



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

# NEWSLINK

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## The 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony

**21 June 2019**

**Leading  
Industrialist  
and  
Philanthropist  
Appointed  
Egerton  
Chancellor**



- **All Must Work Hard**
- **How Egerton Launched My International Career**
- **We Build Empires!**

Mr. Narendra Raval (Guru)

# EGERTON JOURNAL

of  
Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

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“Broken Temporalities of the 'New' South Africa”: Variegated  
Rainbow Nation in K. Sello Duiker's *The Quiet Violence of  
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Published by Egerton University

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### Vision

A world-class university for the advancement of humanity

### Mission

To generate knowledge and offer exemplary education and training to society for national and global development

### Core Values

The University's activities and decisions will be guided by the following core values:

National unity and social fairness; Integrity, transparency and accountability; Professionalism; Internationalism; Passion for excellence and devotion to duty; Team work; Passion for environmental conservation; Innovativeness and creativity

## Editorial

The value of a university does not reside simply in the experience that its students undergo in the lecture halls or through their participation in extra-curricular activities. Nor is it to be found exclusively in the buildings or walkways that make up the university as a campus, however glamorous or awesome those structures may be. The true value of a university, or any other institution of higher learning for that matter, lies in the impact that its graduates, who are its most prominent products, have on the world beyond the ivory tower through putting their knowledge into practical use. After all, the outside world is the home of the communities whose needs justify the very existence of the university. It is only when graduates are able to participate fully in the upliftment of the social, economic, and political life of their people that universities will have fulfilled their ultimate aspirations.

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Egerton University. Originally, Egerton was built as a farm school and training farm for aspiring white farmers. It was not until more than ten years later that the school transitioned into a college. Another decade elapsed before the college opened up to all the races, just two years before independence. Today, Egerton University is one of the leading institutions of higher learning not only in Kenya but also in the region, with three campuses, ten faculties, and a good number of institutes, colleges, and directorates. Furthermore, while the University is a centre of excellence in agriculture, its other disciplines receive equal attention. The result is that, over the years, Egerton University has placed thousands of graduates, from all disciplinary backgrounds, into the job market.

In the current issues of *Newslink*, we are happy to celebrate these graduates, who, in their respective ways, are improving the welfare of humanity. The publication contains a new section that focuses on “Egerton in the Wider World.” The section features three Egerton alumni who have contributed considerably to the society. Of particular importance is an alumnus who attended the very first multiracial class of the Egerton Agricultural College in 1961. In our future issues, we intend to bring to the attention of our readers other such exemplary alumni.

## GRADUATION STATISTICS

Doctorates	16
Masters	59
Bachelors	1,842
Diplomas	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,077</b>

# EGERTON JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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# All Must Work Hard to Uplift the University - Chancellor

**O**n Friday 12 April 2019, the new Chancellor of Egerton University, Mr. Narendra Raval, undertook a tour of the University, through which he acquainted himself with the University Community, as well as addressed members of staff and students on important matters pertaining to the institution. The visitation was his first interaction with the University subsequent to his appointment to the position by His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta on 11 January 2019 through a notice published in the Kenya Gazette (Vol. CXXI, No. 29) and released to the public on 8 March 2019. The position will cover a period of five years effective from the date of appointment.

Mr. Raval brings to Egerton a wealth of experience in the manufacturing industry that observers are convinced will contribute considerably toward the University's pursuit of its Vision and its Mission. For close to forty years now, Mr. Raval has been operating at the forefront of the private sector not only in Kenya but also in the East African region in general as one of the leading manufacturers in the steel and cement industry. His Devki Group of companies includes the Steel Centre Limited at Gikomba; the Maisha

Mabati Mills Limited at Ruiru; the National Cement Company Limited; the Devki Energy Company Limited; the Congo Steel Mills SPRL; and the National Cement Company in Uganda. Through these companies, he has made major contributions to the growth of the economy of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda as well as to the welfare of the individual citizens of the three countries.

Behind Mr. Raval's business activities in the region and beyond is a strong philosophical commitment to the development of the well-being of ordinary human beings that he has nurtured throughout his life. As a young man growing up and attending schools in India, he responded to pressure he experienced as a result of the generally problematic economic circumstances that characterised that country by aspiring to excell in the private sector should the opportunity arise later on in his life. That opportunity came subsequent to his relocation from India to Kenya in the late 1970s when, through business relationships he established with colleagues in the steel industry, most notably the owners of the Kikuyu Steel Rolling Mills and Steel Wares and the Delta Hardware of Nairobi in the 1980s, he transformed

*Turn to page 2*



*Chancellor Narendra Raval addresses the Egerton University student fraternity at the Sports Pavillion, Main Campus, Njoro, during his inaugural visit to the University on 12 April 2019. Standing next to him is the Chairman of Council, Amb. Dr. Hukka Wario.*

# Integrity is the Key to Success in the Job Market



*Mr. Narendra Raval*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. Today marks yet another milestone in the University calendar when we meet to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work. Graduation stands for our success in the delivery of our core mandate of providing quality education through teaching, training, research and innovation, and our mission

of generating knowledge and offering exemplary education and training to society for national and global development.

Without a doubt, the knowledge and skills that we have imparted in you through our programmes, which are aligned with the market needs as well as societal needs, will not only make you competent in addressing prevailing challenges but also shape you to become good ambassadors of your alma mater. I would like to urge our graduands to join and actively participate in the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA).

Allow me to conclude with some words of advice to our graduands. The certificate you have received is a valuable document but it will only be of benefit if integrity becomes your guiding principle. When you are free from self-doubt, you fare better because you do not have your defences up and you can accept criticism. You do not become so preoccupied with a temporary setback that you forget to learn from it, you forget how to grow. When you set your mind to believe in yourself and visualise what you want to become, you succeed better. Hours spent questioning, doubting, fearing can be given over to working, exploring and learning.

May you be blessed in all in your endeavours! ■

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## All must work hard

*Continued from page 1*

his aspirations into their practical counterparts by embarking upon his long and successful adventure in the world of business and industry.

At the core of his philosophy of life is the idea that truth is the greatest religion, as well as the idea that is encapsulated in the Gujarat saying: “Think of others, while you think of yourself”. The latter concept constitutes the organising principle that informs his humanitarian and philanthropic outlook towards life. One means by which he actualises this philosophy is his utilisation of 50 percent of his personal earnings on charity, which he has been practising for a long time. Mr. Raval’s life and ideas are summarised in his autobiography *Guru: A Long Walk to Success: An Autobiography*, 15 copies of which he donated to the Egerton University Library during his visit on 12 April 2019.

Among the milestones of the visit were tours he undertook of important landmarks on the Njoro Campus,

most notably the Ultra-Modern Library Complex, which is in the initial stages of its construction, and the Chemistry and Physics complexes, whose construction was completed several years ago, as well as addresses he delivered to members of the University Community. In the communications, which were addressed to Members of the University Council, the Senate, the Management Board, the Egerton University Students Association (EUSA), and the Egerton family at large, he sought generally to inspire the Community to work harder to uplift the standards of the University in order to fulfil its Vision and Mission effectively. Among other things, he committed himself to the development of the University to the highest possible level, emphasising that he will “put the interest and welfare of the University before all else” and that he wants “Egerton University to shine as the brightest star among the galaxy of Universities in the country”.

He likened institutions of higher learning like Egerton to

*Turn to page 4*

## Our Partnerships are the Source of our Strength



*Amb. Dr. Hukka Wario*

On behalf of the Egerton University Council, I wish to congratulate our graduands for their great achievement. I commend you for your persistence and commitment to academic excellence as well as your resilience in the face of the various challenges you must have encountered during your stay at the University. We are proud that we have prepared you for the service of humanity and

confident that we have equipped you with the necessary tools to make you realise your potential in life. We are also grateful to the other students, parents and guardians who have supported you.

Opportunities await you, whether it will be a chance to pursue further education, to volunteer your skills to your local communities, to start businesses, or to get formal employment. Seize them to build your life and be a productive citizen of our nation.

As one of the leading institutions of higher learning, we are excelling in fulfilling our core mandate. On 14 June 2019, we launched the 2018–2023 Egerton University Strategic Plan. At the same time, we also unveiled the Egerton University Security Control Complex. All this would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of the University staff, who play a critical role in ensuring that our institution forever moves forward.

Egerton University is committed to developing partnerships with local communities, other universities and governmental and non-governmental organisations. We strongly believe that these partnerships are a source of our strength in our mandate in teaching and research.

Thank you! May the Lord bless you all! ■

## Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya  
Vice-Chancellor*



*Prof. Alexander K. Kahi  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Academic Affairs)*



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Administration, Planning  
& Development)*



*Prof. Alfred C. Kibor  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research & Extension)*



*Prof. Lenah Nakhone-Wati  
Principal, Nakuru Town  
Campus College*



*Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi  
Ag. Registrar (AA)*



*Dr. Thomas K. Serrem  
Registrar (HCA)*



*Prof. Bockline O. Bebe  
Ag. Director (R&E)*



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui  
University Librarian*



*Mr. Moses Ouma  
Finance Officer*

# Your Education Has Been about Cultivating Competencies



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya*

**A**s the Egerton fraternity celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony, it is with utmost pride and joy that I address these words to our beloved graduands. This moment marks the culmination of your long and intense academic and social life at Egerton University. We are witnessing the proof that you have successfully completed this journey.

In his early years of success, Steve Jobs cautioned: “Do not let the noise of others' opinions drown out your inner voice, and, most important, have the courage to follow your heart and your intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.” As you advance to the next stage of your life, I would like you to take these words to heart and remember that the world out there is full of challenges. But let not that thought dim the shine in those resplendent gowns you are wearing today because the world out there also hosts countless opportunities. I am certain that you have what it takes to

overcome the challenges and also to recognise, seize, and make the best of these opportunities.

It is with gratitude that I also acknowledge the tireless efforts of the University fraternity in enhancing our capacity to attract serious funding through writing excellent research and development proposals, providing numerous consultancies, supporting students involved in postgraduate research, hosting student attachment programmes as well as ensuring that we are always ahead of the pack.

The University was invited to participate in the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Engagement Meetings in Gaborone, Botswana, on 25–29 May 2019. The event brought together AAP Management, Advisory Board, AAP consortium members, and focal points. AAP seeks to promote sustainable, effective, and equitable long-term partnerships among African institutions, Michigan State University, and other international collaborators. The Mission of the AAP is to mobilise and support these partnerships in such a way that the resulting activities positively transform institutions and livelihoods in Africa. All these activities seek to enhance our University's position as a world class university for the advancement of humanity.

Graduands, as you have made good use of your time while at the University, continue with the same momentum once you go out there. Your education here has been about cultivating competences in the different areas that you pursued. I urge you to embrace a learning mindset, move out of your comfort zone so that you can always grow. Even when something is not applicable to your area of expertise, learn it as it will expand your thinking. You will be more prepared to handle the pressure of the changing world.

To the parents and guardians, please continue mentoring our graduands.

Congratulations and God bless you! ■

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## All must work hard

*Continued from page 2*

business enterprises, contending that both can achieve their highest aspirations only through the fulsome input of their employees. In order for a business to achieve its objectives everyone must join hands to put the product on the market. Similarly, in order for a university like

Egerton to achieve its Vision and Mission everyone, including not only managers, professors, and lecturers but also secretaries, clerks, and messengers must do their part.

The Chancellor was accompanied to the University by his wife, Mrs. Neeta Raval, and his son, Mr. Devang Raval. ■



### Sixth Mau-Egerton University Cross Country a Great Success



*Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo*

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands on reaching the end of this particular journey.

Since the 39<sup>th</sup> Graduation in December 2018, one of the major events organised by the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation was the Mau-Egerton University Cross Country. The main objectives of the Cross Country are to create environmental awareness and to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the Mau ecosystem and Njoro River.

The inaugural Mau-Egerton University Cross Country was held in 2014 and was organised by the University in partnership with Athletics Kenya. The event was sponsored by a number of organisations, such as the Nation Media Group, the Nakuru County Government, the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Group, AMACO Insurance, APA Insurance, the Kenya Forestry Service, and the Kenya Water Towers Agency.

Over the years the event has attracted commendable participations by professional and semi-professional athletes as well as Egerton staff members and students, the local community, and local primary and secondary schools. Our Brand Ambassadors include the athletes Ezekiel Kemboi, David Rudisha, and Faith Chepngetich Kipyegon.

The 2019 Mau-Egerton University Cross Country was launched in January 2019 and was facilitated by key sponsors such as KCB and APA Insurance as well as partners from the local community, i.e. Ndarugu-Erithia Water Project, Mwigito Community Water Project, and Entiyani Community representatives. APA Insurance and KCB have consistently made contributions not only in terms of money but also in planting

tree seedlings at the University Botanic Garden. The Cross Country event was held on 9 February 2019. It drew participants in various race categories. The 2011 Boston Marathon Champion, Caroline Chepkwony, participated and won the ten kilometre senior women race category with a time of 34:25.5. The ten kilometre senior men race category was dominated by Emmanuel Bett and Josphat Bett, who completed the race in position 1 and 2 respectively.

Other categories included the one kilometre race for University Council/UMB / CEOs, the four kilometre race for pupils Class 4-8, the two kilometre race for Egerton staff over 55 years of age and members of the local community, and the four kilometre race for Egerton staff, Corporate Teams and Alumni. ■



*The current Olympic and World Champion in the Womens' 1500 m race, Faith Chepngetich Kipyegon, receives a gift from the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Rose A. Mwonja, during the 6th Edition of the Mau-Egerton University Cross Country, held at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 9 February 2019*

## Our Alumni are Our Pride: Peter Tabichi on the World Stage

On 24 March 2019 a Kenyan stood on the podium at a glorious ceremony in Dubai and was declared the best teacher in the world! This Kenyan was Egerton University Alumnus (Class 2004) Peter Tabichi. The Global Teacher Prize Award, with a price tag of \$1 million, is hosted by the Varkey Foundation in the USA and recognises exceptional achievement in teaching. Tabichi was selected from among ten finalists out of over 10,000 nominees and applicants from 179 countries around the world. Tabichi gained distinction as a teacher at Keriko Mixed Secondary School in Nakuru County. He is also a staunch Christian of the Franciscan religious order.

Tabichi started a talent nurturing club and expanded the school's Science Club, helping pupils design research projects of such quality that 60% now qualify for national competitions. He mentored his students, Esther Anyanzwa and Salome Njeri, who showcased a device they had invented to allow blind and deaf people to measure objects at the Kenya Science and Engineering Fair 2018. More recently, on 16 May 2019, the students won the UN Sustainable Development Goal Award at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

“These students when they come here have great potential, dreams and aspirations. It's my role as a teacher to help them turn these dreams into realities that can solve community problems,” said teacher Tabichi. “Our youth are capable of solving African challenges

and propelling the continent to greater heights,” he added.

Keriko is the first public secondary school in Pwani area of Njoro sub-county with its first KCSE candidates sitting for examinations in 2010. “Through the effort of our teachers, the community is now seeing the benefits of education and its place in the community. Attitude towards secondary education has changed for the better,” said Principal Daniel Mwariri. “Our students are coming out far much better than when they came in. They are able to communicate well and to come up with creative solutions such as the science project Tabichi has been conducting with some of the students”.

Tabichi's journey has been an inspiration to others, students and

teachers alike. He gives students and underprivileged children from the local community a reason to believe that they too can achieve something significant, if they worked for it.

The graduate of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies attributes a large part of his achievement to his experience in and out of lecture halls at the University. “While at the University, I used my time and resources available well. As an aspiring teacher, I built on what was generously given to me in the lecture hall and taught myself computer programming. With this knowledge I planned on establishing a computer lab at the school,” said the teacher. The rest is history.



*Mr. Peter Tabichi, together with his students Esther Anyanzwa and Salome Njeri, demonstrate how the Essameter works, in the Keriko Mixed Secondary School Science Laboratory, on 18 April 2019*

### DQA Automates Day-to-Day Activities



*Dr. Patricia Wambugu*

The Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) congratulates all the graduands for their academic achievements, which have led to this special day. DQA envisions to be a centre of excellence in the creation and cultivation of a culture of continuous quality improvement in the University. Below are a few highlights of this year.

DQA routinely conducts Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE) in line with the Commission for University Education (CUE) Universities Standards and Guidelines (2014), PROG/STD/15 that require every Lecturer/Technologist to be evaluated at least once in an academic year. The Office of the DVC (AA) in conjunction with DQA in January 2018 launched the new Teaching Effectiveness Management System. It was piloted in the second semester of the 2017/2018 academic year and was used for evaluation in the first semester of 2018/19. Additionally, as from first Semester of the 2017/18 academic year, DQA has been sending soft copies of TEE/PIEE reports to individual lecturers/technologists through CoDs/Directors via email, thus cutting costs associated with printing and photocopying and delivery of the reports

to concerned departments.

Departments invite External Examiners (EE) to moderate examinations. Each EE prepares a report which is submitted to the Vice-Chancellor. All reports are forwarded to DQA for analysis and preparation of a synthesised summary report which is presented to the Senate. The recommendations of the report once approved by the Senate are implemented by faculties and departments. Deans and CoDs update the Senate on the implementation status of the recommendations. DQA prepared an analysis report for EEs' reports for the 2017/18 academic year. To ensure quality, the Deans/Directors are expected to come up with implementation plans to address the action issues.

Academic programmes that have undergone a full cycle of implementation

are required to undergo self-assessment. Deans of faculties, in consultation with CoDs, identify programmes that are due for evaluation and forward them to DQA. Selected teams from six departments are carrying out self-assessments of their respective programmes.

DQA carries out audits of academic processes, including teaching and learning, to ensure quality. Currently DQA is carrying out audit of Students Academic Advising in the Faculty of Science, where data collection is done using an online platform.

The DQA webpage is regularly updated, with staff members' profiles and other information to promote transparency and boost Webmetrics' ranking of Egerton University. DQA boardroom is just about to be completed, and the day-to-day activities of DQA are automated. ■

#### MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EGERTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

##### CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

Minimum Mean Grade D+ (plus) in KCSE or its equivalent

##### DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

Minimum Mean Grade C- (minus) in KCSE or its equivalent

##### DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Minimum Mean Grade C+ (plus) in KCSE or its equivalent

##### MASTER PROGRAMMES

Bachelor Degree in a related field with at least Second Class (Upper Division) or Second Class (Lower Division) with two years relevant working experience

##### DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Master Degree in related field

- NJORO (MAIN CAMPUS)
- NAKURU TOWN CAMPUS COLLEGE
- E-CAMPUS

For further information on specific programmes and their requirements, kindly visit the University website [www.egerton.ac.ke](http://www.egerton.ac.ke) or [application.egerton.ac.ke](mailto:application.egerton.ac.ke)

# Egerton Alumni: From Success to Success

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Egerton University. In the course of this long history, the University has graduated thousands of students. All too often, we wonder about the kind of lives our alumni build for themselves on the foundation that Egerton laid for them. The essays presented below are authored by three Egerton alumni, who are happy to share with *Newslink* their life experiences and their reflections on their deep connections to Egerton. The first author is particularly interesting because he takes us right back to 1961, when the Egerton Agricultural College opened its doors to all races for the first time. The other two essays shed light on more recent experiences.

## How Egerton Launched My International Career in Veterinary Medicine

By Saleh Rocha

B.VS, DVM, MRCVS, Dip An. Husb. (Egerton)

“Start from the ovaries and feel backwards.” Those words of our Obstetrics and Gynaecology lecturer echoed in my ears as I watched them herd 120 cows into the coral to be checked for pregnancy. So here I was in the Highlands of Kenya in Nakuru, at an altitude of about 7,000 feet, preparing to put his words into practice at 7 o'clock in the morning. These cows had been inseminated artificially, and I was here to check the results. The inseminator, Ready Freddy, as he was known, was well liked by the farmers, a jovial man, always willing to tell stories. I could not help wondering what was going on in the minds of the cows during insemination. The song “Is that All There Is?” comes to mind. Two and a half hours later, my right arm had taken on a greenish hue that I knew would take a day to get back to its original colour. Other than getting slapped in the face by a swishing tail the job went smoothly.

A year later I am in Kajiado to deal with the Maasai cattle. The Agriculture Department had imported some Sahiwal cattle from India in order to upgrade the local Zebu cattle. This would increase the size and at the same time preserve the hardy characteristics of the humped cattle. These cattle were accustomed to walking twenty miles to water once a day. This water hole was shared with the local wildlife population, including lions and leopards. The Maasai morans defended the livestock with their spears and shields. I was the first veterinarian to treat individual animals in that area. The Maasai were used to mass vaccinations

of their cattle but not individual treatment.

For the first four months, as I made the two-and-a-half hour journey from my home in Athi River to Kajiado, they were quite sure they had no sick animals. Gradually, they became more relaxed with me and invited me into their manyatta to partake of their drink, which consisted of milk mixed with charcoal in a gourd. I thought that if I drank this quickly I would get that part finished and we could get down to discussing their cattle. Instead, as soon as I had downed

the mixture, my gourd was refilled. Once they got to know me and gained some trust they started bringing in their sick animals. On arriving in Kajiado I would be joined by a veterinary scout, a local moran, who would act as my guide and assistant. I got to know Ole Ntoyai quite well and even learned some Maasai. The first time Ntoyai came into the car he pulled his spear in with him and slit the inside roof cover. Ntoyai had this ability to spit with a great deal of accuracy. He could hit a fly on a tree.

One evening at my house there was a



*In this photo, Dr. Saleh Rocha holds an award he received from the residents of Swan Lake Village in Markham, Ontario, Canada, in 2017, in appreciation of the veterinary care he provided free of charge for over 10 years*

knock on the door, and Ntoyai and his friend stood outside. They informed me that the chief wanted me to come immediately because his favourite bull had been mauled by a lion and one eye was bleeding. There was very little I could do that night because there was no electricity, so we decided to leave early the next morning. This would give me some time to prepare and sterilise my surgical instruments. I had a fair idea of what would be required as there was no way an injured eye could be saved. These cattle were not used to being handled and were fairly wild. Putting antibiotic drops into the eye was out of the question. Enucleation was the only option. This left just one problem: Where were Ntoyai and his friend going to spend the night? They would be staying in our house! Breaking the news to my wife Effie and surviving the night is a story for another day.

We arrived on the plains of Kajiado at 8.30 the following morning. There was already a crowd gathering, and we had to clear the area so that I could examine the bull. The right side of the face had a gush about 6 inches long and the right eye had been penetrated. Enucleation was necessary. After administering the premed, the bull slowly relaxed and went down. The surgical area was shaved, prepped and infiltrated with a local anaesthetic. Surgery was performed in the open air with a bucket of water and Ole Ntoyai as my assistant. Two weeks later, when we went to remove the sutures, the hair had already started growing back, and the bull was back to his old self using his one good eye.

These are just glimpses into my experiences as a vet, but how did it all start?

I was born in Kisii, Nyanza. After completing the school certificate at the Dr. Ribeiro Goan School in Parklands, Nairobi. I knew that I wanted to go into the field of veterinary medicine. I had no money, and being at this stage an orphan, living with my sister who had her own family, I could not hope for any financial help from her. As is the tradition in our community, friends and family looked out for a job for me in the accounting field. At one time an interview was arranged, but I did not go for it.

I joined the Veterinary Department as a Livestock Officer Trainee in 1959. I

was based in Nakuru and covered the surrounding areas such as Subukia. My job at that time was to go to farms and vaccinate cattle against diseases like rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) under the supervision of a Livestock Officer. At that time it was unheard of for an Indian to come to the White Highlands, especially to treat cattle. Suffice it to say that they were interesting times. There were occasions when I had to go without the Livestock Officer. The farmer would look all around and through me in search for the white officer. Nakuru had an important place in my heart as I was there for two years. Because of my financial constraints, I lived in a Veterinary Department tent on the office premises.

At about the same time, I was sent on the Outward Bound Mountain School in Loitokitok, where we were trained in outdoor survival and fitness. At the culmination of the course, which lasted twenty-one days, we climbed to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This was definitely a character-building experience, which would last me a lifetime.

I was then admitted to Egerton Agricultural College in 1961, which had just opened its doors to all the races. My training there was superb, and it opened the future for me. I was proud to receive the cup for best student in Animal Husbandry. Among my year-mates, who became friends for life, were James Butt, Olaf Ribeiro, Luis Pereira, Makdoom Khan, who was my roommate, and Mohammed Fazil. I qualified with the Diploma in Animal Husbandry in 1963. I was immediately posted to Eldama Ravine in Baringo District as a Livestock Officer. I covered the area right up to Lake Hannington.

The job was very interesting, and I would have been content to spend the rest of my life in the Veterinary Department. However, at this time the University of East Africa was in the process of starting a Veterinary Faculty separate from Makerere as part of the University College Nairobi. There is no substitute for being in the right place at the right time. I was accepted because of my highly valued Egerton qualification and joined the University College in 1964.

After qualifying in 1968 I joined the Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). This corporation lent money to

farmers, and it employed me to look after the health of the livestock. That was the time I had the experiences described above.

In 1969 I went to England and sat the exam for the Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS). There were fourteen veterinarians from all over the world, including USA and Australia. Four passed, and I was one of them.

On returning to Kenya I joined the Wellcome Institute for research into FMD at Embakasi. Here the vaccine against FMD was produced. My job was to infect the cattle with the FMD virus and then harvest virus to produce the vaccine in large stainless steel vats. The virus is extremely contagious, and the measures to prevent the virus from escaping and causing outbreaks of the disease included changing from street clothes to lab clothes on entering the facility. Also, when actually handling the virus, special protective clothing was used and a disinfectant shower taken after. Some days I ended up with six showers.

In 1973, together with my family, we moved to England, and I entered into small animal practice in Dulwich, Southeast London. In 1974 we moved to Canada, in the middle of winter, to Sault Ste. Marie in the frozen North Ontario. After working for another veterinarian for a year I set up my own practice and stayed in Sault Ste. Marie for twenty-six years. Sault Ste. Marie is a small town of about 75,000 people and is a twin city with Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, USA. We enjoyed the benefits of both countries, and I had several clients come to see me from the USA.

In 2000, I sold the practice and moved to Markham, a suburb of Toronto, thinking that I would retire and do nothing. But, in fact, I went back to full-time work, this time on hire. I finally retired completely in 2013, but still look after the Mute Swans at Swan Lake, where I live.

On the civic side, I became President of the Algoma Veterinary Medical Association, President of the North Sault Ste. Marie Rotary Club, and a Paul Harris Fellow. I started the Kenya Overseas Veterinary Association and became its first President. We are still affiliated with the Kenya Veterinary Association.

# My Rich Experience at Egerton Has Been Crucial in My Professional Growth

By Felix Mutunga

I joined Egerton University as an undergraduate student in January 2005. I obtained my B.A. degree and came back for a Master of Arts degree in Literature in September 2009. On completing work on my thesis, I was engaged in the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (LLL) as a part-time lecturer and continued to work in the same capacity until I left for further studies in 2015. Because of this relatively long association with the University, I consider Egerton as my academic hearth. When I first set foot in Egerton University I was a passionate young man, eager for enlightenment and keen to immerse myself into the depth and beauty of literature. Even with such a disposition, I was struck by the diverse ways in which the University created an environment that nurtured satisfying scholarly engagements for a curious mind. The University – its curriculum, staff, infrastructure, co-curricular and social engagements – provided an academically charged space that

produced, and continues to produce, politically and socially conscious and productive citizens.

Throughout my journey at Egerton, I have found the LLL Department to be intellectually stimulating. The collegial, versatile and supportive staff the Department accommodates have over time cultivated an atmosphere of academic fidelity and discipline. I experienced the height of this guidance and mentorship during my Masters studies. The Department provided a firm and rewarding foundation on a wide range of literary topics: postcolonial studies, literary theory, women's writing, major writers of the world, oral literatures, among others. The University's commitment to aiding academic growth allowed me to fully concentrate on my work when I was awarded a grant under the 2010-2011 Postgraduate Research Funds. With the

money allocated, I was not only able to acquire much-needed reading material, but also to cater for my living expenses.

The rigour that was inculcated in me and my classmates during our formative years would serve me well when I started my Ph.D. studies at the University of the Witwatersr and (Wits), South Africa. Joining Wits was an academically exciting and challenging moment. Although the initial stages of research are often daunting and overwhelming, my academic and teaching background had prepared me with the necessary skills and discipline in research and writing. The research process turned out to be a rewarding academic adventure, especially because my Ph.D. continued and expanded on my Masters research topic. While at Wits, I had the opportunity to travel the world and interact with colleagues and scholars through conferences, workshops and fellowships in the USA and Germany. It is from these numerous interactions that I have developed a keen sense of the role of scholarship in political and social work.

In addition, my rich experience has been crucial in my professional growth as it allowed me to secure and maintain a job as a Teaching Assistant and Sessional Lecturer in the Department of African Literature at Wits throughout my Ph.D. tenure. Furthermore, the social and cultural diversity I embraced at Egerton as I interacted with students from various parts of the country and the continent came in handy as I navigated life in a foreign land. As we reflect on our various journeys to our present and possible futures, it is impossible not to note the centrality of foundations that are laid for us and by us. I am glad that Egerton has been part of my journey and a solid stone in my foundation. ■



The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA) held on 1–3 November 2016 in Washington, DC: Prof. Ngugi wa Thiong'o (seated) is accompanied by other participants in the Conference, including Dr. Felix Mutunga (standing, second from left).

# To Forge Ahead, One Must Be Courageous and Confident

By George Ralak

A phrase that I heard many times while growing up was that education is the key to success. I placed my faith in this saying, and it motivated me to give my best in school, get good grades, and move to the next level. For instance, passing my secondary school exams to secure a place in the university was already a success. I joined Egerton University in 2008 to pursue a degree in Water and Environmental Engineering, with which I graduated in 2013. The experiences at the time and afterwards have been testament to the gains of education.

Academically, I was enthralled by the demystification of the very concept of “water and environmental engineering”, which sounded somewhat strange initially, and by immersing myself in the programme's content which is of great relevance to society. Beyond the classroom the most notable event during my time at the University was my participation in the Zain Africa Challenge (2010), the all-Africa battle of brains, as part of the Egerton team. This was a major highlight not only because of the victory for the University, but also because of the opportunity to learn and to test my knowledge out there in the world and have it confirmed as first-rate.

Months before my graduation, I was fortunate to get employment with World Vision Kenya. I was posted to a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in Kilifi County. The one year I spent under WASH allowed me to witness firsthand the various challenges facing communities living in fragile contexts. It was also an opportunity to apply my training as an engineer into practice by implementing water projects which provided solutions. Thus I supervised water pipeline extensions, construction of water tanks, and promotion of proper hygiene practices and environmental conservation.

After Kilifi I enrolled for a Masters degree in Civil Engineering at the

University of Nairobi. After my coursework, I travelled to Sri Lanka as an exchange student for six months in 2016, then for another three months in 2017. The experience I acquired in this new setting enabled me to gain more ground and build more confidence in my field of study, which played a critical role in the development of my Masters thesis. In between the visits to Sri Lanka, I received an invitation to attend a two-week winter school forum at the University of Texas at Arlington, USA. The focus of the training was solid waste management, which was my area of research for the Masters degree. As a result of my work in the two countries, I was able to have two papers published in two different conference proceedings.

After my last trip, focus has been on writing my thesis. But even before its completion, I got employed once again in the humanitarian sector, and once again with World Vision Kenya. This time my posting was in Turkana, where I am still based, and where my experiences are

entirely novel due to the dynamics of the area. I will graduate with an M.Sc. in the course of this year, and I will then embark on the pursuit of a Ph.D.

Egerton University gave me not only the knowledge and skills to be of service in my line of work, but also the confidence to pursue higher goals both academically and professionally. Being part of the institution has been a platform for interaction with various people, facilities and experiences, some of which were opportunities to showcase my knowledge and skills, and, most importantly, opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Indeed, education is the key to success. However, I have also learned that education has to be coupled with opportunities for it to bear fruit. Finally, together with education and opportunities, one needs the right mindset to gain any form of success. In my view, the right mindset includes in the first place courage and confidence to always forge ahead. ■



*Mr. George Ralak, Project Officer, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, at the Kainuk Programme Office for World Vision, Kenya, Turkana County, at work in his office in May 2019.*

# We Incubate Empires!

## CoELIB's Multifaceted Enterprises

**B**usiness incubation is a new approach aimed at addressing the problem of unemployment in Kenya by preparing the youth to become self-employed. Every now and then we see local and international organisations opening up business incubation and acceleration centres. However, most of these centres facilitate businesses already in operation with no limits to the age of the entrepreneur. This indifference to age means that they cannot fully dedicate themselves to the youth. In addition, many of them do not have capital to put their ideas in practice. Egerton University has come in to make a difference.

The University is operating a business incubation programme at the Centre for Livestock Innovation and Business dubbed CoELIB *Incubar* (*incubar* means incubation) that has transformed the way business incubation is done in Kenya. CoELIB *Incubar* accommodates incubation services among the youth. The programme is funded by the Dutch Government through the Netherlands Organisation for International Co-operation in Higher Education (NUFFIC). It has incubated and registered over 23 stable companies within two years primarily owned by young Kenyans. "We believe there is a business idea in every young person and therefore our objective is to transform such ideas into reality," says Prof. A. K. Kahi, Director CoELIB and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Egerton University.

One business incubated at CoELIB *Incubar* is Long-Burn Sustainable

Solutions, a company that produces long-burn charcoal briquettes, which provides clean energy options for households. It curbs the problem of indoor air pollution, deforestation and energy poverty in Kenya. Founded by Martin Njoroge, the company was nominated for the Total Startup Challenge whereby it earned its way to the finals early this year. Sylvia Nyaga's SyNa Company develops portable eco toilets for the physically challenged.

The Udder Limited, by Felix Akatch, a renowned dairy consultant, is a professional consulting company focused on transitioning dairy farming towards better market orientation and resilience and championing for greater youth engagement and representation in agriculture. Akatch also writes for the *Seeds of Gold* Magazine, thanks to CoELIB *Incubar*.

"I owe Egerton University's CoELIB a great deal because it moulded our business to what it is now," says Agrisove Data World Founding Partner Denis Tianta. The company developed a system having mobile apps, web apps and USSD services. The system is being used to collect, disseminate, and link different players in various agricultural value chains. It seeks to solve the problems caused by a disintegrated agricultural sector and provides long-term, customised, and affordable solutions to the different players of the whole sector in Kenya and, hopefully, will to do so for whole of Africa in the near future.

Another company incubated at the centre is The Plotus Technologies, which

has developed an automated Incubrooder that solves the problem of poor brooding conditions and improves on the growth rates of chicks. The company is owned by Samwel Mwangi and is already attracting county governments working with farmers on poultry farming. This is a good example of research being translated into solutions to problems facing poultry farmers and of linkages between animal scientists and engineers.

"During our project on indigenous chicken we noted that the growth rate of indigenous chicken chick was higher than of exotic chick during the first week of growth and is comparable to it in the second week despite the latter having more genetic potential for growth than the former. Through a series of studies, we noted that this was so because the indigenous chicken chicks were hatched on station while the exotic chicken chicks had to be transported as day-old chicks, which stressed them and affected their growth," Prof. Kahi explains. Then why not transport eggs at day 20 and let them hatch in the Incubrooder at day 21 and brood there. This will reduce on stress and improve on the performance of the chicks.

The Plotus Technologies Company has also created a robot for cutting sheet metals using high velocity electrified air that will be used to manufacture the Incubrooder.

Job Nyabuti, a co-partner of Joco Mushrooms, says that CoELIB *Incubar* equipped them with entrepreneurship skills that have seen their business grow within six months. Joco Mushroom is an enterprise that deals with the production



## EGERTON IN THE WIDER WORLD

and supply of button and oyster mushroom with an aim of providing a healthy living lifestyle for its clientele. He works with Collins Owino, a former student of Economics and Sociology from Egerton University.

Sumbi Creative is a sole proprietorship started by Shadrack Musyoki after observing the existence of substandard quality artworks that degrades the value of a place. The enterprise aims at bringing out the aesthetic value of a place using unique and quality art works. Musyoki made his breakthrough when his art attracted the President during the 64<sup>th</sup> World Ploughing Contest held in Kenya in 2017. He was featured in the top 40 under 40 men 2018, and he was the youngest in the category. The CoELIB Centre is one of the proud clients of Art of Sumbi.

CoELIB Media is among the pioneer businesses incubated at CoELIB *Incubar*. This was established in 2015 as a media arm of CoELIB and as an agri-journalism media. It has since expanded

to provide other media needs, including events coverage, corporate photography, documentaries, TV production, short films, short courses, and mentorship through internships and attachment provisions.

“Having won awards with an anti-FGM short film early this year and getting an invite to attend a Word Camp conference in Berlin, our drive to shape the African narrative through films and television has been reignited,” says Moses Irungu, producer at CoELIB Media. The media have been engaged to produce documentaries in Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Ghana. CoELIB Media provides media services to Egerton University at low cost and works closely with the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation.

“I have developed my passion for corporate marketing and public relations at CoELIB Media to a level that I provide services to the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation despite my background in Agribusiness Management,” says Kennedy Ouma,

Production Manager at CoELIB Media.

CoELIB Media has also mentored and nurtured TV and Radio journalists like Ibrahim Karanja of KTN News, Emily Mbai, formerly of Milele FM, and Caleb Koyo of Hero Radio.

The latest technology incubated at CoELIB is the Queen Rearing Incubator and a programme called Bee Soft to manage all activities relating to queen rearing. It is possible for a beekeeper to plan and increase the number of beehives as long as the Queens are available for replacement. The technology also enables the suppliers of bee hives to deliver hives with a colony of bees in them. It was exhibited during the World Bee Day in May 2019 at Railways Club Nairobi. Founded by CPA Joel Masobo, Master Beekeeper (Appr.), USA, the technology seeks to solve reduction of bee population, uncertainty in bee stocking, and frustrated bee farmers without proper knowledge on production, and marketing in Kenya.

For entrepreneurs to thrive and be drivers of economic growth, they need to be provided with the right knowledge, systems and tools. CoELIB *Incubar* facilitates the development and growth of enterprises in a conducive environment linking universities, research institutions and the private sector. This development happens through an array of business support resources and services, developed and orchestrated by incubator management and offered both at CoELIB *Incubar* and through its network of contacts. Here is the knowledge, experience, creativity, networks, access to financing, and support that you require as a new or growing business. You will access physical business infrastructure, tailored business support services, and networking opportunities.



“Business incubation is a new approach aimed at addressing the problem of unemployment in Kenya by preparing the youth to become self-employed.” In this photo Mr. Maarten van Eeuwijk, lecturer/coach, Business Administration and Agri-Business, from the Netherlands facilitates a session on Trainers on Entrepreneurship Training at CoELIB on Egerton’s Main Campus, Njoro, on 27 November 2018.

### You Are Destined for Greatness



*Prof. Alexander K. Kahi*

On this great occasion on which Egerton University is holding its 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation, on behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, I wish to congratulate the graduating class and all those who were responsible for ensuring that this celebration comes to fruition. The Division of Academic Affairs has had its share of success, which would not have been attained had it not been for the support we have received from all quarters, big and small-not to forget the hard work we have all tirelessly put into securing a better tomorrow. We express our hearty congratulations and warm appreciation for all the effort put in by the graduands, lecturers, friends and family, and everybody who worked tirelessly to ensure that our graduating class made it to this day. Your efforts, surely, bore fruits.

The Division of Academic Affairs has gone miles to ensure that the heights of academic success we so wish to achieve are met as seamlessly as possible. We have built bridges across all platforms that touch on academics in both the student and lecturer capacities. Through the great ideas that our great people live by, we thrive. The example of our very own Brother Peter Tabichi goes to say what good can come from our effective contribution.

We have in the recent months pitched tent across the country from places like Khwisero to the far flung Migori to Nairobi and Makueni in readiness to inform the young generation of the opportunities we have for them through career awareness fora. We are proud to say that the uptake has been positive. Through these kinds of forums, we still remain to be the flint that sparks the light of their dreams.

We have also beefed up our networking with the outside world on matters education, innovation and technology, among others. We value the need to share information, and it is for this reason that we have through the years collaborated with external entities through exchange programmes for students and their lecturers. We have seen our students attend fora like The International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Studies (IAAS) and The Global Humanisation Initiative, and our lecturers attend The Global Community-Engaged Learning Symposium held in Ghana, among others. Such platforms leave the students and lecturers better equipped and give them the drive to bring and effect change in the communities they live in.

We also embrace technology and push for the need for this generation to be more receptive to technology. This is because we are more and more machine dependent. We earlier in the year welcomed a delegation from Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) to collaborate with the Department of Physics on computational material. This technology is aimed at making scientific research an easier task to handle. We are going full throttle towards automation, with issues like fee payment and student registration being a matter of click and send. This has resulted in a more enabling learning experience. In addition, on student matters from admission to graduation, the Division of Academic Affairs has gone paperless. This has improved on our students' records.

We continue to support and advocate for student and staff participation in extracurricular activities. We are proud that our students were part of the students who were awarded by the President through The President Award Scheme for exemplary performance in experiential activities. One of them proceeded to Ghana to compete in an intellectuals' debate that saw her meet dignitaries from all over the world. We were also represented by our students in the annual Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Festival, where they bagged almost all trophies and accolades. Our students also went ahead to create a film that critiqued the inhumanities around FGM and its consequences. We continually support sports and all other extracurricular activities that take the students' mind off the routine class work. This has resulted in students who are handy both in and out of class.

Our focus on raising all-rounded students went down to the ballot box. With the changes regarding student politics gearing up, we witnessed a smooth student body election. With all contestants showing both willpower and the spirit to lead, we believe the incoming team will make good of the qualities

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### FOA Set to Provide Solutions to Low Occupation of Bee-hives by Bees



*Prof. Abdul Faraj*

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the staff and students in the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA), to congratulate all of you graduates on your accomplishments, which has enabled you to graduate today. It is due to your focus and determination that you have achieved your academic dreams. I would also like to thank and congratulate the parents, guardians, sponsors, and the various organisations that have supported you throughout your stay at Egerton University.

Since the beginning of the year, FOA has made significant strides in fulfilling its mandate as a Centre of

Excellence in Agriculture. The major faculty-wide projects initiated by the faculty continue to perform well. Through the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) Project, four members of FOA went to Virginia Tech for a month to benchmark and work on how two of our programmes can be internationally accredited. On 12–13 March 2019, the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev) Project held its second National Forum in Naivasha, which was well attended by the major stakeholders in the agricultural sector. During the “World Bee Day and Honey Exhibition” held in Nairobi on 18–20 May 2019, FOA was represented by the COD of Animal Science, Dr. Anthony Kingori, who was accompanied by Mr. Stephen Kagio and Mr. Joel Masobo, who made presentations on “Queen Raring” and on the activities of CESAAM and the Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business (CoELIB) at Egerton University. From these exhibitions we may soon see animal breeders set for mass raring of bees as a solution to the low occupation of beehives by bees.

FOA continues to forge collaborations with its Alumni and other stakeholders. Thus Prof. Joseph Awika, a

staff member of the Texas A & M University in the USA and an Alumnus of the Department of Dairy, Food Science and Technology, visited FOA on 6–9 May 2019 as a Fulbright Scholar. He gave a “Career Development Talk” to our undergraduate and postgraduate students. He also gave a seminar to the teaching and technical staff on “Enhancing End-Use Value of Sorghum through Research”.

FOA students, through the Faculty of Agriculture Students Association (FASA) and their Congress Representative, have continued to market our programmes and the University at large by visiting a number of schools. Between 31 January and 3 February 2019, FASA students visited high schools, an orphanage, and factories in Migori County.

Finally, to the graduands, as you leave campus life and join the workforce, remember that no matter what station in life you find yourself in you must always try to bring positive changes to those around you. You are our ambassadors, and we expect nothing but the best from you.

On behalf of FOA, I wish you all the best and success in your endeavours as you begin your professional career. Thank you and God bless you.

### You Are Destined for Greatness

*Continued from page 14*

gained. Through the tireless efforts of the students, staff, and other stakeholders, we now have an army of young, resourceful, empowered, and talented individuals who are up to the task. With the election and appointment of new deans in different faculties adding to the effort their predecessors have put in, we believe that the delivery of academics to the students will be even more seamless.

We are proud to be part of history in fine-tuning the great minds of this nation into game-changers and live by the belief that what we have sown in your hearts and minds is enough to make you whatever you desire to be. We continue to build

confidence in our students, give them the push to face new challenges, and are there for those facing difficulty.

We therefore urge you to keep the faith we have for years bestowed on you and build a life around determination, self-reliance, innovation, entrepreneurship and change. Grow to become the next face of this nation and be the change you desperately need.

Above all, we wish you the best as you face the world of academia, career and talent out there. Be good ambassadors of this great university and live the dreams you have held on for years. You are destined for greatness! ■

### External Examiners Praise Faculty for its Seminar Series



*Dr. Phylis Bartoo*

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the 2019 class. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as worthy ambassadors for the University by building upon its reputation of excellence. Special thanks to the parents, spouses, children and friends of our graduands for their patience, understanding, support and sacrifice during the challenging and rewarding years of study. Thanks also for coming to share the joy and accomplishments of the graduands.

As you contemplate your journey ahead know that it is a tightrope and you must learn to balance on it. It is full of constraints and many unknowns within a limited time on earth. However, if you define a realistic purpose in life, you will achieve much.

Youth for Social Development is a project by FASS students who volunteer their services for the advancement of humanity. In March 2019, the students toured Narok County for three days. They were supported by Tuskys

Supermarket, Nakuru, Baraka Chai, and Unilever. The team members visited Imani Children's home and donated food, clothing and other basic amenities. They prayed with the children and helped in teaching for that day. The team also visited Eor-Ekule Secondary School. They mentored the students on issues regarding social life and career choices. Finally, the students carried out a clean-up session in various parts of Narok County. The places included Lenana and Majengo Estates, Konyo Forest, and Narok River. The County Government of Narok provided means of transport to ferry the students, and Tuskys offered refreshments.

Mr. David Nderitu from the Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies, and a member of the Egerton University Research Ethics Committee, is currently undergoing a six-month training in Bio-Ethics and Research Ethics. The training is organised by the Western Institutional

Review Board (WIRB) International Fellows Programme, based in Puyallup, Washington, USA. Part of the training will be carried out at the New York University School of Medicine. From USA, Mr. Nderitu will proceed to McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, where he will participate in the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research.

The Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics continues to hold its monthly staff and postgraduate student seminars. The latest of these, which was held on 7 May 2019, was attended by the external examiners of the Department, who commended the staff for the regularity and the high standard of the event.

Finally, the Institute of Economic Affairs, whose CEO, Dr. Kwame Owino, is an Alumnus of FASS, visited the Faculty on 17 April 2019 and gave a talk to students and staff on enhancing justice and accountability in the management of public resources in Kenya. ■



*FASS students during a clean-up operation at Narok County on 19 March 2019. The students were in Narok as part of FASS' Youth for Social Development project, whose members volunteer their services for the advancement of humanity.*

### Commerce Students Excell at CMA University Challenge



*Dr. Henry K. Kombo*

The Faculty of Commerce at Egerton University is home to students preparing to lead the business world and foster entrepreneurial growth by completing one of our various academic programmes offered in both traditional classroom settings and online format. We offer programmes at the undergraduate, Masters and Doctorate levels. The Faculty's dedicated and qualified academic staff, with their broad expertise in business management, strives to sustain academic excellence in research and teaching. Our Faculty provides both undergraduate and graduate students with experiential learning opportunities, including case studies and industrial attachments, with the ultimate goal of preparing them as leaders in their fields of choice. Through support drawn from our curriculum in entrepreneurship and small business management, students are encouraged to develop and test their

business ideas.

Faculty members are integral in curriculum development, creating and refining programmes that prepare students for future careers in business and academia. Our undergraduate and graduate programmes have grown in recent years: We now offer MBA programmes in Accounting, Finance, Human Resource Management, Marketing and Project Management, as well as a Master of Science programme in Human Resource Management.

At the undergraduate level, curricula such as Bachelor of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management have been repackaged in order to meet the demands of the growing global and entrepreneurial economy. In curriculum development, the Faculty seeks regular input from employers regarding their priority skills and knowledge.

In addition, we regularly offer career talks and workshops to better serve our undergraduate and graduate students. Students graduate with a solid foundation in business principles and a practical understanding of how the business world works. Our focus is to enhance quality and ensure the relevance of our academic programmes. To realise our Vision, the Faculty seeks to enhance staff and student welfare.

The Faculty of Commerce students boast a national reputation for success at the Capital Markets Authority (CMA)

University Challenge. The team has been placed in the top category in the past CMA competitions. In the ongoing CMA National Challenge, two of our students have qualified to the grand finale after competing with other 62 students at national level.

Graduands, although you are graduating today, you will always be members of the Faculty of Commerce family. We encourage you to stay connected with our Faculty, join the Alumni Association, and give back by supporting efforts of strengthening our great Faculty. Together, we can always make things better.

As you begin your careers or continue with your studies, we know that you are well prepared to lead in your respective fields and to offer solutions to the challenges facing today's society. Remember that whatever you aspire to be you can make it as long as you are determined and believe in it; hence be confident and ready not only to meet but also exceed expectations.

On behalf of the staff, students and alumni of the Faculty of Commerce, it is my pleasure to congratulate each and every one of you on your great accomplishment. We are proud of you, and we wish you the best as you begin this next phase in your life.

God bless you.

### New Engineering Courses Available at FET



*Prof. Japheth O. Onyando*

**A**s we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) is honoured to congratulate the graduands for the great effort, hard work, and successful completion of their studies in various disciplines.

FET consists of four departments, namely Electrical and Control Engineering (ECEN), Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEEN), Industrial and Energy Engineering (IEEN), and Agricultural Engineering (AGEN). These departments continue to attract more students every year. The number has been increasing steadily from 36 in 2018/2019 to 49 in 2019/2020 for AGEN Department. The respective statistics for ICEN, IEEN and CEEN departments are from 32 to 33, from 33 to 35, and from 33 to 34. This gives a net increase of 17 for the entire Faculty, which is 20 more than the declared capacity. The number is expected to increase as the remaining three of the four programmes edge towards accreditation by the Engineers Board of Kenya. With these developments, an increase in facilities and qualified staff is mandatory. FET is exploring options with the industry to facilitate this.

The programmes in FET are executed in a comprehensive and diverse manner, which gives students the opportunity to

explore their competence and skills. Apart from the formal learning, the students are given opportunity to undertake engineering design projects collectively and mainly through their clubs, namely Egerton University Students Association (EESA) and Egerton University Technology Enthusiasts Engineers Club (EUTEEC), where they complement each other and bridge the knowledge gap as they develop innovative projects. This approach gives them the freedom to think and apply their knowledge and skills in the process of designing and developing models and prototypes with high potential for manufacturing.

One of the recent innovations by students in ECEN Department is the development of a silo monitoring system kit for detecting aflatoxin and other contaminants causing food contamination in silos. The kit is fabricated using sensors and microcontrollers fitted onto locally available materials. These make it affordable and can be used by both small- and large-scale farmers. The kit was presented at an international conference held in Nairobi on 21-22 February 2019 by the students and was rated as one of the best innovations.

Another remarkable innovation from ECEN Department is an Automated Bee Brooder System which hatches queen bee eggs to increase their number thereby increasing beehives and eventually generating more honey production in the market. The system simulates a conducive living environment for hatching of bee eggs, which promotes their rapid multiplication.

A third-year student from CEEN Department was awarded the first prize in a KENTAGRA's Solar Dryer Design competition, which was held in February this year in Karen, Nairobi. The competition was done online by submitting proposals. KENTAGRA is a Christian based organisation from the USA promoting integrity in pyrethrum farming

in Kenya.

On system maintenance, the same department was in April this year involved in trouble-shooting and locating a fault in the Egerton University radio broadcasting system. The system had been off air for some time. Functionality of the system was restored and broadcasting resumed. This saved the commercial price of more than KShs1 Million for the University. These are indications of the potential we have in FET which can be exploited as need arises.

A Centre for Integrated Water and Basin Management CIWABM has also been established at FET following the conclusion of the Mau Mara Serengeti (MaMaSe) project in 2018. The centre focuses on creation and dissemination of knowledge for improvement of water security which is a pre-condition for food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. About 11 short courses targeting policy makers, researchers, practitioners and beneficiaries have been developed.

The following courses will be conducted from 19 to 30 August 2019: Geographical Information System (GIS) for spatial data analysis and resource management; Remote Sensing for Land Use for land cover classification and analysis; GEONETCast Technology & Satellite Data Systems for monitoring environmental changes and their impacts; Hydrological Modelling for effective river basin Management and development; Water Allocation and Planning for improved compliance to water use; Ecosystem based practices for improved water security and livelihoods; Applied Integrated Water Resources Management & Governance; Decision Support for catchment management and rehabilitation; and Adaptive Governance of shared natural resources.

Prospective participants are encouraged to apply for any of the stated courses by sending email to [ciwab@egerton.ac.ke](mailto:ciwab@egerton.ac.ke) ■

### Scholar Wins Ksh. 35 Million to conduct Research on Laikipia Rangelands



*Prof. Elias Maranga*

The Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources Development (FERD) joins other faculties to celebrate the climax of hard work by students and staff. We are proud of our graduands for their sterling achievements, which will be acknowledged by the conferment of various diplomas and degrees in our 40th Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of FERD, I wish to convey our warm regards and congratulations to our graduands for work well done. As a faculty we feel privileged to be part of an academic community that has consistently kept its commitment to offer the best in terms of academic training, research and professional mentorship.

FERD hosts a web of academic activities embracing training at the Diploma, Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. levels. The undergraduate degree programmes emphasise “hands on,” broad-based training in the management of natural resources, training in Forestry with strong entrepreneurial components, Ecotourism & Hospitality Management, Dry-land Resources Management, Fisheries & Wildlife Resources & Non-renewable Resources, Environmental Science, Environmental Health & Occupational Safety, Geography of Pollution & Urban Geography, and

Geospatial Technologies, among others. M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes embrace thematic areas such as Rangeland Resources, Forest Resources, Wildlife Resources and Human Ecology, Urban Geography, Environment & Waste Management, Ecology & Environment, and Environmental Impact Assessment & Audit.

Postgraduate research and human capacity development at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. level is heavily poised on development of innovations for sustainable management of natural resources. Research initiatives focus on ecosystem research underpinning Environmental Degradation & Food Production, Environmental Planning & Management, Environmental Impact Studies, Human Settlement, Population & Development, Environmental Pollution Control, Desertification & Methods of Control, Demography & Land Use, Ecosystem Management & Modelling of Habitat Change, Nature, Technology & Society, Environmental Policy & Advocacy, Effects of Agrochemicals & Ecosystems, and Waste Management.

FERD has initiated discussions on potential research collaborations between Stockholm Environment Institute (SIE) and Egerton University. Key areas for potential collaboration include training and capacity development using SIE tools such as WEAP, LEAP, REVAMP and EWI. In the collaborative arrangement, there is a proposal for creation of a Centre of Excellence in Egerton University for public education and demonstration on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and environmental issues.

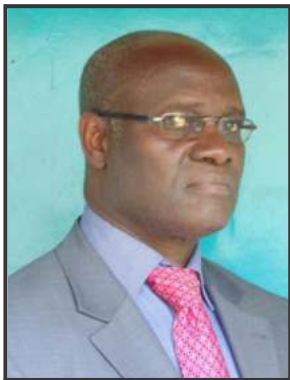
The Department of Geography has initiated a post-doctorate training on policy briefs writing involving staff of Egerton University. The post-doctorate training is sponsored by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) as part of the AgiFoSe 2030 Project. The project targets recent Ph.D. graduates with a desire to

undertake policy relevant research and analysis; and disseminate research findings to policy makers and practitioners. Four members of staff of Egerton University are participating on the project. These are Dr. Amon Karanja, Dr. Humphreys Obulinji, Dr. Grace Kibue, and Dr. Olivier Kashongwe. As part of the initiative, the Department organised a one-day workshop on systematic review on 6 May 2019 where twenty-four members of staff were trained. The members were largely drawn from the faculties of Environment and Resources Development, and Agriculture. We take this opportunity to thank the Office of the DVC (AA) for facilitating the one-day workshop event.

The Department of Natural Resources is in its initial stages of evolving an agreement with North East Forestry University of China for capacity development of Kenyan professionals who wish to develop careers in Forestry Engineering and Forestry Economics Management. The North East Forestry University of China and Egerton University have submitted a joint proposal to the Scholarship Council of China aimed at securing thirty scholarships each year for the next three years.

Dr. Wilfred Odadi is the proud recipient of the Future Leaders – African Independent Research Fellowship grant (FLAIR). The FLAIR fellowship programme is funded by the UK Government through the Global Challenges Research Fund to support science tackling global development challenges and strengthen research capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Odadi will access Kshs35 million from FLAIR to conduct research on Laikipia Rangelands in Kenya for a period of two years. The research activities will address socio-ecological effectiveness of cooperation between private ranchers and communal ranchers as well as determine optimal grazing intensities for livestock production and biodiversity conservation. ■

### Nursing Department Devotes Time to Children with Disability and Special needs in Nakuru



*Dr. Samson Obure*

It is another moment for the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) graduands to be in a celebratory mood for their hard work and merited academic achievements. On behalf of the whole FHS fraternity I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands.

FHS facilitates the acquisition of knowledge and skills in different specialties for effective and efficient management of healthcare, through research publications in refereed journals, increase in student enrolment in the Faculty's programme and eventually working towards improving the successful completion of studies.

FHS held its 6<sup>th</sup> Oathing Ceremony on 29 April 2019. It is a function normally organised for the graduating class, i.e. the MBChB, Clinical Medicine, and Nursing students just before they proceed for their internship. This year we had a total of 70 MBChB, 52 B.Sc. Nursing, and 25 B.Sc. Clinical Medicine students, who took their oaths administered by the respective professional bodies.

The Nursing Department, through the Egerton University Students Association (EUNSA) in collaboration with lecturers, organised a community service activity on 11 May 2019 at Nakuru Hills Special School located at London Estate in Nakuru. The activities during this exercise included cleaning of the school compound, dormitories, kitchen and toilets. Students and lecturers were also able to interact and appreciate children with disabilities and special needs, such as the Down Syndrome, Dyslexia and Cerebral Palsy. The event culminated in donation of foodstuffs and toiletries, among other things. The purpose of this event was not only to provide a forum for applying academic knowledge to practical experience and make it serve personal

development but also to embrace corporate social responsibility. The school principal, Ms. Lucy Kahito, and the entire school extended their appreciation to FHS and the Egerton University Community.

Finally, I conclude with a quote from Jordan Cohen: "Be prepared to be accountable for everything you do; be prepared to welcome your patients' participation in decisions about their care; be prepared to devote your professional energies not only to your patients' needs but also to the unmet health needs of our society as a whole; be prepared to manage the society's limited resources." Remember you have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate, to do your part. God bless you. ■



*Staff members and students of the Nursing Department in the Faculty of Health Sciences interact with pupils of Nakuru Hills Special School on 11 May 2019, during which they donated various items to the pupils. Mr. Noa Mbunya, Chairman of the Department, is seen presenting the gifts to Ms. Lucy Kahito, Principal of the school.*



### Department Acquires Computational Physics Research Laboratory



*Dr. Moses N. Gichuki*

Dear graduands, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your hard work and determination, which has culminated in the great achievement that we are celebrating today.

Besides their dedication to teaching, our academic staff have continued to contribute to knowledge generation through research. Early this year, the Department of Physics established a Computational Physics Research Lab. This significant development was made possible by a donation of a computational cluster/server by Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) courtesy of Prof. Ryo Maezono of the Institute. The cluster was presented officially to the Department by Dr. Kenta Hongo and Mr. Keishu Uchimura, who visited the University from 18 to 22 March 2019. The visitors also assisted in the installation of the cluster, conducted trainings, and offered tutorials and seminars to staff and students in the Faculty. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) was represented at the launch by Prof. A. O. Omololu, the Interim Director of ICTP, East African Institute of Fundamental

Research (EAI FR), University of Rwanda. Prof Omololu also gave seminars. The Kenya Education Network (KENET) was represented by Prof. G. O. Amolo, Chair of the Department of Physics and Space Science, Technical University of Kenya.

On 5 March 2019, Dr. Lothar Krienitz, a renowned researcher from the Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries in Berlin, visited our Faculty and gave a seminar on the topic “Lesser Flamingo: A Flagship Species of Kenya's Saline Wetlands”.

In the month of March 2019, some of our faculty members visited Ole Tipis Girls High School in Narok County for the Regional Kenya Science and Engineering Fair (KSEF), where they interacted with students from more than 60 high schools. Thereafter, in April, we attended the KSEF finals at Jomo Kenyatta Boys High School in Nakuru. During these two events, Faculty of Science members had time to give career guidance to the potential university students. The Dean of the Faculty of Science is the KSEF Patron, Rift Valley

Region, while the Chief Judge is the Dr. Ronald Rop, the Chairman of the Physics Department.

On 29 March 2019, the Faculty of Science held deanship elections where Dr. Moses N. Gichuki was elected to succeed Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi, who had held the position for the previous four years. Dr. Gichuki is the immediate former Chairman of the Department of Mathematics. The handing over ceremony was held on 1 April 2019.

Later in the month of April the Faculty Board members elected Dr. Elick O. Otachi as their Associate Dean for the next two years.

Meanwhile the Vice-Chancellor has appointed Dr. P. W. Gathia to chair the Department of Mathematics. Prof. Josphat Matasyoh takes over from Dr. P. O. Ongoma as the Chairman of Chemistry Department.

Once again, congratulations to you all and best wishes as you embark on the next phase of career progression and further studies.

Happy Graduation Day!



*Dr. Kenta Hongo (left) and Mr. Keishu Uchimura (right) donate a computation cluster/server from JAIST to the new Physics Department Computational Research Lab during their visit to the Egerton on 18-22 March 2019. Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi, Dean, Science (centre) and Dr. Ronald Rop, Chairman, Physics Department (far left) are seen receiving the device.*

# Visit by Professors from Austria Underscores Collaborative Linkage between Egerton and BOKU

**E**gerton University, in conjunction with the Limnology & Wetland Management (LWM) Programme, was privileged to receive eight senior staff members from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria, led by the Rector, Prof. Hubert Hasenauer, who is also an expert in Silviculture and Forest Ecosystem Modelling. The visit of 18–19 February 2019 was as a result of an invitation by the Egerton University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, during her visit to BOKU on 27 June 2018 to sign the renewed LWM Cooperation Agreement between Egerton, BOKU, and IHE Delft, The Netherlands.

The “BOKU Go Africa” visit to Egerton University was organised by Dr. Margarita Calderón-Peter, Head of the

Center for International Relations, and LWM Coordinators, Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Egerton) and Mag. Gerold Winkler (BOKU). Other team members were Prof. Herwig Waidbacher, Head of the Department of Water, Atmosphere and the Environment; Prof. Johann Sölkner, Head of the Division of Livestock Sciences; Prof. Margit Laimer, Head of the Plant Biotechnology; Unit at the Department of Biotechnology, Prof. Andreas Muhar, Deputy Head of the Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning (ILEN); and Prof. Bernhard Freyer, head of the Institute of Organic Farming. The delegation paid a courtesy call on the University Management Board, where they were briefed on the history of Egerton University and the transforma-

tions that the institution has undergone over the years.

The delegates, together with the Egerton team of researchers, listened to Prof. Hubert Hasenauer, who gave a brief presentation on BOKU University, which was followed by an exchange of ideas between the two institutions. There were a couple of presentations on significant Egerton University projects, i.e. the Centre for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) by Prof. George Owuor, and the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's growth and Development programme (TAGDEV) by Prof. Nancy Mungai. Tegemeo Institute activities were highlighted by the Director, Dr. Milton



*The team of Professors from BOKU and their Egerton hosts are pictured here at the Njoro Campus on 18 February 2019. BOKU Rector Prof. Hubert Hasenauer (left) and Egerton Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rose A. Mwonya (right) are in the centre of the picture*

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Ayieko, while Prof. P. K. Kimurto explained the concept of the Agro-Science Park. Prof. Ezra Maritim outlined the University's experience of degree acquisition through the College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL).

The guests were also taken on a tour of the LWM facilities (Laboratories, Resource Centre, Library and Lecture theatre) and held a brief meeting with the LWM 2018–2020 cohorts, who were currently at Egerton. A visit to the Biotechnology Molecular Laboratory at Crops, Horticulture and Soil Science Department, guided by Prof. Richard Mulwa demonstrated the state-of-the-art Egerton University Molecular Laboratory. An acquaintance with Tatton Farm gave the visitor an opportunity to see the outcome of the Indigenous Chicken Improvement Project, while a visit to the Civil and Water Engineering Department presented them with a view of the

University's innovative machines, such as solar coolers and driers, which were locally assembled by one of the BOKU Alumni, Dr. Musa R. Njue.

The excursion was spiced up by a coffee break at the Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation & Business (CoELIB) café hosted by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Alexander Kahi. They were briefed on the different trainings done by CoELIB in the dissemination of agricultural information to farmers and visited various facilities within CoELIB.

The first day of the programme ended with a sundowner walk and tree seedlings planting session at the Botanical Garden led by Prof. S.T. Kariuki, an activity that thrilled the guests.

The delegates closed a long day over dinner with the LWM Masters students and Rotary Club of Vienna-

(RCV)-sponsored students at ARC.

The second day involved a brain storming session with working groups of people with the same research interests that developed into potential future projects discussions. Animal breeders, horticulturalists, biotechnologists, organic scientists and foresters shared research and co-training ideas which they promised to pursue and develop into projects. The closing session, attended by Rector Hasenauer, Vice-Chancellor Mwonya, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Kahi, saw the teams share their two-day experiences, future collaborations, research areas and collaborating channels.

Egerton is proud to have been part of “BOKU Go Africa” which opened doors for further partnerships beyond LWM, coupled with enhanced visibility of Egerton University as an institution of higher learning and research. ■



*Egerton University, in partnership with various local organizations, participated in tree planting along Njoro River on 31 May 2019. 500 tree seedlings were planted in the event. Njokerio Sub-chief, Mr. Leonard Gicharu, is in the foreground.*

### Partnership with AICAT Provides Hands-on Skills to Egerton Students



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai*

**T**oday we celebrate the achievements of the graduands of this 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. Graduation is a crucial activity in an academic life both for the graduands and the University as it foregrounds the efforts made not only by the candidates but also by that of the academic staff and departments in their successful completion of the academic cycle. The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is proud to be associated with today's graduands, and we congratulate them all.

BUGS/FAP is mandated with the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate degree and diploma curricula. The Board also coordinates and facilitates field/ industrial attachment (FA) and teaching practice (TP). BUGS interacts with undergraduate students long before they come into class, as they

select their programmes of study and also during industrial/field attachment.

In the Farm Attachment Programme (FAP), students are attached to farms where they work with the farmers and are expected to make meaningful gains in implementing relevant projects and activities on the farm, just like they would do if they were attached to organisations. Feedback from the students emphasise the need for reliable, unbiased sources of agricultural information to farmers. This was key in encouraging BUGS to come up with the Farm UP Connect ([farmup.egerton.ac.ke](http://farmup.egerton.ac.ke)), an online platform that is beneficial not only to the farmers but also to other stakeholders in the agricultural sector. The platform is hosted on the University website under the Division of Research and Extension and currently has content on production and marketing of maize, potato, dairy, poultry, and other cross-cutting issues.

Egerton University has partnered with Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT) in Israel to provide hands-on skills for students undertaking agricultural related sciences. The 11-month programme provides selected students with an opportunity to be attached to farms and farmer organisations in the Arava region of Israel for five days in a week, and one day of class work. The 2019–2020 cohort (the seventh cohort)

will start in August 2019 and comprises 100 students drawn from Egerton University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, University of Nairobi, and Kenya Water Institute, among others. They will include 25 Egerton University students, who will be in different locations in Israel. Most of the students will be involved in field work or in the packing factories, usually within each farm or group of farms. They will complete the internship programme in June 2020. The steering committee for Kenya-AICAT partnership met the Principal Secretary, Irrigation, on 4 April 2019 at Maji House, Nairobi, to discuss issues related to the internship programme and the broader Kenya-Israel partnership. Prof. Nancy W. Mungai represented Egerton University in this meeting.

BUGS appreciates all the schools and organisations hosting Egerton University students on TP and FA respectively. Currently over 1,200 students are on TP between May and August 2019, with another 2,168 expected to report for FA in July 2019.

Once again congratulations to you all and best wishes as you embark on the next phase of your career progression and further studies.

Happy Graduation Day!

## TAGDev in Wide-Ranging Innovations to Uplift Academic Standards

**E**gerton University, in partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and Uganda's Gulu University, is receiving support from the Mastercard Foundation to implement an innovative programme entitled “Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev)” for a period of eight years (2016-2024). The programme is focused on transforming both the universities and their graduates in order to enable them to solve the economic and developmental challenges facing Africa through an effective application of entrepreneurship, science and technology for sustainable transformation in agriculture.

At the end of the eight years the programme will have trained 110 undergraduate and postgraduate students in its focus on production of hands-on transformative leaders with an entrepreneurial mind-set and an adept understanding and appreciation for agriculture. Currently 15 Masters and 30 undergraduate students, 53% of whom are female and 47% of whom are male, are on full support to pursue various courses and activities as described below.

### **National Forum Meeting for Universities, TVETs and Other Players in the Agricultural Industry**

On 12-13 March 2019, Egerton held the second National Forum meeting themed “Sustainable Development through Innovative Agricultural

Training.” The meeting was aimed at creating and promoting linkages between agricultural education providers, employers, and policy makers.

Among the dignitaries present were Prof. Fred Segor, the Permanent Secretary, State Department for Irrigation; Dr. Codou Diaw, the MasterCard Foundation Senior Programme Officer; Egerton University Management Board members; County Government officials; Principals of TVET institutions; and Deans of the faculties of agriculture from seven other universities.

The two-day event was successful in identifying the existing gaps in the areas concerned and depicting some of the success stories. It emerged clearly that everyone in the food value chain has a crucial role to play which he/ she must play diligently. The forum underscored the need to transform agriculture through research, innovation, information technology, and entrepreneurship, as well as to reach out to the farmers at the community level. Simple innovations can be amplified and expanded. Hence, it is possible to start small and grow gradually. Technology has enabled farmers to make informed decisions on best prices, to identify the best periods of time to plant their crops based on market trends and weather patterns, and to predict the harvest, making it possible for them to easily link to markets.

### **Recruitment of the Third Cohort of Students**

At the close of the call for MCF@RUFORUM scholarship

applications for the 2019-2020 academic year on 31 March 2019, a total of 610 applications from 23 African countries had been received at Egerton University. Female applicants represented 32% of the total applications, while 45.7%, 17.4%, 8.9% and 7.0% were from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda, respectively.

The admission process is complete and is awaiting short-listing, which is usually followed by a home validation visit. The scholarship is meant to support financially challenged but talented young people who have an interest in agriculture and related disciplines. At the end of the process, it is expected that 35 students will be awarded scholarships to pursue various programmes at Egerton University.

### **Facilitating Harmonisation of Experiential Learning Course Units**

The TAGDev Programme commissioned the harmonisation of course outlines for horticultural practical course units. In addition, the soil sciences practical manuals were developed to aid in effective course delivery. The motivation for this exercise was the realisation that the implementation of experiential learning was challenged by lack of harmonised course outlines and lack of specific assessment procedures for the courses. Another difficulty was the limited availability of tools to use in the field and laboratories. The programme is in the process of procuring the recommended tools and equipment to support experiential learning at Egerton University.

# BOARD OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAMMES

## Supporting Undergraduate Students (Non-TAGDev)

TAGDev has extended its support to five fourth-year undergraduate research projects to address developmental issues within seed potato and cassava value chains. Proposals were received from the faculties of Agriculture, Education and Community Studies, and Environment and Resources Development. The programme is in the process of selecting more research proposals for support.

The programme also supported Mr. Luftas Omongo, the Congressman for the Faculty of Agriculture, to attend the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Science exchange coordinators' meeting in Morocco. His visit was marked by extensive exposure to the country's agricultural produce and practices and their potential growth in Kenya.

## University Collaborations with the County Government

During the Governors Breakfast Meeting held during the 6<sup>th</sup> African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference, soil degradation was identified as an issue in Nakuru County. In response to this, TAGDev has developed a document that focuses on possible collaboration opportunities between Egerton University and the County Government towards soil conservation. Among the proposed strategies are mapping out soil erosion hotspots within the County for targeted conservation measures, development, and review of current strategies and policies the county is implementing, and enhanced access to soil testing services.

## Community Engagement Activities

On 8 March 2019, the Nakuru

Irrigation Acceleration Platform (IAP), in partnership with the Seed Potato CARP+ project and the Egerton Seed Unit, organised a field day at Elim Farm, Njokerio. The objective of the field day was to explore opportunities available for the acceleration of irrigated agriculture in Nakuru County by leveraging stakeholder partnerships in the agriculture sector.

Bringing stakeholders together in such a forum was a way of creating synergy among actors, educating farmers on available technologies and demonstrating how to ease the implementation of such technologies. This is expected to translate into adoption, leading to longer cropping cycles, increased yields, food sufficiency, wealth and employment creation, and rural regeneration and development within the County. The event had over 250 attendees. ■



*Egerton University students in action during the National Drama Festival which was held at Pwani University, Kilifi County, on 17-24 March 2019*

### More International Students Join Egerton through BPGS



*Prof. Nzula Kitaka*

The journey for postgraduate training at Egerton University started in 1990, three years after it became a full-fledged university. From eight Masters and three Doctorate students initially enrolled, the numbers have increased to almost 3,000 Masters and 500 Doctorate students three decades later. The Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) is proud to have steered this journey. Postgraduate training forms the epitome of any academic institution globally.

We at the BPGS are proud to celebrate all the graduands taking part in the University's 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony. A special congratulatory message goes to the postgraduate students graduating today, including both our Doctorate and Masters students.

For those obtaining their Doctorate degree, the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony marks the beginning of your career in the academic world, as a

thinker, a problem solver and a leader on a global scale. The world will now listen when you give your professional advice. For the Masters graduands, a slip road to access the academic super highway has been opened for you, and, with the knowledge and skills you have acquired at Egerton, The End is Your Beginning.

Graduation is not only a symbol of success but also a milestone in the life of the graduand, as well as an institutional and societal achievement. You have every reason to celebrate your achievement today after the long and strenuous sleepless nights, the patience, and the determination you always put into your work – despite sometimes almost giving up. Most of you may have dreaded the journey, but you are now conquerors. Congratulations to you all! The world is waiting for you. However, you must always be innovative and solution-oriented, not restricted by any boundaries, in order for you to make the world a more hospitable place.

We are proud that BPGS has

“As the BPGS we will continue to make our processes and engagements more hospitable for all our postgraduate students and those who would wish to join Egerton University to further their education”

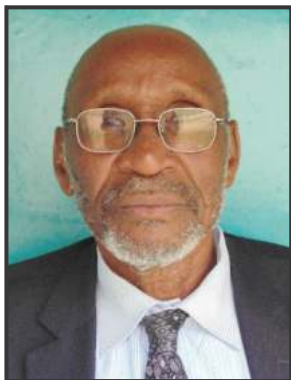
embarked on a journey of transformation geared towards efficiency and better service delivery. The number of postgraduate students graduating in each graduation is increasing. This year a majority of the Doctorate graduands have completed their degrees within the scheduled period. There is also an increase in admission of foreign postgraduate students.

As the BPGS we will continue to make our processes and engagements more hospitable for all our postgraduate students and those who would wish to join Egerton University to further their education. Our daily interactions with you, in the different scenarios they present, are a learning process. This will ensure that our postgraduate students are guided such that they undertake quality, innovative research work and abide by the national requirements and ethical regulations.

In addition, the BPGS has continued guiding the faculties in the process of development, review and realignment of their postgraduate curricula in order for them to be more market-oriented, creative, innovative, and solution-based. The tasks have become easier with better staffing of the secretariat and the appointment of a new Deputy Director, Dr. Samuel Nyalala.

I once again thank you all for being patient and understanding even when things sometimes did not go according to your expectations. Once more, Congratulation! ■

### “Learn to Be” Is the New Foundation of Knowledge



*Prof. Ezra Maritim*

While the nature-nurture controversy over the human potential has been a debate that has persisted throughout human history, what we know for sure is that we determine our destiny and the quality of our lives through learning. The late President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Kambarage Julius Nyerere, once described education as a tool for liberation. Invariably, the concept of lifelong education is anchored on this vision. Today, the global, regional, and local socio-economic dynamics are dictating the way we learn for personal or professional development.

We now live in an era where the learning architecture has changed. People learn for a variety of reasons, including gaining new qualifications and transferable skills, filling a skill gap, and increasing prospects of employability and promotion. All these cannot be acquired in a formal classroom situation. With the decreasing formalism in the way education is provided in our institutions nowadays, new windows of learning opportunities are emerging

through distance learning. We no longer live in a world where physical environments or institutional facilities wholly determine or constrain our learning. Technological advances and their application to delivery of education are now enabling us to learn beyond prevailing physical barriers and across borders anytime and anywhere, thereby creating “a”-learning.

One thing that has recently emerged is that learning is no longer confined to the classroom set-up. With the continually more stringent constraints tearing individuals asunder, the concept of learning throughout life is the major educational theme in the twenty-first century. The need to return to education in order to deal with new situations arising in one's personal and working life has become the driving force behind our relationship with our circumstances in general. One can only satisfy this need by learning to learn. In 1972, UNESCO rightly observed that we should no longer assiduously acquire knowledge once and for all, but learn to build up a continually evolving body of knowledge all through life – i.e. “Learn to Be”. In support of this UNESCO Vision, Egerton University, through the College of Open and Distance Learning, has developed a learning architecture that enables individuals to be the kinds of people they want to be – to “learn to be”.

Our e-learning programmes are delivered through a robust learning platform, one that is capable of utilising all synchronous learning solutions. Our platform is a Moodle-based system that includes a comprehensive set of assignment and assessment submission opportunities. When you register with us on any of the e-learning programmes we offer, we get to know and monitor your learning activities because our Virtual

“Technological advances and their application to delivery of education are now enabling us to learn beyond prevailing physical barriers and across borders anytime and anywhere, thereby creating “a”-learning.”

Learning Environment is capable of identifying the amount of time spent online, the time of logging in and out, the times of accessing particular resource or activities, the duration of access, and the frequency of access. These are the quality assurance elements that the Commission for University Education looks for on an online course. In order to improve on our online delivery and to populate on the platform, we are currently working with the Commonwealth of Learning on teacher education programmes.

The College of Open and Distance Learning congratulates the graduands of the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony and welcomes them to the new learning architecture for lifelong learning. ■



### Institute Partners with Nakuru County Government to Address Gender and Development



*Dr. Lilian Chesikaw*

Today we have another occasion to celebrate the achievements of our dear graduands. On behalf of the staff of the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) and myself, I wish to sincerely congratulate the graduating students. It is a culmination of many years of hard work, focus, sacrifice and discipline which have borne fruit that will open many doors and a bright future. I am confident that you have been equipped with the tools that you need in order to face the future and to enhance your potential in a competitive and challenging world. You are the change agents that the society is waiting for. We take pride in the fact that many of our graduates have secured jobs with the government, NGOs locally and internationally, and even CBOs. So I would like to urge you to continue being outstanding in the promotion of equity, equality, and justice for all. I wish you the best in your future endeavours.

IWGDS is a unique institute

running both academic and social programmes. The Institute offers the following programmes: Certificate course in Gender, Poverty and Development Studies; Diploma in Gender and Development; Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Development; Master of Arts in Gender and Development; and Doctor of Philosophy in Gender and Development.

In addition, we carry out research on various issues in all areas of development. Since gender is cross-cutting, it is a key component in all areas of development. We also conduct gender mainstreaming trainings on campus, for government institutions, NGOs and within communities.

The Institute offers the following social programmes and activities: Coffee Hour (where students meet to discuss social issues that affect them with the help of a speaker); Student Mothers programme (where student mothers have their babies cared for while they attend classes); Adam's Talk (where the young men are mentored by a specialist to become responsible and to take their rightful positions in society); and Outreach Programme (where students go to various parts of the country mentoring students in secondary schools on matters relating to education and social issues). We also handle social issues from the Egerton fraternity and even from the surrounding community and offer advice accordingly. Every year we celebrate the Gender Awareness Day on 17 October.

The Institute partners with the Nakuru County Government to address

issues of gender and development, especially gender-based violence, and, together, we have launched the Njoro Cluster. We have also received support, through donation of books from the UN Women, on issues of gender that affect the society, and we have made the books available to the reading public.

The Institute will continue to offer quality education, research and community service as we move forward.

Once again, I wish the graduands a prosperous future. ■



*The Director of the Tegemeo Institute, Dr. Milton Ayieko, with two Institute staff, pose for a photo at the Tegemeo booth shortly after receiving the exhibition prize during the (KeFERT) Conference held at KICC, Nairobi, which was held on 15–16 October 2018. See story on page 43.*

## What the IWGDS Means to Me

By Joseph Macharia

I feel honoured to be undertaking my Master of Arts degree (Gender and Development Studies) at the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS). I am also a proud alumnus of the Institute, where I studied for my Bachelor's degree. My experience has been both educationally rewarding and socially exciting. The academic and non-academic experiences that the Institute avails to its students go a long way in enlightening the student fraternity on matters regarding gender and development.

The Institute is committed to the gender equality agenda and identifies critical activities that students and other stakeholders undertake in realising the essence of this agenda. During my stay at the University, we have visited different parts of the country for mentorship of high school students. We guided them on such issues as drug and substance abuse, early pregnancies, and the importance of education. Students face many challenges, but, with persistence and support from staff and fellow students, they can attain success.

The Institute also offers

opportunities for students to engage in extra-curricular activities as members of clubs and associations. I have been able to exploit my full potential by engaging in social activities such as attending the Coffee Hour every Thursday, from where I have acquired knowledge on issues relating to student life under the guidance of professionals.

I thank God and pray for His guidance in my academic journey at my University of choice, Egerton University.



Participants in past Egerton University Culture-Week showcase Kenyan attire

### Directorate at the Centre of Egerton's Growing Body of International Students



*Dr. Charles Recha*

**Y**es! You must be a much honoured lot on this exceptional occasion! Though you may now consider yourself learned, always remember that it's important to remain a learner. Make learning a lifelong practice. If you're wondering how the last years on campus went so fast, you should know that the rest of life will equally quickly fly by. Enjoy this moment, and congratulations!

As a Directorate, we are privileged to be associated with and to provide services to our International Students. We thank you for believing in us, in our services, and in the role we have played in your diligent studies. We also thank you for the international stature you've brought to this University.

On behalf of the staff at the Directorate of International Linkages and Programmes, I am proud of your accomplishment as you celebrate your hard work. You're on the right path to a wonderful life. Congratulations, graduates, and best wishes for your enduring success!

The core functions of the

Directorate include initiating, facilitating and sustaining linkages between the University and other universities or similar institutions internationally; providing advisory services to International Students and staff at the University; receiving and facilitating the processing of International Students' applications and enrolment; globally promoting and marketing academic programmes of the University; and providing/facilitating access to welfare services by International Students and Staff.

The Directorate boasts of influencing (through top quality services) yearly enhanced admission of International Students from various countries since its inception in 2010. With synergy from other stakeholders (such as CESAAM and Mastercard Foundation), there has been a tremendous improvement of exchange programmes for both staff and students on full study, mainly in Agriculture,

Limnology and Wetland Management, but also in other courses as well. We collaborate with South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mali, Burundi, Zambia, Ghana, and Nigeria.

We have recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with: North East Forestry University, Harbin, China; College of Veterinary Medicine (Nanjing Agricultural University, China); the University of Mogadishu; and CCPIT CHEM Sub-council of Chemical Industry, China, among others.

On 27 March – 2 April 2019, twenty-three International Students, accompanied by one Kenyan student and three members of staff, toured Mombasa for a retreat. On 5 May 2019 the Egerton International Students Association visited the Mission in Action Orphanage Home in Kokoto to learn, share and interact with the residents of the orphanage. ■



*Writing Chinese characters using brushes in the Language Laboratory in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), Njoro Campus*

### New Team of Student Leaders Takes Over



*Prof. D. Odero-Wanga*

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for their commitment and hard work during their academic journey at Egerton University. I also wish to thank all the parents, guardians, and sponsors for the support they gave to the graduands, which ensured that they completed their training in their various disciplines to the satisfaction of the University. To you, graduands, we are proud of you, and we are pleased to celebrate this achievement, which will enhance the transformation and betterment of our communities as well as the entire nation.

The mandate of the Dean of Students Office is to develop, nurture and promote an enabling environment that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. The Office offers services that cater for the general welfare of students and serve as an advocate by assuring that the interests of students are served in strategic aspects of university operations. The Dean of Students coordinates counselling, registrations of clubs, career

advice, public lecturers, financial aid, orientation of first-year students, and recreational activities.

The Office has coordinated a number of important activities since the beginning of the year, as outlined below.

The students participated in the National Drama Festival, organised by the Kenya Universities Performing Arts and Film Association (KUPAA). The event was held at Pwani University, Kilifi County, on 17–24 March 2019. The students scoped awards in many categories.

Under the “Nailaintei Short Film” category, Egerton won the trophies for the Best Film on Governance and Human Rights; the Best Film on Gender Policies; the Best Scripted Short Film; and the Best Docu-Drama.

Under “The Craft-TV Commercial” category, we won the trophies for the Second Runners Up for the Best Advert; the WM Active-Best TV Commercial; and the WM Active-Best Student Composer of TV Commercial.

Under the “Gala Performance-Film” category, we won the trophies for the Lucy Mutisya-Best Female Actor in Silent Film; the Joel Othuol-Best Supporting Female Actor in Silent Film; the White Feather-Best Make-Up Artist; the White Feather-Best Audiography in Silent Film; the White Feather-Best Production Design on Silent Film; the Edwin Okumu-Best Student Silent Film; and the Collo Sanchez-Best Student Silent Film Screenplay Writer.

Under the Music Video category, we won the trophies for the Sawa-Best Music Video; the Sawa-Best Choreography; the Sawa-Best Music Production; the Sawa-Best Costume Design; and the Sawa-Best Student Choreographer of Music Video.

Under the “Play” category, we won the trophies for the Kanda Kandamiza-Best Production; the Kanda Kandamiza-Best Costume Design in Play; the Kanda Kandamiza-Best Play in Kiswahili; and the Kanda Kandamiza-Best Play Overall.

Under the “Spoken Word” category, we won the trophies for Juma-Best Production Spoken Word; the Juma-Best Costume Design for Spoken Word; and the Juma-Second Runners Up Best-Spoken word.

And finally, under the “Solo Verse” category, we won the trophies for the Liking for Liking-First Runners Up Best Dramatised Solo Verse; the Liking for Likes-Best Presentation Solo Verse; and the Liking for Likes-Best Solo Verse in English.

The visit by the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya and the President of the Supreme Court, Hon. David K. Maraga took place on 2 March 2019. The Chief Justice attended the Adventists’ Service at Kilimo Hall and later addressed students and staff. He was received by the Vice-Chancellor and hosted by the Office of the Dean of Students. He advised the students to embrace legal channels in addressing their issues rather than resorting to strikes and unrests. He further asked students and staff to encourage their relatives to pursue law-related courses at the University. He confidently remarked that the country’s institutions of higher learning are releasing very competent officers into the legal service.

The Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) elections were conducted on 16-23 April 2019. The elections were free and fair. The University used the Electoral College System



*Left: one of the Egerton University Actresses who contributed to the University's sterling performance in the National Drama Festival organised by KUPAA and held at Pwani University, Kilifi County, on 17-24 March 2019*

for the first time. The following students were elected into the Student Governing Council: Chairperson: Kasyoki Henry Mulyungi; Vice-Chairperson: Nduta Teresiah; Secretary General: Juma Ochieng Rolex; Treasurer: Wangui Sharon; Director Academics: Deogracious Obella Oporu; Director Gender & Co-Curricular Activities: Elizabeth Havilla Osio; Director Students' Welfare: Abdulahi Daud Adan; and Nairobi Campus Representative: Vilex Atuya Nyang'au.

The following students were elected into Faculty Congress positions: Faculty of Agriculture: Chemonges Peter Kimtai; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Njoro): Epur George Loshakol; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (NTCC): Ongaki Calvins; Faculty of Commerce: Obare Magak Meshack; Faculty of Education and Community Studies (Njoro): Sogin Denis Onger; Faculty of Education and Community Studies (NTCC): Kipng'eno Weldon; Faculty of

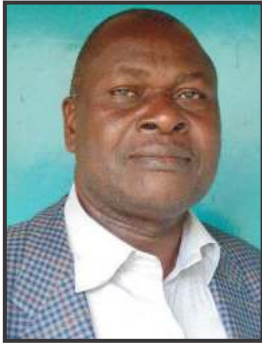
Engineering and Technology: Mwairuwa Gift Masakal; Faculty of Environment and Resources Development: Lenasalon Lngardei; Faculty of Health Science: Nur Mohammed Chute; Faculty of Law: Ogola Esperence Timothy; Faculty of Science: Makau Denis; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery: Ekuam Josphat; Institute of Gender and Women Studies: Atieno Sandra; and Nairobi City Campus: James Kerugo Kuria.

The following students were elected to Halls Congress positions: Buruburu/Hollywood Constituency: Muasya Boniface; Taifa/Uganda/Barret/Oldhall Constituency: Okongo Charity; Riverview and Mama Ngina Constituency: Kamalodin Abdilatif; Maringo and Ruwenzori Constituency: Kirwa Mathew; CBD Halls Congress: Bor Sharon Chelangat; TATTON (Mombasa, Argetina, Eldoret and Nairobi) Constituency: Mutunga Alfred Mutua; Makuti and ACK

Constituency: Otieno George Jeremiah; Post-Graduate Students Congress: Rodgers Kiplangat; International Students Congress Person: Sebotsa Khumoetsile Octavia; Diaspora Congress (Main Gate) Constituency: Suleiman Mohammed; Diaspora (Njokerio) Constituency: Abobo Zachary Onyonka; Thornton/Riverside: Akejo Gordon Victor; Sports Congress: Daniel Atula Ndugu; and Congress Person with Disabilities: Loyd Onyango Ochieng.

Finally, the Office of the Dean of Students received bursaries from the Rattansi Foundation worth Ksh.800,000.00, which were distributed as follows: Njoro Campus: Ksh.590,000.00; Nakuru Town Campus: Ksh150,000.00, and Nairobi City Campus: Ksh.60,000.00. EUSA also donated a bursary worth Ksh.420,000.00, which was awarded to needy students at the Njoro Campus.

### Chinese Embassy Sponsors 10 Egerton Students through the Confucius Institute



*Prof. Joshua O. Ogwen,  
the Kenyan Director Associate*

Congratulations to the graduands of the 40th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University for the successful completion of your studies. The years of one's college life pass by like the twinkling of an eye, but this Graduation Ceremony will remain etched in your mind as an important milestone in your life. All of you will embark on a new journey, and the road ahead of you is long. We hope that from now on you will have a new life, one that will distinguish you in unique and interesting ways.

The Confucius Institute (CI) at Egerton University was established in July 2012, and it came into operation in December 2013. As the first Confucius Institute with agricultural characteristics in the world, the Institute was set up with the joint efforts of Egerton University in Kenya and Nanjing Agricultural University (NJAU) in China. The Institute focuses on Chinese language teaching, Chinese cultural experiences, and shared advanced agricultural techniques among the local people.

To date, the Institute has held 24 terms of agricultural technique training, and nearly 900 trainees have benefited from them. Outstanding CI students can apply for scholarships for further study in

relevant universities in China. Besides, the Institute continuously develops unique programmes, such as those relating to exchange visits of educational delegations, academic staff exchanges, students' summer camps, and short courses dedicated to staff members and undertaken in China. These programmes have greatly deepened the friendship between the two institutions and the two countries.

On 15 March 2019, during a Board meeting held at Egerton University, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, and Prof. Hu Feng, the Vice-President of NJAU, signed an MOU between the College of Veterinary Medicine, NJAU, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Egerton University, which has elevated the cooperation between the two institutions to a higher level.

On 1 February 2019, students from the Taiji Team performed their "Taiji Fan Show" to celebrate the Chinese Spring

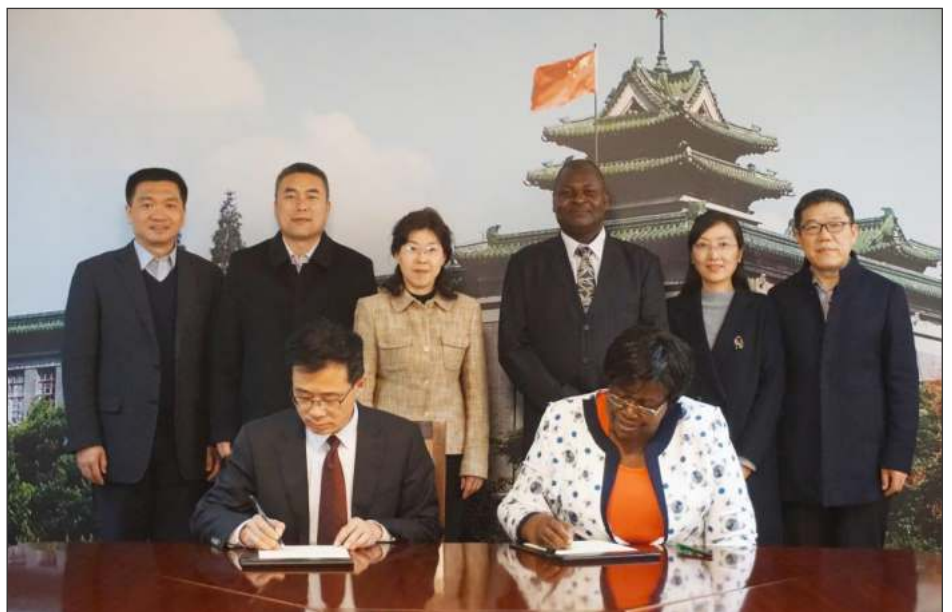


*Prof. Li Zhenhong  
the Chinese Director*

Festival (Chinese Lunar New Year). Students from the Chinese language course can choose to be members of the Taiji Team or the Dancing Team. The two teams offer students chances to get in touch with Chinese culture in an all-round way.

Chinese teachers oftentimes prepare cultural experience activities for the students enrolled into the Institute.

*Turn to page 35*



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, and Prof. Hu Feng, the Vice-President of NJAU, sign an MOU between Egerton's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and NJAU's College of Veterinary Medicine*

## University Library Embraces “Design Thinking” in Its Public Services

On 9–11 April 2019, staff of the Egerton University Library, together with students from the University, participated in a workshop on “Design Thinking” held in Nakuru. The workshop was organised by the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), Nakuru Branch, in collaboration with the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI). The objective of the workshop was to enable participants to understand the creative approaches that libraries can utilise to draw from lessons learned in real-life situations to develop meaningful, innovative and systematic processes of tackling relevant business and social problems.

The workshop sought to empower participants with the technological knowhow required to increase the use of electronic resources by faculty members, researchers and students. As a human-centred approach to innovation, the strategy integrates the needs of people, the possibilities of technology, and the requirements for business success in the service of libraries. The concept of “design thinking” has come at the right time, when the Library is exploring different solutions in its determination to enhance the usage of its resources. The workshop brought together twenty-five professionals from diverse fields. The University Library

was represented by three staff members.

The Library has continued to offer training programmes in a wide range of areas to its staff with the intention of equipping the library community with the necessary library skills. This is a significant activity as it enhances users' information literacy levels as well as promotes ethical utilisation of information resources. The University Library has endeavoured to vary the information sources it has at its disposal by availing over 300,000 e-books and over 80,000 journals to the reading public to support the teaching and research activities of the University.

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## 10 Egerton Students Sponsored

*Continued from page 34*

Among the activities are Chinese painting, calligraphy, and readings of ancient poems. In addition, students are introduced to Chinese clothes, among the most important of which are the Qipao and Han-style clothing.

In the Chinese Language Level 2 class, teachers instruct students in how to properly utilise writing brushes as well as write basic strokes correctly. Students are acquainted with “the Four Treasures of Study,” namely writing with the brush, ink, paper, ink stone, and the many other instruments relating to Chinese character writing.

On 19 February 2019, the Institute held a garden party on its Njoro Campus to celebrate the Chinese Lantern Festival. The Festival showcased to the honoured guests how Chinese celebrate the traditional festivals. All the guests

present had a wonderful experience on tea culture, lantern making, riddle guessing and cuisine tasting. The guests expressed their amazement over the colourful events the Chinese people have during traditional festivals. They showed great interest in language learning as well.

Since 2013, the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Programme has sponsored over 100 Kenyan college students to complete their higher education in Kenya. The Chinese Ambassador to Kenya has donated ten scholarships to Egerton University students through the Programme of 2019. Each of the students will receive US\$1000.00, per year. The candidates for the scholarships must have the following qualifications: 1) they must be excellent both in moral and academic performance; 2) they must be

financially disadvantaged; 3) they must not have been sponsored by any scholarship programmes during the previous year; and 4) they must be Kenyan nationals registered at Egerton University. The identification and short-listing of the students from their respective faculties has been completed.

In collaboration with NJAU, the Institute has planned three short courses to be held at Egerton University in the course of 2019. The courses will focus on the following aspects of agricultural production: production of grapes and other tropical fruits; greenhouse vegetable production; and natural products and molecular biology. The courses will function as channels for transfer of appropriate agricultural technologies with their primary targets being the farmers and the agricultural extension

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### Law School Matures as Founding Dean Hands over to Successor



*Prof. Lena Nakhone-Wati*

I am delighted to join the entire University Community to congratulate you, your parents and guardians during your Graduation Ceremony today. This is a culmination of your hard work throughout the years you have been at Egerton University.

Nakuru Town Campus College consists of three Faculties, i.e. Faculty of Law, Faculty of Commerce, and Faculty of Health Sciences. It also services programmes for the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Education and Community Studies, Science, Engineering and Technology, and the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies.

Despite the various challenges faced by the Campus it has been able to hold together during the last six months, as witnessed by the peaceful and successful student elections. This election was historical since it was the first to be conducted in line with the University Amendment Act No. 48 of 2016. This Act gives a legal grounding for the formation of student leadership bodies. It further re-constitutes them from Unions to Associations. During the elections, three students from Nakuru Town Campus College were elected to join the

Students' Governing Council. An additional five students were elected as faculty delegates/Congress. I congratulate all of you for your success this far.

At the start of May this year we witnessed a smooth transition in the Faculty of Law. The founding Dean, Prof. Michael Wabwile handed over the Deanship to Dr. Ruth Adhiambo Aura after completing his statutory two terms. I wish to sincerely thank Prof. Wabwile for his dedication in steering the Faculty since its inception.

I also wish to officially welcome Dr. Aura to the Faculty as the Dean and wish her well in steering the Faculty to greater heights. Dr. Aura is a respected academician and legal practitioner with vast experience in the legal profession. I have no doubt that she has what it takes to lead the Faculty. I call upon the Faculty to support her in her endeavours. One of the first tasks for her is to ensure that judicial and clinical attachment takes off smoothly.

The pioneer cohort of 78 Law students proceeded on judicial and clinical attachment from 20 May 2019. During this period the students will complete their research on allocated legal topics guided by their University supervisors. The students are attached at the following law courts: Kisumu, Nakuru, Naivasha, Nyahururu, Nairobi (Makadara, Milimani and Kibera), Mombasa, Thika, Nyeri, Eldoret, Kitale, Kisii, Kericho, Molo, Kikuyu, and Bungoma.

I am also happy to report that on 29 April 2019 the Faculty of Health Sciences conducted an oathing ceremony for 70 finalists in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), 52 Bachelor of Nursing, and 25 Clinical Medicine, respectively, who are graduat-

ing today.

During the Nursing Week, held on 1 May 2019, the Egerton University Students Nursing Association celebrated this event at the Nakuru Hills Special School in London Estate. This event was part of our community service effort and a learning experience for our Nursing students on matters of children with special needs.

In the Faculty of Commerce, I wish to welcome on Board Ms. Mary Bosire to her appointment as the new Chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Management Science as I thank Dr. Frederick M. Kalui, the out-going Chair, for his contribution while in office.

We are also graduating students in various other programmes that are taught at Nakuru Town Campus College whom I also wish to recognise.

As I conclude, I wish to congratulate all of you, graduands, for your success. I urge you to consider Egerton University as your preferred University for furthering your studies. ■



*A member of staff of the Nakuru Town Campus College donates blood during the Nursing Week of 2019 on 1 May*



# You Can't Climb the Ladder of Success with Your Hands in Your Pockets



*Prof. A. C. Kibor*  
*Acting DVC (R&E)*

**C**ongratulations to the graduands – as well as to those who are here to support you on this special occasion. No one makes it to graduation alone; it takes the combined efforts of parents, lecturers, colleagues and the entire University fraternity. Today marks an important day in your life. The Division of Research and Extension shares in your pride and joy at the prospects that lie ahead. I recognise the distance you have covered and the obstacles that you have overcome to get to this milestone in life.

As you leave this institution, I believe you are well-prepared to face whatever awaits you out there. Egerton University has imparted in you all that you require, including the values of integrity, excellence, transparency, accountability, social fairness, and professionalism – the bedrock upon which the University philosophy stands – to create the future that you deserve.

From now onwards, a clear definition of yourself, as well as a well thought-out direction, should form a strong springboard from which you should seek to achieve what you want to become. I challenge you to go out there to lead,

to create, to innovate, and to become the people who will not only transform the Kenyan economy for the better but who will also create millions of jobs as you support the government's Big Four Agenda and the Kenya Vision 2030. Your training has provided you with the solutions to the challenges that the nation is grappling with, including the food security problem. With the knowledge acquired in class, as well as the practical exposure and creativity your course has given you, you should be able to contribute to nation-building in your area of training fruitfully.

We cannot turn a blind eye on the great monster of corruption in the country and the wanting leadership in the devolved governments that are stifling development. I am optimistic, when I look at you, that you will make it, because your future is not up to our leadership but *up to you!* Whatever you find to do, I pray that you will act with enough courage and honesty to address the long-term challenges that the country is facing. As you serve daily, strive to always summon the virtues of compassion, empathy towards others, and devotion to service. And as you serve humanity, it is important that you are always prudent in the way you utilise personal and public resources – because the way you use them will determine your tomorrow.

Lastly, I challenge you to be brave enough to live life creatively and to have the courage to go into unexplored territories, as echoed by the following words from Biz Stone: “Creativity is a renewable resource. Be as creative as you like, as often as you like, because you can never run out of it!” To be successful, you must continue to evolve in your thinking and in your views on life, to be open-minded, and to surround yourself with positive people. I therefore take this opportunity to caution you with the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, who once observed that “you can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets”!

Have a great future and continue to make your parents, family, and Egerton University proud. God bless you. Congratulations! ■

# Transforming Livelihoods through Quality Facilitation, Research, Extension and Consultancy Services

**E**gerton University is committed to transforming lives through quality education, research, extension, and consultancy. Underlying these commitments is the philosophy of innovatively influencing human development through the generation, acquisition, preservation and dissemination of knowledge and skills in life sciences, guided by the core values of the University. The University is committed to relentlessly uphold excellence, ethics, accountability and environmental consciousness, centred on students, who are the primary reason for which Egerton exists as an institution of higher learning.

The framework for delivering on these strategic commitments has been developed and is in operation. The University's Strategic Plan prioritises five goals that the University seeks to fulfil in the near future. Specifically, by 2023, the University should have successfully provided quality higher education and training to its students; engaged in research, consultancy and community outreach programmes to the satisfaction of its clients; enhanced its physical infrastructure and ICT capacity; increased its linkages and collaborations with other institutions beyond a certain level; and enhanced its governance and resource mobilisation capabilities considerably.

With respect to resource mobilisation, the University continues to attract donor funding for cutting-edge research, extension and consultancy engagement. In the last quarter of the 2018–2019 financial year, Ksh29,141,412 was mobilised. The funds are being invested in the following food security research projects: 1) “Developing a New Tool for

Phenotyping Tick Resistance in Cattle”, which is being spearheaded by Prof. Charles Mwendia and is being funded by The National Research Fund (NRF); 2) “Education and Training for Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition in East Africa (EaTSANE)”, by Dr. Lydia Maruti Waswa, funded by NRF/The Europe-Africa Agricultural Research and

Innovation Co-operation Programme (LEAP-Agri); 3) “Mitigating the Adverse Health Effects of Aflatoxins by Reducing Human Consumption”, by Dr. Meshack Obonyo, funded by NRF; 4) “Technical Support Partnership on Value Chain and Enterprise Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Households in Project Counties in



*The Egerton University Botanic Garden, which was established in 2002, is a biodiversity centre for the University used for conservation, teaching, and research, as well as for its aesthetic value. In the above photo, BOKU Rector Prof. Hubert Hasenauer, plants a tree seedling in the garden during the visit by a team of professors from BOKU in February 2019.*

Kenya”, by Dr. David Kuria Wamukuru, funded by Christian Aid; 5) “Consultancy for Assessing Farmer Learning Pathway Preferences and Agricultural Technology Uptake by Small-Scale Farmers in Kenya”, by Dr. Agnes Oywaya Nkurumwa, funded by BioVision Africa Trust; and 6) “Consultancy on Re-Evaluation for the Establishment of a Modern Abattoir in Marsabit County”, by Prof. Charles Muleke, funded by County Government of Marsabit.

The University periodically reviews institutional research thematic areas to focus research investments undertaken by its staff members to national and global development priority issues.

Based on the National Research Priorities 2018–2020, as guided by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and the Big Four Agenda, the University has revised research thematic areas that prioritised the following areas: 1) Food Security and Natural Resources; 2) Manufacturing and Agro-Processing; 3) Health and Sanitation; 4) Housing and Infrastructure; 5) Education Reforms; 6) Governance and Security; and 7) Science and Technology.

Excluding new projects initiated in the last quarter that were funded at a cost of Ksh.29,141,412, the University has been implementing over 80 projects worth Ksh.2,623,454,250 under the following themes: 1) Food and Nutrition Security (31 projects); 2) Education (13 projects); 3) Environment and Natural Resources (12 projects); 4) Engineering and ICT (6 projects); 5) Economy and Socio-Political Dynamics (9 projects); and 6) Health and Sanitation (9 projects).

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of research projects is an integral part of project management for prudent use of grants that assures accountability and ensures that anticipated outputs are

delivered with the allocated resources within the planned time frame. Towards this end, the Division of Research and Extension continually undertakes M&E of ongoing and completed research projects through progress and final reporting, oral presentations, and onsite visits. In March 2019, for example, five ongoing and seven completed projects were evaluated through oral presentations made by the project Principal Investigators to a panel of subject experts who subsequently availed a report and recommendations to the Division on the progress of the projects and interventions where necessary.

All research projects undertaken by the University are subject to research permit obtainable from NACOSTI through online application at a reasonable fee. In addition, the University is accredited by NACOSTI to operate and conduct ethics review of research proposals in research protocols involving human participants, and the accreditation will last for the period 2018–2021. Applications for ethics clearance can be made online to the Ethics Committee in the Division of Research and Extension.

To further enhance the management of the research projects and their outputs, the Division has developed a Research Information Management System (RIMS). This is a database management system that will hold information of all research projects undertaken by the University, which will be accessible at the click of a button. Use of RIMS is expected to revolutionise project management and financial reporting for the benefit of researchers, resource partners, and stakeholders. The system is hosted on the Division website at [rims.egerton.ac.ke](http://rims.egerton.ac.ke), with a step-by-step manual on how to upload and update project information. So far, 51 projects have been uploaded onto the RIMS.

The outputs of research gain value

“Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of research projects is an integral part of project management for prudent use of grants that assures accountability and ensures that anticipated outputs are delivered with the allocated resources within the planned time frame.”

when they are transformed into use in the marketplace. The University uses several dissemination channels, including paper publications, conference presentations, and extension advisory articles published in the *Seeds of Gold* magazine. We publish two journal series, one incorporating science-based articles and the other arts and humanities-based articles. These may be accessed online on our website (<http://egerjst.egerton.ac.ke/index.php/egerjst>) and in the institutional repository (<http://irlibrary.egerton.ac.ke/jspui/handle/>). On the same website, one can access conference proceedings. The 2020 Egerton International Conference Call for Papers can be accessed on the University website.

Egerton University has a Consultancy Policy that outlines the obligations of parties engaged with the University in consultancy services. This policy can be accessed on the University website. ■

# Directorate of Agro-Science Park Gets World Bank/IFC Support

The Agro-Science Park at Egerton University is accelerating the development of products for farming communities in the area surrounding the University through research, innovation and commercialisation. It is doing so in conjunction with the industry and the Nakuru County Government.

As part of these efforts, the World Bank/International Finance Corporation, through the Kenya Competitiveness Enhancement Programme (KCEP), recently approved funding for a feasibility study for the proposed Lord Egerton Agri-City. The support underscores Egerton's potential to host the Central Rift Agro-Industrial Park at the Ngongogeri Farm in collaboration with the County Government. The name "Lord Egerton Agro-Industrial Park (Lord Egerton Agri-City)" is meant to emphasise the important status Egerton

University occupies in the region. The Park will be one of the three Special Economic Zones (SEZ) that the World Bank is supporting in the country. The other two are Miritini, which is located in Mombasa, and Muhoroni, in Kisumu.

The World Bank is channelling its support for the Park through the Kenya Investment Generation Programme of the Finance Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice of the World Bank Group. The overall aim is to support the Big Four Agenda in order to drive the country towards becoming a primary hub of Africa for agro-processing and manufacturing.

The Park is a government initiative under the Kenya Industrial Transformation Programme (KITP), a programme of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives anchored on Kenya's Vision 2030. The Park will play a critical role in developing and networking agro-

industrial processing industries in the Central Rift Region.

The World Bank approved the support after the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, made an appeal to the Bank to fund the proposal, which had been submitted earlier by a Committee led by Prof Paul Kimurto, to the Bank's Country Programme Director (Industrial Parks), Ms. Sarah Ochieng.

The Park will be located on 200 acres of land at Ngongogeri Farm once studies are complete and funding solicited from various sources. The support will broadly entail site assessments and pre-market testing, which will strengthen the pre-feasibility study currently being conducted by the value-chain analysis team.

The Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Park is Prof. Alfred C. Kibor.



Egerton University regularly exhibits its products at the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) shows. The above photo captures staff from the University with champion cows at a past Nakuru ASK show.

## Over Ksh.50 Million for the Lake Bogoria Landscape

The Chemeron Dryland Research Training & Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC) and the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) have attracted over fifty million shillings grant money from the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP). The grants have been awarded to fifteen civil society organisations (CSO), community-based organisations, self-help groups, and religious organisations operating within the Lake Bogoria Production Landscape (LBPL). The funds will support biodiversity conservation and enhancement of livelihoods in the LBPL.

GEF/SGP aims to support commu-

nity-based initiatives to enhance and maintain socio-ecological resilience within the LBPL. Among the initiatives within this landscape are the following: the conservation of the Greater Kudu and lesser flamingo region; the management of the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* (locally known as Mathenge); the establishment and management of pastures; the increase in the production of livestock; the enhancement of the honey value chain (which includes hive management, honey production, and branding and marketing enterprises); the development of alternative forms of energy; the protection of springs; the conservation of soil; the management of watersheds and

wetlands; and the introduction of smart agricultural approaches to farming. Most of these activities are in line with Kenya's Big Four Agenda, the Kenya Vision 2030, and the global Sustainable Development Goals. These initiatives are also in line with the DRTEC's mandate of enhancing the region's environmental and food security, capacity building, and ecotourism potential.

The GEF/SGP is a global programme operating in 125 countries that seeks to foster an enabling environment for addressing global environmental issues and achieving sustainable development goals. SGP Kenya has aligned its objectives and activities with



*“The Nature Park at the Chemeron DRTEC is now host to four Guinea Fowls . . . the new additions boost the Park’s list of conserved fauna and flora.”*

# CHEMERON DRYLAND RESEARCH TRAINING & ECOTOURISM CENTRE

the Programme, guided by national priorities. With respect to the GEF 6 and the SGP, Kenya is focusing on sites of global importance, to support local initiatives while contributing to national commitments and global obligations. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Between October 2018 and March 2019, Prof. G. M. Ogendi, the Director, Chemeron DRTEC, and Mr. E. G. Kiarii, the Executive Director, KOAN, a Strategic Partner for SGP at the LBPL, organised a series of proposal writeshops for CSOs operating within the LBPL in response to SGP's call for proposals. The writeshops brought together representatives of the various CSOs operating within the Lake Bogoria Landscape, especially those involved in environmental management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of livelihoods. The strategic partners and facilitators guided

the writeshop participants in the identification of specific LBPL conservation targets and threats that could form the basis for their proposals. Following these proposal writeshops, over forty CSOs operating within the LBPL submitted project proposals to the SGP, of which over fifteen have received funding to the tune of 50 million shillings. Eight of these grantees were awarded the funds in an event organised by the SGP and the County Government of Baringo at The Rift Valley Hills Resort in Kabarnet in March 2019.

It was smiles on the faces of staff of DRTEC as water finally flowed through the pipes at the Centre. The Centre has been without this precious commodity for slightly over two and half years after its borehole suddenly dried up in August 2016. A 230-meter deep borehole was commissioned by the Egerton University Borehole Project Implementation

Committee in February 2019, and it has brought relief to the staff and livestock at the Centre as well as the surrounding Chemeron community.

The Nature Park at the Chemeron DRTEC is now host to four Guinea fowls courtesy of the efforts of Mr. J. Cheruiyot (DRTEC Herpetologist) and J. Guda. The new additions boost the Park's list of conserved species of fauna and flora, which includes crocodiles, snakes, tortoises and rodents. Within the Chemeron Nature Park you will also find a botanic garden with a huge diversity of plants, including some of the endangered and endemic aloe species. The Park is an attraction and a resource centre for students of all ages, as well as the general public keen on information on rangeland resources, and their management and conservation. ■



*The DVC(APD), Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (foreground), accompanied by members of staff of Egerton University, participates in tree planting on the Main Campus in one of the University's many environmental activities*

## Busy Life at Tegemeo

On 15–16 October 2018, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, in collaboration with a multi-stakeholder partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, the State Department of Crops Development and other partners, actively participated in the Kenya Fertilizer Round-Table (KeFERT) Conference at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi. The theme of the conference was “Increasing Agricultural Productivity through Improved Access and Use of Quality Fertilizers.” Tegemeo provided technical input to the development of the conference concept note and programme, during which the Institute, through its Director, made a presentation on the topic “Fertilizer Subsidy Programmes: Constraints, Opportunities and Lessons Learnt” as well as chaired a session on “Current policies, laws, regulations and standards on the fertilizer sector”.

The Institute registered two major achievements at the event. First, it was appointed as a member of the proposed Kenya Fertilizer Platform, a public-private mechanism composed of key stakeholders in the fertilizer sector whose purpose is to enable dialogue, coordination, and information exchange on various issues in the sector. The Platform was formally constituted in April 2019. Secondly, the Institute emerged third out of thirteen exhibitors at the conference and was commended for its innovation in presentations, the relevance of its contributions to the conference, the reception of guests at its

stand, and the display and distribution of its information/knowledge products, among other qualities. The stand received over 95 participants comprising of different stakeholders, including the media, government representatives, researchers, and academia.

In March 2019 Tegemeo participated in the 9th AfrEA Conference in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, as part of its endeavours to raise its visibility among evaluators on the continent and beyond. During the conference, Tegemeo presented two papers entitled “Do Demonstration Plots Have an Effect on Farmers' Adoption of Improved Seed Varieties in East and Western Uganda?” and “Institutionalising Evaluations for More Effective Oversight in the Public Sector: The Case of Kenya.” The Institute also participated in a symposium organised by CLEAR and presented a poster on Tegemeo Institute's Theory of Change (ToC).

In the month of April 2019, Tegemeo, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), compiled a final situational analysis of the Reviving ASAL Economies through Livestock Opportunities and Improved Coordination (RAELOC) project and successfully organised, hosted, and facilitated a two-day project closure workshop. The workshop, which took place at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi, on 15–17 April 2019, brought together livestock stakeholders from the ASAL counties, including donors, to disseminate best practices from the project and create networks among stakeholders in order to identify areas of collaboration in

“At the same time, Tegemeo actively participated in a side event on “How Kenyan Think Tanks Can Support the Government in Implementing Kenya's Big 4 Agenda,”

the livestock sector within the ASALs.

Tegemeo also participated in the recently concluded 6th Africa Think Tank Summit held on 24–26 April 2019, at KICC, Nairobi. The summit was organised by the Africa Capacity Building Foundation in partnership with the Kenya Government and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis under the theme “Tackling Implementation Challenges for Africa's Sustainable Development.” At the same time, Tegemeo actively participated in a side event on “How Kenyan Think Tanks Can Support the Government in Implementing Kenya's Big 4 Agenda,” a breakaway session on “Setting the Research Agenda for Policy Implementation in Africa” as well as showcased its products in an exhibition. ■

### ICT to Be Fully Integrated in All University Operations



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage*

**O**n behalf of the Division of Administration, Planning and Development, I take this opportunity to join everyone on this auspicious occasion in celebrating the academic success of the graduands today.

This Division continues to spearhead a number of developmental activities geared towards enhancing the learning environment for both staff and students. For example, we have ensured continuous and adequate supply of clean water throughout the main campus in Njoro by sinking two reliable boreholes with a capacity of 50,000 litres per hour. At the Dryland Research and Ecotourism Centre in Chemeron, another borehole was sunk that is supplying 25,000 litres per hour to livestock and reptiles at the park.

The Security Control Complex is complete and operational. This together with the installation of state of the art security cameras and traffic monitoring systems will go a long way in enhancing safety and security for the Egerton University fraternity. We continue to work closely with the government on issues related to monitoring and prevention of terrorist activities in our environment. The University recently engaged the National Counter Terrorism Centre to carry out a security audit of all installations on Njoro Campus and Nakuru Town Campus College in addition to conducting training sessions to staff and students.

Activities are underway to enhance the living environment around students' halls of residence. These include timely renovations of fixtures, repair of street lights,

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“ We continue to work closely with the government on issues related to monitoring and prevention of terrorist activities in our environment.”

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and replacement of old mattresses and furniture.

To continue improving efficiency of service provision, the University will be implementing the Service Delivery Charter in the Financial Year (FY) 2019/2020 by sensitising staff on the Code of Conduct and Ethics, regularly evaluating service delivery systems and processes and committing new staff to abide by the set service standards.

Efforts are underway to further integrate ICT in teaching, learning, research, extension and management by enhancing automation strategies and data processes to support University operations. In this regard, we are in the process of replacing obsolete computers, increasing the number of computing devices for teaching staff, internet bandwidth and student-to-computer ratio. We also plan to digitise the Human Capital records in the FY 2019/2020.

The University operates a Level 3A Medical Centre that serves students, staff and the community. Plans are underway to enhance medical service delivery at the facility by developing and implementing an Electronic Medical Records System (EMRS), engaging specialists in the provision of medical services and purchasing up to date medical equipment and drugs.

In the Planning period 2018–2023 the University will implement the Human Capital Policy and Manual, conduct skills and competencies analysis, enhance career management programmes, and apply affirmative action in staff recruitment and development. It will also train and promote to managerial positions females and members of disadvantaged groups employed in the University in line with government requirements.

I take this opportunity to once again congratulate all graduands for achieving this milestone in their lives. You have gained new experiences and acquired strong competencies that will serve you favourably in your future endeavours.

God bless you! ■



## Egerton Honoured for Championing National Diversity and Inclusion

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) of Kenya was created by the National Cohesion and Integration Act No. 12 of 2008 to help address issues of marginalisation, discrimination and hostility that had often caused conflicts in Kenya, and led to the post-election violence of 2007/2008. In 2009 the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values in the Ministry of Interior and National Co-ordination was established. Sessional Papers No. 8 and No. 9 of 2013 set out the role of universities in the promotion and mainstreaming of National Values and Principles of Governance, and in National Cohesion and Integration, respectively.

Consequently, in 2014, Egerton University established the National Cohesion and National Values (NCNV) Mainstreaming Committee. It consists of 12 members led by a coordinator, Dr. Dorothy Nyakwaka of the Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies. This Committee is housed in the Directorate of Planning and Development. Since its inception the Committee has undertaken various activities, including the following: training and sensitisation of staff and students; preparing Performance Contract Reports on National Cohesion and the National Values Mainstreaming Indicator; and collaborating with other arms of the University, such as the Integrity Promotion Committee, the Institute of Women, Gender & Development Studies, the Dean of Students Office, the Disability Mainstreaming Office, and students associations to mainstream National Cohesion and National Values in all their activities.

In 2017 /2018, the Committee, in

collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, History & Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and other stakeholders, developed and launched a University common core course, HIST 100: National Cohesion and Integration. The purpose of this course is to instil in Egerton University students national values such as patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, democracy and participation of all people, social justice, human dignity, equity, inclusiveness, human rights, equality, non-discrimination, integrity, transparency, accountability, governance, and sustainable development. These values will make Egerton University a cohesive

institution, which will in turn contribute positively to a cohesive Kenya.

Egerton University was nominated as a recipient of the 2019 edition of the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition (DIAR). The theme of the competition was “Making Inclusion an Everyday Reality”. The conferment of the award was based on data collected by the NCIC while conducting the ethnic and diversity audits of the public service in 2016. Egerton University was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up after Multi-Media University and Cooperative University of Kenya, out of 31 universities. This award will encourage members of the Egerton University Community to enhance the objectives of national cohesion and national values. ■



*Members of the Egerton University Borehole Project Implementation Committee witness the commissioning of a borehole at the Chemeron DRTEC in February 2019. See also “Message From the (DVC APD),” page 44, and “Over Ksh.50 Million for the Lake Bogoria Landscape,” page 41*

### Department Strengthens its Community Health Services



*Dr. Geoffrey Wahome  
Acting Chief Medical Officer*

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands on the successful completion of your programmes. I hope that you will be our good ambassadors in the outside world.

The Medical Department is headed by the Chief Medical Officer. The Department offers health services to staff and their dependants, the students, and the community at large. It has a capacity of 30 beds with a maternity wing with six beds. Its Vision is: “To be the health care provider of choice in a world class university”, and its Mission is “To maintain a healthy environment through offering curative, promotive, preventive and rehabilitative services to students, staff and members of the public in order to contribute to the realisation of the overall University mission”.

The Department conducts workshops and a health awareness week periodically to inform the University Community on matters pertaining to health and the provision of health services. The Department occasionally conducts Free Medical Camps, which are geared towards reaching out to the members of the public as a part of the University's corporate social responsibility, whose objective is to

improve the health status of the community.

The services available in the Department include the following: triaging of patients/clients; consultations; purchasing and dispensing of drugs; basic laboratory investigations; dental care and basic dental x-ray; hospitalisation; psychological/counselling care; nutritional care and counselling; focused antenatal care; postnatal care; family planning care; referrals to specialists; STI/HIV/AIDS care and tuberculosis management; health education; medical examination for food handlers; and inspection of animal/food products before consumption.

In order to give quality health care, the Department has created specialised clinic days for clients/patients to be attended by specialised health personnel in different fields in medicine.

The Nutrition Section is the youngest section in the Department. It is tasked with the responsibility of empowering households with knowledge skills intended to maximise utilisation of farm produce to prevent, rehabilitate, and aid in the healing process. Prescription of supplement and micro nutrients, production and preparation of therapeutic diets for special medical conditions, and meal planning for special medical conditions in the community are undertaken in the facility.

The Nutrition Section has been working with the Division of Research and Extension to achieve its mandate of extension and outreach by participating as exhibitors in the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) show, Nakuru. We say, “A healthy farmer is a wealthy farmer”. During the 2018 ASK show, the Section participated in the category of Community and Youth Empowerment under “The Best Stand in Youth

“ At the facility, there are weekly clinics whereby the Department imparts knowledge to various groups of people in a wide range of categories relating to nutritional services.”

Activities Empowerment and Capacity Building”, from which it emerged in position three.

At the facility, there are weekly clinics whereby the Department imparts knowledge to various groups of people in a wide range of categories relating to nutritional services. The Department would like to welcome everyone to the facility for quality nutritional assessments and assistance and much more.

In line with the requirements of community health services, the Department celebrated the International Nursing Week on 6–10 May 2019 which was held at the medical grounds. This year, the Free Health Awareness Week was officially launched by the DVC (APD), and the activities offered included the following: cancer screening (breast, cervical and prostate); blood donation; nutrition counselling and services; HIV testing and counselling; random blood sugar testing; visitation of people with special needs; health talks, micronutrients supplementation; and deworming in nursery and primary schools in the region.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands, and God bless you. ■

### Security Enhanced through New Administration Police Post



*Prof. Rose Odhiambo*

The Directorate of University Welfare Services (DUWS) would like to congratulate our graduating students and celebrate this great achievement in their lives. No matter your experiences, it has taken combined efforts to make your scholarly years at Egerton meaningful and life-changing. It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will work out your future in the fear of God and that you will gain wisdom to live highly productive and responsible lives that will bring honour to your parents, country and humanity.

The DUWS personnel participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Mau Cross Country held in February 2019. During the marathon, the Catering Department participated by having a team of staff running and by providing catering services for all participants. As part of extending its services within and without Egerton, the Department is intending to have its presence felt at the Nakuru Town Campus College by providing catering services, starting with simple meals of

chapati, matodo (beans stew) and githeri. With the increased number of customers following the closure of the kitchenettes, the Department has strived to meet the demand for catering services for its clients.

DUWS, through the Department of Disability Mainstreaming had fourteen students assessed at the Bahati Hospital for purposes of registering them as persons with disabilities (PWDs). This will enable them have certain benefits provided for in the Kenyan Constitution. Sixteen students applied for jobs through the work-study programme in the University. Others applied for bursaries through the Dean of Students Office. Two students were awarded study scholarships at Egerton while one was bought a raised-heel shoe to enable him walk comfortably. Well-wishers are welcome to support these initiatives because we have many needy students that would appreciate gainful engagement.

To enhance Community-University relations, Egerton University, through cooperate social responsibility, attached Engineer Joseph Kutta from the Faculty of Engineering to provide technical assistance in the construction of a foot bridge to the Eriithia community across River Njoro. This bridge will ease access to primary and secondary schools, health facilities (particularly during times of emergency for mothers and children), that are within the Campus. The construction was done through community dialogue with the University, an initiative that can be employed for other ventures.

An administration police post was established at the Agro-Science Park

area by providing offices and residential quarters to eight police officers. They will provide the much needed security to both the University and neighbouring communities.

The Halls Department has recently improved service delivery through consistent provision of electricity and water supply to resident students. Ruwenzori and Hollywood blocks have been decongested and are now hosting two students per room. Students are encouraged to reside in university hostels for increased security and increased use of facilities such as the library, laboratories, lecture halls, sports facilities and Wi-Fi.

The Halls Department has revived the distribution of condoms among the students in order to mitigate against increased incidents of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Other long-term strategies are being pursued to inculcate behaviour change in the Egerton and neighbouring communities with regard to having relationships that are caring and supportive. They include regular workshops and discussion meetings of different social groups (e.g., religious, societies and clubs). For knowledge dissemination, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials were issued to student group leaders and staff in a forum held at the Halls Department on 10 May 2019.

We give our best wishes and blessings to you and your parents. May you prosper in all you do and may you get friends and companions that improve your lives and cause you to excel in all you do.

God bless you! ■

# Ph.D. GRADUANDS

## FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



**Abdoulah Mamary Kane**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Agricultural Economics  
 Thesis Title:  
 Economic Evaluation of Irrigation Systems used in Vegetable Production in Koulikoro and Mopti Regions, Mali  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof J. K. Lagat  
 Dr. O. Ingasia



**Jonah Ndiritu Muthui**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Animal Science  
 Thesis Title:  
 Influence of Nutrition and Value Chain Governance on Enterprise Performance in Smallholder Pig Production in Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Joseph W. Matofari  
 Dr. Anthony M. Kingori  
 Dr. Catherine Hulsebusch

## FACULTY OF COMMERCE



**Mary Manyange Bosire**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Business Management  
 Thesis Title:  
 Personal Financial Management Practices and their Effect on Value of Investments of Secondary School Teachers in Kenya: A Case of Kisii County  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. George Owuor  
 Dr. Irene Asienga  
 Dr. Fredrick Kalui

## FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



**Zephania Muniko Marwa**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Sociology  
 Thesis Title:  
 Effects of Gender - Labour Relations in Tobacco Production on Socio-Economic Welfare in Kuria East and West Sub-Counties, Migori County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Samson Wokabi Mwangi  
 Dr. Eric Kiprono Bor

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



**Jacob Odhiambo**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Community Studies & Extension  
 Thesis Title:  
 Relationship Between Selected Community Capital and Level of Parental Participation in Primary Education in Migori County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Dr. Catherine Ng'endo Munyua  
 Dr. Dolphine Odero-Wanga



**Penina Wakiuru Kamau**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Community Studies & Extension  
 Thesis Title:  
 Effectiveness of Structured Group Learning Model in Enhancing Acquisition of Selected Vocational, Employability and Lifelong Learning Skills among the Vulnerable Youth in Nakuru County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Dolphine Odero-Wanga  
 Dr. Catherine Ng'endo Munyua

## FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



**Samson Ombaba**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Counselling Psychology  
 Thesis Title:  
 Career Guidance for Secondary School Students and its Contribution to National Man Power Needs in Nakuru, Kisii and Migori Counties, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. A. M. Sindabi  
 Prof. T. Njunge  
 Prof. F. N. Keraro



**Ronald Orare Nyamwamu**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Agricultural Extension  
 Thesis Title:  
 Effectiveness of Agricultural Extension Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategies on Human-Wildlife Conflict among Smallholder Agro-Pastoralists in Laikipia County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. John Gowland Mwangi  
 Dr. Justus M. Ombati

## FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



**Sabina Muthoni Muchemi**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Environmental & Occupational Health  
 Thesis Title:  
 Influence of Occupational Exposure to Board Markers Ink on Symptoms of Allergic Conjunctivitis among Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi  
 Prof. George M. Ogendi



**Edward Juma Masakha**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Environmental Science  
 Thesis Title:  
 Longitudinal and Seasonal Variations in Physicochemical and Microbiological Properties of Water Quality of Sosiani River, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Wilkister Nyaora Moturi  
 Prof. George Morara Ogendi



**Mahamadou Moussa Keita**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Environmental Science  
 Thesis Title:  
 Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts of Artisanal Gold Mining on Agricultural Production in Sikasso Region, Mali  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. George M. Ogendi  
 Prof. George Owuor

## FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY



**Samuel Nyakach**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering  
 Thesis Title:  
 Evaluation of the Performance of Expanded Black Cotton Soil as Hydroponic Medium  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Japheth O. Onyando  
 Prof. Seth F. O. Owido

## FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



**Numeri Chalumphha Geresomo**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Nutritional Sciences  
 Thesis Title:  
 Improving Safety and Quality of Complementary Foods for Children aged 6-23 months in Rural Areas of Malawi Through the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point  
 Supervisors:  
 Dr. Elizabeth Kamau-Mbuthia  
 Prof. Joseph W. Matofari  
 Dr. Agnes M. Mwangwela

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE



**Kallen Mulilo Nalyanya**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Physics  
 Thesis Title:  
 Effects of Post Tanning Operations and Aloe barbadensis Miller-Carrageenan Mixture on Physical, Structural and Chemical Properties and on Hexavalent Chromium Formation in Leather  
 Supervisors:  
 Dr. Ronald K. Rop  
 Dr. Arthur S. Onyuka  
 Dr. Zephania Birech



**Phoebe Kirigo Mwaniki**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Plant Pathology  
 Thesis Title:  
 Status of Potato Bacterial Wilt in Nakuru County (Kenya) and its Management through Crop Rotation and Soil Amendments  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Isabel N. Wagara  
 Prof. Rhoda Birech  
 Dr. Zachary M. Kinyua



**Rose Wambui Gachogu**  
 Programme:  
 Ph.D. Pure Mathematics  
 Thesis Title:  
 Ranks Subdegrees and Suborbital Graphs of Finite Permutation Groups  
 Supervisors:  
 Prof. Ireri N. Kamuti  
 Dr. Moses N. Gichuki



## Introduction

Egerton University, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), and Gulu University in Uganda are implementing a programme titled “**Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev)**”. This eight years (2016-2024) programme is supported by Mastercard Foundation to train the next generation of Agleaders for rural community transformation. The programme focusses on experiential learning, community engagement and entrepreneurship and supports students who are bright but economically disadvantaged or from conflict regions of Africa to train the next generation of leaders who will be the change agents in rural development. The Programme aims at providing 220 scholarships to undergraduate and Master's students by the year 2024. Currently, there are 45 students under the programme at both Undergraduate and Masters Level in Egerton University, and a similar number at Gulu University, Uganda. The recruitment process of the third cohort of students is underway whereby additional 35 students will be recruited. The programme has four broad objectives that focuses on bringing transformation at students, staff, institutional, and community and collaborators levels.

### TAGDev Programme Objectives

1. Pilot a new model of agricultural education at early adopter universities that connects tertiary agricultural education to rural communities, with an emphasis on smallholder farmers
2. Strengthen agribusiness/entrepreneurship at two universities and selected TVET institutions
3. Scale the new model for agricultural education to other agricultural universities and TVET institutions
4. Increase collaboration and mutual learning among institutions and agencies implementing and influencing innovative Tertiary Agricultural Education for rural transformation in Africa.

### Approach

- Objective one focuses on students' recruitment and support and increasing the capacity of university staff in their teaching methodologies through staff retooling workshops and trainings
- Objective two aims at bringing institutional transformation through review of curriculum and development of strategies and framework documents for enhancing entrepreneurship, experiential learning and community engagement
- Objective three and four are aimed at reaching out to the community and agricultural stakeholders which is mainly



TAGDev student through the Seed Potato Value Chain CARP+ project participating in establishment of hydroponics unit for production of seed potatoes at Egerton



TAGDev Programme students exhibiting their enterprises. The programme focuses on enhancing entrepreneurship for production of graduates who are job creators with relevant skills that match societal need



TAGDev Programme Partners during Students' Joint Orientation Programme (JOP).



Principal Investigator (front left), Cassava Value Chain CARP+ at Subukia site, Nakuru County

### For more information



<http://www.tagdec.org>



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# EGERTON



# UNIVERSITY

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The following e-learning programmes are available for the September Intake for the 2019/2020 Academic Year

Faculty	Programmes
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Studies
	Bachelor of Library and Information Science
	Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice
	Master of Arts in Security Management
Faculty of Commerce	Bachelor of Commerce (Finance, Marketing and Human Resource)
	Master of Business Administration
Faculty of Education and Community Studies	Bachelor of Science in Community Development
	Bachelor of Psychology
	Master of Science in Community Development and Extension
	Master of Education Management
Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies	Master of Arts in Gender, Women and Development Studies

For further information on specific programmes and their requirements, kindly visit the University website or [application.egerton.ac.ke](http://application.egerton.ac.ke)

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- (i) Apply online through [application.egerton.ac.ke](http://application.egerton.ac.ke)
- OR
- (ii) Application forms may be downloaded from the University website at [application.egerton.ac.ke](http://application.egerton.ac.ke)
- (iii) Application fee (non-refundable) of Kshs. 2,000/- for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes and Kshs. 1,000/- for Diploma programme is payable to Egerton University Account Number KCB A/C No. 1137209577, Egerton Branch.
- (iv) Applicants are required to clearly indicate the programme applied for and mode of study.
- (v) Duly completed forms and original application fee Banking Slip attached should be sent to:

**Registrar (Academic Affairs) Egerton University**  
**P.O. Box 536 – 20115 EGERTON, Tel +254-51-221-79-32**  
**Email: or [info@egerton.ac.ke](mailto:info@egerton.ac.ke)**



# The **NEWSLINK**

*For everything you need to know about  
Egerton University*

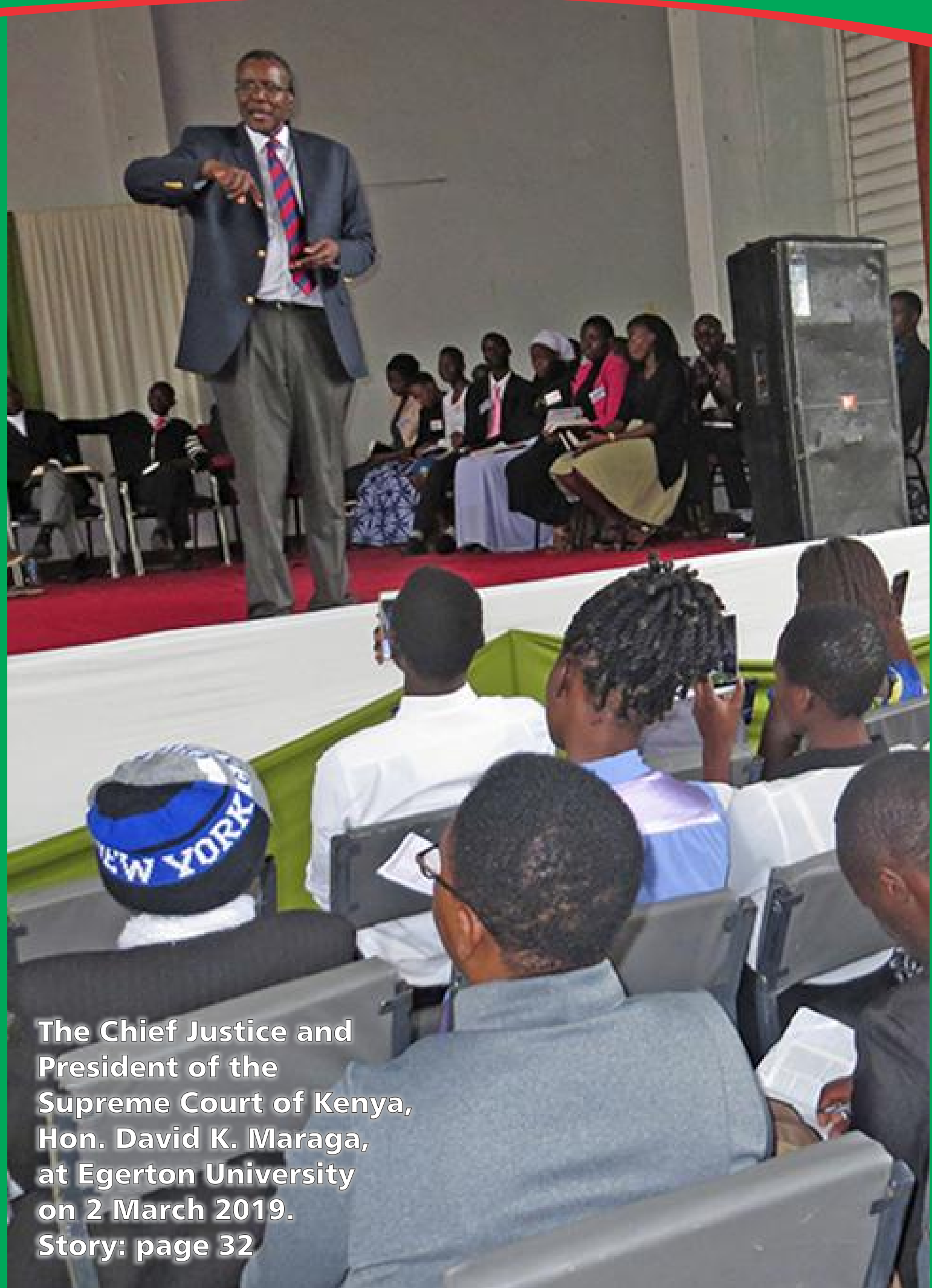
**Congratulations**  
to all the graduands of  
the 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation on this  
80<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the establishment of Egerton University!

The Graduation Special Issue of the Egerton Newslink is published by Egerton University. Telephone +254-51-2113700/01, E-mail [dmm@egerton.ac.ke](mailto:dmm@egerton.ac.ke)

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*Transforming Lives through Quality Education*



**The Chief Justice and  
President of the  
Supreme Court of Kenya,  
Hon. David K. Maraga,  
at Egerton University  
on 2 March 2019.  
Story: page 32**