Office of Career Services in developing holistic, market and future ready graduates who are globally competitive. The Workmate Students Brand Ambassadors is the strongest and most active brand ambassador group on campus.



Students Brand Ambassadors sponsored by Workmate for the Skills Transfer Program pose for a photo outside the UoN Towers.



Mentors and trainers of Workmate Students Brand Ambassadors



Workmate Students Brand Ambassadors undergoing Skills Transfer Program at UoN Towers-pre COVID 19



CAREER WEBINARS

Brighter Monday Webinar – increasing your employability



The UoN Office of Career Services on Friday May 22, 2020 hosted a Career Webinar on CV writing and Interview etiquette. The Webinar was co-hosted with a team from Brighter Monday Kenya and the theme was “**How to increase your employability**”. Over 780 students from a wide array of disciplines attended the Webinar that

lasted for 2 hours from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. Brighter Monday is a virtual jobs listing company connecting job seekers with top employers. The company also strives to boost job seekers' skills and profiles, provide with personalized career guidance and match job seekers with the right opportunities.

The Webinar focused on educating the students on how to open and operate a Brighter Monday Account, Good and Bad CVs, Interview etiquette and how students should position themselves for the job market.

My Jobs in Kenya Webinar – the Future of Jobs

In a bid to brand students for entry into the job market, the Office of Career Services in partnership with My Jobs in Kenya on Wednesday May 27, 2020 held a Career Webinar for students from 3.00 – 5.00pm. The Webinar focused on the future of jobs, interview tips, CV writing tips, personal branding and career mentorship. Over 300 students attended this session.



The panelists for this session included: Nancy Mokuu - CEO, My Jobs in Kenya; Terryann Chebet – General Manager, Metropolis TV; Susan Karambu – Country Manager, Tally Solutions Kenya Ltd; Angela Karamba – Legal Counsel, Safaricom, PLC; Oscar Onguto – Director, Lexicon + Ion.

On CV writing, students received tips from Nancy Mokuu, CEO My Jobs in Kenya. She indicated that a CV must be neat with visible headings, should be kept short, have personal details, personal statement, education background, skills, work history, hobbies, referees and should avoid irrelevant information. In addition, use a professional font, add your social media handles and do not lie because the lies will catch up with you.

A CV should be accompanied by a cover letter and be tailored for each job. Signing up with job searching companies like LinkedIn, Brighter Monday, Fuzu and My Jobs in Kenya to receive tailored notification of jobs related to your background is also highly encouraged. In conclusion, students were reminded that learning never ends, integrity is key, believe in yourself and always learn a new skill, keep upskilling.

Unilever Academy – Preparing for Employment in today's Digital World



Unilever

In today's digital world, the power of digital platforms to students and any job seeker cannot be overlooked. The Office of Career Services on Thursday May 28, 2020 hosted a Career Webinar session for students on how “The power of Digital platforms for today's job seeker” from 2.00 - 4.00pm. The webinar focused on online learning and using LinkedIn to position yourself in the job market. The guests for this session was Kevin Oywa, the Production Manager and Brian Amani, Employer Brand Executive at Unilever Kenya.

Kevin started off his presentation by encouraging students to have a LinkedIn profile as they slowly transition to the job market. He said that “you can use LinkedIn to get yourself over the edge”. To optimize your LinkedIn profile, you need to

1. **Add all genuine certifications and this includes free online certifications.**
2. **Interact with industry champions in your area of interest.**
3. **Create top awareness about your existence on the platform by contributing to conversations of interest**
4. **Updating your profile every so often when you have a new milestone to update**
5. **Following as many companies as possible in your line of interest.**

For one to optimize on the opportunities digital platforms bring, Kevin emphasized that students must know the type of learners that they are. There are four types of learners highlighted and these include:

1. **Visual learners** - prefer to take in information using charts, maps, graphs, diagrams, and more. Using images, shapes, patterns and other visual aids to explain concepts and ideas is the best way to reach a visual learner
2. **Auditory Learner** - This learning style describes students who learn best when information is heard or spoken. They benefit from lectures, group discussion, and other strategies that involve talking things through.
3. **Read/Write Learner** - Students who have a reading/writing preference prefer information to be presented using words. They love to read and perform well on written assignments such as stories or book reports.
4. **Tactile learner** – this type of learner learns best when they can use tactile experiences and carry out a physical activity to practice applying new information.

In his presentation, Kevin indicated that LinkedIn Learning offers over 1,000 business courses on diverse topics that are relevant to current working place dynamics and is an excellent platform for working professionals looking to keep their skills up-to-date. The platform also offers certifications that you can add to your LinkedIn profile, showcasing your expertise and improving your online resume.

Fuzu Webinar – Essential tools for Career Development

With a number of job listing companies emerging each day, students and job seekers have no alternative than to sign up to some of these job listing companies to increase their chances of securing an interview invitation for a job application. Fuzu is one such job listing company. The Office of Career Services on Friday May 29, 2020 held a Webinar in partnership with Fuzu, an online job listing company from 4.00 – 5.00 pm. Over 150 students attended the Webinar.

The webinar focused on educating students on how to set up a Fuzu account, what employers look for and essential tools that students require for career development. Nelly Mutula, the Head of HR and Faith Wambui, Community Manager at Fuzu took the students through the different sessions.

Faith Wambui showcased a sample Fuzu account for the students and encouraged them to increase their chances of securing a job by creating a Fuzu account. The account basically highlights one's Summary/profile, Education Background, Work Experience, Skills and other areas of interest. The account can also be linked to your email, FB Account of LinkedIn Account and therefore it is important to post content in your social media handles that reflects well on you.

Nelly further highlighted the key skills that employers look out for and this include;

- 1. Communication Skills**
- 2. Experience – Seminars attended, Trainings, Volunteer opportunities**
- 3. Technical skills – in one's area of expertise**
- 4. Soft Skills – Adaptability, Flexibility, Passion, Teamwork, Leadership**
- 5. One's strengths and areas of development (weaknesses)**

Students were encouraged to visit the Fuzu blog for more information to help them prepare for the job market including how to create a good CV, what skills to highlight and interview preparedness among other. Fuzu also offers career coaching services and instant feedback to its clients.

Students got an opportunity to ask questions which ranged from CV and cover letter writing, Interview preparedness, skills to highlight and how best to position themselves to be the best candidates for a job.



INDUSTRIAL VISIT



Department of Chemistry Students tour Unilever Kenya for an Industrial Visit

The Office of Career Services organized an industrial visit to Unilever for 30 Department of Chemistry students on March 3, 2020.

The core mandate of the UoN Career Office is to produce holistic graduates prepared for entry into the workforce and ready to become entrepreneurs. To achieve this vision, the Office of Career Services regularly plans for students' industrial site visits to potential employers and industry partners and this includes both private and government institutions and bodies. The aim of the industrial visits is to provide an insight regarding the internal working processes of institutions and companies and offer an opportunity for students to interact with industries to know more about the real work environment and how businesses are transacted in the respective companies or institutions.



Department of Chemistry Students tour Unilever Kenya for an Industrial Visit

Charles Irungu Kimiti, the Head of Engineering and Projects at Unilever led the Unilever team to welcome the UoN team for the industrial visit. Charles, an alumnus of UoN from the School of Engineering who studied BSc. in Manufacturing Engineering indicated that he welcomed the industrial visit to give back to his Alma Mater and help mentor UoN students as they identify the career paths they would like to follow. Charles encouraged the students to be open-minded, agile, problem solvers, with a positive attitude and ability and willingness to learn.

Brian Amani, the Employer Brand Executive who started off as an intern at Unilever and an alumnus of UoN (BSc. Civil Engineering) welcomed the students and made a brief presentation on Unilever's core business and the opportunity students have to join Unilever to kick off their career paths. Unilever was founded in 18185 and has been a leadership factory for over 100 years.

Kevin Kevin Oywa, the Production Manager in the Personal Care Factory at Unilever East Africa and also an alumnus of UoN (Bsc. Industrial Chemistry) took lead in taking the students round the personal care factory for them to learn the process of production. Kevin encouraged the students to embrace the culture of seeking discomfort and to expand their minds to achieve much more in their careers. "For you to grow in your career, avoiding the comfort zone and seeking discomfort is inevitable", said Kevin.

The industrial visit exposed students to the opportunities Unilever has to offer and students were encouraged to apply for the Unilever Leadership Internship Program (ULIP) which is open for students (3&4th year) to apply every quarter and the Unilever Future Leaders Program (UFLP) that runs for 3 years and is a Management Trainee Program. The UFLP program targets final year students not over than 26 years of age with at least an upper second honors in their degree.

The students were accompanied by Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director Career Services, Dr. Solomon Derese, Lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Naomi Nyaboga, Chief Information Officer in the Office of Career Services.

The Office of Career Services applauds Unilever for this continued partnership in exposing students to industry processes and looks forward to more students gaining from this exposure and landing themselves opportunities with Unilever.

UoN Students awarded an Advanced Diploma from the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT)



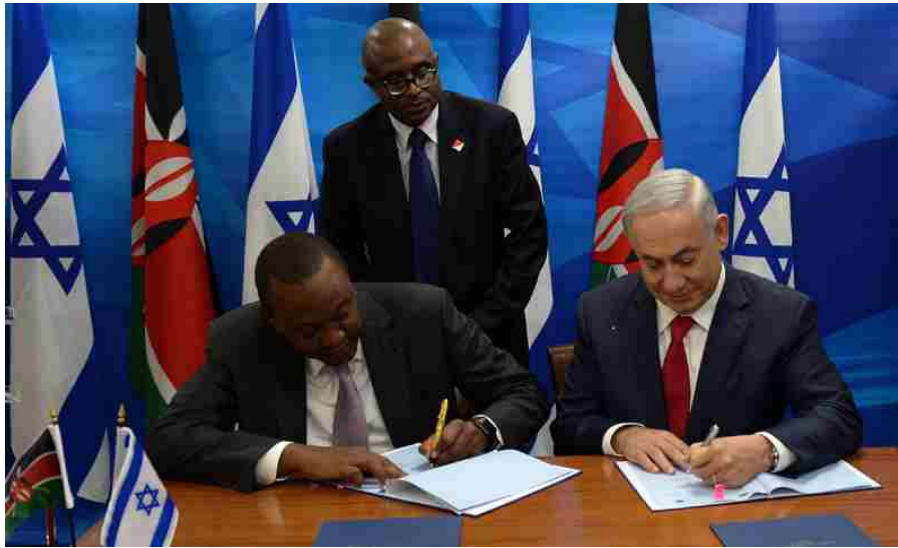
AICAT

Arava Int'l Center of
Agriculture Training

Following the signing of an MoU between President Uhuru Kenyatta and the State of Israel on 23rd February 2016, the University of Nairobi among other Agricultural, Water and Irrigation Training institutions has been sending Agricultural students to the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) to study an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture and Agribusiness since 2017.

Nineteen students from the University of Nairobi's Faculty of Agriculture were among the 96 students flagged off by the former Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Hon. Simon Chelugui on August 1, 2019 at Maji House for an 11-month advanced agriculture & irrigation training in Israel.

The nineteen students started their training on 1st August 2019 for an 11 months program on Advanced Agriculture and Irrigation at Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) in Israel where they were attached to work with farmers in Kibbutz and Moshav Jewish forms of settlement. The students lived in farms in the Arava region where and were exposed to the high technologies and the advanced agriculture in Israel. The students should have completed their training by June 30, 2020, however, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions and ban on travel, their program was extended to March 2021.



President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel signing an MoU 23rd February 2016 to promote Agricultural Training for Kenyan students in Israel.

The program has impacted on the graduates' lives in different aspects including socially, academically, and economically. The students have gained leadership skills and can now become community leaders and agricultural mentors; they have both practical and theoretical tools in food safety and security and knowledge on how to successfully establish agribusinesses and model farms. When they return home, the graduates easily integrate professionally in both the public and private sector.

The next batch of 50 UoN students for the 2021/2022 cohort will leave for Israel on October 31, 2021.

The University is proud to partner with AICAT in this hands-on training initiative in Agriculture and Agribusiness. The students are acquiring the mechanized agricultural skills and attitudes that will positively impact the Agricultural sector in Kenya.



96 Kenyan students flagged off by the former Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Hon. Simon Chelugui August 1, 2019 at Maji House

France Hosts 22 Language Assistants for 7 months



The University of Nairobi, was privileged to host the French President Emmanuel Macron on March 14, 2019. President Macron during his town hall meeting at UoN indicated that the French Government was glad to partner with Kenya in matters Education.

As part of the partnerships with France, more than 4000 English Teaching Assistants are enrolled every year to teach English in French primary or secondary schools for seven months, (renewable) 12 hour per week with a monthly allowance of € 794. The students also benefit from a full health insurance cover during their stay in France.

Since 2018, Kenya has been eligible to participate in the French Teaching Assistant Program. The program is open to students or graduates from all disciplines as

long as they can demonstrate a competence in the French language and must be between 20-35 years with a minimum Level B1 in French. The French Embassy provides a long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit for the students.

Kenya was given 70 slots for the 2019 cohort of French Teaching Assistants with UoN securing 22 slots. The program period was extended to October 2020 owing to the Covid-19 travel ban and restrictions.

The second cohort of 120 Kenyan Language Teaching Assistants will leave for France in October 2021.

UoN is proud to partner with the French Government in this program offering an opportunity for Kenyan students to work abroad and build their skills in French.



22 UoN students sent to France in October 2019 as English Language Assistants pose for a photo with French President Emmanuel Macron on March 14, 2019 during his visit to the University of Nairobi

Towards a Disability Friendly Environment



Providing Equal Access

The Office of the Dean of Students, is fully engaged in the task of steering the transformation of the University environment into one in which gifted and deserving students with disability will have an equal opportunity to acquire higher education and as much as possible participate in the various aspects of University life. This includes facilitating enhanced access to University Facilities, providing disability support services, creating disability awareness and advocating for disability inclusive University Policies and procedures. The following disability support services are offered by the University;

1. Advocacy and /or advice on issues disability concerns.
2. Suitable accommodation for students with disability
3. Facilitate provision of assistive devices such as hearing aids
4. Facilitate and refer Students with disabilities for repair and maintenance of mobility, visual and auditory aids.
5. Provide Kenya Sign language Interpretation services to deaf students and in University Public events
6. Facilitate provision of braille services and printed materials in alternative formats.
7. Consultative and counseling support for students with disabilities
8. Transport within and outside of the University for students with physical disabilities.

We work towards providing an enabling environment for students with disabilities so that they can be admitted, begin and successfully complete their studies and become productive members of the Society.

Accessibility is one of the critical aspects of the educational landscape. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2003 require institutions of higher learning to provide equitable access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities. Major types of

disabilities may include but are not limited to Physical/mobility, Visual, Hearing, Intellectual, albinism and Psychosocial disabilities.

The University of Nairobi has been at the forefront in providing reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. This has seen an influx of students with disability enrolled in various degree programs in the recent past. The Office of the Dean of Students has been providing disability support services "on a needs basis".

In an effort to provide disability support services, the Office of the Dean of Students has engaged in continuous awareness and sensitization on disability within the University Community. Over the years, the University of Nairobi has seen an increase in enrollment of students with disabilities. However, in order to make the University more welcoming and conducive to all students with disability, the University recently developed a Disability Policy aimed at ensuring more equal opportunities in learning and all aspects of University life for students with disability.

Current activities:

The Disability Liaison Office works towards making the University of Nairobi's learning environment conducive for persons with disabilities. To this end, the following activities are currently being implemented; -

- **Kenya Sign language Interpretation Services**

In an effort to provide equal opportunities for the Deaf Students, the Office of the Dean of Students has in place Sign Language Interpreters who provide sign language interpretation for both Deaf students and staff as well as University Public events such as first year's orientation, graduations, meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.

- **Management of data for Students with Disabilities**

The Assistant Deans of Students in respective Faculties are engaged in offering disability support services to students with disabilities. Key amongst the services they provide include collecting data on students with disabilities for informed decision making and support. The office of Dean of Students is working towards automation of data for students with disabilities to enhance efficiency

- **Adaptive/Assistive Technological Support**

Students with visual disability are provided with the requisite adaptive technology to facilitate learning, for example installation of Jaws Fusion Screen readers with zoom tech in the University libraries to support learners with visual disabilities in accessing learning materials in accessible formats.

- **Transport services for students with disabilities**

The Disability Liaison Office works closely with Facilities Management Unit to provide transport services to students with physical and visual disabilities to and from lecture halls and the surrounding areas as needs arise. This ensure that their physical accessibility needs are mitigated in the best way possible.

- **Assistive devices for Students with disabilities**

Assistive devices such as hearing aids, white canes, wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks etc., are necessities to persons with disabilities. The disability liaison office facilitates the provision and maintenance of assistive devices in an effort to ensure that the students are supported and their wellness is catered for.

- **Hostel Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

The Office of the Dean of Students in collaboration with the Students Welfare Services ensures that some rooms are set aside for students with mobility issues on the ground floor of the halls of residence. Male students have rooms reserved for them in Hall 2 and female students in women's Hall (Box). Students with disabilities in respective campuses are supported to secure convenient accommodation facilities are available to them.

- **University of Nairobi Students with Disabilities Association**

The University of Nairobi Students with Disability Association (UoN SWDA) that had long ceased operation was revived and elections held in 2015. The University welcomes students with various types of disabilities to engage with each other through the association and advance the welfare of students with disabilities in the University.



Students Communication Office Reaching out to Students

The UoN Student Communications Office seeks to offer effective communication and marketing to support the Dean of Students Office. The aim of the office is to develop and implement consistent and clear strategies that will engage the entire student population and promote the mission of the University of Nairobi.

The Student Communications Office aims to facilitate all internal and external communications from the Dean of Students Office. This includes publicizing student events and activities, creating publications such as brochures, newsletters, and the annual Student Information Handbook. The communications team also develop content and manages the Dean of Students and Career Office Websites and Social Media Handles.

The core mandate is to portray the Dean of Student's Office ability to contribute to students' well-being in campus, skills development and professional student leadership to accelerate the recognition of the crucial role of the Office. It is expected that in the implementation of its activities, the Student Communications Office will showcase the Dean of Students Office as results oriented, and as an office that listens to its stakeholders (students, staff, partners) and works in harmony with like-minded partners and institutions to elevate students' welfare in the Universities development agenda of Kenya and the region.

The strategic objectives of the Student Communications Office include:

- **To increase the visibility, credibility and understanding of the Dean of Students Office;**
- **To increase and promote a positive image of the Dean of Students office among stakeholders;**
- **To increase the Dean of Students' influence on students' welfare by leveraging its mandate through communication;**
- **To increase stakeholder communication and involvement with the Dean of Students Office;**
- **To improve communication especially in areas where challenges are currently experienced**
- **To strengthen the Dean of Students communication capacity to tell the stories of the activities the office engages in.**

The Student Communications Office uses the following modes of communication to its internal and external stakeholders.

1. Email

This is the main mode of communication for all internal stakeholders on official matters.

The Official Emails for the Office of the Dean of Students and Career Services are as indicated below:

- a) dean-students@uonbi.ac.ke (For non-academic student matters)
- b) careers@uonbi.ac.ke (for career-related matters)

2. Website

The Student Communications Office Manages two websites that offer a wide array of content for students, staff and wider stakeholders. The urls for the two websites are as indicated below:

- a) <https://studentlife.uonbi.ac.ke>
- b) <https://careerservices.uonbi.ac.ke>

3. Social Media

The following are the social media handles for the Student Communications Office which are used to communicate widely to the student communication.

Dean of Students Office social media handles

- a) Facebook: University of Nairobi Dean of Students Office
- b) Twitter: @UoNDeanStudents

Office of Career Services social media handles

- a) Facebook: UoN Office of Career Services
- b) Twitter: @UoNCareerOffice

4. Publications - Newsletter, Brochures, Flyers, Student Information Handbook

The Student Communications Office will be issuing an annual e-newsletter showcasing its activities and students' participation. The aim is to highlight success stories and tell the stories of all the activities run by the different sections in the office. In addition, the Office works on the production of publications such as the Student Information Handbook, brochures and flyers for marketing the Dean of Students Office.

5. Telephone

The main telephone numbers for the Dean of Students and Career Office are as follows

- a) Tel: +254 20 491 8114 (Dean of Students)
- b) Tel: +254 20 491 8121 (Office of Career Services)

Current activities Student Communications Office Activities

1. Media Relations and Communications – internal and external
2. Events and Programs Planning such as Career Webinars, CSR Activities, Jobs and Internships awareness
3. Management of Websites
4. Management of Social Media Handles
5. Managing publications - Student Information Handbook, Students Code of Conduct, Newsletter, brochure and Flyer production

VC discusses Student Welfare matters with Assistant Deans of Students

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama on Tuesday January 19 2021 met with 8 Assistant Deans of Students from all Colleges and Campuses to discuss the matters touching on students' welfare.

Assistant Deans of Students present at the meeting were from Lower Kabete Campus, Kenya Science Campus, Mombasa Campus, Kisumu Campus, Parklands Campus, College of Health Sciences, College of Architecture and Engineering and College of Biological and Physical Sciences.

Top on the meeting agenda were discussions on Student Mentorship, UNSA Student Leadership, Students and Clubs Associations,

Accommodation, Sports, Health services, Special Needs, Structured Counseling, Career Counseling, Work-Study Programme, Soft Skills Training and Students services.

The Dean of Students, Mr. Johnson Kinyua and Chief Information Officer, OCS were also present at the meeting to take note of the key issues emanating from the discussions.

The Vice Chancellor is committed to improving the welfare of students on campus to enable them fully focus on their academic goals. The Dean of Students office is focusing on addressing all issues raised for the holistic growth and development of students on campus.



The Vice-Chancellor in a meeting with Assistant Deans of Students held on January 19th 2021.

STUDENT



SPIRIT | SOUL | BODY

For Holistic Student Life in Campus

The Dean of Students Office is in the process of implementing the University of Nairobi Students Wellness Center. The overall wellness of an individual is achieved through the integration of various aspects of life which are essential in ensuring harmony and balance in life. The aim of establishing the wellness centre is to integrate students' services geared towards addressing the holistic needs of students and staff of the University of Nairobi in one location. By definition, Wellness is an active, ongoing process which involves becoming aware of and taking steps towards a healthier, happier and more fulfilling life. To achieve the above, the center will focus on multiple dimensions of wellness and activities that will empower students to strive for balance and wellness in life. The services will also be opened to the university fraternity and the community at affordable rates for the purpose of generating some funds for supporting needy students.

The main mandate of the Students Wellness Centre will be to promote the mental, psychological, physical, intellectual as well as spiritual wellbeing of the students in and out campus. Services will also be extended to the surrounding community as part of the Dean of Student's Office Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to all those who walk through its doors and beyond. The centre will partially generate funds to support needy students and provide an avenue for internships and partnerships with industry partners.

The Student Wellness Center purposes to promote balanced student lifestyles and success by offering support in the following seven dimensions of wellness:

- Physical (mind and body)
- Emotional
- Social
- Intellectual
- Spiritual
- Financial
- Professional

Through the activities that will be delivered at the students Wellness Centre, it is hoped that the University will produce all rounded holistic professionals, minimize use of drugs and substance abuse, ensure physical and mental health for students and staff, create an avenue for students to realize their talents and expertise, minimize exam cheating, goonism and indiscipline among students and promote timely student completion rates.

MESSAGE FROM THE

Chaplaincy



Congratulations for gaining admission to the University of Nairobi. UoN is a leading University in the region and highly ranked globally.

University life can be both challenging and motivating at the same time. At the University of Nairobi, you will grow intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The University Chaplaincy is committed to walking with you through this adventurous journey. The Chaplaincy department will nurture your spiritual, social and emotional growth as you grow intellectually. It is our hope and prayer that "you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your SOUL is getting along well" (3 John vs.2). May you get the very best out of your campus life!

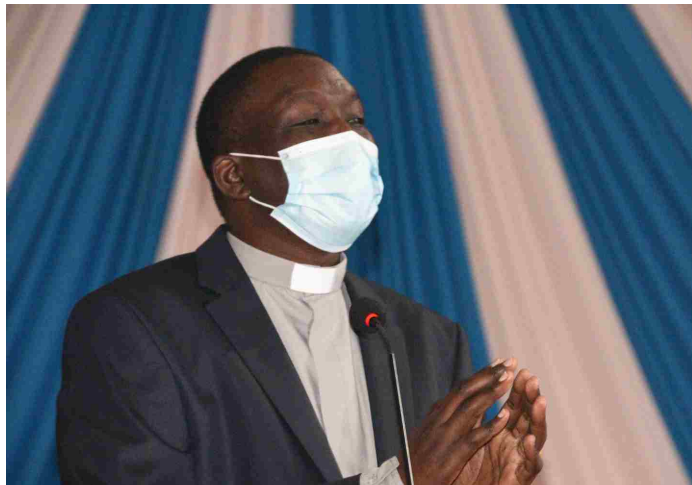
The University Chaplaincy section comprises of Catholic, Protestant and Muslim Chaplains. Please contact any of the three chaplains and understand where you can be spiritually nurtured.

Rev. Hosea Mitei
Protestant Chaplain
kipronomitei@uonbi.ac.ke

Fr. Peter Kaigua
Catholic Chaplain
kaigua@uonbi.ac.ke

Imam Swalleh Mohammed
Muslim Chaplain
I_maawy@uonbi.ac.ke

University Inter-Faith Annual Prayer Day



The University of Nairobi on Thursday July 23, 2020 from 9.00am held a Virtual Inter-Denominational Annual Prayer Day for the year 2020. This is a day set aside for giving thanks to God and seeking for His continued blessings and protection to the University community.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs welcomed the entire University Community to the Prayer Day. His remarks were summarized in 5 alphabets (Devotion, Edification, Fortitude & Faith, Grace & Gratitude and Humility). He encouraged the University Community to focus on submission and supplication for intervention as a University Community and for everyone to offer themselves to God.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama in his remarks appreciated all who participated in the prayer day. The VC further indicated that 2020 was a year of Jubilee for the University of Nairobi, a year for reflecting on the past 50 years God has seen the University through its Research and Teaching activities. He further stated that this was a time to forgive one another, focus on what we can do better together as the UoN family and be more united for the betterment of everyone.

Mohamed Swaleh, the UoN Muslim Chaplain read from Chapter 94 of the Holy Quran. He emphasized that "no hardships or difficulty lasts forever, after every

hardship, ease will come. Let us devote ourselves to Allah". The Muslim Chaplain further encouraged the University fraternity to PRAY continually and invoke God of His mercy, HOPE for better things to come and practice CAUTION during this Covid period.

Mr. Dickens Wendo, the College Librarian at the College for Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) read the key text for the prayer day sermon which came from the book of 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 20 "...Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...". The University is one unit and all stakeholders must work together to achieve its mandate.

Rev. Hosea Mitei, the Protestants Chaplain delivered the Sermon for the day. He emphasized that Paul reminds us that we are one body and every part of the body MUST function properly. Therefore, as a University Community we must have UNITY because we are united together. We are also DIVERSE and DEPEND on each other to fulfil the University's mandate. Rev. Mitei further urged the University community to look for opportunities to spur and encourage each other during this Covid period, serve each other's needs.

Intercessory prayers were offered by Pauline Mungai, Director. Christian Student Leadership from Ufungamano, Dr. Grace Kiringa who represented UoN Staff, Chaplain Mohammed Swaleh representing the Muslim Community and Dorothy Syombua who represented the student community.

In concluding the one-hour prayer session, Fr. Peter Kaigua, the Catholic Chaplain at the University reiterated that the University of Nairobi values its relationship with God and that is why each year the University fraternity communes together to give thanks to God and seek for His continued blessings and protection. In God we shall walk the path of our lives as a University towards excellence. On behalf of the Chaplaincy, Fr. Kaigua appreciated all participants who attended the prayer session both physically and virtually.

Long live UoN in Unity and Work: Unitate et Labore.



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair Programme



ELIMIKA WAJIBIKA PROGRAMME

The Covid-19 Pandemic caught everyone by surprise with little or no certainty on the future and especially on matters of handling student-related issues more so when the pandemic was at its peak. The Government went ahead to close down all academic Institutions including the Universities. As such, the University of Nairobi's Kenya Science Campus admitted to have struggled while figuring out on the best methodologies and strategies to adopt so as to take care of everything while at the same time fully engage students for the good and relevance of the University's core mandate. It is indeed at this very moment that UNESCO/UNITWIN ELIMIKA WAJIBIKA Program led by Prof. Judith Mbula Bahemuka, UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair came in handy to support students in offering counseling support.

The Dean of Students Office staff led by Njiiru wa Ngigi Thayu (PhD) mobilized 11 students' counsellors and Assistant Deans of Students to support the implementation of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Elimika Wajibika Programme. Each of the 11 counsellors were supported by 10 peer counsellors. The programme which was established to spread the message of hope to the youth/students in the face of a public health crisis came in at the time when its objective was

needed most. The programme has positively impacted to the well-being of students during this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic as most of them have admitted to have gained a lot.

The Counsellors and Peer Counsellors have altogether held 169 online meetings with overall 5,015 students Counsellled. The psychosocial groups that were formed were 75 with a total reach of 169, 6888 overall participation reach to UoN students and the general society. There was no single incidence for counsellors or students contacting the Covid-19. All glory and honor goes to Him.

In Kisumu Campus, the University of Nairobi joined hands with the County Government and other Private Organizations in the fight against Covid-19. Led by the Assistant Dean of Students, Kisumu Campus took the initiative to produce and distribute face masks and provide food and non-food items to needy families and individuals in Kisumu County and its environs. This was necessitated by efforts of Campus students together with donors and well-wishers who have heartedly come in to make this a realization.



UoN Hosts an Inter-Faith Prayer Day 2021



Catholic Students Community leading a congregational hymn during the UoN Inter-Faith Prayer Day 2021

The University of Nairobi's Staff Members and students were on Friday January 15, 2021 afternoon encouraged to appreciate the virtue of restoration and acknowledge the presence of God in everything they do. The Inter-Faith University Prayer Day which was dubbed "The Virtual Interfaith University Prayer Day, 2021", organized by the Office of the Dean of Students was moderated by the three University Chaplains, Catholic, Muslims and Protestants. The prayer day was aimed at celebrating the University's 50 Years Jubilee and committing the University Community and all planned activities for the year 2021 into God's hands.

The University's Chaplaincy blessed the event with holy talks on topics ranging from Acknowledging God, Prioritizing God, Thanking God and being hopeful even when things seemed to have gone under. "In all our achievements in 2021 and in the future, let us acknowledge the hand of God", said Rev. Mitei, the University's Catholic Chaplain in his sermon.

The University's VC, Prof. Kiama emphasized on the need for every party that is involved directly with the University to value and appreciate the virtue of restoration. "It is time for the University's restoration as we move on this year to continue depending on God to help us in the coming years", he reiterated. The Vice chancellor further requested the entire University community to be restored to their values, express their talents and trust in God to guide and give us all we need to achieve our goals.

In his welcoming note, the DVC Academic Affairs, Prof.

Julius Ogeng'o appreciated and committed the University before God and encouraged all students and staff members on the need for the bi-annual prayers for God to continue to strengthen us as a University and individuals.

The Muslim Chaplain quoted the Holy Quran and in the spirit of the Holly Book, he encouraged the congregation to remain hopeful and not to give up nor despair even when things look unusual. "Our desire for success should be greater than fear" he reiterated.

Staff members also took the opportunity to honor, remember and pray for the families of colleagues who had passed on as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

God has done so much for the University of Nairobi in 50 years, may he walk with us as a University in all our aspirations for 2021 and in the future.





UoN Mombasa Campus staff and students respond to the Covid-19 pandemic effects

The University of Nairobi, Mombasa Campus staff and students, led by the Campus Director, Dr. Sarah Kinyanjui and the University of Nairobi Alumni Association, Mombasa Chapter Chairman, Mr. Mark Nyandiko handed over foodstuff and sanitary towels to H.E. Governor Joho in support of the Mombasa County Household Relief Project.

The Campus remains cognizant that the war against COVID 19 requires individual and collective effort. Many thanks to all staff, students and UoN alumni who contributed in cash or kind. In the spirit of Wangari Mathai's hummingbird, let us all do the best we can to flatten the curve.

It is our responsibility to wash our hands, wear our masks and sensitize others on the same. We also must remain our brother's keepers - let us keep sharing with those in need.

#UoNCares
#TogetherWeStand
#KomeshaCorona

Entertainment Services

UoN Choir History

The University of Nairobi Choir was founded by the Late Dr. Arthur Mudogo Kemoli in the year 1988 after he returned to the University of Nairobi from the Ministry of Education, where he had been the Director of Creative Arts (Music & Drama).

Since its inception, the University of Nairobi choir comprised of a few members of staff from the University and largely, guest singers from the famous Kariokor Nyayo Choir, a choral group that was very active and vibrant during the reign of Late President Moi, the second President of the republic of Kenya.

In the year 2005, the University Management decided that the University Choir shall comprise of only Bonafide students of the University of Nairobi. This gave our very own talented students an opportunity to enroll in the choir as one of the clubs in the University.

The University choir was then officially registered as a student's club in the University under the Dean of students' Office, herein referred to as "STUDENT MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI" (SMAUON).

Currently, the University Choir has a total of 60 active students, largely drawn from Kikuyu Campus, Main Campus, Chiromo Campus, Upper Kabete Campus, Lower Kabete Campus, Parklands Campus, Kenya Science Campus and Medical School respectively. The choir holds its rehearsals during evening hours only and thus, many students express interest but only a few are chosen to be among the 60. Recruitment of new members starts with first year students during their orientation and integration into the University community.

During the Covid-19 pandemic period, the UoN Choir offered entertainment services virtually by students doing recordings individually and sending their recordings to a producer who joined the bits and pieces together into beautiful, well-coordinated music which were then played virtually.

Core functions of the University Choir

1. Lead the University Community in Singing the National Anthem, East African Community Anthem and the University of Nairobi Anthem during official gatherings of the University.
2. Provide Entertainment Services to the University Community whenever called upon.
3. Represent the University in the Annual Kenya Music Festival for Schools, colleges and Universities.
4. Represent the University during National Days e.g. Madaraka Day, Mashujaa Day and Jamhuri Day when invited by the National Celebrations Committee.
5. Represent the University in State/Presidential functions when invited by the Permanent Presidential Music Commission/ State House.
6. Represent the University during Celebrations on National days of other countries at their respective embassies whenever called upon, e.g. China, Portugal, and France etc.
7. Organize and take part in Concerts, Symposiums, workshops and other music-related activities.



UoN choir performs at state House Nakuru during the 2019 State concert for the Music Festival winners Together with Ghetto classics Orchestra, Thika School for VI choir, Eldoret Polytechnic choir and Murang'a TTC.

CHOIR EVENTS

1. UoN Prayer Day
2. UoN Open Day
3. UoN Annual Sports Day
4. Nairobi Innovation week
5. UoN Research week
6. UoN Awards Day
7. UoN Tree Planting Day
8. The Annual Kenya Music Festivals
9. World Refugee Day
10. World Aids Day
11. Graduation Ceremonies (September and December)
12. Nairobi International Trade Fair
13. Easter and Christmas Carols Concerts
14. Orientation of First Year Students (During VC's Address)
15. Madaraka Day, Mashujaa Day & Jamhuri Day Celebrations
16. Among other events that the choir is invited to provide entertainment

Students' Welfare

Financial Aid Services

owing to the high demand for Higher Education the Government of Kenya was forced to introduce cost sharing in higher education in the early 1991/1992 academic year, so as to allow the public purse to cater for health, infrastructure, primary education and eradicate poverty. The cost-sharing policy was implemented in all public universities in Kenya.

The policy advocates that costs of higher education should be shared between the government, parents, students and/or donor organizations. It was a radical policy change from "the state-centered model" of financing universities to "the market competitive model" that was necessitated by the economic recession in the country in the 1980s.

The University Management saw the need to create the Office of the Special Student Advisor which was founded and run for three decades (30 years) by the retired Prof. Godfrey Muriuki now transformed into 'Financial Aid Office' to ensure that needy students do not fail to pursue their academic studies due to lack of finances or other challenges and the office immediately established.

The mission of the office is to provide to needy students an enabling environment and safety net through advisory, counseling and guidance services. The Financial aid's vision is to support students to achieve their academic goals and aspirations by offering bursaries, scholarships, grants and work-study-program.

Its core values are confidentiality, empathy, professionalism, quality customer service, strong social responsibility, teamwork and tolerance.

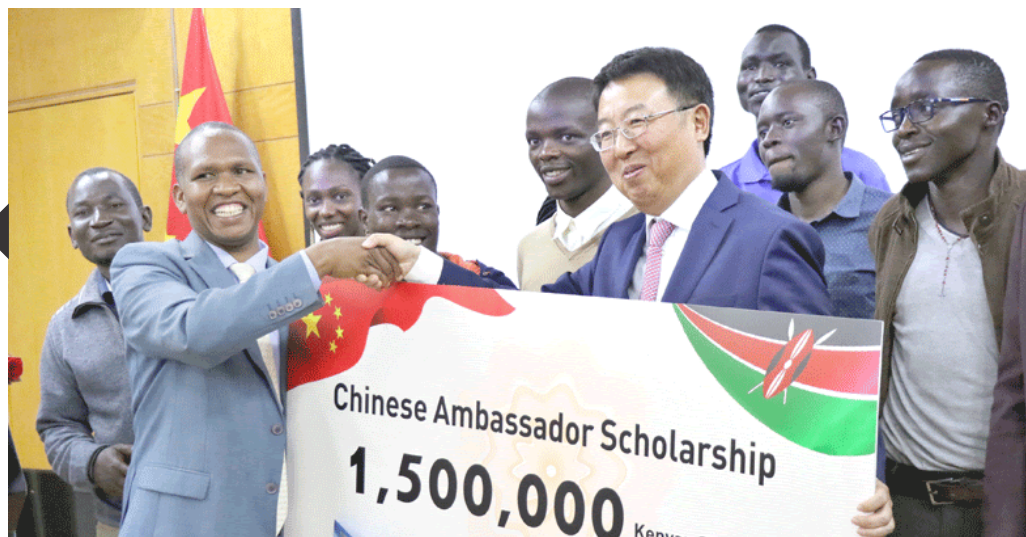
The Financial Aid Office is involved in the following activities;

- i. **Sourcing for financial assistance for needy students;**
- ii. **Liaising with donors and sponsors for bursaries and scholarships;**
- iii. **Handling the work-study program;**
- iv. **Reaching out to University of Nairobi alumni to give back to their alma mater;**
- v. **Developing proposals of some income generating projects could be initiated**

Some of the stakeholders who have been supporting the Financial Aid Office include but not limited to the following: Students UNSA, University staff, Parents, Donors, University colleges, Windle International Kenya, [Higher Education Loans Board \(HELB\)](#), [Daisy Eye Cancer Fund](#), [Rattansi Educational Trust](#), Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Fund Scholarship, Rockefeller Foundation Scholarships, Aga Khan Foundation Scholarships, Mitsubishi Scholarships, [Southface Organisation](#) of Spain, Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Program, Chandaria Education Scholarship, German DAAD Scholarships, CARTA Scholarships, Pathways Organisation, University Academic Staff Union, UON Chapter, Kenya University Staff Union, UoN Chapter, University of Nairobi Scholarships, UoN Alumni Association and Rotary Club of Nairobi among others.

Every kind of support received will help touch a heart and meet the needs of our students.

Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Cheque for the year 2019 awarded to Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director, Career Services (now the Dean of Students) with beneficiary students on-looking



SPORTS AND GAMES ACTIVITIES

Promoting Extra-Curricular activities on campus



UoN Students from different sports disciplines lineup to show the uniform donated by mobile phone company TECNO.



A student of UoN Terrorist basketball team during a previous game defending the ball during the game.

The University of Nairobi on June 25 2020 held a virtual Annual Sports Awards ceremony to celebrate the good performance of UoN Sports teams and also to recognize and appreciate the excelling Sports teams and individual Sportsmen and Sportswomen for the 2019/2020 period.

The event was officiated by Prof. Stephen Kiama, the Vice Chancellor. In his speech, the VC appreciated the various sportsmen, sportswomen and sports teams for their dedication, determination, consistency, focus, sacrifice, teamwork and team Spirit.

The Vice Chancellor presented prizes (Trophies, Certificates and medal samples) won by UoN Sportsmen and Sportswomen at various levels, and to the exceling teams and individual Sportsmen and Sportswomen for purposes of Recognition and Appreciation for their hard work.

The Director for Sports and Games, Mr. Mbaabu Murithi appreciated the relentless support accorded by the University Management to the sportsmen and sportswomen both morally and materially that made them excel in their various categories. Key Stake Holders present were also appreciated for their immense support to the teams in various ways through donation of kits, equipment, prizes and also in monetary support.

INNOVATIONS

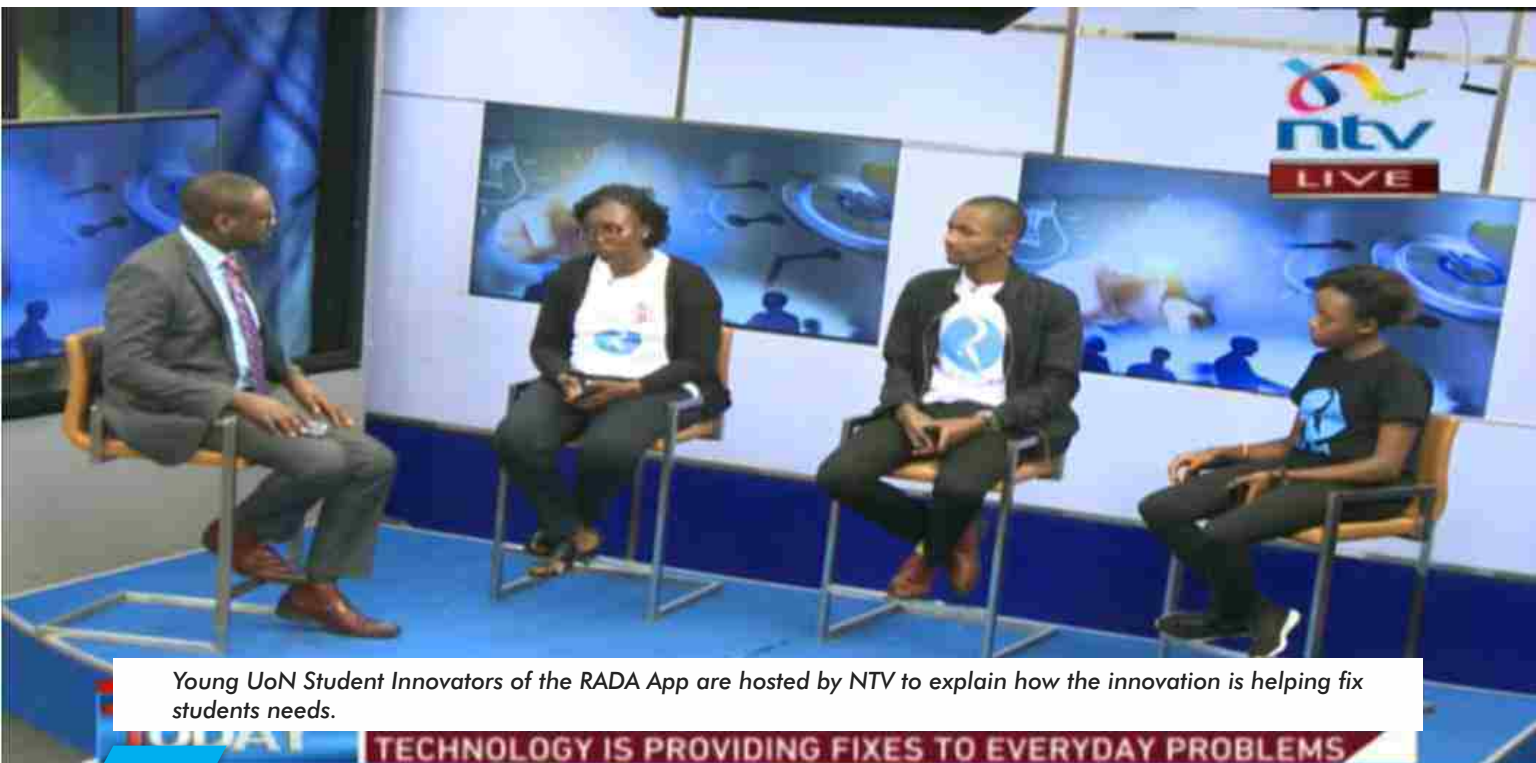
Young Student Innovators

RADA is a student developed mobile health application that helps students access information about sexual and reproductive health, professional counseling and peer counseling services and a helpline when in an emergency situation within the University. The RADA application is accessible on the Google Playstore for Android phone users.

The Centre for HIV Prevention and Research (CHIVPR) a department at the University of Nairobi in collaboration with UNESCO and Sexual and Reproductive Health Alliance have been working with University students to help manage the challenges students face while in the school environment. Before developing the RADA App, there was a one-day workshop for the students that was facilitated by UNESCO at the University of Nairobi in order for students to bring up the issues they face, own them up and also to be the advocates. Students unanimously agreed that they had issues around mental health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortion, substance

abuse, STIs including HIV and AIDS and issues around general health. Such issues sometimes have led to school dropout and related suicides. They also agreed that the most effective way of reaching the young people was through a mobile App because most of them could only open up when privacy and confidentiality was guaranteed. Others believed anonymity would make a very great impact especially to those who were fighting mental illnesses.

The students were supported to design and develop a mobile application. Initially, 12 students from various disciplines including Arts and Design, Biological Sciences, Medical, Architecture, Psychology and Political Sciences volunteered themselves. With technical expertise from UNESCO, they were trained to code and this was perceived to be a good strategy to create a positive impression about uptake by the students who had little or no knowledge on IT. Relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Health through the department of reproductive health, National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA), JHPIEGO, National AIDS and STI Control Council (NASCOP) among others came in to validate the content and enlighten the students on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), substance abuse, and HIV and AIDS respectively. An android Application named RADA was launched on 13th June,



Young UoN Student Innovators of the RADA App are hosted by NTV to explain how the innovation is helping fix students needs.



Part of Rada students members pose for a photo at the UoN towers

2019 during the Nairobi Innovation week at the University of Nairobi.

Initially, this application was being designed to serve the University of Nairobi students only but before the launch, the young people agreed that this problem was not unique to them but it was an issue that was affecting all the young people country wide. That is why it was made available on google play store as "Rada UoN" and is available to everyone apart from the UoN counsellors and students because free services were to be provided to UoN students by the health facility staff. Students are working to open up

the platform to have other young people get services through the willing online counsellors.

Through the support from UNESCO, the students have disseminated RADA in all the University of Nairobi Campuses and four other Universities including Kenyatta, South Eastern Kenya, Masinde Muliro and Pwani Universities. Some students have also been supported by UNESCO and SRHRA to participate in three international conferences-HELINA, The Switch forum and ICASA. Through the online activities, this application is believed to be helping many young people globally.

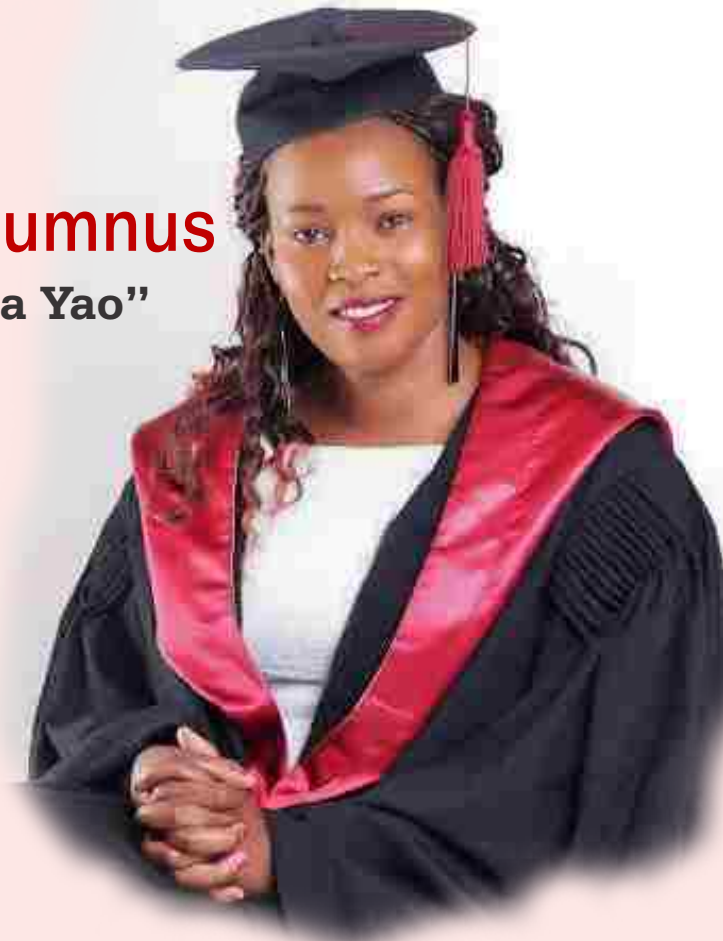


Early days of Rada App development at UNESCO offices, Gigiri

MENTORSHIP

From a Young UoN Alumnus

My Life in Campus as “Mama Yao”



// My origin and background was humble to the extent that my single mother could not afford to pay for my campus fee after I finished my KCSE Examinations from Kangeta Girls Secondary School in Meru County. I immediately ventured into a Market Sales business at Maua Market where I saved and got the money that made me realize my dream of joining the Mighty University of Nairobi as a self-sponsored student after a period of 5 Years.

The date was on 26th, Sep, 2011. I remember reporting to the University for registration and orientation with my 3-year-old son on my back and three full loaded bags. The memory of this day is still fresh in my mind because this is what changed my life and that of my community. My journey of transforming to a prominent student leader and graduate teacher of Geography and Kiswahili 4 years later began on this day.

Just at the first year of my studies in campus, I started a side hustle job during my free time. I ventured into photography using a Sony mini camera that I bought from my savings. I used to take 'comrades' photos in the lecture Halls before and after classes, inside their rooms in hostels, during trips and when they were visited by their friends and family. I made good money that enabled me to cater for my son's upkeep and paid my bills including rent and other basic needs. I combined this business with selling earrings and ladies' inner garments, which I used to buy from Kamkunji and Eastleigh Trade Centres at cheap prices and sold them at double prices.

Due to my active and aggressive nature in Campus, fellow comrades approached me to vie for the SONU Leadership position. I gave it a chance without hesitation and indeed in April 2012, I contested for the Congress post and overwhelmingly won the elections becoming the first female mayor in kikuyu campus. It is during my tenure as a mayor that I started mentorship sessions for my fellow 'freshers' (first years) and those joining UoN every year dubbed “**CHANUA WENZETU**” that birthed my brand

moniker “**MAMA YAO**”. These mentorship programs aimed at introducing and enlightening first year students on everything pertaining campus life more especially ladies and their security in and out of campus.

In my second year, I had become so famous from the programme and therefore opted to extend this to the other 10 UoN campuses. My name was now famous among comrades across all the Campuses and Colleges. This prompted me to successfully contest for the post of Gender Affairs Secretary in 2013.

In 2014, I successfully contested for the post of the Deputy President of SONU where I overwhelmingly won alongside Babu Owino as the President. I made history as the first ever female Deputy President of SONU. This made me even more famous as I went ahead to lead the formation of today's most famous female student leaders' movement which consists of all elected Female students across all Universities both Public and Private popularly known as KUFSLA (Kenya Universities Female Student Leaders Association).

KUFSLA's aim is to advocate for the rights of females both in schools and Kenya at large. It is in this role that I was awarded by the All Africa Students' Unions as the most influential Female Student leader of the year in Accra Ghana in the year 2014.

I continued with the mentorship programs which had now extended to other Universities and High Schools across the nation and again got awarded by Women and Girls Lead Global, as the most outstanding female mentor in Kenya in the year 2015. The **"CHANUA WENZETU"** programme became so famous and was also awarded as the "Young Women's Initiative of the Year" under KUFSLA, by an Organization known as Half the Sky Movement in Kenya in the year 2016.

My advice to comrades is that do not waste your free time in campus engaging in immoral activities and indulging in dangerous atrocious endeavors or just idling around. Life gives you what you sow. It is upon your own individual mandate to get what you want in life. Adhere to the rules and regulations of the University and abide by laws of the States and that way, you will always be on the right path. Be hungry for job opportunities especially the Youth Opportunities opened by the Government as they may open your mind further and lead you to greater heights. Use all your free time productively and develop your God given talents and gifts. Engage in networking activities as they may open doors for you. Resist any suspicious assignments especially from politicians and city goons. By all means, resist!

Focus on the main objective that brought you to University, studying, and do other genuine activities that build you as an individual. If you all abide to my counsel, you will get out of campus with good grades, having networked and even secured job opportunities like myself. I wish you all the best in your studies and success and in the spirit of comradeship, **"COMRADES' POWER"**!

Irene currently serves as an Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Gender and Youth of the Republic of Kenya and doubles as the Operations Manager of the Kenya Girl Guides Association.

She is a former Programmes Coordinator, Youth, Education and Gender Advisor to the Secretary General, at the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU, 2016-2018).



Students Welfare Services

The Students Welfare Services remains a critical pillar in supporting over 10,000 students with catering and accommodation at the University of Nairobi. The Dean of Students Office owes its gratitude to the management and staff of Students Welfare Services for being responsive to the needs of students particularly the needy and special needs students. The Halls Department works very closely with the Dean of Students office in identifying and allocating those students rooms.

Students Welfare Services being the hospitality wing of the University of Nairobi has remodeled itself to play its rightful role at the University that is on the path towards world class excellence and envisions itself as the learning destination of choice for the students of the University of Nairobi. In 1996/1997 Students Welfare Services was decentralized into 10 Strategic Management Units (SMU), with attempts to take the students accommodation and catering services closer to students in each campus. The latest SMU is Kenya Science Campus which was created in 2007 when the University took over the Kenya Science Teachers College (KSTC) making it the 11th SMU of the University.

To ensure transparent, fair and accountable room allocation process, Students Welfare Services has adopted an online Halls Management Information System (HAMIS). First years are given first priority

and if space is still available, students in other years of study are considered for accommodation. Students who are out of session, Module II and postgraduates students may be considered for accommodation whenever there is excess capacity in the system.

With regards to catering, students are automatically considered for the pay-as-you-eat (PAYE) catering services programme which provides 21 meals per week from Monday to Sunday. The dining halls in all campuses are open for three meals per day. To supplement the regular dining hall services, there are outside catering points in most SMUs, which are open and offer services continuously.

Because of the shortage of the accommodation space in campus, the Dean of Students partnered with Qwetu Residences to provide alternative accommodation. Qwetu Residence provides the best-in-class hostels for virtual learning and currently hosts the largest number of students from the University of Nairobi. To cement this partnership, Qwetu has partnered with the University of Nairobi to provide benches for students' relaxation, hand washing stations, internships for our students and supported a tree planting program at Upper Kabete campus in November 2020.



UNSA LEADERSHIP

Students' Voices

UNSA Officials 2020 sworn in

The University of Nairobi Student Association (UNSA) elected student leaders from the elections held on 18 November 2020 in the first historic online election. The elected student leaders took their oath of office on Thursday, 19 November 2020 in a ceremony presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama and the Chairman of the UNSA Electoral Commission, Prof. Mohammed Jama.

Eddie Mwendwa Mutua, was elected as the new chairman of the Student Council. Other UNSA Council officials include Vice Chairperson-Dorcas Kagwira Kaaria, Secretary General-Nathan Kiplagat, Treasurer – Georgina Njeri Githua, International Students Representative – Vincent Cletus Wiso, Special Needs Representative – Janet Wawira Wachira and Sports Welfare Students Representative – Johnson Tony Odindo. Prof. Kiama congratulated the newly elected

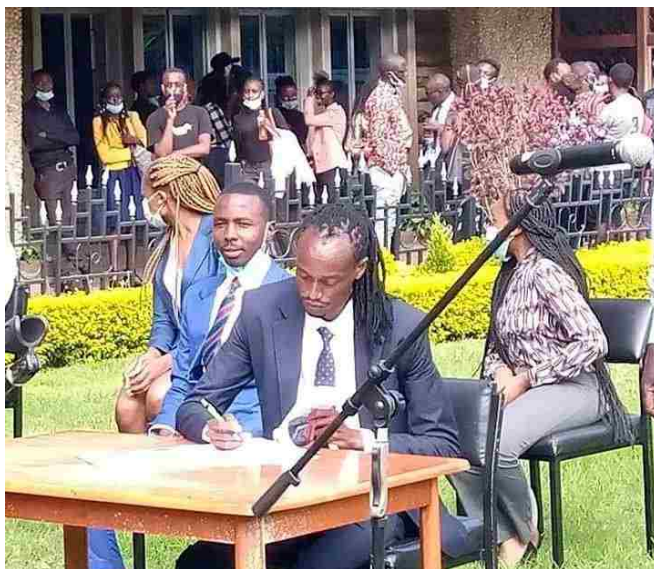
UNSA ELECTIONS



© INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

leaders and promised to work with them for the betterment of students' welfare at the University. "We want to work with you closely to ensure all students enjoy their stay at the University of Nairobi. You will be equipped with the necessary leadership skills and leave this university having created strong professional networks, said Prof. Kiama. We want to nurture talents at the University of Nairobi.

The DVC (Academic and Students Affairs), Prof. Julius Ogeng'o said that he was happy that the election process was noise free, free, fair, credible and transparent. He said the online election was a major milestone for the university as it has demonstrated our innovativeness, courage and adaptability to change.



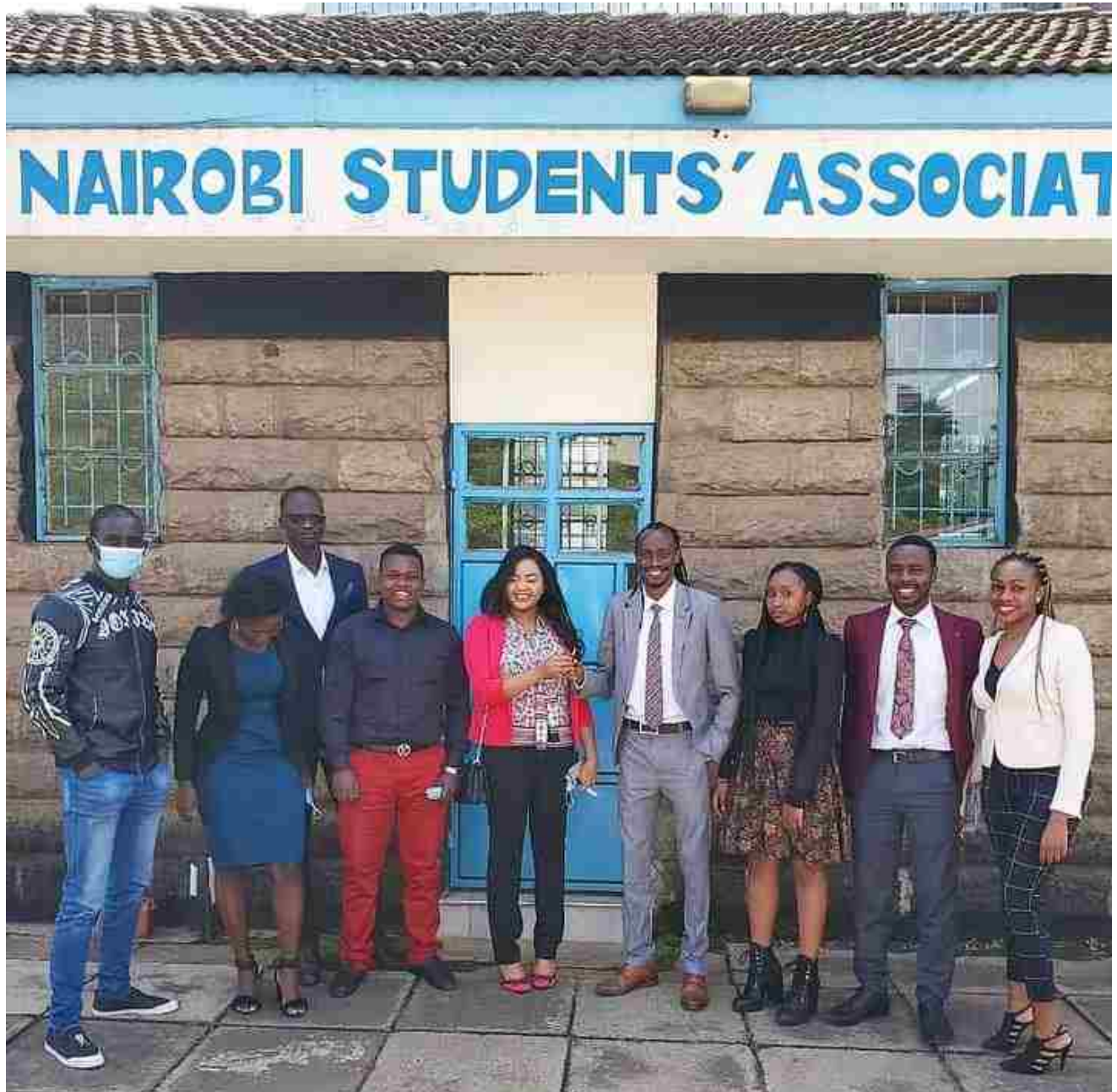
Newly elected UNSA president Eddie Mwendwa shortly after taking the oath of office on November 19, 2020.



UNSA Council members making consultations outside the UNSA offices.

Prof. Mohammed Jama, Chairman of the UNSA Electoral Commission echoed the sentiments of the DVC (AA&SA) saying the election was free, fair, credible and transparent. He praised the technical team that developed and supported the online voting system led by Dr. Jared Ongaro from the School of Mathematics, saying the system was was dependable and secure.

The Dean of Students congratulates all the elected officials both for the UNSA Council and Campus Representatives and vowed to work with them in delivering and safeguarding students' promises and welfare.



Outgoing UNSA Council members (2019) and incoming UNSA Council members pose for a photo outside the UNSA offices at the UoN Main Campus.

UoN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The University of Nairobi marks 50 years since it was transformed into the first national University in Kenya on July 1, 1970. It held its first Graduation on December 10, 1970.



The UoN has undergone three remarkable stages since its inception namely:

- Royal Technical College (1956-1964)
- University College Nairobi (1964-1970),
- University of Nairobi (1970-2020).

The first Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta said the following words when he was presiding the 1st Graduation on December 10, 1970, "It is a momentous day in the life of any nation when its own university is formed. Today therefore, I am proud and pleased to preside as Chancellor over this inauguration ceremony. To those who are graduating, or will graduate from this University, I would say this. Never forget the opportunities that have been created for you by your fellow citizens.

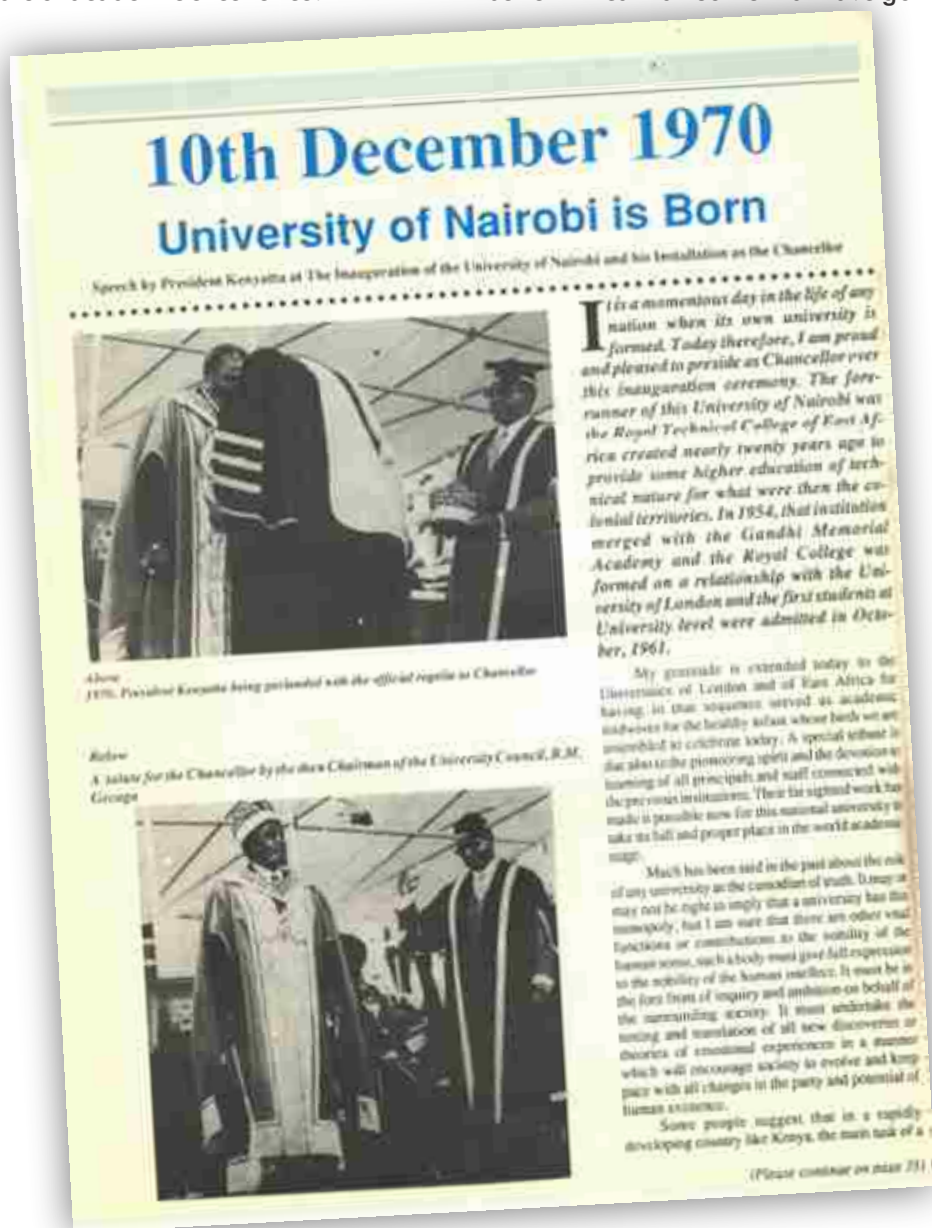
Practice the act of modesty and recognize your limitations. Exert all your efforts to help your country and your people and let your work bring honor to this University. Many aspects of life here are rapidly changing. My Government while promoting every kind of urban and industrial advancement, is concentrating on development in the rural areas, which will carry economic opportunities and social justice to the masses of our people.

Targets and techniques have been fully outlined in the development plan. However, we need more highly educated and professionally qualified people to ensure the fulfilment of this plan. You graduates will have a vital part to play in all this. Use your knowledge and your talent broadly and meet each challenge with imagination"

50 years later, the University of Nairobi continues to live true its mission of providing 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 as we celebrate 50 years of academic excellence.

This statement reflects on the speech delivered by the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Joseph Karanja when he 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."

To the graduating class of 2020, reflect on the timeless words of the 1970 Vice-Chancellor: 'no generation is uniquely endowed with perception or judgment or compassion but I believe that today's young people have a stronger will to work and to sacrifice for a better Africa than some that have gone before.'



10th December 1970 University of Nairobi is Born

Speech by President Kenyatta at The Inauguration of the University of Nairobi and his Installation as the Chancellor



Above
1970: President Kenyatta being presented with the official regalia as Chancellor

Below
A salute for the Chancellor by the then Chairman of the University Council, R.M. George



It is a momentous day in the life of any nation when its own university is formed. Today therefore, I am proud and pleased to preside as Chancellor over this inauguration ceremony. The forerunner of this University of Nairobi was the Royal Technical College of East Africa created nearly twenty years ago to provide some higher education of technical nature for what were then the colonial territories. In 1954, that institution merged with the Gandhi Memorial Academy and the Royal College was formed on a relationship with the University of London and the first students at University level were admitted in October, 1961.

My gratitude is extended today to the Universities of London and of East Africa for having in their resources served as academic incubators for the healthy infant whose birth we are assembled to celebrate today. A special tribute is due also to the pioneering spirit and the devotion to learning of all principals and staff connected with the pre-war institutions. Their tireless work has made it possible now for this national university to take its full and proper place in the world academic map.

Much has been said in the past about the role of any university as the custodian of youth. It may or may not be right to imply that a university has this monopoly, but I am sure that there are other vital functions or contributions as the solidity of the human sense, such a body must give full respect to the nobility of the human intellect. It must be in the first front of inquiry and ambition on behalf of the remaining society. It must undertake the testing and maturation of all new discoveries or theories of emotional experiences in a manner which will encourage society to evolve and keep pace with all changes in the past and potential of human existence.

Some people suggest that in a rapidly-developing country like Kenya, the main task of a

(Please continue on page 21)

Office of the Dean of Students and Career Services *Partners*



Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology



Student Residences





The Future is Now!



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



